



WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY WATERLOO | Brantford | Kitchener | Toronto

JUNE 1, 2012 | 095-12

## Waterloo and Laurier researchers at Congress 2012, June 2

WATERLOO – In addition to hosting Congress 2012, the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University 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 Laurier and UW representatives listed below, or visit [www.congress2012.ca](http://www.congress2012.ca)

*Please note: locations and times are subject to change. Please confirm lecture times and locations by contacting the media room: [media@fedcan.ca](mailto:media@fedcan.ca) or 519-884-0710 ext. 4770.*

### FEATURED UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO RESEARCHERS PRESENTING SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2012

**Susan Ilcan**, Department of Sociology and Legal Studies

**A discussion of the paper, "Beyond Humanitarian Emergencies: Displaced Populations and International Biopolitics in Namibia's Osire Refugee Camp."**

June 2, 12:45 p.m., Location: Room P1007, Frank C. Peters Building (Laurier)

Ilcan's analysis concentrates on Namibia's Osire Refugee Camp, a former detention centre under the South African apartheid regime that was repurposed in 1992 to provide humanitarian aid to mainly displaced Angolans during the declared emergency of the Angolan civil conflict. Through an analysis of archival, policy, aid, and media documents, Ilcan suggests that the supplying of international humanitarian aid to displaced Angolans in Camp Osire involves more than protecting and caring for them.

**Stephen Svenson**, PhD candidate, Department of Sociology and Legal Studies

**Utopian/Dystopian Fantasies: The Imaginary of Immersive Worlds**

June 2, 10:30 a.m., Location: Room P1013, Frank C. Peters Building (Laurier)

There has been an ongoing focus in the gaming industry on pursuing what has been called the holy grail of immersions, total immersion. The term immersion connotes an absorption in something else. Total immersion, which privileges the first-person, consists of a complete lack of distance between the immersant's body image and the immersive environment, accompanied by the "feeling of plunging into another world" (Heim in Nechvatal, p. 14: 1999). Two recent movies, *Gamer* (2009) and *Avatar* (2009) take up the theme of total immersivity and its utopian and dystopian dimensions.

**Narges Valibeigi**, MA candidate, Department of Sociology and Legal Studies

**The Internet and Religious Fundamentalism: analyzing four dimensions of tension and symbiotic relations between the Internet and Iranian society**

June 2, 8:45 a.m. Location: Room P2007, Frank C. Peters Building (Laurier)

The interaction between the Internet and religion is often perceived as contradictory, especially when it is religion at its most conservative. While the international and national applications of the Internet have increased vastly, local religious communities, especially fundamentalists, perceived this new technology as a threat to their local cultures and practices. If we look at the Internet as a central phenomenon of contemporary modernity that interacts with practiced fundamentalist religious traditions, we can ask how broad the interactions are between religious fundamentalism and the Internet and whether these relations can be reconciled.

### FEATURED WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS PRESENTING SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2012

**Lee Willingham** (chair), Associate Professor, Faculty of Music  
**Music Education and Pedagogy**

June 2, 9 a.m. Location: John Aird Centre, Room 431, Laurier  
Willingham chairs a session of three presentations reflecting a diverse range of teaching approaches.

**Anya Alexeyev** and **Anna Ferenc**, associate professors, Faculty of Music

**Linking the Piano Music of Scriabin and Rostlavets**

June 2, 11 a.m. Location: John Aird Centre, Room 431, Laurier

Compositions by Nikolai Rostlavets and the late works of Alexander Scriabin each appear to be distinct and idiosyncratic expressions of early twentieth century music. But as this lecture-recital demonstrates, there are many compositional links between the works of these two composers.

## CONTACTS

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