



Madness, Citizenship and Social Justice Digest
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With the *Madness, Citizenship and Social Justice* conference now less than a year distant (~~May 10-12, 2007~~ June 12-15, 2008), as of today we are commencing the circulation of regular conference preparation digests via this listserve. The subscribers to this mailing list comprise members of the convening committee, advisory boards, prospective contributors, and a number of groups and individuals who have expressed interest in the event from a variety of standpoints. We will be archiving this and subsequent digests on the conference website (see below) through the coming year.

Please do distribute this message and attached file to any and all friends, colleagues, students and/or others who might find the material of value—and who might be enjoined to come on board in some capacity or another. I would also appreciate receiving the email addresses of anyone who, in your view, should get added to this listserve. We aim to continue expanding our network of participants as the preparations unfold.

There are a number of happy developments to report since last I checked in:

1. Through the good offices of the Simon Fraser University Institute for the Humanities Woodsworth Endowment committee (chaired by Samir Gandesha), and the key facilitation of our Humanities co-convenors (Anne-Marie Feenberg, Trish Graham, Stephen Duguid and Eleanor Stebner), we have obtained the needed internal seed funding in support of the event. Further, both our faculty Dean of Arts and Social Sciences (John Pierce) and our University President (Michael Stevenson) have kindly agreed to provide financial contributions out of their respective discretionary funds. We will be applying for another university-level grant, administered by our Vice-President/Academic, when the competition date rolls around in the fall.
2. Our principal external funding application is now in the hands of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, in Ottawa. We should be hearing from the Council around the end of this month. I will pass along the results, one way or the other, as soon as they arrive. A heartfelt thanks, once again, to everyone who generously contributed material to this application. We have also been looking into a few alternative funding possibilities, and we will continue to pursue all feasible options (any information and suggestions regarding other possible revenue sources would be most welcome indeed).
3. I am attaching the conference Call for Papers, for perusal and forwarding. We will be posting this notice on the (under construction) conference website (more details on the site will be forthcoming shortly). Again, please feel free to distribute the file as widely as you deem appropriate. You will note that we are setting a deadline of ~~1 February 2007~~ 15 February 2008 for panel and paper submissions. Those of you who have already sent me titles and abstracts in support of funding applications can consider your papers to be gratefully received and acknowledged.
4. As you will note in the attachment, we are most fortunate to have secured the provisional involvement of world-acclaimed documentarian Frederick Wiseman and his production company Zipporah Films. Contingent on the fate of our SSHRC application, our plan is to convene an evening screening and retrospective/discussion (on ~~Friday, May 11~~ Saturday, June 14) of Mr. Wiseman's landmark film *Titicut Follies*, on the 40th anniversary of its release (and its banning by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts). As most of you know, *Titicut Follies* is ranked among the most important documentaries of the 20th century, and arguably the most influential film to have ever been produced on the subject of madness and human rights.
5. Thanks to the inspired mediations of David Oaks, Gisela Sartori and Bruce Whittington, it appears that we will be able to coordinate Madness, Citizenship and Social Justice with the 2007 meeting of the International Network of Treatment Alternatives for Recovery. INTAR, and its talented and engaged membership of practitioners, people who have experienced psychiatric treatment, family members, and academics, will be meeting immediately prior to our event on Gabriola Island (about three hours from Vancouver by car and ferry). This providential turn of events is opening up some exciting possibilities for cross-programming, and for involvement of

INTAR members at the Vancouver meetings. We will keep you abreast of developments on this score, too.

More news will be forthcoming. In the meanwhile, we will continue to forge ahead with the fundraising, publicity work, local arrangements and programming. And once again, all contributions to our net-widening and word-spreading efforts, along with funding and recruitment suggestions, and input on any other conference-related items would be much appreciated.

With thanks, and all best for now,

Bob