

MADAM JUSTICE MARY SOUTHIN LECTURE

PEOPLING THE LIQUIDATION POLICY

Who forced the sale of Japanese-Canadian-owned property, WWII?

In February 1942, when Japanese Canadians in coastal British Columbia were uprooted from their homes and interned, the Canadian government assured them that their property would be safeguarded for the duration of the war. A year later, however, officials resolved to sell everything they owned, contributing to material losses that would, in today's currency, amount to close to one billion dollars. This talk analyzes the forced sale of Japanese-Canadian-owned property by examining three individuals: federal politician Ian Mackenzie, bureaucrat Glenn McPherson, and Kishizo Kimura, a Japanese Canadian who participated in administering the sales. In addition to detailing the origins of the policy, this talk will ask what historians can learn by foregrounding the individuals involved in historical injustice. I propose that an understanding of these people, including their own subjectivities, is essential to both understanding the past and extracting its lessons.

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Jordan Stanger-Ross is Associate Professor of History at the University of Victoria and the Project Director of Landscapes of Injustice, a 7-year multi-sector grant to research and tell the history of the forced sale of Japanese-Canadian-owned property during the Second World War. His research and teaching focus on immigration, race, and inequality in twentieth century North America, with an emphasis on urban politics and experience.

About the Madam Justice Mary Southin Lecture

Endowed by her friends and colleagues, the Madam Justice Mary Southin Lecture pays tribute to Madam Justice Southin's many contributions to the development of the common law in BC. It is to address either the Law of Equity or British Columbia legal history, and it alternates between the UBC and UVic Law Faculties. *This lecture qualifies for one hour of Continued Professional Development Credit.*

FEBRUARY

03

TUESDAY

5:30PM

Light refreshments
served before the
lecture

TERRACE LOUNGE
(ROOM 402)

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