

## NEWS RELEASE



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### **President of OCAD University to speak at Laurier for Media(tions) series**

WATERLOO – Sara Diamond, president of OCAD University, will speak at Wilfrid Laurier University Jan. 25, 2012 for the Department of Communication Studies Media(tions) speaker series.

The talk, titled “Taking Ontario Mobile – Designing Community Engagement,” takes place at 1 p.m. in the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Room S101.

OCAD University pioneered a study to research the factors needed to provide “mobility” – the capacity to move seamlessly through work, leisure and personal life wherever one is located – in Ontario. Diamond will discuss the design of the research and the findings.

“If anyone can make the leap of imagining the future through digital technology and civic engagement, it’s Sara Diamond,” said Herbert Pimlott, associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies. “Through her work as an artist, scholar and researcher, Diamond brings together a breadth of knowledge that ranges from computer science via the social sciences to the creative arts.”

Diamond holds a PhD in Computer Science and degrees in new media theory and practice, social history and communications. She was the Artistic Director of Media and Visual Art and Director of Research at the Banff Centre, where she created the Banff New Media Institute (BNMI) in 1995. She currently serves on the Ontario Ministry of Culture’s Advisory Council on Arts & Culture, the Board of Directors of the Toronto Arts Council Foundation, ORANO (Ontario’s high-speed network), the board of National Centre of Excellence GRAND, IO (Interactive Ontario), and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada’s SACUR (Standing Advisory Committee on University Research). She is founding Chair of the Mobile Experience Innovation Centre and current co-chair.

Diamond is the second speaker in the Media(tions) speaker series, which is celebrating 10 years of Communication Studies at Laurier as well as the university’s centennial. Upcoming lectures include: Mark Deuze, associate professor of Telecommunications from Indiana University, speaking about “media life” on March 5, 2012; Jussi Parikka, reader in Media & Design from University of Southampton, speaking about media archaeology during the last week of May at a joint session with the Canadian Communication Association conference and Mary Bryson, professor, Department of Language and Literacy Education, Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia, speaking on “Cancer Knowledge in the Plural: Communicability of Presence, Trans/Media and the Queer Biopolitics of Prosthetic Mobilities” on Monday, May 28.

This event is sponsored by Laurier’s Department of Communication Studies and the offices of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Vice-President: Research and Provost and Vice-President: Academic.