



GORSEBROOK
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE



Saint Mary's
University



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OUR MISSION

RESEARCH ON AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF ATLANTIC CANADA

Established in 1982, the Gorsebrook Research Institute for Atlantic Canada Studies at Saint Mary's University is the regional hub for research and collaborative scholarship on Atlantic Canada. We recognize First Nation communities and their land sovereignty, the ethnic and cultural diversity of those who were settled as part of forced immigration and colonization, and those who are here by their own choice and agency. Our focus on interdisciplinarity facilitates the intellectual exchanges needed to advance understandings of Atlantic Canada.

WELCOME

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

We have transitioned back to in-person activities and are delighted to be working with so many talented researchers! Raising the profile of early career researchers is one of our main responsibilities and we are pleased to feature the work of two of them in this issue: Dr. Katherine Crooks, a proud SMU alumna, and Mercedes Peters, a PhD candidate at the University of British Columbia.

We are also working hard to forge meaningful links with communities of expertise beyond academia through a dynamic and inspiring executive board. In this issue, we profile two of its members: Sara Beanlands is one of Nova Scotia's leading archaeologists and founding partner of Boreas Heritage; and Sylvia Parris-Drummond, who runs the Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute, an organization dedicated to the reclamation and delivery of African worldviews and values.

A new grant scheme we introduced in 2022 has expanded our ability to support researchers undertaking important work on our region. Last year, we made four awards to projects ranging from educational resources to environmental sustainability. This year, we increased our support to seven awards — five to support research, one to support important community-based work, and one to support an important partnership between SMU faculty and community-based researchers. One of our important partnerships is with the Black People's History of Canada project, which is led by GRI board member, Afua Cooper.

As ever, I am grateful to the GRI's board members. Their hard work and enthusiasm for the work we do enables the GRI to move forward in positive ways. Our consensus-based decision-making model ensures that all voices at the table receive equal recognition.

Finally, and on behalf of the board, I would like to congratulate Mathias Rodorff on his promotion to GRI Research Manager. His hard work enables us to advance our mission and connect with new opportunities.

Best wishes,

Dr. S. Karly Kehoe

Chair, Gorsebrook Research Institute for Atlantic Canada Studies



RESEARCH AT THE GRI

OUR RESEARCHERS

DR. KATHERINE CROOKS

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Research Project

Gendering the Northern Contact Zone: Settler and Indigenous Women in Atlantic Canada and the Eastern Arctic, 1960-1980.

My doctoral research examined women's histories of exploration in Canada's Eastern Arctic from the opening of the "heroic age" of polar exploration in the 1890s through to the beginning of the Second World War. Part of this work dealt with settler-Indigenous relations within Labradormiut territory in northern Labrador (Nunatsiavut). In thinking about Nunatsiavut in the context of northern exploration, where it was often treated as an exotic and exceptional frontier space, I became intrigued by Labrador's uneasy position within the larger field of Atlantic Canadian studies. At the same time that I was thinking about these kinds of relationships between Atlantic and northern Canadian histories, I came across the work of Barbara Hinds and Rosemary Gilliat, two journalists based in Nova Scotia who travelled to and wrote about Canada's Eastern Arctic in the 1960s. I also discovered that Hinds' and Gilliat's travel diaries, photographs, interview recordings, and other records pertaining to their time visiting numerous Eastern Arctic communities had been deposited in archives here in Halifax. The fact that these rich archival collections, residing and rooted in Nova Scotia in important ways, also contained stories about Inuit communities during a period of tremendous change and transformation in the Canadian North inspired me to develop my current research project. I hope to explore broader social, economic, and cultural connections between the Maritimes and the Eastern Arctic in the postwar period.

MERCEDES PETERS

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Research Project

Mi'kmaw and Wolastoqiyik women's grassroots activism, organizing, and care networks from the late 1960s to the late 1980s.

My research examines the ways in which Mi'kmaw and Wolastoqiyik women asserted sovereignty in their territories during the rise of Indigenous activism, often called "Red Power," in the 1970s. Existing work on Indigenous women's activism during this period focuses on campaigns in Canada to regain Indian status lost through a discriminatory clause of the Indian Act that stripped status from Indigenous women who married non-status or non-Indigenous men. This work, albeit important, obscures the broader range of issues and efforts that Indigenous women organized around in this period and takes for granted a system of state recognition as the only reference point through which Indigenous women could become legitimate within settler society, erasing important transnational networks. I hope to narrate the history of Mi'kmaw and Wolastoqiyik women who operated outside structures of state recognition like the Indian Act. In particular, I want to highlight Mi'kmaw and Wolastoqiyik women's efforts to organize to support holistic Indigenous well-being that transcended international, state, and provincial borders. Faced with a lack of support from settler governments and even their own communities, Mi'kmaw and Wolastoqiyik women successfully organized beyond recognizable state networks. Crucially, they raised money to build houses for women who faced homelessness after being turned away by their own communities and to support displaced women in urban spaces after they had fallen through the cracks of state support systems. This research is especially crucial as Canadians wrestle with the implications of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. As we focus on listening to Indigenous women today, we must look back and acknowledge the on-going and heterogeneous forms of work that Indigenous women have done for decades.

RESEARCH AT THE GRI

OUR BOARD MEMBERS

SARA BEANLANDS

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My entry into professional archaeology in 1992 coincided with the decline of government-funded research, so I enlisted alongside a generation of technicians who built their careers in consulting archaeology, also known as Cultural Resource Management (CRM). Over the past 25 years, I have specialized in CRM archaeology, focusing on the east coast, and in 2013 I became a founding partner of Boreas Heritage, an independently owned CRM firm based in Halifax. A career in CRM archaeology is filled with extraordinary challenges — political and practical — as a balance between a range of competing and often incompatible interests must be found. But it also offers great personal and professional rewards and a unique perspective on the past, present, and future of Atlantic Canada. My work involves the study of archaeological remains ranging from Mi'kmaw sites that are thousands of years old to historic period sites, including recent excavations on George's Island National Historic Site and the 19th-century Submarine Mining Establishment. I am dedicated to the integration of Indigenous knowledge and the active participation of the Mi'kmaw Nation in all aspects of CRM archaeology in Mi'kma'ki. I am especially interested in the ways in which archaeology can encourage the cultural enrichment of communities and in maximizing opportunities to create lasting benefits through active collaboration and capacity building. I am honoured to serve on the board and hope my experience in CRM archaeology can offer insight and assistance to the Gorsebrook Research Institute.

SYLVIA PARRIS-DRUMMOND

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The Delmore 'Buddy' Daye Learning Institute (DBDL), an independent standalone education and research institute was established in 2012. This year, it marks its 11th anniversary. Our foundation is Africentricity, which embodies the reclaiming and delivery of African worldviews and values. The value of Ubuntu stewards our work and shapes our very essence. The persona of DBDLI embraces a way of being with community that exudes love of our way of modeling collective work, acknowledging the importance reciprocity in such things as the equitable valuing of lived experiences with academic expertise, and holding true to our goal of creating educational change and genuine opportunities for learners and communities of African ancestry so they can reach their full potential.

We established our research department in 2017/2018. Since then, we have hosted an Africentric conference (Africentric Praxis to Affective Transformation: The Way to Make Things Felt), launched DBDLI/Deveau Extraordinary Fellow Scholar Initiative, and supported academic and community scholars through our Researchers of (Black) African Descent Network. All research is centred around change and transformation. Research results are shared to advance the needs of the community and provide information for policy makers and leaders in the public and private sectors to draw on to effect systemic change.

The passion that permeates our office and projects also vibrates throughout our communities across Nova Scotia. We publish resources, engage through Participatory Action Research (PAR), raise youth up, and lead community leadership. Community engagement helps us better understand the community's needs and therefore amplifies our impact. I choose to model community participation by being present with various organizations in volunteer support and leadership capacities. I am appreciative of the chance to learn and share through membership on the Black Business Community Investment Fund, Feed Nova Scotia, the Akoma Family Centre, the Foundation for Black Canadians, and the GRI Board.

GRI FUNDING – RECIPIENTS 2022 (1)

OUR RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2022, we have supported four researchers and their projects. Take a look what they have accomplished:

[Amy Lorenz \(Patrick Power Library / Saint Mary's University\) – Conference Support Grant](#)

Virtual Symposium: “Open Educational resources”

In the Fall of 2022, the Patrick Power Library and the Studio for Teaching and Learning hosted an Open Educational Resources (OER) symposium to support and encourage the development and use of OER materials in the Saint Mary's community. Unlike traditional textbooks and learning materials, Open Educational Resources permit adaptations to the content, allowing for unique resources that can be more culturally diverse and reflective of the communities using these resources. OERs are also provided at no cost and in a variety of formats.

The launch of [AtlanticOER](#), a service that “supports the hosting and creation of open educational resources by educators and students in the Atlantic Provinces,” has increased access to content and funding opportunities that faculty and students at Saint Mary's University can take advantage of when looking for high quality learning materials relevant to their studies. Featuring speakers from student advocacy groups, OER creators, and faculty who have adopted OER materials for their courses, this event increased awareness about the growing number of available resources and empower faculty to choose and use more open resources.

[Dr. Tom Ue \(Department of English / Dalhousie University\) – Research Grant](#)

Project: “(Re)Discovering Edward Prime-Stevenson's *Left to Themselves* (1891)”

My project studies the depiction of Atlantic Canada in Edward Prime-Stevenson's *Left to Themselves: Being the Ordeal of Philip and Gerald* (1891). Long acknowledged as a pioneer of American gay fiction, Prime-Stevenson (1858-1942) conceived of his novel as a prototype for an ambitious new kind of children's literature: “It will be found its writer hopes to embody study, as well as story, for the thoughtful moments in young lives, on whose intelligences daily clearly break the beauty and earnestness of human life, of resolute character, of unselfish friendship and affection, and of high aim.” Accordingly, the scholar James Gifford praises Valancourt Classics' new edition (2016) both for its contribution to LGBTQ studies and for its “resurrection” of Prime-Stevenson studies. Criticism has nevertheless overlooked his commentary on Atlantic Canada, notwithstanding the novel's focus on its teenaged central characters' journey from New York to Nova Scotia. My project recovers *Left to Themselves'* insights into nineteenth-century Atlantic Canada; advances our understanding of Prime-Stevenson; converses with an international consortium of scholars on his writing; and situates Atlantic Canada more concretely in the area of global nineteenth-century studies.

My scholarship is recognized internationally. In 2022, I was appointed to the Editorial Board of the flagship *Journal of Victorian Culture* (Oxford UP); and I delivered my keynote lecture, on “Sherlock's Lenses,” at the DePaul Pop Culture Conference in Chicago (<https://popcultureconference.com>). My excellent undergraduate research assistant, Jacob Aubut (SMU English Language and Literature), and I have produced several substantial outputs. First, we wrote an article, titled “A Moment's Reprieve: Space and Performativity in Edward Prime-Stevenson's *Left to Themselves*,” for submission to the peer-reviewed journal *Global Nineteenth-Century Studies*, and we are working on a second essay that studies the novel's blackmailing plot. Secondly, Aubut has developed, with the support of Professor Dino Felluga (Purdue) and his Collaborative Organization for Virtual Education project (<https://editions.covecollective.org>), a virtual map that traces and that analyzes Philip's and Gerard's journey to Nova Scotia. Thirdly, Aubut and I have discussed aspects of this project in Emma Catan's *Victorian Legacies* podcast (<https://emmacatan.wordpress.com/victorian-legacies-podcast>). In the fall of 2022, Aubut and I presented some of our work at the launch of the Society of Global Nineteenth-Century Studies' journal (<https://www.global19c.com>). This meeting enabled us to gain invaluable feedback, equip Aubut with the training and the experience of consolidating and presenting our findings, and shared with delegates some of the exciting research activities in the Gorsebrook Research Institute. We thank the Gorsebrook Research Institute and Saint Mary's University for their support.

GRI FUNDING – RECIPIENTS 2022 (2)

OUR RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Delmore Buddy Daye Learning Institute (Halifax, NS) – Community Initiative Grant

Project: “Youth Mental Health and Well-Being: Conversation to Develop an Africentric Support Framework.”

The Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute (DBDLI) collaborates with a variety of educational institutions on a wide range of community improvement projects. In 2022, the DBDLI received research funds worth \$1,400 from the Gorsebrook Research Institute for its project, “Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing: Conversations to Develop an Africentric Support Framework.” It is a partial response to what we heard from community youth via our household COVID survey and our Ancestral Roots Summits held with the regional centres of education throughout Nova Scotia. We are thankful for the bravery of youth to share their stories to contribute to a project that has promise to support all.

In this mental health workshop held on 25 May 2022 in Cape Breton, DBDLI worked with the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional Centre for Education through River View Rural High School to establish an Africentric framework with the goal of improving the youth's mental health and overall well-being. The youth participating had significant roles to play in all stages of the planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating processes pertaining to this effort. An Africentric mental Health framework will contribute to the improvement of youths' mental health and overall well-being in Nova Scotia.

Dr. Tony Charles (Acting Director School of the Environment / Saint Mary's University) – Partnerships Grant

Project: “Enhancing fishery sustainability as socio-ecological systems adapt to global change.”

How do fishers and fishery management institutions respond to ecological and economic changes? The North Atlantic Ocean has experienced dramatic changes and so the focus of our project involved two case studies to highlight the impact upon the fisheries. This collaborative project is carried out by Jennifer Beckensteiner (postdoctoral fellow, Université de Bretagne Occidentale, France), working with Olivier Thébaud (Ifremer, France) and Tony Charles (SMU).

The first case study is the anchovy fishery in the Bay of Biscay, which has changed greatly in the last two decades. The closure of the fishery from 2005 to 2010 led to negative impacts, with increasing pressure on other species and loss of market for the French fishing industry. While the anchovy stock has recovered, the fishery has not returned to its pre-collapse status. The second case study involves invertebrate fisheries in Nova Scotia, notably the development of the lobster fishery as a response to the collapse of the Atlantic cod fishery decades ago. This involves a survey of retired fishers, addressing their perceptions of fishery management and shellfishery development.

The study will lead to a comparison of long-term responses at the sectoral, coastal community, and institutional levels between the anchovy (France) and groundfish (Canada) fisheries. This comparative analysis will result in a more comprehensive understanding of the long-term responses of fisheries to major disruptions and reveal lessons for the adaptation of fisheries in the face of possible future shocks.

NEWS / UPCOMING EVENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Event: Our board member, Colin Howell, has been involved in several research projects related to Atlantic Canada's sporting past. He also has a forthcoming essay in a special issue of the Journal for Emerging Sport Studies edited by Cheryl MacDonald, which chronicles the history of the Hockey Conferences that originated at Saint Mary's University in 2001 and which have carried on across North America since then. Dr. Howell continues to provide Maritime content for Jay Del Mah's highly regarded site attheplate.com. His new book, *Hardscabble Diamonds: Postwar Baseball in New England and the Maritimes, 1945-1960*, is now being published by MacFarland Press. **Join Dr. Colin Howell at his book launch on June 29th, 2023, at Saint Mary's University (McNally Building Arts and Commons (MM 214A)) from 4:00 – 5.30 PM.** More details at <https://www.smu.ca/sportandhealth/events.html>.

Outreach: Follow us on Twitter (@SMU_Gorsebrook) for receiving the latest updates about the GRI, as well as news on conferences, workshops, research projects, and publications relevant to the research community of Atlantic Canada.

Partnership: *A Black People's History of Canada* has teamed up with the GRI! We are proud to announce that this project, which is led by our very own board member, Dr. Afua Cooper, joined by Dr. Karolyn Smardz Frost, Natasha Henry, and Adrienne Shadd, was awarded more than \$1 million in funding by the Canadian Government in 2021. Through workshops and conferences, this project will support leading Black history scholars and organizations to create new classroom-ready learning materials and digital media, in English and French, about the history of Black Canadians.

Project: Our board member, Michael Petrou, is leading "In Their Own Voices," a major oral history project at the Canadian War Museum that will gather and share new accounts of veterans' experiences after they take off their uniforms and become civilians again. The project seeks to explore the enduring impact of military service to better understand how armed conflict and war have shaped the lives of veterans, their loved ones, and Canada itself. Veterans interested in participating in the project can learn more about it, and submit their contact information, here: https://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm-mcg/in-their-own-voices/?gclid=Cj0KCQiA14WdBhD8ARIsANao07h1RJLcpft0USoJY3fJ4tiV3d5JiMgn0sLpTgs2SbKrMg5OsYnodbQaAhgbEALw_wcB

Publication: Our board member, Rosalie Francis, has just published an important article (*Canada's Response to Mi'kmaq Aboriginal and Treaty Fishing Rights: Reconciliation or Legal Colonial Oppression?*) in the Ocean Yearbook of the Marine & Environmental Law Institute (Dalhousie University). More details at: https://brill.com/view/journals/ocyo/37/1/article-p87_6.xml

Update: On 18 March 2022 our second annual ACST Researchers' Day "Community-based Work in Atlantic Canada" was held at Saint Mary's University. Our sincerest thanks to the organizers Johanna Cole and Michelle MacRae and to all presenters. We will continue to offer this research training day as an annual event and are looking forward to holding it in person and hybrid again at Saint Mary's University in 2023. For more information, please email Mathias Rodorff: Mathias.Rodorff@smu.ca

RESEARCHERS / BOARD

OUR PEOPLE

Research associates:

Dr. Claudine Bonner (Department of Sociology, Acadia University); 2023-2025.

Research: *African diaspora migration to the Atlantic region.*

Dr. Joanne Collins-Gonsalves (Gorsebrook Research Institute); 2020-2024.

Research: *Catholic Church, Portuguese in Guyana, and the wider Caribbean from 1835.*

Dr. Shannon Conway (Independent scholar); 2021-2026.

Research: *Newfoundland Culture, Identity, and Nationalism in Children's Literature (1990-2015).*

Dr. Afua Cooper (Department of Sociology and History, Dalhousie University); 2020-2024.

Research: *African-Nova Scotian community in Atlantic Canada, and the history of enslavement in Canada.*

Dr. Katherine Crooks (Department of History, Dalhousie University); 2021-2023.

Research: *Interregional linkages between Atlantic Canada and the Arctic in the postwar period.*

Dr. Terrence Murphy (Department of History, SMU); 2020-2026.

Research: *Catholic community in Atlantic Canada.*

Dr. Don Nerbas (Department of History, McGill University); 2021-2025.

Research: *Transformation of Cape Breton Coal Fields in the 19th and early 20th century.*

Dr. Sara Spike (Wilson Institute for Canadian History, McMaster University); 2021-2025.

Research: *The cultural histories of fog in Atlantic Canada.*

Senior Research fellow

Dr. John Reid (Department of History, SMU); 2020-2023.

Research: *History of cricket in Nova Scotia.*

Visiting scholars:

Dr. Claudine Bonner (Department of Sociology, Acadia University); 2020-2023.

Research: *African diaspora migration to the Atlantic region.*

Mercedes Peters (Department of History, University of British Columbia); 2022-2024.

Research: *Mi'kmaw and Wolastoqiyik women's grassroots activism.*

Board members:

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THE GRI! A Retrospective

From its inception, the Gorsebrook Research Institute (GRI) has been responsive to the evolving challenges and priorities of Atlantic Canada. Founded in 1982 as the research arm of the MA program of Saint Mary's University's (SMU) Atlantic Canada Studies (ACST) program, the GRI facilitates exchanges and partnerships among researchers at Saint Mary's University and affiliates from many different fields who can come together to improve understandings of Atlantic Canada. It does so by providing research funding and encouraging and facilitating university and external community engagement by supporting research partnerships and public engagement activities that include conferences workshops, outreach to schools, and community-led projects.

The story of the GRI begins with the creation of the multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary field of Canadian Studies to promote regional understanding in academia. Interdisciplinary thinking was beginning to gain traction at precisely the same time as Canadian universities were undergoing dramatic changes. Out of this concern arose the University of New Brunswick's academic journal *Acadiensis* in 1971. SMU was undergoing its own passing of the "old order" during the 1960s and 1970s, as it transitioned from a Jesuit-run Catholic boys' college to a more secular, co-ed university, which resulted in a rapid growth of its student and faculty population. SMU became a regional pioneer in innovative interdisciplinary programs, including Women's Studies, International Development, and ACST. In 1975, SMU set about training the next generation of regionally focused scholars with the creation of the interdisciplinary ACST undergraduate program. In 1982, building on the success of the university and the ACST program, the Gorsebrook Research Institute was founded by SMU faculty members Drs. Ken MacKinnon (English), Donald Higgins (Political Science), and Colin Howell (History). From providing research assistance to ACST members, the GRI is now facilitating academic research, promoting interdisciplinary and inter-university cooperation, and serving as a resource base for universities, governments, and the private sector.

In its 41-year history, much has happened. From its modest beginnings in a single office in the McNally Building, and later in the basement of the Oaks, the GRI has grown into one of the most active research institutes on campus. Since 2006, it has been located at the Inglis Street Research House (5960 Inglis Street), offering well-equipped offices and research opportunities. The GRI's interdisciplinary focus has been a strength. Its research activities have evolved over time in response to social, political, and academic development. Initially, the GRI research activities focused on the strategic objectives of SMU and the ACST program, including political economy, history, and the environment. Many of the GRI's early publications were concerned with fisheries, and to a lesser extent, oil, gas, forestry, and rural economies. The 1990s saw a shift towards gender, ethnicity, and community. By the 2000s, the GRI boasted an active conference and publication program, supported unique research projects, and hosted visiting scholars, post-doctoral fellows, student associates, and SMU faculty. In 2022, the GRI introduced competitive funding opportunities for faculty members of or affiliated with SMU and for community-based projects.

Since its foundation, the GRI has established a reputation for its interdisciplinary study of Atlantic Canada, considered in national and international contexts. Public outreach and scholarly exchange are integral to our activities that include hosting major conferences, symposia, attracting distinguished researchers, facilitating SSHRC research applications, and mentoring postdoctoral fellows. The pandemic gave us the opportunity to reflect how SMU engages with a wide range of communities as its research tackles some of the big questions about the future.

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