

# Stories of Place: Coastal Communities and Rural Settlement on Cape Breton Island

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## RSC Open Academy

### Contexts and Legacies of Settler Colonialism in Mi'kma'ki/Acadie/Nova Scotia

August 27-28, 2021

Chéticamp, NS

This two-day symposium explores the lives and experiences of Scottish and Acadian settlers in the coastal regions of Britain and North America, underlining the ways in which the physical environments and cultural geographies shaped the history of the communities. How do we create stories of place, and whose stories do we decide to tell?

Sponsored by the Royal Society of Canada, an Open Academy on Saturday afternoon reflects on the contexts and legacies of settler colonialism, including panel discussions on the Acadian diaspora, public memory, and racialized identity.

Join us for one or both days of public talks by scholars from Canada and Scotland addressing this theme through a broad range of topics. Speakers include David Worthington, S. Karly Kehoe, Clint Bruce, Lyn Bennett, Gregory Kennedy, John Reid, Rohini Bannerjee, Nicole Gilhuis, Thomas Peace, and Michael Dardar.

This event is free and open to the public.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the organizers at [hilary.doda@smu.ca](mailto:hilary.doda@smu.ca)

To respect social distance, places are limited. Reserve your (free) ticket today:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/coastal-communities-and-cape-breton-settlement-stories-of-place-registration-141005504259>



## Schedule

### Friday, August 27, beginning at 9 am

Registration, welcome remarks.

Panel: Stories of Place: Diaspora Identities.

Keynote address from Dr. David Worthington (University of the Highlands and Islands).

Graduate student panel.

Heritage sector roundtable: Historical Narratives and Public History.

### Saturday August 28, beginning at 9 am

Historical presentation and Acadian site tour, led by Charles Aucoin.

RSC Open Academy Panels: Contexts and Legacies of Settler Colonialism in Mi'kma'ki / Acadie / Nova Scotia and Beyond.

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Lunch and coffee breaks provided by Aucoin Bakery.



**Friday 27 August 2021 (9:00 A.M – 4:30 PM)**

9:00 – 9:15 am	Registration Welcome remarks	Dr. S. Karly Kehoe
9:15 – 10:15 am	Stories of Place: Diaspora Identities pt. 1	<b>Chair: Dr. Clint Bruce</b>  Dr. S. Karly Kehoe Dr. Lyn Bennett
10:15 – 10:30 am	Coffee Break	
10:30 – 11:30 am	Stories of Place: Diaspora Identities pt. 2	<b>Chair: Dr. Clint Bruce</b>  Dr. Hilary Doda Dr. Shamus MacDonald
11:30 – 12:30 pm	Keynote, Q&A	Dr. David Worthington
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch Break	
1:30 – 2:45 pm	Graduate student panel	Sawyer Carnegie, Daniel MacGregor, Ainsley Leonard-Harding, Michelle McRae
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Coffee Break	
3:00 – 4:30 pm	Roundtable: Historical Narratives and Public History	Museum and heritage partners

**Saturday 28 August 2021 (9:00 A.M – 4:15 P.M)**

9:00 – 12:00 pm	Acadian settlement and old mill site tour.	Historical presentation and Acadian site tour led by Charles Aucoin
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch Break	
1:00 – 2:30 pm	RSC Atlantic Open Academy  Settler Colonialism in Acadie and Beyond in Historical Context	<b>Chair: Dr. Hilary Doda</b>  Dr. Gregory Kennedy Dr. Nicole Gilhuis Dr. Thomas Peace
2:30 – 2:45 pm	Coffee Break	
2:45 – 4:15 pm	RSC Atlantic Open Academy  Legacies of Settler Colonialism in Atlantic Canada and Beyond	<b>Chair: Dr. S. Karly Kehoe</b>  Dr. John Reid Dr. Rohini Bannerjee Dr. Clint Bruce  Recorded presentation by Michael Dardar



## Presenters

**Professor David Worthington** is head of the Centre for History, University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI). He began his career as an historian of Scottish connections with central Europe (c.1500-c.1700), and, over the last decade and more has published also in the area of coastal history, and, even more recently, on pre-1707 Scottish Highland entanglements in empire. He completed his PhD at the University of Aberdeen and held posts in Poland and Ireland prior to joining UHI, where he has been since 2008.

**Dr. Rohini Bannerjee** (she/her/elle), born and raised in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, daughter of immigrants from Himachal Pradesh, India, is an Associate Professor of French and Francophone Studies in the Department of Modern Languages & Classics and Faculty Member in the Asian Studies Program and Graduate Women & Gender Studies program at Saint Mary's University. Rohini's primary research focuses on the literatures and cultures of the Francophone Indian Ocean. Her poetry, short stories and creative non-fiction have been published in Canada, Spain, and India. When she is not teaching or writing, Rohini serves as Graduate Coordinator for International Development Studies, as President of the Saint Mary's University Faculty Union and as Vice-Chair of Academic Senate. Rohini self-identifies as a woman scholar of colour.

Professor of English at Dalhousie University, **Dr. Lyn Bennett** specializes in early modern literature as well as rhetoric and writing, writing by women, and literature in the history of medicine. As well as numerous scholarly articles and book chapters, she is the author of *Rhetoric, Medicine and the Woman Writer, 1600-1700* (Cambridge UP, 2018) and *Women Writing of Divinest Things* (Duchesne UP, 2004), and collaborator on the Early Modern Maritime Recipes database launched in April 2019. With Edith Snook of the University of New Brunswick, she is currently working on a scholarly edition and a popular book on early modern maritime recipes, and her interest in food, medicine, and agriculture extends also to growing organic wine grapes and many, many vegetables in rural Nova Scotia.

**Dr. Clint Bruce** holds the Canada Research Chair in Acadian and Transnational Studies (CRÉAcT) at Université Sainte-Anne in Nova Scotia, where he teaches in the Department of Social Sciences. He also oversees the Observatoire Nord/Sud, a center for the study of the Acadian diaspora, and co-edits the journal *Port Acadie*. A native of Louisiana, he holds a doctorate from Brown University. His research deals with the Acadian diaspora, both historic and contemporary, and the francophone Atlantic world, with a focus on Louisiana. In addition to his recent book *Afro-Creole Poetry in French from Louisiana's Radical Civil War-Era Newspapers: A Bilingual Edition* (The Historic New Orleans Collection, 2020), his scholarly work has appeared in journals in the United States, in Canada, and in Europe. He is currently preparing a monograph entitled *By Any Means Necessary: Africans, Acadians, and the 1858 Killing of Constant Melançon, Sugar Planter of Louisiana, by Toussaint, His Slave and Childhood Friend*.



A native of southeastern Louisiana, **Michael Dardar** is a former vice principal chief and tribal historian of the United Houma Nation. He is the son of a fisherman and has worked for many years as a marine mechanic. Following his retirement from tribal government, he has remained active in advocating for Houma sovereignty and cultural development. His writings, published under the pen name "T. Mayheart Dardar," have been featured on outlets like Dissident Voice and Indian Country Today. He is the author of two book-length essays, *Women Chiefs* and *Crawfish Warriors: A Brief History of the Houma People* (2000) and *Istrouma: A Houma Manifesto* (Éditions Tintamarre, 2014). Recently, he contributed to the anthology *Return to Yakni Chitto: Houma Migrations* (UNO Press, 2020).

**Dr. Hilary Doda** is a postdoctoral Fellow at the Gorsebrook Research Institute for Atlantic Canada Studies at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, and lectures in Costume Studies at the Fountain School of Performing Arts at Dalhousie. Her research focus is the material culture of dress and textiles in the early modern Atlantic world. She holds an Interdisciplinary PhD from Dalhousie University, exploring the development of textile culture and identity in pre-deportation Acadia. Recent publications include an article in *Acadiensis* on Acadian needlework tools, and a book chapter on Mary I for edited collection *The Birth of a Queen*. Current projects include a study of traditional weaving in Cape Breton, and research into spurs and masculinities in the medieval and early modern.

**Dr. Nicole Gilhuis** is an assistant professor of history from the Pepperdine University in California. Her dissertation, *Atlantic Ghosts: Mi'kmaq Adoption, Daily Practice & the Rise and Fall of Colonial Revenants, 1600-1763*, was completed at UCLA in 2020. Her research explores a group of "colonial ghosts" who were a community of Native and European members who lived largely outside the colonial view and in Native territory.

**Dr. S. Karly Kehoe** is the Canada Research Chair in Atlantic Canada Communities. Karly's primary research areas are religion, migration, and minority identities in the north Atlantic, but she is also interested in sustainable development and rural change in Nova Scotia and the Scottish Highlands. Karly has held research fellowships at the University of Guelph, Yale University, Middle Tennessee State University, and Durham University. She sits on the editorial boards of both the *Scottish Historical Review* and the *Innes Review* and is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society. She is a member of the Global Young Academy and president of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists. Karly is co-editor (with Chris Dalglish) of the *Histories of the Scottish North Atlantic* book series with Edinburgh University Press and is the board chairperson of the Gorsebrook Research Institute for Atlantic Canada Studies. She is also an advocate of academic researchers displaced by war, conflict and threats of violence.



**Dr. Shamus Y. MacDonald** holds a PhD in Folklore from Memorial University. He has conducted extensive fieldwork in Nova Scotia, Scotland, Nunavut, and Newfoundland. His doctoral thesis focuses on the way Scottish Gaels have perceived, described, and experienced land in Nova Scotia. He currently teaches at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish

**Dr. Thomas Peace** is an associate professor of history and co-director of the Community History Centre at Huron University. He has published several articles in the journal *Acadiensis* on eighteenth-century Acadian-Mi'kmaw social networks.

**Dr. John Reid** has been a member of the Department of History at Saint Mary's University since 1985, and Professor Emeritus since 2019. He is concurrently Senior Research Fellow of the Gorsebrook Research Institute. Before coming to Saint Mary's, he held positions at three New Brunswick universities, including eight years at Mount Allison. His research has focused primarily on northeastern North America in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, notably on imperial-Indigenous relations, while more recently he has turned his attention to sport history and particularly to the history of cricket in Nova Scotia. He is a former co-editor of *Acadiensis: Journal of the History of the Atlantic Region*, and is a founding co-editor of the University of Toronto Press monograph series, *Studies in Atlantic Canada History*. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (elected in 2004), and has also served as President of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute.

