



**ORAL HISTORY
ASSOCIATION**

NEWSLETTER

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Conference keynote and plenary panels set to explore regional, international issues

An oral historian and anthropologist from Turkey, Canadian First Nations storyworkers, and historians who examine Vietnam, civil rights and other landmark movements of the 1960s are among the presenters at the Montreal OHA conference who will challenge attendees at a keynote speech

and two plenary sessions.

Leyla Neyzi, a professor of cultural studies at Sabanci University in Istanbul, Turkey, is the featured keynote speaker on Friday, Oct. 12, from 12:30 to 1 p.m. A prolific author and oral historian, Neyzi's topic is "Between 'Democracy' and 'Authoritarianism:' Implications for Oral History Practice."

Her previous work has included oral history projects that incorporate photography, videography, performance, books, traveling exhibits and a conference. Her work has ranged from an oral history project documenting Turkey's horse culture to work that deals with conflict-laden issues and settings.

Recent oral history projects include: "Young People Speak Out: The Contribution of Oral History to Facing the Past, Reconciliation and Democratization in Turkey" and "Speaking to One Another: Personal Memories of the Past in Armenia and Turkey."

Neyzi holds bachelor's and master's degrees in cultural anthropology from Stanford University and City University of New York, respectively, and a Ph.D. in development sociology from Cornell University.

The first of two plenary sessions, scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 11 from 3:30 to 5 p.m., will feature several First Nations scholars whose work illustrates the intimate links between Indigenous stories and the languages and places from which they emerge.

Lorraine Sutherland, from the remote Attawapiskat First Nation in Northern Ontario, describes oral history as about relationships with one's self, with others and with the larger community, including the natural and spiritual worlds.

Autumn Varley, an Anishinaabe of Southern Georgian Bay along Lake Huron, notes that listening to stories can take myriad forms, whether using an audio recorder at a table, sitting on a bed crafting or listening to the land with one's heart and spirit.

The second plenary, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 13 from 3:30 to 5 p.m., will focus on "The Year that Shook the World: Remembering 1968."

Panelists include:

- Christian Appy, history professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, who has written three books about the American war in Vietnam;
- Elaine Carey, history professor and dean at Purdue University Northwest, whose research emphasizes gender, crime and immigration in the Americas;
- Laura Jones, a Toronto-based artist and activist, who has documented social movements for the past half-century, including the 1968 Poor

- People’s Campaign in Washington, D.C.; and
- Donna Murch, historian at Rutgers University, whose research interests include mass incarceration, Black Power and civil rights.



President's Letter



Co-Executive Directors Report



‘History inhabits each of us,’

Concordia University declares

Montreal's Concordia University, OHA's conference host, invites attendees to the public launch of "History inhabits each of us: Creative engagements with personal story in troubling times," set for Wednesday, Oct. 10 from 5 to 8 p.m.

The university's Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling calls the multifaceted array of exhibits, performances and programs "research-creation projects" that involve a unique collaboration among university and community participants.

Events and exhibits are scheduled throughout the conference and reflect an astonishing array of topics, including: Indigenous street art, climate disasters, making maps with textiles, Syrians displaced by war, multilingual sculptures, Colombian refugees and student strikes in Quebec, among many, many others.

Take a look at this link to [Research Creation Projects](#) for detailed descriptions. And be ready to be astonished at the oral history centre's creative, thought-provoking, elaborate work.

Calling all OHA volunteers!

As we approach the annual meeting, the incoming president is preparing to make appointments to the OHA standing committees. To ensure we are casting the widest net possible for potential



committee members, this year the Committee Task Force is asking members to let us know if they might be interested in serving on a standing committee.

Committee service is a great way to get more involved in the OHA and to network with colleagues who have similar interests. You can find a list of committees and description of their activities

here: <http://www.oralhistory.org/about/committees/>

And to submit your name indicating which committees might interest you, fill out the form you'll find here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfXuqcXjZG0lkeJxmJWPHWoiyRY>

b1BfEgHlaBtAyJDxfX858Q/viewform?usp=sf_link

Oral history on a global scale

By Donald A. Ritchie

A large contingent of OHA members joined oral historians from 52 nations at the International Oral History Association meeting in Jyväskylä, Finland, June 18-21, 2018. Each day's session opened with a keynote address, including Paula Hamilton of Australia, Ene Köressaar of Estonia, Shelley Trower of Great Britain and Alessandro Portelli of Italy.

Under the theme of "Memory and Narrative," sessions ranged broadly, dealing with subjects from immigration to pandemics, civil rights and gender identity.

This year being the centennial of the Finnish civil war, speakers introduced the international audience to memories of events in the host country. Finnish history was represented in memories of wars in song, Finnish design and the circumstances of sharing a border with Russia.

With more than 20 hours of sunlight a day at Midsummer, delegates enjoyed a leisurely boat ride on a Finnish lake, dinner on an island, music and a sauna followed by a plunge into the lake, for those who chose.

The meeting was a testament to the spread of oral history internationally and to the vitality and versatility of its practice. Digital technology has also served to unite oral historians in a global community to share their interviews in person or on line.

IOHA will next meet in Singapore in 2020.

Quite a few international delegates from the Finnish meeting also attended the joint meeting of the British Oral History Society and Oral History Network of Ireland in Belfast, June 28-29. Its theme of "Dangerous Oral Histories" allowed for presentations on The Troubles in Northern Ireland, family violence, interviewing prisoners and gang members, and the Virginia Tech shootings, among others.

The program took place at Queen's University and also featured black cab tours of the Protestant and Catholic neighborhoods of Belfast and the ominous "peace wall" that separates them, walking tours of the post-industrial mill areas and waterfront, and a well-deserved pub crawl.



Newly elected IOHA officers hail from Australia, Brazil, China, Finland, Iran, Mexico, Spain, Singapore, South Africa and the United States.
Photo courtesy of Donald A. Ritchie

GRAMMY Museum invites grant-seekers

The GRAMMY Museum is now accepting letters of inquiry for its 2019 grant cycle. With funding generously provided by the Recording Academy, the GRAMMY Museum awards grants each year to organizations and individuals for audio preservation projects, as well as scientific research efforts. The program's aim is to advance the archiving of the recorded sound heritage of the Americas and to explore the impact of music on the human condition.

Grant funds have been used to preserve private collections as well as materials at the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian and numerous colleges and universities. Research projects have studied the links between music and early childhood education, treatments for illnesses and injuries common to musicians, and the impact of music therapy. To date, more than \$7 million in grants have been awarded to nearly 400 recipients.

To apply, a letter of inquiry is required before submission of a full application. To read the guidelines and to submit a letter of inquiry for the 2019 GRAMMY Museum grant cycle, please visit

<http://www.grammymuseum.org/programs/grants-program>. The deadline

each year for submitting letters of inquiry is Oct. 15.



Visit the OHA Member Site



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President's Column

By Todd Moye

Promoting ethical principles and best practices for oral history is the most important public service the OHA performs. If anything, it's more important now than it has ever been, with the federal government having recently redefined "generalizable knowledge" in a way that exempts oral history from Institutional Review Board review. Many campus IRBs have been slow to recognize these changes, but someday soon no oral historian will have to jump through the hoops that were created to monitor human subject research.

The OHA has long encouraged people to practice oral history according to the highest possible ethical standards—longer than IRBs have been around, in fact—but when the last campus IRBs free academic oral historians to record without their restrictions it will only increase our need to promote and disseminate standards that lead to ethical interviewing practice.

To that end, Sarah Milligan and Troy Reeves have led a task force of roughly a dozen OHA members to revise our Statement of Principles and Best Practices. Last updated in 2009, the document was in need of a refresh.

The task force has restated the eternal verities that the document has preached since its first incarnation in 1968, and it has added practical guidance for issues that previous versions did not foresee, including concerns surrounding digital access to interviews and best use of new recording technologies, among others. It will also direct readers to even more detailed online how-to guides, discipline-specific guidelines, and technology-related recommendations.

I'm so grateful to Sarah, Troy and the members of the task force who have devoted incalculable hours of time and effort to this production over the past several months. Their work has been worth it: in my opinion, they have found the balance that will make the document most useful for a wide range of interviewers and other professionals at various points in their oral history careers.

It provides enough prescriptive (and in a few cases proscriptive) advice to help budding oral historians, archivists and others get started and educates oral history interviewees about what to expect from the process, but it is flexible enough to allow for a wide range of creative practice.

That's not to say that there is no room for improvement. We invite your comments on the beta version of the document, which will be uploaded to the OHA website by the end of August. We will solicit feedback throughout September and will schedule at least one webcast, Skype call or Google hangout to allow interested members to share their thoughts and suggest improvements.

We're sure that this will only strengthen the document, so please look for further details on how to find it and participate in a feedback session in an upcoming email blast from OHA HQ.

Our hope is that OHA Council will find the resulting document acceptable and that we'll be able to present it to membership at the business meeting in Montreal and to the world shortly thereafter. At that point we'll ask for your help again—because we all have a part to play in sharing our best practices and promoting oral history.

Co-Executive Director's Report

By Kristine McCusker and Louis Kyriakoudes

This will be a different conference!

Conference planning is in full swing, with program associate Faith Bagley, doctoral student Jordan Alexander and both co-directors working hard to make sure #OHA2018 in Montreal is the best conference yet. Steven High, the folks at the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling (COHDS) and Concordia University have worked hard to make this a truly wonderful conference with exhibits, performances and local tours that highlight oral history.

This will be a different conference, however, so expect some changes for this year only. Instead of a conference hotel, we will be using two buildings at Concordia University—the Library and the John Molson Building (“MB” in local parlance). You can walk outside to get to each place OR you can use a connecting tunnel that also will take you to the Metro (Montreal’s subway). Confused? Steven High and his local arrangements committee will have about 50 volunteers, all wearing shirts identifying them as volunteers, to help you find your way.

Some highlights of the program will include some live streaming of sessions. Other sessions—completely in French—will be simultaneously translated for English speakers, so be sure to attend.

The Library Atrium will have exhibits, and there will be performances on Wednesday and Friday nights. The exhibitors will be housed on the bottom floor of the MB building, so visit them, too.

Finally, our new tradition of having the International Oral History Association Reception continues this year at McKibbin’s Pub (1426 Bishop Street) on Saturday night from 5-7.

The local arrangements committee has reserved hotel rooms around Concordia, most within walking distance. Be aware that some of the hotels, especially Le Nouvel, have sold out of their room blocks. In Le Nouvel’s case, the hotel has set aside some other rooms but at a higher cost. Some hotel blocks will have expired by the time you receive this newsletter; others will expire in early September. All room blocks will expire by Sept. 11. Certainly Montreal has plenty of other hotel rooms to reserve, but they won’t come with an OHA discount.

In the meantime, we’re finalizing arrangements, the program, the exhibitors and sponsors. We look forward to seeing you Oct. 10-14 in Montreal!