



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

AISC 2021

TRADITIONS AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

Bologna

2 – 4 December 2021

Synthesis

Annual Conference of the Italian Association of Canadian Studies, organized in Bologna and online from December 2-4, 2021, under the patronage of the Embassy of Canada in Italy, in collaboration with Italian institutions (LILEC - Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Teatro del Baraccano, Opificio delle Acque, MET - Cantieri Meticci, Centro di Studi Canadesi, We Tell, Università Giustino Fortunato, Università di Napoli L'Orientale, ARCHI - Applying Research Cultural Heritage & Innovation, Canali di Bologna, CLOPEX) and Canadian institutions (University of Toronto, the Italian Cultural Institute of Toronto, St. Michael College of the University of Toronto). Michael College of the University of Toronto). Guest speakers: **Rea Beaumont** (University of Toronto), **Shelley Hornstein** (York University), **Linda Hutcheon & Michael Hutcheon** (University of Toronto). Conference languages: Italian, English, French.

The conference can be attended (registration required) and online. All information is available on the conference website: <https://eventi.unibo.it/aisc2021>

Text

On Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., at the Teatro del Baraccano (via del Baraccano, 2), the annual conference of the Italian Association of Canadian Studies, under the patronage of the Canadian Embassy in Italy, will open with the title TRADITIONS AND SOCIAL INNOVATION.

The conference aims to investigate the study of the most recent adaptations and mutations of the Canadian reality by addressing its literary, linguistic, cultural, sociological, technological, legal,

environmental, economic, and political aspects. The conference will open with a panel entitled “Our Home on Native Land”, dedicated to the exploration of Canada's new indigenous reality, also in the light of the colonial past. It will continue with a plenary lecture by **Linda Hutcheon & Michael Hutcheon** (University of Toronto) on *'Make it New' (Again): Canadian Opera, Past and Future*. The day's events will continue with a tribute to Raymond Murray Schafer, the Canadian father of the soundscape, remembered by composer **Rea Beaumont** with a talk entitled *Exploring R. Murray Schafer's Work in the Context of Transforming Tradition and (Re-) Tuning the World*. The first day will end with a special event dedicated to music: from 7 to 9 p.m. the students of the Conservatory, coordinated by Paolo Granata and Teo Ciavarella, will perform together with the artists Rea Beaumont, Dominic Mancuso, Hannah Burgé and Francesco Benozzo in a series of musical dialogues between tradition and innovation.

The conference will continue Friday 3 December at LILEC (via Cartoleria 5) at 9.15 a.m., with a session on “History/memory between past and present”, which will retrace the history of immigration to Canada; also in the morning, the third session, “Rethinking Languages and Languages”, will deal with the linguistic complexities linked to multilingualism in Canada. The work will continue in the afternoon at the Opificio delle Acque (Via Monaldo Calari, 15) from 2.30 p.m. with the sessions “Voices from Québec between past and present” and “Community, Art and Urban Space”. This will be followed by a plenary lecture by **Shelley Hornstein** on *Past Perfect: Architectural Tourism, Heritage conundrums and Place Revisited*. The day will end with a special event entitled “Cultural Welfare, Art and Public Space”, coordinated by Paolo Granata (University of Toronto) and Martin Stiglio (ARCHI), involving Sara Diamond (OCAD University), Roberto Grandi (Bologna Business School), Fabiola Naldi (University of Bologna), Daniel Silver (University of Toronto).

The conference will end on the morning of Saturday 4 December, from 10.15 a.m., at SPAZIO MET-BO (Via Massimo Gorke, 6). The day's sessions “Roots, clichés, archetypes” and “Bodies on stage and framed” will investigate Canadian cultural stereotypes, rethinking them in their various transformations.

Guest speakers

Rea Beaumont (University of Toronto) Rea Beaumont is the recipient of the SOCAN Foundation / MusCan Award of Excellence for the Advancement of Research in Canadian Music. An internationally recognized concert pianist and composer, Beaumont is known for her powerful performances and beautifully curated albums that highlight important global issues, including climate change. She has premiered many works in collaboration with leading composers, including R. Murray Schafer, and her own works continue to be broadcast around the world. Beaumont is a leading authority on Canadian music, which she shares through a wide range of publications. She has received awards and grants from The Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, British Columbia Arts Council, SOCAN, Toronto Arts Council.

Shelley Hornstein (York University) is Senior Scholar and Professor Emerita of Architectural History & Urban Culture at York University. She explores a wide-ranging set of themes located at the intersection of memory and place in architectural and urban sites: tourism, cosmopolitanism, nationhood, Jewish architectural and cultural heritage, and theories and histories of heritage sites generally. Her latest book, *Architectural Tourism: Site-Seeing, Itineraries and Cultural Heritage* is published by Lund Humphries, is an investigation of how architecture is the key to tourism through tangible and intangible places. Her other books include *Losing Site: Architecture, Memory and Place* (Ashgate, 2011), *Capital Culture: A Reader on Modernist Legacies, State Institutions, and the Value(s) of Art* (McGill-University Press, 2000 co-edited with Jody Berland), *Image and Remembrance: Representation and The Holocaust* (Indiana University Press, 2002, co-edited with Florence Jacobowitz), and *Impossible Images: Contemporary Art after the Holocaust* (NYU Press, 2003 co-edited with Laura Levitt and Laurence Silberstein). Hornstein is the recipient of the Walter L. Gordon Fellowship, Canadian and International awards, and serves on on advisory boards for several academic journals.

Linda Hutcheon & Michael Hutcheon (University of Toronto).

Linda Hutcheon holds the rank of University Professor Emeritus in the Department of English and the Centre for Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto. She is author of 9 books on critical theory and contemporary postmodern culture in Canada and around the world. She has edited 5 other



books on cultural topics and is associate editor of the University of Toronto Quarterly. In 2005 she won the Canada Council's Killam Prize for the Humanities for scholarly achievement and in 2010, the Molson Prize of the Canada Council. In 2011, she was made an Officer of the Order of Canada. **Michael Hutcheon** is Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto. His scientific research publications encompass several areas: pulmonary physiology and lung transplantation. He has also published in the fields of medical education and the semiotics of pharmaceutical advertising. Their work together on the cultural construction of sexuality, gender and disease in opera has been published in a book entitled *Opera: Desire, Disease, Death* (1996). Their second book, a study of both the real and the represented operatic body entitled *Bodily Charm: Living Opera*, was published in 2000. *Opera: The Art of Dying*, published by Harvard University Press in 2004, is a study not only of the ubiquitous theme of death in opera, but more importantly, also of how viewing operas can help us deal by proxy with our own and our loved ones' mortality—something our culture has not made it particularly easy to do. Their latest book, *Four Last Songs: Aging and Creativity in Verdi, Strauss, Messiaen, and Britten* (University of Chicago Press, 2015), is a study of the late lives and last works of those long-lived composers for whom writing an opera was, in each case, a unique response to the challenges—and opportunities—of growing older.

Meetings and sessions will be moderated by Oriana Palusci (AISC President), Silvia Albertazzi (Bologna University), Biancamaria Rizzardi (Pisa University), Alessandra Ferraro (Udine University), Sabrina Francesconi (Trento University), Marco Modenesi (Milan University), Angela Buono (University of Napoli L'Orientale), Anna Mongibello (University of Napoli L'Orientale), Elena Lamberti (Bologna University).

The project CANADA 2021: TRADITIONS AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

A new decade of 2020s has just started and we are already facing important challenges as an international community. These challenges, summarized in the 2030 UNESCO Agenda for sustainable, inclusive, and universal development, range from the eradication of poverty to gender equality, from climate action to quality education, encompassing sustainable cities and communities, as well as the promotion of peace, justice, and strong institutions. Seventeen are the goals to be pursued by 2030 to transform our world and achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. In this context of crucial and international challenges, Canada can be a fruitful setting for interdisciplinary investigations aimed at exploring issues and common strategies, suggesting answers, and designing actions. Recent and new studies on superdiversity in Canada have pointed out to the fact that intersecting diversities within local communities in terms of social, ethnic, and economic differences are connected to the blooming of new lifestyles and ways of sharing and designing public spaces. Such deep and rich diversities also play a crucial role in the development of new cultural, linguistic, literary, and artistic practices in contemporary Canada.

Since 1970s, Canada, once a British and a French colony, has faced its post-colonial era by undertaking visionary and innovative actions. So much so that it was the first country in the world to institutionalize multiculturalism with a unique "Charter of Rights and Freedoms" back in 1982, enhancing Canada's multicultural heritage. However, in contemporary Canada, such an approach, once considered inspirational and innovative from a Eurocentric perspective, is now being questioned by the Indigenous People who are claiming a different historical memory relying on their long-denied cultural traditions. Ironically, as Sheila-Watt Cloutier highlights in her book *The Right to Be Cold* (2015), re-discovering such neglected traditions can lead to the identification of useful solutions to face upcoming challenges in contemporary Canada and elsewhere. For instance, a new sense of community, a different relationship with the land, some alternative economic perspectives, a renewed connection between older and newer generations can all work as effective strategies to rethink the idea of nation.

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