

The International Canadianist



International Council for Canadian Studies

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Palestinian Association of Canadian Studies

The Palestinian Association of Canadian Studies, first established in 1987, is reorganizing after a hiatus of five years. Initiated by Dr. **Saleem Zougbi** (Al-Quds University), Dr. **Kemal Rashid** (Najah University) and Mr. **Mark Taylor** (Bir Zeit University), and inaugurated at Notre Dame Center in Jerusalem, the association received initial support from Canadian diplomats, Dr. **Norman Spector** and Mr. **George Rioux**. Scholars from a variety of Palestinian universities received faculty research grants to pursue Canadian Studies in fields such as literature, French language, water and environment issues, engineering, labor issues, health policies, and NGO-government relations.

The association has established a website at <http://www.canadian-studies-palestine.org>. Among its goals are the development of Palestinian academic interest in the study of Canada, the promotion of comparative studies, and the creation of joint research initiatives between Palestinian and Canadian individuals and institutions of higher education.

ICCS Celebrates 25 Years

The ICCS celebrated 25 years of service to Canadian Studies on May 26, 2006. Some 150 guests gathered at the Holiday Inn, Plaza la Chaudière, Gatineau for a 25th anniversary reception honoring past presidents of the ICCS and prominent pioneers of Canadian Studies around the world. The program included remarks by **James Page**, first president of the ICCS; **Brian Long**, former director of Academic Relations at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada; **Zilá Bernd**, Past-President of the ICCS; and **Jean Labrie**, Deputy Director, International Academic Programs, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada; and the launch of a commemorative book *The Canadianists / Les Canadianistes* by **Serge Jaumain**, past-president of the ICCS and Director of the Centre d'Études Canadiennes, Université Libre de Bruxelles.



Left to right: Christopher Rolfe, President of ICCS, and past-presidents, James Page, Hans Niederehe, Zilá Bernd, Jean-Michel Lacroix, Daniel Ben Natan, Karen Gould, Serge Jaumain and Xavier Arbós

Roma_Design+

Canada set the pace at Roma_Design+ (Rome, May 28-June 8, 2006), a multifaceted series of events on creativity and innovation presently in its 4th year and focused on design as both an art practice and a factor for development. The international expo-design program, open to the public, was organized in venues across the city by the Design and New Technologies Department of the University of Rome La Sapienza, with support from the Province of Rome, the Regional authorities, Embassies and foreign cultural Institutes.

The Canadian Embassy gave its patronage to, and supported the activities, with the participation of **David Lyon** (Queen's University Research Chair), **Stuart Walker** (University of Calgary) and **Derrick de Kerckhove** (McLuhan Program, University of Toronto). Chief organizer of the two sessions with major Canadian involvement was **Lorenzo Imbesi**, from the Rome Faculty of Architecture. Twice an alumnus of the Faculty Research Grants Program, Professor Imbesi keeps strong ties with Canada in the field of theory and practice of design.

Canada and Russia: Northern Dimension

On March 6, 2006 the Centre of Canadian Studies at Canada College, St. Petersburg State University held its first conference "Canada and Russia: Northern Dimension" funded by the Northern Initiatives Fund. The conference, which addressed a variety of topics touching upon ideas of the North, brought together experts from Canada, Russia and Finland to allow greater cooperation between these Northern countries, and search for creative ways of solving common Northern problems. Honorary guests and speakers included **Jack Anawak**, Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs, Canada; **Robert Kadas**, Senior Policy Advisor for Circumpolar Issues, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada; **Hector Cowan**, Consul General of Canada in St. Petersburg; **Keith Batarbee**, Associate Professor, Department of English, Turku University and President of the Nordic Association for Canadian Studies; **Tatyana R. Kuzmina**, Director and founder of St.Petersburg Chapter of the Russian Association for Canadian Studies; **Ludmila Gashilova**, President of St. Petersburg Branch of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of Siberia and the Far East; **Svetlana Chernysheva**, Vice-President of St. Petersburg Branch of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of Siberia and the Far East; **Igor Nabok**, Deputy Director, Institute of the Peoples of the North, Herzen Russian State Pedagogical University; and **Ludmila Nemova**, Head, Canadian Economy Section, Institute of the USA and Canada, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow.

The Centre for Canadian Studies at Canada College, St. Petersburg State University was inaugurated in 2001 through the joint efforts of

Canada College and the Department of English Philology, Translating and Interpreting, and with the financial assistance of the **Consulate General of Canada in St. Petersburg and Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada**. Since its inception the centre has developed a strong program of teaching at the university. Sixty students of English are enrolled in the compulsory course of Canadian Studies taught by Dr. **Vadim Golubev**, Director of the centre. The Centre has also recently reached an agreement with the University of Manitoba to institute a student exchange program for at least 2 Russian students and 2 Canadian students beginning in September 2006. The Centre is also negotiating with Trent University and Carleton University to set up similar student exchange programs.

Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Cuba

The 6th Cuban Conference on Canadian Studies, dedicated to the 30th Anniversary of the visit to Cuba of Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, took place at the University of Havana on March 8-10, 2006. Canadian Ambassador Her Excellency **Alexandra Bugailiskis**, Mr. **Simon Cridland** and Mr. **Ram Kamineni** of the Canadian Embassy, **Josefina Vidal**, Director of the North American Department of the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations, and Dra. **Cristina Díaz**, Vice-Rector of the University of Havana, presided at the opening of the conference, which brought together scholars and students from across Cuba. Keynote speakers included **Robert Bothwell** (University of Toronto) who spoke on "Themes in Canadian International Relations from d'Iberville to Stephen Harper," **Lana Wiley** (McMaster University) on "Cuban Biotechnology and Foreign Relations" and distinguished Cuban writer **Jaime Sarusky** on "Bartle, a Cuban town founded by Canadians."



*The Honorable Lincoln Alexander, seated
Her Excellency Alexandra Bugailiskis (far right)*

Other events to mark the 30th anniversary of the visit of Pierre Elliott Trudeau to Cuba included lectures at the University of Havana by the Honorable in **Lincoln Alexander** November 2005, and in February 2006 by Mr. **Stephen Toope**, President of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation.

South African Association of Canadian Studies

The South African Association of Canadian Studies (SAACS), the first Canadian Studies association on the continent of Africa, was launched in November 2005. **John Ralston Saul** was the guest speaker at the well

publicized launch, which was attended by over 200 people. His topic was "Diversity, multiple loyalties and citizenship: Canadian and South African experiences."

In 2005, in addition to its launch activities, the association mounted a well attended lecture by writer **G.M. Vassanji**. In the first few months of 2006 it has organized lectures by visiting Canadians such as literary critic **Elaine Newton**, theologian **Adele Reinhartz**, entrepreneur **Leonard Brody**, sociologist **Kogila Moodley** and political scientist **Heribert Adam**. Its plans for the rest of the year include participation in a high profile August colloquium on women and science, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of National Woman's Day, (a leading Canadian woman scientist will give the key note address); lectures by **Susan Spearey** of Brock University comparing Canadian and South African literary texts, and the mounting of drama and screen writing workshops by celebrated Canadian playwright **Colleen Wagner**.

The Association, which is currently based in the Centre for Extra-Mural Studies at the University of Cape Town, has 96 members. Its goals over the next few years include the development of chapters in other parts of South Africa, a data base, a website, and a rich programme of lectures and other events. In the first three years it will focus on Canadian literary studies, media studies and the arts; education studies, including literacy studies and HIV literacy; contemporary cultural studies, including heritage studies and multiculturalism; gender studies, with an emphasis on women in science; collaborative studies in the natural sciences; comparative international and economic affairs and the politics of peacemaking.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✳ **The European Network for Canadian Studies (ENCS)** has launched a website, featuring a list of its activities and publications, a list of Canadian professors at Canadian Studies centres in Europe, and links to all European Canadian Studies Associations. The site is at <http://www.ulb.ac.be/encs-reec>.
- ✳ **Christl Verduyn** was presented with the Governor General's International Award for Canadian Studies at the ICCS banquet in Gatineau, Quebec on May 28, 2006. Formerly with the Dept. of English, Wilfrid Laurier University, Professor Verduyn will join the English Department at Mount Allison University in September 2006.
- ✳ **Colin Samson** (University of Essex) is the winner of the Pierre Savard Award, book written in French or English, for his book *A Way of Life That Does Not Exist: Canada and the Extinguishment of the Innu* (Verso Publishers). The Award was presented in Ottawa, May 28, 2006, at the ICCS banquet during the meetings of the ICCS.



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