

# **PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release

## **AWARD FOR BEST DOCTORAL THESIS IN CANADIAN STUDIES**

Ottawa, Ontario - May 24th, 2010 – The International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS) is pleased to announce that the Award for Best Doctoral

Thesis in Canadian Studies will be awarded to Doctor Janis Goldie for her thesis “*Morals, Process and Political Scandals: The Discursive Role of the Royal Commission in the Somalia Affair in Canada*”. Ms. Goldie will receive her award from Dr. Klaus-Dieter Ertler, ICCS President, during the annual banquet of the ICCS to be held on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at Hotel Omni Mont-Royal, in Montreal.

Ms. Goldie’s thesis addresses royal inquiry commissions and more specifically the Commission of Inquiry on the deployment of Canadian Forces to Somalia in 1997. Ms. Goldie approaches the study of this royal commission from an original point of view to explore the role played by the commission in regards to political communication. She contends and demonstrates that the royal commission, not only went to the bottom of the scandal, identified the culprits and blamed individuals or organizations, but through a detailed examination of the elements pertaining to the scandal, allowed to reaffirm and re-establish the legitimacy of standards pertaining to Canadian core values and re-establish the society’s legitimacy. This research represents a major contribution for a better understanding of Canada, since the case study at the heart of the research – the events in Somalia – caused a moral dissonance throughout Canada. Ms. Goldie’s thesis includes an examination of values dear to Canadians in relation to peacekeeping, multiculturalism, accountability and transparency and demonstrates how the Somalia events went against these values. This thesis addresses a field rarely studied before by specialists in social sciences, i.e. the concept of scandal as an offense against the societal sense of decency and which requires redress to establish how a society can recover from such an incident. Ms. Goldie’s thesis analyses the discourse delivered by the royal commission through thousands of pages and related to the identification of key values. This analysis reveals the full extent of the communication function performed by the Commission. She concludes by stating that the royal commission is an institution of vital importance because it offers a space to discuss, define and reaffirm the moral principles transgressed, to rationalize and give back legitimacy to these same moral principals and to demonstrate that the political system performs efficiently.

Ms. Goldie received her B.A in English, Rhetoric and Professional Writing and a Minor in Political Science from the University of Waterloo. She earned her M.A. in Communications from the University of Calgary in 2003 and her PhD from the same university in 2009. Ms. Goldie taught at the University of Calgary, at the Athabasca University and at Huntington University where she is Chair of the Department of Communications.

The International Council for Canadian Studies is a not for profit organization of twenty-one national and multi-national Canadian Studies associations and six associate members in 39 countries, representing 7,500 university and college teachers, which reach, on a yearly basis, more than 150,000 students. ICCS’ mandate is to promote worldwide research, teaching and publications on the study of Canada.

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