New Article by WGS Professor Centres Mi’kmaq History

The Canadian Historical Review recently published an article co-written by Women’s and Gender Studies associate professor Dr. Jocelyn Thorpe. “Newfoundland Mi’kmaq Resistance and Vibrancy in a History of Erasure” centres Mi’kmaw history in Newfoundland, a history which has been suppressed for generations. Dr. Thorpe collaborated on the article with Mi’sel Joe, Chief of the Miawpukek First Nation, Sheila O’Neill, former President of the Newfoundland Aboriginal Women’s Network, and Jessica Bound, a graduate of the U of M.

Dr. Thorpe explained that she and her collaborators tried to write the piece in an engaging way to appeal to a broad audience, including students. Dr. Thorpe has advice for students who may want to turn their research and writing aspirations into reality. “Research is about asking questions and finding answers,” she explained. “When the answers to your questions don’t exist in any sources you can find, it’s possible that your questions require your own research that goes beyond learning what other people have said or written on a topic.”

Dr. Thorpe hopes that students trust that they have something to contribute and says it’s a good idea to learn what is already out there. If others are working in an area, it’s a good idea to approach them about possible collaborations. “We can learn more together than we can on our own,” she said.

In addition to her cross-appointment in Women’s and Gender Studies and History, Dr. Thorpe directs the Center for Creative Writing and Oral Culture and invites WGS students to join the many writing workshops it offers. Information can be found on the CCWOC website and/or the University of Manitoba Institute for the Humanities:

* https://umanitoba.ca/arts/centre-creative-writing-and-oral-culture
* https://umanitoba.ca/arts/institute-humanities

In the spring term, Dr. Thorpe will be teaching a course on the history of Indigenous film. You can contact her at: jocelyn.thorpe@umanitoba.ca.

Upcoming Events

On Friday, November 24th, WGS will welcome Carly Morrisseau. Morrisseau is the artist of our brand-new mural. The official unveiling starts at 2:30 pm in 218 Isbister. There will be a presentation and reception to follow in 202 Isbister until 4:00 pm. This will include a conversation where Carly describes her journey through schooling and its impacts. Refreshments will be provided! We hope to see you there.

What Our Bodies Know: Essays at the Intersection of Feminism and Disability will be launched on Friday, January 19th 2024 at the Centre Space in the John A. Russell building at 3:00 p.m. This anthology features nearly 30 essays written by students in Dr. Stewart’s Feminisms & Disability courses. This event will be free and open to the public.