



# HERITAGE, MEMORY AND VITALITY OF LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

RESEARCH ADVANCES, BEST PRACTICES,  
AND CRITICAL APPROACHES

MAY 4-5, 2021  
ONLINE



Conference organized by



**ICRL**  
Institut canadien  
de recherche  
sur les minorités  
linguistiques

**CIRLM**  
Canadian Institute  
for Research  
on Linguistic  
Minorities



The Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise (Secrétariat) is pleased to participate in this virtual conference.

Because of their smaller numbers, minority language communities here and elsewhere face significant challenges, including the preservation of their language and culture.

This conference is a unique opportunity to exchange best practices in the field of linguistic heritage preservation. It is a unique opportunity to network and strengthen the vitality of these minority language communities.

Since 2017, the Secrétariat has been supporting English-speaking organizations in Québec and ensuring that the concerns of English-speaking communities are considered in government decisions and directions. We are pleased to support this conference, a relevant initiative for minority language communities in Québec and elsewhere.

We warmly thank QUESCREEN for organizing this event. With its extensive program, this conference is undoubtedly a golden opportunity to enrich and expand the horizons of its participants.

CHRISTOPHER SKEETE

Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers

Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister Responsible for the Fight Against Racism

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**Secrétariat aux relations  
avec les Québécois  
d'expression anglaise**

**Québec** 

# HERITAGE, MEMORY AND VITALITY OF LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

RESEARCH ADVANCES, BEST PRACTICES, AND CRITICAL APPROACHES

May 4-5, 2021

88<sup>e</sup> congrès de l'Acfas

Université de Sherbrooke & Bishop's University

## DESCRIPTION

The conference will explore links between heritage, memory and the vitality of linguistic minorities in Canada and the world.

One of our objectives is to assess the role of minority community memory through case studies of practices highlighting different aspects of communities' pasts. How do we remember today? What histories do minority communities construct? How do they do so? What is the influence of social relationships, both within communities and with majorities, on this construction of the past? How do minority communities relate to their pasts, and how do these relationships contribute to present-day community development? The conference will focus on practices and places that transmit community memory and history at the local, regional, national, and international levels.

We will also reflect on how groups and individuals from these communities use ideas about heritage and history. How do their discourses and practices contribute to minority language community vitality (Giles, Bourhis and Taylor)? How do they navigate the tensions between heritage and history? Lowenthal differentiates the historical discipline, which is meant to be objective and disinterested, and heritage, which aims to inform the present: "We use heritage to improve the past, making it better (or worse) by modern lights."

We are likewise interested in the commodification of minority community heritage and memory activities. How does the past translate into a tourism industry and tourism products (museums, exhibitions, guided tours)? What is the economic impact of these activities and to what extent, if any, is "scientific credibility" (Goulding) sacrificed? What is the "heritage industry" in a minority language environment, and what opportunities and risks does it present? Given such cultural and economic issues, how can an open dialogue about the strengths and weaknesses of these constructed histories take place?





## ORGANIZERS

This conference is organized by the Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network (QUESCREN) and the Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities (CIRLM).

Established in 2008 at Concordia University, **QUESCREN** is a collaborative network of researchers, stakeholders, and educational and other institutions that improves understanding of Quebec's English-speaking communities and promotes their vitality.

Established in 2002 at the Université de Moncton, **CIRLM** is a centre of excellence whose role is to lead, bring together and partner with research centres, researchers, community agencies and government bodies in order to promote a greater knowledge of the status of Canada's official language minorities and a better understanding of the priority issues that concern them.



## EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Patrick Donovan, QUESCREN (Chair),  
Dr. Éric Forgues, CIRLM,  
Dr. Lorraine O'Donnell, QUESCREN,  
Dr. Srilata Ravi, University of Alberta, and  
Dr. Anne Robineau, CIRLM.



May 4, 2021

9:00 AM (EST)  
OPENING  
REMARKS

Patrick Donovan, QUESCREN  
William Floch, Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise  
Anne Robineau, CIRLM

9:10 AM  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Tintin, a historian in the memory-driven land of francophone minorities**

Yves Frenette, Université de Saint-Boniface  
Présidence : Éric Forgues, CIRLM

The role of historians in all societies is to help build a memory tracing a common thread through the past, present and future. However, through their methodical investigations, their contribution to the collective memory is different from that of other actors. Despite being engaged citizens, historians must also stay at arm's length from both the actors of the past and their own convictions.

This balance can be difficult to maintain for historians of Francophone communities. Marginalized in a number of ways, these communities are continuously seeking justice and recognition. In their struggle, spokespersons for minorities redouble their references to the Francophones' deep roots in the national or provincial territory. Too often, they view historians as wise commemorators who use their expertise to reinforce accepted ideas of the past. But is that truly the role of historians?

Language of presentation:  
French, with English  
translation

10:10 AM  
BREAK

10:25 AM  
PANEL 1

**HERITAGE PRACTICES: MYTHS AND REALITIES**

Moderator: Anne Robineau, CIRLM

**The pitfalls and opportunities of Franco-Ontarian history consultancy:  
Experiences from the books on Dubreuilville and the Moulin-à-Fleur, 2019-...**

Serge Dupuis, Université Laval

Professors are too busy to carry out all the projects they are asked to do and communities lack the expertise—and often the resources—to highlight their unique history.

That is why I decided to use my expertise to write publications (articles, studies or monographs), most often to highlight the anniversary of an organization, policy or place that relates to Canada's Francophonie.

Though writing for a patron or client can give you privileged access to documents and stories, some methodological and ethical challenges may arise if the financial backer is also an interested party.

How do you produce a study that is both objective and helpful in advancing knowledge, while making the process and the outcome stimulating for readers and clients, without erring towards excessive optimism or complacency?

Such are the dilemma and opportunity for history consultants.

This presentation is a review of my experience with my first major project (Dubreuilville) and the most recent (Moulin-à-Fleur) to highlight what I learned about understanding and consideration.

Language of presentation:  
French, with English  
translation



May 4, 2021

10:25 AM  
PANEL 1

### Intangible heritage: Legacy of a fragmented memory – the case of Ihitoussen, a community of Kabyle blacksmiths

Massinissa Saidani, Université Abderrahman Mira de Bejaia, Algeria

Our research proposal was to study the collective memory passed down orally in Kabylia by focusing on Ihitoussen, a Kabyle village. To do so, we opted for an anthropological approach that interprets the “social frameworks of the individual and collective memory” of the legends “that we collected from the social group under study.”

The group, according to its stories, came from somewhere else, outside of North Africa, and has an implicit connection to Jewish ancestors descending from King David the prophet and an explicit connection to Arabs descending from the prophet Muhammad. Puzzled, we attempted to refute this common, critical thread with specific questions. How did this Berber social group from Kabylia manage to construct these self-denying stories? Are there other contradictory stories and can they be explained? Is this phenomenon specific to this group? If this inclination is common to all of Kabylia and all Berber groups, how can it be explained? Is there a movement refuting these alienating contentions in the profile of the Middle East?

Language of presentation:  
French, with English  
translation

11:10 AM  
BREAK

11:25 AM  
PANEL 2

### HERITAGE AND ARCHIVES

Moderator: Lorraine O'Donnell, QUESCREN

#### Archival presents and futures: Proactive archiving with Quebec's English-speaking communities

Glenn Patterson, Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network

This presentation explores the potentials and practice of proactive archiving, an approach to archival access that can transform archives from a passive repository of “raw” research materials towards a space of encounter between an enlarged community of cultural stakeholders including community members, practitioners, researchers, collectors, educators, and archivists. Drawing on scholarship and ten years experience engaging English-speaking Quebecers in the archiving and dissemination of their musical heritage, the author will explore how archives can participate more directly in the creation of collective memory in minority communities.

Language of presentation:  
English, with French  
translation

#### From the vitality of memory to documentary heritage: How Library and Archives Canada [LAC] supports archives and libraries serving OLMCs

Alain Roy, Library and Archives Canada

Supporting the development of official language minority communities (OLMCs) is a special challenge for memory institutions such as Library and Archives Canada (LAC). LAC has responded with a three-pronged approach.

The first step is to define a conceptual foundation for the memory institutions by reviewing the concept of “vitality” to ensure it includes memory and heritage and by integrating the historicity of communities, a major aspect of their identity. This memory, which has many forms, becomes a crucial vector of vitality.

Next, LAC supports more significantly organizations involved with the documentary heritage of OLMCs. Two archive and library networks are emerging and consolidating their roles as cultural hubs. This has led to an upcoming national archives conference and the launch of a research project on library standards and policies. Lastly, the work on the vitality of memory enhances the support granted to communities, of which \$1.8 million, or 24% of the contributions in the last five years, has gone to OLMCs.

Language of presentation:  
French, with English  
translation

12:10 PM  
LUNCH

May 4, 2021



1:45 PM  
PANEL 3

## TEACHING HISTORY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Moderator: Patrick Donovan, QUESCREN

### Developing a framework for school-community local history projects

Benjamin Loomer, Leading English Education and Resource Network (LEARN)

For the past ten years, primary and secondary students in English-language schools in Quebec have been participating in intergenerational projects resulting in a published work (paper or Internet) which celebrate various aspects of the history and heritage of Quebec's English speakers. The projects are designed by teachers and local community partners.

Ben Loomer, from the LEARN organization, describes the collaborative process implemented for these projects and identifies the decisive gaps and opportunities to launch more community/school initiatives. Through these projects, youth are encouraged to research social movements or significant local events, and to strengthen their understanding of the concepts of identity and belonging.

Here are some of the topics covered:

- > What are significant events or periods in Quebec's English Speaking Community and how do they fit into larger historical narratives?
- > What methods and methodology can be shared with teachers and students to support historical and personal investigations?
- > What opportunities exist for partners to collaborate with schools in a meaningful way to mentor a new generation of active citizens engaged in local heritage and identify with the English Speaking Community?

Language of presentation:  
English, with French  
translation

2:15 PM  
BREAK



May 4, 2021

2:30 PM  
ROUNDTABLE  
DISCUSSION

**HERITAGE AND MEMORY IN THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS**

Moderator: Lorraine O' Donnell, QUESCREN

Participants:  
Rachel Hunting, Townshippers' Association  
Grant Myers, Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network  
Fabian Will, Eastern Townships Resource Centre

Language of presentation:  
English, with French  
translation

3:30 PM  
END OF MAY 4 PROGRAM

May 5, 2021

9:30 AM  
PANEL 4

**MEMORIES AND IDENTITIES**

Moderator: Anne Robineau, CIRLM

**Memory and identity experiences in Acadia**

Éric Forgues, CIRLM

We examine the results of a study on the memory work conducted in various historical locations in Acadia. We wanted to learn more about the motivations and objectives of those who organize memory-based activities, as well as the experiences of those who participate in these activities. We viewed memory-based activities as cultural performances (Alexander, 2006) that must meet certain conditions to be effective and produce results in the participants. We analyzed the methods used to produce these cultural performances based on the organizers' objectives.

The analysis was based on documents from the memory locations under study, interviews with organizers and visitors, and direct observations. It showed that memory locations provide a framework setting the scene for Acadian history, thanks to performances that occasionally combine historical fact and fiction, giving rise to symbolic constructions setting the present against a historical backdrop. These performances create meaningful experiences for the participants, particularly regarding their identity.

Language of presentation:  
French, with English  
translation

**Phantom identities: The impact of the settlement structure on local memory and collective action (Kent County, New Brunswick)**

Mathieu Wade, Université de Moncton

Kent County is one of the most rural and sparsely populated counties in New Brunswick. None of the municipalities has more than 2,500 residents, and nearly 70% of the population lives in non-incorporated areas. For a long time, this mainly Acadian country was one of the poorest and least educated in the country.

I will propose that the settlement structure of Kent County be viewed as a heritage and will attempt to link this legacy to the vitality of its communities.

I will investigate historical links between the area's settlement structure and its economic model. Colonial export routes profoundly influenced the territory's development, its settlement policies and the national Acadian ideology.

I will discuss the types of communities that formed within this settlement structure and provide a summary of the major amateur production of local history monographs.

I posit that this territorial heritage has created phantom identities that, like phantom limbs, can still be felt, though they can no longer act.

Language of presentation:  
French, with English  
translation





May 5, 2021

9:30 AM  
PANEL 4

### Social history initiative to capture social change efforts in the Black community of Montreal, 1970-2020

Leith Hamilton, Unitas Hub for Social Change  
Kevin George, CLSC de Saint-Henri

The Black Community of Montreal needs to build the institutional and political power in order to make Black lives matter and for the Black community to thrive in Quebec and Canada. The proposed initiative to capture the Oral History of Social Change Efforts in the Black Community 1970-2020 aims to identify what worked, what didn't succeed, and what could be improved. Identifying a desired future which promotes sustainable and effective social change efforts will emerge from these conversations which bring together for the first time: elders who were involved in community building and anti-racism efforts, present cohort of organizational leadership, along with young people / students looking to contribute to community building. These stories will be shared at a community summit using a variety of dissemination strategies in order to communicate what were the components that facilitated engagement of a broad cross section of the Black community in change: the strengths, values, democratic/ participatory frameworks, cultural richness and spiritual heritage of the Black Church. Change efforts have largely gone undocumented. A final step will focus on identifying lessons learned and forging a desired future of social change efforts.

Language of presentation:  
English, with French translation

### Between heritage and modernity: Youths from the Lower St. Lawrence's English-speaking community

Emanuele Lucia, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca

We can trace the arrival of English in the Lower St. Lawrence to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the settlement of forty or so Scottish families in Metis Beach, and a few decades later, with the arrival of summer residents. In 2016, the whole of the Lower St. Lawrence had a permanent minority of 1,225 English speakers. However, Metis Beach remains a popular summer destination for Anglophones, and it is often referred to as the hub of this linguistic minority in the Lower St. Lawrence, even though the permanent English-speaking community extends across the entire territory. We interviewed Anglophone and bilingual youths aged 16 to 25 who are permanent residents of the area to draw a portrait of today's community, particularly in terms of identity and belonging. The young people's reported identity and belonging were more diverse and pluralistic than they had ever been for the older generation. They recognize and are involved in the historical Anglophone community connected to Metis Beach and its heritage, but they also have more contemporary linguistic practices that contribute to the creation of a more diverse contemporary Anglophone community. These youths not only preserve but also breathe new life into the community with their unique territorial and linguistic practices.

Language of presentation:  
French, with English translation

10:45 AM  
BREAK





## IDENTITY-BUILDING PROJECTS IN FRENCH CANADA

Moderator: Éric Forgues, CIRLM

### Meeting of the migratory past and present: The emergence of the Franco-Yukon minority identity story through an art intervention research project)

Marie-Hélène Comeau, Independent Researcher

My presentation examines the heritage and memory transmission of a young Francophone minority community in the North, in a migratory context. In doing so, I will refer to the results of my recent art intervention study conducted for the art studies and practice program at the Université du Québec à Montréal. For this qualitative research, I used a flexible, art-based approach, while initiating an identity reflection on the past and present stories of the individuals in a sharing and listening context.

Accordingly, female Franco-Yukon participants were given the opportunity to share their micro-stories by taking part in a creative process combining the past of their place of origin with their present lives in the Yukon. Drawing on emotions and senses of the identity passage told through the piece, art in a minority setting was a preferred way to access the community heritage by promoting the emergence and transmission of each person's private stories.

Language of presentation:  
French, with English translation

### PassepART: A new microfinancing initiative focusing on the arts, culture and heritage as a vector of identity and of linguistic and cultural security

Hélène Guillemette, Fédération culturelle canadienne française  
Marie-Christine Morin, Fédération culturelle canadienne-française  
Annette Boudreau, Université de Moncton

Does participating in arts, culture and heritage activities help consolidate the Francophone identity, the feeling of belonging to a French-speaking community but with openness to the other solitude? Moreover, do arts, culture and heritage have an impact on the linguistic and cultural security of French speakers in a minority setting? That is what we intend to examine by drawing inspiration from the PassepART program, a national microfinancing program that aims to offer more arts, culture and heritage activities to 700 Francophone schools in minority settings, from kindergarten to grade 12.

We will also highlight the importance of going into the field to make sure the program's delivery mechanism is meeting the expectations and needs of the community organizations and the school partners. This agile delivery mechanism is in fact a distinctive component of the program as it provides the infrastructure necessary to facilitate communication and collaboration between the world of academia and the world of arts, culture and heritage to better answer the needs of Francophone students in a minority setting.

Language of presentation:  
French, with English translation

### Integrating literary aspects and remnants of the built heritage in the Place des Arts du Grand Sudbury

Stéphane Gauthier, Le Carrefour francophone de Sudbury

The project to build a cultural gathering place in the Nickel Capital was made possible thanks to the involvement of the *Regroupement des organismes culturels du Grand Sudbury* (Greater Sudbury association of cultural organizations). With the goal of building a Francophonie centre in the heart of an urban landscape, the group designed the Place des arts du Grand Sudbury as a centre of excellence and a shared space.

How did this major project go from improbable dream to a work of memory, in dialogue with the imaginary world of Nouvel-Ontario and vestiges of the physical heritage?

Here is an excerpt of the metaphor the architects worked with:

Imagine a building emerging from the landscape as if certain shapes had always been there, a natural part of the urban panorama. Like a "rock pregnant with holy poetry" (Patrice Besbiens). But also like the result of an impact, a cultural big bang whose shock waves keep radiating out, connecting the past to the future.

A symbolic work that is also meant to draw tourists, the Place des arts will be completed later this year. The city's history, the Francophone presence and the Nouvel-Ontario cultural movement will be interwoven within its walls.

Language of presentation:  
French, with English translation



12:00 PM  
LUNCH

1:30 PM  
PANEL 6

**SEIGNEURS, NUNS AND TENANTS: FROM THE PAST TO THE PRESENT**

Moderator: Patrick Donovan, QUESCREN

**Canada's female health heritage: Between feminine and religious ethics**

Boniface Bahi, University of Alberta

A study of the Grey Nuns' mission in Western Canada reveals a wide-ranging health and social work vocation. They left their historical mark on the social genesis of the hospital system in Western Canada and Northern Ontario. As a whole, it appears to be based on an ethic that is at once female and religious. The pioneers of this movement were more motivated by social causes than by religious ones. The transformation of their initial project into a health and social engineering project that preserves and maintains the French language in Western Canada remains relevant to this day. New health strategies are being developed to improve the overall health of the community. The inheritor of this project, the Health Corporation of Manitoba, maintains and manages the health and hospital legacy left by the Grey Nuns.

The goal is to highlight the immense contribution of women in the social and medical edification of the Canadian federation and the relevance of this contribution. Our soon-to-be published study was based on an ethno-epidemiological approach. This was combined with documentary research on related historical sources.

Language of presentation:  
French, with English translation

**Chronicles of English-speaking seigneurial families in Quebec: From otherness to understanding**

Benoit Grenier, Université de Sherbrooke

After the conquest, the British minority in Quebec started acquiring seigneurial property, and by the time seigneurial tenure was abolished in 1854, it owned nearly 50% of such holdings. Although Anglo-Protestant seigneurial landlords thus formed a quasi-majority within the group, they nonetheless remained merely one component of Quebec's "English" linguistic and cultural minority. Socio-economically, linguistically and religiously, these families were an embodiment of otherness. What was their experience with the primarily Catholic French-Canadian population? What bonds did they share with other seigneurial families, those of French ancestry? And what memory has been preserved and passed down? These questions were addressed during an oral history investigation conducted with descendants of Quebec's Francophone and Anglophone seigneurial families. It has resulted in an idealization, even a folklorization, of the seigneur/tenant relationship, far removed from the conflicts read about in archives, but also an affirmation of the shared elite values marked by bilingualism and biculturalism, which have been passed down to their descendants.

Language of presentation:  
French, with English translation

2:35 PM  
BREAK



May 5, 2021



2:50 PM  
KEYNOTESPEAKER

**"You don't have a history": Passion as the counter narrative of heritage, history, and archives**

Dorothy Williams, Concordia University  
Moderator: Lorraine O'Donnell, QUESCREN

My talk describes my lifelong journey as a historian, heritage activist and librarian-archivist, focussed on recovering and sharing the history of Quebec's and Canada's English-speaking Black communities.

I will refer to the background story of writing my three groundbreaking books: Blacks in Montreal 1628-1986: An Urban Demography (1989); The Road to Now: A History of Blacks in Montreal (1997) and finally, Les noirs à Montréal, 1628-1986: essai de démographie urbaine (1998), as well as several dozen articles.

Language of presentation:  
English, with French translation

3:50 PM  
CLOSING  
REMARKS

Lorraine O'Donnell, QUESCREN  
Éric Forgues, CIRLM



THANK YOU TO OUR FINANCIAL PARTNERS



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Cover image: Making hay around 1910, Frelighsburg, Quebec.  
(Eastern Townships Resource Centre / Herbert Derick collection P058)