
NEWSLETTER

DEPARTMENT OF RHETORIC, WRITING, AND COMMUNICATIONS

FALL 2018

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2018 AXWORTHY DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES



Dr. Tracy Whalen, along with President Trimbee and other members of the University of Winnipeg community, talk with Anita Sarkeesian after her Axworthy address *History Vs. Women* on November 16th, 2018. Dr. Whalen was MC for the evening and had the opportunity to host a Q&A session with Sarkeesian after the lecture.

WEST AWAKE



On September 28th, 2018, the University of Winnipeg hosted the McLuhan symposium, *West Awake*, co-organized by Dr. **Jaqueline McLeod Rogers**. The day featured creative and scholarly presentations, including presentations by RHET faculty, Dr. **Matthew Flisfeder** and Dr. **Jason Hannan**. The event also featured film work by Jarrett Cole and Gordon Pepper, and a film screening of Richard Altman's new film about McLuhan's local inspirations. There was a book launch for *McLuhan and the Arts: Imaginations* (University of Winnipeg's Faculty of Education Publishing), which Dr. McLeod Rogers co-edited with Adam Lauder. Dr. McLeod Rogers explains that the title for the symposium, "West Awake," is a play on words. McLuhan, she says, "was known for using the Joycean phrase, "The East shall shake the West awake."

WINNIPEG VEGFEST 2018

On September 15, the University of Winnipeg hosted Winnipeg VegFest 2018, an annual festival devoted to raising awareness about the plight of animals and the planet. Organized by Dr. **Jason Hannan** in conjunction with the Winnipeg Humane Society, this year's event received over 4,500 visitors, including many from across Canada and the American Midwest, and featured a market with 70 vendors. Keynote speakers included world-renowned heart surgeon Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn (Cleveland Clinic), Indigenous Studies scholar Dr. Margaret Robinson (Dalhousie University), and Anna Pippus (Director of Farm Animal Advocacy, Animal Justice).

DIALOGUES

The Department of Rhetoric, Writing, and Communications was proud to host a fall Dialogues event entitled, “#MeToo After Avital Ronell,” featuring Dr. Heather Milne (English). The event addressed the recent allegations of sexual harassment against NYU professor Avital Ronell. Moderated by Dr. **Matthew Flisfeder**, the event sparked a good discussion about power and abuse in the academy.

SUMMER LECTURE IN MEDIEVAL RHETORIC

Hosted by the Department of Rhetoric, Writing, and Communications. Featuring Yoav Tirosh, PhD Candidate, University of Iceland. “The Ljósvetninga saga Mind: How Eight Centuries of Editorial Decisions Influence a Text’s Transmission.” July 30th, 2018. Manitoba Hall, University of Winnipeg.

ROOTED IN RHETORIC VOLUME 3 LAUNCH

Hosted by Brittany Valcourt and Giordana Curatolo. Featuring presentations and readings by editors and contributors to the third volume of the Department of Rhetoric, Writing, and Communications student journal, *Rooted in Rhetoric*. September 13th, 2018. The Hive, University of Winnipeg.



INDIGENOUS HEALTH PERSPECTIVES COLLOQUIUM



Hosted by the Department of Rhetoric, Writing, and Communications. Featuring presentations by Tara Myran, Rhetoric, Writing, and Communications student, and Dr. Mandy Buss, Assistant Professor and Postgraduate Faculty Lead in Indigenous Health, College of Medicine, University of Manitoba. October 24th, 2018. Manitoba Hall, University of Winnipeg.

STUDENT RADIO MARATHON

On November 8th, 2018, CKUW opened its doors to the student population of the University of Winnipeg and invited them to make the radio content of their dreams. The Writing Tutors' show was called **The Tutoring Centre gets down to business**. They did a promotional and informational program about what goes on in the Tutoring Centre. AW TYP students also did a show called **Writings from the Northern Hemisphere**. They presented writing assignments from this term.



NEWS

Dr. **Jaqueline McLeod Rogers** has been invited to join the Editorial Board of *Explorations in Media Ecology {EME}*, the journal of the Media Ecology Association. The international journal is dedicated to extending our understanding of media and media environments. In addition to scholarly articles, the journal also publishes essays, commentary, and critical examinations relevant to media ecology as a field of study and practice.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Jason Hannan, ed. *Truth in the Public Sphere* (Lexington Books, 2016), **Reissued in paperback.**

Andrew McGillivray. *Influences of Pre-Christian Mythology and Christianity on Old Norse Poetry: A Narrative Study of Vafþrúðnismál.* Medieval Institute Publications. (Kalamazoo: Western Michigan University, 2018).

Book Chapters

Matthew Flisfeder. “The Hysterical Sublime: *Black Mirror*, Plateyst and the Crises of the Present.” *Black Mirror and Critical Media Theory* (Lanham, MD: Lexington, 2018).

Clint Burnham and **Matthew Flisfeder.** “Her: Or, There is No Digital Relation.” In Clint Burnham, *Does the Internet Have an Unconscious? Slavoj Žižek and Digital Culture* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2018).

Invited Talks/Keynote Talks/Roundtables

Matthew Flisfeder. “#Rithmic Desire: PlatFORMing Capitalism and the Ideology of the Present.” *The Capitalism Workshop.* Toronto, ON, July 12th, 2018. **Invited Talk**

Matthew Flisfeder, “Auto-Amputated Cybernetic Environments: On Mark Fisher’s Reading of McLuhan.” *West Awake: University of Winnipeg McLuhan Symposium.* University of Winnipeg. September 28th, 2018. **Invited Talk**

Jason Hannan. “Trolling Ourselves to Death,” North Dakota-Manitoba Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries, University of Manitoba. Winnipeg, MB. May 14th, 2018. **Keynote Talk**

Jason Hannan. “McLuhan, Postman, and Social Media.” *West Awake: University of Winnipeg McLuhan Symposium.* University of Winnipeg. September 28th, 2018. **Invited Talk**

Jason Hannan. “The Campus Wars Redux: Free Speech and Academic Freedom,” National Communication Association. Salt Lake City, UT. November 9th, 2018. **Roundtable**

Andrew McGillivray. “Love, Lust, and Pathos in *Fóstbræðra saga*.” *The Creative Power of the Westfjords: International Symposium on Literature and Culture.* Ísafjörður, Iceland. October 6th, 2018. **Invited Talk**

Conference Presentations

Matthew Flisfeder, “Input/Output: Rethinking Stuart Hall’s Encoding/Decoding Model for the Age of the Algorithm.” *Canadian Communication Association* 2018. Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. University of Regina. Regina, SK. June 1st, 2018.

Andrew McGillivray. “Vikings on the Interlake.” *Canadian Society for the Study of Rhetoric / RhetCanada* 2018. Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. University of Regina. Regina, SK. May 27th, 2018.

Andrew McGillivray. “Throat Biting and Magic in *Egils saga Skallagrímssonar*.” *17th International Saga Conference*. August 15th, 2018. Reykjavik, Iceland.

Book Reviews

Matthew Flisfeder. Review of Ian Fraser, *Political Theory and Film: From Adorno to Žižek. Contemporary Political Theory*. Published online June 25th, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41296-018-02390-y>.

Jason Hannan. *Reality Bites: Rhetoric and the Circulation of Truth Claims in U.S. Political Culture* by Dana Cloud (Ohio State University Press), *Lateral* 7.2 (2018).

Op-Eds

Matthew Flisfeder. “The trouble with saying ‘it’s okay to be white’” *The Conversation Canada*. November 19th, 2018. <https://theconversation.com/the-trouble-with-saying-its-okay-to-be-white-106929>. (Republished in the *National Post* on November 20th, 2018, the *Winnipeg Free Press* on November 26th, 2018, *Films for Action* December 5th, 2018).

CLASSROOM FUN



RHET 3145 - *The Fifth Canon: History and Theories of Delivery*

Students in Dr. Whalen's Rhetorical Delivery course draw on the hand gestures of 17th century writer John Bulwer to re-enact Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*.