PRESENTERS

Panel 4

Laura Schaefli: A Contribution to Unsettling Provincial and Post-Secondary Education in Canada
Laura is a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography and Planning at Queen’s University. Originally from Switzerland, she came to Canada for university. Grounded in her realization of how little coverage there was of Indigenous topics during her undergraduate degree, her PhD work investigates how high school and post-secondary graduates in the province of Ontario are learning to think about colonialism and Indigenous peoples. Through this work she hopes to contribute to the decolonization of education in Canada.

Bonnie Jane Maracle: TRC Calls to Action: Mobilization at the University of Toronto
Iehnhotonkwas Bonnie Jane Maracle, Wolf Clan of the Mohawk Nation at Tyendinaga Territory, holds a BA in Indigenous Studies, Trent; a B.Ed. & M.Ed., Queen’s; and is a Ph.D. candidate in Indigenous Studies, Trent, in the research of Indigenous Language Revitalization. She is Treasurer of Board of Directors for Tsi Tyonheht Onkwawenna Language & Culture Centre at Tyendinaga; a Board Member and Language Program Coordinator at Kanatsiohareke Mohawk Community; and President of Board for Ontario Native Literacy Coalition, Ohsweken. Bonnie Jane is a Sessional Instructor at U of Victoria in the Certificate of Aboriginal Language Revitalization program and is presently employed at First Nations House, U of Toronto, as the Aboriginal Learning Strategist. She has most recently been appointed Co-Chair of the Working Group on Indigenous Curriculum for the TRC Steering Committee at U of T, and a Member of the Working Group on Indigenous Teaching & Learning in the Faculty of Arts & Science.

Natasha Beitman Brenner: Mandatory Indigenous Education for Canadian Post-Secondary and Graduate Students
Natasha Beitman Brenner is a third year law student at Queen’s. She is articling at Bayne Sellar Boxall in Ottawa after graduation, a firm that focuses exclusively on criminal defense matters. Her interest in Indigenous issues stems from her mother’s experiences working in Northern Edmonton as a teacher, and the stories she would tell of her time learning about the First Nations culture, language and experience. Throughout her undergraduate, she wrote papers presenting arguments for the recognition of the cultural genocide of Indigenous peoples. As a law student, she participated in the planning of the Kawaskhimon Moot and was recently hired to investigate and report on all services offered to professional and graduate Aboriginal students in connection with the Society of Professional and Graduate Students.
November 11th 2016
4:00pm – 4:30pm: Opening Remarks
4:30pm – 5:30pm: Keynote Address – Dr. Mark Dockstator
5:30pm – 6:30pm: Dinner
6:30pm – 8:00pm: Movie Screening and Q&A with Paul Chaput

November 12th 2016
8:00am – 9:00am: Breakfast and Introductions
9:00am – 10:00am: Panel #1 – Unsettling Research
Brittany McBeath     Konstantine Polyzois
Aaron Franks
10:00am – 10:15am: Break
10:15am – 11:45am: Panel #2 – Indigenous Law & Governance
Enver Harbans         Sam Tait
Mike Kocsis
11:45am – 12:15pm: Lunch
12:15pm – 1:00pm: TRC Community Consultation
1:00pm – 2:15pm: Panel #3 – Recolonizing Grassroots Activism
Roxana Akhbari        Shannon Monk-Payne
Nancy Stevens         Ramesh Pokharel
Liz Stone
2:15pm – 2:30pm: Break
2:30pm – 3:30pm: Panel #4 – Education: You Don’t Know What You Don’t Know
Laura Schaefli        Natasha Beitman Brenner
Bonnie Jane Maracle
3:30pm – 4:30pm: Elders Remarks and Closing

Please visit the Canadian Museum Language exhibits - Speaking the Inuit Way and Cree: The Peoples Language in Stauffer Library. They will be on display throughout the symposium until Nov.18
Panel 1

Brittany McBeath: Reconciliation Through Research Practice: An Approach to Assess Community Readiness for Diabetes Prevention Training

Brittany McBeath is a Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) woman, from Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory. She is a student in her fourth year of undergraduate studies at Queen’s University. She has been studying psychology and sociology. During her undergraduate studies, her work has been recognized with the Brian Yealland Community Leadership Award in 2016 for dedicating her time to coordinating the Early Outreach Initiative at Four Directions Aboriginal Student Center as a Community Mentor supporting Indigenous youth in Kingston and the surrounding area. This year she is involved in a Special Directed Lab course under the supervision of Dr. Lucie Lévesque at Queen’s School of Kinesiology and Health Studies. This opportunity has allowed her to be a part of the Community Mobilization Training for Diabetes Prevention research project based on the award-winning Kahnawá:ke Schools Diabetes Prevention Project. She can be contacted at 12bmm8@queensu.ca.

Konstantine Polyzois: Internet-based Planning in First Nations Communities: Challenges and Opportunities

Konstantine Polyzois is a Master’s degree candidate at the School of Urban and Regional Planning at Queen’s University. He holds an Honors BA degree in Visual Studies and Art History from Trinity College, University of Toronto. His research interests include health and social planning, community development, and public engagement. He is currently completing his Master’s thesis, titled “Internet-based Planning in First Nations Communities: Challenges and Opportunities.”

Aaron Frank: Stepping In, Standing Back: reflecting and acting on decolonization, reconciliation and social sciences and humanities research in response to TRC Call to Action 65

Aaron is a researcher, performer, geographer, dad and co-founder of the RAFT applied performance and research company with Rebecca Benson. He worked as an actor from 1996 to 2006, and has degrees in Social Justice and Equity Studies (MA, Brock) and Human Geography (PhD, Glasgow). He recently worked with the Centre for Indigenous Research Creation at Queen’s University, and is currently the Mitacs-SSHRC Fellow in Indigenous Research and Reconciliation at the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council in Ottawa. Aaron is of Métis-European-Muskego ancestry and is learning how to enter into many complicated conversations.

Panel 2

Enver Harbans: The Role of Traditional Knowledge in Indigenous Political Community

Enver Harbans holds a BA Honours in Anthropology from Carleton University and is an MPA Candidate at Queen’s University in the School of Policy Studies. He has long been a labour and social justice activist currently working as a National Representative for one of Canada’s largest private unions. Movements that encourage social and political transformation have always been his intrigue but the realization of the centrality of Indigenous liberation in changing the direction of humanity has been profound. Enver resides in Mississauga, Ontario the traditional territory of the Ojibwa Nation with his wife and daughter.

Michael Kocsis: The Ends of Aboriginal Justice in Canada

Michael Kocsis is an Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Political Studies at Queen’s and the Department of Philosophy at Utica College in New York. His areas of study include political philosophy, the “just war” tradition, ethics and world politics, territorial justice, and Aboriginal justice in Canada. He has presented papers on these topics in the past, and was recently named a “Senior Fellow” by the Canadian Centre for the Responsibility to Protect.

Sam Tait: Effectual Documentation: Knowledge Co-Production, Land Claim Litigation & Reconciliation

Sam Tait is currently pursuing his MA in Anthropology at the University of Toronto St. George. He is a recipient of the Joseph Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship – Master’s awarded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, as well as the Mary H. Beatty fellowship, awarded by the University of Toronto St. George’s graduate Anthropology department.
**PRESENTERS**

Panel 3

**Roxana Akhbari: The Non-Aboriginal Category in Canada’s Cultures of Redress**
Roxana is a PhD student of Gender, Feminist, and Women’s Studies at York University. Her research focuses on examining cross-ethnic alliances between different redress-seeking movements in North America, and conceptualizing how the notion of whiteness has been/should be framed in this context. Her disciplinary background is in philosophy (especially, epistemology, metaphysics, and philosophical psychology). She has previously worked on epistemic aspects of anti-Muslim sentiments in multicultural Western societies, drawing upon the feminist epistemology discourse of Epistemologies of Ignorance, examining how people from Muslim cultural backgrounds have managed to exercise epistemic agency in Western societies despite the active production of ignorance regarding Islamic culture by the states in these societies.

**Nancy Stevens: Making Ripples to Create Waves**
Mno Waasemok Mizhakwad-kwe is Bear Clan, and is of Mohawk and European descent, a mother of four and grandmother of two. In addition to her regular day job, she is a Ph. D. student at Trent University, Indigenous Studies, teaches at Lakehead University, Orillia, as well as at Sir Sanford Fleming College, and consults on a part-time basis. Most of her career has been spent in northern Ontario, with a 2 1/2 year sojourn to the Yukon, working in Old Crow (Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation), a fly-in community north of the Arctic Circle, from 2013 to 2015. The bulk of her experience has been in Indigenous mental health and Indigenous women’s programs and organizations. Nancy is a proud parent of 4 children and grandmother of 2.

**Liz Stone: Making Ripples to Create Waves**
Liz Stone, Niimin Mshiikehn Kwe, Turtle Clan, Anishinaabe from Aamjiwnaang First Nation, has been the Executive Director of Niijkiwendidaa Anishnaabekwewag Services since 2010. She has worked in the Urban Indigenous Community for more than 20 yrs, specifically in the field of Healing and Indigenous Women’s Issues. Liz is the current Chair of the Aboriginal Education Council at Sir Sanford Fleming College, member of Aboriginal Education Council at Trent University, Board Member VON 360 Clinic and most importantly, mother to 17 yr old Mkons Stone-Debassige. In 2012, Liz organized the “From Indian Residential Schools to Truth and Reconciliation” Conference in Peterborough that was attended by Provincial and National Church representation as well as Commissioners of the TRC Commission of Canada.

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**PRESENTERS**

**Dr. Mark Dockstator: Keynote**
A member of the Oneida Nation of the Thames, Dr. Dockstator is currently the president of First Nations University. Prior to that, he was Associate Professor, Indigenous Studies, at Trent University. In addition, Dr. Dockstator also served as Departmental Chair and Director of the PhD program. He received his Juris Doctor (J.D.) Degree from Osgoode Hall Law School, York University. In 1994, he was the first First Nations person to graduate with a doctorate in law. His doctoral dissertation, entitled “Toward an Understanding of Aboriginal Self Government”, is a blend of Indigenous and Western knowledge and was used as a foundation for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples final report.

**Paul Chaput: Planting Stories, Feeding Communities: Knowledge, Indigenous Peoples, and Film**
Paul is a Métis academic, actor, singer, composer, filmmaker, and poet. In November 2015 he completed his PhD in Geography at Queen’s University. His dissertation uses film (Planting Stories, Feeding Communities: Knowledge, Indigenous Peoples, and Film) as a research methodology to bring findings back to Indigenous communities and to engage the public on the subject of Native Studies. Paul has co-produced, hosted, and narrated 26 episodes of Finding Our Talk: A Journey Through Aboriginal Languages that aired on Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN). He wrote and directed five of these APTN episodes and two docudramas on Restorative Justice for Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services to help frontline workers introduce Restorative Justice practices in northern communities. Two CDs of his original compositions were nominated at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards for Best Male Vocalist and Best Folk Album. He was a founder and the Artistic Director for the first three years the Métis Arts Festival in Toronto. In 1995 he was awarded the Star of Courage by Governor General Romeo Leblanc.

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