

#### Research News and Project Updates Message from Project Director Dr. Jordan Stanger-Ross

Look up! Landscapes of Injustice has a new logo.

We decided to refresh our look this summer, just in time for our signature public outputs: the *Landscapes of Injustice* teacher resources, digital materials, and museum exhibit. After an international design competition, with over 100 submissions, we settled on a distressed maple leaf. Some of our key themes, displacement and the loss of home, are subtly sketched within. For many of us, this design evoked classic Canadian iconography, but with something awry. Something is wrong. This Canada is recognizable to us, but it's not the place of our ideals.

In July we launched Canada's Internment Era: A Field School at the University of Victoria. It was a highly unusual class. Half of our twenty students were regular UVic students, many among them also research assistants on our project. They're a passionate group. Rounding out the class were 10 teachers who work in classrooms across Canada. They were a diverse lot, joining us from elementary and secondary schools in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia. Together, we travelled for a week in the interior of British Columbia as part of the Nikkei National Museum bus tour. Alongside other tour participants, many of whom had family connections to the internment and even a few who had lived in internment themselves, we learned the history of internment in the places where it happened. Then we spent a week in Victoria, reading, discussing, and completing group projects.

It was a dream of this course to give teachers the knowledge and resources to teach the story of the dispossession to students across Canada. With the support of partners—the Frank H. Hori Foundation and the National Association of Japanese Canadians—we were able to provide fellowships

# Summer/Fall 2019



to all participating teachers, covering almost all of their costs. Roxanne, who joined our course from rural Quebec, worked with a small group to translate teaching resource materials into French. She had never before heard of the internment. Roxanne returned home inspired to teach this history and to convey our project's resources to colleagues. Other her course participants collaborated to create an interactive digital story; classrooms across Canada will soon be able to experience some of the difficult choices that faced Japanese Canadians during their internment and dispossession. What to pack? Where to go? Who to trust? Informed by research, this interactive tool will soon be available alongside our other teaching materials.

Are you a teacher who might be interested in participating in July 2020? Contact me at jstross@uvic.ca and I'll make sure you get the application materials.

#### 2019 Canada's Internment Era Field School

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For more photos and information on the field school, visit <u>2019 Field</u> <u>School website</u>, https://landscapesofinjus.wixsite.com/mysite a group project by some of the students and teachers. Thank you to sponsors National Association of Japanese Canadians, Frank H. Hori Charitable Foundation, Community-Engaged Learning at Uvic and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Stay tuned for more information in the next newsletter about the 2020 Field School in July.

### Journey into the Interior

Natsuki Abe

In July 2019, I attended the University of Victoria's first iteration of Canada's Internment Era: A Field School. I am appreciative of a grant from the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society to help with my tuition and fees. I also understand that grants from the NAJC, Frank Hori Foundation and Uvic Community Engaged Learning helped subsidize teachers and students. I was one of ten UVic undergraduate and graduate students along with ten in-service teachers from across Canada. The two-week course started with the five day-long bus tour held annually by the Nikkei National Museum in Burnaby. The bus travelled throughout the various internment sites in the BC Interior, including stops at the newly installed highway signs. The bus tour allowed for the extraordinary opportunity for the field school students to interact with the other bus tour attendees and hear first-hand stories from those who had directly experienced the internment. We also did activities in Powell Street and the Vancouver Japanese Language School & Japanese Hall before and in Steveston after the tour.



The bus tour was a touching way for me to reconnect with my own family's wartime experiences in Lemon Creek and New Denver. I had visited those sites before including seven years ago with both my grandparents present. They have both passed since and this was an emotional journey for me to visit not only the sites we walked together, but also to see the bench my father and his siblings commissioned in our ancestors' honour. We also discovered the resting place of my great-great grandfather, Takejiro Toyota, in Slocan Cemetery.

After returning from the bus tour was a week of in-class seminars and discussions. We spent each morning with a particular focus, for example, we learned about the Redress movement from Art Miki and we walked through the teaching strategies used by the Landscapes of Injustice elementary school module. In the afternoon, we had time to work on our group projects which were designed to facilitate student and teacher collaboration. Our group created a text-based, choice-driven video game made with a program called Twine that is geared towards students in grades roughly 6-8 called Into the Interior.



By the end of the course, I had been incredibly immersed in my history and felt invigorated by the experience. Learning amongst my peers who came into this course with diverse backgrounds and connections to this history was one of the most valuable outcomes and I am very grateful to have had this opportunity.

Natsuki Abe is a third year history student at the University of Victoria and a Community Research Assistant with the Landscapes of Injustice project. She is a Yonsei (fourth generation Japanese Canadian).

## Frank H. Hori Research Fellowship **Recipient Jennifer Landrev**

As an undergraduate student, a constant battle exists between imposter-syndrome and believing in myself. Pursuing a double major in honours history and writing, with a minor in journalism and publishing, it's hard to see how my disciplines can blend. So when the opportunity to work on *Landscapes of Injustice* arose last fall, despite my fears, I challenged myself to apply, trusting my capabilities to work hard and learn. Looking



back almost a full year later, I'm overwhelmingly thankful I did.

I am the recipient of the Frank H. Hori Research Fellowship. For the past ten months I have worked with the oral history collection, contacting narrators and finalizing transcripts that will be made available to the public on our upcoming database. Last November, I would never have anticipated how this position would change my final two years at the University of Victoria.

During the summer, I took time away from my research position to enroll in the Seminar in Canadian History: Canada's Internment Era - a Field School. It was an amazing two-week course, and one of the rare opportunities to take my discipline outside the classroom. For the first week we participated in the Nikkei Internment Bus Tour, sharing the landscape with those who had lived through interment and/or their descendants. Touring the Kootenays with both my peers and elders is one of the most enriching learning experiences I have had during my academic career, one filled with fruitful conversations and shared learning that could not have happened in a regular course. And not only did the field course provide me with learning opportunities, but I also had the pleasure of meeting interviewees in person. It's an exciting moment to have a conversation with someone you've listened to intently, recording their words, preserving their life story as a historical record.





At the end of those two weeks, with a great team of peers, we were able to output a choose-yourown adventure narrative for our group project, one that will be used in teacher resources to educate youth about the choices Japanese Canadians made during the internment era. My participation on the narrative was heavily influenced by my work with the oral history collection, and would not have been possible without it.



I am very proud of our hard work, and beyond thankful for the learning opportunity the field course provided. It is my understanding that not only did the Frank H. Hori Charitable Foundation provide the funds for my fellowship, but also contributed funds to help subsidize a portion of the costs of the bus tour for students. I, as well as others, am incredibly grateful for their generosity and willingness to help students achieve success. It is an overwhelming feeling when you receive financial support, one you don't forget during your degree.

I've gained so much knowledge from the *LOI* community: researchers, coworkers, supervisors, project participants, and the Japanese-Canadian community at large. Working with them has been the most rewarding aspect of my job. It is an amazing position, one where I blend my journalism skills with history, as well as contribute to a community-based project that goes above and beyond what I thought historical study could accomplish. Because of my fellowship, I am now working with Dr. Stanger-Ross for my honours thesis on Japanese-Canadian history, and I have a newfound confidence in my ability to produce a thoughtful, well-researched paper. I have learned so much, and will continue to learn.

I cannot overstate my sincere gratitude to the Frank H. Hori Charitable Foundation for providing this fellowship, and all the opportunities it continues to create for me.

#### The Frank H. Hori Charitable Foundation

Focussed on preserving Japanese cultural heritage, creating opportunities for young people, and enriching society.

Frank Hiroshi Hori (February 2, 1927 - April 15, 2011) was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, to Haruye and Zenya Hori, originally from Shiga-ken, Japan. They were merchants of Japanese goods on Powell Street, at the centre of the city's Nikkei (Japanese) community. Frank and his seven siblings grew up in a home filled with love, warmth, and the camaraderie of family and many Japanese friends.

During the war, the Hori family was sent to the Slocan Internment Camp (Bay Farm) for a two-year period, where Frank attended a makeshift school. Eventually the family relocated to Regina, where he attended Regina College before moving to Montreal. He attended McGill University from 1951 to 1954, studying business and accounting.

Frank always remembered the funding support provided by his siblings towards his post-secondary studies.

Frank launched his 30-year career with Premium Forest Products, a Toronto-based door manufacturer, which was renamed Premdor Inc. when Frank and partners purchased the company. In 1986, Frank was instrumental in leading the company to public ownership with eventual international opportunities. He retired as Executive Vice-President and CFO of Premdor Inc. and as Vice-Chairman and Director of its subsidiary, Masonite International.

Frank was a highly proficient individual with a stellar acumen for business.

During his retirement, Frank acquired various real estate properties and became a world traveller and a philanthropist with a deep passion for his cultural roots and heritage.

In 1999, Frank established The Frank H. Hori Charitable Foundation to promote charitable endeavours in general but mainly those aligned with his philanthropic ideals for Japanese culture: a caring society; postsecondary learning; and the honouring of meritorious Canadians of Japanese ancestry for their contributions to Canada.

#### **Phase 2 Cluster Updates**

#### Museum Exhibit Community Consultation Sessions at Powell Street Festival

Yasmin Railton, PhD

At this year's Powell Street Festival (PSF), the *Landscapes of Injustice (LOI)* Museum Exhibit Cluster held a series of Community Consultation Sessions at the Vancouver Japanese Language School. We invited the public to join us on the afternoons of Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup> to see the latest design schematics and to contribute towards the curatorial process as we finalize the selection of artifacts and design elements.

At its core, *LOI* is community-engaged research. The open consultation at PSF represented an important social function in terms of enhancing public education, advocacy, and demonstrating the values of the *LOI* project. Over the past year, we have had the opportunity to expand our public outreach across BC communities.

Our approach is informed by lessons learned from broader community consultations taking place right now throughout Canada by national community organizations, such as the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC). These consultations are intended to '... identify new opportunities to make visible the history of injustice, support the sustainability of the Japanese-Canadian community, and highlight contributions of Japanese Canadians to creating a just and prosperous society for all.'

Community Consultation Sessions are best practice in terms of participatory exhibition making. We invite the public to actively engage and participate in shaping the exhibit. We share examples of textual and visual material including facsimiles of government documents, letters of protest, family photographs, hand drawn maps of property, short excerpts from oral histories, and public notices such as auction ads and newspaper articles. We invite the public to respond with their initial reactions and to comment on the emotions and questions that the materials evoke.

This was also an opportunity for us to speak directly and respectfully with our target audience and to ensure that the content we are producing is accessible and presented in clear language. We asked questions such as 'what would you like to know more about?' and 'what information might you need to accompany a photograph or document'. The group was then invited to join in an open feedback session and moderated discussion.

I would sincerely like to thank Sherri Kajiwara, Director and Curator of the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre, and *LOI* Research Coordinator Kaitlin Findlay for co-running the session with me, and for all those who participated and shared their thoughtful contributions.





#### **Teacher Resources**

Greg Miyanaga and Mike Perry-Whittingham

Teacher Resources has been active in the completion of our resource packages and website designs, with the Elementary lessons and website set for completion by December 2019 and Secondary Resources shortly after. In both cases invaluable feedback and review came from the inaugural *LOI* Field School held at the beginning of July. Website content and design has been proceeding with the support of Aynur and Abby; at the core of the Secondary lesson design is the dispossession and the four claims (Loss of home, Dispossession is sustained work, Dispossession required reasoned wrong, and Dispossession is permanent). Each of the claims is examined, in varying ways, in the Secondary and Elementary resources but there is a commonality of purpose in the telling of powerful stories, studying key artefacts coming from the research, and asking students to consider how this history speaks to the contemporary Canadian issues.

At the Secondary level we have lessons to address each of the four claims in some detail, with the challenge being one of reaching the depth and complexity of the story, while maintaining a viable resource with lessons that will be easily integrated into any classroom across the country. For example, in unit 8 we examine the claim that Dispossession is permanent by having students consider the question of how we remember, commemorate, honour or recognize the past. Students examine a number of existing sites of memory, including schools, and consider the significance of which stories or people we are honouring through memory. Students then consider the question of how we should acknowledge and remember the uprooting, internment, dispossession and deportation of Japanese Canadians.

In the coming months lessons will be field tested, refined and revised in both elementary and secondary contexts and we will continue with the design and implementation of the website that will house both sets of teacher resources and support materials. We are excited to be near the end of one journey, the development and design of the teaching resources, and the start of the dissemination and promotion of our materials.

#### Narrative Website

Jordan Stanger-Ross

The Narrative Website cluster is planning to have a completed "beta" or draft version of our site by December. We're making good progress toward that goal. The website will be organized by the four principal research claims of the research phase, which are by now familiar to most readers of this newsletter: (1) Dispossession entailed the deliberate killing of home, (2) Dispossession is sustained work, (3) Dispossession required reasoning wrong, (4) Dispossession is permanent. Each of these claims will be supported by case studies, often profiles of individuals.

So, for example, the first claim, on the killing of home, includes the moving story of the Yoneyama family from Haney British Columbia. When Rikizo Yoneyama was uprooted from his farm, he wrote a powerful letter to federal officials, urging that they keep their promise to protect and preserve his property until his return. Yoneyama distinguished clearly between a temporary uprooting and internment, which were of course devastating injustices in their own right, and the forced sale of property that he had built in decades of hard labour. The farm was the future of his family. To see that inheritance destroyed an almost unbearable harm. Yoneyama tried to reason with officials: "It does not seem just that as Canadians my family should be deprived of a home which to us meant more than just a home. It was, to us, the foundation of security and freedom as Canadian citizens." As part of Claim 1 on our website, we tell the story of the Yoneyamas to convey the harms of the killing of home.

This spring, Josh Van Es, our cluster's able research assistant and I, supported by the indispensable Project Research Coordinator Kaitlin Findlay wrote the content of the entire website content. Satisfied that we had a rough draft, we held a design contest this summer to find a suitable graphic design. After a spirited competition, we picked a designer based in England, who came up with a beautiful and compelling look. This fall we'll finalize content, refine the design, and go to website development. We're very much looking forward to presenting it to the project team at the end of the year, and then to the wider world just a little later.

#### Claim #3 Dispossession required reasoned wrong

Josh van Es

Continuing in our series of short essays relating to the four claims, this one comes from Josh van Es.

Claim #3 states that perpetrators of the dispossession reasoned wrong. Dispossession was not the work of angry racists alone. Although racism permeated the corridors of power, notions of citizenship, good governance, and fair play were also twisted in service of injustice. Ideals that Canadians now repudiate folded together with ones we still cherish to deprive citizens of their rights.

As Landscapes of Injustice research assistant, Josh van Es, neared the end of his time as an undergraduate student, he had the opportunity to take a directed reading course with project director, Dr. Jordan Stanger-Ross. The article that emerged from the course was inspired both by his studies in history and psychology, and by the research of former research assistant Will Archibald. Will's work, among others, paved the way in developing one of the major claims of the project: that Canadian bureaucrats "reasoned wrong" to enable and carry out the dispossession of Japanese Canadians.

In what became Josh's capstone undergraduate project, he explored one such federal bureaucrat, Gordon Robertson, to unearth his role in developing the Canadian government's plan to exile Japanese Canadians to Japan. At just 26 years old, Robertson found himself working in Ottawa's corridors of power. Fresh on the job, Prime Minister MacKenzie King's request for a "solution" to the "Japanese problem" landed on Robertson's desk. Aware that his predecessor was demoted over his objections to the very same task, Robertson was not willing to risk his new career. Despite his own reservations, he devised the plan to send Japanese Canadians to Japan, playing a key role in the development of one of the most draconian policies in Canada's history. Troublingly, Robertson would fold British notions of justice and fair play into the policy, and later defend it on those same grounds. He, like many other bureaucrats and federal officials, had to reason wrong in order to justify their role in the dispossession, internment and exile of Japanese Canadians.





Photo credit: Commissioner of the Northwest Territories from 1953 to 1963, sourced from: NWT Archives/Peter Gordon fonds/N-1979-005-0007.

#### Landscapes of Injustice Presentation in Duncan

Kathryn Gagnon

On July 26, the Cowichan Valley Museum & Archives hosted the Landscapes of Injustice Team at Duncan's Mesachie Gallery. The presentation complemented The Suitcase Project traveling exhibit, sponsored by the Cowichan Valley Public Art Gallery.

Michael Abe, Dr. Yasmin Railton and Kaitlin Findlay delivered a compelling presentation. Michael gave an overview of the project; he explained that the research phase of the work was completed and introduced Phase 2, including school program materials and digital archives. School programming helps students understand the unfairness of the Japanese-Canadian dispossession and create both empathy and the desire to protest and advocate for better treatment. Included in this demonstration were videos of students reading protest letters they had written from the point of view of the Japanese-Canadian personae that they adopted in the pilot lesson, highlighting their frustrations and sense of loss.

Kaitlin demonstrated the research gathered in oral histories, and played excerpts of stories to the audience, some of them heartbreaking.

Dr. Yasmin Railton invited the audience to learn about the development of the traveling exhibit that is being designed. She discussed the themes, how different points of view will be presented, and how to make the messages compelling. It was a fascinating discussion that gave the audience a glimpse into how the research from Phase 1 will inform the traveling exhibit.







The team then took questions from the audience; several people just wanted to comment on their own experiences of the Japanese-Canadian internment. The presentation was very well received and provided participants with an opportunity to learn more about this period in our history, and the repercussions that continue to this day.

The work that the Landscapes of Injustice team has accomplished is astonishing, and the research they've undertaken ultimately helps organizations like the Cowichan Valley Museum & Archives to tell these stories and provide a learning experience for the students who participate in our school programming.

The Museum co-hosted a community consultation at the Paldi Gurdwara for the Punjabi Canadian Legacy Project in October, 2016. Even fifty years later, former residents of Paldi, a logging town on Vancouver Island, shared their memories of the Japanese-Canadian families who were forced to leave, and the measures their friends and neighbours took to store their belongings until they could return to Paldi. These are community stories, like the ones collected through the Landscapes of Injustice project, help us to remember our past.

Kathryn Gagnon is the Curator/Manager at the Cowichan Valley Museum & Archives in Duncan, BC. Photo credits: Dorian Melton and Cowichan Valley Public Art Gallery

# **Upcoming events:**

Café Historique lecture series:

#### The Destruction and Rebuilding of Canada's First Japanese Teahouse

Wednesday, October 2, 2019 6:00-7:30 pm Hermann's Jazz Club 753 View Street Victoria, BC V8W 1J9 Doors open at 5 pm Free of charge although donations of a twoonie is appreciated.



The first Japanese teahouse in Canada was founded in 1907 in Gorge Park, Esquimalt, by Yoshitaro Kishida and Hayato Takata. At their peak in the 1920s, tens of thousands of visitors strolled through their winding paths each year and dined in an open-air teahouse that served traditional English fare. This all came to an abrupt end when the Takata family — along with nearly 22,000 other Japanese Canadians — was forcibly uprooted, interned and dispossessed in the 1940s. Join Dr. Jordan Stanger-Ross and Kaitlyn Findlay as they relate the forgotten history of the teahouse and today's opportunities for its commemoration.

Register at Eventbrite for free

Midge Ayukawa Commemorative Lecture Acknowledgement: Self- and Social Recognition and Japanese Canadian Women's Histories

#### Dr. Mona Oikawa

Tuesday, October 15, 2019 4:30 pm David Turpin Building Room 104 University of Victoria Free and open to the public



Inspired by scholars who are questioning the politics of settler state recognition, the presentation seeks to explore other forms of recognition. The presentation will argue that self- and social recognition are important to the conceptualization, writing and commemoration of Japanese Canadian women's histories. Examples from Dr. Michiko Midge Ayukawa's work and Dr. Mona Oikawa's book, Cartographies of Violence: Japanese Canadian Women, Memory, and the Subjects of the Internment, and other sources will be used to illustrate her argument.

Dr. Oikawa is an Associate Professor, Department of Equity Studies at York University in Toronto, ON.

Presented by the Midge Ayukawa Commemorative Fund, the Asian Canadians on Vancouver Island: Race, Indigeneity, and the Transpacific Research Project, the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society and Uvic's Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, History department and Social Justice Studies 10

# Japanese Exclusion, Labour, and Environment in the BC Salmon Fisheries, 1900-1930

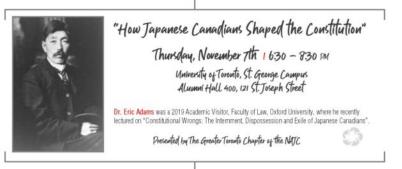
Dr. Benjamin Bryce and Hailey Massingham Monday, October 28, 2019 3:00-4:30 pm Sedgewick Building C168 University of Victoria Free and open to the public Hosted by Landscapes of Injustice and the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives

Between 1900 and 1930, fishermen, cannery workers, investors, fisheries officials, and federal commissioners in British Columbia knew that the salmon in the Fraser and Skeena Rivers were overfished. They saw the solution in hatcheries, controlling when and where people could fish, and limiting the number of fishermen engaged in the commercial fisheries. Yet while the first two solutions relied on a certain scientific logic, the last issue was highly influenced by racial ideologies. In the immediate aftermath of Canada's 1908 Gentlemen's Agreement with Japan and again with greater force after the First World War, a range of groups sought to curtail the presence of Japanese immigrants and Canadians of Japanese heritage in the BC salmon fisheries. The BC government and pressure groups explicitly described their goals as a strategy for fish conservation and as a way to make the fisheries more accessible to white fishermen. Engaging with the often-separate histories of environment and Asian exclusion, this article argues that between 1900 and 1930, government policies in British Columbia aimed at conservation and public concerns about resource depletion were infused with racial ideologies. It demonstrates how state efforts to regulate the fishing industry, and more specifically human responses to changing environmental conditions, became highly linked with the anti-Asian agitation that had already taken hold on the Pacific coast of North America.



Dr. Benjamin Bryce is an assistant professor in the Department of History at the University of Northern British Columbia and received his PhD from York University in 2013.

Hailey Massingham holds an Honours BA from the University of Northern British Columbia and is currently studying law at the University of Victoria. She has researched extensively on race, exclusion, and the BC salmon fisheries. 11



### How Japanese Canadians Shaped the Constitution A lecture by Dr. Eric Adams, Professor of Law, University of Alberta

Thursday, November 7, 2019 – 6:30-8:30 PM University of Toronto, Alumni Hall 400 121 St. Joseph Street (corner Queen's Park), Toronto

Like the "Enemy That Never Was" by Ken Adachi and the "Politics of Racism" by Ann Gomer Sunahara, this lecture is a game-changer for Japanese Canadians. Learn about how the Canadian legal and political network was stacked against those with the courage to assert the rights of Japanese-Canadians citizens. Legal challenges by Japanese Canadian's, starting in the early 1900s have left a mark on Canadian history that the community can celebrate with pride.

Dr. Adams has lectured on *Constitutional Wrongs: The Internment, Dispossession and Exile of Japanese Canadians* at Oxford University, as an academic visitor, but has yet to deliver a lecture on this theme in Toronto. The recipient of several awards for his research and teaching, he publishes in the fields of constitutional law, legal history, and human rights. He is the author of several legal histories of some of Canada's most important public law decisions and is leading the legal historical research on *Landscapes of Injustice*. Professor Adams is currently working on a book on the exile of Japanese Canadians after the Second World War.

Justice Maryka Omatsu Co-chair of the BC Redress Steering Committee will introduce the speaker. Presented by the Toronto NAJC chapter and sponsored by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation.

#### TICKETS \$5.00 for non-members ORDER ONLINE

https://squareup.com/store/the-greater-toronto-chapter-of-the-najc/item/how-japanesecanadians-shaped-the-constituion MEMBERS FREE – <u>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</u> http://www.torontonajc.ca/events/

#### Landscapes of Injustice public presentation at Mackin House Museum

Saturday, November 9, 2019 1:00-3:00 pm Coquitlam Heritage at Mackin House 1116 Brunette Ave Coquitlam BC V3K 1G2 <u>www.coquitlamheritage.ca</u> Free and open to the public

The team from Landscapes will be at the Mackin House Museum to complement their new exhibit that started this September called Home Front that focuses on the WWII experiences of those who remained in Canada and British Columbia during the war. Part of this exhibit will cover the internment of Japanese Canadians in BC.

Join us for a project update, and talks related to property and loss by Japanese Canadians in the local area as well as the elementary school pilot lessons being tested in schools in the area.