WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES, VANIER COLLEGE
International Women's Week 40th Anniversary

IDENTITY AND KNOWLEDGE
TELLING TALES IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL

MARCH 4-8, 2019
VANIER COLLEGE AUDITORIUM
Guest Speakers | Panel Discussions
Films | Documentaries | Events

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Identity and Knowledge: Telling Tales In and Out of School

Democracy relies not only on making room for more individuals to gain access to an education, but also involves demanding spaces both within and outside established institutions for new kinds of knowledge to emerge and for other voices to tell their truths. In doing so, our society is challenged to reimagine itself as it grapples with fundamental questions of whose histories count, whose do not, and what are we going to do about it? The Women’s and Gender Studies program celebrates its 40th year by asking teachers, artists, activists, and what are we going to do about it? The program celebrates its 40th year by asking teachers, artists, activists, and students to share their experiences of adding new stories to our ever-changing understanding of what identifies us within a democratic society.

In addition to our guest speakers, panels, and films, please note the other special events taking place, which are noted at the end of this program.

Monday, March 4, 2019

8:30 a.m. | Shaping identity: Pop-culture, media arts and the geography of lesbian spaces in the 1990’s

In the 1990’s Kim Simard, Anne Golden and Julie Podmore nurtured their independent passion for telling, archiving and sharing stories of what it is to be a woman, a lesbian and/or part of the LGBTTIQQ2SA community in Montreal and beyond. Join us as these three creative talents take us on a journey through work that has shaped their personal careers and hear how they left a distinct mark on our collective herstory.

11:30 a.m. | Sophie Labelle | Assigned Male: Teaching About Identity Through Humour

Sophie Labelle is an internationally renowned visual artist and author from the South Shore of Montréal. She is the transgender cartoonist behind Assigned Male, a webcomic about a group of queer and trans teenagers that has been running since 2014 and has already touched millions of readers. She will talk about online activism, coming out on the internet, and trans feminism.

1:00 p.m. | David Garzon | White Ribbon: Engaging Boys and Men in the Fight Against Gender-based Violence

Founded in the aftermath of the Polytechnique massacre, the White Ribbon organization has worked to educate men in how they can participate as allies to eradicate violence against people of all genders. David Garzon, a Community Engagement Manager, will talk about the history and goals of White Ribbon, the importance of engaging men and boys in Gender-Based Violence prevention initiatives, and will provide data from the research White Ribbon does in this area.

Tuesday, March 5

10:00 a.m. | Generation Wealth (1h 48m) | dir. Lauren Greenfield | 2018

Acclaimed photographer and filmmaker Lauren Greenfield's (THE QUEEN OF VERSAILLES) latest documentary is an incendiary investigation into the pathologies that have created the richest society the world has ever seen. Spanning consumerism, beauty, gender, body commodification, aging and more, Greenfield has created a cautionary tale about a culture heading straight for the cliff's edge.

12:00 p.m. | Malek Yalaoui | SistersInMotion: Amplifying the voices of Black, Indigenous and Racialized Women and Femmes

We are now in an age where women’s stories are finally beginning to be believed and valued. But women of colour and, in particular, queer women of colour, will be left behind if we don’t explicitly make space for their voices and honour their vulnerability. This is the mandate of SistersInMotion, an organization co-founded by Malek Yalaoui, which runs workshops and hosts shows that uplift the stories we rarely hear -- those of queer women and femmes of colour. Malek Yalaoui will perform from her work and speak about SistersInMotion.

2:30 p.m. | Take Care of Yourself: Mental Health on College Campuses in the #MeToo Era

The #MeToo era has seen many women as well as some men and trans folk rightfully rise up, voice their experiences of sexual violence, and call out the perpetrators of such acts. However, this crucial moment of empowerment has had an impact on the mental health on those who have been traumatized by sexual assault, as well as those who have suffered vicariously, as they deal with misogynists who have pushed back with loud, angry denials. Join our panel of experts who will share their perspectives on how college and university students have been psychologically and emotionally affected by this issue and what they can do to manage their self-care at this time. Panelists include Cherrilynn Birchwood (Ph.D. Candidate in Clinical Psychology at Université de Montréal), Andrea Palmer (Social Worker, Vanier College), and Jennifer Drummond (Sexual Assault Resource Centre, Concordia University).
4:00 p.m. | Cynthia Hammond | Working-class women’s activism, the right to the city, and intergenerational storytelling

In this talk, Dr. Cynthia Hammond will speak about the Right to the City pedagogical initiative (2014-17), which focused on Pointe-St-Charles, one of Montreal's most important post-industrial neighbourhoods. Using oral history, the expertise of local residents, and the physical environment of the neighbourhood itself, Dr. Hammond’s students learned firsthand about the local history of activism and resilience, much of it led by working-class women. These women organized around issues of education, housing, and access to food, and in the process developed a feminist consciousness that was specific to this neighbourhood. The lecture will explore how, in particular, working-class women played a central (but often forgotten) role in preserving the built environment of the Pointe - today one of its most important forms of heritage.

Wednesday, March 6
8:30 a.m. | Studio XX: A Space of One’s Own

Studio XX was launched in 1996 as a place for women to be an active part in creating and using new technologies outside of traditional institutions like universities. Art and education are offered through workshops, public events and a biennial festival which reflect the Studio’s mandate to intersect feminisms, technology and society. Founding member Patricia Kearns and longtime member and current production coordinator Deborah VanSlet will introduce Studio XX and illustrate through archival and current photos, videos, audio and aural musings how gender and education have always been at the root of Studio XX’s difference and force.

10:00 a.m. | Kayak to Klemtu (1h 30m) | dir. Zoe Leigh Hopkins | 2018

Fourteen-year-old Ella is determined to travel the length of the Inside Passage by kayak in order to testify against a proposed pipeline that would see oil tanker traffic through her beloved homeland waters. She's prepared to handle all of the challenges the wildlife, the weather, the water, and her gear have to offer up. The most challenging of all is that she has to bring her dysfunctional family with her. From Tla’Amin to Klemtu, BC, this family navigates their blend of cultures and desires, while their spirits honour the coast as a place for each of us to call home and protect.

12:00 p.m. (Universal Break) | Diane Labelle: Teaching and Learning from an Indigenous Perspective

There are many differences between an Indigenous approach to learning and the traditional, colonial approach to education. The main difference lies in the values upon which the approach is based. In this presentation, the main values of Indigenous peoples will be used to explain how these translate into teaching and learning from an Indigenous perspective. Diane Labelle is a Two-Spirited person of Iroquois ancestry. She has worked in education for over 35 years, as teacher, consultant, administrator and workshop presenter. She presently works as the Director of The First Nation Regional Adult Education Center located in Kahnawake, where she currently lives.

1:30 p.m. | Leave No Trace (1h 59m) | dir. Debra Granik | 2018

Will (Ben Foster) and his teenage daughter, Tom (Thomasin Harcourt McKenzie), have lived off the grid for years in the forests of Portland, Oregon. When their idyllic life is shattered, both are put into social services. After clashing with their new surroundings, Will and Tom set off on a harrowing journey back to their wild homeland.

3:30 p.m. | Groundbreaking: Founders of Women’s Studies at Vanier Tell Our History

This year marks the fortieth anniversary of the Women’s Studies (now Women's and Gender Studies) program at Vanier. Joanne Morgan, Arlene Steiger, Judith Crawley, Shirley Pettifer, and Evangeline Caldwell, five key figures in the history of Women’s Studies at Vanier, will be sharing their experiences in creating and developing the program, establishing International Women’s Week, and launching groundbreaking gender-focused initiatives both in and beyond the classroom. Moderated by former Women’s Studies coordinator Maureen Jones.

Thursday, March 7
10:00 a.m. | Talia Martz-Oberlander | Women in Physics Outreach, McGill University

While some Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields have seen a growth in gender diversity over the past decades, certain fields—particularly physics and computer sciences—lack the insights women, LGBT, and racialized folk can contribute to these disciplines. This program from McGill Women in Physics (WiP) examines contemporary statistics and delves into why these fields are still so inequitable. WiP aims to inspire students not traditionally encouraged to pursue physics to consider what careers in this field can offer them and society. This talk for all audiences helps explain why certain thoughts, language, and behaviour we all take part in teach girls they don’t belong in science and how we can instead adopt more open attitudes.

11:30 a.m. | How Volunteering Pays Off: Past Students Speak on the Value of Being Involved

Come hear five student alumni and alumnae discuss their time at Vanier, why they got involved in student life, and how their CEGEP years helped prepare them for university. You will hear from past members of UMBRELLA, Women’s and Gender Studies, the Vanier Key Society and the Vanier Cheetahs! These panelists will also discuss their career paths and how they are still actively involved in their communities.
1:00 p.m. | **RBG (1h 38m) | dir. Betsy West & Julie Cohen | 2018**

At the age of 85, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has developed a lengthy legal legacy while becoming an unexpected pop culture icon. But the unique personal journey of her rise to the nation’s highest court has been largely unknown, even to some of her biggest fans—until now. RBG explores Ginsburg’s life and career.

4:00 p.m. | **Lance McCready | Barriers Faced by Queer and Trans Black Women in Postsecondary Settings**

Little to no research examines the barriers Black queer youth face accessing postsecondary education, and how these barriers are both similar and different from Black youth who identify as heterosexual and/or cisgender. Join University of Toronto professor Lance McCready as he reports on the findings of interviews and focus groups with queer and trans young Black women about their life experiences “back home” in their country of origin, migrating to Canada, and schooling. Dr. McCready will consider ways in which individuals, schools and community organizations can support young queer and trans Black women who want to access postsecondary education as part of their plans for lifelong learning.

**Friday, March 8**

10:00 a.m. | **Carrie Rentschler | Bystander Vigilance and the Efficacy of Social Media Intervention**

This talk examines contemporary bystander intervention campaigning and the ways it is often organized and imagined around social media based platforms. Drawing on a series of current examples from bystander intervention campaigns against sexual violence, this talk examines how the very notion of what it means to respond to violence as a bystander is often modelled on the recording and sharing of digital video documentation and the practices of status updating one does as part of the process of building and maintaining an online profile. What it means to respond to violence as a bystander, then, can often be defined in ways that are more about getting attention rather than arresting violence.

1:00 p.m. | **Learning and Teaching While Racialized: Vanier Teachers and Students Speaking Up and Speaking**

What does it mean to teach and learn at the intersections of race and gender? Who gets to speak and what can they say? Is a racialized teacher legible? Is a racialized student teachable? Our panel of students and teachers will speak to these questions and share the conclusions they have come to during their time here at Vanier. Panelists include Maria Chiras (English), Danielle Altidor (French), and Nada Ali (student). Moderated by Leila Bdeir.

**Events**

**Wednesday, March 6**

10:30 to 3:30 | Jake’s Mall | **Qmunity Fair**

**Vanier Vibrant**, a semester-long initiative to celebrate the unique experiences of queer and trans students and staff members at Vanier, begins with this community event that showcases LGBTQ+ organizations, resources and performers from the Montreal area. The date also marks the launch of a collective art project, so come and express yourself!

**Thursday, March 7**

10:30 to 2:30 | Auditorium Lobby | **Because I Am A Girl**

Support the Because I Am a Girl campaign, which helps girls in developing countries reach their full potential and fights for their rights. This information kiosk, a student initiative, will help to raise awareness about women’s condition around the world and will feature quizzes and giveaways.

**Friday, March 8**

4:30-6:00 | Library (F500) | **Person of the Year Cocktail**

Join us to celebrate Women’s and Gender Studies fortieth year at the annual Person of the Year cocktail.

**Thanks**

Thanks to all the volunteers on this year’s IWW 2018 Steering Committee: Alan Wong, Andrea Palmer, Caroline Chwojka, Cheryl Donison, Colleen Ayoup, Krista Riley, Leila Bdeir, Lisa Jorgensen, Maureen Jones, Natalie Carlino, and Robyn Diner.

Deep gratitude to the V.C.T.A., whose annual financial support enables us to dream big.

Also, many thanks to Faculty of Arts, Business, and Social Science, Vanier Student Services, the Pedagogical Support and Innovation office, the Open Door Network, the Vanier Indigenous Circle, and Communications and Corporate Affairs.

**For More Information**

Women’s and Gender Studies, Maggie Kathwaroon, Coordinator (kathwarm@vaniercollege.qc.ca).

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