

**Prof. Dr. Paul D. Morris**

**Université de Saint-Boniface**

**Hauptseminar "Within Canada across Cultures: Transcultural Canadian Literature"**

Blockseminar: taking place in building C5 3, room 4.08

Mon 10/06/2013 (6-7pm) / Wed 12/06/2013 (6-9pm) / Fri 14/06/2013 (12-3pm)  
Mon 17/06/2013 (6-9pm) / Wed 19/06/2013 (6-9pm) / Fri 21/06/2013 (12-3pm)  
Mon 24/06/2013 (6-9pm) / Wed, 26/06/2013 (6-9pm) / Fri 28/06/2013 (12-3pm)  
Mon 01/07/2013 (6-9pm) / Wed 03/07/2013 (6-9pm)

Canadian literature is replete with texts that depict the myriad cultural forms and traditions that shape the lives of individual Canadians and, by extension, the Canadian society they comprise. Indeed, representation of the contrasting cultural forces specific to Canadians as individuals, and their society as a whole, is a significant marker of the very "Canadianness" of Canadian literature. Depiction of the culture influences that determine individual and societal identity are central to the Canadian literary project. Canada's is a literature of hybridity.

As a (post-) colonial society founded within previously inhabited aboriginal territory and subsequently marked by successive waves of immigration, the sources of cultural genealogy in Canada are many. Traditionally, these been conceived in collective categories of ethnicity, nationality, religion, language community and so. More recently—partly as a result of literary probings into the very understanding of cultural identity—the categories of cultural belonging have been expanded to include the influences derived from personal choice and affiliation: these include gender/sexuality, education, economic status, political beliefs and so on. Canadian literature reveals that, in the lives of Canadians and their society, it is rarely one cultural association or affiliation that shapes identity, but a mixture, a crossing of influences. Canadian literature—like Canadian society—is transcultural.

In this HS, we will examine several recent literary expression of transculturality. The course will not provide a totalising review of transculturality; nonetheless, the texts for the course have been specifically chosen with a view to discussing prominent points of cultural contact within and across Canada. In studying several of the most influential sites of cultural intersection as they are depicted in the works under discussion, we will note the various ways that these texts both question and confirm—at the level of the individual and of society—the abiding relevance of categories of cultural identification and how they reveal transculturality as the inevitable condition of Canadians and Canadian society.