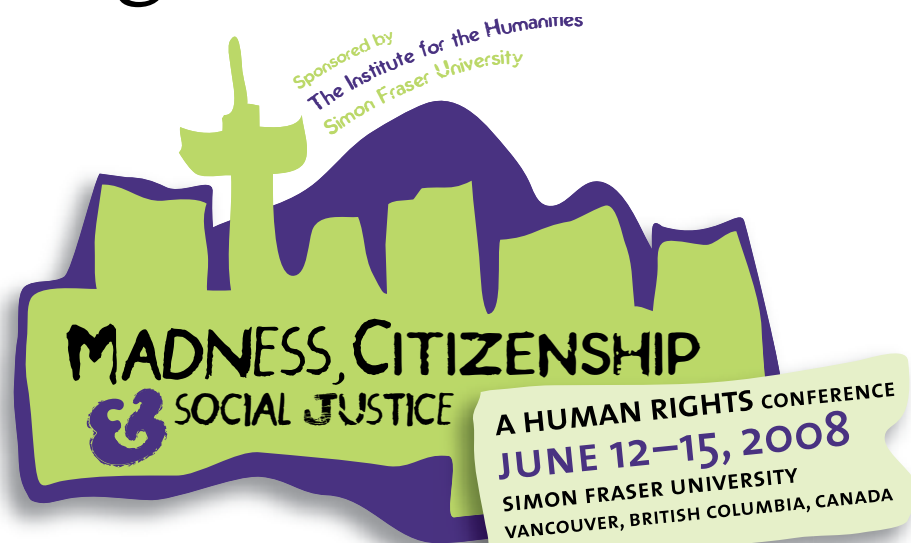


Conference Digest

Vol. 1 No. 4 | September 13, 2006



ON BEHALF OF OUR CONVENING

committee and everyone else involved, greetings from the Madness, Citizenship and Social Justice front, with our first listserv digest and update since the end of July.

Along with a hearty welcome to our new subscribers, we have several newsworthy items to share with the 120+ members who have (been) signed onto this list to date:

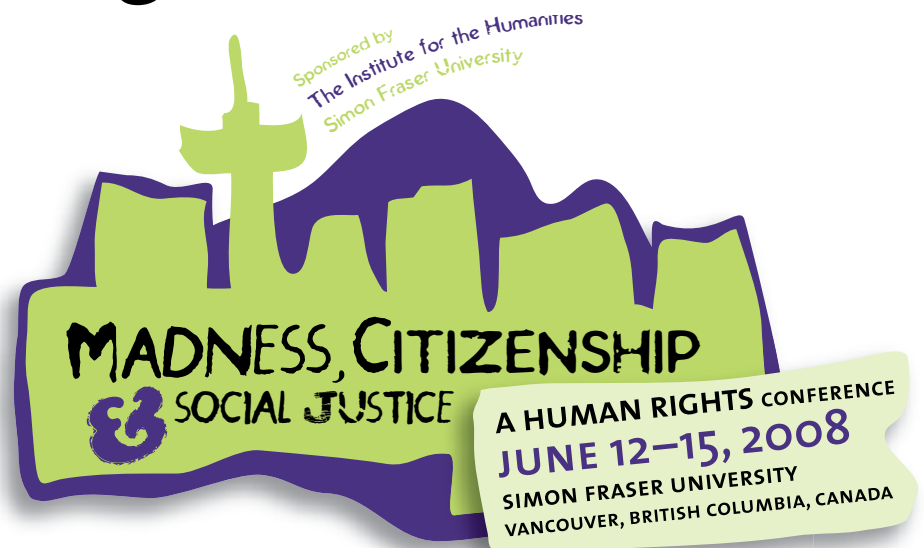
First, courtesy of the virtuoso design work of our talented webmaster Eryn Holbrook, I am delighted to report that the permanent conference website is now publicly available for on-line viewing at www.sfu.ca/madcitizenship-conference (please revise your links and bookmarks accordingly). This site offers details on the conference content, objectives, administration, format and participants, in addition to the call for submissions (the deadline still being ~~1 February 2007~~ 15 February 2008), session proposals, acknowledgments, links to sponsors and participating organizations, a brief bio of our distinguished guest Frederick Wiseman and reviews of his landmark film *Titicut Follies*, and particulars on fees, travel and accommodation (with more information forthcoming). We will be introducing the registration page in November. We will also be enlarging the provisional collection of site photos and other graphics over the next few weeks, thanks to some resourceful sleuthing by Eryn, along with generous contributions from several participants and their colleagues. And please watch for further additions and updates to the site more generally, as the momentum builds through the coming months.

Second, you will note that preliminary plans are brewing for conference-related publication projects. On the home page of the website, you will find a call for “expressions of interest in publishing conference papers.” It reads as follows:

The conference organizers have been in preliminary contact with a Canadian publisher about the prospects of producing a book of selected conference proceedings. We have also been approached by an international Series editor who has expressed initial interest in developing one or two edited collections that would comprise selected conference papers re-worked into chapters and organized around themes and subject areas to be determined. Some thematic options have already been discussed. Among others, candidate topics might include the politics of psychiatric citizenship; historical legacies of human rights and abuses; the advancement of human rights for users/survivors; and several others listed in the Preliminary Topics section of the conference website. We hope to work up proposals, including envisioned book contents, abstracts, contributor information and timetable, for submission in time for the ~~May 2007~~ June 2008 conference. Should you be interested in contributing to these proposed book ventures, please direct an email at your convenience to menzies@sfu.ca. >>

www.sfu.ca/madcitizenship-conference

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Third, from the “Sponsors and Participating Organizations” page are linked a number of groups, agencies and collectives that are engaging with the event in assorted capacities (with additions to the list anticipated shortly). We are very excited about the collaborations of renowned international organizations like INTAR and MindFreedom International; about the creative involvements of Zipporah Films, Gallery Gachet, PSAT, Stand Up for Mental Health, the History of Madness website collective, the SFU Institute for Critical Studies in Gender and Health (see the website home page, and Digest Vol 1, No 3), and the Frames of Mind Mental Health Film Series (plans are in the works for coordinated film screenings, workshops and other events); and about the indispensable input and support being generously bestowed by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, our university’s President’s office and Dean of Arts and Social Sciences, and, of course, our conference host, the SFU Institute for the Humanities.

Fourth and last (for now), as of last night, the conference data base comprises two full session proposals and 30 paper abstract submissions, with many, many more promised or en route. We will distribute periodic progress updates between now and February, plus a preliminary program and abstracts list in the (northern hemisphere) late winter.

Reiterating the requests of earlier missives, please do pass along this digest, the website url and/or other conference information as widely and freely as you deem fit.

With many thanks, and best wishes,

BOB