

**ELDER ABUSE IN CANADA: FINANCIAL AND PHYSICAL ASPECTS**

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It is estimated that three to five percent of Canadian seniors experience some form of abuse. This paper focuses on physical and financial abuses, the two most frequently reported types of abuse. The topic of Elder Abuse is related to environmental challenges that include social, legal, cultural, geographic, health and individual issues. Canada is a vast country with variations in the ability to deal with these factors.

Physical abuse consists of intentional acts to cause pain or injury to seniors (including beating, scalding, pushing, hitting, using constraints). Financial abuse involves financial manipulation and exploitation, (theft, fraud, extortion, selling property without consent, cashing pension checks)

We review the findings of recent Canadian studies from various Provinces and organizations related to elder abuse and include demographic data on a growing aged population who are sixty-five years or older. Among the various populations in Canadian society are the Aboriginal elders (First Nations). Evidence has emerged to show that elder abuse is an issue in these communities. We also discuss interventions and preventions, advocacy, and reporting issues related to elder abuse, a crime in multi-cultural Canada today. Our focus is on families and communities dealing with elder abuse.

**WE, THE PEOPLE?  
THE RISE AND FALL OF POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY  
IN CANADIAN POLITICAL THOUGHT**

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This paper argues that current Canadian political thought poses a normative challenge to the modern model of legitimacy (and its epitome, “popular sovereignty”), by substituting it with new political ethics. By being an exception to the rule, it serves to illustrate it. This purview provides us with an important key to decipher both the modern and the postmodern models of political legitimacy, and the impact of globalization on the ethics of nationalism.

I begin by outlining legitimacy’s blurred boundaries along four fronts (meaning, motivation, mode and merit), and chart what I term the “triangle of legitimacy.” I suggest a distinction between three vertexes: the object, source, and resource of legitimacy. I argue that in modernity, (meta)polity is the object of legitimacy; (collective) identity is the source; policy (legislative and otherwise) is the resource. The three sides/vectors stretching between the vertexes signify meanings of legitimation: justification, validation and recognition/affirmation. I argue that in modern times most communities have justified their polity by their identity and validated their policies by their polity.

I show that in both *Canadian* and *Canadien* political thought the modern model of legitimacy has been transformed, redefining foundational political ethics in a way that challenges its modern antecedent. English Canada has introduced an antithetical framing of political legitimacy: Policy, not identity (and specifically the policies of welfare and multiculturalism), is perceived as justifying polity – the state of Canada – which in turn validates the collective (Canadian) identity it formally encompasses. Since Canadian identity is conceived (via multiculturalism) as a mosaic of numerous collectivities, self-identity becomes less an object of affirmation and more an object of (legal) validation; concomitantly, sub-Canadian identities are framed as both objects and resources in the politics of recognition. Québec presents hybrid political ethics, in-between the “Rest of Canada” and the “Rest of the World”: as in modern legitimacy, (Québécois) identity justifies the (Québec) polity. However, like English Canada, identity is validated by turning to certain policies, dubbed today interculturalism, which – like in modernity – are used to affirm self-identity.

**A FRAMEWORK FOR GROUP-BUILT  
SOCIO-ECONOMIC-ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEM DYNAMICS MODELS FOR  
PARTICIPATORY AND INTEGRATED  
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT IN QUEBEC, CANADA**

**Jan Adamowski**  
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The 2002 Quebec Water Policy advocates the participation of stakeholders in integrated water resources management. However, stakeholder participation in watershed management in Quebec has been generally limited to information provision and consultation. There is a lack of practical methods to explicitly facilitate stakeholder involvement, as well as integrate physical and social processes in water resources management. This paper presents a stepwise approach for the participatory investigation of problems in water resources management through the use of group-built qualitative system dynamics models. The seven steps in the proposed approach include: 1. Preliminary problem framing; 2. Stakeholder analysis; 3. Construction of individual causal loop diagrams (qualitative system dynamics models) during individual interviews with stakeholders; 4. Merging of individual stakeholder causal loop diagrams by the group of stakeholders into an overall comprehensive group-built system dynamics socio-economic-environmental model; 5. Presentation of the group-built system dynamics socio-economic-environmental model to the participating stakeholders in the form of a workbook/questionnaire for their criticism/approval of the proposed model structure; 6. Exploration of selected policies and/or management strategies dealing with the water resources problem(s); 7. Updating of model when required. The stakeholder-built qualitative group system dynamics model depicts the interdisciplinary system structure of the problem and proposed policy options. Through the development of such a stakeholder built model, conflicts in perceptions and interests can be traced back to their systemic causes. Also, watershed managers and stakeholders can use this knowledge to explore policies, management strategies, and climate change adaptation options to transition to more sustainable water resources management. The comprehensive qualitative system dynamics model can also form the basis of a quantitative system dynamics model which can be used to further assess water policies and strategies.

**THE ENFORCEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW  
IN DOMESTIC COURTS: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES**

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Environmental governance has been one of the most active areas of treaty-making in the global realm over the past few decades. The global regulatory frameworks that these lawmaking endeavors have generated are both complex and diverse, including air and water pollution control, ozone depletion, biodiversity and climate change. The agreements reached between state representatives on how to tackle global environmental challenges, however, only mark the beginning of a long transnational legal process aiming to implement these agreements domestically. Traditionally, international agreements regulated relations between state actors and required no further domestic action for their implementation. Environmental treaties, on the other hand, typically regulate relations between states and private parties (corporations and individuals). In states with “dualist” legal systems in particular, international law has no legal force in the domestic legal system unless the legislature has incorporated the treaty into domestic law and regulatory measures.

This paper will explore the prospects for an additional pathway for promoting treaty compliance, namely the enforcement of international law indirectly, through national adjudication. Quite often, the implementation process required under an environmental treaty faces a reluctant executive branch, even after the treaty is ratified by the respective government. Can domestic courts provide remedies to private parties who are harmed by a violation of their treaty-based rights? In answering this question, the paper will provide a comparative analysis of the judicial enforcement of international law generally in Canada and Israel, two countries with dualist legal systems. Canadian courts (and to some extent, Israeli courts) routinely consider granting remedies to parties who have been harmed by a violation of their treaty-based rights through constitutional interpretation. The paper will consider the challenges facing an extension of this form of judicial enforcement of international law to the environmental context, and in particular, address the potential role of the judiciary in promoting compliance with international agreements addressing climate change.

**LES JUIFS DE QUÉBEC: UNE HISTOIRE À RACONTER****Pierre Anctil**

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Les célébrations du 400<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de Québec, fondé par Samuel de Champlain en 1608, ont donné lieu à un battage publicitaire et à un programme d'activité touristique très importants visant à attirer l'attention sur la ville. En plus des cérémonies officielles et d'événements grand public, tels concerts, expositions muséologiques et spectacles audiovisuels, les fêtes du 400<sup>e</sup> ont aussi nourri la réflexion sur l'histoire de la ville et sur les personnalités qui ont contribué à son développement et à son originalité. Dans le cadre de cet effort de mémoire très large, la communauté juive de Québec a mis sur pied une exposition retraçant sa propre histoire, le plus souvent très mal connue du grand public et contenant des personnages d'intérêt exceptionnel. Cet effort de recherche inédit a convaincu un diffuseur télévisuel important de produire un film documentaire de 46 minutes intitulé : *Les Juifs de Québec, une histoire à raconter*. Il faut comprendre que la communauté juive de la ville de Québec possède une très petite taille, soit moins de 100 personnes, et que ses membres sont tellement intégrés dans leur société d'appartenance que leur présence n'avait fait jusqu'à présent l'objet d'aucune reconnaissance particulière.

Les fêtes du 400<sup>e</sup> anniversaire, qui avaient été conçues dans un contexte général de valorisation de l'héritage francophone de la ville de Québec, sont ainsi devenues pour la communauté juive locale l'occasion de faire connaître sa contribution exceptionnelle sur plusieurs siècles et de donner à voir le caractère unique de sa culture dans ce vaste ensemble historique. Rompant avec l'indifférence générale entourant sa présence dans la ville, les Juifs de Québec ont saisi l'occasion des célébrations du 400<sup>e</sup> et l'atmosphère festive générale, pour se manifester publiquement pour la première fois. De cette manière une brèche a été ouverte dans le discours officiel, par ailleurs très bien accueillie, qui permettait l'expression d'une autre histoire et d'un point de vue minoritaire. Le documentaire, tourné en français et diffusé sur le réseau national, a par ailleurs été une véritable révélation pour le public en général et a généré une certaine attention médiatique. Même dans les milieux juif montréalais, qui sont beaucoup plus importants numériquement, la diffusion de *Les Juifs de Québec, une histoire à raconter* a été une l'occasion d'une découverte inattendue.

**ECOFEMINISM AND THE CHALLENGES OF GLOBALISATION: CANADA AND INDIA**

**Suman Bala**  
University of Delhi

Ecofeminism is an interdisciplinary field of inquiry. It is a theory that has evolved from various fields of feminist inquiry and activism: peace movements, labour movements, women's healthcare, environmentalism and the animal liberation movement. Its theoretical base is a sense of self—a self that is interconnected with all life. It may be described as a framework that authorizes various forms of operation as patriarchy, an ideology whose fundamental self is based on a sense of self that is separate, atomistic. According to the renowned environmentalist Carolyn Merchant, “women and nature have an age-old association—an association that has persisted throughout culture, language and history” (*The Death of Nature*). It is therefore a socio-political movement which points to the existence of common ground between environmentalism and feminism.

While this paper will take a comprehensive view of the emergence of the Ecofeminist movement in Canada and India, it will investigate the potential for an ecologically informed feminist criticism to detect the historical and cultural roots of the contemporary global environmental crisis. It will further question how the knowledge of ecofeminism can be applied to major economic and global issues. With this end in view, the present paper will discuss two significant texts—*The Edible Woman* by Margaret Atwood and the Booker Prize winning novel *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy. In each novel, the female protagonist is exploited by the domination of male culture, and there is degeneration of environment due to the industrial and economic growth. Finally, the paper will argue that ecofeminism can be a key to harmony, sustainability and diversity in the age of advanced technology and global competitiveness.

**THE SABBATICAL YEAR 2007-2008:  
AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, RELIGION AND POLITICS**

**Julien Bauer**

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The Sabbatical Year for agriculture is quoted four times in the Pentateuch. During that year, farmers are not supposed to work their land. Various reasons have been given: environmental, societal, theological etc. For nearly two thousand years, the Sabbatical Year, which applies only in the Land of Israel, was of no practical consequences. At the end of the nineteenth century, a way was found to implement the Sabbatical Year at no unbearable cost to the farmers. In 2007-2008, for the first time, the Israel Chief Rabbinate presented three options to deal with the Sabbatical Year. This debate, quite remote from the everyday life of most Israelis, was important for at least two groups: the religious and the farmers. Environmental concerns were squeezed between religious precepts and farmers' interests and well being. This could be considered as a specific Israeli issue. It is not so. Other countries – we will focus on Canada and specifically on Montreal – intervened in the debate. Religious authorities who guarantee that products are kosher cannot but have links with their colleagues in countries that export products. In the case of Israel, some products are sold to the general market (fruits, vegetables, some “typical” food), while some are geared mostly to the Jewish market, where kashrut plays a major role (wine, matsot, pasta, cookies, etc.). For the second group, the acceptance by local, i.e. Canadian, bodies is a must. The Sabbatical Year and its consequences on the environment have many implications. What appears to be a strictly religious choice in Israel is de facto a highly political one, both in terms of the determining principles and the consequences. They concern first Israeli farmers and consumers but, with globalization, more and more other markets. The economic impact is growing. The environmental challenge of the Sabbatical Year is less a technical one (the most effective way to keep a healthy earth) than a societal one. After a brief introduction on the concept of the Sabbatical Year, two main points will be the focus of the paper:

1. The Israeli Experience: How various political and religious bodies, both public and private, compete for the determination of what constitute nowadays the “Resting of the Land.”
2. The Canadian Interpretation: How Canadian religious authorities mediate between the Israeli choices and the Canadian Jewish consumers. These consumers are trying to understand not so much the Biblical precept of Sabbatical Year, as the complex and sometimes contradictory pronouncements concerning Israeli food products in Canada.

The Israeli Experience and Canadian Interpretation will help to assess the various meanings of the Sabbatical Year.

**IMMIGRANT ABSORPTION IN THE LABOR MARKET OF QUEBEC****Michael Beenstock**

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Immigration has always played a major role in Canada's economic and social history. I have been studying the absorption of a cohort of 1000 immigrants who entered Quebec in 1989 and who were followed-up during the subsequent ten years. These unique longitudinal data facilitate research into the dynamics of immigrant absorption in the labor market in Quebec. Research questions include the effect of the economic environment on absorption, as well as the effects of language ability (in English and French), education, and age at immigration.

The data are used to test the immigrant assimilation hypothesis (IAH) originally proposed by Chiswick (1979), which predicts that immigrants assimilate with respect to their native environments. In particular, immigrants earn considerably less than comparable natives at first, but are subsequently predicted to close the gap as they acclimatize to their new environment. Since the immigrants were followed-up four times (in 1990-1, 1991-2, 1992-3 and 1999), IAH may be tested over the short-run and longer run (after 10 years). Recent research using longitudinal data suggests that evidence in favor of IAH obtained from cross-section studies and synthetic cohort studies is biased in favor of acceptance of IAH. My research using the data for Quebec supports this suggestion.

Specifically, I use statistical techniques designed for longitudinal micro data (panel data econometrics). Since immigrants do not have continuous histories of employment, I take account of sample selectivity by estimating an auxiliary model for employment. I control for what is happening to the economic environment by using macroeconomic data on unemployment and wages in Quebec, and especially in Greater Montreal where most of the immigrants in the study live. However, I find that the economic environment has little effect on the absorption of immigrants in the study.



**DEFINING A FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT FOR COMMUNICATION  
WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY PATIENTS**

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**Pascal van Lieshout**  
University of Ontario

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), a leading cause of disability, has wide-ranging effects on cognitive and behavioural functioning. The economic and medical consequences are also enormous, with the annual cost of TBI in Canada estimated at three billion dollars. Each year, 6,000 new, permanently disabling TBIs are sustained related to moving vehicle accident, fall, or assault (OBIA, 2002). Israel has an alarmingly high rate of TBI instances, partially due to the armed conflict in the Middle-East. Difficulty in identifying emotions (EID) in spoken language has been found to have a major impact on interpersonal relationships and on the quality of life of TBI patients. Assessing and treating this difficulty has been recently declared an “urgent priority” (Henry et al., 2006).

The research objective of this ongoing study is to identify the cognitive dysfunction that should be targeted to reduce deficits in identifying emotions in speech in persons with TBI. In other words, we wish to learn how to form a *TBI-friendly environment for communication* that can be the basis for successful rehabilitation and re-entry in society. Specifically, we test the contribution of the following possible sources to EID: (a) Selective attention to and the ability to integrate two different sources of information on emotion in speech: lexical content (text) and prosodic features (tone of speech); (b) Impaired perception of information provided in prosodic cues; (c) Impact of perceived threat on the identification of negative emotions in spoken language; and (d) Influence of post-TBI neuropsychological profile and psychiatric status. We will translate this knowledge into rehabilitation efforts. For example, the literature hints that attention deficits related to processing prosody are contributing factors for EID in TBI patients. If this will be supported by our study, it will foster guidelines for health practitioners on how to better communicate with the patients. The study recently won an award from the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation.

**PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN TRANSPORTATION:  
SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS**

**Joseph Berechman**  
City College of New York

The use of private sector inputs and know-how is rather common in the provision of transportation facilities and services. Increasingly, private enterprises opt to also finance new infrastructure construction and operations, thereby presenting new challenges to Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects. Indeed, the media and the professional literature raise concerns regarding the financial and welfare implications of such PPP arrangements.

This paper aims at reviewing the economic underpinnings of PPP projects and, subsequently, delineates the boundaries of PPP in transportation. The paper argues that a PPP project is likely to fail if the project is basically unworthy, i.e., it did not pass a common benefit-cost test. Data from Canada is used to examine the PPP experience.

**URBAN SPORTSCAPES:  
AN ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINISTIC PERSPECTIVE  
ON YOUTH SPORT PARTICIPATION**

**Ida Berger**  
Ryerson University

Despite sport's widely acknowledged health, social and community benefits, studies around the world report significant declines in active sport participation. Most alarming is the rate of decline amongst youth – attributed to their collective adoption of increasingly sedentary activities such as television viewing, video gaming, on-line social networking and the like. In Canada, these trends have placed increasing pressure on sports development and health practitioners to develop policies and program interventions to reverse, or at least arrest, the slide in active engagement with sport. Most theorists and policy makers have focused on individual agency in participation decisions by looking at psychological, sociological or socioeconomic factors such as attitudes, subjective norms or socio-demographics. This paper, by contrast, considers sports participation from an environmental deterministic perspective. It investigates the role of the *sportscape* (built-form and supporting infrastructure) in enabling, facilitating and promoting youth sport participation through a case-study of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) – Canada's largest metropolitan market with over five million residents.

The study focuses on the *sportscape* faced by urban youth (persons between 12 and 19 years of age) in terms of two competitive sports (speed skating and diving), which require dedicated facilities (an ice rink or swimming pool). The analysis is based on a custom-built geo-referenced dataset of infrastructure integrated with demographic and population projections. The results show a wide range of accessibility to sport facilities across neighbourhoods and municipal boundaries and are used to develop and compare a metric of service across the GTA. The paper discusses the linkages between built-form, supporting infrastructure and participation, highlighting the multifaceted challenges faced by policy makers in promoting youth sport participation.

**LES FEMMES JUIVES DE LA RÉGION DE QUÉBEC (CANADA  
DEPUIS LE MILIEU DU XX<sup>E</sup> SIÈCLE**

**Marylin Bernard**  
Concordia University

La présente communication s'appuie sur les conclusions d'un mémoire de maîtrise déposé à l'Université Laval (Québec) en novembre 2008, et intitulé « Vivre, s'intégrer et interagir en étant minoritaires à plusieurs égards : le cas des femmes juives à Québec des années 1940 à aujourd'hui »<sup>1</sup>. Cette étude visait à expliquer comment des femmes juives de la région de Québec vivaient et concevaient leur judéité au quotidien, dans la région de Québec, réputée contenir une population relativement homogène : blanche, catholique et francophone. Elle cherchait également à montrer comment leur rapport à la judéité influençait la participation sociale de ces femmes, que ce soit dans leur sphère individuelle, dans leurs réseaux sociaux, dans la sphère communautaire juive, ainsi que dans la population générale de Québec. La méthodologie scientifique utilisée consistait essentiellement en une enquête orale auprès de huit femmes juives de la région de Québec.

Cette communication traitera donc de la manière dont des membres d'une minorité ethnique, religieuse, culturelle – et, dans le cas de certaines immigrantes, linguistique – s'insèrent dans un environnement social, culturel, institutionnel et religieux différent de celui de leur pays d'origine, ou de celui de leur communauté. Il sera aussi question de l'évolution de ces modes d'insertion au fil du temps, puisque cette étude historique a pour point de départ les années 1940. Dans un Québec et un Canada où les défis de la cohabitation entre les divers groupes ethnoculturels demeurent un sujet d'actualité, il va de soi que l'environnement social, linguistique et culturel est un important facteur d'insertion des minorités au sein d'un groupe majoritaire lui-même en constante recherche d'identité.

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<sup>1</sup> Marylin Bernard, « Vivre, s'intégrer et interagir en étant minoritaires à plusieurs égards : le cas des femmes juives à Québec des années 1940 à aujourd'hui », Québec, Université Laval, 2008, xiii-195 p.

## **EN QUÊTE DU PÈRE À JÉRUSALEM**

**Zilá Bernd**

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La communication exposera une lecture du film *C.R.A.Z.Y.* (2005) du cinéaste québécois Jean-Marc Valée qui a eu les Prix Génie et Jutra pour ce travail. Le film présente l'émouvante histoire d'une famille au Québec des années 1960 en pleine période de la Révolution Tranquille et focalise le drame de la relation des cinq enfants avec un père qui veut les élever selon une tradition que les enfants ne sont plus prêts à suivre. En pleine crise d'identité y compris sexuelle et de remise en question des valeurs familiales, Zachary, le fils, part en quête de soi-même, des valeurs spirituels et surtout d'une sagesse, qui puisse lui permettre d'assumer ses inclinations homosexuelles que le père ne peut pas admettre, et surtout de reconquérir l'amour paternel dont il a besoin par-dessus tout. Le personnage part vers l'incontournable Jerusalem où il refait les pas de Jesus sur les ruelles étroites de la ville sacrée. Il y trouve l'environnement spirituel qu'il lui faut pour entreprendre la quête de soi-même et renouer les liens familiaux, lors de son retour au Québec.

La présente étude souligne les mobilités culturelles entre les générations au Québec des années 1960, les déplacements du personnage entre le Canada et Israël, les avatars entre tradition et modernité, entre vie réelle et vie rêvée.

**DEALING WITH THE LEGACY OF ASBESTOS IN CANADA**

**Stephen Bornstein**  
Memorial University

This paper will focus on the efforts of one Canadian province (Newfoundland and Labrador) to confront the substantial health legacy of one of the country's largest and longest-lasting asbestos mining and milling operations. Chrysotile asbestos was mined and milled for over fifty years in Baie Verte, a small town in north-western Newfoundland. The mine and mill closed in 1994 when the third in a line of operating companies went bankrupt, leaving the town, the union, the provincial government and the provincial workers' compensation board to deal with the long-term health impacts on the workforce of about 2500 people and on their families and neighbours. In 2007, the provincial government acceded to the accumulated demands of the union and the local miners' association and commissioned a computerized registry to track the health status of the former employees and to analyze the impacts on them of working with asbestos. The Registry, the first of its kind in Canada and one of only a few in the world, will be up and running as of March, 2009 and this paper, by the project's team leader and his colleagues, traces the Registry's history, its achievements, the evidence it has accumulated, the challenges involved in its development, and the lessons that can be drawn from it.

**NEW ENERGY: ON STUDY OF THE DEVELOPMENT TREND  
IN DEEPENING THE COOPERATION OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
BETWEEN CHINA AND CANADA**

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Hainan University

**Bojia Wang**  
Xi'an International Studies University

In recent years, China and Canada have made great breakthroughs in energy and environment cooperation. Both sides have signed many essential documents. This has paved the way for mass-scaled energy cooperation. At present, the Chinese enterprises have invested in a great number of energy projects in Canada. Meanwhile, Canada corporations have also invested in joint ventures of nuclear power, petroleum and gas exploration, etc., in China. The cooperation progress between China and Canada depends on mutual efforts and some uncertain factors. In recent years, the China-Canada relationship has not been favourable, because of the disturbing issues of religion, human rights, and Tibet problems. Since 2008, both sides have taken active measures to warm the relations.

Since the break-out of the loan crisis, new energy issues have aroused world-wide attention. Many scholars have predicted that energy savings, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and green development will be the trend of world energy development in the 21st century. As a great country in North America, Canada has its own privilege in the development of new energy. A few years ago, the government issued a clean air law, which aims at promoting the exploration of many kinds of clean energy resources.

The authors believe that both countries will gradually expand their proportions of developing and utilizing new energy. There will be vast space in the cooperation between China and Canada. China is a large country of high speed economic development. The energy issues of the 21st century work like a bottle neck affecting its sustainable development. Undoubtedly, public attention to new energy will become an important theme in China-Canada cooperation, when both countries continue pushing the traditional energy cooperation and development. Both leaders will add more vitality to China-Canada relations.

**MARGARET ATWOOD'S LAST DYSTOPIAS:  
A SURVIVAL KIT FOR AN APOCALYPTIC AGE?**

**Nicole Côté**  
University of Regina

I would like to explore some of the lessons to be learned from Margaret Atwood's first two books of the *MadAddam Trilogy*: *The Year of the Flood* and its prequel, *Oryx and Crake*.

Critics have said that these dystopias are perhaps Atwood's darkest narratives, "evocative tale(s) of a nightmarish near-future" (Brian Bethune: *Maclean's*). Yet, considering the environmental catastrophes awaiting us, one must recognize that they offer a reflection on the complex connexion between knowledge and power, the economic and the ecological, "extrapolating imaginatively from current trends and events to a near-future that's half prediction, half satire" (Le Guin : *Guardian*). They also point to postmodern societies rampant instrumentalism.

Whereas *Oryx and Crake* painstakingly records the genealogy of a near-total environmental disaster through the early lives of the two manichean characters at its epicentre, *Year of the Flood* offers a de-centered view of the disaster and of its aftermath through the eyes of its survivors, mainly powerless women who draw basic ecological as well as emotional solutions for survival *after* the disaster. The power of redemption they find within a nexus of relations, not only between woman and woman, woman and man, but between humans and other living beings, animals and plants. This is in opposition to dystopias like Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*, in which the redemptive power of love remains within the closed circle of father-son relationship, seemingly shunning otherness in various guises (women, animals and living plants exist only as a memory).



**TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER BASINS****Charlotte De Bruyne**

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Transboundary river basins are of immense global economic and environmental importance, but their protection and management can constitute a vexing international problem. While the global freshwater supply is constant, increased population density, economic activity, urbanization, irrigated agriculture and unsustainable water management practices have led to the decline of global water availability. In addition, changing environmental conditions affect the quantitative and qualitative status of water resources by altering hydrological cycles and affecting the intensity and frequency of both floods and droughts around the planet.

Escaping the Malthusian trap of constant supply and increasing demand is only feasible if states manage to put appropriate institutions and technologies in place. In the field of water governance, there is a growing recognition that institutions can only perform effectively when they also include mechanisms for conflict resolution. Such mechanisms indeed provide environmental regimes with the necessary capacity to defuse potential conflict between states when resource availability changes. A number of river treaties already specify procedures for the management of potential conflicts between signatory states.

The present study uses a content analysis of a large number of transboundary water treaties in order to identify the existing applications and procedures for conflict resolution. While some mechanisms, such as negotiation and mediation, are referred to as “soft-law”, others, such as arbitration and adjudication, can provide more formal and/or binding solutions. Special emphasis will go to the various water-related agreements and joint environmental regimes between the government of Canada and the government of the United States of America. The final results of the research will be used to discuss the potential advantages and disadvantages of particular mechanisms and will provide complementary data on conflict resolution patterns in time and space.

**COMBATING ECOLOGICAL DEGRADATION:  
A CASE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION  
A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF CANADA AND INDIA**

**R. K. Dhawan**  
University of Delhi

The last two decades have witnessed significant changes in international societies, which in turn have made a great impact on both society and environment. While globalisation has transformed human life and accelerated national economies, it has caused the depletion of natural resources and environmental degradation. This has posed a great challenge to the entire humanity. It is significant to note that until the twentieth century, people were not conscious of environmental degradation. In the 1960s and 1970s, we began to learn that human activities were exceeding the world's ability to deal with the wastes they produced. Prior to that period, the atmosphere seemed too large, the oceans too deep, and the forests too vast for our action to have a significant impact on them. The emergence of global environmental problems such as climate change, global warming, and air pollution changed that perspective and led to the need to adopt a new approach to economic development. In order to address environmental challenges, people need to understand ecological connections, patterns and causes.

The subject of Environmental Education, as a part of the university curriculum, has thus assumed significant importance. Environmental education is interdisciplinary; it is dynamic, reflecting our growing awareness of our relationship with the environment. While Environmental Education is an important subject in Canada, it is a plant of poor growth in India. This paper will highlight the need to integrate environmental education principles into mainstream education and will further examine how Canada and India can collaborate in enhancing public awareness in this area through Environmental Education.

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND ITS IMPACT  
ON HUMAN HEALTH:  
CANADA AND INDIA IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE**

**Usha Dhawan**

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In recent years, public response to environmental issues has undergone a paradigm shift. It is increasingly being recognized that mere economic growth is no positive sign of development, for it has deteriorated the balance between ecology and economics. This has led to the emergence of Human Ecology, which brings together humans and environment. Human ecology is understood as the study of the relationship between humans and their environment. Though traditional ecology does engage the humans and nature, humans occupy its central stage. The new discipline seeks to keep humans in the centre and then see how they stand in relation to nature.

One of the most significant offshoots of this phenomenon is the increasing awareness of environmental pollution and its impact on human health. It has been realized that the unlimited economic growth has given rise to air and water pollution in various forms. There has been a dramatic increase in the use of pesticides in agriculture. In Canada, more than in India, there is an extensive use of herbicides. The chemicals leach into the surface water and seep into soil and ground water. Again, the disposal of toxic waste released into the environment is detrimental to human health. Air pollution, too, is causing irrevocable damage to human health. There is a steep rise in people suffering from respiratory and cardio-vascular diseases. Waste from industrial production and automobile emission contribute to air pollution. The release of poisonous gases at the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal (India) caused the death of 50,000 people. Again, acid rain has been causing a serious air pollution problem. Environmental legislation must address such serious issues and remedial steps be adopted. Nations, including Canada and India, are increasingly recognizing the importance of bio-diversity and the long-term negative impact that human activities have on eco-systems, and consequently on human health. The present paper attempts to explore this newly emerging area of human ecology, within a comparative framework of Canada and India.

**COMPARATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW  
AND THE “JUDICIAL ROLE IN TIMES OF TERROR”<sup>1</sup>**

**Karen Eltis**  
University of Ottawa

Constitutional cross-pollination is on the rise. Judges are increasingly conversing, most notably with respect to their role as guardians of democracy<sup>2</sup>. This global judicial dialogue is particularly illuminating with regard to matters of transnational apprehension, not least among which is the ability to vigorously defend human rights while repelling the scourge of terrorism (a pressing “environmental” challenge in the legal sense). Significantly, these exchanges involve the recurrent use of foreign precedent by courts seized with security-related matters. *Inter alia*, the “migration of ideas” is prominently evidenced by the House of Lords’ landmark decision respecting the detention of suspected terrorists without bail that specifically draws on Canada’s *Oakes* test<sup>3</sup>. It is similarly prevalent in Canada itself, where judges generally unaccustomed to counterterrorist adjudication increasingly draw on foreign (including Israeli) precedents. In view of the pervasiveness of the “constitutional cross-fertilization of ideas”<sup>4</sup>, the following will speak to the comparative method’s distinct value in addressing the “environmental” challenges (in a legal and social sense) associated with judging in an “age of terrorism”, exposing recurring themes in security adjudication. Following an examination of the factors sparking transnational judicial dialoguing, it will inquire into the social and juridical suitability of the practice and that which can be gained from comparative inquiry in the security context, *specifically* referencing Canada’s own use of foreign precedent – including Israeli case law. The project’s results – not indifferent to the levelled criticisms<sup>5</sup> – could serve to inform a more principled approach to the use of comparativism: to set out guidelines that will lay the foundation for an anthology, featuring a non-binding *best practices framework of analysis* (not unlike the American Restatements) that courts reviewing security matters can draw upon in advance of possible crises. Although it cannot redress the profound deficiencies relating to the use of foreign law precedent, distilling and compiling cardinal principles in the security context is compatible with curtailing much-maligned *ad hoc* or selective borrowing of foreign sources, supplying a more structured reference point for the “brisk international traffic in ideas about rights”<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> A. Barak “A Judge on Judging: The Role of a Supreme Court in a Democracy”, 116 *Harv. L. Rev.* 16, 111 (2002).

<sup>2</sup> Anne-Marie Slaughter, “A Global Community of Courts”, 44 *Harv. Int’l L.J.* 191, 202 (2003).

<sup>3</sup> *R. v. Oakes*, [1986] 1 S.C.R. 103. See *A (F.C.) v. S.S.H.D.*, [2004] UKHL 56.

<sup>4</sup> Expression attributed to Anne-Marie Slaughter *supra*.

<sup>5</sup> Most notably, Richard Posner’s recent critique of the use of comparative law (“Enlightened Despot” *The New Republic*, April 23, 2007).

<sup>6</sup> Mary A. Glendon, *Rights Talk: The Impoverishment of Political Discourse* (New York: The Free Press, 1991) at 158.

**A COMPARISON OF VALUES AND ATTITUDES OF CANADIAN  
AND ISRAELI, HIGHER-EDUCATION STUDENTS,  
STUDYING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**Sarah Feingold**

Kibbutzim College of Education &  
Shenkar College of Engineering and Design

In Canada and Israel, environmental education takes on great importance for students. Higher-education students in both countries will become the elite group, future educators of youth, employees in science, culture and technology, and organizers of economic life. The learning programs and goals of environmental education in colleges and universities in Canada and Israel are the outcome of international documents and accepted guidelines of sustainable development which both countries clearly support in their National Environmental Policy. The way difficult environmental protection issues are studied and resolved depends on the students' knowledge, values, and attitudes. Higher-education students in Canada and Israel enter their studies with previous experiences, individual ideas, beliefs, values, attitudes, and understandings regarding the human-nature relationship, which influence their learning experiences.

My paper will shed light on different environmental education programs in higher education in Canada and Israel, emphasizing evidence of positive outcomes associated with environmental education, such as fostering environmental sensitivity, environmental literacy knowledge and skills, developing receptiveness to environmental education, teaching context, knowledge, attitudes, values, and skills, through campus or community-based environmental service learning experiences. These environmental education programs help develop an understanding of the different range of environmental awareness and environmental education methods. Students participating in these programs are able to shape their philosophy, develop an interest in and concern for their environment, as well as issue investigation or other environmental service learning programs, where they learn that their environmental actions make a difference and help foster a sense of personal responsibility and commitment to environmental sustainability.

**LEGACY OF TRUDEAU – CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES IN THE ARCTIC**

**Marcin Gabryś**  
Jagiellonian University

Pierre E. Trudeau changed the way Canada has dealt with its northern vast territories. He has also altered the way other countries treated environmental challenges in the Arctic. This transformation happened because of a voyage of the American oil tanker *Manhattan* in 1969, which put Canadian jurisdiction over the Northwest Passage into question. Trudeau acted in a very creative way and managed to connect conservation of nature with the problem of Canadian sovereignty over waters surrounding the Arctic Archipelago. The Canadian government implemented pollution control regulation in the Arctic in zones up to 100 nautical miles off its Arctic coasts in order to guard against pollution of the region's coastal and marine resources. It was a profound change which was used more than ten years later during the negotiations of the United Nations Law of the Sea Treaty. That tactic was abandoned during the Brian Mulroney government. After the U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker *Polar Sea* sailed through without seeking permission, the Canadian government drew "straight baselines" around the Arctic islands and asserted that the channels within them were "internal waters" subject to the full force of Canadian law. Since then, the Canadian government has claimed that all waters of the Northwest Passage are internal waters of Canada. However, the U.S. and the European Union refuse to accept the claim and still see them as international waters.

I would like to show how Canada has been recently trying to implement Trudeau's strategy of integrating the question of sovereignty with environmental protection. In 2009, Canadian officials began studying "a marine conservation area" at the entry to the Northwest Passage. The main aim is to control commercial shipping and private voyages, whose numbers are slowly rising due to melting Arctic Sea ice. The conservation area would be used to demonstrate Canada's will to regulate the area and strengthen the claim to sovereignty over the disputed Arctic waterway. It was of course protested by the U.S., seeing it as laying groundwork to complete control over all activity in the Arctic.

## **CANADA'S ROLE AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PROMOTER**

**Iris Geva-May**  
Simon Fraser University

**Shawn C. Drake**  
Simon Fraser University

For many years, Canada has been involved in several North American and international environmental policy advancement initiatives. Canada's involvement took two main roles: first, it took the role of a leading member in regional collaborations addressing North American environmental concerns; second, it took an advisory leading role in promoting environmental policy planning in developing countries.

Examples are two mega projects: the WCI (Western Climate Initiative), involving twelve Canadian and American provinces and states, respectively, whose objectives are aimed at seeking coordinated planning of environmental policy on the West and North West of the American continent. The other project is the CIDA-led Chinese project involving Canada and several EU countries providing expert planning in China for the establishment of environmental policies in that country.

This presentation will address the following issues: (a) It will highlight the above mentioned two projects and their different perspectives, (b) it will discuss the environmentally leading role of Canada, (c) it will examine the political and social visibility that these initiatives provide, and (d) it will investigate the research opportunities that these projects can enhance.

**“PART OF OR MASTERS OF NATURE?”  
ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES IN THE FOUNDING OF CANADA  
AND PRESENT-DAY AUSTRALIA**

**Stewart Gill**  
Emmanuel College  
The University of Queensland

In his recent book, *A Fair Country*, John Ralston Saul speaks of the need to understand the Indigenous idea of nature and the environment. “A philosophy,” Saul writes, “in which humans are a part of nature, not a species chosen to master it.” This paper will look at Saul’s statement in the light of the debates that were held in Canada in the 1880s over the development of the Rocky Mountain National Park, contemporary issues and current debates in Australia over environmental issues in Cape York, Queensland. In the nineteenth century, environmental issues were addressed in the context of the mastery of nature towards economic and political ends. A good example of this is Sir John A. Macdonald, who spoke strongly in favour of the creation of a national park in the Canadian Rockies with the aim of securing the economic future of the region. For instance, he argued, a park would bring a “large pecuniary advantage to the Dominion” and enhance the prestige of Canada abroad through tourism. While he had tourism primarily in mind, Macdonald foresaw that with the creation of a town in the park, “Then there would be rental of waters; that there is a perennial source of revenue, and if carefully managed will more than many times recuperate, or recoup, the government for any present expenditures.” Aboriginal communities and their unique worldview with regard to the environment were not considered as relevant in the nineteenth or, indeed, for most of the twentieth centuries. More recently, Canadian Aboriginal communities like the Haida, on what used to be Queen Charlotte Islands (now Haida Gwaii), have fought against logging and now co-manage the area as a National Park with Parks Canada. They have been able to put a management plan in place with a strategy for fishing, offshore minerals and logging. By so doing, all parties – Federal and Provincial Governments, commercial companies and the loggers – have been shaped by Haida worldviews in regard to the environment.

The debates that have taken place in Canada resonate in Australia, where over the past twelve months the Queensland Government – on the side of protecting the environment through The Wild Rivers Act – has banned any development in the Cape York Region. This has incensed Noel Pearson, one of Australia’s most eminent Indigenous leaders. Pearson’s vision is to create a development plan with due concern for the environment but also to the economic benefit of the Indigenous people who suffer profound disadvantage in Australia. Is Pearson more of a nineteenth century Macdonald seeking to be master rather than as part of nature, as Saul portrays Aboriginal people, or is he more like the Haida people seeking to apply Indigenous culture in a modernised form to Australian public issues?



**EARLY CANADIAN EXPLORATIONS  
OF THE HOLY LAND'S ENVIRONMENT**

**Joseph B. Glass**  
Centennial College

The mid-nineteenth century saw the beginnings of the encounters between Canadians and the Holy Land. Canadians arrived in growing numbers as pilgrims, tourists, sojourners, missionaries, immigrants, and even researchers and explorers. This expressed a growing Canadian interest in the contemporary and historic Holy Land and was facilitated by improved and less expensive transportation to Palestine. Two noteworthy Canadians undertook to study the environment of the Holy Land – Henry Poole and John William Dawson.

Born in England, Poole resided in Pictou, Nova Scotia for 15 years before he conducted research in Palestine in 1855. In Pictou, he was in charge of coal mining operations. He published academic articles on the local geology and climate. While in Palestine, Poole made observations on the composition of the strata, their dip and strike, and collected numerous rock, soil, and water samples. He related to the local flora and fauna and was credited as the first person to have seen fish (*Sebias Cyprinodon*) swimming in the Dead Sea, at two distinct places. He used a newly developed technology, the Aneroid Metallique (aneroid barometer), to take barometric pressure readings.

Sir John William Dawson was a well-known geologist, palaeontologist, and educator. Born in Pictou, he came from a devout Christian family and his convictions profoundly influenced his views on science and education. Dawson enrolled at the University of Edinburgh and was trained to be an exploration geologist. In 1855, he was appointed principal of McGill College in Montreal and held the position for 38 years.

He visited Palestine and Egypt in the winter of 1883-1884 to research the area's geology. With limited time in Palestine, he investigated two cross-sections – Jaffa to the Dead Sea and from Beirut eastward. His book, *Egypt and Syria, their physical features in relation to Bible history* (1885), attempted to bridge geological findings and the events described in the Scriptures.

The discussion details the journeys of these Canadian researchers and their study of the environment in the Holy Land, underscoring their scientific contributions. The visits of Poole and Dawson are placed within the context of the wide spectrum of Canadians of who set foot in the Holy Land in the nineteenth century.

**MANUFACTURING ENVIRONMENTALISM:  
THE PHOTOGRAPHIC WORK OF EDWARD BURTYNSKY**

**Noreen Golfman**  
Memorial University

Canadian photographer Edward Burtynsky (1955- ) has been traveling the globe for some time, producing massive images of industrial waste. China is, arguably, the site of the most devastating human markings on the landscape, but Burtynsky has turned his lens on his own country, as well, and in particular the controversial oil/tar sands in northern Alberta, as this image demonstrates:



Documentary filmmaker Jennifer Baichwal followed Burtynsky around the world as he captured what he calls “manufactured landscapes,” a phrase that famously became the title of the film itself. The resulting film, released in 2006, won many awards, including the prestigious Grand jury prize at the Sundance Film Festival in Utah.

My presentation focuses not only on the achievement of Baichwal’s documentary, *Manufactured Landscapes*, but also on the challenge of representing such spectacular images of waste and contamination without aestheticizing them, even making them beautiful and so less menacing or terrifying. This is, indeed, one of the chief challenges of the artist as advocate, and especially as environmentalist. Have Burtynsky’s images, awesome in their scale and symmetry, served to draw awareness to the devastation of landscapes or have they undermined the project of producing change, especially as these images circulate through the powerful medium of film?

My presentation will locate Burtynsky’s work and Baichwal’s film within the context of environmental activism, as well as within the activist tradition of the Canadian National Film Board that sponsored the work. I will show clips from the film and images of Burtynsky’s more recent work of Alberta tar sands.

**DEVELOPING THE 'ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT'  
AS AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

**Dan Gottlieb**  
University of Haifa

During the 1990s, the issue of excess-consumerism emerged as a central factor in environmental deterioration and the impoverishment of natural resources. In order to cope with the academic and practical challenge of measuring the “load” that humanity imposes on natural resources, two researchers from the University of British Columbia, Prof. William Rees and his former student, Dr. Mathis Wackerangel, developed *The Ecological Footprint Analysis* (EF) to estimate the resource consumption and waste assimilation requirements of a defined human population in terms of corresponding productive land area (Global Hectares). In Canada, the Ecological Footprint was measured in different scales and regions. For example, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) reported a wide range of ecological footprints in municipalities, from a low of 6.87 hectares per capita in Greater Sudbury to a high of 9.86 hectares for Calgary. Other Canadian researchers measured the Ecological Footprint of institutions, such as universities (e.g. University of Toronto, University of British Columbia).

The goal of this study was to use the EF analysis as an educational tool for sustainability at the high school level. During the year 2008/9, the EF of students (N= 1520) from one high school in the city of Haifa, Israel, was calculated. We presented the breakdown of the school Ecological Footprint into four main components: electricity, transportation, food and materials. We then developed scenarios for potential future reduction of the footprint and communicated the results and potential directions to the studied school students and staff.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING AS A SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY:  
POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR CANADIAN CITIES****Penny Gurstein**

University of British Columbia

This paper outlines the rationale for an affordable housing strategy both for equity and the environment. This paper argues that housing affordability must be included in any discussion on environmental sustainability. In British Columbia, for example, housing costs have major implications for transportation, with personal mobility the source of 14% of BC's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. As greater numbers of low- and middle-income people – including workers providing essential public services, such as health, safety or educational services such as police, firemen, nurses and teachers – move out of expensive inner cities to seek affordable housing in suburban and ex-urban areas, long commutes contribute to both higher GHG emissions and lower quality of life. This is also resulting in a hollowing-out of inner-city neighbourhoods. In the City of Vancouver, families with children accounted for a mere 27% of households in the last Canadian census in 2006, compared to 41% for the rest of Metropolitan Vancouver.

Using Vancouver, British Columbia as a case study, the paper questions the premise that increasing density is tantamount to greater affordability, and argues that density is, over time, a response to escalating land costs that can be at odds with affordability. For Vancouver, increased density has accompanied a major reduction in affordability. By reviewing existing data on housing affordability in Vancouver and demographics, the paper identifies existing trends and their implications for housing delivery. The paper concludes with a discussion of policy implications for housing affordability in Canadian cities, using examples of successful strategies from other developed countries. Implications for Israeli cities will also be discussed.

**THE ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT  
FOR POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES:  
CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS**

**Tali Heiman**

The Open University of Israel

In a groundbreaking collaborative enterprise, we have been conducting research on similarities and differences between Israeli and Canadian views about how various aspects of the academic environment for postsecondary students with learning disabilities facilitate or hamper learning. These students comprise a large proportion of the enrolment on both Israeli and Canadian campuses, and the literature shows that the quality of the information and communication technology (ICT) environment available to these students is an important element of student success. Therefore, the study of how to best ensure the availability and accessibility of needed ICTs and how to best provide environmental supports on campus for students, faculty, and the campus professionals who support these two groups is an important area of investigation.

In our collaborative research, we have studied how the campus information and communication technology environment contributes to the success of students with learning disabilities. To do this, we conducted semi-structured interviews with Israeli and Canadian students and disability service providers (n = 26, 38, respectively). Participants responded to 11 questions dealing with topics related to the campus information and computer technology environment and how this affects students, disability service providers, and professors. Questions addressed the types of ICTs available to students with learning disabilities on campus, the advantages and disadvantages of using these, the types of environmental modifications that could be made to improve the academic ambience for these students and the campus disability service providers who support them, and the types of environmental supports available for students, service providers and professors to ensure that needed ICTs are available and accessible. A coding manual with over 50 discrete codes was used to evaluate interview responses.

Results comparing 2 Countries (Israel, Canada) x 3 Affected Persons (students, professors, disability service providers) x 2 Participants (students, disability service providers) will be provided. Environmental challenges and characteristics of ICT availability and accessibility in Israel and Canada will be highlighted and recommendations will be made about how campus environments can be modified to help assure the academic success of students with learning disabilities.

**CONFORMITY TO THE RULES OF NATURE: THE REVELATIONS FROM THE DESCRIPTIONS OF NATURE IN L. M. MONTGOMERY'S WORKS**

**Huifeng Hu**

Guangdong University of Technology

The Canadian author L. M. Montgomery is best known for a series of novels beginning with *Anne of Green Gables*, published in 1908. This paper attempts to analyze the landscape description in Montgomery's works, using the idea of the "unification of man and nature," one of the leading philosophies from Ancient China. The theory mainly concerns the oneness of man and nature and the laws of nature, and emphasizes that man is an integral part of nature and that there is a great feeling of the communion between the two. Montgomery's works best reveal the integration between man and nature. Trees and flowers, landscape, the stars of heaven and the procession of the seasons are all successfully woven into a harmonizing whole and help to express the elegant and spiritualistic inner world of the characters. Nature is not only material but also spiritual; through it, man acquires a spiritual experience of poetry, tranquility and beauty. The depiction of nature provides readers not only the formal significance, but also a spiritual perspective.

The advanced insights and consciousness in Montgomery's indispensable landscape description are of great realistic significance. With today's highly developed industry, people – especially in developing countries – have made achievements in economic and social development at the cost of sacrificing the nature to some extent. Montgomery's writing rises above general eco-literature – seemingly not to get involved with social problems – but builds a kind of beauty that reveals the writer's unique perspective towards nature, society and life, causing us to re-examine the relationship between self and nature, and seek a wholly new approach to handle these urgent problems such as population, exploration, environmental pollution, resources shortage and so on. The charming landscape and Anne's spiritual communication with nature activate at once our imagination and memory, and awaken our love of nature, moral strength and duty to nature, which shapes children and adults across culture, race and gender boundaries.

**ENGLISH-FRENCH BILINGUALISM AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE IN  
CANADA: INSIGHTS FROM A CASE STUDY  
OF THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY OF OTTAWA**

**Sabine Huynh**

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The federal capital city of Ottawa is one of Canada's main points of entry for immigrants from around the world. Its bilingualism policy has resulted in both French and English to be recognized "as having the same rights, status and privileges"<sup>1</sup>. The sociolinguistic study I conducted within its Vietnamese community in 2008-2009 uncovered, among other social and linguistic realities, that the language barrier was one of the main challenges Vietnamese refugees faced when coming to Canada. Due to Ottawa's official bilingualism and its proximity to Quebec, the city's immigrants interact with both English and French-speaking communities. Although one does not need to be bilingual to live and work in Ottawa, higher-paying and government jobs demand that you meet the language requirements and show fluency in the two official languages. Moreover, a large portion of the available jobs in the city are to be found in the public sector. Language training can be considered the key obstacle to the successful integration of refugees.

Based on linguistic data that constitute the Vietnamese-English-French Corpus of Ottawa (VEFCO<sup>2</sup>) – over 41 hours of recorded naturalistic speech (informal conversations) yielded from interviews with 30 Ottawa Vietnamese community members – this paper examines the extent of the linguistic challenge experienced by community members. It provides the sociolinguistic profile of the community by reviewing its language use, the factors that had an impact on it, and the functions of Vietnamese, English, and French within the community.

The data collected feature language as a recurrent topic, and reflect the linguistic reality of the provinces of Quebec and Ontario (where community members were primarily placed upon arrival), a reality which is closely enmeshed in the various challenges community members met when settling in Canada.

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<sup>1</sup> City of Ottawa, Bilingualism Policy, Declaration of Principles, November 2004:  
[http://ottawa.ca/city\\_hall/policies/bilingualism\\_policy/index\\_en.html](http://ottawa.ca/city_hall/policies/bilingualism_policy/index_en.html)

<sup>2</sup> VEFCO was collected in Ottawa between September 2008 and December 2008, and is kept at the Sociolinguistics Laboratory of the University of Ottawa, Canada. It contains over 300,000 words.

**CHILDREN'S ANIMAL STORIES:  
THE FIRST STEPS TO ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS**

**Manpreet Kaur Kang**  
Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University

At the beginning of the 21st century, we face a global ecological catastrophe. Never before has the Earth been so threatened with extinction as it is now and never before have these issues taken centre stage the way they now have. Environmental issues are being debated at local, national and international forums; at social, scientific, political and cultural forums in the hope of reaching some answers for transforming society into a better, greener, and more peaceful place to be in. The present is an outcome of the thoughtless plunder of nature and natural resources over the centuries by humans, for the so-called progress of civilization. The use and misuse of “fossil fuel” resources like oil, coal, and natural gas, despite many years of warnings, has led to a corresponding increase in the carbon emissions which are responsible for global warming. Similarly, animals, plants and organic habitats are being destroyed in the name of human production and consumption at alarming rates. Our forests are fast disappearing and so are numerous plant and animal species. Achievements in science and technology have had devastating effects on our ecosystems.

Drastic measures are the need of the hour to sensitize large populations, so that some measures of damage control can be undertaken and further environmental plunder halted. One of the first steps in this direction is to create environmental awareness among young children, and to fulfill such needs for environmental education. In 2005, the United Nations began the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development with the hope that a new field of sustainable development education (ESD) that engages with social, cultural, and environmental themes will become better theorized, evaluated and ultimately instituted around the world in both academic and non-academic domains. Tomorrow's sustainable society, if reliant upon education, will require a pedagogical revolution equal to its present socio-economic counterpart. Environmental education or ecopedagogy has come to be seen as an important area to focus our attention on.

This paper discusses how animal stories can play a significant role in ecopedagogy, as our childhood attitudes towards animals and plants can make a lifelong impact on our outlook towards them. Once the young minds grow to appreciate their environment and understand its need for protection, their sensibility will be attuned towards lifelong nature-friendly behaviour. The advantages of children reading environmental literature will be highlighted through an analysis of selected Canadian, Israeli and Indian children's animal stories.



**SOFT PATH APPROACH TO PLANNING SUSTAINABLE WATER FUTURES****Paul A. Kay**

University of Waterloo

**David B. Brooks**

Friends of the Earth Canada

The perception of Canada as a nation of abundant water resources contrasts with the reality of temporal and spatial scarcity that challenges alignment of supply with demand. The Canadian experience of developing a new paradigm of planning for a sustainable future of water resources is reviewed here, with some thoughts about applicability to Israel. Demand-management strategies evoking neo-classical economic efficiency have been widely employed to reduce the need for expensive access to new supplies. To achieve sustainability, conventional growth models will need to consider less water-consumptive alternatives. The soft path approach is designed to shift the paradigm. The basic principles defining a soft path are: *a priori* commitment of water to ecological flows; water viewed for the services desired of it rather than as water itself; quality of water matched to that needed for the services; full use of the panoply of technologic, economic, and governance demand-management strategies; and, a community-defined vision of the desired future of sustainable water use, for which goal planning paths may be designed.

The Canadian water soft path project was the first concerted national study of the concept. The project examined provincial, watershed, and municipal spatial scales. As provinces in Canada have most constitutional jurisdiction over water, they should set policy to foster conservative planning. Detailed plans are best implemented locally or regionally, according to environmental and social conditions. The soft path approach may be appropriate for Israel. The imbalance of demand and supply is dire, and Israel has a history of successful application of technological efficiencies. The new paradigm views demand-management strategies not as stopgaps until new supply is accessed, but as a shift towards an environmentally sustainable system. Challenges will be to agree to a vision of a sustainable future, both locally and regionally, and to choose strategies to achieve it while still coping with the present stress of scarcity. Close attention will need to be given to the place of agriculture, as well as to emerging multiscale governance systems.

**THE POLISH NEIGHBOURHOOD IN TORONTO:  
THE TYPICAL HISTORY OF THE *OLD ETHNIC GROUP*  
IN CANADIAN CITIES**

**Marta Kijewska-Trembecka**  
Jagiellonian University

The history of the Polish ethnic group in Toronto reflects the history of the whole Polish diaspora in Canada. Representatives of all waves of Polish immigrants sooner or later found their way to Toronto. The Polish group, classified as one of old European ethnic groups, began to create in Toronto a separate, institutionally complete district before the Second World War. The first significant wave of Polish immigrants had arrived in Canada in the “Sifton Era”, settling mainly in the Prairies. Those of the second wave in the 1920s made their way rather to industrial Ontario, preferably to the factories in Toronto. Like other Polish diaspora centres, churches and parishes became the core of social life. Poles settled mainly in the western parts of the city between Lake Ontario and Hyde Park. More and more Polish immigrants started to rent or sometimes build their own houses along the Roncesvalles Avenue, which still remains the most important street of the Polish quarter in Toronto and where one can find most known and respected institutions and organizations: St. Casimir Church and Parish, headquarters of the Polish Canadian Congress, Canadian-Polish Research Institute, libraries, veterans’ organizations, the Polish Credit Union, editorial offices of Polish newspapers, shops, restaurants, bakeries, travel agencies, doctor’s offices, etc. Today, Toronto is the biggest Polish diaspora centre in Canada. In 2006, around 90,000 people of singular Polish origin and 117,500 of multiple origin lived there.

Nowadays, the Polish ethnic group does not concentrate merely in the Roncesvalles Avenue neighbourhoods. Other ethnic groups have arrived. The Polish diaspora lives from Scarborough in the east to Missisagua and Oakville in the west of Metro-Toronto. Torontonians of Polish origin have built several Polish diaspora centres in Scarborough, Etobicoke, Missisagua. However, areas around the Roncesvalles Avenue are the only ones called the “real” Polish neighbourhood.

**DROUGHT IN WESTERN CANADA:  
AN EXAMPLE OF AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT  
CLIMATE ISSUE FOR CANADA AND THE WORLD**

**Richard Lawford**  
University of Manitoba

In various parts of Canada, different economic activities and different climates lead to a range of water use patterns and responses to climate variability. Some regions of Canada are most severely affected by heavy precipitation and temperature extremes while other regions, such as the Canadian prairies region, are very vulnerable to drought and other causes of water stress. The strategies for adapting to water stress in Canadian prairies have been developed over decades as farming communities have adapted to alternating periods of sufficient moisture and drought. The options for coping with drought are currently being reviewed in the light of recurring droughts in the region and the potential impacts of climate change. Depending on the changes in precipitation, regimes arising from climate change strategies for reducing drought vulnerability could become very critical in the future. While Israel has a different range of climate conditions, and different expectations for climate change impacts, many of the changes in the semiarid regions of Canada have parallels with Israel and its climate-related water management issues.

This presentation explores the causes of drought and water stress on the Canadian prairies and summarizes some of the options that are being considered to reduce the vulnerability to drought. The nature of the problem and the approaches being explored in Canada are compared to the problems and strategies being pursued in other semi-arid regions of the world. In terms of the core issues of the Canadian Studies conference, it will relate drought and water shortages to geography and climate and explore the impacts of these water shortages on agriculture, ecology and economics.

**SAVING ENERGY AT THE EXPENSE OF PRIVACY**

**Avner Levin**  
Ryerson University

North America is currently developing a “Smart Grid” – an interactive electricity network that will provide customers and electricity providers (utilities) with real-time, online, detailed information about their energy consumption. The Smart Grid will be based on “Smart Appliances” - home appliances, such as dishwashers, laundry dryers, refrigerators etc. that will transmit information to the grid about their energy use, and “Smart Meters”- electricity meters that will record not only the total use of electricity but usage according to the time-of-day and day-of-week. The Smart Grid will enable utilities to offer dynamic pricing to customers and shift consumption from high-peak electricity demand periods (typically daytime during the business week) to low-peak periods of time (typically the weekends and nighttime). Customers will be able to view their consumption over the internet, using applications created by their local utility or by companies such as Microsoft and Google. In Canada, Toronto Hydro, the utility for the City of Toronto, has already installed more than 600,000 Smart Meters (equal to roughly 90% of its customers) and expects to complete installation by the end of 2010.<sup>1</sup>

The detailed information provided by the Smart Grid may come at the expense of privacy, since it will be possible to determine, without conducting surveillance that would normally require court approval, patterns of behavior within a household, such as when clothes are washed or hot showers are taken, that many would consider intimate.<sup>2</sup> That would allow law enforcement agencies, for example, to determine whether certain houses are used for the growth of marijuana or for other illegal purposes by simply accessing the information generated by the Smart Grid.

The creation of the Smart Grid raises therefore a host of issues related to privacy and data protection legislation that the proposed paper will discuss. In addition, the paper will examine how the development of the Smart Grid may end up pitting against each other two of the leading advocacy movements in Canadian society and internationally – the environment and the privacy movements – and how advocates are attempting to ensure energy is not saved at the expense of privacy.

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<sup>1</sup> Toronto Hydro,

<http://www.torontohydro.com/sites/electricsystem/residential/smartmeters/Pages/SmartMetersInstallationSchedule.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> In *Kyllo v. United States* 533 US 27 (2001) the US Supreme Court stated that the time in which “the lady of the house takes her daily bath [is] a detail that many would consider ‘intimate’”.

**WHY THE UNITED STATES MAY LOSE:  
THE GEOPOLITICS OF ARCTIC SECURITY**

**Peter Liotta**  
Salve Regina University

The changing environmental conditions in the Arctic, now accepted by numerous sources, show that no summer ice will exist as early as 2013. As one result, this emerging vulnerability offers both positive and negative influences. On the one hand, the Arctic opening will offer extraordinary (potential) resource exploitation. On the other hand, a navigable Northwest passage could lead to a rise in illicit crime, human-trafficking, drug-smuggling, pollution of the fragile Arctic ecosystem, human disasters at sea, and violations of Canadian sovereign territory. The best response is to seek a tolerable, indeed sustainable, balance.

This presentation seeks to provide a brief background on the United States position on the International Law of the Sea agreement, the contributions to its passage by Senator Claiborne Pell, and why and how the United States may be far too slow to react to changing environmental realities. As such, the geostrategic significance of the Arctic will be a twenty-first century reality; indeed, it will become a center stage geostrategic position. Among the five contending, sometimes contentious, circumpolar nations (Russia, Canada, the United States, Denmark, and Norway), we will witness an extraordinary competition that could lead either to a new and prestigious international cooperative regime or see a new Cold War among antagonists and economic rivals.

**CLIMATE CHANGE MISCONCEPTIONS:  
CHALLENGES FOR SOCIAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

**Andrew Miall**  
University of Toronto

**Charlene Miall**  
McMaster University

Climate change issues are challenging, yet discussion often devolves from the complexities of science and economics to sound bites that are repeated until they become reified as truths. Public understandings of complex scientific or economic issues, therefore, can be affected by these simplifications which distort or misrepresent the nature of social problems requiring social policy solutions. In this paper, we will discuss six examples that challenge effective social policy development around climate change and the depletion of cheap fossil fuels by simplifying or distorting the nature of the social problems to be addressed. These include: (1) Ice falling off glaciers is an indicator of rapid global warming; (2) Glacial retreat in general is an indicator of anthropogenic global warming; (3) Warming climate in the Arctic will lead to the extinction of polar bears; (4) High gas prices are a result of corporate or government exploitation and are harmful to consumers; (5) Energy independence and reducing dependence on foreign oil is achievable in the western democracies; and (6) A shift in energy policies to renewable energy, conservation measures, and carbon capture and sequestration will effectively reduce carbon emissions contributing to anthropogenic climate change.

We argue that while simplifications can help opinion leaders, whether scientists, politicians, activists or the media to advance their claims about the nature of the problems facing Canadians and Israelis, there are social costs to this approach. First, challenges to these simplifications can impede the development of social policies to address climate change. Second, courses of action may be proposed and funded without proper reference to the magnitude of the problem to be tackled, or assessments of the contributions that the solutions might make. We conclude that global solutions to the issue of anthropogenic carbon emissions will be costly and difficult to implement, and will be hard to reconcile with the universal desire for economic growth. Simplifying these challenges is ultimately counter-productive to effective social policy solutions.

**ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE: EARTH SCIENTISTS' PERSPECTIVES ON THE  
FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRIES,  
CLIMATE CHANGE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES**

**Charlene Miall**  
McMaster University

**Andrew Miall**  
University of Toronto

Canada and Israel are facing two global problems – fossil fuel energy depletion and climate change – which offer fundamental challenges to economic growth. The on-going depletion of cheap liquid oil has given rise in Canada to the development of non-conventional fuels such as shale-bed methane and the Canadian oil sands. In Canada and Israel, non-polluting, renewable energy sources, such as wind power and solar power, are being considered as substitutes for the burning of fossil fuels linked to anthropogenic climate change. Sociological studies have depicted the fossil fuel industries' responses to climate science implicating human factors, and environmental protectionism legislation as monolithic and uniformly negative. We report on the results of 71 interviews with Canadian earth scientists working in fossil fuel industries, universities and government in 15 Canadian cities, and on-line survey results for another 355 Canadian earth scientists as they relate to the role of fossil fuels in climate change and the assessment of renewable energy sources in the near and distant future.

First, a majority believe that fossil fuel industries are perceived negatively by the general public as contributors to global warming. However, most respondents support the mandated implementation of programs to mitigate the effects of fossil fuel emissions. Second, a majority agree that climate change, over the last few decades, has been driven by a combination of natural and anthropogenic processes. However, most agree that explanations for climate change have not adequately taken paleoclimate data on the ancient environment into consideration. Third, assessments of energy sources *in the near future* reveal that a majority rate the oil sands, conventional nuclear energy and hydroelectricity as very important. *In the distant future*, most respondents consider only nuclear energy and hydroelectricity as very important, and support for the oil sands, non-conventional oil and gas, liquefied natural gas, and clean coal decreases in importance. Although *renewable* energy sources such as wind, solar, geothermal, biofuels and hydrogen are generally considered important by the general public, only solar energy is rated as very important by our respondents. We discuss how these assessments relate to the contrasting energy requirements of Canada and Israel.

**SAME AIM BUT DIFFERENT APPROACHES:  
CHINA AND CANADA'S STRATEGY IN THE EFFORTS  
OF EMISSION-REDUCTION FROM KYOTO TO COPENHAGEN**

**Xingming Pan**  
East China Normal University

Climate change is a complex problem and outstanding issue both in China and Canada now. The basic aim on the issue is very close between the two countries, that each side should consider itself a responsible international player in emission-reduction and welfare of human beings. However, the background for the understanding of the problem is quite different, since China and Canada are situated in different stages of development. Based on their own approaches, the two countries formulated and implemented different strategies and corresponding policies. China, a still-developing country on a fast-track to industrialization, regards its most important task as developing its economy, reducing poverty and providing its huge population with food and other daily necessities. Canada, already a developed country with comfortable living conditions, naturally pays more attention to environment protection and sustainable development. Both countries supported the Kyoto Protocol, made some progress in this respect, and are facing the problem of the rise of carbon emissions. China is now the top carbon-emission country, while Canada was criticized as a major “waste producer”, since Canada’s per capita garbage production is significantly higher than that of any other OECD nation, according to a recent Reuters report. However, the countries’ respective greenhouse plans show non-identical natures. China firmly supports the spirit of the Kyoto Protocol and positions of the Bali roadmap, adheres to the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities”, and commits to reducing its carbon emission and setting its target of a 40-45 percent reduction in carbon emissions intensity between 2005 and 2020. Meanwhile, the developed countries – benefited by their industrialization with unlimited carbon emission in the past – should have relevant technologies and necessary funds. Canada believes it is urgent to find a solution to climate change, is determined to protect its natural resources, and has committed to reducing its total greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent from 2006 levels by 2020 and also reducing by 60-70 percent by 2050. Canada also supports cleaner energies, such as wind and biofuels, and provides funds for clean technology research and development. At the moment, Canada seems to be almost identical to Washington in its plans, and is forming the beginning of a continental approach to the issue. The paper will go through the strategies and policies in this respect from Kyoto to Copenhagen in China and Canada, make comparisons, and use the analysis of their aim as background to reach suggestions for solving the problem. My belief is that a win-win outcome is possible, if only both industrialized and developing countries would work together towards an agreement that significantly reduces global carbon emissions in a way that does not restrain world economic growth or distort global competition.



**ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES  
AND THE QUESTION OF GEOGRAPHIC SCALE**

**Micha Pazner**

The University of Western Ontario

**Nancy Thies Pazner**

Florence Melton Adult Mini-School

This paper addresses the question “Does Scale Matter?” when comparing environmental challenges in Canada and Israel. The focus is primarily on geographic (spatial, cartographic) scale with limited reference to non-spatial scales, e.g. temporal and topical. To begin, we present a cartographic technique that provides a visualization of comparative areal scale of the two “places”; Canada and Israel. We utilize an Equal Area Projection to map the two countries. We then construct a square *Israel* pixel with a cartographic area equivalent to that of Israel that is co-scaled with the Canada map. This allows us to compare the area of Israel with sub-regions and natural features of Canada, such as Southwestern Ontario, a Great Lake, a not-so-great lake, a large fresh-water island, a lake on an island in a lake, a national park, the Toronto GTA and “Golden Horseshoe”, etc. With this background, we then consider the relative scales of *environmental challenge landscape features* such as wildfires, logging, agriculture, energy and mining, water resources and urban expansion, which are found in both countries.

We examine how the geographic scale of these features affects their impacts, where impacts are measured in physical, economic, and socio-cultural terms. The paper provides examples where these impacts are scale invariant, and other instances in which the impacts are scale dependent. Thus environmental challenge features contain a mixture of common scalable impacts and of scale-specific unique impacts. Examples discussed include air pollution and environmental change from wildfires, mining and urban activities. The examples are accompanied by geographic illustrations using Google Earth imagery. The paper concludes with the need for an awareness of the importance of scale, and the desirability of minimally distorted *scale perception* when engaged in comparative studies of environmental challenges.

**ECOLOGICAL DISASTERS AND THE COMMON LAW OF TORTS**

**Ronen Perry**  
University of Haifa

On March 24, 1989, an Exxon supertanker ran aground on Bligh Reef off the Alaskan coast, spilling millions of gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound. Exxon spent \$2.1 billion in cleanup efforts, pleaded guilty to criminal violations occasioning fines, settled a civil action by the United States and Alaska, and paid \$303 million in voluntary settlements with private parties. Subsequent civil litigation has spanned nearly two decades, resulted in a \$287 million compensatory damages award to commercial fishermen and Native Alaskans, and culminated in the recent US Supreme Court decision on the extent of punitive damages. The spill was at the time probably the worst environmental disaster in North American history, and sparked one of the most extensive and complex litigation ever, as well as vast academic literature. But the natural focus on concrete legal and procedural questions has left at least one abstract juridical puzzle unsolved.

My paper will uncover a fundamental yet unnoticed inconsistency in American land-based and maritime tort law that surfaced following the unprecedented spill. In recent literature, the understandable emphasis on the award of punitive damages has overshadowed an extremely important portion of the Exxon Valdez litigation, namely the wholesale rejection of numerous claims for purely economic loss by federal courts. Thus, on the one hand, liability for economic loss was strictly limited, leaving many victims uncompensated. On the other hand, liability was extended through a punitive damages award to a limited pool of successful claimants. I will contend that while these two components of the legal story might not seem incompatible from a simple doctrinal perspective, they are fundamentally inconsistent on a much deeper – justificatory – level. This inconsistency transcends the Exxon Valdez litigation: it is a troubling trait of land-based and maritime tort law, which happened to surface when the Exxon oil submerged. By uncovering this inconsistency, the paper will not only shed new light on the particular proceedings and on the common law of torts, but will also lay the foundation for a more holistic approach to legal reasoning.

## **CANADIAN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION**

**Du Qian**

North University for Nationalities

This paper consists of two sections. The first section, which covers conservation issues, has the following three points: Biodiversity's importance to humans, in both concrete and abstract ways; human activities and their impacts on the natural world; and finally what and how to conserve.

The second section reviews Canada's response to the biodiversity convention. On December 4, 1992, Canada became the first industrialized country to ratify the Biodiversity Convention. The Biodiversity Convention provides opportunities for Canada to re-examine its relationship with nature, create new global partnerships, harmonize its national activities, and develop new economic opportunities. A common understanding is that biodiversity is the environmental indicator of choice for sustainable development. In response to this obligation, a Federal-Provincial-Territorial Biodiversity Working Group was established with a mandate from parks, environment, wildlife, and forestry ministers to develop a Canadian Biodiversity Strategy. Over the last decade, federal, provincial, and territorial governments have developed and implemented a wide range of laws, policies, and programs that support these objectives. In this part, we review Canadian organizations, research and recommendations, Canadian legislation and education, and awareness related to biodiversity conservation to assess how well Canada is meeting the objectives of the Convention.

**À LA DÉCOUVERTE DU MONTRÉAL YIDDISH**

**Chantal Ringuet**  
University of Ottawa

Ville cosmopolite, Montréal a accueilli plusieurs flux migratoires au XXe siècle, à commencer par celui des Juifs ashkénazes d'Europe centre-orientale, qui y ont émigré massivement dès la Révolution russe de 1905. Ce mouvement de population, qui fut le plus important de l'histoire canadienne (Anctil, 1988 ; Fuks, 2005), eut pour conséquence l'implantation d'une culture yiddish dans la métropole. Grâce au travail acharné des premiers bâtisseurs, de nombreuses institutions caritatives et culturelles ont été fondées rapidement, sans compter la création d'une presse yiddish qui allait dominer en Amérique du Nord et d'une littérature yiddish qui demeure, aujourd'hui encore, la plus importante littérature en langue non-officielle au Canada (Anctil, 2005). Pendant un demi-siècle, l'environnement montréalais a donc été transformé par la culture yiddish, qui s'est imposée tout au long de la *Main*, où le yiddish était la langue la plus utilisée. De nos jours cependant, ce phénomène demeure peu connu, d'une part en raison du déclin du yiddish, qui est désormais une langue patrimoniale dans la ville et, d'autre part, parce qu'il en existe peu de traces, les anciens commerces, synagogues, écoles et autres institutions juives ayant été détruites ou utilisées à des fins de recyclage urbain.

Si la culture yiddish montréalaise a fait l'objet de plusieurs travaux au cours des dernières décennies (Anctil 1992, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2005, 2009 ; Simon, 2007 ; Anctil, Simon et Ravvin, 2007, Ringuet, 2009), elle demeure cependant méconnue du grand public. Afin de remédier partiellement à cette lacune, mon ouvrage intitulé *À la découverte du Montréal yiddish* brosse le portrait de la vie yiddish qui a animé la métropole jusqu'aux années 1980. Pour la première fois, un ouvrage sur le sujet est destiné à un vaste lectorat, qui sera ainsi en mesure de comprendre davantage l'histoire de la métropole québécoise. De plus, ce livre jettera un nouvel éclairage sur un important segment de la communauté juive montréalaise, qui demeure complexe à saisir d'un point de vue extérieur et qui suscite de nombreux malentendus, comme l'ont montré les débats entourant la Commission Bouchard-Taylor au Québec en 2007. Cette communication présentera les lignes directrices du livre *À la découverte du Montréal yiddish*, qui sera publié en français aux Éditions Fides au printemps 2010. Une version anglaise du livre est censée paraître à l'automne de la même année.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM  
IN THE CANADIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY**

**Ira Robinson**  
Concordia University

**Yosef Dov Robinson**  
Concordia University

Canadians in general are very environmentally conscious and concerned about the environmental challenges facing humanity both locally and on a global scale. In response to this strong and growing environmental concern, many Canadian activists are working to heighten public awareness of the environment and the consequences of environmental mismanagement, and to effect a fundamental change in the way Canadian governments, schools and businesses operate on all levels. It is fair to say that nearly all Canadian institutions have, in the last decade, begun a process of adaptation in line with these environmental concerns. These adaptations have had and will have far-reaching consequences for the institutions themselves and for society as a whole.

While it is clear that many of these Canadian environmental activists are of Jewish origin, most of them have chosen to influence society as environmentalists and not specifically as Jews. They have chosen to join environmental groups and coalitions with no reference to their religious or ethnic origins. This paper will not focus on them. It will rather examine the efforts of Canadian Jews who have chosen, as Jews, to work both to improve the environment and to educate the public on the relationship between Judaism and Judaic sources and the environmental issue.

In doing so, the paper will compare the Jewish efforts, which are the focus of this paper, with parallel efforts among other Canadian religious groups to promote environmental awareness in general, and more specifically on issues such as biodiversity, atmospheric ozone, and climate change. It will analyze and compare the platforms and activities of several Jewish environmentally focused groups, such as TEVA Quebec, that have arisen in cities like Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. It will address differences in approach between groups affiliated with specific Judaic movements, including Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist, as well as examining Jewish social justice organizations. The paper will also address the similarities and differences between the Canadian groups and Jewish environmental awareness groups in the United States and Israel.

In addition, the paper will examine the institutional response of the Canadian Jewish community to environmental activism. How do synagogues and other Canadian Jewish organizations perceive the environmental issue? In what ways are they beginning to respond and for what purposes?

**LONELINESS IN JAIL – WHAT CAUSES IT****Ami Rokach**

York University &amp;

The Centre for Academic Studies in Or Yehuda

It was suggested that a prison reality may contribute to prisoners' need to self-monitor and control their emotional and behavioral expressions. Such a prison mask often results in alienation, emotional flatness and distance, and withdrawal from social interaction. Some incarcerated individuals thus learn to be "invisible" and disconnected from others. They retreat into themselves, trust no one and lead isolated lives of quiet desperation. It was found that, consistent with previous suicide research, social alienation, deficient adaptive resources, life stress and hopelessness were among the major contributors to suicide and suicide ideation in the inmate population.

This study examined the influences of incarceration on perceived causes of loneliness. Further, the heterogeneous criminal population was divided into five more homogeneous subgroups whose loneliness experience was compared. These were sex offenders, violent offenders, property offenders, drug-related offenders and a category which contained all other miscellaneous offences. The study included 356 incarcerated Canadian male offenders and 501 males from the Canadian general population, all of whom were recruited on a voluntary basis. They reported, on an 82-item yes/no questionnaire, the perceived sources of their loneliness. The questionnaire was composed of five distinct factors. The most salient factor to emerge was Personal Inadequacies, which included items that addressed enduring personal characteristics and/or previous aversive experiences, which may result in low self-esteem, mistrust, fear of intimacy and feeling socially ill-at-ease. The second factor, Developmental Deficits, addressed the developmental and familial antecedents of adult loneliness, such as growing up in an inadequate or dysfunctional home that is characterized by emotionally distant or rejecting parents, psychological or physical abuse, and/or an atmosphere that is generally marred by upset and unhappiness. The third factor, Unfulfilling Intimate Relationships, acknowledged the impact of disappointing, hurtful and/or emotionally abusive intimate friendships on the development of loneliness. Factor four, Relocation/Significant Separations, captured the effects of the changes – and often loss of – important relationships that occur as a consequence of mobility or relocation. The fifth factor, Social Marginality, addressed the actual or perceived social rejection and distancing which criminals, the unemployed and the chronically ill commonly experience.

Results indicated significant differences in perceived causes of loneliness between the criminal and general populations and within the criminal sample when divided according to offence type.

**“A SHADOWY THREATENING MASS”:  
THE IMPACT OF A NON-CONTAINING FAMILY ENVIRONMENT,  
NANCY HUSTON’S *THE STORY OF OMAYA* AND ITS REFLECTION  
ON THE CHARACTER’S LIFE NARRATIVE**

**Danielle Schaub**  
Haifa University &  
Oranim College of Education

Nancy Huston’s *The Story of Omya* (1987) provides an interesting case for a discussion of psychopathological symptoms resulting from a non-containing environment in early childhood. The daughter of a brilliant scientist referred to as the Owl (probably on account of his tendency to disconnect from reality) and a mother named Cybele and obsessed with her research on the brain, Omya spent much time alone in her childhood, her anxieties and emotional needs left uncontained, securing fertile ground for psychotic development, the more so as the novel indicates that her father abused her sexually in her early childhood. Omya then grew up into an unstable young woman, frightened of any new situation, imagining threats everywhere and failing exams by messing her timetable. Eventually to escape from the preordained world her mother has planned for her, she becomes an actress and identifies with the characters she plays more than with herself. She starts living alone in a flat, getting moral support from her girlfriend Alix and her fellow actor Saroyan, to whom she clings by turn. Delusions and hallucinations already disturb her. Penny-less when the theatre company disbands, she ends up staying with friends until her internment in an asylum from which she escapes one night. During her escapade, she meets some men who rape her serially, leading to further psychotic reactions and traumatic stress.

The short summary of the novel already emphasizes the impact of the family environment. The psychoanalytical theories of Ferenczi (1931, 1932, 1933), Klein (1946), Bion (1959), Balint (1952, 1968) and Bick (1968, 1986) help to explain the behaviour, attitudes and thoughts of the protagonist in the novel. In turn a close look at the structure, imagery, diction and style of the novel highlights how the text reflects the psychopathology resulting from the lack of a containing environment. Since the protagonist’s divided train of thoughts centres on physical objects that “fight” against her, on irrational fears about the physical and human environment, on her inability to function, to orientate herself in town, to stick to timetables, to express herself coherently and cognitively, the narrative points to disjunction suiting her condition. Reflecting her instability and her perception of the environment as threatening by conveying hallucinations, deviations from normative perception, obsession with eyes and distressing thoughts, the narrative enhances the clinical interpretation all the more poignantly as its idiosyncratic structural, stylistic and linguistic nature suits the pathological perception of reality and thinking process resulting from a family environment not catering for the emotional needs of the protagonist as a child.

**RE-CONTEXTUALIZATION OF FIRST NATIONS'  
RESTORATIVE PRACTICES AND COMMUNITY HEALING IN ISRAEL**

**David Senesh**

Levinsky College of Education

Innovative perspectives on psychological problems and social disputes emphasize the importance of the community in managing conflicts and mediating solutions. Approaches that promote mental health through sociotherapy and restorative practices fail to embed those approaches within their cultural context. Exposure of pathological behaviors and harmful incidents in modern society, such as family and school violence, stir a process characterized by power struggles, labelling and estrangement that interferes with the delicate fabric of the family and the community. Professional agencies may fail to provide the necessary empathic holding and containing required when the individual and the family are in crisis, resulting in further disengagement and disintegration. In the “global Village” there is a growing quest for direct, interpersonal and non-professional ways of dealing with conflict that counter formal methods that foster alienation. Drawing on traditional ways of relating to child abuse by First Nations people in Canada, one may demonstrate how non-adversarial community-based healing programs assume responsibility rather than blame, propose restitution rather than punishment, and facilitate re-integration of the offender and the abused in their community. Different stepwise processes of healing are proposed by different communities and programs. The central notion is one of cooperation within the community, governed by the local leadership of elders, supported by professional counsellors and mental health workers, integrating traditional ceremonies with up-to-date therapeutic methods. In addition, aboriginal traditions also advocate for restorative practices of justice whereby the emphasis is placed on repairing the harm done to people and relationships (through re-integrative shaming, assuming responsibility for the offense and repairing its consequences, apologizing and serving the community) rather than just punishing the offenders or providing monetary compensation for the victims. The healing processes are taking place when the relevant parties themselves, through ad-hoc circles and conferences rather than the authorities, are engaged in the management of the conflict, while family and significant others in the (school) community are taking part in this semi-formal process. Formal and professional agents are involved merely as facilitators and/or supervisors in the process and its evaluation. In order to fully understand the significance and efficiency of such strategies, it is imperative to conceptualize them within their original traditional civilizations and ways of life. The purpose of this project is to study the deep-rooted philosophies underlying those surface practices in order to gain deeper understanding and revitalization of these interventions rather than just attending to their technical employment. This anthropological view is most critical when debating current formal ways of therapy and punitive policies of justice.



## **CANADA AND RUSSIA: ENERGY PROFILES AND CHALLENGES**

**Vassili Sokolov**

Russian Academy of Sciences

In the area of energy, both Canada and Russia have many similarities: large energy resources, export-oriented energy industries, the special role of the energy sector in economic development, similar patterns in energy production and identical profiles of domestic energy consumption. The similarities can be also found in the institutional approaches to energy management. Both countries play a visible role in the formation of the world energy market.

Analyzing the specific features and trends in these countries, the author emphasizes the Canadian policies resulting, particularly, in a more balanced economic structure (the energy sector in Canada provides 7.2 % of the GDP, while in Russia it is almost 30%); in the diversification of energy sources (oil sands and renewables); and in the creation of a national basis for sustainable energy development.

Among energy challenges, the following issues are discussed: Energy use efficiency, the risks for domestic development of export commitments, upcoming climate change requirements for the energy sector and current debates on Arctic potential energy reserves. These challenges create the basis for both competition and cooperation.

**MEMORY AND GLOBALIZATION**

**Christina Stojanova**  
University of Regina

Since the early 1990s, memory practices have enjoyed an emphatic presence in the arts, stimulated by millennial angst, but also by the expansion of historical scholarship and the ever insatiable museum culture, increasingly interested in personalizing traumatic historical events like the Holocaust and the residential schools, to name but a few, hidden in family archives, albums, and home movies. Moments of extreme duress in the present – mostly related to the loss of people’s natural habitat, which in Regina and the environs is mostly farming – have also galvanized the mnemonic desires. The inevitable result of the increasing pressure of social and environmental changes is loosening of familial, communal and national bonds. The resultant fear of identity loss has triggered an unprecedented rise of visual self-archiving – photographs, “face-bookings”, blogs, home movies, etc., as well as equally unprecedented interest of the legitimate media and cinema – documentary and fictional – in private, first-hand records of dramatic moments in the everyday life of ordinary people. Indeed, in the face of environmental catastrophe, memory has become an aesthetic trend in its own right.

The proposed paper will discuss recent films by two Regina filmmakers – Steve Suderman and Brian Stockton, and their very different artistic approaches to personal memories and, more specifically, to home movies or films featuring their families – in the light of current environmental discourses and the innovative aesthetics of memory. The works under scrutiny will be discussed also in light of their successful production practices, specific to Regina (the FilmPool and the U of Regina support, to name a couple), and in conjunction with the global resonance of the issues they engage with: the tragic loss of a family farm due to the global commercialization of agricultural production (Suderman), and the problematic negotiation of a Regina identity vis-à-vis the sweeping transformation of the quiet rural town to an industrial centre of a booming – and controversial – economy. The paper will engage paradigmatic Saskatchewan cultural discourses such as local tradition versus commercialization and globalization, rural versus urban identity and “discrepant” cosmopolitanism, etc.

**“WE’RE IN THIS TOGETHER”:  
BRIAN BRETT’S *TRAUMA FARM* AS AUTOECOGRAPHY**

**Bina Toledo Freiwald**  
Concordia University

Canadian writer Brian Brett's *Trauma Farm: A Rebel History of Rural Life* (2009) is an autobiography with a difference; an impressive example of what recent scholars of autobiography, approaching the genre from the perspective of ecocriticism, have named eco-autobiography (Peter Perrenten) or natural biography (Nathan Clark Straight), and what I will refer to as autoecography. In Brett's memoir of life on a small farm, *bios* – the middle term of the genre's three constitutive elements (*autos*/self; *bios*/life history; *graphe*/writing) – has given way to *ecos* (literally dwelling), for Brett's is a self whose life and story are inextricable from the planetary “stream of everything” (*Trauma Farm* 366) that is ultimately our only home. The relation to the world one inhabits has always been a central preoccupation of autobiographical writing. In her groundbreaking study *Autobiography: Toward a Poetics of Experience*, Janet Varner Gunn argued that the real question of the autobiographical self is not “who am I?” but “where do I belong? . . . The question of the self's identity becomes a question of the self's location in a world.” In autoecography, that world is conceived in the broadest ecological terms, so that what is foregrounded are “the links between environment and identity. . . the connections between self and place [are explored in the] service of sustainable models of identity and inhabitation” (Nathan Clark Straight). Tellingly, the concluding lines of *Trauma Farm* are an affirmation of belonging that is also a celebration of our existence within an ecological web we can only ignore at our peril: “I think I'm home, living on the land. We're in this together – the wild, the domestic, the wormy, the laughing ones and the weepers, black dogs and Buddhas, all of us divine in our diversity – our orgiastic, gorgeous confusion – all of us dancing in the stream of everything” (366). The paper will draw on both autobiography theory and ecocriticism to approach Brett's memoir. Ecocriticism, Greg Garrard writes, is “the study of the relationship of the human and the non-human,” a perspective that ultimately entails an interrogation “of the term ‘human’ itself.” Brett's *Trauma Farm* provides us with an opportunity to explore what “human” might come to mean when the vantage point for such a reflection is the experience of living on the land. Farming, Brett writes, is “all earth,” and holding a handful of that earth is holding in one's hands “the most diverse ecosystem of them all” (80), another reminder that we are all “in this together.” The paper will examine *Trauma Farm* as an expansive and stylistically rich work that invites analysis of its many facets: its stance on particular environmental issues; its reimagining, from an ecological perspective, of such key aspects of human selfhood as the experience of time, memory, home, community, and the senses; its imaginative use of language and a non-linear narrative structure as means to animate the representation of an alternative relation of the human to the natural environment and all that populates it.

**THE CHALLENGE OF ESTABLISHING PUBLIC LIABILITY  
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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The Supreme Court of Canada has recognized that protecting the environment is both one of the “fundamental values” of Canadian society and a challenge of “superordinate importance.” In Canada and elsewhere, citizens look to government as the chief protector of the environment. As guardian of the public interest, this is a logical role for government to fulfill. But if government misuses its discretion and thereby fails to protect the environment, to what extent can citizens take legal action to enforce governmental stewardship responsibilities?

Traditionally, public law has provided the basis for holding government accountable for how successfully it discharges its environmental obligations. However, in Canada, jurisdictional matters and the structure of existing environmental laws make this difficult. Existing standards of judicial review under administrative law afford substantial deference to discretionary decisions and thus also limit governmental accountability. As a result, litigants have increasingly turned to private law causes of action, such as the law of negligence.

This paper will explore the potential to expand the use of private law methods of holding Canadian governments accountable for their actions or inaction in addressing environmental harm. In particular, it will examine whether it is possible to hold government to the standards of a fiduciary or trustee. The paper suggests that imposing fiduciary accountability on government for environmental policies and their implementation provides greater scope for courts to review governmental actions to ensure their consistency with the dictates of equity than administrative standards of reasonableness or lesser duties of care in tort.

The paper will contend that tempering governmental power by fiduciary constraints is consistent with the notion of government as fiduciary that is foundational to theories of popular sovereignty. The paper will demonstrate that Canadian courts have provided a foundation for such a finding through cases characterizing the relationship between the federal Crown and Canada’s Aboriginal peoples as fiduciary and those suggesting that ministerial decision-making may, in appropriate situations, beget fiduciary responsibility. These precedents have tremendous implications for the exercise of governmental power over the environment.