

FINAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Mennonites and Anthropology: Ethnography, Religion and Global Entanglements

**A Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies Conference,
University of Winnipeg**

Convocation Hall, 2nd Floor Wesley Hall

October 25-26, 2019

Preamble

Anthropology has garnered relatively little attention in the study of Mennonite communities when compared with the vibrant scholarship in history, theology, literary criticism, and sociology. And yet anthropology has much to offer for research into the ways Mennonites have practiced Christianity. Then, too, over the years, Mennonites have engaged with anthropology in a number of different ways. 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 that have provided new insights into the lived experience of diverse faiths. It 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.

Thursday, October 24

**7:00-8:00 pm Reception for Presenters and Session Chairs at University of
Winnipeg Faculty Club, 4th floor Wesley Hall**

Friday, October 25

8:30-8:45 Welcome and Introduction

Annette Trimbee, President (University of Winnipeg), “Welcome”

Royden Loewen (University of Winnipeg), “Conference Introduction”

8:45-9:45 Panel 1: Mennonite Anthropology

Chair: Stephanie Phetsamay Stobbe, Menno Simons College

Philip Fountain (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand), “Fragments of a
Mennonite Anthropology”

John Janzen (University of Kansas), “Confessions of a Mennonite Anthropologist”

9:45-10:15 Coffee

10:15-12:15 Panel 2: Encounters

Chair: Debbi DiGennaro, Oxford Center for Mission Studies

Abigail Carl-Klassen (El Paso, Texas) “Mennonite, Mestizo, and Bridge Builders: Cross-Cultural Encounters in the Campos Menonitas of Chihuahua”

Pablo Hyung Jin Kim Sun (University of Toronto), “Making an Intercultural Mennonite Ethnoreligion in a Global Context”

Ursula Regehr (University of Bern and Museum der Kulturen Basel) “Coexistence Revisited: Self-Representation and Experience in Mennonite-Indigenous Relations in the Gran Chaco”

Miriam Rudolph (University of Manitoba), “disPOSSESSION: Exploring Mennonite and Indigenous Land Usage in Paraguay through Art”

12:15-1:15 Lunch

1:15-3:15 Panel 3: Economies

Chair: Hans Werner, *JMS* Board

Paola Canova (University of Texas, Austin), “Racialized Desires: The Intimacy of Mennonite Economic Transformations in Paraguay”

Laurel Zwissler (Central Michigan University), “Buying, Selling and Being Fair: An Anthropologist at Ten Thousand Villages”

Marilyn Rehnfeldt (Catholic University of Asuncion, Paraguay), “Mennonite Haciendas and Indigenous Labor 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 Coffee

3:45-5:00 Keynote Address

Chair: Aileen Friesen, Plett Foundation

James Urry (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand), “Mennonites, Anthropology and History: A Complicated Intellectual Relationship”

5:00-7:00 Dinner Break

7:00-9:00 Panel 4: Rituals

Chair: Kathleen Venema, University of Winnipeg

Kat 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 (Museum of History, Ottawa), “Dü bess miene Sonneschien’: Non-conformity and Cosmopolitanism through Expressive Culture”

Jonathan Dueck (Canadian Mennonite University), “Ethnographic Studies of Mennonites and Encounters with God”

Saturday, October 26

8:30-10:00 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 (SUNY, Albany), “What Does the Lord Require of You?: Turner’s Root
Paradigms and Schism in Mennonite Church USA”

10:00-10:30 Coffee

10:30-12:00 Panel 6: Missions

Chair: Eliakim Sibanda, University of Winnipeg

Kimberly Schmidt (Eastern Mennonite University), “Christianizing and Civilizing the
Heathen: Gender and U.S. Policy on the Cheyenne Missions, 1871-1934

Doreen Helen Klassen (Memorial University, Grenfell), “The Local and the Universal:
Jacob Loewen and Ben Eidse’s attempts to Indigenize Theology.”

Sarina Annis (University of Toronto), “Evangelism and the Mennonite Missionary in
Quebec 1954-1980.”

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:00 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 University), “A Space for Prison Chaplaincy: Mennonite
Ambivalence, Discipleship, and the Theological Imagination of Ethics in Alabama”

2:00-3:00 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 Coffee

3:30-5:30 Panel 9: Bodies

Chair: Robert Zacharias, York University

Kerry Fast (Toronto), “Steinbach Pride: Becoming an Embodied Queer Mennonite
Space”

Timothy Epp (Redeemer College, Toronto), “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 US”
Joel Nofziger (Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society), “‘A Token of Love’: A Cultural History of Hairwork among Pennsylvania German Mennonites”

5:30-6:00 Conference Reflections and Thankyous

Philip Fountain and Royden Loewen

CONFERENCE DETAILS:

Lodging:

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

Parking:

- ANX Parkade off of Colony St.
- Impark parking lots around the University
- Hudson’s Bay Parkade on Memorial Blvd
- Street parking also available

Food:

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

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 U. Winnipeg student volunteers

Future Mennonite Studies conferences: **2020** MCC at 100: Mennonites, Service and the Humanitarian Impulse

JOURNAL OF MENNONITE STUDIES

Selected, peer-reviewed papers from this conference will be published in the 2020 *Journal of Mennonite Studies*. The editorial board consists of: Andrea Dyck, Brian Froese, Aileen Friesen, Jon Isaac, Patti Harms, Royden Loewen, Eliakim Sibanda, Muriel Smith, Stephanie Phetsamy Stobbe, Conrad Stoesz, Janis Thiessen, Kathleen Venema, Hans Werner, Robert Zacharias

For more information, visit: jmw.uwinnipeg.ca

To Subscribe, email r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca

Subscription: \$28/year

Back Issues: \$18/issue

2018 Mennonites in Canada since 1970; **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; **2010** Mennonite/s Writing; **2009** Mennonites, Melancholy and Mental Health; **2008** Mennonites and Money; **2007** Family and Sexuality; **2006** War and the Conscientious Objector; **2005** North American Mennonite Historiography; **2004** Refugee Newcomers; **2003** Mennonite Studies: A 25th Anniversary Conference; **2002** Mennonites and the City; **2001** Mennonite-Aboriginal Relations; **2000** Return of the Kanadier; **1999** 1874 Revisited; **1998** EnGendering the Past; **1997** Mennonites and the Soviet Inferno; **1996** Mennonites as a People Transformed; **1995-1983** Various Themes