2017 Critical Studies Conference at SFU

(Re)conceptualizing the “margins”: Altery and resistance in critical and communication theory

Welcome to CSC 2017!

We are delighted to host you at the 2017 Graduate Critical Studies Conference at Simon Fraser University. This conference marks a long-standing tradition at SFU’s School of Communication of bringing graduate scholars together to meet and share their work.

This year we gather around the theme of margins to explore its political, cultural, economic, and social dimensions. We’ll hear from many scholars whose work helps us to understand and explore various conceptualizations and dialogues around the “margins” and “centre” of communication theory. Re-examining the contours of past, present, and future scholarship within communication theory offers an opportunity to conceptualize, and re-conceptualize, the relationships between dominant and subaltern discourses and illustrate how dialogues at the margins can be mobilized to resist dominant groups.

The conference will include seven panels, a guided soundwalk of downtown Vancouver, and two keynote lectures by political economy scholar Janet Wasko and local activist and author Harsha Walia. We also invite you to join us Friday evening for more casual discussion over food and drinks. We hope you enjoy your time at CSC 2017!

We would like to thank our generous sponsors, the Canadian Communication Association, SFU’s School of Communication, the Faculty of Communication, Art, and Technology (FCAT), the Institute for the Humanities at SFU, and the School of Communication Graduate Caucus.

CSC 2017 Organizing Committee
Alicia Massie, Simon Fraser University
Benjamin Anderson, Simon Fraser University
FRIDAY, APRIL 28
Harbour Centre 1415

9:00-9:15 WELCOME & TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

9:20-10:20 STREAMS OF CRITICAL THOUGHT: THEORY AT THE MARGINS
-Graeme Webb / Imagination and play: Playing cards while the world burns
-Megan Jones / Tool: Psychedelic War Machine
-Lillian Deeb / Dissolving dualism: Elucidating the relationship between nature and technology

10:25-11:25 FAT STUDIES: REPRESENTATION VERSUS EXPERIENCE
-Layla Cameron
-Courtney Szto
-Kalamity Hildebrandt

11:30-12:45 SOUNDWALK: DISCERNING DOWNTOWN’S 3 D’S
Vancouver’s downtown core can be desirable, daunting, and disorienting for many, including those from the margin to the mainstream. This 45-minute group embodied aural excursion invites us to expand our awareness of spaces, places, and history, as together we explore these “3D’s” of our city centre. Traversing both above and below ground, we engage in a choreographed sonic journey of transient spaces and ephemeral sounds, and immerse ourselves in a myriad of multilayered soundscapes of shopping, shipping, and transit. This soundwalk will take place rain or shine, please be sure to wear appropriate footwear and clothing for any weather condition.

12:00-12:45 LUNCH BREAK

1:00-2:00 THE GEOPOLITICS OF COLONIALISM
-Tahmina Inoyatova / Post-coloniality in central Asian identity: Case of Tajikistan
-Gopa Caesar / The lost lore of partition
-Anis Rahman / The geopolitics of public media development in the global south: Findings from a seven-country study

2:10-3:10 MODES OF BEING: BODIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
-Alicia Massie / Life on the frontier: The construction of masculinity in the Alberta oilsands
-Jorma Kujala / Surveillance and soundwalking
-Taeyoung Kim / Militarized women’s femininity: A case study of “beautiful soldier”

3:20-4:20 KEYNOTE: JANET WASKO
CRITICAL MEDIA & COMMUNICATION WORK: BOUNDARIES, WALLS, BRIDGES

5:00-7:00 DINNER & DRINKS AT NUBA GASTOWN
SATURDAY, APRIL 29
Harbour Centre 1415

9:00 - 9:15 WELCOME

9:20 - 10:20 REPRESENTING THE OBSCENE: HEALTH, SEX, AND VIOLENCE
- Sara Sagai / “Sexed up” capitalism: Sex, work and pornography in the post-industrial society
- Dung Ha / A critical examination of genomics and data-driven healthcare: Knowledge power, and disruption
- Adjua Helen Akinwumi / A case for the ‘irrational’: Ritual violence in a modern and rational world

10:25 - 11:25 COMMUNICATING RESISTANCE: MEDIA AND ACTIVISM
- Belen Febres-Cordero / From voiceless to social change performers: re-conceptualizing the margins through community media in Ecuador
- Anh Phan Vu / How revolutionary is the revolution driven open data?: Examining the open data movement in Ukraine
- John Bermingham / Power shift: Comparing mainstream and alternative media in the Northern Gateway pipeline debate

11:30 - 12:30 BURNABY MOUNTAIN AND BEYOND: LOCAL POLITICS GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS
- Irwin Oostindie / Accomplice work to decolonize Burnaby Mountain
- Evelyn Zhang
- Michelle Nahane / The 12 steps of decolonization

12:30 - 1:00 LUNCH BREAK

1:00 - 2:30 KEYNOTE: HARSHA WALIA

Thank you!
See you next year!