

2017 Mennonite Studies Conference

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

Hosted by the Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies

October 20-21, 2017

Eckhardt Gramatté Hall, University of Winnipeg

Featuring:

Miriam Toews

*A Complicated Kindness,
All My Puny Sorrows, and Swing Low*

Rhoda Janzen

*Mennonite in a Little Black Dress and
Mennonite Meets Mr. Right*

Keynote Address by Dr. Julie Rak

*Boom! Manufacturing Memoir for the Popular Market and
Negotiated Memory: Doukhobor Autobiographical Discourse*

Plus Featured Evening: Soviet Narratives of War-Induced Dislocation

This interdisciplinary conference focuses on the historical and literary significance of personal narratives – including biography, autobiography, diary, and memoir – in the context of Mennonite writing in Canada, the United States, Russia and around the world. It focuses on: 1) dislocation resulting from war-driven migration; 2) dislocation from the familiar, resulting from social and cultural upheaval in peacetime.

Participants will consider: 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?

Conference Conveners: Royden Loewen (University of Winnipeg) and Robert Zacharias (York University). Planning Committee: Daniel Shank Cruz (Utica); Paul Doerksen (Canadian Mennonite University); Dora Dueck (British Columbia); Anne Hostetler (Goshen College); Hildi Froese Tiessen (Conrad Grebel University College)

FREE ATTENDANCE

REGISTER AT CONFERENCE

www.mennonitestudies.uwinnipeg.ca/events

2018 Mennonite Studies Conference

Call for Papers

A People of Diversity: A 50th Anniversary Conference

A Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies Conference

November 2018

In 2018 the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a conference on the theme “A People of Diversity.” This diversity can be seen in new ethnic identities, new forms of crossing old boundaries, and new ways of thinking about faith, culture and socio-political issues. This conference will explore the significance of these changes since 1970 and consider the implications of being “Mennonite” in the 21st century. Paper proposals are invited on a variety of themes and subjects including, *but not limited to*, those identified below:

PRACTICING FAITH SINCE 1970

- contemporary Anabaptist theological trajectories
- expressions of peace, non-resistance and non-violence
- changing Mennonite missional strategies
- secularity and post-Christian Canada
- ‘outside’ theological traditions: charismatic, liturgical, etc.

SOCIAL THEMES SINCE 1970

- generations: gen x, the millenials, the new eldley
- femininity, masculinity and ideas on gender and sexuality
- communications, the internet and community realignment
- politics and political engagement
- rethinking the institution: church, mutual aid, education

SPECIFIC SUBJECTS SINCE 1970

- Asian, Latin American or African-Canadian congregations
- evolving Indigenous-Mennonite relations
- second generation Québécois Mennonites
- the significance of LGBTQ Anabaptists
- the plain people: Old Order, *Aussiedler*, Low German migrants

Please submit a 100 word proposal, complete with a short CV to Royden Loewen at r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca by **September 1, 2017**.

Planning Committee: Marlene Epp, Bruce Guenther, Lauren Harder-Gissing, Royden Loewen, Lucille Marr and Conrad Stoesz