

GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

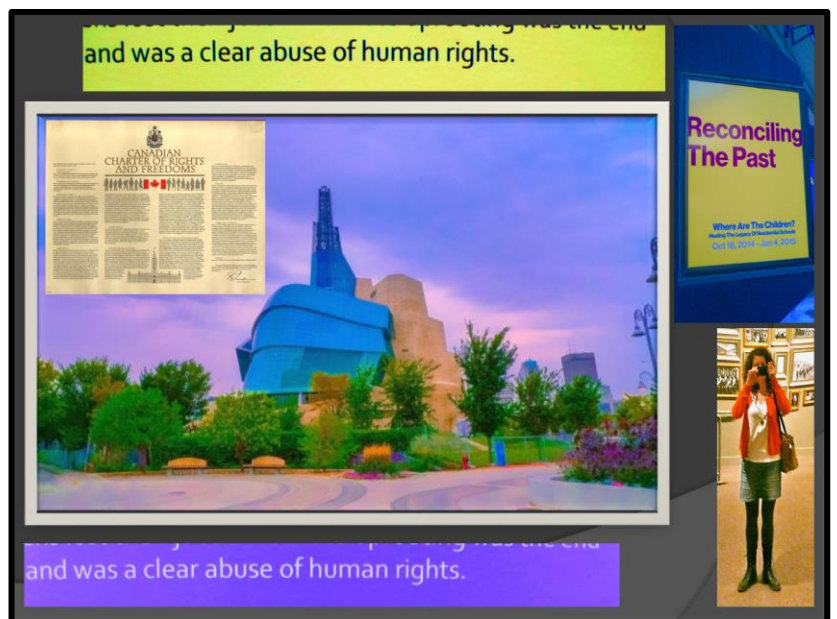
Monday, January 25th, 2016
11:30-12:50
Cornett A125

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The Exhibition Landscape of Human Rights in Canada

This presentation is a reflection on a year and half of fieldwork concerning the development of human rights-based exhibitions in Canadian cultural institutions. Through interviews conducted with heritage professionals from eight different institutions from across Canada, this research investigates the curatorial practices, methods of collections research, exhibition design strategies, educational programming, and public outreach initiatives these institutions have engaged with in relation to Canada's three official national apologies delivered in the House of Commons for: The Japanese Canadian Internment during World War II; the Chinese Head Tax and Exclusions Laws; and Indian Residential Schools. The results of this research have provided valuable insights into the challenges faced and the strategies deployed by heritage professionals when working with difficult subject matter. This research has also proven that Canadian cultural institutions such as museums, small gallery spaces, and research collectives serve as important sites of community for survivors of human rights related trauma while also educating the greater public about acts of discrimination, cultural inequality, violence, and genocide that have occurred in Canada. As such, they are situated as key players in the ongoing development of human rights discourses in Canada by creating and contributing to public and legal understandings of rights and justice as produced through curatorial practice.



EVERYONE WELCOME.