



Celebrating the Research and Scholarly/Creative Activity of the Faculty of Arts

Pjila'si! Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Arts@Acadia*, the newsletter that celebrates the research and scholarly and creative activity of Acadia University's Faculty of Arts. We have such a richness and diversity in the work we do in our faculty that it was close to impossible to select stories for this issue. From the extraordinary shows in our Art Gallery and dazzling performances by the Acadia Theatre Company to groundbreaking research on the pandemic and Canadian politics, our faculty members are actively at work exploring the world in which we live through empirical or applied research, through theoretical analysis, and/or through creative engagement. From the Department of Politics, Erin Crandall recently garnered a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Insight Development Grant, with Andrea Lawlor from Western, for their project, "Understanding Public Support of the Supreme Court of Canada." Also from the Department of Politics, Can Mutlu is a collaborator on a 27-partner research project, "21st century borders – emergent challenges within and among states," that has been awarded 5.6 million dollars to date, including 2.4 million in a SSHRC Partnership Grant. English professor Jon Saklofske in partnership with Implementing New Knowledge Environments (INKE) is a co-lead on "Implementing Open Scholarship: Foundations for Social Engagement at Scale," which received a \$2.5 million Partnership Grant from SSHRC. Our faculty members also contribute their expertise to the media, such as Claudine Bonner's interview with *The Chronicle Herald* in June. We cannot possibly cover all the exciting trajectories of scholarly and creative activity in one newsletter so please stay tuned for the next edition, and please enjoy reading this one.

--Laura Robinson, Dean of Arts

Black history

Education 'key' to ending racism

The Chronicle Herald (Metro) 12 Jun 2021 NOUSHIN ZIAFATI noushin.zi



Claudine Bonner in *The Chronicle Herald*

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Special Thanks

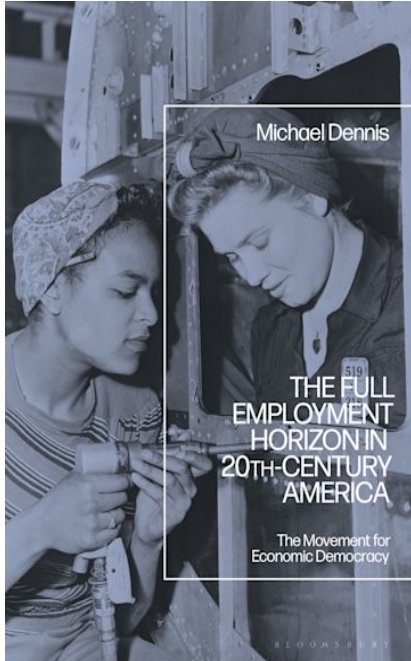
Amanda Furniss, Writer

Samantha West, Organizer, Idea Generator

Sarah Knowling, Admin Manager

Digging Underneath the American Dream: Michael Dennis

By Amanda Furniss, Department of English and Theatre



Unemployment is a reality that many people experience, especially since the beginning of the pandemic. But the issue of unemployment has existed long before now and has often had disastrous economic, social, and political effects. What if the problem of unemployment could be solved? Dr. Michael Dennis, Acting Head of Sociology and Professor of History has recently published his book *The Full Employment Horizon in 20th-Century America: The Movement for Economic Democracy*. While researching the social democratic movement in the 1940s which aimed to expand upon the New Deal, Dr. Dennis noticed a trend: powerful individuals and corporations were largely against the New Deal despite the economic benefits of a working population. This trend inspired him to dig even deeper, and he found a fascinating relationship between full employment, social and political movements of oppressed groups, democracy, and the illusionary “American Dream.” Dr. Dennis examines how the economy in America was transformed after the Depression through the Second World War, when the government created many jobs to

contribute to war efforts and included more women and people of colour in the workforce. Unlike the soaring unemployment rates of the 1920s, suddenly more jobs were available than workers able to take them. People then began to realize that full employment is possible and that the government can create enough jobs to banish unemployment. Dr. Dennis also discusses how workers have more power when they are in demand – as is the case when there are more jobs available than workers – and so business resists full employment in order to retain power over their employees. The question of full employment is also closely tied to women’s liberation and rights for people of colour, and so Dr. Dennis’ book largely explores the story of oppressed peoples through examining the labour market during this time. Although the ability to get a job should be considered a right, economic democracy does not guarantee full employment – even today. Unemployment is remains prominent, especially since the pandemic has limited affordable access to child day care for working-class families. As a result, many families find themselves in a position where they are currently unable to both work and look after their children – a position which can only be resolved by federal government intervention on behalf of working people. Thus, *The Full Employment Horizon in 20th-Century America: The Movement for Economic Democracy* resonates in our historical moment as well, as it raises questions about the labour market and job security, encouraging the reader to be vigilant and critical of political decisions that might determine whether or not they can find a job themselves. ✍

Hot off the Press

Patricia Rigg, *A. Mary F. Robinson: Victorian Poet and Modern Woman of Letters* (McGill-Queens UP, September 2021)

Stephen Maitzen, *Determinism, Death, and Meaning* (Routledge, November 2021)

Laura M. Robinson and E. Holly Pike (Eds). *L.M. Montgomery and Gender* (McGill-Queens UP, November 2021)

Introducing New Arts@Acadia Research

Teaching through Research: Justin Beaudoin

By Amanda Furniss, Department of English and Theatre

For the past three years, Economist Dr. Justin Beaudoin has been a part of the Faculty of Arts here at Acadia University and teaching courses in Economics. He is also an honours thesis advisor. Dr. Beaudoin's recent collaborative work with his thesis students has drawn and expanded on his background in applied economics with a focus on public transportation. Last year, Dr. Beaudoin and one of his thesis students, Siew Ten Ong, examined the viability of public transit service in Canada by compiling demographic-based data sets between rural and urban areas. Summer research assistant Swiler Boyd extended this research by compiling further materials for their study.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Dr. Beaudoin has been examining housing and land usage in the area with thesis student Ayomede Tanimowo to investigate the demographic financial impacts on housing. Student research assistant Lucas Perkins has carried out data collection for their collaborative housing project. Dr. Beaudoin also received the Harrison McCain Emerging Scholar Award, which has allowed collaboration between the Change Lab Action Research Initiative at SMU, the Town of Wolfville, and the Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing to expand upon the data and research compiled for the housing project. The direction of his research has also taken into account housing affordability and housing policy in Nova Scotia to determine why rates are increasing in specific areas within the province. His research also considers the recent temporary rent control solution in the province, which Dr. Beaudoin has also been discussing in his introductory Economics course at Acadia. For Dr. Beaudoin, research collaborations and teaching are inherently fused.



Dr. Justin Beaudoin

**The Acadia Theatre
Company Presents**

Drowning Ophelia

**Written by Rachel Luann
Strayer and Directed by
Robert Seale**

**November 25-December 4,
2021, 7:30pm
Lower Denton Theatre**

Art Gallery

In the gallery: Andrew Steeves: Wood Type exhibit, extended until December 4th


Online Exhibition: ALONE, ongoing


The pandemic has shown how integral art is to our daily lives, sense of community, and well-being. Participating Artists: Rose Adams, Wayne Boucher, Geoff Butler, Louis-Charles Dionne, Frances Dorsey, Toni Clementi, Brandt Eisner, Celine Gabrielle, Annik Gaudet, François Gaudet, Bob Hainstock, Basma Kavanagh, Laura Kenney, Alexandra McCurdy, Bill Shaw, Susan Tooke, Miya Turnbull, Christopher Webb

http://gallery.acadiau.ca/Acadia_Art_Gallery/Exhibitions.html


Acadia Theatre Company Presents
Lauren Amirault Claire Chateaufort Mike Butler Myles Bradley

DROWNING OPHELIA

By Rachel Luann Strayer  Directed by Robert Seale



November 25 - 27
December 2 - 4
7:30 pm

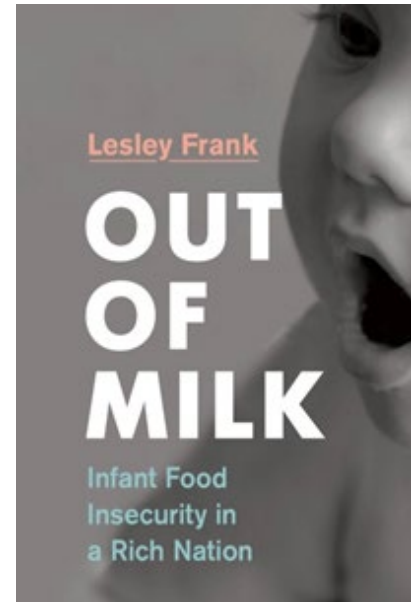
Scan For Ticket Info
&
Content Warnings 

Proof of Vaccination and Photo ID Required For Attendance

No Funds, No Milk, and No Policy: Lesley Frank

By Amanda Furniss, Department of English and Theatre

Natural breastfeeding may seem like an easily accessible and affordable option for mothers feeding their babies – but what if breastfeeding was not an option? Sociology professor and Tier II Canada Research Chair, Dr. Lesley Frank, published *Out Of Milk: Infant Food Insecurity In A Rich Nation* with UBC Press which explores the connections between infant food insecurity and breastfeeding in Canada. In the 1990s, Dr. Frank was working to assist low-income mothers with infant children, while also being a mother herself. She often drove young mothers who were unable to produce healthy milk to the food bank, where formula was not readily available. From this experience, Dr. Frank noticed how mothers from low-income households usually relied upon formula to feed their children, yet rarely could afford it or access it. This phenomenon, which she coined “the breastfeeding paradox” in her new book, has been the motivation behind much of Dr. Frank’s research throughout her career and is the inspiration for *Out Of Milk: Infant Food Insecurity In A Rich Nation*. Her book is composed of three main concepts: the act of breastfeeding as a food system and its relationship to food insecurity; the connection between low-income families and breastfeeding success; and lastly, potential solutions for women and infants experiencing food insecurity. Dr. Frank conducted a case study consisting of 20 mothers from low-income situations in Nova Scotia, 6 provincial policy workers, as well as 13 family resource staff workers and 13 food bank workers from across Canada. Dr. Frank’s book is the first in-depth look at the relationship between food insecurity and infant feeding, and it exposes the policy failings of our nation; currently, there is no adequate financial support for families with infant children in Canada. Her findings have sparked similar studies to take place in other provinces in Canada, as well as in other countries. *Out Of Milk: Infant Food Insecurity In A Rich Nation* sheds light upon the broader structural social determinants of babies having poor access to food. Stay tuned for a docu-trailer produced by Ariella Pahlkae which will be released for the book later this year.



AUTHORS@ACADIA

FALL 2021

FRANCESCA EKWUYASI

READING FROM
BUTTER HONEY PIG BREAD
7PM TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9
K.C. Irving Environmental Science
Centre Auditorium

WINTER 2022

AFUA COOPER

READING FROM
BLACK MATTERS
7PM TUESDAY, JANUARY 18
K.C. Irving Environmental Science
Centre Auditorium

DAVID HUEBERT

READING FROM
CHEMICAL VALLEY
& OTHER WORKS
7PM TUESDAY, MARCH 8
K.C. Irving Environmental Science
Centre Auditorium

<http://english.acadiau.ca/get-involved/authors-acadia.html>

