

Landscapes of Injustice



Research News and Project Updates

Winter 2018

Message from the Project Director - Jordan Stanger-Ross

What a time to be directing *Landscapes of Injustice*! As recipients of this newsletter (and especially members of the Collective) will know, we've been preparing for some time for the transition this spring to *knowledge mobilization*. In the first four years of our project, we were primarily a research team, focused on political, legal, geographical, and social historical research questions. Starting this spring, we're an organization primarily devoted to communicating our findings to public audiences in our museum exhibit, teacher resources, an accessible archival database, and a narrative website.

In recent months, after some collective soul-searching, we realized that this transition should also include a change in our governance. The ideal committee to steer the new phase of our activity, we determined, was not quite the same as the committee that had steered our research phase. Working collegially at all levels of the project, we made significant changes, particularly at the level of

the Steering Committee, which now includes representatives of all of our partner institutions with mandates in the Japanese-Canadian community (the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, the National Association of Japanese Canadians, the Nikkei National Museum, and the Vancouver Japanese Language School & Japanese Hall), representatives of the bi-coastal museums that will also host our exhibit (the Royal BC Museum [Victoria] and the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 [Halifax]), and two members of our Community Council, in addition to researchers and leaders of specific project activity. Our early December meetings of this new group were energetic and optimistic. As Project Director, I certainly came away with a renewed sense of purpose and of the deep community-based support for this work.

I'm delighted to introduce to the project its new Phase 2 Steering Committee:

Chair: Jordan Stanger-Ross (also Public History Website cluster co-chair)

Vice Chair: David Mitsui (NAJC rep)

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre Rep: Elizabeth Fujita/Theresa Takasaki

Nikkei National Museum Rep: Sherri Kajiwara (Museum Exhibit cluster co-chair)

Vancouver Japanese Language School & Japanese Hall Rep: Laura Saimoto

Royal BC Museum Rep: Leah Best (Museum Exhibit cluster co-chair)

Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 Rep: Steve Schwinghamer

Community Council Rep: Art Miki

Community Council Rep: Susanne Tabata

Research Assistants Rep: Sydney Fuhrman

Phase 1 Research Rep: Pam Sugiman

Executive Committee Rep: Audrey Kobayashi

Cluster Chairs:

Stewart Arneil (Archival Website cluster co-chair)

Melanie Hardbattle (Public History Website co-chair)

Greg Miyanaga (Teacher Resources cluster co-chair)

Mike Perry-Whittingham (Teacher Resources cluster co-chair)

Lisa Uyeda (Archival Website cluster co-chair)



SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2018 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

EXPOSING THE DISPOSSESSION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS IN THE 1940S

MARCH 10 | 10:00 AM-12:00 PM | BOB WRIGHT CENTRE A104

Hear UVic historian Jordan Stanger-Ross describe how Japanese Canadians lost their homes, farms, businesses and possessions when they were interned and incarcerated during the 1940s and how the Landscapes of Injustice research project is uncovering this difficult history. After his presentation, explore a pop-up museum of innovative

audio and visual displays exhibits with researchers working on the project and community members who were interned. Discover why and how this dispossession occurred, who benefitted from it, and how it has been remembered and forgotten in subsequent decades.

For more information about events go to: uvic.ca/ideafest



Free and open to the public

Ideafest is a week long, university wide festival showcasing the ideas of faculty, students and staff from across the university. It is open to the general public as well as the university community.

To see a full roster of the week's events visit: https://www.uvic.ca/ideafest/assets/docs/2018_Ideafest_schedule.pdf

The *National Association of Japanese Canadians* and the *Landscapes of Injustice* Partnership Project are proud to jointly announce the:

2018 “HIDE HYODO-SHIMIZU RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP”

Valued at \$10,000, this research scholarship will be awarded to a student who was enrolled full time at a Canadian University in the 2017-18 academic year. The successful applicant will join the *Landscapes of Injustice* research team in late April 2018, participating in its 2018 national Spring Institute, and then join the research team for the duration of the summer.

Landscapes of Injustice is a 7-year (2014-2021) multi-sector and interdisciplinary project to uncover and tell the history of the dispossession of Japanese Canadians to audiences across Canada and beyond. The first years of the project include research in a range of areas necessary to telling this history. Our work will result in a traveling museum exhibit, teaching materials for elementary and secondary school classes, educational websites, scholarly and popular publications, and public presentations across the country. Most Canadians know that people of Japanese ancestry, the large majority of them Canadian citizens, were uprooted from the British Columbia coast during the 1940s. Much less known is the policy, unique to Canada, to forcibly sell all of their property. The dispossession of Japanese Canadians caused lasting harm. It left Japanese Canadians without homes to which they could return after restrictions were finally lifted in 1949. It forced the eradication of Canada’s historic Japanese-Canadian neighbourhoods and settlements, thereby transforming individual lives and identities, and the broader landscapes of Canadian ethnic and urban life. It caused material hardship that stretches across multiple generations.

Like other shameful episodes of our national history, these events may seem to belong to a distant past, to a history left behind by multicultural Canada. In reality, however, the past is not so easily escaped. As Canada enters a century in which it will grow ever more diverse, a deep conversation about the enduring legacy of racism is of pressing importance. *Landscapes of Injustice* is committed to telling this history. Our team includes 16 institutions and over 30 specialists from universities, community organizations, and museums across Canada. The project is funded by a major grant from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada and by participating institutions.

Applications will be accepted until 4 pm PST Friday, March 9, 2018 and then on a rolling basis after that until a successful candidate is selected.

Position Details

The successful Research Associate will participate with students, faculty, and staff in the first summer of knowledge mobilization in Phase 2 of this project, beginning April 25, 2018.

They will work in one of several possible “clusters” of research activity this summer:

- Museum Exhibit
- Teacher Resources
- Archival Website
- Public History Website

The fellowship is valued at \$10,000 in wages and other costs associated with training and travel as the student participates in the project. This may include a presentation at the NAJC AGM in Winnipeg in September.

The position will last *approximately 16 weeks*, depending on specific arrangements with the supervisor.

A faculty or staff member who is a team leader on the project will supervise the Research Associate. Payment of the full funding amount is contingent on successful participation in the project as directed by this supervisor.

Application Details

Include:

- A cover letter demonstrating engagement with and strong interest in Japanese Canadian history and community;
- A letter of support from a NAJC local chapter. Visit <http://najc.ca/about-new/> for a list of NAJC chapters;
- Full official academic transcripts, including for the 2017-2018 academic year;
- Contact information for three references;

Applications should be emailed to Mike Abe, Project Manager at mkabe@uvic.ca

We will begin reviewing applications on Monday, March 12, 2018 and continue on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

**Landscapes of Injustice
Lecture and Research Presentations**

Saturday, March 3, 2018

10 am -12 pm

Edmonton Japanese Community Association

Argyll Community League

6750-88 Street

Edmonton, Alberta T6E 5H6

Sunday, March 4, 2018

10 am – 12 pm

Calgary Japanese Community Association

Calgary Nikkei Cultural & Senior Centre

2236-29 Street SW.

Calgary, Alberta T3E 2K2

Project Manager, Michael Abe will be on hand to give an overview of the Landscapes of Injustice project, outlining the research that has been undertaken and informing the audience of the plans to disseminate the results of the primary research to the Nikkei community and general public. This will also include a demonstration of how the community can use the information to research their own history.

Michael will also be joined by Eric M. Adams, a law professor and legal historian from the University of Alberta, Faculty of Law. He is also the chair of the Legal History cluster of Landscapes of Injustice.

In carrying out the internment, incarceration, dispossession, and exile of Japanese Canadians in the 1940s, the Government of Canada employed the law to authorize racist policy. At the same time, Japanese Canadians turned to the law to defend their rights. This clash of constitutional arguments and values altered the fate of the Japanese-Canadian community in Canada, and it changed the future of the Canadian Constitution itself. In his talk, Dr. Adams will discuss the role of the law in carrying out and challenging one of the most egregious human rights violations in Canadian history.



Did I Hear You Say Racism? Interpretative Authority and the Oral History Interview

Professor Pamela Sugiman (Professor and Dean of Arts, Ryerson University)

Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Time: 7:00 pm

Venue: Friends Place Meeting Room Crossings Branch Library (255 Britannia Blvd. West)
Lethbridge, Alberta

Everyone welcome

Presented by the Centre for Oral History and Tradition, University of Lethbridge and the Lethbridge Public Library

PHASE 1 CLUSTER RECAPS

PROVINCIAL RECORDS CLUSTER

Leah Best



Landscapes of Injustice Provincial Records Cluster exhibition, Royal BC Museum - photo by Leah Best

After wrapping most of its work in September 2017, the Provincial Records Cluster shifted its focus from Phase 1 outputs related to Knowledge Mobilization, to Phase 2 outputs that supports knowledge dissemination to a range of learners.

To that end, the cluster (its work and its team) was featured in a public exhibition at the Royal British Columbia Museum from December 2017 to January 2018. The exhibition was the result of a unique collaboration between graduate students in the University of Victoria's Public History program, the Royal BC Museum and the Cluster's most recent Research Assistants. Highlights from the cluster's research were featured in photographs shot by the Royal BC Museum's photographer and text was written by the public history students. Past cluster Research Assistants Gord Lyall, Camille Haisell and Tess Elsworth are all featured in the exhibition.

In support of the exhibition, a Landscapes of Injustice playlist is now featured on the Royal BC Museum's Learning Portal website. Titled, "Archival Documents and the Dispossession of Japanese Canadians", the playlist can be found at: <http://learning.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/playlist/archival-documents-related-to-the-dispossession-of-japanese-canadians-in-the-1940s/>. Highlights include photographs of Miners at the Awaya Ikeda mine in Haida Gwaii (which came under the jurisdiction of the Custodian in 1942) and a Japanese Tea Garden in Esquimalt owned and operated by the Takata family until 1942.

The Royal BC Museum and the Nikkei National Museum will be creating a complete exhibit as part of Phase 2 of our project that will be touring to various institutions across the country.

LAND TITLE AND GOVERNMENT RECORDS CLUSTER

Eiji Okawa

With the transition to Phase2 around the corner, the Government Records and Land Titles cluster is getting our materials ready for knowledge mobilization. Our database is expanding with thousands of files and our researchers are producing summaries to make it all accessible. We are also sharing our findings with the academic community with articles in peer-reviewed journals.

The Journal of American Ethnic Studies special issue with Landscapes of Injustice, scheduled for publication this summer, features two works by members of our cluster. Jordan Stanger-Ross, Landscapes project director and the chair of our cluster, and Will Archibald, a former research assistant of the project, delve into rich archival records in their co-authored piece, “The Unfaithful Custodian: Glenn McPherson and the WWII Dispossession of Japanese Canadians.” What they offer is an in-depth analysis of a little-known bureaucrat most responsible for Canada’s policy to sell everything that Japanese Canadians in incarceration had left behind. “Japaneseness in Racist Canada: Immigrant Imaginaries during the First Half of the Twentieth Century,” written by postdoc and former research assistant Eiji Okawa, draws on Japanese-language sources to analyze how the Issei thought of themselves and situated themselves in Canada. Shifting the discussion of Japanese-Canadian history from a model centred upon white racism, Eiji sheds light on ideas and categories that shaped Issei identities. Additionally, Jordan is a co-author with UVic political scientist Matt James, unaffiliated with the project, of “Impermanent Apologies” in Human Rights Review (<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12142-018-0491-9>, full text access is subscription based, please contact Jordan at jstross@uvic.ca to request a copy). Comparing the 2013 City of Vancouver apology for its complicity in uprooting Japanese Canadians with the 2008 apology by Stephen Harper for residential schools, Jordan and Matt offer thought-provoking analyses of the effects of political apologies: rather than ending public reckoning with historical wrongs, apologies tend to fuel research, which in turn advances the understandings of the wrongs to undermine the adequacy of the apologies. To put this in perspective, is Landscapes conceivable without Redress? We hope these diverse scholarly contributions stimulate further conversations about the policies of the 40s, complex transnational experiences, and public engagements with injustice.



Glenn McPherson (with pipe) pictured in 1942 with Under Secretary of State Ephraim Coleman (cigarette), to whom he reported directly in the 1930s and 1940s. Frank Delaute (on the phone) was not involved in the forced sale of Japanese-Canadian-owned property. Photo courtesy of Rare Books and Special Collections, University of British Columbia Library (Glenn McPherson fonds, Box 4, File-4-03).

Editor’s Note: Eiji Okawa has been with our project since 2015, his Japanese language skills have been invaluable to our Community Records research cluster where he worked for two summers at the Nikkei National Museum as a research assistant. Eiji was awarded his PhD in Japanese Language in September 2016 from the University of British Columbia and has been a post doc fellow in the Legal History and Government Records ever since.

HISTORICAL GIS CLUSTER

Reuben Rose-Redwood

The Historical GIS cluster has had a productive final year of research activity, and the cluster's two graduate research assistants, Samantha Romano and Sonja Aagesen, joined cluster chair Reuben Rose-Redwood in presenting our research findings at the Canadian Historical Association/Congress conference in Toronto this past summer.

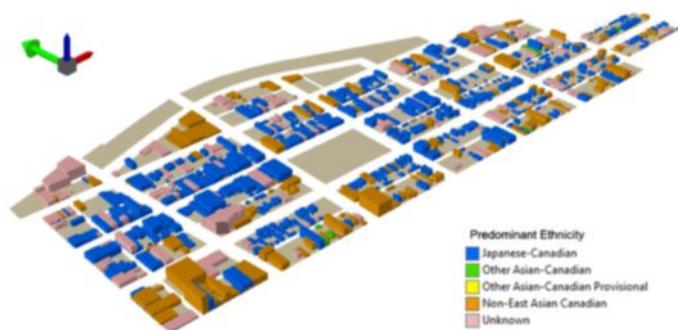
In particular, our research has documented how the forced incarceration and dispossession of Japanese Canadians during the 1940s resulted in a number of key transformations to the urban social geography of the Powell Street neighbourhood. One of our most significant findings is that the majority of Japanese Canadian-owned properties were sold by the Custodian of Enemy Property to non-East Asian Canadians (54%) and another 33% were sold to Other East Asian Canadians by 1950. Similarly, in terms of changes to the residential population, our results indicate that the largest share of new residents living in the Powell Street neighbourhood directly following the forced removal of Japanese Canadians were non-East Asian Canadians (43%, although another 44% are listed as "unknown"). Another key research finding from our spatial analysis is that the dispossession resulted in a major decline in commercial establishments as a percentage of the total land use in the Powell Street neighbourhood (from 36% in 1930 to 17% in 1956), which has had a long-term impact on the economic vitality of the area.

In addition to completing our research on Powell Street, we have made significant progress digitizing historical maps of Maple Ridge, Steveston, Salt Spring Island, and Kitsilano, which we hope to complete in the upcoming months. The Historical GIS Cluster has also collaborated with a number of other LOI researchers over the past year, and our collaborative research with LOI researcher Audrey Kobayashi will be published in a forthcoming article entitled, "Exile: Mapping the Migration Patterns of Japanese Canadians Exiled to Japan in 1946," in the *Journal of American Ethnic History*.

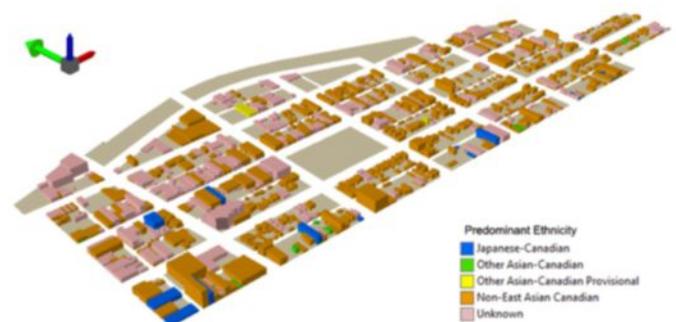
As the LOI project transitions into Phase 2, our cluster will be winding down our formal research activities. However, we are now at a point where we will begin writing up our research findings for publication, and cluster chair Reuben Rose-Redwood will continue to help coordinate cartographic support for Phase 2 research clusters as the project shifts towards the important efforts of knowledge mobilization.

Below: Maps created by the Historical GIS research cluster

Population Ethnicity in the Powell St Neighbourhood in 1941



Population Ethnicity in the Powell St Neighbourhood in 1943



RECENT EVENTS

75th Anniversary Book Launch

On November 25th the Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre held a celebration of Japanese Canadian literature to mark the 75th anniversary of the internment. While several works were celebrated and sold at the event four works were singled out.

The Tree Trunk Can Be My Pillow by Tadashi Jack Kagetsu

Departures by John Endo Greenaway, Linda Kawamoto Reid and Fumiko Greenaway

Witness to Loss edited by Jordan Stanger-Ross and Pamela Sugiman

The Japanese Translation of *Gateway to Promise* by Ann-Lee and Gordon Switzer, translated by Keiko Miyamatsu-Saunders

Project Director Jordan Stanger-Ross spoke about his work *Witness to Loss* with opening remarks from Mr. Ed Kimura, son of Kishizo Kimura, whose memoirs are the subject of the book. Sherri Kajiwarra presented *The Tree Trunk Can Be My Pillow*. Additionally, Ann-Lee Switzer, Gordon Switzer and Keiko Miyamatsu-Saunders spoke about *Gateway to Promise* and John Endo Greenaway and Linda Kawamoto Reid presented commentary on *Departures*.



Photo credits: Kiyoshi McGuire

Vancouver Maritime Museum in association with the Lost Fleet Exhibition

On January 14th, 2018 Landscapes of Injustice and the Vancouver Maritime Museum held a book launch and lecture event. Dr. Jordan Stanger-Ross spoke about his new work *Witness to Loss*, along with contributing author Masako Fukawa. In addition to these captivating talks, several of the project's research assistants presented their own research in a poster session held for the audience.

This lecture was the first of the Vancouver Maritime Museum's Lost Fleet lecture series. The Lost Fleet exhibit displays the history of the Japanese Canadian fishing vessels that were confiscated in 1942.

To view video of speakers check out <https://youtu.be/s3hUdKj-xpE>

For more information on the Lost Fleet Speaker Series: <https://www.vancouvermaritimemuseum.com/event/lost-fleet-speaker-series>



Masako Fukawa speaking at event Photo credit: Dennis Chen

The Lost Fleet Exhibition
Vancouver Maritime Museum
1905 Ogden Avenue in Vanier Park
Vancouver BC V6J 1A3
Now on view until June 17, 2018

<https://www.vancouvermaritimemuseum.com/exhibit/lost-fleet-exhibition>



Lost Fleet exhibition Photo credit: Michael Abe

JAPANESE PROBLEM

On December 3rd and 4th, 2017 Universal Limited's site responsive play, *JAPANESE PROBLEM*, was staged in Victoria with the support of several organizations and departments of the University of Victoria as well as our project. Three performances were held at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and three were held on the University of Victoria's campus. With the two different performance spaces, the production was able to draw a diverse crowd to the various productions, with students, staff and faculty of the university attending, as well as members of the general public.

The play is a unique piece of theatre with the small group of actors often engaging directly with the audience and asking them to move around the room throughout the show. The production was wonderful and extremely well received.

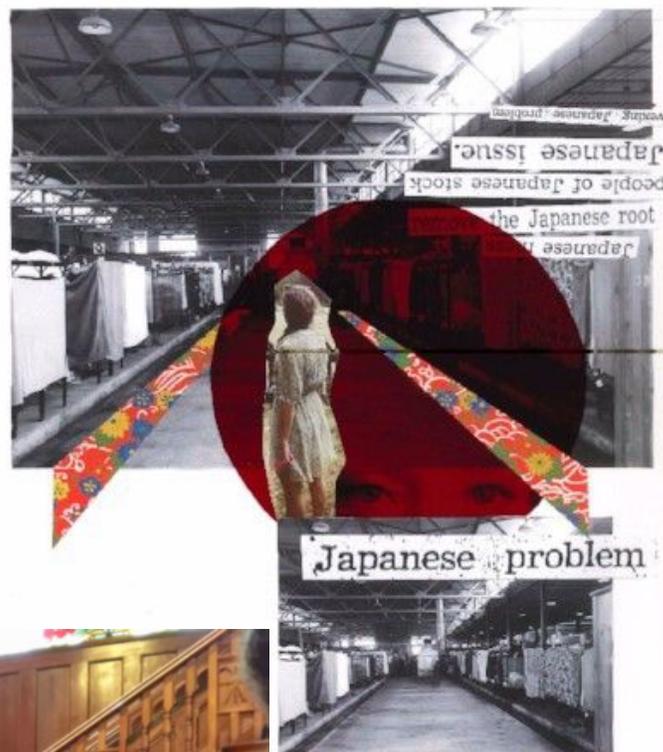


Photo: Cast during a talk back after one of the AGGV performances. Photo courtesy of Yukari Peerless

Universal Limited is a collective that works to uncover hidden stories in unusual locations. They work collectively to write and design shows as experiences that are accessible to all. They are currently booking performances for August, and October – December 2018. Contact them if you would like them to come to your area. <https://www.japaneseproblem.ca/touring/>

Creation and development of Japanese Problem funded by the following organizations: British Columbia Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, Nikkei National Museum and the National Association of Japanese Canadians. Learn more at www.hastingpark42.ca

Public performances presented by the Japanese-Canadian local community, Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Silk Road Tea, Landscapes of Injustice and the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society.
University of Victoria performances presented by Landscapes of Injustice, Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, Department of History and Department of Theatre.



Pam Sugiman speaking at the Royal BC Museum; Photo courtesy of Roy Katsuyama

Acts of Kindness and Complicity: The silence of bystanders and eyewitnesses to the dispossession and internment of Japanese Canadians

On January 28th Pam Sugiman spoke at the Royal British Columbia Museum. Her lecture, titled Acts of Kindness and Complicity: The silence of bystanders and eyewitnesses to the dispossession and internment of Japanese Canadians, was thought provoking as she explored the silences of bystanders during the internment and dispossession. She explored how they remember the events of 1942 and how they have shared their memories.

Dr. Sugiman was in Victoria and Vancouver Island to give these presentations as the 2017 recipient of the Lansdowne Lecture Award and the Distinguished Women's Scholar Award from the University of Victoria. This was her last talk after a busy week where she spoke at the Qualicum history conference in Parksville as well as to members of the University of Victoria's history department. The lecture was a resounding success with almost ninety people in attendance.

About the speaker: Dr. Pamela Sugiman is a professor and Dean of Arts in the Department of Sociology at Ryerson University. She joined Ryerson in 2006 after holding a tenure-stream position for 15 years at McMaster University. In the course of her career, Dean Sugiman has built a reputation for creativity, collegiality, transparency and vision. She has had a long-standing commitment to issues of social justice, equity, diversity and inclusion. These values are rooted in her personal history and have profoundly shaped her scholarly pursuits. Dr. Sugiman is the Oral History research cluster chair in the Landscapes of Injustice research project.

Presented by the Uvic History Department, Royal BC Museum and the Nikkei National Museum as well as the Distinguished Women's Scholar Selection Committee and sponsoring departments at the University of Victoria: Departments of History, Gender Studies, Political Science, German and Slavic Studies, Pacific and Asian Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Landscapes of Injustice which is housed at the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives.

STAY CONNECTED WITH LANDSCAPES OF INJUSTICE

To receive newsletters electronically, subscribe at <http://www.landscapesofinjustice.com/subscribe-newsletter/>

Like us on Facebook and stay updated on news and events on the project and in the Nikkei community

<https://www.facebook.com/Landscapes-of-Injustice>

Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/LandscapesInjus

Submit a family story to **Touched By Dispossession** <http://www.landscapesofinjustice.com/touched-by-dispossession/>



Joichi and Osame Uyenaka and 5 of their 6 children, c.1939-1940
Photo courtesy of the family (Estate of Joichi Uyenaka and Estate of Osame Uyenaka)

Ashes: Recollections of A Sansei

By Laura S. Uyenaka

Reprinted with permission of the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (Toronto)

The assistance of Joy Kogawa in the preparation of this article is acknowledged. The title "Ashes" was Joy's idea. The author assumes responsibility for the content.

Among my memories of growing up in a middle class neighbourhood in Toronto is the mystery surrounding my grandfather, Joichi Uyenaka who died in Grandview Hospital on May 20, 1942 after order-in-council PC 1486 had forced obaasan, his wife Osame and their children into Hastings Park and Lemon Creek internment camps. Jiichan had been dying of liver cancer for years. The Adventist Association ordered a cremation; however, no burial took place. What became of his ashes? My inquiries have not elicited any response.

I first met Joy Kogawa in 2016 after an operatic performance of Naomi's Road. Joy's daughter and I were classmates at the U. of T. before redress. Joy reconnected us through e-mail and, as we corresponded, I had a flashback to French class when the teaching assistant would call me "Deidre". I guess we all looked the same to him. If not for redress, would we not all still look the same to a hakujiin?

Joy and I got acquainted over dinner a few weeks later. Joy was intrigued by my family history and lamented my grandfather's missing ashes. Obaasan, despite her loss, lived into her 90s. Upon release from Lemon Creek, stoically she raised 6 children alone in Toronto, far from her privileged life in B.C. before the family home, import-export business, car and family heirlooms were confiscated. The Uyenakas had settled on Vancouver Island by 1927, after sailing from Yokohama, Japan on the Empress of Japan in the illustrious company of the explorer Roald Amundsen. Life around the Woodfibre sawmill and my father's honours standing had been topics of long ago dinner table conversations of my childhood. Had Bachan known, in preparing for Hastings Park, that she would not see her dying husband or her home again, would she have acted differently or packed anything else into that one suitcase? My nisei parents told us little about their lives in or before Lemon Creek. Through my child's eyes, our family photo album started in 1942 whereas my childhood neighbours – Shona & Gary, Carol, Marion, Kevin & Diane, the Ball children – had family photos dating back to infancy and beyond.

On my mother's side, obaasan Seki Nakauchi, widowed in 1950, kept the urn containing her husband's ashes on a makeshift altar in her bedroom. During childhood visits I saw her offer gohan at the altar in keeping with the Buddhist belief in a nirvana where the deceased are transformed into buddhas. By 1976 when she died, the assimilation of the nisei and sansei was complete: the spouses were buried in one plot after the sansei ceased observing the issei's Shinto religion. My Nakauchi grandparents were reunited in death and the cycle of life was complete whereas Obaasan Uyenaka is alone in death, just as she had lived alone for almost 50 years after Lemon Creek, without the closure that jiichan's ashes would have brought.

I showed Joy a photograph of my late mother Yoshiko taken in Cumberland, the mining community where she was born in 1931. Post-war my parents revisited B.C. only after 1970, with two of my brothers and I in tow. Mother still remembered the crisp B.C. apples of her youth with the innocence of the 11 year old she had been before the racism of wartime changed her life and Canadian history irreversibly. She searched in vain for the apple orchards which the locals say grew from cores tossed by emigrant miners from Japan. Thirty years later, mother still recalled the haunts of her youth, but the apple orchards had given way to development. In her selective memory the orchards would bear their fruit eternally. "Yoshiko" who entered Lemon Creek became "Gloria" in the post-war whitewash. My father "Masayuki" became "Roy" in the dispersal period as the nisei were forced to assimilate or face exclusion.

Mother's ill health resulting from denial of healthcare in Lemon Creek alarmed Joy Kogawa. Other "ghost town" survivors whom we fondly called 'aunt' and 'uncle' were confined to a sanatorium after exposure to the cold B.C. interior. Mother worked for Canada Customs in the 1950s and the RCMP in the 1970s. Despite medical advice not to conceive, five children were born to Yoshiko and Masayuki Uyenaka. Then while working with the RCMP Security Service on the 1976 Montreal Olympics, mother suffered a brain hemorrhage caused by blood thinners taken with heart medication. Her grave is marked with an RCMP regimental marker in the name "Gloria Y. Uyenaka" to commemorate her service to Canada.

History books do not disclose the effects of racism on the issei and nisei. In fact, historians were denied access to governmental redress records before 2008 due to application of the *Access to Information Act*. "Shikata ga nai" was the response of two generations to a collective trauma. Perhaps they drew strength from their Buddhist belief in suffering as integral to life's experiences.



Joy Kogawa and Laura Uyenaka - January 2017
Photo courtesy of Laura Uyenaka

Redress, after all, is symbolic, I expressed to Joy. How could the loss of our pre-1942 heritage be quantified? How could loss of human dignity or mother's ill health be restored? How much is the suffering of obaasan Uyenaka and that of her six children – too young to have known their father alive or in death – worth? No one responded to my inquiries.

Nonetheless, we must not underestimate the good resulting from redress. In the 1960s my friends joined Brownies, but I was excluded; then came redress - suddenly in 1988, it was okay to be a Japanese Canadian. In fact, a sansei like me was unprepared for sudden acceptance given that my upbringing had taught me to be ashamed of my heritage. I started to admit that I had a Japanese middle name, "Sumire", which is absent from my university diplomas. Still, the road to inclusion is full of potholes. A few years ago in a law firm where I worked, a colleague remarked that I look "Japanese", not "Chinese" given the slant of my eyes. More recently, I was faced with the option of selecting "Japanese" or "Other" for my nationality – I checked "Other" and typed "Canadian".

The legacy of redress and our ancestral losses, the legacy for future generations, is the Canadian Race Relations Foundation (CRRF). And of most significance for the cause of human rights is repeal of the *War Measures Act*. Without that, neither the intent of the redress nor the intent of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms can be realized. By that action Brian Mulroney assured the assertion of human rights in Canada - that is his enduring legacy. At the time of the Air India bombing when racism against Canadians of East Indian descent surfaced and schoolchildren in turbans were ostracized, I recall thinking that without redress, they too could have been treated like us. Viewing the travelling Anne Frank exhibit in Toronto recently, I recalled the generosity of the Toronto Jewish community during the dispersal and I commented in the guest book at John Polanyi School on the role that the CRRF should play in observance of Yom HaShoah.

In 2017 it's too late to hear the voices of the issei and nisei who have passed on. Because redress did not bring restitution, our stories and our suffering— and jiichan's ashes – are buried in our collective psyche. Shikata ga nai says that it was all swept under the rug. It's what our ancestors could not say that is the response we seek. Joy Kogawa seemed disturbed at dinner at Ichiriki Restaurant that I had concluded years ago that jiichan's ashes had been tossed into the garbage. How many others have spent their lives searching for lost ashes?

STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations to Kaitlin and Rebeca

Two of our research assistants have recently successfully defended their Master Theses. Congratulations to Kaitlin Findlay on her thesis titled; "The Bird Commission, Japanese Canadians, and the Challenge of Reparations in the Wake of State Violence" at the University of Victoria and Rebeca Salas on her thesis titled "Spatial Narratives of Property Loss: A Geographic Perspective on the Relationship Between Memory and Property" at Simon Fraser University.



Laura Ishiguro, Dara Culhane, Rebeca Salas and Nicholas Blomley at defence - Photo courtesy of Nick Blomley

My summer at the Nikkei National Museum (or, the life of the archives)

Kaitlin Findlay

To get to the Nikkei National Museum, I took the skytrain and then city paths that led me around the back of the concrete building to its sun-filled atrium. Always a little late, I'd catch my breath after walking up the stairs to the Fuji room, where summer interns Nathan Yeo, Joe Liao, and I spent hours sorting through archival donations, housing them carefully and entering their descriptions into the museum database. We sat at the center of a slightly disconcerting accumulation of boxes and joked that we worked in the "Fuji Room Vault", a second, unofficial archival storage area where collections manager Lisa Uyeda stacked new donations as they came in.

Lisa, my direct supervisor for the summer, appeared to be caught in an infinite game of Tetris. She explained that as people were becoming more familiar with the institution and Japanese Canadians aged, donations to the museum were becoming steady and generous. While I worked at the table, she would wheel donations—old orange crates, dozens of pillbox hats, stacks of letters, and framed family photographs—to and from the actual archival vault downstairs.

One day when Lisa was out speaking with a donor, Nathan and I helped (with some incredulity) stack an elaborate, heavy contraption of wood, wool, and cast iron into the room. It turned out to be a homebrew sake set-up, preserved from the prewar Steveston community.

Later, while Lisa was vacuuming the spider webs from this donation, I was struck by a wave of nostalgia. "The smell of rust reminds me of my grandparents' place," I laughed. Lisa agreed, and we speculated on the correlation between growing up with your grandparents—surrounded by faded photographs, slightly moldy books, and stories—and becoming an archivist.

I had always intended to do a summer co-op as part of my Master's. It was a chance to gain work experience while pursuing further studies in a [field](#) with a shrinking job market. The opportunity at the Nikkei National Museum effectively wove together aspects of my research, my employment with *Landscapes of Injustice*, and an interest in archival studies and museum curation. My time at the Museum also offered me a chance to place the focus of my study (the dispossession of Japanese Canadians) into the broader context of Japanese-Canadian history and the many ways it has been told.

Getting into the archives

When I started my co-op in May, I began working with the [Tonomura family collection](#). The single box held the story of an entire family and their settlement—and re-settlement—in Canada over the course of the 20th century. It was preserved in glimpses through certificates, agreements, guestbooks, and photographs.

Senjiro Tonomura immigrated to Canada at the turn of the 20th century and soon he and his wife, Kuni, had a small family: two sons and two daughters, two born in Japan and two born in Canada. With the forced uprooting, internment, dispossession, and deportations of the 1940s, the Tonomura's lives would retrace the bridging of their children's births over the Pacific Ocean.

After years of determined labor, sacrifice, and some reward, federal orders uprooted the Tonomuras from their homes in 1942 and then deported the family from Canada in 1946. After a decade of exile, the Tonomuras slowly returned to North America and rebuilt their lives in British Columbia. As I processed their records, their story became more and more vivid: an urgent letter from Moichiro, the oldest son, when he was imprisoned in Angler after refusing to leave his property; desperate appeals for refugee status in Japan when they were deported; congenial Christmas cards to John, Senjiro's grandson, when he returned to Vancouver after graduating high school in 1956. To fill in the gaps between documents, I had Marlene Tonomura's biography of the family, a profile lovingly compiled by John's wife, who wrote with an understandable admiration for this remarkable family.

To read the whole article, visit <http://www.landscapesofinjustice.com/project-activity/summer-nikkei-national-museum-life-archives-kaitlin-findlay/>