



Special Thanks:

Judges:

Dr. Evelyn Peters
Dr. Mavis Reimer
Dr. Dawn Sutherland

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Mavis Reimer

Opening Greetings:

Dr. Neil Besner - *Vice-President (Research and International)*

Prize Presentation:

Dr. Sandra Kirby - *Associate Vice-President (Academic)
and Dean of Graduate Studies*

Moderators:

Kellie Zelmer
Allyson Menzies

Catering:

Soma Cafe & The University of Winnipeg Faculty & Staff Club
Opening Breakfast and Closing Reception sponsored by the
University of Winnipeg Student's Association



**Thank you to all participants and guests, we look forward
to seeing you again next year!**

For any questions about this event, please contact Deanna England, Graduate Studies
Officer at 204-786-9093 or d.England@uwinnipeg.ca



The University of Winnipeg's Fourth Annual Graduate Students Research Colloquium

April 4, 2012: 3D01

Schedule of Events:

8:30 AM—9:15 AM: Registration & Coffee

9:15 AM: Opening Greetings—Dr. Neil Besner

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM: Oral Presentations

12:30– 1:30 PM: Lunch

1:30PM: Keynote Speaker— Dr. Mavis Reimer,

Canada Research Chair in Young People’s Texts and Cultures: “So, You’re Getting a Master’s Degree: So What?”

2:00 PM: Prize Presentation—Dr. Sandra Kirby

2:15 PM: Reception

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

<u>Time</u>	<u>Name</u>
9:30 AM	Jeffrey Decontie
9:50 AM	Maria Aparecida de Oliveira
10:10 AM	Brenda Suderman
10:30 AM	Meagen Chorney
11:10 AM	Phil Grayson
11:30 AM	Colleen McIvor
11:50 AM	Bob Christmas
12:10 AM	Kirstian Lezubski

Judges:

Dr. Evelyn Peters—Canada Research Chair in Inner-City Issues, Community Learning and Engagement

Dr. Mavis Reimer - Canada Research Chair in Young People’s Texts and Cultures

Dr. Dawn Sutherland—Canada Research Chair in Science Education in Cultural Contexts

11:50 AM Robert Christmas—*Peace and Conflict Studies Program*: **The people are the police: Trust building in post-colonial society.**

Policing should contribute to improved living conditions, positive peace and social justice in societies with equal access to culturally relevant education, health, and happiness. Public trust is critical to police fulfillment of roles in achieving social justice. Truth telling and transparency allow police agencies to align with community values, support citizen empowerment and carry out the public will. This essay examines police trust in Canada, where people who were marginalized by colonization became victims of social injustice and developed distrust of the police. It explores how community engagement and empowerment can be improved, and how greater levels of social justice can be achieved.



12:10 PM Kirstian Lezubski— *Cultural Studies Program*: **The German Home and Child as Traumascape: The Problematic Site of the German Child Victim in North American World War II Narratives.**

While the strategic use of the figure of the child in narratives of German victimization has not gone unnoticed, the use of setting—an integral part of these narratives of individual and national crisis—has often been taken for granted. This paper examines the relationship between the figure of the child and setting in three North American World War II narratives that feature German children as victims. It finds that these narratives locate the healing of the traumatized child and/or setting on foreign soil or through foreign intervention. By examining this trend through Maria Tumarkin’s concept of the traumascape, this paper concludes that these texts appropriate the figure of the traumatized German child in order to re-affirm traditional North American family values and concepts of childhood, rather than to address or confront contentious issues of German victimization.

11:10 AM— Phil Grayson—*BioScience, Technology and Public Policy Program*: **Bouts of positive selection at Izumo gene family members are driven by protein subfunctionalization.**

Male reproductive genes have frequently been shown to evolve rapidly and show signatures of positive selection. Numerous male species-specific reproductive strategies have been linked to positive selection, including: sperm competition, control over females' postmating physiologies, and efficient fertilization. An underexplored aspect potentially affecting male reproductive genes is how gene duplication and the subsequent processes of subfunctionalization, neofunctionalization, and pseudogenization might differently affect patterns of evolution. I have analyzed the molecular evolution of the Izumo family – four genes expressed in testis and sperm involved in sperm-egg fusion. With the exception of Izumo4 (also expressed in somatic tissues), all other Izumo genes show signals of positive selection. Izumo1 is positively selected in rodents and eutheria. Primates show positive selection at Izumo2, and rodents at Izumo3. Differential positive selection among these clades and between the genes likely highlights the role of protein subfunctionalization during the evolution of this gene family.

11:30 AM Colleen McIvor —*Indigenous Governance Program*: **Ogichidaakweg: Bijiinaago, Noongom, Waabang.**

The presentation retraces *ogichidaakweg* (women warrior/leadership) roles and responsibilities among the *Anishinaabeg* (original people). This research study expands the current knowledge and understanding of the *Ogichidaakweg*. Overall this research project will contribute to *Anishinaabe* knowledge through exploration of *ogichidaakweg* traditional teachings. The research will examine roles and responsibilities of *ogichidaakweg* within the *Anishinaabe* community before and after colonization, outline *ogichidaakweg* responsibilities and roles of ceremonial knowledge and protocol, explain factors associated with the shift in *Anishinaabe* communities being male dominated.



9:30 AM Jeffrey Decontie—*Indigenous Governance Program*: **Indigenous Continuance within the Canadian State's Urban Centers.**

Through contemporary literature in Indigenous studies, I examine certain processes that Indigenous people have done in order to continue as distinct individuals and communities. Indigenous identities must be reconstructed while maintaining certain connections to land, place, ceremony, and history. This requires the use of decolonization theories set forth by Indigenous writers and thinkers. Indigenous people can live and participate in urban centers without the fear of losing their Indigenous identity. The point of continuance is to not only survive, but thrive wherever they choose to live (without assimilation or further alienation). This increases the responsibility to live with a distinct identity while adopting – and rejecting other – tools which help the continuance of that identity. This should indigenize how business and development are to be done in urban centers.



"Piled Higher and Deeper" by Jorge Cham
www.phdcomics.com

9:50 AM Maria Aparecida de Oliviera—*Cultural Studies Program: Virginia Woolf and Clarice Lispector: a possible dialogue.*

This paper aims to establish a possible dialogue between Virginia Woolf's essays, especially *A Room of One's Own* and *Moments of Being*, and Clarice's Lispector's *The Stream of Life*. Lispector in this book explores her desire to revolutionize language and to push the boundaries of fiction; she inspired Hélène Cixous who became her promoter among feminist critics. Bearing in mind a feminist theory, the aim is to analyze 1) how both authors define their process of writing in an attempt to reconstruct fiction and language; 2) how they subvert the position of the "I" in the text by creating different personas and 3) how the female *jouissance* can be transformed into feminist *puissance*.



10:10 AM Brenda Suderman—*Master of Arts in Theology Program: Writing in the Margins: The Activist Life of Carl Ridd.*

Dr. Carl Ridd (1929-2003) taught religious studies at the University of Winnipeg for three decades. An Olympic basketball player and ordained United Church minister, he was commemorated on the UW campus with a plaque in the Duckworth Centre and by the renaming of the chapel in Bryce Hall. A well-loved teacher, Ridd was also known for his commitment to peace and justice. This thesis studies his activism, beginning with his mid-life conversion to social justice, his work with Thin Ice, the group opposed to public funds for professional hockey, and ending with his opposition to the Iraq war just before his death. Ridd wrote extensively in the margins of books, magazines, and newspaper clippings, but he published little of his own theology. This research is based on interviews with Ridd's colleagues, friends, family, and students, and demonstrates how Ridd lived out his Christian beliefs through his activism.

10:30 AM Meagen Chorney—*Cultural Studies Program: Bite Me: Abjection, Eroticism and the Breaking of Skin in True Blood*

Through the relationship between vampires and humans on the television show *True Blood*, the abject image of biting skin and sucking blood becomes highly eroticized and romanticized. *True Blood* takes the image of the vampire, once considered a monster, and makes it something desirable. *True Blood* turns a violent act of penetrating and breaking the skin into an erotic one in which the 'victim' willingly allows these skin borders to be broken down, blurring self and other, abject and erotic. The blurring of abject and erotic in *True Blood* signifies the empowerment of women in choosing what could appear to be a victimizing role. *True Blood*'s language of choice and differentiation of choice vs. force emphasizes that violent sexuality and erotic abjection can be a strong indicator of a woman's power and liberation, and I therefore argue that *True Blood* can be read as an empowering representation of female sexuality.

