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## The 2016 Vanier College English Symposium explores Transformations

Montreal, October 28, 2016. Vanier College is pleased to announce it will be holding the 2016 edition of the Vanier College English Department's symposium on November 2-4, 2016. *Transformations* is the theme and title of this year's event which will gather speakers and performers from a wide range of artistic, scholarly, and professional fields who will reflect on the significance of the transformations in our lives and cultures.

"At any given moment, someone--or something--somewhere in the world is undergoing a transformation. The transformation could be subtle, or it could be dramatic. To whatever degree they occur, transformations are inevitable in our lives," says one of the symposium's principal organizers, David Wong of the Vanier English Department. "We hope this year's symposium will allow our students to explore and think about the many facets of transformations."

Here are some of the highlights of the symposium.

- **WRITING REAL LIFE: A CAREER IN NON-FICTION:** Journalist and essayist **Sarah Lolley** discusses her career as a non-fiction writer, highlighting how the different stages of her life have transformed the nature and content of her writing
- **TRYING TO SURVIVE AS A COMEDY WRITER IN CANADA:** **Lorne Elliott** guides the audience through experiences as a writer and performer in the Canadian comedy scene and how he has seen it evolve over the years.
- **SAY SOMETHING!: USING PUBLIC SPEAKING TO GET OUT YOUR MESSAGE:** Former CBC meteorologist-turned-entrepreneur **Geeta Nadkarni** will impart her experiences as a professional public speaker and media relations specialist, providing advice and techniques to those who have difficulty with articulating their ideas in a public setting while narrating the tale of her journey from her native India to Montreal.
- **METAMORPHOSIS: THE WAY THROUGH THE RABBIT HOLE:** Writer and filmmaker **Eisha Marjara** explores the coming-of-age narrative and how it has shaped her film and writing work. In particular, she will show clips of her films and discuss her novel *Faerie*, the antithesis of a coming-of-age story, with a teenage protagonist who adamantly refuses to grow up
- **INDIGENOUS STORIES OF THE CITY:** **Lachlan Madill**, host of *Urban Nations* on MAtv, will share his stories as a member of both the Cree and Saulteaux Nations and discuss the current proliferation of Indigenous media projects, including his own show.

All events will take place in the Auditorium (A-103), with the exception of the Coffee House (location TBA). A number of speakers will make copies of their work available for purchase at the Symposium. We look forward to seeing all of you there!

Free and open to the public. Check the Vanier Calendar for details of events