

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **Mennonites and Human Rights: Grappling with State Power in the Past and Present**

An Academic and Community Education Conference  
Hosted by the Chair in Mennonite Studies  
University of Winnipeg  
**18-20 October 2012**

Mennonites have experienced state power in different ways. As a pacifist, minority group in 16th-20th Century Europe, Mennonites sometimes faced hostile governments and vested powers. As a non-violent global people today they continue to relate to nation states and powerful groups in unique ways.

In their history Mennonites have endured physical suffering, the contempt for human dignity, gross injustices and the squelching of dissent. But they have also envisaged ways to process and confront these human rights violations, advocating for the rights of others and for rights for themselves.

The planning committee invites submissions for research papers from a wide variety of disciplines. Papers should consider how Mennonites have been challenged by the question of human rights and state power, in ways such as:

**VICTIMS** -- Mennonites have and continue to suffer torture, incarceration, exile and other forms of persecution at hands of abusive governments and powerful social groups.

**BENEFICIARIES** -- Mennonites have gained from special privileges and in the process sometimes been complicit in the suffering of other groups; unknowingly or knowingly.

**ADVOCATES** -- Mennonites have defended the weak and voiceless, calling for peace, inclusion and equality, sometimes in opposition to the state, sometimes in cooperation with the state.

Mennonites have not often used 'human rights' terminology. Indeed they have debated whether its language is too individualistic and coercive for an Anabaptist people. This conference asserts that the Mennonite experience can shed light on the issue of human rights, examining it from the perspective of a religious, non-violent and communitarian heritage.

**Send short proposals and biographical sketches to [r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca).**

Story tellers, artists, song writers and film producers are welcomed to make proposals too.

**Proposal deadline: 31 October 2011.**

The planning committee includes: Ray Dirks (Mennonite Heritage Gallery), Judith Dueck (Canadian Museum for Human Rights), John J. Friesen (Manitoba Mennonite Historical Soc./Canadian Mennonite University), Wendy Kroeker (Canadian Lutheran World Relief), Royden Loewen (Chair in Mennonite Studies), Ismael Muvingi (Menno Simons College), Dean Peachy (Global College); Alf Redekopp (Mennonite Historical Society of Canada), Peter Rempel (Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba), Eliakim Sibanda (University of Winnipeg).

## CALL FOR PAPERS

**Demeter Press** is seeking submissions for an edited collection on

### **Mennonite Mothering**

**Editors:** Rachel Epp Buller and Kerry Fast

**Publication Date:** 2012/2013

This collection of scholarly essays will explore the connections between mothering / motherhood and Mennonite religion and culture, broadly defined. There are thriving Mennonite communities in Canada and the United States as well as in many pockets of Central and South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Religious traditions, cultural stereotypes, and societal (mis)perceptions all contribute to varied understanding of maternal roles in Mennonite life. Rhoda Janzen's bestselling memoir, *Mennonite in a Little Black Dress*, which played heavily upon traditional gender roles, recently brought much mainstream attention to Mennonite culture. We invite papers from a wide range of disciplines that speak to historical and present-day perceptions and expectations of Mennonite maternal experiences. We especially encourage papers that address mothering in old order communities of North and South America and in other Mennonite contexts around the world.

**Suggested topics may include but are not limited to:**

Nonviolent mothering; activist mothering; transnational mothering; perspectives of young Mennonite mothers; intergenerational mothering; mothering in the mission field or in relief and development work; gender roles in a Mennonite context; Mennonite mothering and the arts; mothering in historical Mennonite communities; shifting socio-cultural perceptions of Mennonite mothering; lesbian mothering in a Mennonite setting; religious expectations of mothers; Mennonite relationships with the sacred maternal; Mennonite mothers and domesticity; mothers as purveyors of religious-cultural heritage; and more.

**Submission guidelines:**

Abstracts: 250 words.

Please include a brief biography (with citizenship information).

**Deadline for abstracts is July 31, 2011**

Please send submissions to both:

Rachel Epp Buller, [rachel@ddtr.net](mailto:rachel@ddtr.net) and Kerry Fast, [kfast@chass.utoronto.ca](mailto:kfast@chass.utoronto.ca)

Subject line: Mennonite mothering abstract

Accepted papers of 4000–5000 words (15–20 pages) will be due December 1, 2011 and should conform to MLA style.

**Demeter Press**

140 Holland St. West, PO 13022

Bradford, ON L3Z 2Y5

[www.demeterpress.org](http://www.demeterpress.org) / [info@demeterpress.org](mailto:info@demeterpress.org)

## An academic and community education history conference

Thinking About Books: Carel Roessingh (Amsterdam),  
Kennert Giesbrecht (Steinbach), Royden Loewen (Winnipeg)

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### **Anti-Modern Pathways:**

'Horse and Buggy' Mennonites in Canada and Latin America

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**Hosted by:** The Chair in Mennonite Studies and the D.F. Plett  
Historical Research Foundation

**Location:** Convocation Hall, University of Winnipeg

**Dates:** Friday and Saturday: 21-22 October 2011

**ONTARIO:** Andrew Martin, Elmira (Old Orders Spirituality)  
Lisette Hijinks, Ubbergen, Netherlands (Waterloo County Quilters)  
Peter Rempel, Winnipeg (Gladstone, Manitoba Old Orders)  
TBA, Waterloo (Gelassenheit and Brotherhood)

**MEXICO:** Tina Fehr Kehler, Winkler (Campeche Old Colonists)  
Ariette Kouwenhoven, Amsterdam (The Sabinal Fehrs)

**BELIZE:** Anne Kok, Amsterdam (Shipyard Old Colonists)  
Tanja Pasil, Amsterdam (Shipyard Old Colonists)  
Lobke Lentjes, Amsterdam (Barton Creek Traditionalists)

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS:** Donald B. Kraybill, Elizabethtown, PA (Young Centre)

**BOLIVIA:** Karen Warkentin, Winnipeg (New Colonies of Santa Cruz)  
Anna Sofia Hedberg, Falun, Sweden (Neuvo Durango Old Colonists)  
Christopher Cox, Edmonton (Resilient Old Colony Plautdietsch)  
Kerry Fast, Toronto (Riva Palacios Colony Women)  
Jack Heppner, Steinbach, (Visiting the Old Colonists)  
Martha Hiebert Steinbach (Old Colony Women)  
Dick Braun, Saskatoon (Mennonite Genius).

**ARGENTINA/ PARAGUAY:**  
Lorenzo Canas Bottes, Estonia (Argentina Social Boundaries)  
Jakob Huttner, Berlin, (East Paraguay Old Colonists)

### **For more information**

visit [mennonitestudies.ca](http://mennonitestudies.ca) or email: [r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca)



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