



AFEC's 41st Annual Conference



(Re)constructing Memory in Canada



June 12-15, 2013, Rennes, France



The 41st Annual Conference of the French Association
for Canadian Studies (AFEC)



uOttawa

Institut d'études canadiennes
Institute of Canadian Studies

is organized by
the Center for Canadian Studies at Rennes 2 University (CEC)

in collaboration with
the Center for Canadian Studies at Angers University (CERPECA)

the Center for Historical Research in Western France
(CERHIO- UMR CNRS 6258)

and the Institute of Canadian Studies at Ottawa University

Call for papers

From the 1970's, when memory emerged as a social and cultural phenomenon to its present-day topicality, how do issues of memory as well as the political and social uses of the past fit into contemporary Canadian society ? We propose to look back at the various agents, time-scales, and territories at stake in the study of memory in Canadian society.

Three major topics for discussion run through the studies devoted to cultural memory. The first, related to Pierre Nora, at least from a French and historical standpoint, focuses on "sites of memory" and stresses the political uses of the past, together with the material and immaterial aspects of collective representations, with an emphasis on national perspectives. The approach to the second topic is sociological and refers to Maurice Halbwachs's work on the social conditions that make personal or group recollections and narratives of the past possible, through individuals or intermediary groups. The third and last topic stems from the increasing number of memory claims, and from the emergence of such a notion as the duty of remembrance, regarding mostly the victims of discrimination,

oppression or repression; while resorting to psychoanalysis for insight, these studies explore the normative and legal, or the normative and political, means used by a given community to handle, get over or smooth out past conflicts. To this debate is clearly associated the name of Paul Ricoeur, particularly for his analyses of forgiveness, amnesty, or forgetting.

Needless to say, these three topics for discussion are not mutually exclusive; they overlap in numerous studies and, most of all, testify to the wide range of disciplines that may be called into play to tackle them, such as literature, sociology, law, political science, geography, cultural studies and of course, history. Without claiming to be exhaustive, the list of topics delineated above aims to show how rich their cross-disciplinary interrelation is.

Memory of Places or “Sites of memory”

We would like to explore how Canadian cultural memory is related to space and territory, within or without Canada, through commemorative sites, monuments, museums, festivals or historic and traditional events, cultural or heritage tourism, and possibly place names or the mental representations of a given territory.

Memory and Identity

Here, we are interested in exploring identity claims expressed by a group or a community that have harnessed cultural memory to empower their own self-affirmation; this exploration may be carried out through a variety of perspectives related to the community under scrutiny, among which religious, national, linguistic, provincial, political, or gendered aspects. Reflections on competing memories or even warring memories would also fit in with this approach.

Memory and Specific Events

Here the focus will be on past events in Canadian history, which have left a memory, be it unanimous, consensual, or divided, as is the case with territorial conquest, rebellions, wars, social or political crises, periods of major political transition (e.g. Quebec’s Quiet Revolution), environmental catastrophes, epidemics, momentous legislative developments, technological breakthroughs, etc.

Active Players in Memory Construction

The topic for discussion may also be approached via the individuals who produce cultural memory through a vast array of activities: large-scale data-collections or surveys of an ethnological or social nature; teaching activities, including work on educational curricula and textbooks; historical research; the working of the State and memorial laws; the media with television or the Internet; cultural production related to cinema, drama, etc.; the relationship between memory and fiction in literature; justice, and the growing judicialisation of the past, complete with the dialectics of fault and compensation or the presence of historians in the courts.

We require a single page abstract and a brief bio by no later than September 15th, 2012. Abstracts, papers, and questions should be directed to: afec@msha.fr and collafec2013@orange.fr

Conference's scientific committee

Marc Bergère, Associate Professor of Contemporary History at Rennes 2 University, Member of the CERHIO UMR 6258, Treasurer of the CEC at Rennes 2 University

Yves Frenette, Professor, History Department, Ottawa University, Director of the Institute of Canadian Studies at Ottawa University

Donald Fyson, Professor, History Department, Laval University, Co-director of the Interuniversity Center for Quebec Studies at Laval University

Hélène Harter, Professor of Contemporary History at Rennes 2 University, President of the AFEC

Catherine Hinault, English teacher (PRAG) at Rennes 2 University, Secretary of the CEC at Rennes 2 University

Françoise Le Jeune, Professor of British and North-American History and Civilization at Nantes University, Vice-president of Nantes University

Jacques-Guy Petit, Emeritus Professor of Contemporary History at Angers University

Eric Pierre, Associate Professor of Contemporary History at Angers University, Member of the CERHIO UMR 6258, Head of the CERPECA

Christian Pihet, Professor of Geography, Vice-president of the scientific board at Angers University

Philippe Resnick, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of British Columbia

Jean-François Tanguy, Honorary Associate Professor of Contemporary History at Rennes 2 University, Member of the CERHIO UMR 6258, Director of the CEC at Rennes 2 University

Conference's organizing committee:

Annick Monnerie, Secretary of the AFEC (afec@msha.fr)

Nathalie Blanchard, Administrative manager of the CERHIO (nathalie.blanchard@univ-rennes2.fr)

Marc Bergère, Associate Professor of Contemporary History at Rennes 2 University, Member of the CERHIO UMR 6258, Treasurer of the CEC (marc.bergere@univ-rennes2.fr)

Hélène Harter, Professor of Contemporary History at Rennes 2 University, President of the AFEC (helene.harter@univ-rennes2.fr)

Catherine Hinault, English teacher (PRAG) at Rennes 2 University, Secretary of the CEC (catherine.hinault@univ-rennes2.fr)

Eric Pierre Associate Professor of Contemporary History at Angers University, Member of the CERHIO UMR 6258, Director of the CERPECA (eric.pierre@univ-angers.fr)

Jean-François Tanguy, Honorary Associate Professor of Contemporary History at Rennes 2 University, Member of the CERHIO UMR 6258, Director of the CEC (jean-francois.tanguy@wanadoo.fr)