

WHAT PLACE SHOULD ANGLOPHONES HAVE IN QUEBEC'S COLLECTIVE NARRATIVE?

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ONE-DAY SEMINAR

Concordia University, Hall Building 1455 De Maisonneuve West, Room H-767
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SEMINAR CONTEXT

In the mid-1990s, the Task Force on the Teaching of History suggested that Quebec history in schools be more representative of the province's English-speaking communities. To this end, the Task Force recommended three main goals: To somehow break free from the dichotomous paradigm that underlies general conceptions of Francophone-Anglophone relations in Quebec; to acknowledge English-speakers as co-builders of Quebec society; and to formulate the contours of a historical storyline that would foster harmonious co-existence between the two communities.

Fifteen years later, one can ask what has changed. The Task Force's suggestion of developing a historical storyline has apparently faced some obstacles, especially since integrating the "English factor" into Quebec's narrative space seems to be more difficult than imagined. Not only is there strong resistance to any attempt at modifying the framework of Quebec's overarching collective identity, but also advances made in historical research have failed to weaken the grasp of Quebec's collective memory on the historical consciousness of its citizens. Generally speaking, in terms of history teaching, many educators still seem to have a hard time viewing Anglophones in Quebec's past in a positive light. And finally, despite existing willingness to re-imagine the common past, many Francophones and Anglophones still seem to preserve rigid visions of each other that have been sustained over time. Consequently, Francophones do not necessarily consider Anglophones as forming part of a common "We," while Anglophones hesitate to identify with this "We" that in fact feels distant, if not distinct.

Given such impediments today, would it still be possible to fit the "English" factor into Quebec's collective history and thus meet the expectations of the Lacoursière Task Force? In other words, would it be possible to develop a sufficiently subtle and complex – or even "accurate" – vision of Quebec's historical experience that would include Anglophones in an overarching collective narrative without belittling the weight of past events, while also permitting society to move forward into the future?

The aims of this one-day Seminar are two-fold:

- To review the difficulties, problems, sticking points, and complications that the inclusion of Anglophones in the history of Quebec may raise.
- To contemplate an inclusive historical narrative that integrates the experiences of Quebec's English-speaking communities, while also respecting the limits that both the factual record and political sensitivity impose on narrating the past.

PROGRAM

Speakers, discussants, or members of the audience may speak in either English or French.

Admission is free. **RSVP required:** 11fevfeb2011@gmail.com

8:15 Welcome (coffee and muffins)

8:50 Opening remarks

I. ASSESSING THE CURRENT SITUATION

9:00 **Donald Fyson**, Université Laval: The place of Anglophones in Quebec historiography

9:30 Discussion: **Rod MacLeod**, Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network

10:00 **Roxane de la Sablonnière**, Université de Montréal: The place of Anglophones in Quebec collective memory

- Professor de la Sablonnière will be presenting the following paper, co-authored by Evelyne Bougie, Esther Osborne, and Donald M. Taylor: "The cultural narratives of Francophone and Anglophone Quebecers: Using a historical perspective to explore the relationships among collective relative deprivation, in-group entitativity, and collective esteem."

10:30 Discussion: **Louis-Georges Harvey**, Bishop's University

11:00 Break

11:15 **Paul Zanazanian**, Université Laval/Concordia University: The place of Anglophones in Quebec history classrooms

11:45 Discussion: **Matthew Russell**, D'Arcy McGee High School, Gatineau

12:15 Lunch (provided by the organizers)

II. EXPLORING POSSIBLE HISTORICAL STORYLINES

All three speakers will address the following question: If you were to produce a new history of Quebec, how would you treat the questions of the presence, the place and the realities of English-speakers in this history?

13:30 **Ronald Rudin**, Concordia University

14:00 **Peter Gossage**, Concordia University

14:30 **Lorraine O'Donnell**, Concordia University/CIRLM (Moncton)

15:00 Break

15:15 Discussion: **Christian Laville**, Université Laval

16:45 General conclusion

17:00 Closing remarks