

Reconciliation: work(s) in progress
Symposium Program



Thursday, September 27:

- 5 pm: Sacred Fire
- 5-7 pm: Site tours; light refreshments (Meet in EW 203)
- 7 pm: **Welcome:** Henry Angeconeb; Arthur Perlini, Academic Dean, Algoma University; Darrell Boissoneau, President, Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig; Organizers; Guest speaker Shirley Horn, BFA Algoma University/Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association
Doc Brown Lounge (EW 205)
- 8 pm Launch of *Reconcile This!: A Special Issue of West Coast Line*
Doc Brown Lounge (EW 205)

Friday, September 28:

- 8:30 - 9:00 am **Welcome and Continental Breakfast**
Great West Life Amphitheatre (NW 200)
- 9:00 - 9:30 **Opening Remarks / Organizational Matters:**
Trina Bolam, Jonathan Dewar, Steve Loft, Ashok Mathur, Sophie McCall
Great West Life Amphitheatre (NW 200)
- 9:30 – 10:45 **Opening Address:** David Garneau, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Regina
Imaginary Spaces of Conciliation and Reconciliation: Art, Curation and Healing
Animateur: France Trepanier
Great West Life Amphitheatre (NW 200)
- 10:45 – 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 – 12:30 pm **Roundtable Session 1: Reconciliation: Theory, Practice, Ethics**
Reconciliation, as a concept, has existed in many forms for many years. There is in Canada at this moment a particular focus on reconciliation as a result of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement and its components, particularly the linking, contextually, of healing, redress, commemoration, and truth-telling (through the mandate of Canada's Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission). Add to these issues the notions of apology, public engagement, and

education and the result is a complicated picture. As ‘reconciliation’ has become increasingly a buzzword in a number of contexts both nationally and internationally, the stakes in defining and carefully assessing its usefulness become high. How do various settler and Indigenous communities, particularly artists, writers, and artist-researchers, understand and use reconciliation in politically transformative ways? What are the theoretical underpinnings of reconciliation, and how might reconciliation be practiced on the ground? What are the ethical implications of using it as a guiding principle in creating the conditions for social change and justice in Indigenous-settler relations? How might scholars and artists generate strategies for launching public pedagogical projects, and what might be the benefits of pursuing alternative concepts, like restitution or decolonization?

Moderator: Jonathan Dewar

Animateurs: Roy Miki, Paulette Regan, Jaimie Isaac, Peter Morin
Doc Brown Lounge (EW 205)

- 12:30 – 2:00 **Lunch & Address by Glen Lowry:** *Developing Electronic Platforms and Publications for Reconciliation: Work(s) in Progress*
Animateur: Ashok Mathur
EW 200
- 2:00 – 2:30 Break
- 2:30 – 4:00 **Roundtable Session 2: Arts-based Approaches to Reconciliation**
Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has, like past truth commissions around the globe, invoked art and artists in the work it is doing to carry out different aspects of its mandate. In international communities that have gone through a TRC process, artists have responded in formal and informal ways, often filling in gaps or challenging the notion of a formal process from outside of that process. Our goal in this session is to brainstorm new methods through which artists, curators, cultural producers, and researchers will collaboratively use exhibition spaces to engage in larger public dialogues relating to arts-based approaches to reconciliation; to discuss the parameters of future and ongoing art projects; to create the conditions in which collaborative and / or cross-cultural art projects can be created or developed; and to generate new theoretical frameworks for speaking about artistic and curatorial practice and its role in galvanizing grassroots social movements focused on reconciliation in national and global contexts.
Moderator: Trina Bolam
Animateurs: Chris Creighton-Kelly, Srimoyee Mitra, Vanessa Dion Fletcher, Chris Bose
Doc Brown Lounge (EW 205)
- 4:00 – 4:30 Break
- 4:30 – 6:00 **Roundtable Session 3: Collaborative Practice**
What alliances of socially active and politically aware artists can be crafted within a context of arts-based approaches to reconciliation? What new art and commemoration initiatives may develop out of these networks and/or communities of artists as they engage and interact with each other within, or in resistance to, the particular policy framework presented by the TRC or other institutional bodies concerned with reconciliation in Canada? What recommendations can the workshop participants furnish for future directions in carrying out these initiatives? What potential exists to craft new and ongoing collaborative teams among artists, writers, cultural producers, and scholars engaged with questions of reconciliation?

Moderator: Sophie McCall

Animateurs: Leah Decter, Kateri Akiwenzie Damm, Cecily Nicholson, Stephen Foster
Doc Brown Lounge (EW 205)

8:00 pm **Dinner at Chummy' Grill – Noel's Place, Rankin Reserve**

Saturday, September 29

9:00 am **Continental Breakfast** (EW204)

9:30-11:30 **Roundtable Session 4: The Incubation Process:**

If reconciliation is a process and also a work in progress, how will individual artists, researchers, or collaborative teams use public and private spaces to further explore their own methods and practice, while also contributing to the collective research aims of developing and disseminating knowledge that explores theories and practices of reconciliation from arts-based perspectives? Working collaboratively, participants will use Indigenous and arts-based research methods in both structured and unstructured time frames to explore the potential for the exhibition of artistic works-in-progress building on the concept of arts-based approaches to reconciliation.

Key tasks during the incubation:

- Recommendations
- Collaboration Plans
- Future plans
- Documentation (online & exhibition)

Animateurs and Moderators: Steve Loft and Ashok Mathur

Participants: Each incubation participant should be prepared to speak briefly about their plans for developing a work in progress
Doc Brown Lounge (EW 205)

11:30+ **Symposium ends / Incubation begins**