


# Calgary Institute for the Humanities NEWSLETTER

2017

SPRING EDITION



## Water in the West:

### RIGHTS OF WATER

2017 COMMUNITY FORUM

Each year the Calgary Institute for the Humanities (CIH) at the University of Calgary identifies a theme of pressing concern to our city, and invites three distinguished researchers to offer their perspectives on it. This year's seminar, our 37th, will address access to water.

Water is a potent symbol in so many cultures and religions because it is foundational to life. Water connects everything on the blue planet: the human, the animal, and the material world. Here in Western Canada, one vast watershed extends from the Rocky Mountains, crosses the prairies, and flows into James Bay, crossing all kinds of different human-made boundaries. In the face of global climate change, water is

an increasingly precious resource. On July 28, 2010, the United Nations "explicitly recognized the human right to water and sanitation and acknowledged that clean drinking water and sanitation are essential to the realization of all human rights." There have been notable failures in our country to provide access to this resource, particularly in our First Nations' communities. These failures are linked to

# 2017 Community Forum *con't*

Friday, May 12, 2017 | 9:30 am – 3:30 pm  
Kahanoff Conference Centre, 105 12th Ave SE

“Water connects everything on the blue planet: the human, the animal, and the material world.”

larger systemic problems identified in the full report of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

Both the TRC on the one hand, and the environmental movement on the other, challenge us to consider not just the way we have managed our water, but how we have thought about it, and how we might balance competing claims on water in the future. How can we rethink our relation to water? While stressing the human right to water, do we need to think at the same time about our responsibility to water? Do non-human entities such as fish, plants and water itself have rights? What might different spiritual or cultural traditions tell us about our duty to water? What might

our duty to water tell us about our connection to each other?

Further information about the seminar, including reports, annotated bibliography, facts, and community links can be found on our website. For details on how to register, please email the Calgary Institute for the Humanities, [cih@ucalgary.ca](mailto:cih@ucalgary.ca).

[arts.ucalgary.ca/cih](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/cih)

## REG CROWSHOE Opening Welcome

Respected Elder and former Chief at Piikani Nation

Reg Crowshoe is a newly appointed member of the University of Calgary Senate, and a prominent cultural and spiritual leader from Piikuni First Nation in Southern Alberta, where he formerly served as chief. Dr. Crowshoe has a longstanding relationship with the University of Calgary and has generously shared and offered his assistance, ceremonial leadership, and traditional knowledge to students, The Native Centre and other faculties for many years. Dr. Crowshoe is widely recognized for his dedication to Piikuni artifacts, traditions, language, culture, and history, and, like his father the late Dr. Joseph Crowshoe, was awarded an honorary Doctorate Degree by the University of Calgary in 2001. Dr. Crowshoe is also the founder of the Old Man River Cultural Society, and he authored the book "Akak'stiman, A Blackfoot Framework for Decision-Making and Mediation Processes", published by University of Calgary Press in 2002.

## TASHA HUBBARD Moderator

Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Saskatchewan

Tasha Hubbard is a writer, filmmaker, Assistant Professor at the University of Saskatchewan's Department of English, and the mother of a 10 year-old son. Her first solo writing/directing project *Two Worlds Colliding* (2004), about Saskatoon's infamous Starlight Tours, premiered at ImagineNATIVE in 2004, was broadcast on CBC's documentary program *Roughcuts* in 2004, and won the Canada Award at the 2005 Gemini's. Her recent short film *7 Minutes* won Best Short Non-fiction at the Golden Sheaf Awards. She also recently completed a NFB-produced feature documentary about a 60s Scoop family reunited for the first time. As part of her academic work, Hubbard does research on the relationship between Indigenous peoples and the buffalo, Indigenous ecologies, and Indigenous film.

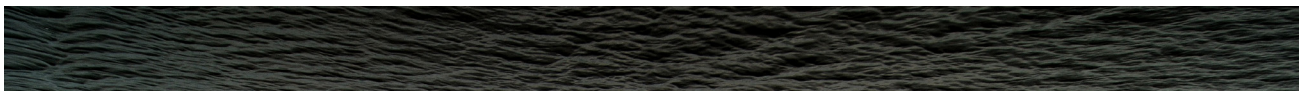
## DAVID LAIDLAW Speaker

Research Fellow - Canadian Institute of Resources Law, University of Calgary

David practiced briefly in Aboriginal law in the early 1990s but his ongoing interest in the area of Aboriginal Law has led him to return to Law School at the University of Calgary after two decades of practice. Ever since, he has explored this area and its implications for indigenous groups and the public in Alberta and throughout Canada. He is currently engaged in research in aboriginal issues for the Canadian Institute of Resources Law (CIRL).

Currently a research fellow with the Canadian Institute of Resources Law, he holds a BSc in Computer Science and Economics from the University of Calgary (1985), LLB from Dalhousie University (1988), admitted to the Bar (1989) and an LLM from the University of Calgary (2013).

**Theme Related Work:** David Laidlaw has recently completed an Updated Handbook (2016), to account for the new Consultation Guidelines (2014) and other recent developments, funded by the Alberta Law Foundation. His ongoing research presentations have been funded by the Alberta Law Foundation, Cenovus Energy Inc., the ATCO Group and several First Nations.



## ADRIAN PARR

### Speaker

UNESCO Co-Chair of Water Access and Sustainability  
Director of the Charles Phelps Taft Research Center  
Professor (Political Science and the School of  
Architecture and Interior Design), University of  
Cincinnati

Adrian Parr holds a joint appointment in the Department of Political Science and the School of Architecture and Interior Design. She is an environmental, political, and cultural theorist, philosopher and critic. Her research focuses on environmental politics, water access, and the built environment.

In 2011, Parr received the distinguished Rieveschl Award for Scholarly and Creative Work. In 2013, she co-directed the Future Cities; Livable Futures symposium—a public event that provided a platform for attendees to share and discuss the future of urban life in topics such as sustainable urban development, increasing population, inadequate infrastructure, poor social services, escalating health problems, and challenges posed by climate change.

**Theme Related Work:** In 2013 Professor Adrian Parr and Professor Dion Dionysiou were appointed as UNESCO Co-Chairs of Water Accessibility and Sustainability.

## VAL NAPOLEON

### Speaker

Associate Professor Law Foundation Professor of  
Aboriginal Justice and Governance, University of  
Victoria, British Columbia

Val Napoleon is from northeast British Columbia (Treaty 8) and a member of Saulteau First Nation. She is also an adopted member of the Gitanyow (Gitksan) House of Luuxhon, Ganada (Frog) Clan. Prior to joining the Faculty of Law at UVic in 2012, Napoleon was cross-appointed with the faculties of Native Studies and Law at the University of Alberta.

Her current research focuses on indigenous legal traditions (indigenous legal theories, pedagogies, law and precedent, legal institutions, and legal research methodologies), indigenous feminism, citizenship, self-determination, and governance. Some of her major initiatives include the proposed JID (joint JD and indigenous law degree) program, establishing the Indigenous Law Research Unit with a number of research partnerships with Indigenous communities and groups in BC, across Canada, and with international connections.

**Theme Related Research:** Professor Val Napoleon is the Principal Investigator of a new SSHRC funded project looking at the critical issue of BC's water laws.



# FROM “BEYOND PETROCULTURES” to “ENERGY IN SOCIETY”

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by petra dolata



Building on the successful Congress 2016 event, “Is Oil a Dirty Word? Stories from the Humanities,” which was co-sponsored by the Calgary Institute for the Humanities last May, the interdisciplinary CIH working group “Beyond Petrocultures” met in fall 2016 and winter 2017 to discuss the history and politics of energy and resource extraction in Canada. The conveners of the group – Dr. Petra Dolata (History), Dr. Sabrina Perić (Anthropology and Archaeology), Dr. Roberta Rice (Political Science) and Dr. Saulesh Yessenova (Anthropology and Archaeology) – hoped to instigate wider conversations about energy literacy that would also go beyond a simplistic understanding of the ways that natural and energy resources shape our societies and futures. With the help of three guest speakers and through close readings and debates, the group ventured beyond the concept of Petrocultures by focusing on non-petroleum resources and by contesting the assumption that all societies experience today’s petroleum-dominated life in the same way. As historians, anthropologists and political scientists the group was much more interested in how different communities and actors were able to negotiate, reject or modify that impact.

Three public lectures, which the group was able to organize with the financial and logistical help of the CIH, promised to give ample food for thought and facilitated the group’s discussions as well as disseminate latest insights to energy researchers within the university and the general public. In October Dr. Liza Piper (University of Alberta) talked about “Energy, Environment, and the History of Coal in Late 20th Century Alberta” emphasizing that all energy systems are intertwined, and that energy pathways and transitions need to be understood holistically. In her talk in December, Dr. Terry Mitchell (Wilfrid Laurier University) addressed the topic of “Rights, Responsibilities, and Reconciliation: Understanding Free, Prior, and Informed Consent Across the Americas” and helped us understand the dynamics of energy politics and activism. The third public lecture was by Norma Kassi, which discussed the past, present and future of resource development in the Canadian North. Norma Kassi is Vuntut Gwitchin, and a member of the Wolf Clan. She is the co-founder of the Arctic Institute for Community-Based Research, and has been involved in issues related to contaminants, food security, climate change, wildlife protection, youth

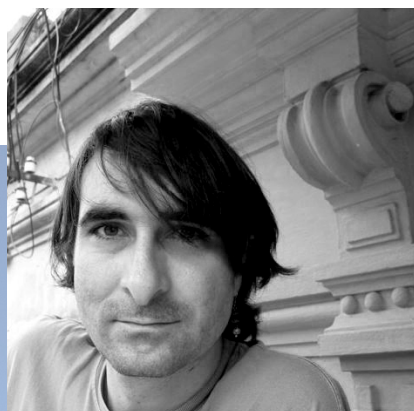
and community engagement for over 30 years. As the high turnouts for the public talks showed, Calgarians are very interested in engaging with the questions of how resources and resource extractions contribute to different narratives, politics and actions. To acknowledge this close link between energy and society we have renamed the group “Energy In Society”.

In January 2017, Drs. Dolata and Perić were invited to present the aims of the group and their own work at a panel on Energy Transitions organized by the Max Planck Institutes for the History of Science (MPIWG) and Chemical Energy Conversion (MPI CEC) in Berlin, Germany. This marked the initial step toward a larger collaborative project between the Max Planck Institutes and the CIH working group on the topic of “Energy In Society: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Understanding and Facilitating Energy Transformations,” which is expected to hold one workshop in Berlin in May 2017 and another in Calgary and Fort McMurray in late September 2017 as well as an international conference on “Energy Transitions in North America and Europe” in Banff in 2018.



# CALGARY INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES

## WORKING GROUPS



### MARXISM & ITALIAN THEORY WORKING GROUP

The Marxism & Italian Theory Working Group met on a regular basis throughout the 2016-17 Academic year. The group's initial aim was to discuss Hardt & Negri's *Empire* (Harvard, 2001), to prepare for Prof. Negri's visit planned for April of this year. Difficulties emerged in obtaining travel authorization for Professor Negri, but the group continued to meet, with the conviction that his work is critical for helping us understand the profound and dramatic political and economic changes underway as a reaction to neo-liberal globalization. Given the difficulties imposed on us by Canadian immigration authorities, which forced us to cancel Prof. Negri's visit in April, we decided to invite Dr. Jon Beasley-Murray to Calgary to discuss his book *Posthegemony: Political Theory and Latin America* (Minneapolis: Minnesota University Press, 2010). Dr. Beasley-Murray's work engages well with Prof. Negri's, in providing a similarly critical analysis of the ills of neoliberal globalization.



### VENDLER READING GROUP

The Vendler Reading Group is an interdisciplinary group composed of faculty and graduate students from philosophy and linguistics. The group's main goal is to facilitate communication between researchers working on issues related to the syntax, semantics, and pragmatics of natural languages.

We have benefited significantly from being a CIH working group. We organized our meetings for the year around a single unified theme of common interest (pronouns and reference), and held a one day workshop where we had an opportunity to engage with invited speakers, Karen Lewis and Pranav Anand. The decision to focus on a topic that is of significant interest to both philosophers and linguists has resulted in greater participation from both sides, and noticeably more engagement from our graduate students. This success has re-energized the Vendler Group, reinforced relations between members of the two units, and will no doubt lead to a similar thematic organization of our meetings in the future.



### VISUAL RESEARCH WORKING GROUP

This the second year that the Visual Research Working Group has been supported by the Calgary Institute for the Humanities. Last year our objective was to build a multidisciplinary network of visual researchers at the University of Calgary. From that larger network, a smaller group of eight members has been working this year on a collaborative research project. Our aim is to pursue a single research topic from multiple disciplinary perspectives, in order to tease out and examine what our various "disciplinary lenses" contribute to the process of conducting visual research. As our focus, we chose to explore experiences and practices of place in Calgary. We understand place as arising in the critical intersection between specific sites, with their geographical features and built form, and the human practices, physical and interpretive, through which the sites come to have meaning. Among the methods of visual research included are practice-led photographic research creation, analysis of archival or found images, and visual ethnography. We are working toward an exhibition of images drawn from the project in Fall 2017.

#### Images from left to right:

> Photo: Sabrina Peric, *Energy in Society*, Oil Worker Housing, Bakken Shale, North Dakota

> Photo: Sabrina Peric, *Energy in Society*, Crude Oil Storage, Bakken Shale, North Dakota

> Photo: Petra Dolata, *Energy in Society*, Arctic

> Image of Jon Beasley-Murray, *Marxism & Theory Working Group*

> Photo: Joseph Windsor, *Vendler Reading Group*. Dr. Karen Lewis speaking at the Vendler Reading Group Workshop

> Image courtesy of Emily Truman, *Visual Research Working Group*, Calgary Stampede crowds at 2nd St E and 10th Ave, July 11, 1949. Photographer: Janet Stevenson.





Image courtesy Annette Timm

# Gender and Sexuality in the Holocaust

Former CIH Annual Fellow Dr. Annette Timm co-teaches a Faculty seminar at U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

Together with Prof. Dagmar Herzog, Distinguished Professor of History at the Graduate Center at the City University of New York, Dr. Annette Timm was selected to co-teach the Jack and Anita Hess Faculty Seminar at the Mandel Center of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., this past January. The annual seminar is funded by Jack and Anita Hess and allows college and university faculty members from all disciplines to engage in an intense week of scholarly discussion geared towards improving their techniques or preparing them to teach the Holocaust or Holocaust-related courses. Between January 9 and 13, 2017, Timm and Herzog taught the course “Gender and Sexuality in the Holocaust” to 21 faculty members from across North America and from a wide range of disciplines, including not only history, but also literature, political science, and anthropology. They led participants through discussions

about how gender norms and human sexuality affected the lives of perpetrators, bystanders and victims, suggesting ways that the vast archival collections of the USMHH could be used to teach this sensitive subject to undergraduates. Relying on path-breaking recent research that will soon contribute to the restructuring of the USHMM’s permanent exhibit, the seminar focused on how National Socialist ideologies of sexuality, race, and gender were used to justify the violent exclusion of “non-Aryan” groups from the idealized German national body. Specific subjects addressed included: sexual violence; eugenics; forced sterilization and euthanasia; instrumental sex; reproductive experimentation; sexual slavery in the military and in the concentration camps; the persecution of homosexuals; voyeurism and public shaming; and the various ways in which sexuality and race were linked in Nazi ideology and propaganda.





Image courtesy Elena Dahlberg



## ELENA DAHLBERG

CIH VISITING POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW  
UPPSALA UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN

I am looking forward to joining the CIH's team, whose members possess knowledge of such an impressive variety of subjects and theoretical and methodological approaches.

We are thrilled to welcome Elena Dahlberg jointly to the Calgary Institute for the Humanities and the Department of Classics and Religion as a Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow. Elena Dahlberg received her PhD in Latin from Uppsala University in 2015. After her graduation, she worked as a researcher at Södertörn University Library in Stockholm, where she catalogued thousands of early modern dissertations in the Swedish national database LIBRIS. At the CIH, Elena will be working on a monograph titled, *Latin Poetry in the Service of the Swedish State-Building Program, c. 1550-1650*. The project will seek to explain how Neo-Latin poetry was used for ideological purposes in general, and how it helped to promote the reforms of the fledgling Swedish state in particular. The discussions on the discursive mechanisms of early modern poetry will provide an analytical framework and comparative model for understanding how literature affects politics and how politics shape literature.





## AMELIA KIDDLE

CIH ANNUAL FELLOW  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,  
DEPT OF HISTORY

**The Mexican Oil Expropriation of 1938 and the Roots of Resource Nationalism in Latin America**

The goal of this project is to advance and mobilize knowledge of the historical roots of contemporary issues surrounding energy production, consumption, and regulation and to provide a genealogy of resource nationalism in Latin America. In collaboration with my senior international colleague, Dr. María Cecilia Zuleta, Research Professor at El Colegio de México, the primary outcome will be a co-authored monograph of interest to economic, political, and cultural historians of energy in Latin America and beyond.



## JACK LUCAS

CIH ANNUAL FELLOW  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,  
DEPT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

**Political Authority and Democratic Reform in the Western Canadian City**

Throughout the twentieth century, western Canadian cities led North America in their willingness to experiment with urban democracy – experiments that included proportional electoral systems and the early enfranchisement of women. My research will explore these democratic reforms, explaining how they emerged, why they were implemented, and how they embodied changing ideas about political authority. My papers at CIH will focus on comparative-historical studies of the local franchise and proportional electoral systems, as well as a broader essay on the development of urban political authority in western Canada. These papers are part of a book project on the historical development of political authority in western Canadian cities.



## SABRINA PERIC

CIH ANNUAL FELLOW  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,  
DEPT OF ANTHROPOLOGY &  
ARCHAEOLOGY

**Ilegala: Reading, Radicalism and Paramilitarism in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1932 - 1942**

How do individuals become politically 'radicalized'? How do radicalized individuals become incorporated into larger (para) military projects? To answer these questions, I propose to study a historical case of radicalization: the rise of Communist Party Youth in the 1930s Kingdom of Yugoslavia, and their transformation into a Yugoslav Partisan paramilitary during World War II. Using memoirs of Partisans in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), I will argue that texts and practices of literacy were critical to the process of radicalization.

## ANURADHA GOBIN

CIH WAYNE O. MCCREADY FELLOWSHIP FOR AN EMERGING SCHOLAR  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,  
DEPT OF ART



Anuradha Gobin is an Assistant Professor of Art History in the Department of Art at the University of Calgary. Prior to joining the University of Calgary in 2016, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Sainsbury Institute for Art and received her doctorate in art history from McGill University. Dr. Gobin's current research project focuses on visual depictions of social and cultural spaces associated with criminal punishments in the seventeenth-century Dutch Republic. This project seeks to explore the ways in which visual culture served to mediate shifting anxieties about notions of criminality, death and the various types of medical knowledge that emerged as a result of capital sentences. Anuradha Gobin will be giving the McCready Fellow lecture in the fall of 2017.





**JESSICA NICOL**

CIH GRADUATE FELLOW  
DEPT OF ENGLISH

**Lost in the Stacks: A Fictocritical Study of Material and Digital Objects in the Bob Gibson Collection of Speculative Fiction**

Lost in the Stacks examines the digital preservation of unique material artifacts and collections, using the ongoing digitization of the Bob Gibson Collection of Speculative Fiction as its case study. I am studying a subset of this print archive of books, magazines, and hand-compiled anthologies in order to interrogate the limits of preserving Gibson's collection digitally by identifying certain aspects of material objects that are lost in digital manifestations.

# ANNOUNCING THE 2017-2018

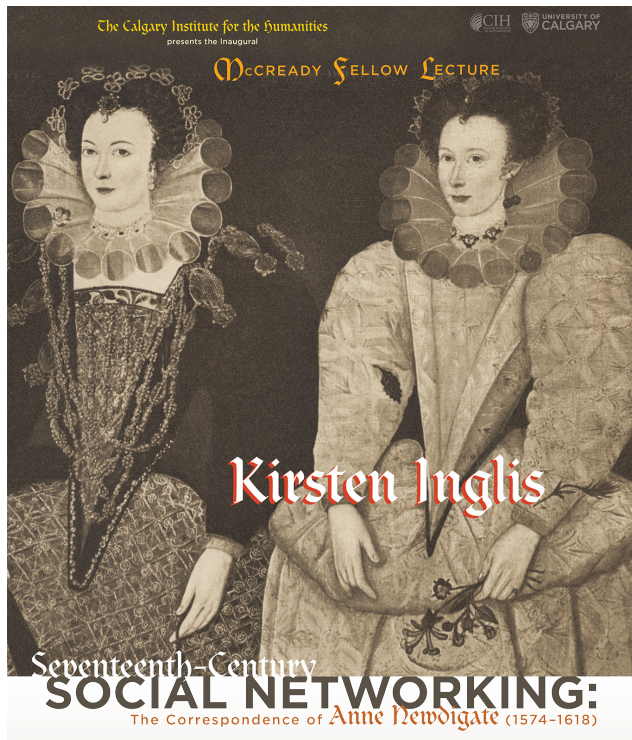
## CIH ANNUAL FELLOWS

The Calgary Institute for the Humanities is pleased to announce the results of the 2017-2018 Fellowship Competition.

Every year, the Calgary Institute for the Humanities supports top-level humanities research at the University of Calgary by offering annual research fellowships and the Frances Spratt graduate student fellowship, as well as hosting postdoctoral fellows, visiting scholars, and interdisciplinary working groups. The incoming 2017-2018 fellows are researching such diverse topics as Mexican oil expropriation, democratic reform in Western Canada, radicalization in the Balkans, the fate of material texts in the internet age, and paintings of corpses in the seventeenth-century Dutch Republic. As we embark on our 41st year of the Calgary Institute for the Humanities, Canada's oldest humanities institute, we hope that you will join us in our convivial community of learning, at one or more of the fellow's lectures that we present throughout the academic year.

# CALGARY INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES

# HIGHLIGHTS



## McCREADY FELLOW LECTURE

**November 24, 2016:** The Calgary Institute for the Humanities proudly presented a talk by Kirsten Inglis, the first recipient of the Wayne O. McCready Fellowship for an Emerging Scholar. Dr. Inglis' talk, *Seventeenth-Century Social Networking: The Correspondence of Anne Newdigate (1574–1618)*, detailed the letters of Anne Newdigate of Arbury Hall, Warwickshire, revealing a woman at the centre of a vast web of social, familial, and business contacts throughout England. The letters offer important insights into the epistolary rhetoric and literary culture of early modern England, and the talk explored the rhetorical admixture of formulaic praise, sincere affection, legal advice, and intimate personal counsel evident in the Newdigate correspondence.

## COLD WAR SPY STORIES ON SCREEN

**January 24, 2017:** 2015-2016 CIH Annual Fellow Cheryl Dueck presented *Cold War Spy Stories on Screen*. The project examines how the aesthetics of surveillance provide a conduit for national stories to gain transnational resonance. The most recent films about the Cold War engage more explicitly with an international preoccupation with blanket surveillance in their aesthetic approach, their thematic content and their application of plurimedial networking. An analysis of several filmic representations of secret police show how these productions undertake to present political ambiguity through filmic devices such as blurring, framing and representation of affect, thus speaking to the climate of fear and mistrust of all mechanisms of surveillance.

## SPECULATIVE BY DESIGN

**March 1, 2017:** Stefania Forlini, Associate Professor of English and 2014-2015 CIH fellow presented, *Speculative by Design: New Perspectives on Early Science Fiction*. Working with the Bob-Gibson Collection of Speculative Fiction, this project argues for a speculative, exploratory approach to literary history that employs a collaborative visualization design process to interrogate interpretive categories and underlying epistemological assumptions while also provoking consideration of neglected literary materials collected by science fiction fan and artist, Bob Gibson.



JAMES ELLIS



## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

The theme of this year's Community Seminar, "Water in the West: Rights of Water / Rights to Water," brings together two vital sets of concerns. The first is the area of study called the "Environmental Humanities," which aims to address environmental concerns from a humanities perspective. The CIH's Community Seminar has been exploring topics from the Environmental Humanities for the last couple of years, and one of this year's Interdisciplinary Working Groups, "Beyond Petrocultures," has also been employing humanities perspectives to address the issues of energy dependency and energy transition.

Our interest in "Water in the West" is also a response to Canada's Truth and

Reconciliation Commission final report, which investigated the historical roots and the historical legacy of Canada's residential schools, and the damage they did to Indigenous peoples and cultures. (The City of Calgary has produced a similar report, [White Goose Flying](#), which addresses more specifically the local history and context.) In the conclusion to their report, the TRC offers a series of recommendations towards addressing and redressing the damage, of which focus on education, and we hope that our community seminar can participate in this process. On our website, we've assembled some background reading for the seminar and some of the relevant documents, including the TRC's report, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We have assembled a similar dossier on our website for last year's seminar, "Calgary: City of Animals." There you can find a reading list, links to community organizations, and videos of the seminar talks. And we're thrilled to announce that we will be publishing a book with the U of C Press that brings together the texts of those talks, along with other invited contributions from scholars and animal welfare workers, and a series of beautifully illustrated pieces that explore how Calgary artists have been inspired by the animals that live among us. The book should be appearing around the time of this year's seminar, and a digital download will be available on our website. We hope that you will pick it up, and take the conversation further.



Dona Schwartz, CIH Visual Research Working Group, From the Series "Mountain Views", 2016

# FORTY YEARS AND COUNTING

For over forty years, the Calgary Institute for the Humanities has worked to foster humanities research of the highest order, to encourage interdisciplinary conversations between scholars, and to communicate the results of humanities research to the greater community. The humanities as traditionally conceived encompass the study of languages, literature, history, philosophy, religion and the arts. At the CIH, we take a broader approach to the humanities, to include all forms of study that illuminate what it means to be human.

[arts.ucalgary.ca/cih](https://arts.ucalgary.ca/cih)

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