

**MA PROGRAM
CULTURAL ANALYSIS AND SOCIAL THEORY
(CAST)**

Student Handbook

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PREFACE

This booklet provides a general introduction to the **Master's level Graduate Program in Cultural Analysis and Social Theory (CAST)** at Wilfrid Laurier University. This book does not replace statements of regulations, degree requirements, course requirements or other information published in the official Wilfrid Laurier University Graduate Calendar.

Calendars are available on-line on the WLU website through links on both the Graduate Studies and Faculty of Arts sites. Please ensure you consult the Calendar for all important academic deadlines.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MA program in **Cultural Analysis and Social Theory (CAST)** is a unique interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary forum for research and study in cultural analysis and social theory. It is designed to further the studies of those students whose intellectual and scholarly interests extend beyond the scope of a single social science or humanities discipline. CAST provides graduate students with a stimulating environment in which to analyze our increasingly complex and globalized world, including the examination of the role of representation and language in the production of knowledge and power, and the mutually constituting relations between cultures, the material world, and personal experience. CAST focuses on intersubjective and cross-cultural realities and considers their implications for ethical research and representational practices. It highlights the creative and critical ways of exploring reality which are at the forefront of contemporary thought. CAST's students will benefit from the active research programs of core faculty who engage in interdisciplinary and/or multidisciplinary research and share an interest in theories and projects that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries.

Three Fields of Inquiry

- I. **Globalization, Identity and Social Movements** fosters critical understanding of contemporary global economic, social and political processes and the struggle for human, cultural and social rights at the local, national, and supranational levels. Social activism, identity formation and rights discourses are key concerns in this field.
- II. **Body Politics: Gender, Sexuality and Embodiment** focuses on sexuality and embodiment, and the specific ways in which human bodies are inhabited and represented, historically and culturally. Feminist and queer theories inform this analysis. The political nature of the intimate processes of identity formation and the effects of technologies on our notions of gender appropriateness and physical normalcy are explored in this field.
- III. **Cultural Representation and Social Theory** engages a variety of thematic concerns related to the politics of knowledge production, whether in the context of academia and intellectual discourse, as a feature of media technologies, or a practice in everyday life. Visual culture, political practices, and new forms of social agency and representational practices are central issues explored in this field.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

All Master's students must maintain a satisfactory academic standing as required by the general regulations of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Students must develop their programs in consultation with the Graduate Director. The Graduate Director must approve the student's program of study in all cases.

Students registered in the CAST program may choose a **Coursework Option** or a **Major Research Paper Option** but in all cases they must take courses in *at least* two of the three fields.

All courses in the program are organized as seminars and include a significant research and presentation component. However, CO650 Directed Studies may, at the discretion of the instructor, differ in form and content. In each of the core and elective courses, students are required to complete at least one substantial research paper. There are no formal examinations in CAST. Assessment and evaluation of student work is completed by individual instructors in the courses students take.

Students normally choose their courses from those offered by the CAST program at Wilfrid Laurier University. However, if given approval by the Program Director and the Dean of Graduate Studies, one course may be taken from the Master's program of another program at Wilfrid Laurier University and one may be taken at another recognized university under the Ontario Visiting Graduate Student Plan.

DURATION OF PROGRAM OF STUDY

Normally the MA program will be completed within two to three terms by full-time registered students in the course work stream. Students who elect the major research paper option will be expected to complete the research requirements, including all suggested revisions to the paper, within twelve months. Permission of the Program Director will be required to take more than four half credit courses besides the colloquium in a single term.

Students requesting an extension will be expected to complete all requirements by the end of the following fall term. Students given permission to complete their requirements part-time will be expected to complete all course work within two years.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

To qualify for the CAST degree a student must successfully complete one of the two following programs of study: the Coursework Option or the Major Research Paper Option.

Course Work Option

Students who choose this option must complete the Colloquium, the two Core Courses, and five Electives.

Students in the coursework stream are required to select courses from *at least* two of the program's three fields of inquiry in addition to the required Core courses and the Colloquium.

Major Research Paper Option

Students who choose to complete their degrees with a major research paper must complete the Colloquium, the two Core courses, three Elective courses and the Major Research Paper (MRP).

Students in the MRP stream are required to select courses from *at least* two of the program's three fields of inquiry in addition to the required Core courses and the Colloquium.

The Major Research Paper is considered to be similar to a thesis in quality of work, but less than a thesis in scope. Students will complete a paper in which they engage in original research on an approved topic. Typically papers will be between 50 and 70 pages in length, excluding bibliography. The MRP will be evaluated by an Advisory Committee consisting of a faculty supervisor and one faculty reader. The supervisor will work closely with the student in supervising the research and writing of the paper, but both may advise and both will grade the final paper. The final grade will be an average of the two grades. All CAST faculty who are members of the Graduate Faculty may serve as supervisors. There is an oral defense of the MRP.

The normal sequence of registration and progression is illustrated in the following table:

Option	Fall Term	Winter Term	Spring Term
Course work Only	CQ600 CQ601 CQ602 one or two electives	CQ600 two or three electives	
Course work with Major Research Paper	CQ600 CQ601 CQ602 Zero, one or two electives	CQ600 one to three electives	CQ695

Specific Objectives and Timelines for the CAST Major Research Paper (MRP)

The Major research paper is an independent research project that is similar to a thesis in topic and structure but shorter than a thesis in scope. It is expected that most MRPs will be 50-70 pages in length. MRPs may focus on theoretical argumentation or empirical research. Following are some guidelines for the structure and goals of the theoretical and empirical MRP:

- To identify an area of study and to situate it in literature with a clear and articulate research question
- To identify, critically analyse and report on the existing literatures pertaining to the research question
- To present the research proposal to the supervisor of the MRP and the reader for approval
- To attend a research meeting at which the research proposal is discussed and research strategy decisions are clarified and agreed upon by all attendees
- To understand personal standpoint, values and ethics in relation to the proposed MRP

- To pay particular attention to the possibilities of racism, heterosexism, sexism and other forms of oppression within the language or the design of the proposal
- To write a report on the study which includes all substantive, theoretical (and methodological if applicable) contributions of your study, limitations and ideas for future research
- To do all of the above in a timely manner as outlined in the section below

Additional Objectives for MRP’s based on Empirical Research

- To identify a problem and to situate it in the literature with a clear and articulate research question or problem
- To, having identified a research question and explained and located it in historical, empirical and theoretical literatures, describe research methodologies suitable for answering the question
- To document all of the stages of the research, first in a proposal in which research decisions are problematized and supported by literature in research methodologies
- To submit the proposed research to the Ethics Board of Wilfrid Laurier University via the Research studies website (rebform) and any other institution involved in the study
- To respond to changes required by the Ethics Board
- To ‘generate’ or collect and analyse the subsequent data
- To write a report on the study which includes all of the traditional headings included in an empirical project such as introduction, literature review, statement of problem, sampling, data collection/generation methods, ethical issues, findings, interpretation, discussion including substantive, theoretical and methodological contributions of your study, limitations and ideas for future research

Timelines

December 15 *	Supervisor Selected/assigned	Meet once or twice in first term
January 15*	Assignment/Selection of Reader *	Reader selected by supervisor and student in consultation; supervisor must have graduate faculty status.
March 1*	Proposal Submission to both Supervisor and Reader	Proposal length: 15-20 Pages plus bibliography
March 15*	Proposal Defense	Formal Meeting
April 1*	Proposal Revisions	
April 1	Ethics Submission	
April 15	Begin Research/Data Collection	
July 8 *	First Full Draft of MRP to Supervisor and Reader	
August 15*	MRP Defense	

* Indicates items which must be signed off by the student’s committee and submitted to the graduate officer for final approval.

CORE COURSES

A two-term, biweekly Colloquium and two Core courses provide graduate students with grounding in the theoretical and methodological issues relevant to their program of study. Together, these required courses provide a strong foundation for developing the theoretical perspectives and qualitative research concepts and methods students will utilize in their own research.

CQ 600 Colloquium (0.5 credit)

All students who register in the MA in CAST must complete the two-term, bi-weekly Colloquium as part of their degree requirements. The colloquium is organized by the Program Director to include three different activities: special lectures and guest speakers; professional development workshops; and student presentations. In addition to its academic merits, the colloquium provides a community base for students and faculty in the CAST program.

- a) The lecture component exposes students to challenging intellectual debates and dialogue in fields of cultural analysis and social theory. It also provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and discussion.
- b) Workshops will help students to prepare applications to graduate and post-graduate programs (e.g., PhD programs), graduate scholarships, and research grants, and to develop professional skills relevant to both university and job-market settings.
- c) Students will be given the opportunity to present their own work-in-progress so that they may: gain feedback for their research projects and papers; enhance their presentation skills; and gain the skills essential to the publication of their research.

Performance in the Colloquium will be assessed as pass or fail depending on the student's level of participation. Failure to attend at least 80% of the bi-weekly colloquia will result in a failure of the requirement.

CQ601 Cultural Analysis and Social Theory (0.5 credit)

This course reviews important issues in cultural analysis and social theory, such as the politics and practices of representation, the relationship between knowledge and power (both within and between cultures), the relationship between race, class and gender, discourse and the production of alterity and difference, ethnographic authority, instrumental reason and modernity, relativism vs. universalism, hegemonic and counter-hegemonic forces in both the mass media and everyday life.

CQ602 Approaches to Cultural Analysis (0.5 credit)

This course examines various concepts and methods of qualitative research and analysis. These include but are not limited to discourse analysis, narrative analysis, semiotic analysis, visual analysis, and ethnographic practice and representation. It explores issues arising from questions of positionality, reflexivity, ethics and responsibility, and writing. The course begins from the assumption that theory and method are inextricably tied and that doing cultural analysis fully engages the researcher in (self-) reflection on the symbolic-expressive dimensions of social life.

ELECTIVE COURSES

The elective courses in each field are listed below as is their availability.

Field One Globalization, Identity & Social Movements	Field Two Body Politics: Gender, Sexuality & Embodiment	Field Three Cultural Representation & Social Theory
CQ610	CQ620	CQ630
CQ611	CQ621	CQ631
CQ612	CQ623	CQ632
CQ613	CQ624	CQ633
CQ614	CQ625 Winter 2015 (W)	CQ634
CQ615	CQ626 Winter 2015 (BR)	CQ642 Fall 2014 (BR)
CQ640A Winter 2015 (BR)		

Field One: Globalization, Identity and Social Movements

CQ610 Race, Gender and Imperialism

This course critically examines the historical and discursive practices through which racialization developed within colonial relations and contestations with particular attention to the intersection of gender and racialization in various literary, visual and ethnographic colonial and post-colonial narratives. Using an anti-colonial framework, this course also examines how race and gender are constituted within contemporary imperialist practices such as globalization and the current "war on terror."

CQ611 Religion and Social Change

This seminar investigates the ways in which local, national and transnational processes interconnect to produce religious identities and movements. Particular attention will be paid to institutional practices and popular culture. A case study approach may be used.

CQ612 [Trans] National Identities, New Media/tions and the Place of the Public

The course explores changing relationships between communications technologies and national identities with a particular emphasis on Canada. Key concepts such as the nation, national territory, the mediation of personal and social identity, publics and public spheres, globalization, cosmopolitanism, transnationalism, and diaspora are considered.

CQ613 Nostalgia and Exile: Memory, History, Identity

Refugee, migrant, and exile narratives are infused with nostalgia – a desire to be located in a better time, a better place. If nostalgia is about the remembrance of what was lost, what was "home", what happened at another time, one could also say that in their narrativisations of such pasts, refugees, migrants, and exiles gesture toward a future, a utopian time of placement. This course examines questions raised theoretically, politically, and socially by the nostalgic practices of refugees, migrants, and exiles represented in filmic, fictional, and ethnographic narratives of memory, history, and identity.

CQ614 Language Policies and the Politics of Language Identity

This course examines the impact of larger structural forces like colonization and globalization on language use, language choice and processes of language change. By focusing on recent educational and language policies in some “post-colonial” Creole-speaking countries, and by analyzing the popular reaction to them, debates about standard/vernacular languages, linguistic/national identities are both a reflection and a component of profound social struggles in those asymmetrical societies are examined. The political and social dimensions of those educational/linguistic debates are considered through key theories/approaches in the fields of sociolinguistics, linguistic anthropology and Creolistics.

CQ615 Theories of Multiculturalism and Intercultural Dialogue

This course explores key areas in theories of multiculturalism in the context of contemporary society. Issues affecting the relationships between cultures in terms of the relationship between politics and cultural diversity, language and identity, secularism and the state, feminism and multiculturalism, and race relations and post-colonialism, are considered.

Field Two: Body Politics: Gender, Sexuality and Embodiment

CQ620 Transforming Bodies

This course examines the social theory and practice of bodily transformation in its many, often contested, forms, from cosmetic surgery to transgender transitions. The ethical and political potential and danger of transforming bodies will be discussed, as well as their personal and cultural meanings. The aim is to critically examine the multiple and various ways in which bodies are modified, selves are formed and transformed, and culturally specific knowledge and practices are mediated, produced or altered.

CQ621 The Social Body

Drawing on the notion that subjects do not simply consume images and discourses passively, but actively shape them through interpretation, circulation and regeneration, the course examines the manner in which bodies and embodiment shape and are shaped by the cultural milieu in which they are perceived, circulated and circumscribed. Topics for consideration include 'deviant bodies' (racialised, gendered, medicalised), and idealised bodies (including but not limited to various enhancement technologies for performance and appearance).

CQ623 Technologies of Gender: Female Bodies and Feminist Communities in Cyberspace

This course examines the relationship between gender and technology in contemporary Western culture, particularly in terms of how the female body has been used to represent patriarchal hopes and fears about technology and how some feminists have attempted to reclaim both female bodies and technology for political purposes. The course will address the interrelated concerns of gender, bodies and technologies in relation to issues of reproduction, sex, violence, rape, pornography, free speech, domestic work, consumerism, environmentalism and popular culture. The feminist liberatory possibilities of cyberspace are considered by examining specific instances of feminist “virtual communities” and assessing their political potential.

CQ624 Rethinking the Body via Deleuze and Guattari

The work of Deleuze and Guattari has been used extensively to analyze questions of embodiment and subjectivity in ways that have become productive for social theorists and philosophers of body politics. This course engages a critique of modernist conceptions of the body and explores the ways in which theory inspired by Deleuze and Guattari contributes to the cultural analysis of embodiment, with a focus on its importance for affirming otherwise marginalized bodies.

CQ641 Embodiment, Affect and Subjectivity

The course provides an interdisciplinary introduction to the inter-implications of embodiment, affect, and subjectivity as theorized by a variety of authors. It provides the basis for students to develop a specific research topic relating to any aspect of the course. As a graduate seminar, it draws on student participation in weekly discussions.

Field Three: Cultural Representation & Social Theory

CQ630 Risk, Media and the Politics of Anxiety

Risk has become a key concept around which social, political, and cultural concerns have been organized. This course explores theories of risk with a focus on the ways that the production and dissemination of knowledges about risk informs what may be called a politics of anxiety. Through the conceptual frame provided by various theorizations of risk in risk society, governmentality, and culture of fear literatures, this course problematises the ways that risks are defined and circulated through media through a focus on case-studies illustrative of the tensions that inhere in risk discourses.

CQ631 Cultural Studies in Theory and Practice

Cultural studies has been the most contentious field of study in the late 20th century because its subject matter and approaches challenge the academy's traditional disciplinary and institutional *modi operandi*, and because its proponents also see it as a form of political engagement. This course combines an introduction and overview of cultural studies during its formative period, 1950s-1990s, highlighting key innovations and ruptures in its development as a form of knowledge production and of politics, of its institutional locations and social formations, and of cultural studies practices.

CQ632 Hybrid Discourses, Discourses of Hybridity

The concept of the "hybrid" has recently become a contentious space in discussions of identity, race relations and postmodernity. This course addresses discourses of hybridity by paying close attention to the ways in which race, class, gender and sexuality have historically come into play in the construction of social difference, and by deconstructing the essentialisms inhabiting such discourses. The cultural uses of hybridity as a utopia of (post)modernity and the implications of such uses for a politics of identity are examined. This will be achieved through an inspection of concepts such as transculturation, border-crossing, third space, performance and dialogism.

CQ633 Power, Hegemony and Resistance

This course examines the related concepts of power, hegemony and resistance as they have been debated in social theory and cultural studies. Questions such as: is

“power” a concept best confined to the description of specific, intentional acts by political agents capable of enforcing their will on others, or is it rather diffuse, sometimes unconscious and potentially present in all social processes are considered? How is power legitimated, and to what extent are such legitimations accepted or contested? Are discourses and acts of resistance the inevitable consequence of the exercise of structural power? Or is resistance a chimera designed to diminish discussion of the potentiality of genuine rebellion or revolution?

CQ634 Visuality and Cultural Analysis

This course examines the critical study of visual images as an approach to cultural analysis. Students will explore the ways in which theoretical questions raised in cultural analysis about interpretation, representation, inscription, and the production of knowledge can be examined by means of the image.

CQ650 Directed Study (0.5 credit)

The study of a special topic under the guidance of a CAST faculty member. Directed study topics must be approved by the program.

CQ695 Major Research Paper (1.0 credit)

Under the supervision of a faculty member, students will complete a paper in which they engage in original research on an approved topic. Typically, papers will be between 50 and 70 pages in length, excluding bibliography.

CAST CORE FACULTY PROFILES

Field One: Globalization, Identity and Social Movements

Andrew Herman (Associate Professor, Communications Studies, Waterloo)

Dr. Herman's primary fields of expertise are social and cultural theory, rhetorical and discourse analysis, popular culture (with an emphasis on popular music), interpretative research methodologies, and the socio-cultural analysis of media technologies. His current research interests reside at the interdisciplinary interstices of medium (not media) theory, Internet studies, mobile communications technologies, and the politics of intellectual property. He is the author of *The Better Angels of Capitalism: Rhetoric, Narrative and Moral Identity of the American Upper Class* and articles in journals such as *Cultural Studies*, *Critical Studies in Media Communications*, *Theory and Society*, *South Atlantic Quarterly*, *Media and Society* and *Anthropological Quarterly*. He is currently completing work on a new book with Rosemary J. Coombe on the politics of intellectual property in digital contexts.

Shahnaz Khan (Associate Professor, Women's Studies & Global Studies, Waterloo)

Dr. Khan's interests lie in using postcolonial theories to understand the lives of Muslim women in the diaspora and in Pakistan. She has examined the lives of women imprisoned in Pakistan for Zina (illicit sex). Her examination incorporates narratives of the Zina victims, the social context which incarcerates women as well as the environment in which she textualizes their accounts. As such, her work contributes to transnational feminist methodology and analysis. Currently her interests have expanded to include the affects of Bollywood on the lives of Muslim women in the diaspora. Her work has been published in *Signs* and *Feminist Studies* and in a book, *Zina, Transnational Feminism and the Moral Regulation of Pakistani Women*.

Alicia Sliwinski (Associate Professor, Global Studies, Waterloo)

Alicia is an anthropologist who works on the social dynamics of humanitarian aid after natural disasters. Her research has taken her to Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador. She is currently working on the politics of community participation in post-disaster reconstruction and the logics of giving in global contexts.

Kenneth Werbin (Assistant Professor, Journalism & Contemporary Studies, Brantford)

Dr. Werbin's research interests are: Digital Media and Culture; Social Media, Commodification and Surveillance; Privacy; Political Economy of Communication; Digital media and Journalism; Biopolitical Theory

Jasmin Zine (Associate Professor, Sociology, Waterloo)

Her areas of teaching and research include critical race and ethnic studies, postcolonial theory and anti-colonial research methods, education and social justice, cultural studies, Canadian Muslim studies and Muslim women's studies. Her publications include numerous journal articles on Muslims and education in the Canadian diaspora as well as the field of Islamic feminism and Muslim women's studies. She recently published a book entitled: *Canadian Islamic Schools: Unraveling the Politics of Faith, Gender, Knowledge and Identity* (University of Toronto Press). Presently she is conducting research on the impact of 9/11 and the 'war on terror' on Muslim youth in Canada.

Field Two: Body Politics: Gender, Sexuality and Embodiment

Pat Elliot (Associate Professor, Sociology)

Dr. Elliot trained in interdisciplinary graduate studies and has published in the areas of feminist theory, psychoanalytic theory, and transgender studies. Her book, *From Mastery to Analysis: Theories of Gender in Psychoanalytic Feminism*, offers a Lacanian critique of mastery in the theorization of gendered subjectivity, and discusses the contributions of six leading psychoanalytic feminist theories of gender. Recent articles have appeared in the journals *Atlantis* and *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*. She is currently writing a book on feminism and transsexuality.

Robert Diaz Jr. (Assistant Professor, Women and Gender Studies, Waterloo)

Robert Diaz Jr. is an Assistant Professor in the Women and Gender Studies Program at Wilfrid Laurier University. His research and teaching focus on the intersections of Asian North American, Filipino, Sexuality, and Postcolonial Studies.

Morgan Holmes (Professor, Sociology, Waterloo)

All three of Dr. Holmes' degrees are interdisciplinary. Her PhD covered areas including social anthropology of medicine, bioethics, and political science. Dr. Holmes has published in areas of law, feminist and queer theories of sexuality, and gender studies. Dr. Holmes' recent publications have appeared in *The Journal of Lesbian Studies*, *Sexualities*, and *The Cardozo Journal of Gender and Law* as well as in a number of edited book collections. Her book *Intersex: A Perilous Difference* is forthcoming from Susquehanna University Press, and she is the Canadian author for Thomson-Nelson's *Understanding Social Problems* (third Canadian edition). Dr. Holmes is launching a new edited collection on intersex in international perspective as part of the Ashgate Press series "Critical Inquiries".

Jim Overboe (Assistant Professor, Sociology, Waterloo)

Dr. James Overboe takes an interdisciplinary approach to sociology and his research into marginalized bodies and subjectivity. His theoretical expertise is grounded within the context of "expressions of life" which has served him well as an advocate for disabled people and as a consultant on disability issues. His current research joins nuanced readings of poststructuralist theory and radical theory of subjectivity to discuss rupture as a productive force. His recent publications include "Ableist Limits on Self-Narration: The Concept of Post-Personhood". In *Unfitting Stories: Narrative Approaches to Disease, Disability, and Trauma* and the journal *Wagadu, Journal of Transnational Women's and Gender Studies*.

Margaret Toye (Assistant Professor, Women's Studies, Waterloo)

Dr. Toye holds three degrees in English with a concentration in contemporary critical theory and poststructuralist feminist ethics. Her work is interdisciplinary and explores the intersections amongst theory, literature, popular culture, and pedagogy. In particular, she has focused on theories of gender and embodiment in relation to issues of technology and consumption. Her work has been published in the journals *Gender, Place and Culture*, *Ariel*, and the edited collection *Critical Ethics*. Currently, she is researching feminist theories of love.

Field Three: Cultural Representation and Social Theory

Abderrahman Beggar (Associate Professor, Languages and Literatures, Waterloo)

Dr. Beggar's interests are: comparative literature (Arab, Francophone, and Hispanic), Latin American contemporary societies, and journalistic discourse. Beggar is the editor of "Maghreb Studies" series, Presses Universitaires du Nouveau Monde, New Orleans (USA).

James Cairns (Associate Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator, Society, Culture, and Environment, Brantford)

Dr. Cairns' research analyzes the formation and reproduction of political power. Guided by Antonio Gramsci's theory of hegemony, He examines the ways in which systems of rule are legitimized, contested, and changed through social struggle. His published work examines tensions between domination and resistance in democratic theory and activism, mediated political ritual, election advertising, legislative committees, national myths, and social theory. He is currently writing a book about the politics of entitlement.

Kofi Campbell (Associate Professor, English, Brantford)

Dr. Campbell's research interests are: Queer Caribbean Studies, Postcolonial Literature, Medieval Literature, Women's Literature and Gender Studies, Popular Culture / Cultural Studies, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Creative Writing.

Penelope Ironstone (Associate Professor, Communication Studies, Waterloo)

Dr. Ironstone-Catterall's central pedagogical and research interests concern the mechanisms deployed to resist difficult information – be it information regarding social difference or information concerning health and illness – and the social and political consequences of these resistances. More generally, her interests include health, medicine, and risk, cultural studies of health and medicine, queer theory and cultural production, social and political thought, media and the politics of anxiety, cultural theory and cultural studies. Her current research project is called "From Seasonal Flu to Pandemic Influenza: The Cultural Life of a Virus."

Marcia Oliver (Assistant Professor, Law and Society, Brantford)

After attaining a BA and MA in Sociology from the University of Windsor, Dr. Oliver continued her doctoral studies in Sociology at York University. She joined Wilfrid Laurier in 2011 after spending some time as a postdoctoral fellow with the CHSRF/CIHR Chair of Health Services Research at York University. More recently Dr. Olivier was a Visiting PECAN Fellow at the Research Centre for Law, Gender and Sexuality at the University of Kent (Canterbury, UK) and a Visiting Research Fellow at PEALS at Newcastle University (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK) and the International Institute for the Sociology of Law (Oñati, Spain). Her research and teaching interests are in the areas of global governance and development, legal and moral regulation, gender and sexuality, and inequality and justice.

Herbert Pimlott (Associate Professor, Communication Studies, Waterloo)

Dr. Pimlott brings his background and training in both alternative and mainstream media, including print, radio, and television to bear on the relationship between theory and practice, and form and content. His recent publications include articles in *Journalism Studies* and *Labour/Le Travail*. Dr. Pimlott is currently working on an anthology of Karl Marx's journalism as well as developing research on strategic

communications and social justice movements in Canada. His research and teaching interests include alternative media; critical theory and politics; history, politics and practices of cultural studies; discourse and rhetorical analysis and semiotics; writing and publishing studies; and labour communications.

Natasha Pravaz (Assistant Professor, Anthropology, Waterloo)

Dr. Pravaz is a performance and ritual studies scholar interested in how human bodies become meaning-producing subjects at the same time that they are objects of cultural representation and social inscription. Her work has explored the uses of popular performance culture in Latin American processes of racialization and national identity formation. In particular, her previous research has centred on the gendered practice of Brazilian samba and its representation in diverse media. Publications include articles in the *Journal of Latin American Anthropology* and *Canadian Women Studies / les cahiers de la femme*. Currently, Dr. Pravaz is developing a study of the semiotics of embodiment in North American yoga.

Edward Shizha (Associate Professor, Society, Culture and Environment, Brantford)

Dr. Shizha's research interest lies in educational and political developments in Zambia and Zimbabwe. He focuses on how the economic meltdown and the political space in Zimbabwe have affected the effectiveness of the education system, and how the teaching profession is responding to these socio-political developments. The socio-political repression and the economic meltdown have created a refuge and immigrant Zimbabwean population both in Africa and in the West. Consequently, one of his interests is to explore how these immigrants have settled and integrated into their new societies, focusing on the challenges that they face and the coping strategies that they employ to overcome these challenges. In addition he also researches how the indigenous knowledge in Zimbabwe has been marginalized in the academic corridors and explore ways in which integration of indigenous knowledge and learning can enhance knowledge utilization in socio-economic development

Milo Sweedler (Associate Professor, Languages and Literatures, Waterloo)

Dr. Sweedler's research explores intersections among theories of representation, cultural artifacts and practices, and the world of socio-politics. From his first publication, "Representation Today: Subjectivity and Historicity," an analysis of the interaction between the socio-economic and cultural spheres in writings by Fredric Jameson, Guy Debord, Jean Baudrillard and Roland Barthes, to his recent work on terror and the "war on terrorism", his research has examined the interrelation of these domains in a number of contexts. Articles by him have appeared in *French Studies*, *Revue des Sciences Humaines*, *Dalhousie French Studies* and *Cincinnati French Review*. His book, *The Dismembered Community: Bataille, Blanchot, Leiris, and the Remains of Laure*, is shortly to be published by the University of Delaware Press.

STUDENT SERVICES AND SUPPORT

Student Representation in the CAST

A student representative will be elected by the CAST graduate students. S/he will be responsible for attending CAST's Advisory Committee meetings as well as the Committee of the Whole. An alternate may also be elected but the students will have only one vote between them. The CAST Director will ensure that the student election is held before the first meeting of the Committee of the Whole in the Fall.

Financial Assistance and Support

Financial support for CAST students is available from several sources including:

- Teaching Assistantships available to all full-time students for Fall and Winter terms.
- WLU Graduate Scholarships, awarded on a competitive basis to full-time entering or continuing graduate students who achieve high academic standing. These scholarships are tenable for study at Laurier while enrolled as a full-time student.
- Ontario Graduate Scholarships, subject to provincial funding levels. These are competitive awards for which all students seeking graduate admissions should apply. Awards are based on merit.
- SSHRC CGS MA Scholarships. These scholarships are awarded based on merit, and are subject to federal funding levels. These competitive awards should be considered as a potential source of funding for all students seeking graduate admissions.

Information about graduate awards is available from the WLU Graduate Studies website, as well as the Student Awards website.

Study Space

The Faculty of Arts offers a separate but shared study space for graduate student research in the Woods building. These spaces are normally equipped with carrels and computers. The recently renovated building includes several smaller seminar and meeting rooms for graduate seminars. Students may also apply for an individual study carrel in the library.

Library Facilities

The Wilfrid Laurier University Library collection supports campus academic programs with approximately 1,400,000 volumes of books, journals, and government information, as well as a substantial collection of electronic resources. The Library's website at <http://www.wlu.ca/library/> acts as a portal to the wide range of resources and services which the library makes available electronically.

The Library's membership in the TriUniversity Group of Libraries (TUG) Consortium (with the University of Guelph and University of Waterloo) has allowed students and faculty ready access to the combined collections of the three library systems, which total more than 6,000,000 volumes. The libraries have an integrated library catalogue with holdings from all three in one database, and have free delivery of books and journal articles to faculty and students within one or two business days from any of the three TUG institutions.

The Library's Web site provides access to a wide range of electronic resources and services provided by the Laurier Library. All faculty and students are provided with computer accounts by the University. Computers for accessing electronic resources and both wired and wireless connections for laptop computers are available in the Library. However, the licensing agreements for nearly all journal indexes, full-text electronic journals, and data resources allow off site as well as on campus access to registered faculty and students, which means they can be used from anywhere with an Internet connection. The Library's policy is to make resources available electronically wherever possible to facilitate convenient access.

Information Technology Services

All faculty and graduate students are provided with an account on the university mainframe computer. This gives them access to electronic mail facilities, internet, statistical software packages, and the library's bibliographical software. Systems may be accessed from several computer lab locations across the campus. Laurier runs an integrated, networked computing environment where a student's account will run in any lab and will allow printing to numerous printers. Laser printing and colour printing facilities are available in several locations on campus.

Housing

Information regarding housing - both on and off campus - is available through the Housing Office: 519-884-0710 x3236.

WLU Graduate Student's Association

Wilfrid Laurier University's graduate students have their own student association. Information about the association is available on their website.

ADMISSION TO THE CAST PROGRAM

An applicant with a minimum of a B+ standing in the fourth year of an honours program or equivalent at an approved university, and who is accepted as a candidate by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, may be admitted to the Master's in Cultural Analysis and Social Theory.

Program Requirements

Applicants should have a degree in a Social Sciences or Humanities program where social and cultural theory has been taught. Prospective applicants should note that the writing requirements of interdisciplinary work demand higher-than-average skills in reasoning, argumentation, and rhetoric. Admission to the program is competitive and possession of the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission.

Application Procedures

Information about the process for applying to the CAST program as well as the relevant forms (including online applications) are available from the WLU Faculty of Graduate Studies website.

In addition to completing the Faculty of Graduate Studies forms, applicants must include the following documentation in their applications to the CAST program:

- A letter of intent providing information on their academic background and explaining their interest in the CAST program;
- One complete set of official transcripts; and
- Two letters of recommendation from faculty members who are qualified to assess the candidate's potential for graduate training in the CAST program.

Applicants must have a demonstrated ability to study and conduct research in English.

Please send your completed application and all relevant documentation to:

MA in Cultural Analysis and Social Theory
c/o Sandra Dalpe, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Alvin Woods Building, 5-135
Wilfrid Laurier University
75 University Avenue
Waterloo, Ontario
N2L 3C5