



WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY WATERLOO | Brantford | Kitchener | Toronto

MAY 28, 2012 | 087-12

## Waterloo and Laurier researchers at Congress 2012, May 29

WATERLOO – In addition to hosting Congress 2012, Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo are showcasing researchers from their institutions who will present their work at Congress. To assist the media in sourcing stories from local experts at Congress, UW and Laurier will provide a list of two or three researchers from each institution who are presenting the following day.

To arrange interviews with these researchers, or to source other local experts, please contact the UW and Laurier representatives listed below, or visit [www.congress2012.ca](http://www.congress2012.ca). To confirm lecture times and locations, please contact the Congress media room: [media@fedcan.ca](mailto:media@fedcan.ca) or 519-884-0710 ext. 4770.

### FEATURED UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO RESEARCHERS PRESENTING TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2012

#### **Religious Diversity and Identity Negotiation in North American Spaces**

**Scott Wall**, PhD candidate, Department of Religious Studies, University of Waterloo

May 29 3:30 - 5 p.m., *Location TBD, please use contact information below to confirm.*

This panel discussion looks at the relationship between multiculturalism and religion in Canada, using the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC), an advocacy group representing over 100 Christian organizations and 1,000 individual churches, as a test case.

#### **A Walk Through the Neighbourhood of the Real in Here Be Dragons**

**Andy Houston**, Professor, Department of Drama, University of Waterloo

May 29 9:00 am, Room 3516 DWE

Site-specific performance by definition requires a dramaturgical weave of the found and the fabricated. The use of reality in performance can be seen as a strategy to emphasize the indeterminate qualities of the found, and thereby subvert theatrical-representation wherein reality is often reduced to an absent entity for the audience. If reality is absent in a performance about a certain place, but is suggested through the dramaturgy of site-specific performance, what emerges as the 'real' experience of this place?

#### **Gone Myth-ing: Reframing the Legend of Tom Thomson in Margaret Atwood's 'Surfacing'**

**Jay Rawding**, PhD Student, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Waterloo

May 29 10:45 - 12:15, RCH

The suspicious circumstances surrounding the 1917 disappearance of Canadian painter Tom Thomson have a ghostly connection to the plot of Margaret Atwood's *Surfacing* (1972). Written at a time when Atwood felt frustration concerning predominant power structures in Canada, the character of the narrator's father, who goes missing in northern Quebec, echoes Thomson's death and ghostly presence in the wilds of Ontario, especially in the patriarchal roles that both figures represent.

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#### **Panel: Why Do We Still Need a Census?**

**Margaret Walton-Roberts (chair)**, Associate Professor, Geography; Director, International Migration Research Centre

May 29 3:30 - 5 p.m., Laurier Arts Building – Room 1E1

This multi-disciplinary panel brings together a number of researchers with important expertise on census-related issues. The debate is intended to generate dialogue based on both Canadian and US experiences

of recent change in census data collection, and takes place on the same day as the latest numbers from Canada's 2011 census are released.

**Roundtable: The Friendly Giant's 'Empty Chair': The Missing Histories of Canadian Children's Media Industries**

**Natalie Coulter**, Communication Studies

May 29 4 - 5:30 p.m., UW - J.R. Coutts Engineering Lecture Hall – Room 105

Although Canada has a long and distinguished history of producing media text for children (children's television, film, music, magazines and video games), that history is often invisible. This roundtable of scholars and practitioners will begin to recuperate the history of Canadian children's cultural industries.

## CONTACTS

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