



Racial (In)Justice in the **Canadian University**

**Thursday,
March 16, 2017**

The Politics of Race, Diversity and Settler Colonialism

ubcfa UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
FACULTY ASSOCIATION

**Jack Poole Hall N, Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre
University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC
Traditional, ancestral, unceded Musqueam Territory**



Welcome to all UBC Faculty and Guest Attendees

On behalf of the UBC Faculty Association, it is our pleasure to welcome you to our conference Racial (In)Justice in the Canadian University: The Politics of Race, Diversity, and Settler Colonialism. We are proud to be hosting this conference, and we look forward to informative and timely discussions on key issues around race, racialization, and colonialism in Canadian universities.

We are grateful to the speakers for agreeing to come share their expertise with us and to all who participate in the breakout groups for sharing their experiences and perspectives on these important issues confronting the university.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the conference co-conveners, Margot Young and Sunera Thobani, for their ongoing commitment to advancing equity on university campuses and for making this conference possible. I would also like to thank the staff of the Faculty Association for all their work in helping us put this conference together.

We look forward to a day of dialogue and community building. It is our hope that the conversations and connections we make with one another today will lay the groundwork for continued engagement on these issues as we work towards a truly diverse and inclusive university.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Mac Lean'.

Mark Mac Lean
President, UBC Faculty Association

● Conference Co-Convenors:

Dr. Sunera Thobani
(Asian Studies/Social Justice Institute)

Prof. Margot Young
(Law; Chair, UBCFA Status of Women Committee)

● Sponsored by:

The UBC Faculty Association



About a 10 minute walk from the Alumni Centre to Allard Hall



Program:

- 8:30 Registration and Coffee
- 9:00 – 9:30 **Welcome by Co-Convenors:**
Dr. Sunera Thobani & Professor Margot Young
- Conference Welcome**
- 9:30 – 11:00 **The State of the Academy:
Issues, Policy & Effects on People**
- Panel:** Dr. Shelly Johnson, Mukwa Musayett;
Dr. Malinda Smith; Dr. Jin Haritaworn;
Dr. Sarika Bose; Zool Suleman
- 11:00 – 11:20 **Refreshment Break**
- 11:20 – 12:30 Workshop/Roundtables – Open discussion on
the issues presented by panelists
- 12:30 – 1:30 **Lunch**
- 1:30 – 3:00 **Transforming the Academy:
Barriers, Practices, Challenges**
- Panel:** Dr. Ena Dua; Dr. Adelle Blackett;
dr. annie ross; Dr. Delia Douglas;
Cicely Belle-Blain
- 3:00 – 3:20 **Refreshment break**
- 3:20 – 4:30 Workshop/Roundtables – Open discussion on
the issues presented by panelists
- 4:40 – 5:00 Wrap-Up: Moving Forward - Dr. Minelle Mahtani
Closing remarks: Dr. Vinayak Vatsal
- 6:00 **Reception:**
Forum
Peter A. Allard School of Law
1822 E Mall, UBC



Speaker Biographies

● **Dr. Adelle Blackett, Ad. E.,** is Professor of Law and Canada Research Chair in Transnational Labour Law and Development at the Faculty of Law, McGill University, where she teaches and researches in the areas of labour and employment law, trade regulation, law and development, critical race theory and slavery and the law. Professor Blackett holds a B.A. in History from Queen's University, civil law and common law degrees from McGill, and an LL.M. and a doctorate in law from Columbia University. Widely published in English, French and Spanish in the emerging field of transnational labour law, in 2015, she co-edited a Research Handbook on Transnational Labour Law. Her in-progress book on the regulation of domestic work is under contract with Cornell University Press.

Professor Blackett is the recipient of prestigious research fellowships, notably the Social Science and Humanities Research Council's Bora Laskin National Fellowship in Human Rights Research in 2010, and the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Fellowship in 2016 on transnational futures of international labour law. She was a William Dawson Scholar at McGill from 2007 to 2016, and has been a visiting scholar at the African Development Bank, the Australian National University and SOAS (University of London). She founded and directs the Labour Law and

Development Research Laboratory (LLDRL) at McGill, was a founding steering committee member of the international Labour Law Research Network (LLRN), and is member of the Quebec based Inter-University Research Centre on Globalization and Work (CRIMT).

A former official of the International Labour Office in Geneva, Professor Blackett has been an ILO expert on international standard setting on decent work for domestic workers (2008-2011) leading to the adoption of ILO Convention No. 189 and Recommendation No. 201; and in a labour law reform process in Haiti (2011-2014). In 2009, she was unanimously appointed by the National Assembly of Quebec to the province's human rights and youth rights Commission, where she served as a commissioner for seven (7) years. A member of the Law Society of Upper Canada and the Barreau du Québec, she was awarded the latter's Christine Tourigny Award of Merit and the status of advocate emeritus in 2014, in recognition of her social commitment and her contributions to the advancement of women. She received a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. In 2015, the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers awarded her its Pathfinder Award for her significant contributions to the legal community and the community at large.

● **Cicely-Belle Blain** is a queer, Black poet, artist and community organizer who has been a settler on Coast Salish lands for four years. Originally from London, England, they have been working on bringing social justice, accessibility and inclusivity to spaces, mainly at UBC, where they studied European Studies and Russian.

Cicely-Belle's previous and on-going projects include co-founding a chapter of the Black Lives Matter movement in Vancouver, archiving the history of racialized student activism across

North America with the UBC Center for Race, Autobiography, Gender and Age, and being the program assistant for BC's queer and trans summer camp, CampOUT. They have also worked with the Positive Space Campaign and the Global Lounge, both at UBC, which have been instrumental in fueling their passion for community building, intercultural understanding and safer space creation. They spend their spare time writing teen fiction, painting, and winning at pub trivia.

● **Dr. Sarika Bose** teaches Victorian literature, drama, children's literature and composition at UBC. A recent publication is the Broadview Press edition of Dion Boucicault's 1859 anti-slavery melodrama, *The Octoroon*, and some recent research interests include the state of academic freedom in universities. She has

been serving as the UBC Faculty Association's Contract Faculty Committee Chair since 2014, and has established research and pedagogy initiatives for contract faculty, in partnership with the Faculty Association, the Centre for Teaching and Learning Technologies and UBC Library.

● **Dr. Delia D Douglas** is a sociologist whose research and writing are interdisciplinary in nature, drawing upon critical race and gender studies, cultural studies and post colonial studies.

Dr. Douglas has taught in both Canada and the U.S. Dr. Douglas' scholarship is attentive to the

ongoing significance of enslavement and imperialism in the organization and reproduction of settler colonial projects and white racial logics. Her areas of interest include anti-black racism(s), equity and higher education, race and the law, and sport studies.

● **Dr. Enakshi Dua** is an Associate Professor in the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies at York University. She is Graduate Director of the Graduate Program in Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies at York University. She teaches critical race theory, anti-racist feminist theory, post colonial studies and feminist theory.

She has published extensively on theorizing racism and anti-racism, the racialised and gendered histories of immigration processes, racism in Canadian universities, equity policies and anti-racism policies and the racialisation of masculinity and femininity. She has also published on women and health and globalization and biodiversity. Her notable publications include *Scratching the*

Surface: Canadian Anti-Racist Feminist Thought, The Hindu Woman's Question, From Subjects To Aliens: Indian Migrants, The Racialisation of Canadian Citizenship, Decolonising Anti-Racism, Theorizing Anti-Racism: Linkages in Marxism and Critical Race Theories (with Abigail Bakan) and The Equity Myth: Race, Racialization and Indigeneity in Canadian Universities (with Frances Henry, Audrey Kobayashi, Carl James, Howard Ramos and Malinda Smith).

She has more than 30 years of experience in anti-racist work in the

community as well as within the academy. Within the academy, she has held a number of administrative positions that address gender, anti-racist, and equity issues. She has served as Director of the Centre for Feminist Research, Chair of the CAUT Equity Committee, the co-chair of the Sub-committee to the Joint Committee of the Collective Agreement on Equity, at Queen's University, as well as the York University Faculty Association's Equity Officer.

- **Dr. Jin Haritaworn** is Associate Professor of Gender, Race and Environment at York University. They have authored various publications, including two books, numerous articles (in journals such as GLQ, Society&Space and Sexualities), and four co/edited collections (including Queer Necropolitics), which are widely read and taught on both sides of the Atlantic. Their latest book *Queer Lovers and Hateful Others: Regenerating Violent Times and Places* (Pluto, 2015), is on queer gentrification and criminalization, anti-Muslim racism and queer of colour kitchen tables in Berlin. Jin has keynoted on both sides of the Atlantic, in fields such as gender, sexuality and transgender studies,

critical race and ethnic studies, and urban studies, and has made foundational contributions to several debates, including homonationalism, intersectionality, transnational sexuality studies, and queer of colour space and politics. They are coordinator of the Toronto-based QTBIPOC (queer and trans Black, Indigenous and people of colour) mapping and archiving project *Marvellous Grounds* and recipient of several grants and fellowships (including a SSHRC, an Early Researcher Award and the University of California Humanities Research Institute Residential Research Group *Queer of Color Formations and Translocal Spaces in Europe*).

- **Dr. Shelly Johnson (Mukwa Musayett – Walking With Bears)** is of Saulteaux First Nation (Keeseekoose) and Norwegian ancestry.

She is a Canada Research Chair in Indigenizing Higher Education and Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education and Social Work at Thompson Rivers University, which is

located on the unceded and occupied territory of the Secwepemc people.

She is a former Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia (Vancouver) and instructor at the University of Victoria. She is also a former CEO and founder of a delegated urban First Nations child and family agency in Victoria, a provincial policy analyst, statutory social work supervisor and social

worker. Her Indigenist research agenda includes First Nations therapeutic jurisprudence, Indigenous culture and language revitalization and Indigenous child welfare.

Shelly is a PI and co-PI on four national and international research projects totaling over \$3M. Her work is grounded in the principles of Indigenous legal sovereignty, cultural self-determination, and activism.

Shelly serves on the national board of directors of the Canadian Association of Social Work Educators, chairs the national Indigenous Social Work Educators Network and is a member of the American Indian and Alaska Native Social Work Educators Association.

Shelly is married and a mother to six adult children.

● **Dr. Minelle Mahtani** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Program in Journalism, University of Toronto Scarborough. She is also host of a daily current affairs radio show at Roundhouse Radio called "Sense of

Place." She is Past President of the Association for Canadian Studies and the author of "Mixed Race Amnesia: Resisting the Romanticization of Multiraciality in Canada" and one of the editors of the book "Global Mixed Race."

● **Dr. Malinda S. Smith** is a Professor of Political Science in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta. Her research and engaged scholarship draw on critical theoretical perspectives in political science and the humanities to explore questions of equity, social justice, decolonization and social change. A recent SSHRC-funded project examined racialized and Indigenous scholars in the Canadian academy and the coauthored book, *The Equity Myth: Racialization and Indigeneity at Canadian Universities* (2017, with Frances Henry et al), is forthcoming with the University of British Columbia Press. Dr. Smith is the editor of three books, including *Securing Africa: Post-9/11 Discourses on Terrorism* (Ashgate, 2010); *'Beyond the African Tragedy': Discourses on Development and the Global Economy* (Ashgate, 2006); and *Globalizing Africa* (Africa World Press, 2003). She is also the co-editor of two

books, including *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics* (2013, with Janine Brodie and Sandra Rein); and *States of Race: Critical Race Feminism for the 21st Century* (2010, with Sherene Razack and Sunera Thobani). For her engagement and community outreach Dr. Smith has been honored with several awards, including: the 2016 HSBC Community Contributor of the Year Award from the Canadian Centre for Diversity & Inclusion, the 2015 national 'Equity Award' from the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the 2013 Human Rights inaugural 'Human Rights Education Recognition Award' from the Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights, the 2011 'Academic Woman of the Year' Award from the Academic Women's Association, and the 2010 'Anti-Racism Award' from the Centre for Race and Culture.

● **dr. annie ross** is an Indigenous teacher and artist working within community inside the Canadian west.

● **Zool Suleman** is a Canadian Immigration and Refugee Lawyer (www.sulemanco.com). He undertook his undergraduate studies at UBC (1982- 1986) and is now a graduate student at UBC pursuing an MA in the Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program (ISGP). In between, he completed his law degree at Dalhousie University (1989). He is the former founder, publisher and editor (1992-1997) of *Rungh Magazine*, A South Asian Quarterly of Culture, Comment and Criticism (www.rungh.org), an interdisciplinary journal that explored cultural issues from an inter and multi-disciplinary perspective. He has been a member

of the Vancouver Mayor's Working Group on Immigration since its inception in 2005. He has also worked with the City of Vancouver as a consultant and writer, authoring "Vancouver Dialogues- First Nations, Urban Aboriginal and Immigrant Communities", a report of the Vancouver Dialogues project (<http://vancouver.ca/files/cov/dialogues-project-book.pdf>). He is a frequent commentator on issues related to migration and culture. Most recently, he has been a founding member of the Islamophobia Hotline project in British Columbia (<http://islamophobiaHotline.ca/en/>).





112 - 1924 West Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2
353B - 3333 University Way
Kelowna, BC V1V 1V7