

Mennonites, Land and the Environment: A Global History Conference

Hosted by the Chair in Mennonite Studies and
the Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies

October 28-29, 2016

Eckhardt Gramatté Hall, University of Winnipeg

A DVCM Conference

This academic conference focuses on the environmental history of Mennonite farm communities around the world. It explores the historic relationship between Mennonites and the land and is concerned with changing ideas on food production, sustainability and natural beauty. This conference interprets the interaction of Mennonites with twentieth century agricultural changes in comparative perspective, including the Global South and Global North. The conference features papers from Canada, Bolivia, the Netherlands, Indonesia, Russia, the United States, Zimbabwe, and across the globe.

Friday, October 28 (8:30 AM – 5:30 PM)

Friesland and Northern Europe: A Land Tried and Transformed
Iowa and the US Midwest: Land of 'Destiny' and Diversity
Java: A Land of Inter-Religiosity
Siberia and 'Mother' Russia: A Land of Vision and Bitterness

Friday, October 28 (7:30 – 9:30 PM)

Featured Evening: An Anabaptist Theology of the Environment

Saturday, October 29 (8:30 AM – 5:00 PM)

Manitoba: Borderland of Myth and Transplantation
Manitoba and Beyond: Lands of Multiple Transitions
Zimbabwe: A Land of Hope and Struggle
Bolivia and Its Neighbours: A Land of Environmental Irony
Seven Points on Earth: A Film and Reflection

**For more information visit
www.mennonitestudies.uwinnipeg.ca/events**

Call for Papers

Mennonite/s Writing VIII: Personal Narratives of Place and Displacement

Hosted by the Chair in Mennonite Studies and the
Journal of Mennonite Studies

A Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies Conference

October 2017

(Exact dates TBA)

This international, interdisciplinary conference will focus on personal narratives in the context of Mennonite writing in Canada, the United States, Russia and around the world. Participants are encouraged to explore the historical and literary significance of personal narratives – including biography, autobiography, diary and memoir – in relation to the conference’s theme of “place and displacement.”

In particular, the conference focuses on texts arising from: 1) dislocation resulting from war-driven and violent forced migration; 2) dislocation from familiar local space resulting from social and cultural upheaval in peacetime. Other ideas regarding dislocation are welcomed.

Questions to be considered: How have writers of Mennonite descent recorded their experiences of war and forced migration, or, alternatively, of resisting the assimilatory pressures of modern society? How have they imaginatively grappled with their local community’s place in “the world”? What role have personal narratives played in connecting, sustaining, or challenging Mennonite communities and institutions? And what future spaces are opened by attending more closely to personal narratives within the context of Mennonite writing?

Please submit a 100 word proposal, complete with a short CV to either Royden Loewen at r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca or Robert Zacharias at rob.zacharias@gmail.com by November 1, 2016.

Advisory Committee: Dora Dueck (Winnipeg), Anne Hostetler (Goshen), Royden Loewen (Winnipeg), Hildi Froese Tiessen (Kitchener), Robert Zacharias (Toronto), Daniel Shank Cruz (New York)