

## *English Studies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Past, Present, Future*

### **English Department Symposium Program and Schedule of Events: November 2-4, 2022**

Prepared by Maria Chiras (on behalf of the English Department Symposium Committee)

#### **English Studies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Past, Present and Future**

English Studies is a complex, diverse, and evolving discipline. Scholars in English Studies, Writing Studies, Applied Linguistics, and Language Policy and Planning are called to reexamine from where we have *come*, to understand where we are *now* and to prepare for where we are *going*—to reconsider the literary, linguistic, and writing skills that speakers and writers of English will need in an increasingly multilingual and multicultural world. Based on research showing that languages are interdependent and inseparable from identity and culture (e.g., Galante et al., 2022; Lau et al., 2020), this year’s symposium will explore English Studies in three stages: (1) past, (2) present and (3) future: (1) the historical trajectory of the English language emerging as a lingua franca, the contrast between official and non-official languages, and Indigenous languages (e.g., legacy of residential schools); (2) current literary theories and new literacies that are re-shaping English Studies as well as language policy, for example, legislated monolingualism versus societal multilingualism, and reviving Indigenous languages; (3) future issues regarding English literature and language, including literary theories, new literacies, plurilingualism, Indigenous pedagogies, and anti-racist black pedagogies. Understanding the socio-historical context from which our discipline has emerged, informs our present, and transforms our future in both local and global contexts.

### **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2**

#### **UB (12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.)**

**Event:** *Student Panel on Multilingualism* (Moderated by Alan Wong, English Department)

**Abstract:** As anyone who lives in Quebec knows, the politics of language is a messy, constant presence in our everyday lives. Indeed, the social and cultural tensions that arise from debates over language rights and laws feel almost inescapable, with many politicians, activists, and media outlets exacerbating the situation by keeping these issues circulating in the public sphere. Yet it seems that young people are often rendered invisible when it comes to having their opinions and experiences heard regarding the impact of such disputes on them. Given that it is their future in Quebec (and beyond) at stake, especially with the passing of Bill 96 into Law 14 and the recent provincial election results, it is more necessary than ever to engage with their voices on the matter. To this end, we have assembled a panel of multilingual Vanier students from a variety of backgrounds to share and discuss their perspectives on being students in Quebec who speak two or more languages and how they have been affected by the roller coaster ride of linguistic pressures they grapple with on a daily basis.

**Location:** Auditorium (A-103)

**Event:** *Memorial for Ron Curtis, English Department*

The Vanier community is invited to join us as we celebrate the life and career of our cherished colleague and dear friend, Ron Curtis, who passed away this summer. Ron was a teacher in the English Department from 1996 until his retirement in 2018. During that time, he served as Department coordinator, Curriculum coordinator, and was active on many other college committees such as Academic Council and CRT. He also completed many research projects focusing on issues such as literacy across the curriculum and at-risk students. In addition to being a passionate, dedicated educator, researcher and department member, Ron was a gentle, kind soul, who loved to chat with friends about literature over a pint of Guinness. We look forward to sharing our memories of Ron with the community.

**Location:** Theater Room (B-325)

**2:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.**

**Speaker:** Daniel Pratt, Assistant Professor, Languages, Literature, and Cultures, McGill University

**Biography:** Daniel W. Pratt is Assistant Professor of Slavic Languages and Cultures at McGill University. He writes on narratology, literature and philosophy, dissent, and critical theory in Central and Eastern European literature and culture, specifically Czech, Polish, Russian, Hungarian, and Austrian. He completed his undergraduate education at Princeton University, spent two years in the Czech Republic, and completed his PhD at the University of Chicago. He is interested in the intersection of literature, history, and philosophy, and has written on the meaning of history in Central Europe, dissident punk rock in Czechoslovakia, amongst other topics. He has been working on a book on non-narrative understandings of temporality, both on the level of the individual and on the level of the arc of history. He is currently working on an additional book on Bruno Jasiński and World Literature, entitled *Bruno Jasiński, Internationalist: The Socialist Project for an International Literature*.

**Title:** *Challenging World Literature*

**Abstract:** In the last quarter century, World Literature re-emerged as a major academic discipline, as scholars rushed to diversify the field of literary studies. The goal of this renewed discourse was admirable in terms of widening the scope of literary analysis and comparative topics to include the post-Soviet and post-colonial world. However, the discipline still relied on particular *national* discourses, admitting only works that had achieved a certain success in a recognized nation, and this belied a Euro-centric understanding of the nation state and a traditional understanding of Romantic nationalism. This talk will address some of the new avenues of scholarship on World Literature that are attempting to grapple with a non-national basis for World Literature, one that de-centers Europe, focusing on the post-colonial and post-Soviet World, even while admitting to Europe's historic and economic influence on World Literature.

**Location:** Auditorium (A-103)

**4:15 p.m. to 5:45p.m.**

**Speaker:** Dr. Morgan Kahentonni Phillips, Kanien'kehá:ka Research Consultant/Pedagogy Advisor, Dawson College and John Abbott College; Research Associate, McGill University, Department of Educational Counselling & Psychology.

**Biography:** Morgan Kahentonni Phillips is a Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) woman from Kahnawà:ke and a citizen of the Haudenosaunee (People of the Longhouse) Six Nations Confederacy. She holds a PhD from the Department of Integrated Studies in Education at McGill University. Her background is in Indigenous health research, resilience, program evaluation and Indigenous research epistemologies. Her current project-based work is rooted in decolonization and Indigenization in the context of research and student success. She is also a Senior Research Advisor for the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke for traditional land use. Morgan was part of a team of researchers for the project from 2016-2021.

**Title:** *First Peoples' Postsecondary Storytelling Exchange*

**Abstract:** Dr. Phillips will present the First Peoples Postsecondary Storytelling Exchange project and its purpose: to share stories from Indigenous students with the goal of improving the post-secondary experience for future generations. The First Peoples' Post-secondary storytelling exchange (2016-2021) is a project about creating more responsive post-secondary education for Indigenous students and honouring Indigenous approaches to teaching and learning. Over 100 people from First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities shared personal stories of their educational journeys. Storytelling, talking circles, and filmmaking took place in the Tiohtià:ke (Montreal) area, Kanien'kehá:ka communities and in Inuit territory in Northern Quebec. Dr. Phillips will describe what they learned from the exchanges as well as the participants' recommendations for better educational opportunities

Here is the link for the FPPSE project (*First People's Post-Secondary Storytelling Exchange*): [fppse.net](http://fppse.net).

**Location:** Auditorium (A-103)

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

**8:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.**

**Speaker:** Amanda Lickers, Spoken Word Poet, and Filmmaker

**Biography:** Amanda Lickers (Turtle Clan, Onondowa'ga Haudenosaunee) is a spoken word poet, and curator for Reclaim Turtle Island (@defendourlands). She supports grassroots land defense and sovereignty struggles and organizes against land exploitation projects that threaten the health of her territories. She released her first short film, Kahsatstenhsera, co-produced with [submedia.tv](http://submedia.tv) on Indigenous resistance to tar sands pipelines in NE Turtle Island.

**Topic:** *Indigenous Language Revitalization, and Ways of Engaging with Decolonialization*

**Location:** Auditorium (A-103)

**10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.**

**Speaker:** Toula Drimonis, Writer and Columnist

**Biography:** Toula Drimonis is a Montreal-based opinion columnist, writer, and news producer. A former news director for TC Media, she has reported and written on politics, social justice, and women's issues for national and international publications. She has worked in television, radio, and print in all three of her languages, and has appeared on TV as both panelist and contributor to English and French-language current-affairs and cultural news shows.

**Bylines:** @thecut, @macleans, @msmagaizne, @NatObserver, @cultmtl, @nationalpost, @ricochet\_en, @mAtv\_MTL

**Title:** *Creating New and Hybrid Languages (Chapter Reading, "English, Frenglish, Greeklsh": We, The Others: Allophones, Immigrants and Belonging in Canada).*

**Abstract:** [https://www.lindaleith.com/eng/Pages/bookDetail/We\\_Others](https://www.lindaleith.com/eng/Pages/bookDetail/We_Others)

*Ungrateful, opportunistic, moochers, dangerous, incompatible with our values and our way of life ...*

Every immigrant demographic has heard these descriptors at some point in their migration history. *We, the Others: Allophones, Immigrants and Belonging in Canada* takes a contemporary look at the xenophobia, ethno-nationalism, and fear of the other that leads to discrimination and the belief that immigration is a polluting force. Rooted in the author's personal family history as the second-generation daughter of Greek immigrants, and from her research as a journalist and columnists covering identity politics and social issues in Quebec and Canada for the past 20 years, Toula Drimonis courageously tackles this country's history and practices, divisive legislation like Bill 21, and various nationalist movements that have influenced policy. *We, the Others: Allophones, Immigrants and Belonging in Canada* is a poignant look at inter-generational struggles, conflicting loyalties, and the heartfelt questions of belonging. The author will read from the chapter, "English, Frenglish, Greeklsh." It discusses how minority groups take on the majority language by creating new, hybrid languages of their own. She will then take questions from the audience.

**Location:** Auditorium (A-103)

**12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.**

**Speaker:** Maky Lavender (Makendal St-Félix), Musician, Songwriter, Singer, and Producer

**Press Bio:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Bi9zu4r-xBOhRQYZf1uS4LapiDKiiy9/view>

**Biography:** Maky Lavender is a singer, songwriter, rapper, producer of Canadian-Haitian origin, born in Montreal. He records his own music, instrumentals, and videos. He is bilingual and raps in French and English. In 2020, Maky Lavender independently released his well-known single, “Bloom,” which was the MVP grant winner prize for a music video. The single “Bloom” was the first single off the debut album “... At Least My Mom Loves Me,” which was released in February 2020 during Black history month. During the same month Maky was named Rap Quebec Artist of the month by iHeartRadio; he received a Reebok sponsorship which featured his single “Cheese” and a featured verse on Ariane Moffat’s ADISQ Nominated album: SOMMM. His music videos for “When Did Maky Get This Hot?” and “Rumblin” were independently released through Youtubers from France, “Mahdi Ba” and “Le Règlement.” In July 2020, he delivered another album “BF3: The Kids Needed a Hero” released independently on Canada Day 2020.

**Title:** *Multilingualism and Music*

**Abstract:** Maky Lavender will discuss his professional career as a bilingual singer, songwriter, and entrepreneur. He will prepare a presentation with visual and audio support such as songs, videos, music from his portfolio ... and even a short performance of one of bilingual acoustic pop-rap-rock recordings.

**Location:** Auditorium (A-103)

**2:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.**

**Speaker:** Amir Kalan, Department of Integrated Studies in Education, McGill University

**Biography:** Amir Kalan is Assistant Professor in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education (DISE) at McGill University. His research interests include critical literacy, multiliteracies, second language writing, intercultural rhetoric, multilingual text generation, and multimodal and digital writing. In his research, he mobilizes mainstream qualitative research and alternative qualitative methods such as narrative inquiry, autoethnography, and visual ethnography to study sociocultural, discursive, political, and power relational contexts of literacy engagement.

**Title:** *Writing in other People’s Language: Immigration, Textual Regulation, and Assimilation*

**Abstract:** Drawing on ethnographic data, the presenter highlights some of the sociocultural and power relational aspects of writing in English as an additional language. He describes how official educational structures mobilize language policing strategies such as formalist pedagogies, standardized testing, and genre essentialism in order to use writing as a strategy for the assimilation of immigrants. The presenter explains why the field of writing studies needs to pay more attention to textual regulation, as well as the text itself, in order to make better sense of immigrants’ experiences with writing in their hosts’ language.

**Location:** Auditorium (A-103)

**4:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.**

**Speaker:** Nathalie Batrville, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Women’s Studies, Concordia University

**Biography:** Working as an assistant professor at Concordia University’s Simone de Beauvoir Institute since 2019, Nathalie Batrville teaches and conducts research in the areas of Black feminisms, queer theory, Haitian studies, and prison abolition. In doing so, she seeks to generate and illuminate frameworks that challenge both state violence and interpersonal violence. Trained in literary studies, she obtained her PhD from Yale University and also worked as a postdoctoral fellow at Dartmouth College with the Society of Fellows. Dr. Batrville’s scholarship has appeared in scholarly publications such as *Small Axe*, *The Journal of Haitian Studies*, *The CLR James Journal* (Special issue: Black Canadian Thought), and *Tangence*, in addition to other media sources like *Canadian Art*, *Spirale*, and *Ricochet*. She is completing her first book, *Rethinking the Grammar of Consent: Black Feminist Disruptive Agency*, in which she rethinks notions of consent and agency from a Black feminist perspective. She also makes pottery in her free time.

**Title:** *Othering Discourses: Past and Present*

**Abstract:** Police and prison abolition are movements that posit that reform is futile and that ending violence requires ending all forms of violence, including state violence. In this introduction to abolition, Dr. Batrville will first talk about the history of prison abolition and the role survivors have played in the movement. She will then explore the following questions: what is crime? Why is reforming the police and prisons futile? how do we end violence?

**Location:** Auditorium (A-103)

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4**

**8:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.**

**Live performance:** *Meet Me*

Produced by the Live Action Theatre Project with the collaborative support of Teesri Duniya Theatre, written by Julia Ainsworth and Rosaruby Kagan. Media content is written by Stephanie Merulla, Text contributions/cultural consultant Zeshaun Saleem. Directed by Rosaruby Kagan

**Description:** Members of the Live Action Theatre (including actors Leigh Ann Taylor and Darragh Mondoux) will present script excerpts from "Meet Me," a branching narrative, audience-interactive theatre experience exploring dating, cancel culture, consent in the post #metoo era and the multiplicity of pathways a person can take to find a resolution. The audience decides how the story gets told.

Link: <https://www.teesriduniyatheatre.com/whatson/meetme>

**Location:** Auditorium (A-103)

**10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.**

**Speaker:** Sunny Man Chu Lau, Full Professor in the School of Education at Bishop's University

**Biography:** Dr. Lau specializes in second language education; she teaches courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. She won the 2012 Founders' Emergent Scholars Award, sponsored by the International Society for Language Studies and Language Studies Foundation for her critical scholarships in language studies. Her recent research projects examine the use of translanguaging pedagogies in facilitating students' plurilingual competence and critical literacy engagements. In July 2021, Dr. Lau was appointed as Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Integrated Plurilingual Teaching and Learning to continue her work on plurilingual pedagogies, collaborating with teachers to co-create teaching and learning conditions that promote the use of transferable strategies, metalinguistic awareness, intercultural education, and critical literacy learning.

**Title:** *Plurilingual and pluricultural perspectives of language teaching and learning in English and French CEGEPs*

**Abstract:** Plurilingualism espouses a dynamic view of language; instead of viewing languages as isolated and bounded systems, a plurilingual perspective highlights the mutual influences among languages and that bi/plurilingual individuals actively select, adapt, and utilize multiple language and cultural resources for myriad communicative purposes and intercultural interactions. Using daily life examples and research evidence, two important concepts central to plurilingualism will be examined: 1. Language and other meaning-making resources (cognitive, gestural, audiovisual, etc.) are interconnected and interdependent; and 2. Language is inseparable from identity and culture. Based on these principles, important implications for language learning will be explored, illustrated by recent research projects on language connections.

**Location:** Auditorium (A-103)

**12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.**

**Speaker:** Felix Chau Bradley, Writer, and Editor (Quebec Writers' Federation)

**Biography:** H Felix Chau Bradley is a queer mixed-race (Chinese, white) writer and editor. They are the author of *Personal Attention Roleplay*, which was a finalist for the Danuta Gleed Literary Award and the Kobo Rakuten Emerging Writer Prize, as well as the poetry chapbook *Automatic Object Lessons*. They are the fiction editor for *This Magazine* and the host of Strange Futures, a speculative fiction book club. They live in Tiohtià:ke (Montréal).

**Title:** *Personal Attention Roleplay*

**Abstract:** The author will read an excerpt from their short story collection, *Personal Attention Roleplay*, which features young Asian misfits struggling with queer loneliness, mixed-race confusion, late capitalist despondency, and the pitfalls of intimacy. They will give a brief overview of my own journey into writing, and the ongoing questions that they have around writing my identities into my work. With an awareness of the implications of Bill 96, they will discuss the rich creative potential of writing and living between multiple languages, and how those overlapping languages make their way into their stories.

**Location:** Auditorium (A-103)

**2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

### **COFFEE HOUSE**

**Location:** Theater Room (B-325)

Teachers, staff, and students are invited to read or perform their own original literary works. Everyone is welcome!

**Responsible/Facilitator:** April Lepitre

Anyone interested in participating should contact April Lepitre at [lepitrea@vaniercollege.qc.ca](mailto:lepitrea@vaniercollege.qc.ca).

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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We want to acknowledge the support of the *Open-Door Network* for sponsoring one of our speakers.

We also want to acknowledge the support of Marya Grant for co-sponsoring our two Indigenous speakers.