

# Purple Prose

UVIC ACADEMIC WOMEN'S CAUCUS



**GREETINGS: WOMEN TOGETHER IN SOLIDARITY, Ana Maria Peredo  
MARIELLE FRANCO, Jutta Gutberlet and Sharon Diaz  
BOOK REVIEW CORNER, POLICING BLACK LIVES, Susan Boyd  
GRAPHIC WOMEN: BEYOND STEREOTYPES, Marina Bettaglio  
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR IMMIGRANTS, Taiwo Afolabi  
And more**

## Greetings from the Chair: Uvic Women Coming Together in Solidarity

As the term start to slow (in some ways!), we can take a bit of time to reflect in our collective activities, especially some significant achievements, and we can celebrate the work that academic women do in our community to foster positive changes across the campus. We have many UVic women warriors!

It strikes me in every meeting on equity and human rights issues I attend, that the room is full of women. They come from different academic status, races and generations. Some are in precarious working conditions as sessionals or adjuncts. They are there raising not only 'women's issues' but broader questions around social justice, equity, transparency, race, religion, labour conditions, and more. They are committed to making UVic a better place for *all*. It is interesting that very few men attend those meetings. As AWC Chair, I have to say that these women inspire me. Their work, alas, is often invisible. It is a shame our performance documents are still biased toward individual achievement: these women work *in community*.

As AWC Chair, I have had the privilege of listening to many of you. In my conversations with you, I am reminded of the challenges we still face regarding gender, race, sexual orientation, worldviews, etc. I also witness a great deal of resilience and solidarity on this campus. While working and liaising with many organizations across campus (OFAR, Faculty Association, Minority and Indigenous Women Instructor Network, Graduate Student Association,

Equity and Human Rights office, and others) I get a sense of hope. In this issue, you will hear some of those voices.

Many of the AWC advisory board members and AWC members have been actively working with the Office of Equity and Human rights (OEHR). In a collegial and open manner, we have been sharing practices that can be transformative. The new equity training provided by the OEHR team is a step in the right direction. It can help to broaden the conversation on these issues across campus.

I have heard a great deal of concern among women faculty members about taking care of children, taking care of elder parents and wishes for extended benefits. We are working with the Faculty Association on their equity portfolio as they prepare to engage in negotiations around a new Collective Agreement. UVic Women's Caucus members are working in different spaces to bring positive social change. It was very encouraging to see so many of our women faculty members as well as graduate and undergraduate students co-organizing, speaking, presenting and participating in the women's downtown gathering on March 8<sup>th</sup>. It was also stimulating to look at the photos of women resisting diverse forms of oppression featured in the Disobedient Women exhibition; it was gratifying to learn about the launch of the Women's Science Club, and to see so many other initiatives where UVic academic women come together in solidarity. My gratitude to all the co-organizers and catalyzers of events like these that give momentum to causes that matter to us all.

In this issue of *Purple Prose*, you will see many contributions focusing on the struggle for racial equity, activism and solidarity. The visible instances of Indigenous, Mestizo and black women being persecuted, criminalized and killed for defending their lands, dignity and their livelihood in the rural and marginalized urban areas are intolerably large, and behind them lie many more that are hidden from view. Jutta Gutberlet and Sharon Diaz (Geography) document the murder of a human rights activist –black woman, **Marielle Franco** – in Brazil. As the authors note, this is only one of many such events.

The agency and strength of Black women were highlighted by Jessica Gordon-Nembhard (CUNY University) in her lecture 'African American Cooperative Movement: Economic Justice and the Role of Black Women'. She brought us

into the lives of many women who were not only building cooperative economies, but also took part in the Black Panther movement.

Susan Boyd (Faculty of Human and Social Development) reminds us of a dark chapter in Canadian history concerning the treatment of black people, in her review of ***Policing Black Lives: State Violence in Canada from Slavery to the Present***, a book authored by Montreal-based feminist and community organizer Robyn Maynard. **The Open Forum Against Racism (OFAR)** is a new coalition on campus which has been very active. In this issue we present an update of its activities highlighting our own challenges and work against racism at UVic.

Lynne Marks (History, and Executive Committee member of the Faculty Association) shares her thoughts on working **towards a new collective agreement** for faculty and librarians. Along with Victoria Wyatt (Art History and Visual Studies and Executive Committee member of the Faculty Association) she is leading conversations on equity for the new agreement. Audrey Yap (Philosophy, and co-chair of MIWIN) reflects on the **formal and informal ways academic women's work is valued**. She addresses the hidden emotional and caring work that mostly academic women have to navigate.

Annalee Lepp (Gender Studies) helped organize, as member of the **Knowledge and Place Taskforce** in the Faculty of Humanities, an event on one of the most controversial current issues in higher education: diversity and freedom of speech. She shares her learning and reflections from that event. Janni Aragon (Political Science) from the tech corner reports on some of the upgrades to CourseSpaces. Marina Bettaglio (Hispanic and Italian Studies) tells us, in '***Graphic Women: Beyond Stereotypes?***', about discussions she has had with her colleagues concerning the representations of women in comics and graphic novels. Taiwo Afolabi's (Faculty of Fine Arts in his piece titled ***In the Footsteps of our Immigrants*** inspires us with how theater can be a powerful tool for promoting inclusion and diversity. Barbara Whittington (Professor Emerita, School of Social Work) offers us a glimpse into ***Life after UVic retirement***. Barb – as she is known to us! – continues to be an inspiration to all of us.

Penultimately (I think that is a word), thanks you to all the contributors and Taiwo for your support with this report. Last and certainly not least, my gratitude to the AWC advisory committee for the inspiration they continually provide me.

Let us all keep working in whatever spaces we have, toward a more diverse, humane, just and inclusive campus.

*Ana Maria*

# For Marielle Franco

By Sharon Diaz & Jutta Gutberlet



Photo: Marielle Franco during the Women's Day parade, by Midia Ninja, Brazil.

What happened to a black woman who grew up in the periphery, a *Favela* in Rio de Janeiro, became a city council member and decided to take part in a commission to investigate the recent military occupation in the city? She got brutally murdered! Her name is Marielle Franco, a courageous woman who was killed last Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, in Rio de Janeiro with four shots in her head. Her driver Anderson Pedro Gomes was also killed. Marielle Franco became a reference in politics in Brazil and has been recognized for her orientation and action on seeking human rights for women, the marginalized and the poor, particularly the black population in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Marielle Franco was the reporter at the city council, in the commission for investigating the military intervention in Rio de Janeiro. The city of Rio has recently experienced a military intervention, approved by the federal government, using as a justification the high levels of violence in the city. The fact is that the militarization of Rio de Janeiro has opened a door to amplify abuses and power dynamic against those who are living in vulnerable situations. Marielle Franco had been denouncing controversial actions, and had shed light on how violent the military force has been against local communities, particularly against black people, indigenous, lower income families, women, children and youth. Marielle's death also represents an attempt to kill Brazil's democracy.

Due to these facts, we are calling our community to learn about the recent brutal circumstances that Brazilians are facing in their everyday lives. This one is not one more murder among thousands. Marielle Franco represented civil engagement, contestation, commitment, and because of that she was killed. She was a very important person in the fight against racism and particularly in the struggle against the social exclusion of black women, among other social struggles! Her legacy must be acknowledged and her example for determination in claiming our human rights and social justice in an uneven society needs to be celebrated and followed. Brazilians are in pain right now. All solidarity is still not enough, but it is necessary and urgent. So, we are calling our community to get engaged, and be a part of the movement to denounce the current militarization process in Brazil.

# Economic Justice and the Role of Black Woman

By Ana Maria Peredo

## Develop the Total Community – Fannie Lou Hamer



"Cooperative ownership of land opens the door to many opportunities for group development of economic enterprises which develop the total community rather than create monopolies that monopolize the resources of a community."

Jessica Gordon Nembhard (c) 2018

## Ujamaa Collective



Jessica Gordon Nembhard (c) 2018

In her lecture *"The African American Cooperative Movement: Economic Justice and The Role of Black Woman"* Jessica Gordon-Nembhard documented the long and strong participation of Black women in civil rights and economic justice in the USA. It is a history hidden by structural

economic and racial discrimination and white supremacy violence.

In their search for economic solutions to address discrimination and inequality, women such as Fannie Lou, Ella Jo Baker, Estelle Witherspoon engaged in creating co-operatives as strategy for survival and liberation. It was interesting that co-ops were seen not only as a survival mechanism to respond to basic need but also as an instrument for achieving freedom. Many used the 'freedom' word in naming the co-operatives initiated for these purposes. For example, Fanny Lou Hammer led a 'Pig Banking and Freedom Farm Co-op' in the 70, Estelle Witherspoon led the 'Freedom Quilting Bee' in the 60's. Most of these co-operatives began as study groups.

We also learned that Black women and their co-ops were an integral part of the Black Panther movement. The Panther Co-operatives and their women leaders continued to play an important role in the Black Lives Platform in 2016, and their demands for social, political and economic justice.



Jessica's visit coincided with the Canadian 'Black American Month' in February, and it was gratifying to see many black women from the larger community participating in this event. It was clear from our discussions that there is a gap in our knowledge about Canadian Black history. Robyn Maynard's book on Policing Black Lives is an important contribution, see Susan Boyd's review in this edition.

## Study Circle



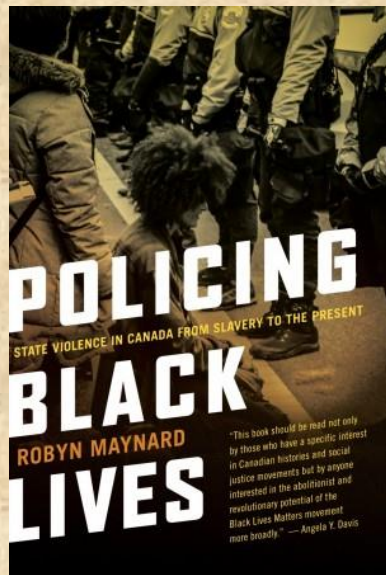
Jessica Gordon Nembohard (c) 2018



Jessica Gordon Nembohard (c) 2018

## Book Review Corner

by Susan Boyd



### *Policing Black Lives*

By Robyn Maynard

Fernwood Publishing, 2017

Recently, I was introduced to Robyn Maynard's new book, *Policing Black Lives: State violence in Canada from slavery to the present*. For those faculty members who are not familiar with Robyn Maynard's work, she is a Montreal-based writer, feminist and community organizer. Many Canadians are still unaware that slavery was legal in Canada. Maynard argues that the legacy of slavery continues to impact Black people in Canada today. A recent United Nations Human Rights Council report concurs, revealing how Black people in Canada experience systemic discrimination and racism that is entrenched in institutions, policies, and practices.<sup>1</sup> Exposing state and institutional violence is at the center of Maynard's new book.

Robyn Maynard explores the history of slavery in Canada. She writes that from the 1600s onwards, Black people began to be brought to Canada as slaves, and from the mid-1700s to the mid-1800s, a large number came fleeing slavery in the United States. Although Canada did not develop an economy based on slavery, like the U.S., slavery was legal until 1834. Following the abolition of slavery, Black Canadians continued to be socially and economically marginalized. Black people in Canada were subject to segregated education, housing, employment, and movie theatres. They were banned from some restaurants and hotels. In some areas of Canada, hospitals refused to treat Black Canadians. In both World Wars, Black Canadians had to serve in separate battalions than White people.

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<sup>1</sup> UN Human Rights Council. (2017). *Report of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent on its mission to Canada*. Retrieved August 16, 2017 from, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/59c3a5ff4.html>

Immigration policy also excluded most Black people from making Canada their home. It was not until the 1960s, when immigration policy was reformed, that Black people were more formally allowed to migrate to Canada. Today, Black people make up only 2.9 percent of the Canadian population. However, they are overrepresented in the criminal justice system. It is not that Black people in Canada are more “criminal” than their White counterparts, but that they are *criminalized*—systemic racism shape their criminal justice encounters at every level (policing, arrest, sentencing, prison, and release). Maynard argues that one of the legacies of slavery is the linking of Black people with criminality. In fact, she notes that the first linking of crime and Black people began in fugitive slave advertisements by White slave owners. Freedom seekers were depicted as criminals rather than as brave individuals escaping from White slaveholders and the institution of slavery. The surveillance of Black people and communities to round up fugitives became normalized. Maynard argues that the legacy of slavery continues, and today, Black people in Canada are “subject to invasive police surveillance that makes it difficult to exist in public space.” Maynard writes that Blackness continues to be imagined as dangerous and as a threat to White people in Canada.

One of the themes of Maynard’s book that I greatly appreciated was her attention to Black women. I can remember reading U.S. writer Michelle Alexander’s book, *The New Jim Crow: Mass incarceration in the age of color blindness*, and being astonished that she literally had nothing to say about Black women in the U.S. even though they too are overrepresented in U.S. prisons, and continue to be victims of gendered violence. In *Policing Black Lives*, Maynard, writes about the devaluation of Black womanhood in Canada, the overrepresentation of Black women in federal prison, and the overrepresentation of Black children in foster care. She also highlights the many Black women who strove for economic, racial, and gender justice throughout Canada’s history.

From my book review so far, you might assume that Maynard’s book, *Policing Black Lives*, is a difficult read; however, it is not. Her book is accessible and it is a page-turner. Robyn Maynard’s focus is on racial justice and understanding how liberation movements in Canada (and elsewhere) are interconnected. She also writes about the vibrancy of the Idle no More and Black Lives Matter

Movements. Robyn Maynard concludes that although her book is about oppression, her message is also about the affirmation of life and the quest for economic, race, and gender justice.

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## Open Forum Against Racism (OFAR)

*An update from the OFAR Networking Event Committee*

### Overview

The Open Forum Against Racism (OFAR) is a grassroots group of faculty, instructors, students and staff and diverse UVic organizations and offices (SJS, AWC, GSS, UVSS, MIWIN, LTSI, OEHR and others). The OFAR organizing committee convened after the first open forum in April 2017 and now meets on a bi-monthly basis.

*“Teaching Social Justice on WSÁNEĆ and Lekwungen Territory”* was OFAR’s first instructors’ networking event, held on Monday, December 4 2017 at the Division of Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation. It was intended for any instructor on campus already teaching anti-oppression – either formally or informally. With no existing list of instructors teaching anti-oppressive material, invitations were sent by email through the organizing committee’s networks. This resulted in an invitation list of

140 people, with 44 attendees on the day.

Over the course of two hours, attendees participated in a networking exercise, heard opening remarks from event organizers and broke into eight small groups for facilitated discussion. All attendees then reconvened for a final plenary and reporting session, followed by a supportive closing exercise. Following the event, all attendees had the chance to fill in a general feedback form on the event itself and the work ahead. Nearly half of all attendees submitted feedback – a very strong response for a feedback request.

### Purpose

The networking event was organized in response to two perceived needs identified through the initial open forum.

First, the need for mutual support among teaching staff responding to racist events on campus within the

parameters of their roles as instructors. Second, the need to consult instructors already teaching anti-oppressive content on how to increase the reach and impact of anti-racism education on campus. The event was intended to begin meeting these needs by forging a network for support and strategic organizing among instructors teaching anti-oppressive material

on campus. The organizers hoped to come out of the event with a sense of appetite among instructors for such a network to exist (b) Priorities for actions and next steps. This event did produce the desired outcomes and OFAR continues to work together on initiatives identified by the meeting.

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## Thoughts on Working Towards a New Collective Agreement for Faculty and Librarians

An update from Lynne Marks

I am writing to inform those readers of Purple Prose who are members of the Faculty Association about some upcoming issues related to our collective agreement.

As most of you know, the Faculty Association unionized and bargained its first collective agreement in 2014, for a five-year term, ending at the end of June 2019. That means that the Faculty Association will be starting to bargain with the administration for a new collective agreement in February of 2019. Right now we're doing our best to find out what issues members of the Association

would like us to focus on in this new round of bargaining. We're in the process of visiting all departments on campus to talk about the upcoming bargaining, and to ask faculty members and librarians what issues related to the current collective agreement create the most difficulties for them, so that we can try to bargain to make improvements.

There are some things we can bargain to improve, and there are others that are outside the mandate of the collective agreement. In listing those issues that are "bargainable" **salaries and**

**benefits** are of course high on the list. Other issues include:

- ❖ Evaluation for merit (very much part of our salary)
- ❖ Processes for reappointment, promotion and tenure
- ❖ Study leave
- ❖ Other leaves, including maternity, parental and adoption leave
- ❖ Sick leave and return to work
- ❖ Workload
- ❖ Research support
- ❖ Governance practices at the faculty and unit level
- ❖ Management rights vs Association rights
- ❖ Discipline language
- ❖ Equity issues
- ❖ Retirement and phased in retirement
- ❖ Dispute resolution

Some of these categories of course overlap. For example, CES scores are part of our evaluation system for tenure, promotion and merit. But an increasing number of academic studies have concluded that these surveys are biased by gender, race and age. As a result, can we see reliance on these surveys as an equity issue?

As we've gone around to the departments, and heard from FA members at Faculty Feedback cafes, we have heard of a number of

“points of pain” with the current collective agreement. Many faculty members are concerned about increasing **workload**. The number of students being taught per faculty member has increased in many units. Service work and the invisible “shadow work” of filling out endless paperwork has also increased dramatically. Many female faculty, and particularly racialized and Indigenous female faculty, face particularly onerous (unacknowledged and unrewarded) responsibilities for providing emotional support for students.

The current **merit process** is also of concern to many. While the principle of merit pay may be accepted by the majority, there is some interest in changing the mandatory and “zero sum” merit approach we currently use, and trying to address perceived inequities in the current system. In some departments there is also concern that while the university claims to value community-engaged research, that such work is often not adequately valued for merit and promotion.

The limited nature of a number of UVic **benefits** is of concern, and at all of the department meetings I have attended thus far, at least one

and often more faculty members have raised the issue of the lack of a **tuition waiver** for dependents, a benefit that almost every other university in Canada offers to its faculty members and librarians. In addition, UVic is the only university in Canada that does not provide free tuition for employees themselves. This means that librarians, who are mostly women, and who are often pursuing additional graduate degrees, are forced to pay many thousands of dollars to take these degrees, although further education enables them be even better employees of UVic. This is obviously an issue both of equity for female employees and of UVic's non-competitive benefits policy.

We have heard of many other concerns, ranging from UVic's lack of adequate **research support**, to the unreasonable workload expected of Chairs, to the long waiting lists for **childcare**. And

many more issues have been raised. As Chair of the Collective Agreement Committee, which is working to develop our bargaining priorities for the next round of negotiations, I would love to hear from you.

We'll be sending out a formal bargaining survey in the fall, as we always do, but right now if you could let us know what issues you would really like to have improved, that would be very helpful. At this point in the process, we're asking you to think big. As we know, bargaining is a process in which one never gets all one asks for, but it's important that we find out what the major issues are for faculty members and librarians.

Please send your concerns and your suggestions to the Faculty Association at [uvicfa@uvic.ca](mailto:uvicfa@uvic.ca), or directly to me at [LSMARKS@uvic.ca](mailto:LSMARKS@uvic.ca).

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## Minority and Indigenous Women Instructor Network (MIWIN) Reflection

An update from Audrey Lepp

As we move towards the end of the school year, we might reflect (with

relief) upon the work that we have done since September. Though as

we do so, we might also think about the ways in which our work is valued. There are generally formal mechanisms for recognizing the work we do in teaching and research, and in serving on committees. But typically, a lot of gendered labour, like the ways in which we care for each other and our students, is both expected of us and uncompensated.

Many women, particularly queer, indigenious, and racialized women, find ourselves in positions of informal mentorship for students or more junior colleagues. We are also often involved in initiatives whose aim is making the institution more inclusive or diverse. As we do so, we often find ourselves doing hidden emotional labour - perhaps nurturing good relationships with communities. Or trying to help marginalized students find ways of negotiating environments that were not made with people like them (like us!) in mind. Or finding the right balance of provocativeness and diplomacy in our work on equity committees. This

transformative work can be as exhausting as it is rewarding. As bell hooks puts it in *Teaching to Transgress*:

*The academy is not paradise. But learning is a place where paradise can be created. The classroom, with all its limitation, remains a location of possibility. In that field of possibility we have the opportunity to labor for freedom, to demand of ourselves and our comrades, an openness of mind and heart that allows us to face reality even as we collectively imagine ways to move beyond boundaries, to transgress. This is education as the practice of freedom.*

I hope that as the university celebrates its success in diversifying, internationalising, and indigenizing according to its various strategic plans, it also acknowledges the hidden labour which enables such success.

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# Contemporary Controversies Event: Diversity, Freedom of Speech and the University

By Annalee Lepp



More than 100 people gathered on February 5, 2018 to listen to a discussion on one of the most pressing issues of our time: freedom of speech, diversity and the university. The event was organized by the Faculty of Humanities' Knowledge and Place Task Force, which is mandated to consider the implications of the University of Victoria's Indigenous and international plans for the Faculty of Humanities as well as broad questions related equity, diversity and inclusion. Co-moderated by Waaseyaa'sin Christine Sy, from Gender Studies, and Neilesh Bose, Canada Research Chair, Global and Comparative History, the panel discussion included Farhana Sultana, Department of Geography at the University of Syracuse, Rinaldo Walcott, Women and Gender Studies Institute at the University of Toronto, Mary Bryson, Department of Language and Literacy Education at the University of British Columbia, and Rob Clifford, member of the Tsawout First Nation and PhD candidate at Osgoode Hall Law School at York University. The event was meant to offer the members of the university, and broader communities, an opportunity to engage in a dialogue on the tensions and complexities associated with freedom of speech and academic freedom within a post-secondary context that values equity, diversity, and inclusion. It also considered how universities, and members of the university community, might better navigate these intersections or re-think how the issues are currently being framed. The responsibility of universities to protect academic freedom and the rise of hate speech masquerading as free speech were among issues discussed.

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# CourseSpaces Upgrade

An update from Janni Aragon

On Thursday, April 26th, CourseSpaces will be upgraded to a new interface with added features and settings. This upgrade brings a sleek look that is easier to navigate and works better on your mobile devices. Course content will not be impacted by the upgrade. Technology Integrated Learning is here to support you through this change. Please check out [www.uvic.ca/til](http://www.uvic.ca/til) for up-to-date information, register for a new features workshop, email us at [tilhelp@uvic.ca](mailto:tilhelp@uvic.ca), or drop in to see us on the lower level of the McPherson library, LIB034.

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## In the Footstep of our Immigrants

By Taiwo Afolabi

The UVic's Equity and Human Rights Office's 5 Days of Action featured *In the footstep of our immigrants*, a theatre performance originally devised and performed in commemoration of the 2017 World Refugee Day. It has been remounted four times around the city of Victoria. The creative approach the director chose to engage audience on issues of diversity and multiculturalism is impressive.

The performance explored newcomers, immigrants and refugees' narratives of relocation, resilience, settlement and integration. The actors were youth from various ethnic and culturally diverse background who shared stories of their lived and living experiences as they learn to live in a new environment. There are complexities that surround refugees and migrant movements which can be overwhelming—especially when we don't have a clear way to actively engage with the issues and individual experiences. The 50-minute performance used various art forms such as dance, drama, music, and spoken words to explore the process of *arriving*, *belonging*, and *becoming*. Actors' experiences and stories from refugees, immigrants and newcomers in Victoria inspired the performance.

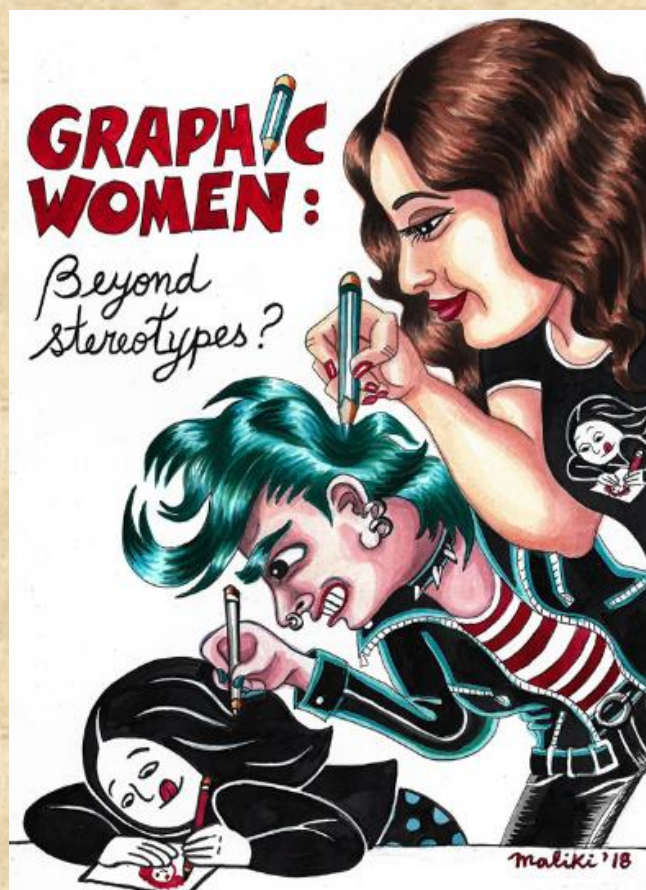
The interactive performance engaged the audience using theatre techniques to explore issues of diversity. Inclusion, identity, culture, language, assimilation, psychological needs and other experiences that refugee/immigrants face. It contributed immensely to the 5 days of actions as the UVic President Jamie Cassels participated in our performance.

I am currently devising another theatre performance with talented and amazing youths in Victoria. This theatre project, The Onion Theatre Project is in collaboration many institutions - Victoria Immigrants Refugee Centre Society, Municipality of Saanich, City Hall of Victoria and Jasindra Jawanda, a cultural planner. The performance will be performed in June 2018 at Saanich and Victoria city halls, in education institutions like UVic and in high schools. The project is supported by the British Columbia Arts Council.

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## “Graphic Women: Beyond Stereotypes?”

By Marina Bettaglio



For many of us, comic books have a familiar and comforting quality. They are synonyms for entertainment, fun, laughter, and leisurely Sunday afternoons spent reading and relaxing. Traditionally peopled with superheroes, villains, scantily dressed women, and powerful white heteronormative men, the North American world of graphic expression sets strict gender boundaries, assigning agency, power, and moral authority to its

male protagonists. Wonder Woman, with her mythical Amazonian origin, offers

adolescents a powerful female role model. But is she an example of feminist empowerment or a cleverly disguised expression of patriarchy?

This and other questions were at the centre of animated presentations by an interdisciplinary group of experts, who gathered in the Special Collections classroom in the McPherson Library on March 6, 2018 to discuss the many-faceted representation of women in comics and graphic novels. Announced by a wonderful poster by the Chilean graphic artist Marcela Trujillo (a.k.a. Maliki), the Ideafest event “Graphic Women: Beyond Stereotypes?” brought together professors from the Faculty of Humanities and the library to share their passion for the sequential art. Questioning the embodied representation of gender stereotypes, Marina Bettaglio (Hispanic and Italian Studies), Laurel Bowman (Greek and Roman Studies), H el ene Cazes (French), Justin Harrison (MacPherson Library), Mary Elizabeth Leighton (English), Sheila Rabillard (English), Lisa SurrIDGE (English), and Audrey Yap (Philosophy) drew attention to the political, social, and racial aspects of comics and graphic novels from around the world.

Ranging from the redoubtable Wonder Woman to the sleuths of Victorian-era family magazines to Asian-American characters breaking out of their usual two-dimensional characterization, the event at once celebrated and questioned the way female characters are created. It explored the complex strategies used by female graphic artists to challenge generic conventions and interrogate the reading public. Focusing on a variety of artists from the English-, French-, and Spanish-speaking worlds, the various talks brought to life the subversive power of graphic expression, the art form’s capacity to transgress boundaries, illustrate exile and displacement, and expose the artificiality of existing gender norms.

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# *Life after UVic retirement*

*By Barb Whittington*



In the summer of 2017 wildfires tore through BC, forcing many to evacuate. For the last few years I have been part of a professional provincial emergency response team called Disaster Psychosocial Response (DPS). The team consists of registered psychologists, registered social workers and clinical counsellors who assist and support

those affected, when called on by the communities affected by natural disasters (floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, wildfires) and other large-scale emergencies (multiple accidental deaths, injuries, shootings).

The summer wildfires left folks without their homes, separated from their communities and families and left to deal with all the trauma such dislocation and uncertainty causes. In a team of three we “purple people” (we wear easily identifiable purple shirts) were called to the interior of B.C. to offer support. We offer to ‘walk with people’ as they navigate their new reality. This can mean everything from complicated trauma counseling to getting another volunteer a cup of coffee and listening and laughing together.

I was ‘deployed’ to Kamloops and Ashcroft during the evacuation period. It was such an exhausting difficult and rewarding personal and professional experience. I remember one day I met with over 100 people; working with them individually or in family and friendship groups. Concerns ranged from finding methadone treatment providers for several, to locating translation services for a grandmother (her family were recent refugees) and they were now sleeping or NOT sleeping, just inches apart from total strangers in the Kamloops Arena.

The members of the Ashcroft First Nations lost all their homes as their land was scorched in a matter of hours. When they invited the team to meet with

them at a local motel I was saddened by the losses they'd endured and by the way, still are. I have had many emergency counseling opportunities but this experience was by far the most intense AND strangely one of the most fun. I am still in touch with some folks who are threatening to visit me and I hope they do.

My 'work' post UVic with the Disaster team, plus founding Ravens Crossing Cohousing where we're developing an exciting intentional community on the Saanich Peninsula has left me wondering why I stayed so long as a UVic faculty member!

# Congratulations

## Awards



Dr. Natalie Ban, Associate Professor, Environmental Studies appointed Faculty of Social Sciences Lansdowne Early- Career Scholar Award.



Dr. Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Award for Excellence in Teaching for Experiential Learning.



Dr. Alona Fyshe was named CIFAR (Canadian Institute for Advanced Research)'s Azrieli Global Scholar for Brain, Mind and Consciousness.

## Awards Cont'd



Dr. Jutta Gutberlet, Professor, Department of Geography, Faculty of Social Sciences, 2018 recipient of the Provost's Engaged Scholar Award.



Cheryl Moir van Iersel was awarded HSD Excellence in Teaching and Educational Leadership Award.



Inba Kehoe, Research Repository Librarian, received the Award for Excellence in Open Education from BCcampus.



## Awards Cont'd



Dr. Valerie King was named ACM Fellow a few years ago, this is a pretty big international honour in Computer Science and she is the only one at UVic.



Dr. CindyAnn Rose-Redwood, Assistant Teaching Professor at the Department of Geography UVic, won the Faculty of Social Sciences Teaching Excellent Award, Assistant Teaching.



Dr. Peggy Storey, a professor in Computer Science became a member of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars.



Dr. Amy Verdun, Professor Political Science appointed Faculty of Social Science's Distinguish Fellow.

## Awards Cont'd



Dr. Barbara Whittington, Emerita Professor, Social Work bags the **'The Above and Beyond Award'** given for *Acts of Selflessness and Bravery in BC's 2017 Wildfire and Flood Season*. It was given in recognition of Barbara's efforts and selflessness in service to the Province of British Columbia in the response to the 2017 wildfires and floods.



Dr. Stephanie Willerth is the 2018 recipient of the Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research Inspired Teaching - which is one of the UVic REACH awards.



Dr. Victoria Wyatt, an Associate Professor at the Department of Art History & Visual Studies, won the Faculty of Fine Arts Award in Teaching Excellence.



Dr. Wanosts'a7 Lorna Williams, UVic Professor Emerita of Indigenous education (Curriculum and Instruction), 2018 Inspire Award for her contributions to Indigenous education.

## **AWC Steering Committee Members 2017-2019**

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