MENNONITE/S WRITING VIII: PERSONAL NARRATIVES OF PLACE AND DISPLACEMENT

OCTOBER 19–21, 2017

Interweaving historical, literary, and theological interpretative lines to explore Mennonite personal narratives of dislocation resulting from violence and forced migration or from religious and cultural conflict in the 20th and 21st centuries.

FREE ADMISSION
Register at Conference
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

2:30–2:45 p.m.
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
Royden Loewen, Chair in Mennonite Studies

2:45–3:45 p.m.
NARRATIVES OF SOVIET SUFFERING
Chair: Peter Letkemann, Winnipeg
- JOHANNES DYCK, Bibelseminar Bonn, “The Migration Narrative of a Karaganda Church Elder”
- TATIANA PLOKHOTNYUK, Northern Caucasus U, “Narratives of the 1930s by NKVD Police Stenographers”

3:45–4:15 p.m. Coffee

4:15–5:45 p.m.
ADOPTION AND BELONGING
Chair: Elden Siemens, U Winnipeg
- FRAN MARTENS FRIESEN, Fresno Pacific U, “Adoption, Faith and Belonging”
- HOPE NISLY, Fresno Pacific U, “Family, Nonviolence and Social Class in Adoption: One Family’s Story”
- JANICE SCHROEDER, Carleton U, “Weaving Displacement Plots in Maurice Mierau’s Detachment”

5:45–7:30 p.m. Break for Dinner

7:30–9:00 p.m.
FEATURED ‘COMMENMORATIVE’ EVENING
LOCATION: MARPECK COMMONS, CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY, 2299 GRANT AVE.
3:00–3:30 p.m. Coffee

3:30–5:00 p.m.
RETHINKING EMPLACEMENT
Chair: Kathleen Venema, U Winnipeg
- GRACE KEHLER, McMaster U, “Di Brandt’s Ecological Subjectivities”
- HILDI FROESE TIESEN, Conrad Grebel U College, “Autobiographical Fragments in the Mennonite Literary Text”
- ANN HOSTETLER, Goshen College, “Layered Narratives of Displacement”

5:00–7:30 p.m. Break for Dinner

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

8:30–10:00 a.m.
MEMOIR AND QUESTIONS OF GENRE
Chair: Ann Hostetler, Goshen College
- JULIA SPICHER KASDORF, Penn State, “Coming Back: The Poetry and Life of Jane Rohrer”
- MAGDALENE REDEKOP, U Toronto, “Genre from the Inside Out: Fathers and Other Spectres”

10:00–10:30 a.m. Coffee

10:30–12:00 p.m.
NARRATIVES OF FAITH AND RELIGION
Chair: Dora Dueck, Tsawwassen, BC
- CONNIE T. BRAUN, Trinity Western U, “Place and Displacement: A Pilgrimage from Poland”
- TRAVIS KROEKER, McMaster U, “Scandalous Displacements in Irma Voth”
- ANDREW HARNISH, U North Dakota, “Giving Voice to the ‘Unspeakable’ within a Conservative Congregation”

12:00–1:00 p.m. Break for Lunch

1:00–1:30 p.m.
Book Launch
- HILDI FROESE TIESEN & OTHERS, “11 Encounters With Mennonite Fiction & Rhubarb 42”

1:30–3:00 p.m.
INTERGENERATIONALITY
Chair: Bob Hummitt, Westgate Collegiate
- MARY ANN LOEWEN, U Winnipeg, “Mennonite Daughters and Cross- Gendered Narratives of Place”
- RAYLENE HINZ-PENNER, Washburn U, “Tracing my own Rural Ancestral Journey from Poland”

3:00–3:30 p.m. Coffee

3:30–5:00 p.m.
RETHINKING EMPLACEMENT
Chair: Kathleen Venema, U Winnipeg
- GRACE KEHLER, McMaster U, “Di Brandt’s Ecological Subjectivities”
- HILDI FROESE TIESEN, Conrad Grebel U College, “Autobiographical Fragments in the Mennonite Literary Text”
- ANN HOSTETLER, Goshen College, “Layered Narratives of Displacement”

5:00–7:30 p.m. Break for Dinner

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

8:30–9:45 a.m.
AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL FRAGMENTS
Chair: Conrad Stoesz, Mennonite Heritage Archives
- LARRY WARKENTIN, Fresno Pacific U, “Displacement and Translation of Peasant-Poet Peter Gunther”
- JOHN D. THIESEN, Mennonite Library and Archives, “Writing the Autobiography of an ‘Imperfect’ Stranger”

9:45–10:15 a.m. Coffee

10:15–11:45 a.m.
DISLOCATION FICTION AND/AS MEMOIR
Chair: Catherine Hunter, Assoc. Dean, U Winnipeg
- MARGARET STEFFLER, Trent U, “Dislocations of the Family in Rudy Wiebe and Miriam Toews”
- DANIEL SHANK CRUZ, Utica College, “The Queer Call of Wes Funk”
- DAVID ELIAS, Winnipeg, “By Way of the Barn”

11:45–1:00 p.m. Break for Lunch

1:00–2:00 p.m.
KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Chair: Daniel Shank Cruz, Utica College
- JULIE RAK, U Alberta, “CanLit, Genre and Cruel Optimism”

2:00–2:30 p.m. Coffee

2:30–4:00 p.m.
PLACE AND FORCED MIGRATION
Chair: Hans Werner, U Winnipeg
- MYRON PENNER, Trinity Western U, “disPLACE: Refugee Stories”
- DOROTHY PETERS, Trinity Western U, “Childhoods Placed and Displaced: Two Girl Immigrants”
- ELSIE NEUFELDT, Vancouver, “Ort and Vertreibung: My Mother of the 1920s”

4:00–4:15 p.m. Break

4:15–5:30 p.m.
MENNONITE WRITING AND THE WORLD
Chair: Aiden Enns, Geez
- JEFF GUNDY, Blufilton U, “Mennonite Writing and the Things of This World.”
- DI BRANDT, Brandon U, “Paradigms of Re-Location, Re-Vision and Re- Placement”

5:30–7:30 p.m. Break for Dinner

Featured ‘Commemorative’ Evening

DISPLACEMENTS OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION: A CENTENARY REFLECTION
7:30–9:00 p.m.
Greetings: Cheryl Pauls, CMU President
Chair: Royden Loewen, Mennonite Studies
- RHODA JANZEN, Holland, Michigan
- MIRIAM TOEWS, Toronto, Ontario
- JEFF GUNDY, Bluffiton U, “Mennonite Writing and the Things of This World.”
- DI BRANDT, Brandon U, “Paradigms of Re-Location, Re-Vision and Re- Placement”

Thank you and Conference Farewell: Royden Loewen and Robert Zacharias
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

A MENNONITE/S WRITING TOUR OF WINNIPEG
2:30–5:00 p.m.

An informal driving tour of locations relevant to the rich history of Mennonite literature in Winnipeg will take place on Sunday afternoon.

Tour admission is $35, space is limited; please RSVP to an.dyck@uwinnipeg.ca

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
- 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: The University of Winnipeg; York University (Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies; Department of English; Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies); the Marpeck Fund; Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies (UW); Canadian Mennonite University; the Defehr Foundation; the D. F. Plett Historical Research Foundation.

Planning Committee: Conference Conveners: Royden Loewen (U Winnipeg) and Robert Zacharias (York U). Planning Committee: Paul Doerksen (Canadian Mennonite U); Dora Dueck (Tsawwassen BC); Hildi Froese Tiessen (Conrad Grebel U. College); Ann Hostetler (Goshen College); Daniel Shank Cruz (Utica College).

Special Thanks: James Urry, Dora Dueck, Andrea Dyck, students from the ‘Mennonites in Russia’ history class, and Paul Epp, sculptor of the Chortitza Monument, which inspired the silhouettes on the cover, and Mennonite Heritage Village for permission to use the historical image from its collection.

JOURNAL OF MENNONITE STUDIES

Selected, peer-reviewed papers from this conference will be published in the 2018 Journal of Mennonite Studies.

For more information, visit: jms.uwinnipeg.ca

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2017 Mennonites, Land & the Environment: Global Perspectives;
2016 Mennonites, Medicine & the Body; 2015 Ex-Mennonite/Near Mennonite;
2014 Mennonites, Human Rights & State Power; 2013 Anti-Modern ‘Horse and Buggy’ Pathways; 2012 Mennonites in Siberia; 2011 Mennonites, Melancholy & Mental Health