

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Centre for the Study of
Historical Consciousness**

Annual Report

2002

Peter Seixas, Director

It is a great pleasure to offer the Annual Report 2002 of the Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness. A year ago, we presented a first Annual Report to the Dean's Advisory Committee of the Faculty of Education. It was mainly about hopes and plans and grant proposals. The second Annual Report includes a lot about each of those, but it also reports our accomplishments and it does so to a much broader audience. By distributing it to all of our associates and others who are interested in the work of the Centre, we hope to maintain and enhance the level of interchange about our activities. What follows is an overview of CSHC projects, programs, and trajectories aimed at stimulating research, mentoring graduate students, and reaching out to the community.

A Unique Opportunity

The Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness remains, to our knowledge, a unique institution, not only in Canada, but internationally. It is the only scholarly Centre whose central mandate is to foster research and research networks that link history education, historiography, collective memory and historical consciousness, i.e., the fields of inquiry that investigate how people think about, understand, and use the past. In so doing, it provides a home for researchers who are pushing the boundaries of history education research beyond formal institutions like schools and museums, while it offers scholars of collective memory support to develop the policy implications of their work.

A Limited Term

Over the past two years the foundations of the Centre have been built on a solid infrastructure. This has been made possible by generous funding from the Canada Research Chairs, the Canada Fund for Innovation, the BC Knowledge Development Fund, the UBC Faculty of Education and the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Study. This is a time of tremendous excitement, which we expect to be able to maintain. On the other hand, such vibrancy does not last forever. Subject to the review of the UBC Senate and the Faculties of Education and Arts, we expect that the Centre will have a limited term, corresponding to the term of the Canada Research Chair (seven years). Conceiving of the Centre in this way will keep the agenda moving along, prevent the ossification and loss of spark that can accompany institutionalization, and free up resources for new initiatives and formations in due course.

Infrastructure

The Centre benefited from the active involvement of its Steering Committee, with representation from the Faculties of Education and Arts.

- Jean Barman, Educational Studies
- Penney Clark, Curriculum Studies
- Michael Marker, Educational Studies, First Nations House of Learning
- Peter Seixas, Curriculum Studies
- Mark Phillips, History
- Allan C. L. Smith, History
- John Torpey (Associate Director) Institute for European Studies, Anthropology and Sociology
- Bill Wood, Art History, Critical Curatorial Studies

The two deans served on the Steering Committee, ex officio, with Valerie Rose representing Dean of Education Rob Tierney. Acting Dean of Arts Anne Martin-Matthews was replaced by Dean of Arts Nancy Gallini.

The UBC Senate formally approved the Centre on April 17, 2002. Under its new Guidelines for Centres and Institutes, Senate approval is required for units which work beyond a single Faculty.

The physical construction of the Centre was completed during 2002. It now provides comfortable and attractive workspace for the Director, Secretary/Laboratory Supervisor, five graduate students, and a visiting or post-doctoral scholar. In addition to the most current hardware and software tools for collaborative research, it provides secure and alarmed storage for digital recording and production in various media.

Ulrike Spitzer serves as the indispensable Secretary and Laboratory Supervisor. She oversaw the furniture installation and equipment and software purchase, maintained the website, supported the conferences and symposia, arranged for seminar and steering committee meetings, managed correspondence, and maintained the financial records.

Website

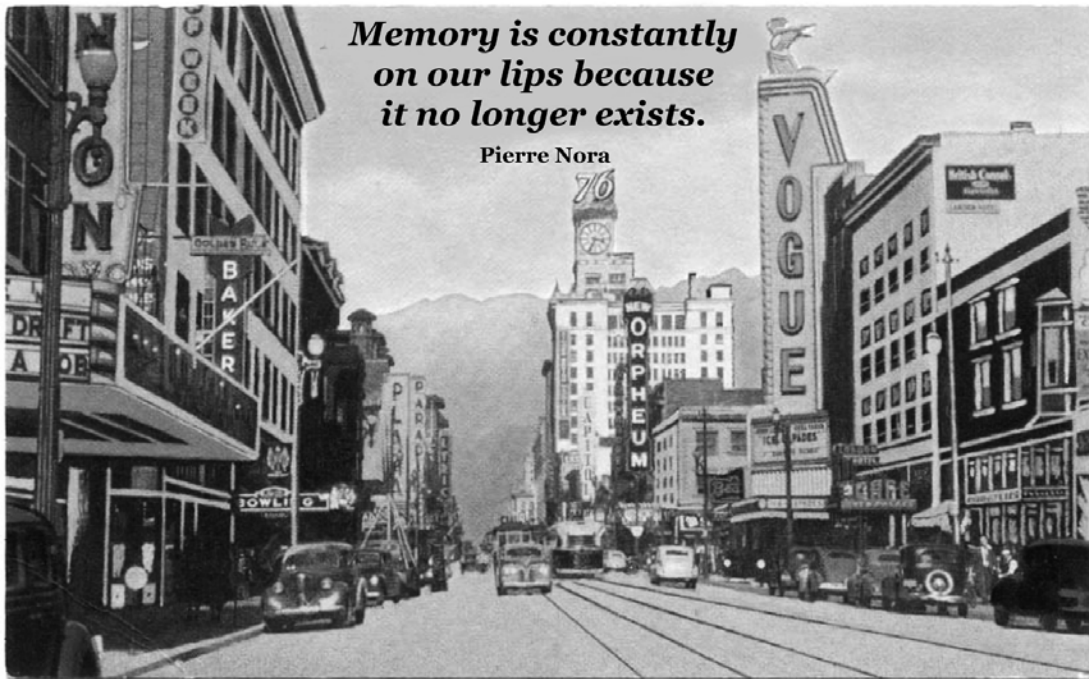


Paul Klee, Angelus Novus
Copyright: The Israel Museum, Jerusalem

The Centre's website (www.cshc.ubc.ca) was designed by John Willinsky's Public Knowledge Project, with technical work by Kevin Jamieson. Ulrike Spitzer has supplemented the design and acts as web-master. Launched in the summer of 2001, it continued to grow in 2002. It now provides announcements and publicity for upcoming events, research tools (bibliographies, researcher contact information), indexed and searchable full-text papers. As we reach "future" events, they are moved to an accessible "past events" page. Where possible, we have provided complete programs for the past events, with links to the texts of lectures and presentations given at the event.

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Celebratory Opening

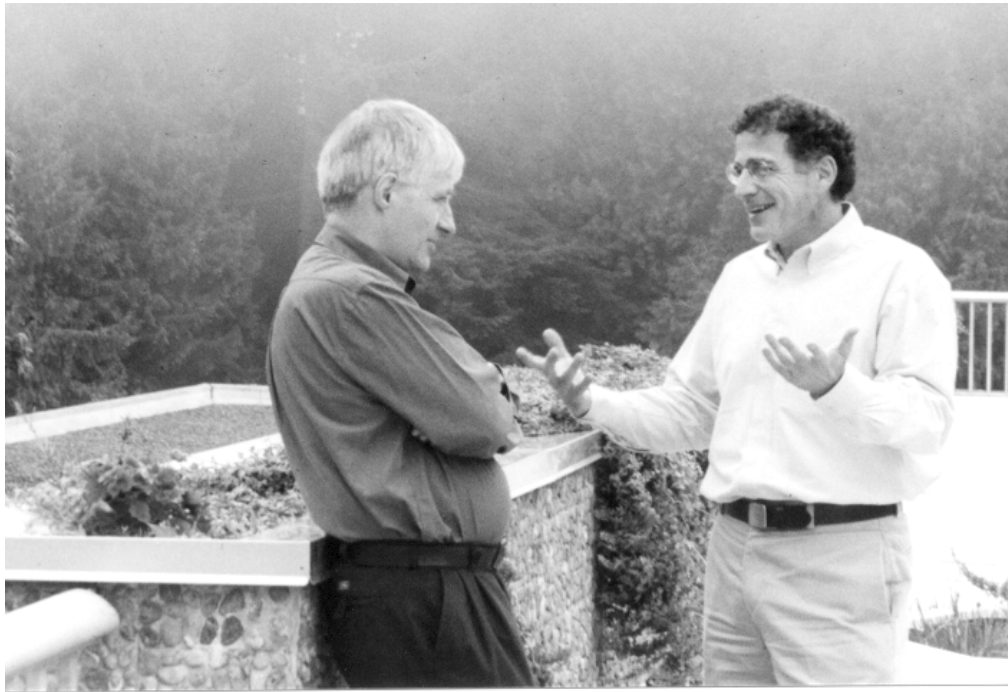


Postcard of Granville Street, 1950. Vancouver Museum Collection

Anna Clark's composition for the Celebratory Opening T-shirt

The Celebratory Opening of the Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness took place on Nov. 1-2, 2002. This event marked the move into the newly renovated office-laboratory space, as well as the official approval of the Centre by the UBC Senate. Attended by over 100 local, Canadian, and international participants, the program included three components: 1) a keynote lecture by Michael Schudson, MacArthur Prize Fellow and author of *Watergate and American Memory*, which stimulated a discussion on the meaning of “historical consciousness”; 2) a panel of Canadian researchers and focus groups to define and develop research networks around the study of historical consciousness; and 3) an inaugural visit to the about-to-open “Fifties Gallery” at the Vancouver Museum, to discuss and critique “historical consciousness in action.” Several follow-up projects are currently being designed by groups of participants in the event. For the full program and texts, click on “Celebratory Opening” on the CSHC website homepage. (CSHC T-Shirts sold at the Opening are still available in some sizes, for \$10).

National and International Visiting Scholars and Students



Peter Lee and Sam Wineburg at “Theorizing Historical Consciousness”

The Centre hosted two Visiting Scholars for extended stays during 2002. Professor Maria Grever (Erasmus University and the University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands), May 18-25, spoke on “The Choreography of Time: Cultural Differences and Temporal Experiences in 19th Century World Exhibitions.” Professor Jean-Francois Cardin (Laval University), Feb 12-June 16. He presented a lecture on “The Construction of History Curriculum in Quebec: Lessons for Canada.” In addition, it hosted extended visits from two international doctoral students, Anna Clark, University of Melbourne (Australia) and Dorthie Uldall, University of Southern Denmark. The success of these visits led us to initiate a formal Visiting Scholars program that would be of minimal expense to the Centre, and would help to promote international collaboration and exchange of research plans and results.

In addition to the extended stays, visiting lectures were hosted throughout the year, many in collaboration with other campus units. Martin Jay (Sidney Hellman Ehrman Professor of History, University of California) spoke to a capacity crowd on “History and Experience: Dilthey, Collingwood, Scott and Ankersmit.” Professor Sylvia Van Kirk (University of Toronto) engaged a diverse audience from across the campus on the topic of “Revisioning Canadian History.” The Centre also contributed to the Green College Speaker Series, “Reckoning with Race.”

Centre Student Associates

The Student Associates program began with a heavily subscribed competition in Spring, 2002. Five doctoral students won the CSHC Student Associate Awards, providing \$2,000 towards research expenses, a research station in the Centre, and a seat in the Centre Seminar. In return, the students committed to making the Centre their primary location for research on campus, presenting a works-in-progress seminar, and collaborating on a common project. The five 2002-2003 student associates are:

- Kent den Heyer (Department of Curriculum Studies, Peter Seixas, supervisor)
- Jenea Tallentire Gilley (Department of History, Dianne Newell, supervisor)
- Stuart Poyntz (Department of Curriculum Studies, Peter Seixas, supervisor)
- Rosa Sevy (Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Brian Elliot, supervisor)
- Dale Smith (Department of History, Mark Phillips, supervisor)

Descriptions of the Student Associates' research can be seen through a link to "Centre Student Associates" from the CSHC homepage.

As a common, collaborative project, the Associates are planning a conference entitled "The Fading Image: Visual Culture and the Transformation of Memory."

A \$14,000 recruitment scholarship for a new doctoral student for September 2003 was advertised in November-December. A number of highly qualified candidates applied for the scholarship. It appears that the interest generated will result in the enrollment of three new doctoral students, despite the fact that only one award was offered.



Jenea Tallentire Gilley's composition for The Fading Image conference

Centre Seminar

The work of the Student Associates was the focus of monthly seminars which began in September 2002, and continued throughout the academic year. The seminars were open to graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and faculty members, by invitation. They are not advertised, nor is there any course credit for participation. With a stable core of 15 members who participate on an ongoing basis (largely doctoral and masters students from the Faculties of Arts and Education) we have achieved a continuity that has allowed a progressive development of the discussion. Readings for each seminar include an original paper by a Student Associate, as well as several related background papers chosen by the Associate.

Research Implementation and Outreach

Teaching History with New Technologies

With funding from the Faculty of Education Technology Initiative, Penney Clark, Leyan Anderson (research assistant) and Peter Seixas planned this conference through the fall of 2002, for 100 student teachers, school advisors, and faculty advisors. It aimed

- To explore opportunities and limitations associated with using new technologies and particularly the web in teaching history.
- To assess the resources in new media available to BC social studies teachers.
- To promote a community of inquiry among student teachers, experienced teachers and the university committee around needs and opportunities in new media.

The conference took place on Jan. 15, 2003. Presentations and links to the websites explored during the sessions were mounted on the Centre's website. The conference evaluation concluded that it was a tremendous success, and the organizers resolved to make it an annual event.

Living Histories

One of the highlights of the Opening was the screening of one of Paul Hunt's "Living Histories" oral history videotapes. These were designed as classroom resources, but have yet to be widely used in the schools. Taking up Paul's ideas for an electronic "Canadiana Scrapbook" the Centre is exploring funding for such a project. The electronic scrapbook would provide access to a series of primary sources, guiding questions, and research tools, to help students investigate the issues and events raised by the videotape series.

Grant Proposals Pending and Future Projects

Thinking historically, using the past

Historical accounts become *useful* in defining identities and in drawing analogies from the past to make decisions in the present. Yet, along the way, the methodological integrity of history (such as it is) can be compromised. This study proposes to examine the tensions between a *useful history* and a *truthful history* as that dichotomy plays itself out in schools. Approximately 90 students will provide multiple forms of data for analysis. The research will involve collaboration with Jean-Pierre Charland and his co-investigators in Quebec, and with Peter Lee in London, England.

Negotiating intergenerational memory

This project was initiated by Centre Student Associate Rosa Sevy, with whom Peter Seixas submitted several funding proposals. Refugees face the challenge of coming to terms with their pasts in regions of conflict, oppression and/or war, in order to develop an orientation towards their futures in Canada. Using Latin American refugees as cases, this study examines the negotiations between first and second generations over the memory of past injustice, as they look forward to a future in Canada.

Historical consciousness in Canada

Researchers who gathered at the Opening renewed a commitment to follow up on ideas from the Major Collaborative Research Initiative proposal from January 2002. Jocelyn Létourneau, Marg Conrad and Peter Seixas are working on downsizing the grand ambitions of the MCRI to begin the work on a more manageable scale.

Priorities for 2003

Maintain and expand the Visiting Scholars program.

David Thelen, co-author of *The Presence of the Past* and former editor of the *Journal of American History*, will visit in June. Other visits are in the planning stages. Beginning in September, we will aim to have one visiting lecturer during each month for the 2003-2004 academic year.

Intensify interactions of the local community of faculty and graduate students.

Special events, visiting scholars and the monthly seminar have been the formal mechanisms for bringing together members of the local research community. While special events will continue to be important, nurturing the ongoing local research community may be enhanced by setting a regular weekly meeting that rotates on a monthly basis through 1) policy, organizational and administrative issues; 2) a seminar/lecture with a visiting scholar; 3) a works-in-progress seminar with a Student Associate; and 4) a seminar/lecture with a local researcher or practitioner. Building the graduate student community will constitute a major focus.

Presentations and Publications

The most important research publication coming from the Centre's activities remains "under review" at the time of this writing, at the University of Toronto Press. *Theorizing Historical Consciousness* (Peter Seixas, ed.), a selection of papers from the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies symposium (August 2001) by that name, will hopefully continue to make progress through the frustratingly slow gears of the publication process.

A second edited volume, also growing out of Peter Wall Institute-funded activities, is John Torpey, ed., *Politics and the Past: On Repairing Historical Injustices*, Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003.

Jean Barman presented "Writing Women into British Columbian, and Canadian, History: Revisiting Existing Records and Searching Out New Traces," at "Unsettled Pasts: Reconceiving the West Through Women's History" (University of Calgary, June 2002). On related themes (among numerous other projects), she published *Constance Lindsay Skinner: Writing on the Frontier* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2002) and presented "Aboriginal Women on the Streets of Victoria: Rethinking Transgressive Sexuality during the Colonial Encounter," at 12th Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, June 2002 (deposited per request at Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Cambridge, MA)

An overview of the intersection of academic, popular and educational approaches to the past appeared in Peter Seixas, "Heavy Baggage *en route* to Winnipeg: A Review Essay." *Canadian Historical Review* 82, no. 3 (2002): 390-414.

Ruth Sandwell's McGill University public lecture series, "Public Memory, Citizenship and History Education" involved a number of scholars associated with the Centre. Lectures by Keith Barton, Jocelyn Létourneau, Des Morton, Peter Seixas and Tim Stanley were recorded and broadcast nationally on CBC *Ideas*, in September/October, 2002. They are available on CD from CBC.

Peter Seixas and Penney Clark's "Murals as Monuments: Students' Ideas about Depictions of 'Civilization' in British Columbia" was presented at the American Educational Research Association (New Orleans, 3 April, 2002) and at the Canadian Society for Studies in Education (28 May, 2002).

Allan Smith presented "Writing the History of North American Integration: The Content of the Form," at Theory and Historiography Network, European Social Science History Conference, The Hague, 27 February - 2 March 2002; "Understanding Canada: National Imperatives, Global Contexts, and the Link Between the Two," Keynote Address, Annual Conference of the Japanese Association of Canadian Studies, Kyoto, 14-15 September 2002; and "Where is *Here*? Anthony DePalma and North American Integration," Association of Canadian Studies in the United States, Conference on Integration and Fragmentation: Canada and the United States, University of Ottawa, 20-21 September 2002.

John Torpey presented "Legalism and its Discontents: The Case of Reparations for African-Americans," an invited paper in seminar series on "The Limits of Law," Department of Law, Jurisprudence, and Social Thought, Amherst College, October 27, 2002. He also presented "The Movement for Reparations for African-Americans," Conference on "World Civility?: The Transnational Diffusion of Ethical Norms Since the End of the Cold War," Centre de Recherches Internationales (CERI), Paris, October 3-4, 2002.