

Conference Digest

Vol. 2 No. 12 | Monday, May 26, 2008

This is the latest in a series of preparatory digests for Madness, Citizenship and Social Justice: A Human Rights Conference, an event hosted by the Simon Fraser University Institute for the Humanities and scheduled for the SFU downtown Harbour Centre campus in Vancouver, Canada on June 12th-15th, 2008.

With just over two weeks remaining to the conference launch, we once again have several updates and reminders for your attention:

FINAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM POSTED THIS WEEK:

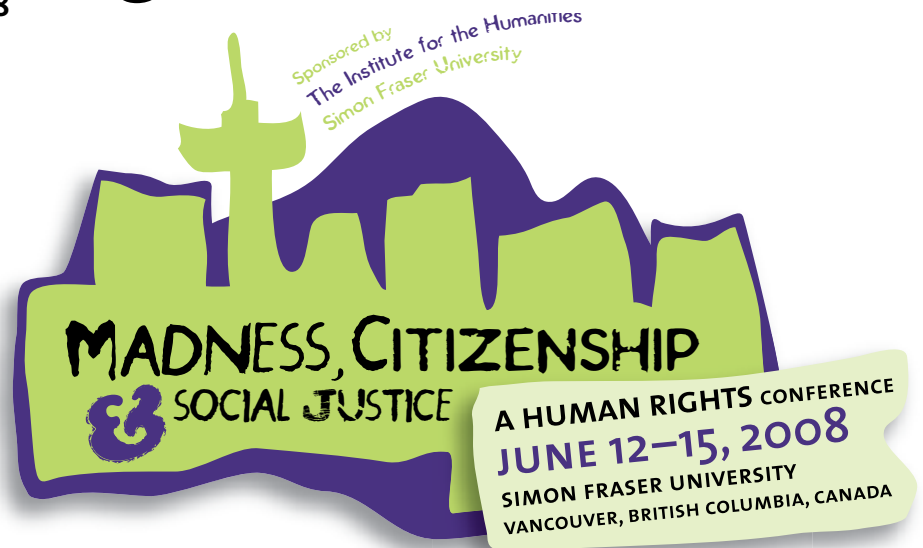
Courtesy our virtuoso webmaster Josh Laidlaw, the final versions of the conference program (in outline and detailed formats), along with participants and abstracts lists, will be available on-line within the next couple of days at <http://www.sfu.ca/madcitizenship-conference/program.html> and <http://www.sfu.ca/madcitizenship-conference/speakers.htm>. Hard copy programs will be available in delegate kits, to be distributed at the on-site conference registration desk (located in the Harbour Centre main Concourse).

ONLINE REGISTRATION CLOSING NEXT WEDNESDAY:

This is a final reminder that the web-based registration page <http://www.sfu.ca/madcitizenship-conference/register.htm> will close on Wednesday, June 4th (just nine days away). While on-site registration will be available, we encourage delegates to make use of the on-line facility wherever possible.

TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE FOR THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY EVENING EVENTS:

There are still seats available on-line for the Friday Pacific Cinémathèque screenings of *Titicut Follies* and *Juvenile Court* (with Frederick Wiseman in attendance) http://www.cinematheque.bc.ca/calendar_jun_08.html, the Thursday evening *Night of Mad Culture*, and the Saturday Evening *With Frederick Wiseman* <https://webform.sfu.ca/cgi-bin/WebObjects/WebForm.woa/wa?conf.madness.citizen>.



Subject to availability, you may also purchase tickets at the MCSJ registration desk (Mad Culture, Frederick Wiseman), and on June 13th at the Pacific Cinémathèque door (the two films).

WORLD MAD PRIDE BIENNALE 2008:

On our conference home page and link <http://www.sfu.ca/madcitizenship-conference/madpride.html>, we have posted details on Gallery Gachet's World Mad Pride Biennale 2008: *One Flew West: Old Landmarks, New Topographies*. The *One Flew West* program will commence on June 6th. Among many other events, the OFW program will feature selected sessions co-sponsored with MCSJ during the four days of our conference. The program closes with a celebration on Mad Pride Day, July 14th. Please do consider getting involved in these tremendously exciting events.

TRANSIT SUGGESTIONS & HARBOUR CENTRE MAPS:

As mentioned a couple of digests back, for visitors arriving by air there are several options available for transiting from the Vancouver International Airport to the downtown area. One reliable and cost-effective shuttle is the Vancouver Airporter <http://www.yvairporter.com/>. The Airporter website also features a quite readable street map of Vancouver's downtown west end <http://www.yvairporter.com/>. The following map <http://www.sfu.ca/about/maps2.html> locates the Harbour Centre (515 West Hastings). You can find floor plans of the HC building at <http://www.harbour.sfu.ca/mecs/maps.htm> (the registration desk, and several of the meeting rooms, will be located on the Main Concourse).

FOOD & DRINK:

Refreshments will be available in the early a.m. on Friday through Sunday, and during the regularly-scheduled morning and afternoon breaks. At the Thursday opening reception, Gallery Gachet will be serving full catered fare (hot and cold food, beverages), with cash bar. All delegates are cordially invited to this reception. We will also be offering limited light lunches (gratis, on a first-come-first-served basis) in association with the Friday and Saturday 12:30 – 1:45 pm film screenings, and the Friday lunchtime dialogue *Creating an Alliance on Mental Rights and Freedoms in Canada*. Delegates will find a food fair, with assorted international offerings, on the lower level of the Harbour Centre. A dining and restaurant guide will accompany conference kits.

TABLE EXHIBITS & DISTRIBUTIONS:

We have reserved tables in the Concourse and/or Room 1525 (Scotia McLeod Conference Room) for book, pamphlet, poster and other displays and distributions. Delegates and contributors who will be exhibiting materials at various times during the conference include Arthur Allen, Ronald Carten, Shaindl Diamond, Caroline Fei-Yeng Kwok, Peter Lehmann, David Oaks, Hester Parr, Shoshana Pollack, Barbara Schneider, and Don Weitz. Barbara Schneider will be displaying the poster “Searching for Sanctuary: What Home Means to Me,” developed in collaboration with Monique Solomon of the University of Calgary, and members of the Peer Support *Unsung Heroes* Program, Schizophrenia Society of Alberta, Calgary Chapter.

DISPLAY NAME TAGS, PRESENT TICKETS:

Delegates should please remember to display name tags at all times during the conference, and to ensure admission to catered events (along with waiver of Pacific Cinémathèque membership fees on Friday evening). Tickets will need to be presented (available in delegates kits if purchased on-line; otherwise to be purchased on-site) in order to entry to the *Night of Mad Culture*, Pacific Cinémathèque screenings, and *Evening With Frederick Wiseman*.

ON-SITE ASSISTANCE:

At all times throughout the four days of the event, Bob Menzies, Trish Graham, Barbara Smith and/or Kathy McKay will be available to assist delegates with any problems that might crop up. We can be found at the reception tables, in the conference “Operations Room” (Scotia McLeod Conference Room, #1525), or elsewhere around the Harbour Centre building. We also anticipate having additional volunteer help on hand.

Digest 2/13, announcing exciting new plans for conference-related publications, will follow within the next day or two. Barring something unforeseen, we will circulate one final (and mercifully brief) digest a few days in advance of the conference start-up.

Thanks, best,

BOB MENZIES