

# PRACTICING HISTORY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

A SYMPOSIUM RECOGNIZING THE DIVERSE SCHOLARSHIP OF JOHN G. REID

June 23 – 24, 2016



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Thursday June 23 — Friday June 24, 2016  
Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

There has been a good deal of attention to the place of history in Canada recently, spurred in part by developments such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, significant commemorations, and for other reasons. The practice of history must now confront a new politics of the past to serve multiple constituencies and to disseminate findings through multiple channels to different audiences. Graduate students are encouraged to be innovative, even entrepreneurial, in building their careers. History departments, like other programs, have turned toward career counselling, co-op options and other strategies to diversify student's career pathways.

This symposium is organized around the changing nature of the practice of history in the 21st century. The symposium is organized around four specific thematic areas that have been inspired by the work of Dr. John G. Reid. For over thirty years, Reid has been a leading scholar of aboriginal-settler relationships, the history of the Atlantic Region (broadly conceived) and a scholar who has remained on the cutting edge of scholarship through situating studies of the Atlantic Region in their broader historical context.

The symposium will begin, appropriately, with a discussion on "Careers in History" with a panel of recent history graduates with careers in diverse fields. One of Reid's major professional contributions has been the reconceptualization of our historical understanding of the relationships between aboriginal people and settler societies in northeastern North America. This was foreshadowed in his first book, the prize-winning *Acadia, Maine and New Scotland* and this key question continues to occupy an important place in Reid's work. These concerns will be taken up in the session entitled "Wolastoqiyik, Mi'kma'ki, Acadia, and the Atlantic Region." Another theme, "History and Community," will emphasize the value of local studies and their relationship to broader analyses of region, nation, and the global world. This session will also speak to the important question of the relationship between university-based researchers and the broader community, including diverse end-users such as the courts, local government, or the museum community. Historians have also turned toward collaborative projects to pursue large-scale projects and to encourage comparative perspectives. Such approaches will be analyzed in a third panel, entitled "Collaborative Approaches: The Big Historical Questions." A closing round table will speak to the issue of "History, Audience, and Method."

The symposium will engage academic and non-academic audiences to explore the changing practice of the discipline of history through presentations and discussions and the connection between historical practice and the important questions facing civil society. This project should encourage new scholarly exchanges and new partnerships with communities outside the university. The symposium speaks not only to the changing nature of the discipline of history but also to the changing nature of academic inquiry in the 21st century.

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## PROGRAMME

### Thursday, 23 June 2016

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Registration, Lobby, Sobey Building

7:00 p.m. Introductory remarks, Dr. Peter Twohig  
Dean Margaret MacDonald

7:15 – 9:00 p.m. **CAREERS IN HISTORY**  
Panel discussion led by former students of  
John Reid

Steven Schwinghamer, Pier 21, *Storied Sites: Crafting history amid the conflicts of myth, memory and discipline*

Rosalie Francis, *Mi'kmaq Rights and Mi'kmaq History*

Sara Beanlands, Boreas Heritage Consulting, *John Reid's Influence on Historical Archaeology in Nova Scotia*

David States, Parks Canada (retired), *Filling in the Blanks: Uncovering the History of Blacks in Atlantic Canada*

Chair: Stephen Hornsby, University of Maine

### Friday, 24 June 2016

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Registration and Coffee  
Lobby, Sobey Building, Saint Mary's University

9:00 a.m. Introduction, Dr. Peter Twohig  
President, Robert Summerby-Murray

9:15 – 10:45 a.m. **WOLASTOQIYIK, MI'KMA'KI, ACADIA, AND  
THE ATLANTIC REGION**

Thomas Peace, Huron College, *Bridging Acadia, Maine & New Scotland: The Persistence of an Indigenous Northeast*

Jerry Bannister, Dalhousie University, *The Impact of the Forty Years' War on the Atlantic Region*

Roger Lewis, Nova Scotia Museum, *Re-examining Mi'kmaq Cultural Landscape: Ta'n Weji-squalia-tiek (From Where We Sprouted)*

Luca Codignola, University of Genoa, *Catholic missionaries in a composite North Atlantic world, 1763-1829*

Chair: Naomi Griffiths, Carleton University

**10:30 – 11:00 a.m. Nutrition Break (Lobby, Sobey Building)**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:30 HISTORY AND COMMUNITY**

Keith Mercer, Parks Canada, *Parks Canada and Public History Projects in Nova Scotia*

Emily Burton, Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, *Oral History, Community, and Immigration Narratives*

Kathryn Labelle, University of Saskatchewan, *Making History matter; Wendat History and Community Engaged Projects*

Andrew Nurse, Mount Allison University, *Communities of History: Engaging Scholarship*

Chair: Colin Howell, Saint Mary's University

**12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch (Lobby & SB255)**

**1:30 – 3:00 p.m. COLLABORATION ON BIG HISTORICAL QUESTIONS**

Phillip Buckner, University College London, *New Wine in the Old Bottles: Practising history in the Twenty-First Century*

Graeme Wynn, University of British Columbia, *Big history, Big Questions, Big Problems?*

Elizabeth Mancke, University of New Brunswick, *The Risks of Big Historical Questions and Mitigation through Collaboration*

Chair: Jeffers Lennox, Wesleyan University

**3:00 – 3:30 p.m. Nutrition Break (Lobby, Sobey Building)**

**3:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

**HISTORY, AUDIENCE, AND METHOD –  
A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

John Reid, Saint Mary's University, *History: An Art and a Science*

Jim Miller, University of Saskatchewan, *Whatever Happened to Historians' Role as Public Commentators?*

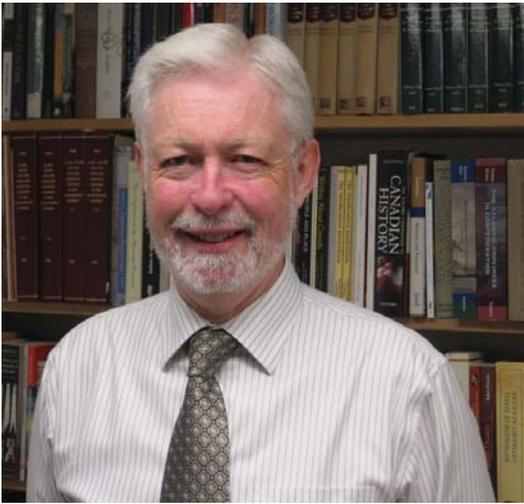
Margaret Conrad, University of New Brunswick, *Still Floundering After All These Years: Navigating the Past in the Age of Anxiety*

Renee Hulan, Saint Mary's University, *The Witness in History*

Chair: Nicole Neatby, Saint Mary's University

**5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Reception** (sponsored by Department of History, SMU)  
Unilever Lounge, 4th floor Sobey Building



**JOHN G. REID** is a member of the Department of History and the Atlantic Canada Studies program at Saint Mary's University and the Senior Research Fellow in the Gorsebrook Research Institute for Atlantic Canada Studies. He completed his undergraduate degree at Oxford University and his graduate studies at Memorial University and the University of New Brunswick. Since that time, he worked primarily in the history of northeastern North America in the 17th and 18th centuries and has an extensive record of important publications that have analyzed settler society and indigenous history in their local and trans-Atlantic contexts. In 2004, Professor Reid was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He is well-known for his collegiality, his mentorship of students and for his contributions to the discipline of history and interdisciplinary studies, his university, and the broader community.

