



Preliminary timetable (16 August 2012)

Minor changes in regard to the composition of the sessions and slotting can still happen until the finalized timetable is published at the end of September.

2012 Interdisciplinary and International Conference

Languages and Cultures of Conflicts and Atrocities

in Winnipeg, Manitoba (Canada), October 11-13, 2012

organized by *The Languages and Cultures Circle of Manitoba and North Dakota (LCMND)*
and the *University of Manitoba*

Sponsored by

the Languages and Cultures Circle of Manitoba and North Dakota (LCMND and the University of Manitoba's Vice President's Office for Research, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Department of German and Slavic Studies; Department of English, Film and Theatre, Department of History, Department of Native Studies, Department of Sociology, Department of Classics, Department of French, Spanish and Italian, Program for Judaic Studies, Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice, the Centre for Human Rights Research, as well as by the Canadian Institute for the Study of Antisemitism.

Conference Committee

- Adina Balint-Babos (French Studies, University of Winnipeg)
- Elena Baraban (Slavic Studies, University of Manitoba)
- Catherine Chatterley (History, University of Manitoba)
- Stephan Jaeger (German Studies, University of Manitoba), chair / LCMND President
- Adam Muller (English and Comparative Literature and Film, University of Manitoba)
- Andrew Woolford (Sociology, University of Manitoba)

Conference Website: http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/departments/german_and_slavic/3278.html

Background on the history of the LCMND (Languages and Cultures Circle of Manitoba and North Dakota)

The LCMND (<http://www.umanitoba.ca/outreach/lcmnd/index.shtml>) started out in 1959 as a joint initiative by faculty members of the University of Manitoba (Winnipeg) and the University of North Dakota (Grand Forks). It was intended to provide a cross-border forum for scholarly exchange, and for fifty-two years has been highly successful in realizing its aim by organizing yearly conferences both north & south of the United States/Canadian border. In the 1980s the two founding universities were joined by the University of Winnipeg, North Dakota State University (Fargo), and Minot State University. In 2009 the Linguistic Circle of Manitoba and North Dakota changed its name to the Languages and Cultures Circle of Manitoba and North Dakota. The annual LCMND conference provides a great opportunity for interdisciplinary, regional, international, and trans-continental scholarly exchange. The 2012 conference will be the 53rd LCMND conference.

Keynote Lecture 1 – [Alison Landsberg](#) (Associate Professor at George Mason University):



Dr. Landsberg, a scholar in History and Art History, specializes in memory studies and U.S. history, including early cinema, race and self-making, museums and the installation of memory. She is the author of *Prosthetic Memory: The Transformation of American Remembrance in the Age of Mass Culture* (Columbia UP 2004), in which she considers the way in which individuals are increasingly able to take on memories of events they did not live through. She is interested in the potential of such memories to produce empathy and to become the grounds for progressive politics.

Lecture title: *Translating Atrocity: The Materiality of Virtual Sites of Experience*

Museums and memorials devoted to atrocities are premised on the idea that sharing in another group's trauma can be constructive both socially and politically. But what exactly does it mean to *share* in someone else's experience of atrocity? What would be required to make atrocity meaningful—while maintaining its historical specificity—across disparate cultures, geographies, temporalities and spaces? Any such inquiry must begin from the premise that it is impossible to ever fully capture another's experience. And yet, there is both a moral and political imperative to *try* to understand the nature and effects of distant atrocities. In this paper I will suggest that such work might be constructively theorized as, in effect, a project of translation. Inherent in the notion of translation, is the notion of incommensurability, of approximating rather than achieving verisimilitude. To consider this process as translation is to foreground its inevitable partiality, incompleteness, imperfection. The translation of atrocity would necessarily be a material, not simply linguistic process, and as such would have both a cognitive and an affective dimension. It would need to convey the specific, material details of historical experience but also the sensory, affective dimension. Finally, I will consider the extent to which certain virtual sites associated with atrocity museums, such as The Secret Annex Online (on the Anne Frank House website), might be particularly well suited to this sort of translation. As my paper will suggest, the virtual experience is both material and immaterial—material in that it is iconically connected to the real Anne Frank House and experienced by an embodied viewer, and yet immaterial in its profound artificiality as a graphically constructed space.

Keynote Lecture 2 –[James Dawes](#) (Professor, Macalester College):



Dr. Dawes, a scholar of American and Comparative Literature, is Chair and Professor of English at Macalester College and Founder and Director of the Program in Human Rights and Humanitarianism at Macalester College and specializes in literary and aesthetic theory, international law and human rights, trauma, and war studies. He is the author of *That the World May Know: Bearing Witness to Atrocity* (Harvard UP 2007) and *The Language of War: Literature and Culture in the US from the Civil War through World War II* (Harvard UP 2002). His current manuscript is entitled *Evil Men*.

Confessions of a War Criminal

This paper is about atrocity and representation. Based on interviews I have conducted with convicted war criminals, it analyzes the different ways people have tried to make sense of our astonishing capacity for evil. The perpetrators interviewed for this project had committed atrocities, caused incalculable suffering, but they had also experienced trauma – indeed, had experienced their own crimes as a kind of trauma. What is the meaning of their grief and their apology? What do we learn about the ethics of representation from trying to tell their stories? This talk will seek to answer to these questions.

Keynote Lecture 3 – [Jill Scott](#) (Associate Professor, Queen’s University):



Dr. Scott, a scholar of German and Comparative Literature, specializes in studies in conflict resolution, forgiveness and reconciliation, the social dynamics of mourning and grief, transitional and restorative justice, as well as in law and literature. She is the author of *A Poetics of Forgiveness* (Palgrave 2010) and of *Electra after Freud* (Cornell UP 2005).

The Quasi-Judicial Imagination: Restoring and Generating Justice in Post-Unification German Literature

Restorative justice brings together victims, perpetrators, and their supporters in a collaborative dialogue about wrongdoing, the aim of which is to acknowledge harms, identify obligations, and to provide healing and restore balance to individuals, families and communities. Transitional justice, on the other hand, typically addresses prolonged human rights violations or historical oppression and seeks to nurture political transition to social stability. While there is a growing body of research on restorative and transitional justice addressing dozens of regions around the globe, the case of East Germany’s incorporation into the Federal Republic of Germany has been largely absent. This paper will propose that restorative measures were and are indeed still necessary in a unified Germany, and will demonstrate how literary and cultural texts can expand and complicate our thinking on restorative justice, invent new forms of narrative justice, and indeed constitute a form of what I am calling generative justice.

Thursday, Oct. 11

15:00-18:00 Hotel Inn at the Forks (Front Lobby)

Conference registration

Shuttle from hotel to Fort Garry Campus (exact times tba.).

19:00-21:00. University of Manitoba, Fort Garry Campus, 306 Tier Building

Conference opening

Keynote Lecture 1:

Alison Landsberg (George Mason University): “Translating Atrocity: The Materiality of Virtual Sites of Experience”

21:00-22:30 p.m.

Reception, University of Manitoba, Fort Garry Campus, 600 Fletcher Argue Buiding, Faculty Lounge

Shuttle Services from Fort Garry Campus to Hotel Inn at the Forks (exact times tba.).

Friday, Oct. 12, Hotel Inn at the Forks

8:00-17:00 Conference Registration (Foyer, second floor)

8:00-8:30 Light Continental Breakfast (Foyer, second floor)

8:30-10:00 Session 1

<p>1A (Forks Ballroom East) Literary Aesthetics of Atrocities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adina Balint-Babos (University of Winnipeg): The Writing of Herta Müller: Poetics of Resistance • Michael Zimmermann (University of Regina): Fragmentation by Trauma in Works by Herta Müller • Thyra E. Knapp (University of North Dakota): Anne Duden and the Aesthetics of Atrocity 	<p>1B (River Salon) Rwandan Violence and Memory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine Gilbert (University of Nottingham): From Surviving to Living: The Role of Testimony in Post-Genocide Rwanda • Shannon Scully (Clark University): The Politics of Memory and the Display of Human Remains in Rwanda: Murambi Genocide Memorial • Annick Asso(Montpellier III- Paul Valéry University): Staging the Genocide: <i>Rwanda 94</i>, from the documentary to the theatre of survival 	<p>1C (Prairie Salon) Combatants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Kilburn & Nathalie Saltikoff (Endicott College): Soldiers' tales (un)told: multidisciplinary perspectives on narrative and trauma in the consideration and treatment of PTSD (and preTSD) • Elizabeth Pirnie (University of Calgary): The Soldier I Was Then vs. The Soldier I Am Now: Dichotomic Identity Construction Through Winter Soldier (2008) Testimonies • Lori Newcomb (Wayne State College): Double Jeopardy: Tim O'Brien's <i>The Things They Carried</i>
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10:00-10:30 Coffee break (Foyer, second floor)

10:30-12:00 Session 2

<p>2A (Forks Ballroom East) Museum: Performance and Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephan Jaeger (University of Manitoba): Cultural History Approaches to War Museums. To Experience the Past and Learn for the Future? • Jennifer Carter (Université du Québec à Montréal): Beyond pedagogy: The imperative to perform in museums of human rights • Jennifer A. Orange (University of Toronto): The Museum As An Agent of Social Change 	<p>2B (River Salon) Voices and Witnessing I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Matthews (Wilfred Laurier University): Teaching and Learning from Narratives of Violence: Photography as Witness • Angela Failer (University of Winnipeg): Memorial Witnessing: Public Sites Dedicated to the Victims of the 1985 Air India Bombings • Dina Georgis (University of Toronto): Queer Residues of War in Akram Zaatari's <i>Red Chewing Gum</i> 	<p>2C (Prairie Salon) Art and Silences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nedzmina Vukovic (University of Manitoba): The Silent Scream of the War • Ana Laura Pauchulo (University of Alberta): Possibilities in the impossibility of representation: Present absences in the Siluetazo and the REDress Project • Cynthia Milton (Université de Montréal): Artistic Representations of Human Rights Violations: Peru in a comparative perspective
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12:00-13:30

Lunch (up to participants)

Annual Business Meeting LCMND (River Salon)

13:30-15:15:

Keynote Lecture 2 (Forks Ballroom East):

James Dawes (Macalester College): “Confessions of a War Criminal”

15:15-15:45

Coffee break (Foyer, second floor)

<p>3A (Forks Ballroom East) Rhetorics of Violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Désirée Lamoureux (University of Western Ontario): “Roman vrai” ou cliché? La banalisation de la victime dans <i>Erevan</i> de Gilbert Sinoué • Anna Fournier (University of Manitoba): The Banality of Horror: Language and Meaning in Western Accounts of Violence in the Balkans • Jacqueline McLeod Rogers & Tracy Whalen (University of Winnipeg): The Material Messages of an Ethereal Project: Storying The Canadian Museum for Human Rights 	<p>3B (River Salon) Voices and Witnessing II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexandra Heberger (University of Manitoba): “Ich bin ein Lebender, kein Ueberlebender” – I am a human being, not a survivor. Edgar Hilsenrath’s sarcastic fight against being a living memorial • Salvadoran Voices of Manitoba (University of Winnipeg): Fragmentation, Silences, Oral History, and Community Healing: Salvadoran Voices of Manitoba • Michaela Zoehrer & Julika Bake (University of Augsburg): The performance of authenticity in human rights reports and graphic novels 	<p>3C (Prairie salon) Violence and Displacement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vinh Nguyen (McMaster University): War’s Afterlives: The Refugee Figure as Paradigm • Maria Konstantinov (University of Victoria): Representing and Interpreting Experiences of the Romani (Gypsy) Holocaust • Vassiliki Flenga (Ramapo College of New Jersey): Genet’s Aporia
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17:30-18:30 Session 4

<p>4A (Forks Ballroom East) Justice and Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natasha Reid (Concordia University): Social Justice Art Education: The Contemporary Art Museum as a Location for Dialogue• Joanna Black, Orest Cap & Denis Hlynka (University of Manitoba): Learning through Representation of Human Rights Issues: Using Digital Technologies in an Art Education Research Study	<p>4B (River Salon) Memorialization of the Holocaust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rachel Erickson (University of London): Multiple Mediations: Issues of Identification and Representation in Holocaust Education at the Wiener Library• Deborah Schnitzer (University of Winnipeg): Holocaust Fact as/and Fiction: Reckoning the Irreconcilable in the Writing of the woman who swallowed West Hawk Lake	<p>4C (Prairie salon) Imagery of Terror</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mustapha Hamil (University of Windsor): Plotting Terror in North African Literature• Kawser Ahmed (University of Manitoba): “Islamicism” and the National Security of Canada: How Does Language Influence the Discourse on Terrorism and Threaten Multiculturalism?
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20:00: Hotel Inn at the Forks (Forks Ballroom East)

Banquet

During dessert (2 brief speeches on 53 years history of the LCMND):

- Chandice Johnson (North Dakota State University)
- Rory Egan (University of Manitoba)

Saturday, Oct. 13, Hotel Inn at the Forks

8:30-12:00 Conference Registration (Foyer, second floor)

8:30-9:00 Light Continental Breakfast (Foyer, second floor)

9:00-10:30 Session 5

<p>5A (Forks Ballroom East) Soviet War Memory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reeta Kangas (University of Turku): Hitler’s dogs: Animal symbolism in Soviet political cartoons of the “Great Patriotic War”, 1941–1945 • Elena Baraban (University of Manitoba): The Film Front: The First Soviet Films of the Cold War • Tatjana Schell (North Dakota State University): A Ball Game: On Bouncing Between Accuracy and Fluency in Translation 	<p>5B (River Salon) Violence and the Indigenous Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ron Fischer (Minot State University): The Medicine in Louise Erdrich's <i>Love Medicine</i> • Heather Allen (University of Manitoba): Bridging the Gap of Apathy: Representations of History through Fiction in the Works of Tomson Highway • Evan Bowness (University of Manitoba) & Amelia Curran (Carleton University): Racialized Policing in Winnipeg: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Online Comments 	<p>5C (Prairie salon) Representations of Balkan Atrocities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amila Becirbegovic (University of California at Davis): Photographic Facticity: Bosnian Atrocity Formats through the lens of Holocaust Frames • Nerimane Kamberi (University of Prishtina): A diary and some pictures: native artists and their representation of their people facing the atrocities of war • Olivera Simić (Griffith University): ‘Crossing the Borders’: The role of DAH Theatre in Transitional Justice Processes in Serbia and beyond
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10:30-11:00 Coffee break (Foyer, second floor)

11:00-12:00 Session 6

<p>6A (Forks Ballroom East) Construction and Politics of Memory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Meuwese (University of Winnipeg): Trans-Atlantic and Local Memories of Dutch Colonial Violence: Remembering Kieft’s War in New Netherland • Myroslav Shkandrij (University of Manitoba): Unrepenting Hearts: Ukrainian Nationalism in the 1930s 	<p>6B (River Salon) Graphic Novels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candida Rifkind (University of Winnipeg): Memory and Black Visuality in Ho Che Anderson's King • Josina Robb (University of Winnipeg): Navigating the Architecture of Occupation in Joe Sacco’s Palestine 	<p>6C (Prairie salon) Ontologies of Genocidal Violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathy L. Gaca (Vanderbilt University): Death to All Enemy Sperm: Genocidal Culture since Antiquity and its Basis in Martial Power • Roddy Brett (University of St. Andrews): Envisioning Guatemala’s Genocide
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12:00-14:00 Lunch & Keynote Lecture 3 (Forks Ballroom East):

Jill Scott (Queen’s University): “The Quasi-Judicial Imagination: Restoring and Generating Justice in Post-Unification German Literature”

14:00-15:30 Session 7

<p>7A (Forks Ballroom East) Alternative Languages of Atrocities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy Freier (Queen’s University): Holocaust Humour: When Commemoration Meets the Comedic • Adam Muller (University of Manitoba): Laughter in the Face of Death: Humour and the Holocaust • Holly McIndoe (Queen’s University): “One who lives”: strategic exoticism and subjectivity in Indra Sinha’s <i>Animal’s People</i> 	<p>7B (River Salon) Spatial Constructions of War and Conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sascha Seiler (University of Mainz): Invisible Topographies: Mapping Cultural Conflicts • Prathna Lor (Université de Montréal): Spatial Re-Imagination in Yvonne Vera’s <i>The Stone Virgins</i> • Sarah Wagner, Tom Matyók (University of North Carolina at Greensboro): Walking the Mat: Ritual, Symbol, and Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (U.S)
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15:30: End of conference