

L'art et la culture autochtones | Indigenous Art and Culture

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ARTS + Droits de la personne | Human Rights

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Contributors — AHR 2018



Co-Director John Packer

John Packer is an Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Human Rights Research and Education Centre at the University of Ottawa. He has previously taught at the Fletcher School (Tufts University) and the University of Essex, held Fellowships at Cambridge and Harvard Universities, and has lectured at academic and professional institutions around the world. He also serves on the boards of a number of NGOs and is a Member of the Expert Advisory Panel for the Shared Societies Project of the Club de Madrid comprising 100 former Heads of State or Government of democracies. Before taking up his position at the University of Ottawa in 2014, John was the Constitutions Expert for the UN's Standby Team of Mediation Experts advising in numerous peace processes and political transitions around the world focusing on conflict prevention and resolution, diversity management, constitutional and legal reform, and the protection of human rights including minorities. In a 30-year career, John has contributed to processes in over fifty countries and has advised numerous inter-governmental organisations, governments, communities and other actors. From 1995 to 2004, he was Senior Legal Adviser and then the first Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in The Hague working across Central and Eastern Europe and throughout the former Soviet Union. From 1987 to 1995, he worked for the ILO, UNHCR and then the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights mainly investigating serious violations of human rights in Iraq, Afghanistan and Burma/Myanmar. John's strength in the practice of international law and relations underpins his vision for applied research and problem-solving in international public policy and domestic conflicts.



Co-Director Chantal Rodier

Chantal Rodier teaches Management of Arts Organizations and Cultural Policies at the University Of Ottawa Faculty Of Arts. She holds degrees in arts management, visual arts and computer science. She presented papers at the Association of Arts Administration Educators conferences and Social Theory, Politics and the Arts Conference. Ms Rodier areas of interest are in advancement of arts & culture in Canada (including Indigenous art), strategic management and use of technology in cultural organizations. She has cumulated experience in arts management consulting in: public art, audience development, fundraising, project management and partnership development at municipal, national and international levels. She has developed an arts administration practice which, among others, includes work with University of Ottawa as Director of Campus Public Art and Arts Administration Program, AOE Arts Council: as Director of the ARTicipate Endowment Fund, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade: as the Head of Visual and Media Art. She chaired the Educational Committee of the 2012 JUNO Awards: Canada's National Music Awards. Ms Rodier volunteers time to support the development of local art organizations: co-chair of SAW Gallery board of trustees (contemporary visual arts), chair of Tara Luz Danse board of directors (contemporary dance) and more. She was the Co-chair of the 2014 Social Theory, Politics and the Arts (STP&A) conference, the premiere arts conference in North America, presented at the University of Ottawa in October and now co-director of The Arts and Human Rights Summer School on Indigenous Arts & Culture at the University of Ottawa.



Elder Verna McGregor is from the First Nation Algonquin Community of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg which is approximately 120 kilometres north of Ottawa, Ontario. The city of Ottawa forms part of the Algonquin Nation's traditional unceded lands. Verna has remained firmly grounded in her community and nation by being part of also the group of traditional Grandmothers (Kokomisag) and Elders. This includes the importance of promotion of retention of the Algonquin language and culture which is so important when addressing issues from a cultural perspective.



Allan J. Ryan is Associate Professor at Carleton University where he holds the New Sun Chair in Aboriginal Art and Culture and where, from 2002 to 2017, he organized the annual New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts. Among his publications is *The Trickster Shift: Humour and Irony in Contemporary Native Art* (1999), recipient of an American Book Award for its contribution to multicultural literature. He was also co-curator of the exhibition *About Face: Self-Portraits by Native American, First Nations and Inuit Artists*, shown at the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 2005-2006. More recently he has lectured on Indigenous art and cinema in China (twice) and Brazil. Dr. Ryan is the recipient of several professional honours, among them: the inaugural Alumni of Influence Award for Distinguished Educator from the Ontario College of Art and Design University (2015); the Distinguished Alumni Award for Career Achievement from Brandon University (2016), and the Alumni Association Award for Professional Achievement from the University of Arizona (2017). In former lives he has worked as a graphic designer, television satirist, singer-songwriter and recording artist (www.trickstershift.com).



Sue Herne has been employed at the Akwesasne Museum since 1995, where she has gained an appreciation, understanding and love of Mohawk basketry. Her very first basket was made with Delia Cook while working at the Akwesasne Freedom School. "I have never believed in compartmentalizing art into 'fine art' 'craft' 'traditional art'. I'm happy that there is a greater recognition of the falsity of that notion today; in great part due to a better understanding of and appreciation for indigeneity. On a personal level, I continue to foster growth in my own life and art in regard to reclamation of Mohawk culture and language that was suppressed in the lives of the last few generations in my family. My sons are more familiar than I am in our language and culture, which also makes me happy. I'm hoping and working towards a stronger embodiment of indigeneity in the lives of future generations. While I admit that I often come up short, I am trying to live more and more in connection and with respect for the gifts of the natural and spiritual world that is all around us and within us".



Darren O'Toole is an Associate Professor of Law with a cross-appointment in Aboriginal Studies. He teaches Aboriginal Law, Indigenous Legal Theory, and Philosophy of Law. Throughout his studies in Political Science, Darren maintained an interest in Canadian Politics, the History of Political Ideas, Political Economy, Methodology and Epistemology. A descendant of the Bois-Brûlé (Wiisaakodewiniwag) of the White Horse Plains in Manitoba, who in 1870 foisted upon the nascent Dominion of Canada the first French common law jurisdiction in the British Empire, Darren studied the common law in French at the Université de Moncton. His published research has focused on the land claims of his Métis ancestors that led to the *Manitoba Métis Federation v. Canada* and *Manitoba* case. His work on Indigenous law, notably in terms of relations with the land and self-determination, has led to an interest in legal anthropology and legal pluralism.



Tracy Coates, Coordinator, Aboriginal Studies and Long Term Appointment Professor at the University of Ottawa. Tracy Coates, JD, is a strategic and creative consultant and educator in the area of critical theory, law and Indigenous knowledge. Tracy is of mixed Mohawk and European ancestry from an Urban Aboriginal Community. Her experience includes being a part-time Professor at the University of Ottawa with the Institute of Canadian and Aboriginal Studies, a Program Advisor in the areas of cultural competency and Aboriginal program development with the School of Social Work at Ryerson University and the School of Public Policy and Administration at Carleton University, and serving on the legal teams of the Assembly of First Nations and Amnesty International Canada. Ms. Coates has been gifted with traditional knowledge from a variety of Indigenous and First Nations Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and others, particular from Cree, Oji-Cree, Algonquin, and Haudenosaunee nations. Ms. Coates' mixed-background, urban Aboriginal experience, and traditional knowledge are an integral part of her pedagogical and research approach. Tracy also has a Doctorate in Jurisprudence (JD), and a Masters in Environmental Studies and International Dispute Resolution (MES).



Sarah Morales, JD (UVic), LL.M. (University of Arizona), PhD (UVic), PostDoc (Illinois) is Coast Salish and a member of Cowichan Tribes. She is an Assistant Professor at the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law where she teaches torts, Aboriginal law, Indigenous legal traditions and international human rights, with a focus on Indigenous peoples. Sarah's research centres on Indigenous legal traditions, specifically the traditions of the Coast Salish people, Aboriginal law and human rights. Specifically, she is committed to the recognition and reconciliation of Indigenous legal traditions with the common law and civil law traditions in Canada. In addition to these academic interests, Sarah has been actively involved with Indigenous nations and NGOs across Canada through her work in nation building, inherent rights recognition and international human rights law. Her community-based research has resulted in the creation of policies and procedures that are reflective of the laws and legal orders of the communities who utilize them.



Romeo Saganash has represented the citizens of Abitibi–Baie-James–Nunavik–Eeyou since 2011. He was the first Aboriginal MP elected in Quebec, and he's determined to get results for this community. In his time in office, Romeo has served as NDP critic for Energy and Natural Resources, International Development, and as deputy critic for Intergovernmental Aboriginal Affairs. Romeo was born in 1961 in Waswanipi. In 1985, at the age of 23, he founded the Cree National Youth Council. He became involved in the economic development of his region working with businesses such as Creco Inc. and the Eeyou Society of James Bay. In 1989, Romeo became the first Cree graduate to obtain a Bachelor of Law in Quebec. Between 1990 and 1993, he was Deputy Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees and then Vice-Chairman of the Cree Regional Authority. Beginning in 1993, he was Director of Quebec Relations and International Affairs for the Grand Council of the Crees. In 1997, he chaired the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment. In 2003, he received an award of recognition from UQAM for his role in the negotiations that led to the signing of the Paix des Braves on February 7, 2002, between the Quebec government and the Grand Council of the Crees.



Alanis Obomsawin is a renowned filmmaker, singer, artist, storyteller (born 31 August 1932 near Lebanon, New Hampshire). One of Canada's most distinguished documentary filmmakers, Alanis began her career as a professional singer and storyteller before joining the National Film Board of Canada (NFB) in 1967. Her award-winning films address the struggles of Aboriginal peoples in Canada from their perspective, giving prominence to voices that have long fallen on deaf ears. Her films have i.a. documented the work of Aboriginal organizations to help young people overcome alcohol and drug abuse (Poundmaker's Lodge: A Healing Place, 1987) and provide services to homeless Indigenous peoples in Montréal (No Address, 1988). Alanis is a revered figure among documentary filmmakers and has received multiple Governor General's Awards, lifetime achievement awards and honorary degrees amongst other honours in both the United States and Canada. She was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 1983 and promoted to Officer in 2001.



Chief Jean-Guy Whiteduck was first elected Chief of Kitigan Zibi in 1976 and served as Chief until June 2006; and then reelected in 2015. During his term, many Government changes have been made, such as Bill C-31, Re-instatement and Status Rights of Indian Women. Changes were made by the Government for schooling and medical services. Other things that the Chief and Council have had to deal with during this time was the issue of the Constitution, Native Rights and Land Claims discussions for some parts of the town of Maniwaki and surrounding areas. Although some of the above topics have not been finalized, the Chief and Band Council are still at work with these issues, and may be for some time. With perseverance and hard work, the Chief and various teams of Band Council, by lobbying the Government, were able to acquire funding for facilities, such as the School, Band Office, Kiweda Group Home, the new Cultural Centre, and the new facelift on the Community Hall. The Chief and Band Council were also able to find ways to get more funds for re-building and paving roads, more monies for road maintenance and were able to get road maintenance equipment, which included a gravel truck, grader and backhoe for summer and winter use. We were also able to establish a peace-keeper force. Although the Chief, Band Council and Band Office should not be considered a job employment agency, the Band Office does have people in the forestry projects, road maintenance, carpenters and labourers on housing, janitors for the various facilities, the police force, the nursing staff, as well as Band Office employees.



Pinock Smith is an Algonquin from the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Nation near Maniwaki, Quebec. He builds canoes with a particular interest in Algonquin birchbark canoes. He is also a gifted craftsmen of toboggans, cradleboards, paddles, drums and other traditional crafts. Pinock has participated in many demonstrations and workshops that allow him to pass on the traditional knowledge handed down to him. He has appeared on the television series *Bushcraft Survival*, offering a special course in birch bark canoe making and Northern Wilderness making traditional snowshoes. He is in awe of the intelligent way his ancestors crafted traditional tools using only raw materials. Pinock's passion comes from his desire to preserve and teach the traditional skills and canoe building.



Courtney B. Doagoo, is a post-doctoral fellow with CIGI's International Law Research Program. While at CIGI, she will focus on the governance of emerging technologies. More broadly, her research interests include intellectual property law, innovation, and technology, privacy and data protection, the arts and cultural heritage.

Prior to joining CIGI, Courtney completed an internship at the World Intellectual Property Organization in New York. During her doctoral studies, she designed and delivered courses at the Faculty of Law (common and civil law sections) and Arts at the University of Ottawa, and co-created the arts and human rights program at the Human Rights Research and Education Centre. She was a contributing editor for IP Osgoode's intellectual property law and technology program, *IPilogue*, and an editor for the Center for Art Law in New York. Courtney co-edited and contributed to *Intellectual Property in the 21st Century: Interdisciplinary Approaches* (Irwin Law, 2014). Since 2012, she has been a director on the board of MASC: Multicultural Arts for Schools and Communities in Ottawa.



Omid B. Milani, Ph.D., is a cartoonist & a part-time professor at the University of Ottawa. His research interests include a wide range of interdisciplinary areas, with particular interest in the question of violence in the legal and political contexts. Twitter: @omid_milani



Anna Paluch is a Ph.D. candidate in Cultural Mediations at Carleton University, focusing on Indigenous and Slavic Futurism. Her independent research focuses on post-memory in the diaspora. She is a curator, mixed-media artist and co-director of the International Indigenous Festival in Ottawa, connecting diasporic/immigrant communities with local Indigenous communities through art and culture.



Marcelo Saavedra-Vargas is Senior Advisor & Indigenous Elder for the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG), a student-funded organization. He is also a Professor in the Faculties of Social Sciences (SIDGS & Political Sciences) and Arts (History & Indigenous Studies) at uOttawa. He has worked very closely with Anishinaabe Elders within the framework of the Re-Encounter of the Eagle and the Condor Prophecy, a shared prophecy of indigenous peoples on Turtle Island (North America) and the Abya-Yala (Central and South America). He actively promotes a novel (yet ancestral) approach to indigenous research methodologies to create a shift in awareness to constitute new societal projects. Marcelo is involved in developing an episteme that assist us in moving beyond colonialism, capitalism and patriarchy. He is a political advisor for indigenous organizations, notably the CONAMAQ (Consejo Nacional de Ayllus y Markas del Qollasuyu) and other indigenous instances in his home country (Bolivia) as well as in other countries like El Ecuador. For the past 10 years he has been investigating indigenous prophecies, stories, legends, rituals, and ceremonies with the late sacred elder and medicine man Jacob (Mowegan) Wawatie (Anishinaabe).



Paula Murray studied science at the University of Ottawa and ceramics at Sheridan College. Living and working on the shores of Meech Lake, QC since opening her first studio in 1980, she was elected into the Royal Canadian Academy of the Arts in 2006 and the International Academy of Ceramics in 2017. She exhibits internationally having works selected for prestigious competitions in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Romania and Italy. Her solo exhibition *You Are Me*, commissioned by the Ottawa Art Gallery will be travelling to the Taiwan Ceramic Biennale this September.