

The International Canadianist



International Council for Canadian Studies

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Indigenous Peoples of China and Canada

A First Symposium on Comparative Studies Between Amerindians and Northern Ethnic Groups in the People's Republic of China was held at the Canadian Studies Center of the University of Inner Mongolia, in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, July 11-13, 2002. The Symposium was the outcome of contacts initiated in 1984 and continued in 1996 when Dr. **Georges Sioui**, then Academic Dean of the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College visited Inner Mongolia.

The success of this important gathering of more than sixty Chinese scholars, seventeen of whom gave presentations in a wide range of disciplines including linguistics, anthropology, genetics, sociology, philosophy and the study of religions, was mainly owed to the persistence, vision and hard work of Professors **Wu Hujiltu**, Vice-President of the University of Inner Mongolia and **Xu Bingxun**, Director of the Centre for Canadian Studies at the University of Inner Mongolia and Vice-President of the Association for Canadian Studies in China. Dr. Georges Sioui, Canadian Huron scholar, travelled on a grant from the **Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade** to represent Canada and Canadian First Nations at the Symposium to give the keynote presentation.

I Congreso Internacional Patrimonio Cultural

To commemorate last year's presentation on Cultural Heritage organized around the visit of **Her Excellency The Honourable Adrienne Clarkson** and **His Excellency John Ralston Saul** in Córdoba, Argentina, the Canadian Studies Center of the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba held a follow-up event May 2-5, 2002 attended by over 400 persons and organized around four main "Heritage" themes: Immigration, Jesuits, Aboriginal Peoples, Science. The event was sponsored by a host of cultural and academic institutions, including the Argentine Association for Canadian Studies and the Canadian Government. Key organizers included Prof. **Elsa Zareceansky**, President, and **María del Carmen Franchello de Mariconde**, Secretary, of the Centro Cultural Canadá, Córdoba.

Ambassador **Thomas Macdonald** formally inaugurated the Congress which included the participation of six Canadian experts as well as hundreds of Canadianists from Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil. At a time of near-chaos in the political and social spheres of Argentina, the event drew the participation of individuals from all sectors to discuss widely varied topics related to the conservation of culture, the sustaining of identity, the newest trends in heritage issues, multiculturalism, cultural diversity and connectivity. Officials from both the Culture Secretariat of the City of Córdoba and the National University underscored their appreciation of Canada's support and the importance of culture and identity in strengthening the fabric of democracy.

A backdrop to the congress was the "Places of Power, Objects of Veneration" exhibition by **Norman Hallendy**. Other exhibitions included the Canadian Studies Travelling Book Display and National Film Board productions. Proceedings of the Congress are available on CD-ROM from the Centro Cultural Canadá, Córdoba.

Old Environments – New Environments

The VII Triennial Conference of the Nordic Association for Canadian Studies, was held August 8-11, 2002 in Stockholm, Sweden on the theme "Old Environments – New Environments" exploring a wide range of questions relating to both traditional and current aspects of society and culture in Canada.

The conference was opened by **Gustaf Lindencrona**, President of Stockholm University, **John Erik Fossum**, President of the Nordic Association for Canadian Studies and **His Excellency Philippe Kirsch**, Ambassador of Canada to Sweden, who also hosted an evening reception at the Ambassador's Residence in Lidingö.

The Honourable **Lloyd Axworthy**, Director of the Liu Centre for Global Issues, University of British Columbia delivered the opening keynote address. Other keynote speakers included novelists **Alistair MacLeod**, **Joy Kogawa**, **Gale Zoe Garnett**, and **Richard Van Camp**; Cree Grand Chief **Ted Moses**; The Honourable **Michel Létourneau**, Québec Minister responsible for Native Affairs and for the Development of Northern Québec, and Her Excellency **Mary Simon**, Canadian Ambassador for

Circumpolar Affairs. The International Council for Canadian Studies was represented by Ms. **Catherine Bastedo-Boileau**, Executive Director.

The conference attracted participants from all the Nordic countries as well as many other parts of the globe. Five workshop sessions, three special panels and plenary sessions, including a special Canadian Studies round table, explored topics ranging through trade, security, Northern issues, ethnicity and identity, sociolinguistics, gender, and postmodern perspectives on literature.

Canadian poet and artist **Heather Spears**, who lives in Sweden, attended the conference and sketched the various speakers. Her sketches will illustrate the published conference proceedings. A number of them were reproduced in an article on the conference by **Gale Zoe Garnett** which appeared in the *Globe and Mail* of Thursday, August 15, 2002.



Illustration by Heather Spears: novelist Alistair Macleod (left) and Dr. Robert Thomson, Director, Canadian Studies Centre, Aarhus University, Denmark (right)

Introducing Canadian Studies in Pakistan

A remarkable young woman has been working for the past four years to establish Canadian Studies in Pakistan. **Khalida Tanvir Syed**, who holds dual Canadian and Pakistani citizenship and has a Master's degree from the University of Manitoba, dreams of making Canadian literature known in Pakistan along side British and American literature. Thanks to her own efforts and a receptive university administration, she became the first teacher in Pakistan

to introduce a Canadian literature course as part of a masters level English curriculum at Fatima Jinnah Women University.

One of the main problems facing her project is the non-availability of Canadian books in Pakistan. A book donation grant from the **International Academic Relations Division** of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in 2000 gave a much-needed jump-start to the project. The arrival of the last shipment of books was celebrated at the Canadian High Commission Club in Islamabad with a reception attended by the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Dr. **Najma Najam**.

Professor Syed has also established a Friends of Canada-Pakistani Council of Canadian Studies, headquartered at the Al Maktoum Library of Sadiq Public School in Bahawalpur. With a membership of over 200, the association is devoted to the advancement of Canadian Studies in Pakistan and includes individuals from major universities such as the International Islamic University, Islamia University and Bahauddin Zakariya University.

This summer Khalida Syed updated her knowledge of Canada by attending the Western International Summer Seminar organized jointly by the ICCS, the Faculté Saint-Jean of the University of Alberta, and the Canadian Studies Program of the University of Calgary.

Did You Know?

- ✿ *The University Grants Commission (UGC) of India has upgraded four centres of Canadian Studies – in Baroda, Delhi, Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram – to Area Studies Units, with an appreciable rise in financial support and status over the next five years.*
- ✿ *Planning is well underway for the ICCS conference “Transculturalisms: Diversity and Metamorphosis” to be held in Montreal May 23-24, 2003. The conference will highlight the work of five international research teams, involved in a three year project relating to the intermingling of cultures and mechanisms of cultural transfer in Canada and abroad.*



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