

INTERACTIONS SEMINAR SERIES

2014-2015



“History is a verb -
we learn it best when we are doing it:
Teaching and learning history in University

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What do our students learn in University?
What do they think of their experience?
How can we better teach history in the 21st century? Today's students are “digital natives”; they were born and raised in a technologically-driven and information-based culture. They watch historical movies and documentaries, play history games, visit virtual exhibits, consult online archives and exchange information through social networks. They expect their educational environment to reflect this new reality. Yet too often their learning experience has more to do with the 20th century lecture hall than with interactivity, connectivity and real-life application.

Canadian universities have typically responded to student enrolment and resource pressures with the simple expedient of cost reduction of the old industrial model. As history educators, we need to (re)define what a “good” history education is and what our students need to be able to do - to accomplish - when they graduate. This lecture will discuss these ideas from recent developments in the field of history education. Relying on a recent pan-Canadian survey with undergraduate students, it will present new findings on the experiences and expectations of our graduates and propose some alternative approaches and learning technologies in history.

Comments by Ruth Sandwell, Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, OISE

WHEN: Friday October 31, 10:00 - 11:45am

Followed by lunch and a round table discussion, 11:45am - 2:00pm

TEACHING NATIONAL HISTORIES IN CANADA: METHOD, NARRATIVE, CONTENT

What kinds of learning technologies work best in history classrooms? What kinds of historical narratives should guide the teaching of Canadian history? How can we engage students with Canada's histories in ways that better account for the country's evolution in broader transnational and global contexts, its histories of colonialism and ethnic, class and gendered conflict, and its multicultural present? This round table brings together an interdisciplinary group of scholars to reflect on these questions.

Joining Dr. Lévesque for the round table:

Samantha Cutrara, *Educational Programming and Exhibitions, Archives of Ontario*

Christopher Dummitt, *Department of History, Trent University*

Rose Fine-Meyer, *Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, OISE*

2098 Sidney Smith Hall
100 St. George Street

****Please RSVP for lunch by Oct. 23 to paula.hastings@utoronto.ca****

This event is sponsored by the Department of Historical and Cultural Studies, UTSC, the Department of History, St. George, and Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, OISE.