

**The Centre for Canadian Studies**  
is proud to present

**Brock**  
University

THE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
TWO DAYS OF CANADA CONFERENCE



## **“The Concept of Vancouver”**

**13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

Vancouver, located on the unceded Coast Salish territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Watuth, and Stó:lō First Nations, is an important nexus of art, literature, activism, and other forms of social and political organizing and expression within Canada. The 30<sup>th</sup> annual “Two Days of Canada” conference at Brock University, the oldest Canadian Studies conference of its kind in Canada, invites scholars, artists, writers, and activists to broadly think through the conceptualizations of the histories, presents, and futures of the city. Papers are encouraged to consider the conceptualization of the arts, literatures, and politics of Vancouver, and the interconnections these concepts have with other scales of engagement, including the national and planetary issues in which Vancouver participates. Papers, panels, and performances that touch on any aspect of Vancouver as a concept are welcomed and encouraged.

Possible themes include, but are not limited to: writing and rewriting the city; conceptual art and literature in Vancouver; photo-conceptualism; neoliberal gentrification of the city and housing crises; collaboration in art and literature; pipeline politics and resistance; archive and collective memory; settler-colonial histories and decolonization efforts; literary groups and affiliations that emerged from Vancouver, such as TISH, the hippy and beat poets of the 60s and 70s, Press Gang, and The Kootenay School of Writing; Asian-Canadian art and culture in Vancouver; the concept of the international city; artist-run centres, such as Intermedia, The Western Front, Artspeak, Centre A, Gallery Gaget, and Grunt Gallery; Hogan’s Alley and Vancouver’s black communities; addiction and mental health activism; writing and art in the Downtown East Side; indigenous decolonization movements, including Rising Tide and Idle No More; Phyllis Webb, George Woodcock, and Canadian anarchism; Vancouver on film and TV; Vancouver’s radical presses, including blewointmentpress, Press Gang, Arsenal Pulp, and Tsunami Editions; Red Power organizing and activism; the 1963 Vancouver Poetry Conference; collage in Vancouver art and literary practices. We strongly encourage artists, activists, and academics with disabilities, black, indigenous, people of colour, two spirit folks, queer, trans and non-binary/gender nonconforming people to apply.

Proposals for individual papers, presentations, or panels from all disciplines, covering any aspect of Vancouver’s past, present or future are welcomed. Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words sent by 15 March 2016 to [gbetts@brocku.ca](mailto:gbetts@brocku.ca). Please attach a 150-word (max) biography to your submission. Hardcopy proposals should be sent to: Professor Gregory Betts, English Language & Literature, Brock University, 573 Glenridge Avenue, St. Catharines, ON L2S 3A1. Brock University is an equal opportunity employer committed to inclusive, barrier-free events.

*Conference Organizing Committee: Julia Polyck-O’Neill, Andrew McEwan, and Gregory Betts*