



A Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies Conference

# MENNONITES AND ANTHROPOLOGY:

Ethnography, Religion,  
and Global Entanglements

October 25 – 26, 2019

**FREE ADMISSION**

Register at Conference

University of Winnipeg

Convocation Hall  
2nd Floor, Wesley Hall Building

Mennonites and anthropology share a complex series of entanglements and this conference investigates all aspects of these relationships. The conference theme builds upon recent ethnographic studies and reconsiders the ways in which Mennonites have imagined, embodied, and enacted their religious practice. It examines new ways to ask what it means to be Mennonite.



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG



Image by Miriam Rudolph

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

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7:00 – 8:00 pm

### RECEPTION FOR PRESENTERS AND SESSION CHAIRS

UWinnipeg Club (4th floor, Wesley Hall)

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

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8:30 – 8:45 am

### CONFERENCE WELCOME

- ANNETTE TRIMBEE, President, UWinnipeg, “Welcome”
- ROYDEN LOEWEN, UWinnipeg, “Conference Introduction”

8:45 – 9:45 am

### PANEL 1: MENNONITE ANTHROPOLOGY

Chair: Stephanie Phetsamy Stobbe,  
Menno Simons College

- PHILIP FOUNTAIN, Victoria U of Wellington, New Zealand, “Fragments of a Mennonite Anthropology”
- JOHN JANZEN, U of Kansas, “Confessions of a Mennonite Anthropologist”

9:45 – 10:15 am Coffee

10:15 am – 12:15 pm

### PANEL 2: RACE & ETHNICITY

Chair: Debbi DiGennaro, Oxford Center  
for Mission Studies

- ABIGAIL CARL-KLASSEN, El Paso, Texas, “Mennonite, Mestizo, and Indigenous Bridge Builders: Cross-Cultural Encounters in the Campos Menonitas of Chihuahua”
- PABLO HYUNG JIN KIM SUN, U of Toronto, “Making an Intercultural Mennonite Ethnoreligion in a Global Context”
- URSULA REGEHR, U of Bern and Museum der Kulturen Basel, “Coexistence Revisited: Mennonite Settlers and Indigenous People in the Gran Chaco”

- MIRIAM RUDOLPH, U of Manitoba, “disPOSSESSION: Exploring Mennonite and Indigenous Land Usage in Paraguay through Art”

12:15 – 1:15 pm Lunch

1:15 – 3:15 pm

### PANEL 3: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Chair: Hans Werner, JMS Board

- PAOLA CANOVA, U of Texas, Austin, “Racialized Desires: The Intimacy of Mennonite Economic Transformations in Paraguay”
- LAUREL ZWISSLER, Central Michigan U, “Buying, Selling and Being Fair: An Anthropologist at Ten Thousand Villages”
- MARILIN REHNfeldt, Catholic University of Asuncion, Paraguay, “Mennonite Haciendas and the Indigenous Labour Situation: A Study from Central Chaco”
- FABRICO VAZQUEZ, Academia Diplomática del Paraguay, “Leisure, Tourism and Luxury: The New Mennonite Bourgeoisie of the Paraguayan Chaco”

3:15 – 3:45 pm Coffee

3:45 – 5:00 pm

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS VIA SKYPE

Chair: Aileen Friesen, Plett Foundation

- JAMES URRY, Victoria U of Wellington, New Zealand, “Mennonites, Anthropology and History: A Complicated Intellectual Relationship”

5:00 – 7:00 pm Dinner Break

7:00 – 9:00 pm

### PANEL 4: RITUALS

Chair: Kathleen Venema, UWinnipeg

- KATHERINE HILL, Birkbeck College, London, “Baptism, Breaking Bread and Washing of Feet: Ritual in Dutch-Prussian Mennonite Communities in Transition”
- LAURA MEITZNER YODER and JAMIE HUFF, Wheaton College, “‘The best education happens around the table’: Four decades of ‘Mennonite Dinner’ in Wheaton”

- JUDITH KLASSEN, Canadian Museum of History, Ottawa, “‘Dü best miene Sonneschien’: Non-Conformity and Cosmopolitanism through Expressive Culture”
- JONATHAN DUECK, Canadian Mennonite U, “Ethnographic Studies of Mennonites and Encounters with God”

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

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**8:30 – 10:00 am**

**PANEL 5: DISSENSION**

Chair: Muriel Smith, JMS Board

- ELIZABETH PHELPS, Tirana, Albania, “Transnational Labour and Social Justice Peacemakers: Advocating for Multiculturalism in Virginia”
- ELISA TABER, The New School for Social Research, New York, “Morbo: Attracted by the Repulsive in Paraguayan Narratives of Exile and Refuge”
- CHRISTA MYLIN, State U of New York, Albany, “What Does the Lord Require of You?: Turner’s Root Paradigms and Schism in Mennonite Church USA”

**10:00 – 10:30 am Coffee**

**10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

**PANEL 6: MISSIONS**

Chair: Eliakim Sibanda, UWinnipeg

- KIMBERLY SCHMIDT, Eastern Mennonite U, “Christianizing and Civilizing the Heathen: Gender and U.S. Policy on the Cheyenne Missions, 1871-1934”
- DOREEN HELEN KLASSEN, Memorial U, Grenfell, “The Local and the Universal: Jacob Loewen and Ben Eids’s attempts to Indigenize Theology”
- SARINA ANNIS, U of Toronto, “Evangelism and the Mennonite Missionary in Quebec 1954-1980”

**12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch**

**1:00 – 2:00 pm**

**PANEL 7: DISCIPLINE**

Chair: Patti Harms, Brandon University

- CAREL ROESSINGH, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, “Making Rules and Regulations: The Belizean Government and the Old Order Hoover Mennonites”
- TOM THORNTON, Johns Hopkins U, “A Space for Prison Chaplaincy: Mennonite Ambivalence, Discipleship, and the Theological Imagination of Ethics in Alabama”

**2:00 – 3:00 pm**

**PANEL 8: ARCHAEOLOGIES**

Chair: Conrad Stoesz, Mennonite Heritage Archives

- JOHN D. THIESEN, Bethel College, Kansas, “H. R. Voth, the Hopi and a Contested Kansas Mennonite Anthro-/Archeological Legacy”
- ROLAND SAWATZKY, Manitoba Museum, “Earthly Remains: Recovery, Analysis and Reburial of a Mennonite Skeleton at Kleefeld, Manitoba”

**3:00 – 3:30 pm Coffee**

**3:30 – 5:30 pm**

**PANEL 9: BODIES**

Chair: Robert Zacharias, York University

- KERRY FAST, Toronto, “Steinbach Pride: Becoming an Embodied Queer Mennonite Space”
- TIMOTHY EPP, Redeemer U College, Hamilton, “Encountering the Black Person in Canadian Mennonite Newspapers”
- TOMOMI NAKA, Tottori University, Japan, “Women’s Singlehood and Social Networks: Lived Experience in Conservative Mennonite Communities in the U.S.”
- JOEL NOFZIGER, Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, “‘A Token of Love’: A Cultural History of Hairwork among Pennsylvania German Mennonites”

**5:30 – 6:00 pm**

**CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS AND THANK YOU**

PHILIP FOUNTAIN and ROYDEN LOEWEN

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## LODGING

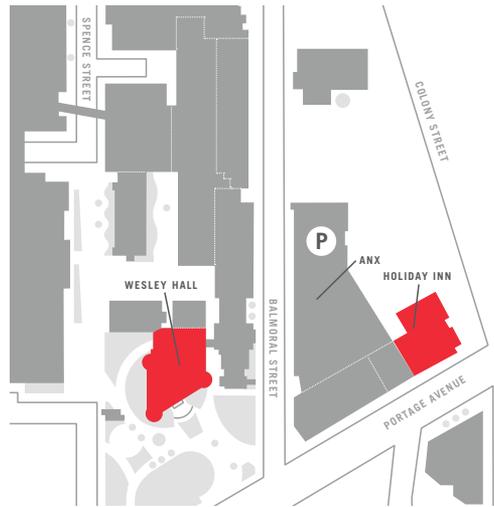
- Holiday Inn, 360 Colony St.  
Phone: 204-786-7011  
\*Ask for special UWinnipeg (Mennonite Studies Conference) rates

## PARKING

- AnX Parkade off of Colony St.
- Impark parking lots around the University
- Hudson's Bay Parkade
- Street parking also available

## FOOD

- Stella's, The Buhler Centre
- Elements, Richardson College for the Environment and Science Complex
- Riddell Hall Cafeteria, Centennial Building
- The University Club, Wesley Hall
- Dozens of restaurants near campus



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## Major Contributors:

Special thanks to the University of Winnipeg, the D.F. Plett Historical Research Foundation, Inc., the University of Victoria at Wellington

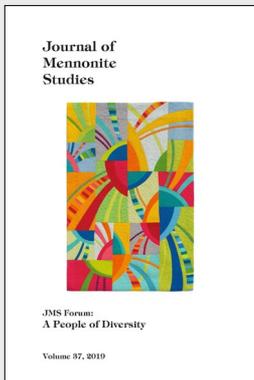
## Planning Committee:

Philip Fountain and Royden Loewen

**Special Thanks:** Andrea Dyck and UWinnipeg student volunteers

## Future Mennonite Studies Conferences:

- 2020** MCC at 100: Mennonites, Service and the Humanitarian Impulse
- 2021** Indigenous Mennonite Relations, Conrad Grebel University College
- 2022** Mennonite Migration to Mexico Centennial
- 2023** Russländer Mennonite Migration Centennial



## JOURNAL OF MENNONITE STUDIES

Selected, peer-reviewed papers from this conference will be published in the 2020 Journal of Mennonite Studies.

For more information, visit: [jms.uwinnipeg.ca](http://jms.uwinnipeg.ca)

**Subscription:** \$28/year

**Back issues:** \$18/issue

**To subscribe, email:** [r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca)

**2018** A People of Diversity; **2017** Mennonite/s Writing VIII; **2016** Mennonites, Land and the Environment; **2015** Mennonites, Medicine and the Body; **2014** Ex-Mennonite/Near Mennonite; **2013** MCC in Canada at 50; **2012** Mennonites, Human Rights and State Power; **2011** Anti-Modern 'Horse and Buggy' Pathways; **2010** Mennonites in Siberia