



# Western Arts & Humanities

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the Department of English & Writing Studies

February 2016

## JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE LAUNCH OF THE NEW THEATRE STUDIES PROGRAM

The formal launch of the new Theatre Studies program will include an extraordinary performance of *Paradise Lost* by John Milton, adapted and directed by Paul Van Dyck and presented by Rabbit in a Hat Productions.

**Launch Reception: March 3rd at 7:00pm**

**Performances: March 3rd and 4th at 8:30pm**

**Tickets:** \$15 general admission or \$12 for students and seniors. Available online through the Arts Project, calling the box office 519-642-2767 or at the door.

**Location:** The Arts Project– 203 Dundas Street, London, ON

Please visit [the Arts Project](#) for more information about *Paradise Lost* and upcoming events.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED THEIR PHD THESIS!

### **Dr. Derek Shank**

*The Aesthetics of Romanic Hellenism*

Supervisor: Dr. Tilottama Rajan

Supervisory Committee Member: Dr. Joel Faflak

External Examiner: Dr. David Ferris (University of Colorado)

Date of Defense: Friday, October 23, 2015

### **Dr. Rebecca Campbell**

*Reading the Canadian Battlefield at Quebec, Queenston, Batoche, and Vimy*

Supervisor: Dr. David Bentley

Supervisory Committee Member: Dr. Manina Jones

External Examiner: Dr. Janice Fiamengo (University of Ottawa)

Date of Defense: Friday, November 20, 2015

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Creative Writer Series Presents: Tanaya Winder & Madeline Thein
- Public Matters Lecture with Jillian Keiley
- Phinder Dualai newest poetry collection engages with the 1914 Komagata Maru incident
- Tom Cull interviews Writer -In-Residence Tanis Rideout
- Tilottama Rajan publishes an edition of Mandeville



The Creative Writers Series presents the poet, writer, artist and educator: **Tanaya Winder**.

Tanaya is a poet, writer, artist and educator who was raised on the Southern Ute reservation in Ignacio, CO. An enrolled member of the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe, her background includes Southern Ute, Pyramid Lake Paiute, Navajo and Black Heritages. Tanaya writes and teaches about different expressions of love (self love, intimate love, social love, community love, and universal love).

A winner of the 2010 A Room of Her Own Foundation's Orlando prize in poetry, her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Cutthroat Magazine*, *Adobe Walls*, *Superstition Review*, *Drunken Boat*, and *Kweli* among others. Her poems from her manuscript "Love in a Time of Blood Quantum" was produced and performed by the Poetic Theatre Productions Presents Company in New York City. Tanaya's debut poetry collection *Words Like Love* was published in September 2015 by West End Press.

**All are welcome to this free public event on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 from 1:30pm–3:00pm in University Community Center (UCC) 63.**



## BETWEEN THE WORLD AND BALDWIN: TA-NEHISI COATES AND BLACK POLITICAL STRIVINGS IN THE POST– CIVIL RIGHTS ERA

**Talk by Robert Patterson**

**Monday, March 21. Time to be announced\*, Lawson Hall 2205**

By examining Coates' *Between the World and Me* as a response to the call Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time* sets forth, this paper discusses the implications of Coates' use of the black male body as a way to foreground the corporeal, psychic, and material harms that anti-black racism has done (and continue to do) to black life. By placing Coates and Baldwin in conversation, Patterson underscores their persistent literary, historical, and political webs of affiliation to articulate their collective visions for black political and social thriving.

Robert J. Patterson is an associate professor of African American and English studies as well as the director of the African American Studies Program at Georgetown University. He is the author of *Exodus Politics: Civil Rights and Leadership in African American Literature and Culture* (University of Virginia Press 2013), and co-editor of *The Psychic Hold of Slavery: Legacies in American Culture* (Rutgers University Press 2016). Extending his scholarly interests in the post–civil rights era, black popular culture, and the politics of race and gender, Patterson has begun work on a second book, *It's Just Another Sad Love Song: R&B Music and the Politics of Race*.

## PHINDER DULAI TO READ FROM HIS LATEST COLLECTION *DREAM / ARTERIES*

**Reading and Talk: Poet Phinder Dulai**

**Thursday, March 3, 2:00pm**

**Weldon Library 109**

Please join the Postcolonial Studies Group and the School for Advanced Studies in the Arts and Humanities on Thursday, March 3 at 2:00PM for a reading by poet Phinder Dulai. Dulai's latest collection, *dream / arteries*, engages with the 1914 Komagata Maru incident, in which 376 Sikh, Muslim, and Hindu migrants were denied entry at the port of Vancouver even though all those on board were British subjects. Dulai connects these 376 passengers with other New World settler migrants who also travelled on the Komagata Maru throughout its thirty-six-year history, including ports of call in Hong Kong, Japan, India, Turkey, Halifax, Montreal, and Ellis Island.

Phinder Dulai is the Vancouver-based author of *dream/arteries* (Talonbooks, 2014) and two previous books of poetry: *Ragas from the Periphery* (Arsenal Pulp Press, 1995) and *Basmati Brown* (Nightwood Editions, 2000). His most recent work has been published in Canadian Literature and Cue Books Anthology. Earlier work appeared in *Ankur*, *Matrix*, *Memewar Magazine*, *Rungh*, the *Capilano Review*, *Canadian Ethnic Studies*, *Toronto South Asian Review*, *subTerrain*, and *West Coast LINE*. Dulai is a co-founder of the Surrey-based interdisciplinary contemporary arts group The South of Fraser Inter Arts Collective (SOFIA/c).



The Department of English & Writing Studies in partnership with the Modern Languages Department at King's University College, presents the Creative Writers Series guest appearance from **Madeleine Thien**.

## “INSPIRED BY PLACE: HOW TO MAKE THE PERFORMING ARTS THRIVE LOCALLY, REGIONALLY AND NATIONALLY”

**Public Matters Lecture with Jillian Keiley**

**Thursday, March 17, 7:00 pm**

**Lecture Theatre. Museum London**

**Admission: FREE**

Our 2016 lecture by guest speaker Jillian Keiley marks the fourth collaboration in a partnership between Museum London, the School for Advanced Studies in the Arts and Humanities, and the Public Humanities at Western.

In her lecture “Inspired by Place”, Jillian reveals how local theatre is inherent to the development of our communities: it revitalizes cities to attract visitors and residents while bringing diverse demographics together to share experiences and understand each other better. Referencing personal experience, she recounts her journey from local theatre in St. John’s to her current position as Artistic Director of English Theatre at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. Jillian illustrates how theatre and performance not only strengthen communities, but can also catapult its members to positions of renown.

Originally from St. John’s, Jillian founded the theatre company Artistic Fraud, an active troupe that has produced oeuvres by Robert Chafe and Ron James, as well as her own productions. At the National Arts Centre, Jillian produced, among others, *Tartuffe*, this time set in her native Newfoundland. Her production of *Alice Through the Looking-Glass* has toured Charlottetown, Winnipeg and Edmonton, featuring local casts in each city. For 2016, Jillian is directing *As You Like It* for the Stratford Festival. Jillian has won numerous prizes and is the recipient of an honorary doctorate from Memorial University.

## RECENT PUBLICATION

**Rajan, Tilottama.** "Unspacing: The Architecture of Poetry in Shelley’s *Alastor* and Keats’s *The Fall of Hyperion*." *SEL Studies in English Literature 1500-1900* 55.4 (2015): 787-816.

**Rajan, Tilottama.** "The Gothic Matrix: Shelley Between the Symbolic and Romantic," P.B. Shelley and the Delimitation of the Gothic. Ed. David Brookshire. *Romantic Praxis* (November 2015).

Madeleine is the author of the story collection *Simple Recipes* (2001), and two novels, *Certainty* (2006) and *Dogs at the Perimeter* (2011), which was shortlisted for Berlin’s International Literature Prize, and won the Frankfurt Book Fair’s 2015 LiBeraturpreis. The LiBeraturpreis is the only German literature prize that is awarded exclusively to women from Africa, Asia, Latin America or the Arab World. Her books are published in Canada, the U.S, the U.K and Australia, and have been translated into 22 languages. A new novel, *Do Not Say We Have Nothing*, about musicians studying Western classical music at the Shanghai Conservatory in the 1960s, is forthcoming in summer 2016.

**All are welcome to this free public event on Monday, March 21, 2016 from 7:00pm–8:00pm in the Vitali Lounge, Wemple Building- King’s University College.**



## “HEALTHY RIVER, STRONG COMMUNITY”

**Miriam Love**, who teaches in Writing Studies, was interviewed by Kerry Manders about her work on cleaning up London's Thames River for a special issue of *Canadian Women Studies* on Women and Water. The article, entitled "Carry On, Carry On! River Reckoning with Miriam Love and the Thames River Rally" appears in Volume 30, Number 2,3.

Miriam is the co-founder of Thames River Rally (TRR) here in London, Ontario. Established in 2012, TRR organizes volunteers for monthly clean-ups during spring, summer, and fall; each rally targets one main area--on the banks, under the bridges, in the parks, and sometimes in the water itself--in need of attention. TRR provides its volunteers (who are recruited via social media, community meetings, and old-fashioned word-of-mouth buzz) with gloves, garbage pickers, garbage bags, and safety instructions; together, volunteers become citizen stewards who, in coordination with the City of London, remove tonnes of garbage from the river and its surrounding green spaces, TRR has also partnered with neighbourhood associations and London CAREs (Community Addiction Response Strategy) to have permanent needle bins installed along the Thames.

TRR's motto, "Healthy River, Strong Community," encapsulates their conviction that the health and vitality of the Thames River is inextricably connected to the health and vitality of the city through which it runs.

## TOM CULL REFLECTS ON TANIS RIDEOUT'S POETRY COLLECTION "ARGUMENTS WITH THE LAKE"

\*This write up is taken from the TNQ, *Who's Reading What* for Issue 137, 2016.

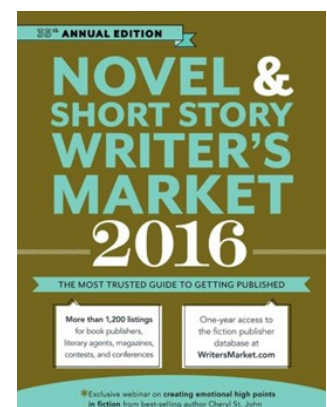
I am currently reading **Tanis Rideout's** *Arguments with the Lake*, a hydrodynamic collection of poems that imagines a relationship between Marilyn Bell and Shirley Campbell, two young women who rose to fame in the 1950s for their heroic attempts to swim Lake Ontario. The poems dip into and out of historical record; facts merge with inventions of the women's relationship with themselves, each other, and, most important, the lake. It is hard to resist water metaphors when writing about this book—the poems seem to swim, capturing the machine-like repetition (and exhaustion) of a Great Lakes swimmer, but also the phenomenon of submerging physically and psychologically into a fluid world, rich and strange. Like her debut novel, *Above All Things*, a story that recounts George Mallory's third attempt to reach the summit of Mount Everest in 1924, *Arguments with the Lake* takes up early 19<sup>th</sup> century fascination with narratives of human triumph over nature. From our current perspective of global environmental collapse, these kinds of triumphs appear as anachronistic as a modern-day, big-game trophy hunter. And that, to me seems part of what Rideout is getting at in this collection. Her environmental work (she has been named Lake Ontario Poet Laureate) around water protection and conservation infuse this collection. Like the two young women who tested their mettle against its waters, the Lake in this collection is somewhat ghost-like and lost, "erased by pulsing meltwaters, sewers and progress."

## THOUGHTS ON THE CULTURAL PHENOMENON KARL OVE KNAUSGAARD & HIS NOVEL, *MY STRUGGLE*

At the MLA conference in early January, **Peter Schwenger** was a member of a panel on the Norwegian writer and cultural phenomenon Karl Ove Knausgaard. His paper was titled "The Distance of There." Along with the other panelists, he was interviewed after the session by a reporter from *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, who then wrote a lively feature story titled "A Norse God Among the Lit-Critters".

## THE MOST TRUSTED GUIDE TO GETTING PUBLISHED

**Terence Green** and **Kathryn Mockler** are both interviewed and quoted extensively throughout Jennifer D. Foster's article "The Ins and Outs of Outlines", in the annual American library reference volume 2016 *Novel and Short Story Writer's Market: 35th Edition*, ed. Rachel Randall, (Writer's Digest Books, USA, 2015). Named "The Best Resource for Getting Your Fiction Published", it offers listings for book publishers, literary agents, fiction publications, contests and more to assist in getting short stories, novellas and novels published. Each listing includes contact information, submission guidelines and other essential tips.



## TWO POEMS: “LIKE A BAT” AND “TRASH FISH”

**Tom Cull** published his two poems, “Like a Bat” and “Trash Fish” in *The New Quarterly*, Issue 137: A Good Polemic is Hard to Find (2016).

Cull’s poem, “Trash Fish”, is an uplifting mood enhancer, reminding us of what’s to come in the warmer, sunnier, summer months.

## RUSTY TALK WITH TANIS RIDEOUT

**Tom Cull** interviews author and Writer-In-Residence, **Tanis Rideout**, in the latest issue of *The Rusty Toque*. They speak about her love of history and historical fiction, how humans are interconnected with nature, and how she connects nineteenth– century narratives with the current state of our environment. Tanis is the author of *Above All Things* and *Arguments with the Lake*.



*“For me the past landscape and its treatment are absolutely connected to what they are today. You can see in the initial attempts on Everest these precursors to what it has become.”*

## “RAJAN PRESENTS A SCRUPULOUSLY EDITED TEXT, TOGETHER WITH AN ORIGINAL CRITICAL INTERPRETATION”

**Tilottama Rajan** has published an edition of William Godwin's novel *Mandeville* with Broadview Press (2015). *Mandeville* (1817) is the fourth in the sequence of Godwin’s major novels and is set in the revolutionary period between the execution of Charles I and the Restoration, a time when political government was being renegotiated through church government, and the only period when Britain was not a monarchy.

The novel, which offers a different version of the historical novel from that of Walter Scott, is book-ended by two rebellions, the Irish Rebellion and the personal rebellion of Mandeville. Its shocking climax, on the threshold of the Restoration,

defaces endings based on settlement and reconciliation. Rajan's edition (Broadview Press, 2015), the first easily available edition of the novel since its original publication, presents a new reading of the textual status and rhetorical effect of an ending that some see as leaving the novel unfinished. The edition includes a substantial Introduction, extensive historical annotation, and appendices which include Godwin’s 1809 ‘Fragment of a Romance’ (which he described as the germ of the novel); contemporary reviews; materials relating to the novel’s religious and political backgrounds in England and Ireland, both in the seventeenth century and in Godwin’s own time; and nineteenth-century writings on war, madness, and trauma.

