

## Reflections on International Women's Week 2018

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In many ways it is unsurprising that Merriam-Webster identified “feminism” as the word of the year in 2017. Feminism is undergoing a powerful resurgence across North America, a resurgence that the SdBI is powerfully positioned to speak to at this current moment. Whether it is speaking out against Bill 62 or supporting and participating in the important work of L'Euguéline bookstore, SdBI Faculty and students are providing important feminist interventions on campus and within the community.

We are also growing. To this end, the SdBI is thrilled to welcome Dr. Genevieve Painter, who is currently teaching her first course at the institute. In anticipation of the inauguration of the new Major in Interdisciplinary Studies in Sexuality (MISS) we are also in the process of hiring for the position of Assistant Professor in “Feminism and Sexuality Studies”. We look forward to welcoming the chosen candidate in Fall of 2018. Please stay tuned for more news about the MISS, our new hire, and a new space proposal in the coming weeks.

But with all this good news, comes a moment of loss as well. SdBI Research Associate, Abby Lippman, unexpectedly passed away in late December. Those of us who knew and worked with Abby Lippman, an active presence at the Institute for many years now, are feeling her absence intensely. Please join us if you can on April 27th from 5pm to 7pm in the Concordia University Conference Centre (Room MB-9CD), when we gather to remember Abby.

- Kimberley Manning,  
Belinda Bowes & Julia Dyck

# PAST EVENTS

## Student Orientation



On September 28th, 2017, new and returning students joined us for a lunchtime orientation session.

Presentations were made by:

- SdBI staff and faculty
- WSSA (Women's Studies Students Association)
- Stephanie Peccia from the Access Centre for Students with Disabilities
- Orenda Boucher-Curotte from Aboriginal Student Resource Centre
- Meghan Gagliardi from C-FAR (Critical Feminist Activism in Research)

## Feminist Café with Eve Haque

Lillian Robinson Visiting Scholar, Eve Haque gave a fascinating presentation titled: Memory and Multiculturalism: The limits of remembering the victims of 'honour killings'

Dr. Haque shared her research on the connection between gendered Orientalism and white settler nationalism, specifically in Canada.

Eve Haque is an Associate Professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics at York University. Her research and teaching interests include multiculturalism, white settler nationalism and language policy, with a focus on the regulation and representation of racialized im/migrants in white settler societies. She has published in such journals as *Social Identities*, *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development* and *Pedagogy, Culture and Society*, among others. She is also the author of *Multiculturalism within a Bilingual Framework: Language, Race and Belonging in Canada* (University of Toronto Press, 2012).

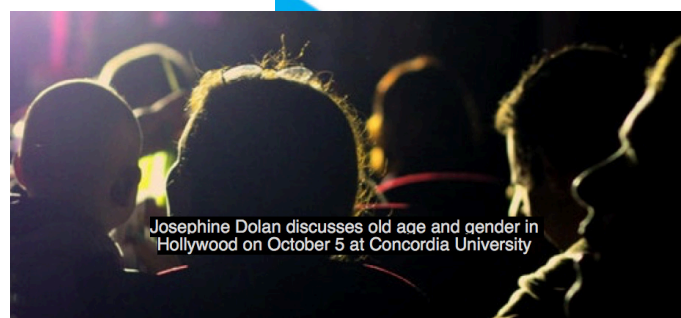
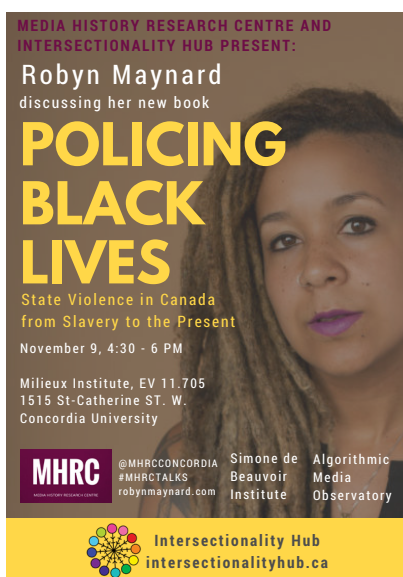
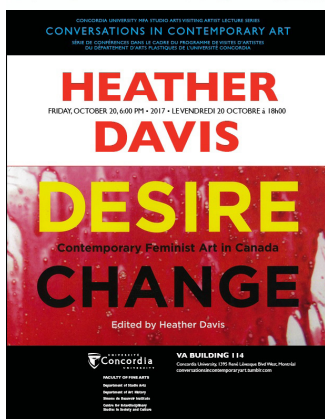
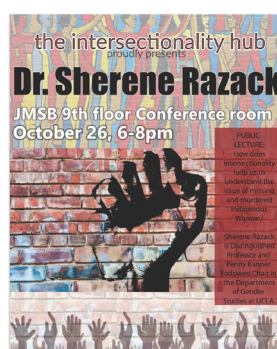
## Fall Open House

Kimberley Manning (principal), Julia Dyck (Communications and Events Coordinator) and Clara Rubio Moles (Student, pictured) welcomed prospective students at Concordia's Fall Open House (with Julia and Clara reprising their roles again at Open House in February). We spoke with many interested individuals about the many benefits and pleasures of studying gender and sexuality at the SdBI. If you are interested in helping out at future Open House events, please let us know.



# PAST EVENTS

## Co-Sponsored Events



The Institute was a proud co-sponsor of eight events initiated by community and University partners. These events engaged students and community members on a variety of current feminist topics, with formats ranging from lectures to performances.

The SdBI co-sponsored the following events:

- / Ginger Garden Potluck Gathering and Community Presentations hosted by Asian Canadian Wiki
- / Lecture by Dr. Josephine Dolan on 'Old age', gender and the silvering of contemporary Hollywood cinema organized by act (aging + communication + technology)
- / Rape is Real and Everywhere Comedy show organized by Emer O'Toole (SdBI Fellow) and Gada Mahrouse (SdBI Faculty)
- / Lecture by Dr. Sherene Razak: How does intersectionality help us to understand the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous Women? organized by The Intersectionality Hub
- / Book Launch: Policing Black Lives, State Violence in Canada from Slavery to the Present by Robyn Maynard organized by The Intersectionality Hub
- / Tsi Teiutenonhátie tsi Nikanonhio'ten "The Changing Styles" Fashion Show tribute to the Kanien'kehá:ka Land Defenders and their Collection of Camouflage organized by the Concordia Student Union
- / Artist Talk by Heather Davis organized by Conversations in Contemporary Art
- / Performance and Feminist Hip Hop Workshop with Rebeca Lane organized by the Centre for Gender Advocacy



# Allumni Spotlight: Samar Musallam



Samar Musallam is Legal Counsel with the Canadian Human Rights Commission. She graduated from the Simone de Beauvoir in 2002, and graduated from the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law in 2006

When Samar Musallam started studying Economics at Concordia, she wasn't sure what she wanted to do for a living. She had always been interested in social justice, and at the suggestion of a friend, she began taking courses at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute. Soon after, she switched her major to Women's Studies. She found the introductory courses to be eye opening; they changed the way she saw the world.

Samar enjoyed the smaller classes and the relationships she was able to build with her peers and professors. She found the environment to be very different from her other courses and appreciated the invitation to engage with the course material. She developed an interest in law after reading family law cases concerning marriage and divorce in her upper level Women's Studies courses and began to think about a career in law as a way to put the theory she was learning into practice.

After graduating from Concordia, Samar studied law at the University of Ottawa, where she was exposed to a very different way of thinking and attended classes with students from many different educational backgrounds, who approached problems quite differently. She found that she was often able to bring a different perspective to what she was reading and learning and continued to find herself interested in gender and equality, and more specifically in how the legal system often worked to maintain systems of hegemony and inequality.

***“I didn't see the point of doing any kind of study I couldn't be inspired by and interested in. I was one of the lucky ones and I'm thankful that this program existed and it was so interdisciplinary.”***

Samar currently works as Legal Counsel with the Canadian Human Rights Commission in public law and human rights law. She finds herself doing the kind of social justice work she always wanted to do coming out of the SdBI; she works in the public interest with regards to large systemic issues and helps to implement legislative change. Samar's studies came back full circle when she used full time faculty, Dr. Viviane Namaste's, work while researching a case and met current principal, Dr. Kimberley Manning, while working on bill C-16; the legislation which amended the Canadian Human Rights Act to add 'gender identity' and 'gender expression' to the list of prohibited grounds of discrimination.

***“Women's studies highlighted the issues for me and once your eyes are open you can't really look away..it still very much influences my perspective and these issues remain very pertinent.”***

# The Simone de Beauvoir Institute mourns the passing of Dr. Abby Lippman

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**Distinguished Professor Emerita from McGill University was an active and prolific  
Research Associate at Concordia University's Simone de Beauvoir Institute**



The Simone de Beauvoir Institute of Concordia University is in mourning, along with many others in academia and the wider community. Research Associate Dr. Abby Lippman, an ardent feminist, a women's health expert and activist, an anti-Zionist and pro-peace Jewish activist as well as a mentor to so many, died at her home on December 26 at age 78. She is survived by her son Chris, her daughter Jessica, her two grandchildren Seonaid and Maxwell as well as her brother, Marc Lippman. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal, an organization and cause close to Lippman's heart.

**Join us for a celebration of Abby's Life**

**April 27, 2018**

**from 5pm to 7pm**

**at the Concordia University Conference Centre (Room MB-9CD)**

**9th floor of the John Molson Building**

**1450 Guy street (in front of the Guy/Concordia metro station)**

Read the entire tribute here:

<http://www.concordia.ca/content/dam/artsci/sdbi/docs/Abby%20for%20web%20site.pdf>

## Arts and Science Scholars Awards Evening - October 25, 2017

Each year, the Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS) honours its highest academic achievers with the Dean's Scholar Awards.

Students who earn a place on the Scholar's list score grades in the top percentile of each of FAS' 27 programs. Out of over 19,000 students, 151 were named Scholars for the 2016 – 2017 academic year.

We are pleased to share that SdBI Students Zeina El Omari, Sarah Oliel and Jenna Rose were recognized for their inspiring work!



(Dean André Roy and SdBI Faculty member Viviane Namaste pose with the awarded students)

## FACULTY NEWS

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**Geneviève Rail** was selected to organize, along with Dr. Manon Niquette (Université Laval), a half-day workshop for health professionals during the Annual Days of Public Health, which took place in Québec City on December 5-6, 2017. The workshop was devoted to "Health promotion and the hyper-responsibilization of women."

**Geneviève Rail's** research on breast and gynecological cancer among LBQT persons (along with colleagues Mary Bryson, Tae Hart, Jackie Gahagan and Janice Ristock) has caught the attention of colleagues in France. On November 9, 2017, Geneviève was a keynote speaker at the International Colloquium "Assises du Cancer et du Genre" at the Université Toulouse II, and she presented a paper entitled "Queerir le cancer : subjectivités, savoirs, soins du cancer et justice sociale." On January 18, 2018, she gave the opening address at the International Colloquium « Santé LGBTI » held at Université de Bordeaux. She spoke on "Pratiques narratives de queerison du cancer et coproduction de nouveaux savoirs."

SdBI Principal, **Kimberley Manning**, was asked to comment on many feminist issues this past year. She joined other local feminists in a discussion on CBC Montreal in December of 2017. Listen here: <http://www.cbc.ca/listen/shows/daybreak-montreal/segment/15345144>

# RESEARCH ASSOCIATE NEWS

Research Associate, **Dolores Chew**, was busy in the summer and fall. She was a member of the Program Committee for the SdBI's 2017 Summer Institute. She also participated in the Summer Institute on the panel: Muslim Women, In/visibility and Feminism along with Homa Hoodfar, Zahia el-Masri (chaired by SdBI Research Associate, Shaheen Munir) where she presented "Babies and bath water: re-thinking 'rights' in the world we inhabit today" (16 May, 2017). She contributed "Working to ensure better lives for women of South Asian Origin" for the Second International Conference on South Asian Women: Socio-cultural expression, organized by Disha in Brampton, Ontario (17 June 2017). Later in the summer, Dolores presented "Framing and Re-framing: Weaving Threads of Anglo-Indian (Hi)stories..." at the International Seminar & Workshop on Anglo-Indian Studies "Midnight's Orphans": Problematizing the Postcolonial in the Telling of Anglo-Indian (Hi)stories, (4-5 August 2017), organized by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, Chennai, India. This was followed soon after by a one-day workshop Dolores organized for the Derazio Anglo-Indian Research Collection, University of Calcutta titled "A Tradition of Care -- Anglo-Indian Service Organizations -- Historical and Contemporary Perspectives" (9 August 2017) at Loreto College, Kolkata, India, to coincide with (Calcutta Anglo-Indian Service Society) CAISS's 40th anniversary. In addition to organizing the workshop she also presented "Historical Contextualization of a tradition of care and the Anglo-Indian community", as well as "Re-looking CAISS's

(Calcutta Anglo-Indian Service Society) mandate and services as perceived by members", the latter being preliminary findings of an on-going study in collaboration with Robyn Andrews (Massey University, New Zealand) and Brent Otto (University of California, Berkeley).

Dolores and her colleague at Marianopolis College, Annie Khatchadourian are working on a project "From Apology to Action – education for reconciliation and de-colonization", funded for 2017-2018 by the college's Program Development Fund Grant.

CBC radio and TV interviewed Dolores in April 2017 regarding Quebec's decision to appeal the release of Sivaloganathan Thanabalasingham due to Jordan ruling. In December she spoke with Gau Mahadevan of CKUT 90.3 Radio McGill on gendered violence and marginalized communities for a program that on the Sixth December Ecole Polytechnique Massacre anniversary. She also worked on statements. In June on the Fédération des femmes du Québec's (FFQ) response to Premier Couillard's comment "L'islam ne peut être dissocié des gestes commis en son nom"/"You can't disconnect terrorism from Islam" and on the South Asian Women's Community Centre's statement on Anti-Muslim Racism (Fall 2017).



Research Associate, **Farida Alba**, presented at two conferences:

"Iranian Women's Autobiographies: Hybridity and Gender in the Diaspora"

Lives Outside the Lines: Gender and Genre in the Americas, A Symposium in Honour of Marlene Kadar, York University, Toronto, Canada, Summer 2017

"Iranian Women's Autobiographies: A Hybrid Interdisciplinary Medium"

Dirty Disciplines, Wild Knowledges: How is our Work Given Vital Form in a Time of A-Disciplinarity, Concordia, Montreal, Canada, Winter 2017

Farida also presented her research for the RAs in the Fall 2017.

## The Simone de Beauvoir Workshops in Social Science Research

The SdBI is once again offering WSSR workshops focused on Social Justice. Scholarships are available for students who wish to take the workshops for credit.

### **PAST /** Two Spirited People in Today's World

with Diane Labelle, Director of First Nations  
Regional Adult Education Center  
March 2, 2018, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

<https://www.concordia.ca/cuevents/artsci/polisci/wssr/2018/03/02/labelleworkshop.html?c=artsci/polisci/wssr/wssr-calendar>

### **FUTURE /** Cause Lawyering: Theory and Practice

with Benjamin Prud'homme, Associate, Robinson  
Sheppard Shapiro  
March 16, 2018 – March 17, 2018, 9 a.m. – 4:30  
p.m.

<https://www.concordia.ca/cuevents/artsci/polisci/wssr/2018/03/16/prudhommeworkshop.html?c=artsci/polisci/wssr/wssr-calendar>

## C-FAR

The **Critical Feminist Activism in Research** project has been busy again this year. Read more about the project here: <http://www.concordia.ca/cunews/main/stories/2017/10/18/critical-feminist-activism-research-project-equity.html>

Their current project **Symbols of Resistance: An Exhibition Celebrating the Convergence of Black Artists and their Stories** is the culmination of the Montreal Black Artists-in-Community Residency, which ran from November 2017 up until this exhibition.

Featuring artists: Kay Nau, G L O W Z I, Sika Valme, Valérie Bah, Chelsy Monie, Po B. K. Lomami, Carl-Philippe Simonise

The exhibition was up at the Galerie Mile-End Ame Art- YMCA for the month of February.

**SYMBOLS OF RESISTANCE**  
AN EXHIBITION CELEBRATING THE CONVERGENCE OF BLACK ARTISTS AND THEIR STORIES

EXHIBITION: FEBRUARY 1st - 28th 2018  
Galerie Mile-End, 5345 Av. Du Parc

**FEATURING:**

- KAY NAU
- GLOWZI
- SIKA VALMÉ
- VALÉRIE BAH
- CHELSEY MONIE
- PO B. K. LOMAMI
- CARL-PHILIPPE SIMONISE
- AÏSSATOU DIALLO (EYESSA2)

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY | MONTREAL BLACK ARTISTS-IN-COMMUNITY RESIDENCY | C-FAR | GSA | CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY | MONTREAL BLACK ARTISTS-IN-COMMUNITY RESIDENCY



# Lillian Robinson Visiting Scholars

The SdBI is looking forward to hosting visiting scholars, Dr. Rashida Braggs and Dr. Rachel Gorman, in the winter semester.

**Dr. Rachel Gorman**  
**Wednesday, March 14**  
**4:00PM**  
**MU 101**

**Dr. Rashida K Braggs**  
**Wednesday, March 28**  
**4:00PM**  
**MU 101**



## Performing the Jazz Woman's Diaspora

With Lillian Robinson Visiting Scholar

**Dr. Rashida K. Braggs**

Associate Professor

Africana Studies, Williams College

Rashida K. Braggs is Associate Professor in Africana Studies at Williams College. Her background in performance studies prompts her consistent study of African diasporic cultural expressions via a performative lens. In such courses as 13 Ways of Looking at Jazz and Black Migrations: African American Performance at Home and Abroad, Dr. Braggs teaches students to explore how performance conveys values, patterns and negotiations of power in society. In addition to her book *Jazz Diasporas: Race, Music and Migration in Post-World War II Paris* (2016), Braggs has also published in such journals as *Palimpsest: A Journal on Women, Gender, and the Black International*, *The Journal of Popular Music* and *The James Baldwin Review*.



**March 28, 2018**

**4:00PM**

**MU 101**

**Simone de Beauvoir Institute**  
**2170 Bishop**

How do we perform diaspora? This question persists on and beyond the pages of Rashida K. Braggs' book *Jazz Diasporas: Race, Music and Migration in Post-World War II Paris* (University of California Press 2016)—a monograph that explores the migratory experiences of African American jazz musicians in post-WWII Paris and how ideologies of racial and national identity were enacted through their musical performances and collaborations. As Braggs explored their cultural, social and musical performances, she discovered limits to theorization based solely on archival and ethnographic jazz research. She questioned, where was the body in the jazz diaspora? Did her black, female, mobile body converge with other black women from different times and locations in the Francophone African diaspora? To address these questions, Braggs created original solo-embodied performances to explore the sensorial and experiential knowledge of the diaspora and to situate herself directly in relation to the experiences of other African diasporic jazz women performers, via her own body. In this presentation, Braggs will discuss how she uses performance as a research tool for recovering, reviving and reimagining the archive of women jazz performers. She will share performance clips and reflect on pertinent theories and methodologies that she engaged with during her investigation of select black women singers in contemporary and historical Paris and her new research at the Meilan Lam archive at Concordia University on black jazz dancers living and performing in 1930s Montreal.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

The SdBI is a proud sponsor of the 25th Anniversary Edition of the Concordia University Community Lecture Series on HIV/AIDS

Targeted HIV-Prevention Efforts Among Sex Workers- Treatment and Risk  
A panel discussion featuring representatives from Stella, ASTT(e)Q, and RÉZO  
Mar 22nd, 2018, 7pm,  
Grande Bibliothèque, BAnQ; 475 Boul de Maisonneuve E.

## WSDB 398 GA: Summer Institute



## Unsettling Feminisms May 6-11, 2018

How can we unsettle feminisms and their various histories, epistemologies, politics and brands of colonialism? How do we engage and/or rethink feminisms? The 2018 Summer Institute seeks to encourage conversations and learnings about Indigenous knowledge, the violence of white settler societies, anti-colonialism and anti-racism, activism, art, and new knowledges from a broad spectrum of disciplines and practices.

- No requirements • 3-credits for one week • Workshops, panels, discussions
  - Humanities, social sciences, arts • Undergrads and grad students welcome •
  - Open to community members • Mobilization and activist initiatives •
- Coordinated by Dr. Genevieve Rail

Inquiries? [summerinstitute@concordia.ca](mailto:summerinstitute@concordia.ca)

## Submit to eSimone

eSimone is a regular publication of the SdBI. Its purpose is to promote the Institute and its activities in the community, as well as to provide information about issues related to scholarship, collective movements and opportunities rooted in and stemming from a pro-feminist perspective. If you wish to submit information, please email the Communication and Events Coordinator at:

[sdbi.eventscordinator@concordia.ca](mailto:sdbi.eventscordinator@concordia.ca)