



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

**THE 2017 CENTRE FOR TRANSNATIONAL  
MENNONITE STUDIES CONFERENCE**

MENNONITE/S WRITING VIII:

# PERSONAL NARRATIVES OF PLACE AND DISPLACEMENT

OCTOBER 19–21, 2017

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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 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

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**FREE ADMISSION**  
Register at Conference

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

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**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**

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### Featured ‘Commemorative’ Evening

#### DISPLACEMENTS OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION: A CENTENARY REFLECTION

**7:30–9:00 p.m.**

Greetings: James Currie, Vice President Academic, U Winnipeg  
Chair: Royden Loewen, Mennonite Studies

- ROBERT ZACHARIAS, York U, “Revisiting *Rewriting*”
- AILEEN FRIESEN, Conrad Grebel U. College, “A Comparative Disquiet of Home”
- SEAN PATTERSON, U Alberta, “*Selbstschutzler* ‘Lost Paradise’ Narratives”

Reception to follow in foyer

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

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**8:30–10:00 a.m.**

### MEMOIR AND QUESTIONS OF GENRE

Chair: Ann Hostetler, Goshen College

- PAUL TIESSEN, Wilfrid Laurier U, “Transplanting Identity: The Confessions of Rudy Wiebe”
- 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 TIESSEN & OTHERS: 11 Encounters With Mennonite Fiction & *Rhubarb 42*

**1:30–3:00 p.m.**

### INTERGENERATIONALITY

Chair: Bob Hummelt, Westgate Collegiate

- DORA DUECK, Tsawwassen, BC, “Ways of Looking at my Father-in-Law, Refugee and Paraguay Pioneer: A Personal Biographical Quest”
- 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 TIESSEN, 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**

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### Featured ‘Creative’ Evening

#### LOCATION: MARPECK COMMONS, CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY, 2299 GRANT AVE.

**7:30–9:30 p.m.**

Greetings: Cheryl Pauls, CMU President  
Chair: Hildi Froese Tiessen, Conrad Grebel U College

- JENNIFER SEARS, NY City College of Technology, “Ghost Trains and Political Refugees”
- LEN NEUFELDT, Gig Harbor, WA, “Indictment and Prisons: Legacy of Escape”
- JESSICA PENNER, NY City College of Technology, “Attempts at Homecoming”

### Intermission

- CAROL ANN WEAVER, Conrad Grebel U. College, “Songs for my Mother”
- CASEY PLETT, Windsor, “Little Fish”
- MAURICE MIERAU, Winnipeg, “*Detachment: An Adoption Memoir*”

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

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**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, Bluffton 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**

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### Featured ‘Memoir’ Evening

#### MENNONITE LITERATURE AND THE ROLE OF MEMOIR

**7:30–9:30 p.m.**

Chair: Robert Zacharias, York U

- MIRIAM TOEWS, Toronto, Ontario
- RHODA JANZEN, Holland, Michigan

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](mailto:an.dyck@uwinnipeg.ca)

**LODGING**

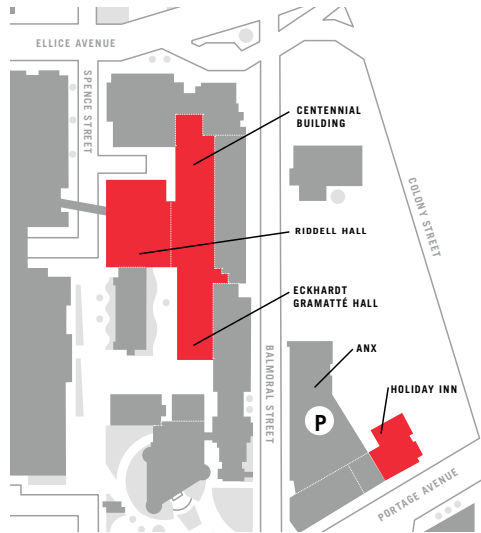
- Holiday Inn, 360 Colony St.  
Phone: 204-786-7011  
\*Ask for special U Winnipeg (Mennonite Studies Conference) rates

**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
- Stabucks, 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](http://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