

Confluences: A Workshop on Rivers, History and Memory

Thursday November 15, 5pm: roundtable, Coach House, Green College, UBC

Friday November 16: full day workshop, Lecture Hall, St John's College, UBC

Rivers cross and re-cross the boundaries between public history, conservation politics and historical scholarship. While a common subject joins these areas of interest, not enough has been done to foster conversation among different individuals, community groups and institutions. This workshop seeks to open that conversation, by bringing together individuals and groups with sometimes complementary, sometimes contrary interests in rivers and their history. An evening roundtable emphasizing the different ways museums, first nations and the federal government analyze and treat river history, or river heritage will begin the discussion. The following day two sessions will be held on the connections and disconnections between the public and academic history of rivers in Canada, and rivers as sites of public memory. A final discussion will seek to tie the workshop together and outline directions for future conversations and research. Although most of the participants will be drawn from British Columbia, others will attend from eastern Canada and the United States. We hope to make our conversation relevant beyond the university and the local community. We also hope to engage a range of subject positions: from first nations to conservation groups, from museum curators to scholars.



'Confluence' 2007, Shelley Mansel

Mansel, a Halifax-based artist, studied at Fraser Valley College and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. 'Confluence' is part of a 2007 exhibit at Ingram Gallery, Toronto, entitled *Divining II*. In this body of work, Mansel, in her own words, 'explores the natural and artificial divisions of landscape. Forms such as rivers, fences, and overpasses figure prominently... These seemingly disparate forms share a congruent theme of passages within geography as they cut, weave, and wind across the terrain. 'Confluence' depicts a river 'somewhere in France'; its overlapping colours suggest the mixture of flows, the meander of channels and the way separate streams merge.

The workshop is jointly sponsored by:

The Canadian Water History Project/ Projet sur l'histoire de l'eau au Canada (co-organized by Stéphane Castonguay, CRC, UQTR, and Matthew Evenden, UBC), a subcluster of the NiCHE (Network in Canadian History and Environment/ Nouvelle initiative canadienne en histoire de l'environnement, which receives funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, see: <http://history.uwo.ca/niche/>), and UBC's **Nature/History/Society** speaker series based at Green College (co-organized by Matthew Evenden, UBC, and Eagle Glassheim, History, UBC). We thank the Departments of Geography, History and the Program in Canadian Studies at UBC as well as Parks Canada for additional financial and in-kind support.

Program:

Thursday November 15

4:45 Assemble at the coach house, Green College, UBC

5:00 Opening event:

“Braided streams: three perspectives on rivers and public history”

Dr. Gerald Conaty, Curator, Glenbow Museum, Calgary

Don Gibson, Director, Canadian Heritage Rivers, Parks Canada

Sonny McHalsie, Cultural Advisor, Sto:lo Nation

6:30 Dinner, Great Hall, Green College

Friday Nov 16:

8:30 Assemble at St John’s College Lecture Room

8:45- 9:15 Welcome and introductions

9:15- 9:30 Coffee Break

9:30- 11:30

Session One: Academic River History/ Public River History

Chair: Dr. Doug Harris, Faculty of Law, UBC

Dr. Katrine Barber, Director, Centre for Columbia River History, and History, Portland State University

Dr. Charles Jago, Chair of the Fraser Basin Council, and History, University of Northern British Columbia

Jennifer Bonnell, Doctoral Candidate, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

Dr. Matthew Hatvany, Département de Géographie, Université Laval

11:30- 1:00 Lunch @ St John’s College

Please have a look at the poster presentations by:

Matt Dyce, PhD student, Geography, UBC

Phil Van Huizen, PhD student, History, UBC

Helen Mills, Lost Rivers, Toronto

Robert Reinhardt, PhD student, History, University of California, Davis

1:00- 3:00

Session Two: Rivers and Public Memory

Chair: Dr. Stéphane Castonguay, CRC History at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières

Dr. Julie Cruikshank, Professor Emeritus, Anthropology, UBC

Dr. Lorne Hammond, Curator, Royal BC Museum

Bill Layman, Public Historian, Wenatchee, Washington

Dr. Joy Parr, CRC, Geography, University of Western Ontario

3:00- 3:15 Coffee Break

3:15- 4:30 Reflections and Redirections

Dr. Laura Cameron, CRC, Geography, Queen's University

Dr. Stephen Bocking, Environmental Studies, Trent University

6:30 Dinner, Athenes Restaurant, 3618 West Broadway, Phone: 604-731-4135

Opening Questions:

To focus discussion and give our conversation some coherence, we have prepared some questions that will serve as common ground in the workshop sessions on November 16. Please reflect on these whether you are a formal speaker or not.

Questions for Session One: Academic River History/ Public River History

-What do academics have to say to public audiences about river history and why should it matter?

-Are public audiences all that interested in what academic historians have to say about rivers?

-How has your work crossed the academic/public divide to reach a wider audience for river history/ and/or how do you think this should be done?

-Have there been important examples of academic engagement in public river history that should be brought to wider attention?

-What are the barriers to public engagement? What conditions facilitate it?

-If you had an unlimited budget and release time from your primary job, what would be the public river history project that you would launch? What would be your aims? What media would you choose?

Questions for Session Two: Rivers and Public Memory

-People remember rivers and their lives along rivers, they tell stories about rivers, and they are also asked through various public history events/exhibits and commemorations to remember rivers in particular ways. The following questions seek to explore these different ways of remembering rivers.

-How has your work sought to come to grips with the way people remember rivers?

-Why have you sought to explore this subject? What is at stake for you?

-Why do people remember rivers? How do rivers come to be talked about over time?

-How does spatial scale affect public memories of rivers? That is, do people remember rivers locally, regionally, nationally, internationally, or in some complex mixture of scales? Why does this matter?

-Have you been involved in any project which asked people to learn about river history or heritage? Did this project seek to resurrect memories of rivers, and if so, to what ends?

-Should academics attend more carefully to river memories in constructing river histories?

Speaker Biographies

Katy Barber is an associate professor of history at Portland State University where she has worked since 2001. She teaches Pacific Northwest, Western U.S. history, and public history courses, and is on the Native American Studies faculty. She is the director of the Center for Columbia River History, a public history consortium that includes PSU, Washington State University Vancouver and the Washington State Historical Society (www.ccrgh.org). Last year, CCRH organized its free public programs around the 50-year anniversary of the inundation of one of North America's most significant Native American fishery by a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dam. The programs culminated in a two-day conference that commemorated the loss of Celilo Falls by The Dalles Dam in

1957. In Winter 2005, her book, *Death of Celilo Falls*, was published by the University of Washington Press. She left her home town of Portland, Oregon, for graduate studies at Washington State University where she earned a doctorate in American Studies in 1999.

Stephen Bocking is professor of environmental policy and history at Trent University. Originally trained as an historian of science, his published work includes more than two dozen academic articles and chapters, as well as two books: *Ecologists and Environmental Politics: A History of Contemporary Ecology* (Yale University Press, 1997), and *Nature's Experts: Science, Politics, and the Environment* (Rutgers University Press, 2004). He has also published various edited collections, including a theme issue of the *Urban History Review* on Canadian urban environmental history (2005), a theme issue of the *Journal of Canadian Studies* on science and politics in Canada (2002), and *Biodiversity in Canada: Ecology, Ideas, and Action* (Broadview Press, 2000). His research now focuses on the political roles and implications of scientific expertise. Projects underway include a study of the recent history of environmental science in northern Canada, and a study of the science and politics of salmon aquaculture. He also teaches courses on the politics of environmental science, environmental issues in the developing world, Canadian environmental policy, environmental history, and the university environment.

Jennifer Bonnell is in her third year of doctoral studies in the History of Education Program at the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE/UT). Her dissertation research, supervised by Dr. Ruth Sandwell, explores the social and environmental history of the Don River in Toronto, and the ways different groups of people—writers, artists and photographers, planners, historians, conservationists, and educators—have responded to the river over time and contributed in different ways to its shape and condition. Jennifer has over ten years experience conducting oral history research and coordinating community history projects for the community museums sector in British Columbia and Ontario, Canada. She continues to act as an advisor to several oral history and data digitization projects at the Multicultural History Society of Ontario (MHSO).

Stéphane Castonguay is Canada Research Chair in Environmental History at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières. He has recently published articles on the St. Francis River, in the Eastern Townships, and on the relationships between natural resources exploitation, state formation and governmental scientific activities in Quebec.

Laura Cameron is a Canada Research Chair in Historical Geographies of Nature at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and her recent work addresses cultures of nature, art and psychoanalysis. She is the author of *Openings: A Meditation on History, Method and Sumas Lake* (McGill-Queens University Press, 1997), and her essays appear in a number of journals including *History Workshop Journal*, *Radical History Review* and *Society and Space*. Alongside research on the ecologist Marietta Pallis (with David Matless, Nottingham) and the ecologist/psychoanalyst AG Tansley, she is currently completing a book with John Forrester (*History and Philosophy of Science*, Cambridge) entitled *Freud in Cambridge*, which recounts the story of Freud's impact on the life of a

University town, and the decisive influence which Cambridge had on the reception of psychoanalysis in Britain. She heads the “Transnational Ecologies” subcluster of NiCHE (Network in Canadian History and Environment) which works to deepen communication concerning migrations of both species and environmental knowledge.

Stéphane Castonguay is Canada Research Chair in Environmental History at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières. He has recently published articles on the St. Francis River, in the Eastern Townships, and on the relationships between natural resources exploitation, state formation and governmental scientific activities in Quebec. He is Co-director of the Canadian Water History Project (with Matthew Evenden) and a member of the Network in Canadian History and Environment.

Gerald Conaty (Ph.D. Simon Fraser University, 1985; LL.D. Honourary University of Lethbridge, 2007) has been the Senior Curator of Ethnology at Glenbow Museum since 1990 and was appointed Director of Curators in 2006. Throughout his career, Dr. Conaty has been dedicated to creating museums as a more inclusive place, creating a place (both literally and figuratively) where Indigenous people have a voice in the portrayal of their culture and history. Dr. Conaty has been instrumental in negotiating the repatriation of sacred material to the Blackfoot and other First Nations. This repatriation has helped ensure the continuation of traditional cultural practices. Dr. Conaty helped create the exhibit, book and web site *Nitsitapiisinnii: Our Way of Life*, in which the Blackfoot present their history and culture for both a general and a school audience. A traveling version of this exhibit brought the story of the Blackfoot to audiences in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, Manchester, United Kingdom and at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec. Dr. Conaty is also an Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Archaeology, University of Calgary and in 2003 was inducted into the Kainai Chieftainship in recognition of his contributions to Kainai society. He worked with culture historians and art historians to create the exhibit and accompanying book "Our River. Journey of the Bow" that traced the historical use of the Bow River.

Julie Cruikshank is Professor Emerita in the Department of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia where she also held the McLean Chair in Canadian Studies, 2001-2003. For more than a decade, she lived in the Yukon Territory where she worked with the Yukon Native Language Centre recording oral traditions and life stories with Athapaskan and Tlingit elders. She has also conducted research in Alaska and Siberia. Her research interests include environmental anthropology, circumpolar political developments and approaches to analysis of oral tradition. Her books include *Life Lived Like a Story* (1990, written in collaboration with three Yukon elders, Angela Sidney, Annie Ned and Kitty Smith, and winner of the Canadian Historical Association's 1991 MacDonald Prize); *Reading Voices* (1991), and *The Social Life of Stories* (1998). Her recent book, *Do Glaciers Listen? Local Knowledge, Colonial Encounters and Social Imagination* (2005) received two book prizes from the American Anthropological Association - the Victor Turner Prize and the Julian Steward Book Award.

Matthew Evenden is an Associate Professor of Geography at the University of British Columbia who specializes in the environmental history of Canada. He is the author of

Fish versus Power: An Environmental History of the Fraser River (Cambridge UP 2004) which received the Clio Prize from the Canadian Historical Association and a range of essays and papers in Canadian water history. He recently co-edited with Alan MacEachern a special Canada issue of the journal *Environmental History* (October 2007). Currently, he is co-authoring an environmental history of the Bow River with Christopher Armstrong and HV Nelles and finishing another project, *War and Waterpower*, on the development of hydro-electric power in Canada during the Second World War. He is Co-director of the Canadian Water History Project (with Stéphane Castonguay), a member of the Network in Canadian History and Environment and Co-organizer (with Eagle Glassheim) of the Nature, History, Society speaker series at Green College, UBC.

Donald Gibson is Parks Canada's National Manager of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) Canada's national program for freshwater heritage conservation. Since 1984, the Canadian Heritage Rivers System has become one of the world's fastest growing and most respected river conservation programs. Mr. Gibson has over twenty five years experience in the research, development and implementation of natural and cultural heritage policy, administration, communications and planning. Projects that he has been involved with have received several national and international awards including the 1996 Natural Resources Council of America Best Publication for the book "Voyages: Canada's Heritage Rivers", the 1990 Information Services Institute Award of Excellence for the CHRS Annual Report, the Great Canadian Rivers television series nominated for two Gemini Awards and the four year Canadian River Heritage Stamp series which produced 60 million stamps of Canadian rivers. Mr. Gibson has a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Geography from Queen's University and a Masters Degree in Recreation from the University of Waterloo. Mr. Gibson lives in Ottawa with his wife Barbara and his canoeing partner Patches, a fourteen year old Jack Russell Terrier.

Lorne F. Hammond has been Curator of History at the Royal British Columbia Museum for a decade and an adjunct of the Department of History and School of Graduate Studies, University of Victoria. His museology includes exhibits with the Italian communities in BC resource towns, cultural arts work on with a Cantonese opera company and the organizers of a Bhangra dance competition, an exhibit on 100 years of BC history, an exhibit for the Golden Jubilee of HRH Queen Elizabeth II and later a study of rock royalty in the 1960s. His early academic studies include a data analysis of wildlife in the fur trade, being reprinted in 2008 for a national textbook, and a study of shanty men and the square timber trade of the Ottawa Valley river system and capitalism. His doctorate is from the University of Ottawa where he studied Canadian, US and Latin American social history of resource industries. His Fulbright work at Columbia dealt with the Carnegie and Rockefeller foundations and their history of their Canadian grants program. He has been active in the Forest History Society and the American Society for Environmental History for some 15 years and follows those fields closely. His last academic research project involved a comparative look at community issues on Canada's Atlantic and Pacific coast, as part of Dr. Rosemary Ommer's Coasts Under Stress Research team, where he made a minor contribution on the history of offshore oil and gas history. His current research is on the social history and future implications of energy transitions.

Douglas Harris joined the Faculty of Law at the University of British Columbia in 2001. He writes and teaches in the areas of property law, legal history, fisheries law, and Aboriginal rights. His written work includes articles on the legal relations between Aboriginal peoples and the Canadian state in early British Columbia, and on the title registration system. He is the author of *Fish, Law, and Colonialism: The Legal Capture of Salmon in British Columbia* (Toronto, 2001). He is currently completing a book manuscript, to be published by UBC Press in 2008, titled *Landing Aboriginal Fisheries: Indian Reserves and Rights to Fish in British Columbia, 1849-1925*. It is a study of the connections between fisheries law, Aboriginal and public rights to fish, and the Indian reserve allotment process in British Columbia. Harris is also about to embark on a study of the idea of property and of the roles that property law has played in the transformations of Vancouver's False Creek over the past 150 years. After completing his B.A. (UBC History) and LL.B. (Toronto), Harris articulated in Vancouver and was called to the British Columbia bar in 1994. During his years as a university student Harris was a member of the Canada's field hockey team that competed at the Olympic Games (1988), the Pan American Games (1987, 1991, 1995), and the World Student Games (1991).

Matthew Hatvany is professor of Geography at the Université Laval, where he teaches courses in historical geography and environment. His research in human and physical geography focuses on the intersection between Nature and Culture in the areas of sustainable development and ecosystem maintenance.

Charles J. Jago, C.M. With a B.A.(Hon) from The University of Western Ontario, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Cambridge, Charles Jago joined the Department of History at McMaster University in 1971, eventually achieving the rank of Professor. From 1987-1995 he served as Principal of Huron University College, the founding College of The University of Western Ontario, and from 1995-2006 as President of the University of Northern British Columbia. He has remained an active scholar of early-modern Spanish history throughout his career and has numerous publications in prestigious journals to his credit. He currently serves on the Board of Partnerships BC and of 2010 Legacies Now and chairs the Boards of the Fraser Basin Council, Canfor Pulp Co. Ltd. Partnership, and the Northern Health Authority. Dr. Jago is the recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal and the Order of Canada, the latter primarily in recognition of his role as a founder of the Northern Medical Program at UNBC.

William D. Layman's writing focuses primarily on the history and archaeology of the Columbia River. His book, *River of Memory: The Everlasting Columbia* (2006) received the Washington State Book Award for nonfiction and was named a finalist for the Western Writers of America's Spur Award. In addition, he is author of *Native River: The Columbia Remembered*, (2002) in addition to being a frequent contributor to Washington State Historical Society's *Columbia Magazine*. Layman's research was recognized in 1997 as through the James B. Castles Award for deepening the appreciation of Columbia River heritage. He is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor living in Wenatchee, Washington.

Albert (Sonny) McHalsie is currently the Manager/Cultural Advisor for the Sto:lo Research and Resource Management Center in Chilliwack B.C. He has worked for the Sto:lo in various capacities for the past 22 years, including the Cultural Advisor and contributing author for the award winning A Sto:lo Coast Salish Historical Atlas(2001). Sonny also provides oral narratives on bus/riverboat placename tours through his company Aselaw Tours from Chilliwack in the Fraser Valley up to Yale in the Fraser Canyon.

The book **Joy Parr** has been researching since 1998 on megaprojects and their neighbours is finally finished, subtitled 'Environments, Technologies and the Everyday'. Her essay for undergraduates, 'Our Bodies, Our Histories of Technology and the Environment' will appear presently in the Envirotech Reader from University of Virginia Press edited by Martin Reuss and Steven Cutcliffe. Trained as an economist and historian, she is a member of the University of Western Ontario Department of Geography and Canada Research Chair in Technology, Culture and Risk.

Some practical links:

Directions to UBC:

<http://www.ubc.ca/about/directions.html>

Directions to West Coast Suites:

http://www.ubconferences.com/travel_information_maps/directions/west_coast_suites/

Printable Map of UBC Campus:

<http://www.maps.ubc.ca/PROD/images/pdf/ubcmap.pdf>

Please note: Green College is located on the map at A4 and St John's College at 2D

Printable Map of Green College Grounds:

<http://www.greencollege.ubc.ca/About/map.pdf>