



ACS N Newsletter

Dear ACSN members,

First I would like to wish everyone a **Happy New Year** from ACSN. I also hope you had a wonderful Christmas! As many of you know, we have had a successful seminar last November. In this edition of the ACSN Newsletter you can read all about it. As always, there are also a couple of upcoming events that we would like to announce to our members. One of these is the Journée de la Francophonie at the University of Groningen. Another upcoming event is a housing conference at the University of Toronto. In this issue, Daphne Schoeber is telling us about her research project in this issue of the newsletter. I hope to be able to inform you about other research projects of students who got our financial support in the future as well. Thanks are due to Jaap Lintvelt and Pauline Sarkar for their French contributions. I am also grateful to Bob Hofman for his contribution about his Grassroots Twinschools project. Finally, I could not resist announcing the upcoming show of Cirque du Soleil who will be performing their new show in Amsterdam this spring. For more details on news items -and more recent information- keep an eye on our website (www.acsn.nl) and the website of the Canadian Embassy (www.canada.nl).

Happy reading,

Amanda Helderma

(E-mail: A.C.Helderma@uva.nl)

Annual ACSN seminar: "Art and functionality, from Blackfoot to robot" Rotterdam, Friday November 28, 2003

On this sunny, chilly day in Rotterdam the annual seminar of the Association of Canadian Studies in The Netherlands took place. This year's theme was:

"Art and functionality, from Blackfoot to robot". The thirty-five participants formed an enthusiastic and varied group of filmmakers, linguists, museologists, anthropologists and many experts in the areas of media and culture. Guests came from all over the Netherlands and Belgium. Among our special guests were the Ambassador of Canada in the Netherlands, Mr. Serge April and the head of public affairs, Mr. David Gill. After a lovely lunch in the 'Kunsthal' (museum restaurant), the president of the Association of Canadian Studies in the Netherlands, Mrs. Conny Steenman-Marcusse, opened the seminar with Mr. David Gill.

Four speakers filled the afternoon, each addressing varied topics relating to Canadian art and the practical applications thereof. Our first speaker was Graham Smith, a Canadian robot inventor who believes that art and science are actually one. He talked about his work involving robots, their practical uses, and also how he considers himself to be an artist. He showed wonderful slides of his works of art and some results of the photography techniques he invented himself with the aid of technology and robotics.

Dutch visual artist Els de Meijer talked about her art as well. She has travelled, worked and lived intensively in the arctic, and her experiences over there kindled a passion for the language of the Inuit. Her work has been shown in- and outside of the Netherlands. Els showed wonderful photographs of sculptures made by snow and wind. In the sculptures we can see leaf-gold symbols of the Inuit language.



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Our third speaker was Esther Sloof, currently working on her M.A. thesis in museology. She shared with us the results of her studies at the Royal Ontario Museum, in particular of a case study regarding an exhibit on Ancient Chinese art. Esther addressed the issues of the power of museums. The way items are displayed influences our perception of the items we are looking at; whether it indeed is an artefact, modern art perhaps, or something with an every day use that might not even be worth much. Esther also challenged the 'truthfulness' of exhibitions of less visibly minority groups in museums.

The last speaker of the day was Lea Zuyderhoudt. Lea is currently working on her Ph.D. at University of Leiden on the topic of story telling in the Blackfoot culture. She also was deeply involved in putting the Blackfoot exhibit together that is currently held in the Kunsthall, a contemporary museum in Rotterdam. The last item on the programme was a guided tour of the Blackfoot exhibit during which Lea shared lots of details and personal memories of her many stays in one of the reserves that would otherwise been lost on us.

There was also a poster contest. A selection of students was invited to present their research, funded by the Association of Canadian Studies in the Netherlands, clearly and concisely in the form of a poster. The winner, Evelyn Ersanilli, won the poster award. This very successful day was ended with a joint dinner.

Le 20 mars 2003: Journée de la Francophonie

Tous les ans au mois de mars, il y a la célébration de la Journée Internationale de la Francophonie, fêtée avec enthousiasme dans le monde entier. Partout où le français est parlé ou enseigné, il y a des initiatives: de l'Afrique aux Amériques, de l'Asie à l'Europe, de l'Océan Indien au Moyen-Orient. Sur TV5 plusieurs programmes seront voués à cet événement. Si vous voulez de plus amples renseignements sur les différents programmes, adressez-vous à Google en indiquant Journée de la Francophonie. <http://20mars.francophonie.org/> Pour ce qui se fera aux Pays-Bas, nous vous présentons ici le programme:

Journée de la francophonie à l'Université de Groningen

L'Université de Groningen (Département des Langues et Cultures romanes et le Centre d'études canadiennes) organisent le **18 mars 2004**, en collaboration avec la Maison Descartes et l'Ambassade du Canada, une journée de la francophonie avec la participation de cinq auteur(e)s de grande renommée: Sylvie Massicotte et Gaétan Soucy (Canada, Québec); Yasmina Khadra (Algérie); François Bon et Jean-Philippe Toussaint (France). À l'Université (Academiegebouw, Broerstraat 5, salle 8) aura lieu entre 15 - 17 heures une session d'entretiens et de discussions, animée par Liesbeth Korthals Altes, Jeanette den Toonder et Jaap Lintvelt. Entre 20h00 et 22 heures, les auteur(e)s seront ensuite interviewé(e)s à la librairie Athena (propriétaire: Gelly Talsma. Oude Kijk in 't Jatstraat 42).

Renseignements: Jeanette den Toonder (J.M.L.den.Toonder@let.rug.nl) et Jaap Lintvelt (lintvelt@let.rug.nl)

Understanding Media Art & Research Conference

The conference Understanding New Media Art and Research will address the beginning and meaning of interdisciplinary research projects in the field of electronic art, as well as experiences of active media practice. By focusing on the guiding role of media within the social, political and cultural changes currently taking place, the conference will link the emergent new



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art practice and new forms of cultural organisation to the wider field of our technological culture. Every day we read or hear about interdisciplinarity, interaction, the networked society, the end of the nation state, but what do these words actually mean? What has changed in a practical sense and how can artists, art institutes and policy makers reflect on this new so-called e-culture and help shape it? At this conference these questions are addressed from several angles. Political economist Saskia Sassen focuses on general changes in society: how have economic, cultural and governmental structures changed? Cultural and architectural historian Ole Bouman applies the same question to art: what has changed in the art world and what are the consequences for traditional art institutes like museums, foundations and advisory bodies? Media theorist Tapio Mäkelä has done research into art organisations that deal with new forms of art. How do these changes effect such organisations? Mäkelä also demonstrates the new connections that are made between the arts and scientific disciplines and how the phenomenon of "research" has entered the art world. Finally, artist **Catherine Richards** discusses the practice of the media artist: based on her own experience of many years not only as an artist but in art education as well, she sketches an image of the digital, networked artist, what he or she needs to produce electronic art and what alliances these new artists form. Catherine Richards (CDN) is a media artist. She took part in a number of artist-in-residence programs and has received many prizes and awards for her work. She teaches at the Visual Arts Department of the **University of Ottawa** (CDN). To register for the conference please contact Chelique Clementina by e-mail workshop@v2.nl or by phone +31 (0)10 206 72 72. More information : <http://www.v2.nl/2004/>

Date: Thursday 15 January 2004

Time: 13:00 - 17:00 hours

Admission: € 10,- students € 8,-

Location: Groothandelsgebouw, Stationsplein 45, Rotterdam, zaal Kriterion, 8th floor

Dutch undergraduates wanted!

The Canadian government is looking for Dutch undergraduates to attend the Canadian International Model United Nations in Ottawa, March 11-15. The event is reputed to be one of the best run and most intensive and educational events of its kind in the world. It includes Embassy briefings and seminars by some of Canada's top diplomats, politicians and civil servants. The target age group is senior undergraduates in their 3rd or 4th year of study. Registration deadline: **January 30, 2004**. More information: www.canimun.org.

Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarships Programme

The Trudeau Scholars Programme grants up to fifteen new scholarships every year to outstanding doctoral candidates in the social sciences and humanities. The Foundation supports doctoral candidates pursuing research of compelling present-day concern, touching upon one or more of the four themes of the Foundation: Human Rights and Social Justice; Responsible Citizenship; Canada and the World; and Humans and their Natural Environment. Trudeau Scholars are actively engaged in their fields, in which they are expected to become leading national and international figures. More information: www.trudeaufoundation.ca. Deadline for applicants is **January 15, 2004!**



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Canada Bulletin Canadian Embassy The Hague

Last summer, the Canadian Embassy in The Hague started the first edition of the Canada Bulletin. The Canada Bulletin (www.canadabulletin.nl) is a very useful on-line newsletter focusing on political, business, cultural events, study, high tech/ ICT, tourism and science and education, among other topics. Next to the online version, a selection of the news items is distributed to subscribers of the Canada Bulletin by E-mail once a month. A subscription is free. You can subscribe at <http://www.mistermail.nl/klanten/ca-ambassade/subscr-page.html>. The Canada Bulletin can also be read at: www.canadabulletin.nl
If you have any questions, please contact info@canada.nl or Frank de Reus at the Canadian Embassy: frank.de-reus@dfait-maeci.gc.ca or +31 (0)70-3111637.

Upcoming conference: Adequate & Affordable Housing for All

For sociologists, demographers, geographers and planners among us with a keen interest in housing research, the international conference that is organized by the University of Toronto, and takes place on **June 26-29** this year, might be just the thing. The theme is "Adequate and Affordable Housing for All".



The Centre for Urban and Community Studies of the University of Toronto organises the conference, under auspices of Housing and the Built Environment. The venue is the campus of the University of Toronto, located in the centre of Toronto's downtown area. The themes are demographic, political and social trends; comparative and historical analysis, poverty and homelessness, residential mobility, segregation, social housing policy, neighbourhood revitalization, household and lifestyles, housing markets and private sector investments and theoretical and conceptual framing of housing issues and debates. The **deadline** for sending in abstracts is **March 1**, 2004. The registration deadline is **April 1**. More information: <http://www.urbancentre.utoronto.ca/housingconference.html> or housing.conference@utoronto.ca

The research project of... Daphne Schoeber:

"What does a Canadian psychopath look like?"

The generous support of the Association of Canadian Studies enabled me last year to embark on an eight months study exchange from the Netherlands to Canada. I used this opportunity because I wanted to learn more from recent Canadian expertise in the forensic field, for example psychopathy.

As a student of Clinical Forensic Psychology at the Free University in Amsterdam, I was already regularly confronted with the expertise of Canadian forensic psychologists. In Amsterdam we used diagnostic instruments that were developed at the Mental Health, Law and Policy Institute of the Simon Fraser University (SFU) in Burnaby, British Columbia. These instruments can give an indication of the risk of recidivism in violence, and to what extent an offender can be assessed as a psychopath. Using the research I did during this exchange program I was able to write my Masters thesis on "conduct disorder".

Research

During my stay in Canada I participated in a workshop where I learned how to differentiate



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between psychopathic and non-psychopathic offenders. Hereby a psychopath is traditionally defined as somebody who is characterized by both a variety of antisocial, impulsive (often aggressive) behaviours, and a callous, egocentric personality.

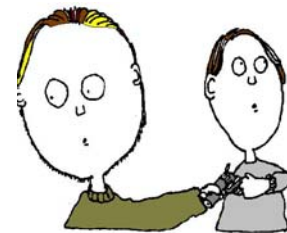
In the juvenile closed prison of Burnaby I was able to practice this 'new differentiation skill': I conducted interviews with juvenile delinquents. The interviews were part of the longitudinal, extensive research by dr. Corrado and dr. Cohen at the faculty of Criminology of SFU. This research project primarily focuses on how serious and violent young offenders react both to their incarceration experiences and their decision processes once they are released from custody. The project also examines the young offender's criminal history, mental health problems, social relationships, educational history, and family dynamics. The data of this research project I used in my thesis.

Previous research shows that psychopathy only occurs in a relatively small group of juvenile offenders, whilst the most common psychiatric diagnosis for young offender populations is conduct disorder. Because most serious and violent young offenders are characterized by 'a repetitive and persistent pattern of behaviour in which the basic rights of others or major age-societal rules are violated' and 'clinically significant impairment in social, academic or occupational functioning' (a general description of a diagnosis of conduct disorder), the high prevalence rate of the diagnosis of conduct disorder in a population of serious and violent juvenile delinquents is not surprising.

Thesis

In my thesis, entitled '*Conduct Disorder, what makes the Difference?*', I discussed the value of diagnosing conduct disorder in a population of serious and violent young offenders, and differences in risk factors regarding gender and violence. I focused on three risk factors: abuse (e.g. physical and sexual abuse), comorbidity (the co-occurrence of mental disorders), and substance abuse (soft and hard drugs). A better understanding of these risk factors could lead to early identification and more effective interventions for juvenile delinquents.

An analysis of files of 275 of the most serious young offenders in British Columbia results in a prevalence rate of 79.9% of conduct disorder. Of the young offenders with conduct disorder, 93.5% was diagnosed with at least one other mental disorder. In addition to this high prevalence of mental disorders, high rates of abuse (61.8%) and substance abuse (95.4%) are found in youth with conduct disorder, demonstrating the multi-problem profile of this population. Comparing female and male offenders, and violent versus non-violent offenders, higher levels of the above-mentioned risk factors were present in female and violent young offenders compared to male and non-violent offenders. For example, girls used more (different kinds of) hard drugs compared to boys in this study. These findings have important implications for future intervention and prevention programs for serious and violent young offenders.



Canadian experience

In addition to the learning experience at SFU, I also very much enjoyed the Canadian lifestyle. I lived in a house in Vancouver, close to Commercial Drive, together with some Canadian and some international roommates. As a student of SFU I was able to buy a cheap season's ski-pass for Whistler/ Blackcomb, which allowed me to enjoy the fantastic mountain environment of Vancouver.

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Two months ago, my supervisor dr. R. Corrado visited Amsterdam to talk about a research project concerning a new risk taxation instrument for violence in youth. There is a chance that I will work together with him in the future on this project, which I would really like to do. I am very grateful for the support of the Association of Canadian Studies, which enabled me to experience this unforgettable exchange and...to have a close look at Canadian psychopaths, who at first glance do not differ from their Dutch counterparts.

Modern foreign languages conference

A conference on modern foreign languages will be held on **January 22nd** in the Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen in Amsterdam, from 10 a.m. - 4.30 p.m. The goal of this conference is to bring study books and learning methods to the attention of the English departments in secondary schools. The main theme of this conference will be intercultural communication, but there will also be workshops on teaching foreign languages in general. Xchange, a new English method will be presented as well. Canada is central in the 3rd and 4th year course books of this new learning method for the English language. The workshops will take place from 11.10 a.m. - noon, from 1.30 p.m.- 2.20 p.m. and from 2.50 p.m. - 3.40 p.m.

For more information: Publisher EPN, Het Spoor 2, 3994 AK HOUTEN

Or contact Jacqueline Rootveldt, Modern Foreign Languages Department (EPN): +31 (0)30-6383038

Canada-Holland.com; connecting learners!

Florenceville/ New Brunswick, May 2003. A twelve-year old Dutch student writes an e-mail to his parents: "Dear dad and mam, today we were in the Suger Bush Maple Syrup factory near Florenceville in New Brunswick. With thousands of blue tubes they just suck the sugar syrup from the trees...the whole wood, all the trees, was connected by tubes, can you believe that??."



The above is just one of the many valuable learning moments that hundreds of Dutch and Canadian Students, who participate in the *Grassroots Twinschools Project*, experience. The Dutch Ministry of Education initiated the project, in close cooperation with the Canadian Ministry Industry Canada. The project was derived from a Memorandum of Understanding that was conceived between both countries in June 2001. The Grassroots Twinschools

Project targets two main goals: elaborate usage of information and computer-technology in classroom situations around a collaborative learning environment (1) and cultural exchange by means of internationalization (2). The results, after just 2.5 years:

- 23 Dutch and 23 Canadian schools are matched on a one to one base; students learn on a collaborative way in a wide variety of subjects.
- Two Master Classes (STSCC) from Holland and one from Canada were the base for an educational exchange, involving 70 principals, teachers and ICT-Coordiators.
- Two Junior Master Classes brought almost 40 students and 20 teachers from Holland to Canada; the Department of Education of New Brunswick played a central role and has indicated that they would like to see the cooperation continued and intensified.

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- A third Junior Master Class is due on May 1-8, 2004, when we are heading for Bradford, Ontario.
- In September 2003, ICT&E in Zutphen and the Department of Education in New Brunswick/ Canada decided to offer a collaborative Professional Development course on ICT-coaching in International educational project work. Seventeen ICT-coaches visited Canada and were twinned to Canadian ICT-Mentors for job shadowing and collaborative Professional development.



The visit from 16 participants from New Brunswick to the Netherlands lies ahead of us in May 2004, on the 22nd - 29th. The ICT-mentors and ICT-coaches are connected via a Virtual learning Environment TeleTop until then.

Invitation: On Thursday May 27 2004, a national conference will be organized with the theme **"International projects and e-coaching"**. All Canadian ICT-mentors and Dutch ICT-coaches, 23 Grassroots Twinschools and experts in the field of e-learning will celebrate and share the results of three years collaborative learning between Canada and the Netherlands. You are very welcome to join us on this interesting day!

All *Grassroots Twinschools Project* activities are coordinated by ICT&E, Bob Hofman, in Zutphen. On www.canadaholland.com and www.ict-edu.nl, you will find an overview of all activities mentioned. More information: hofman@ict-edu.nl

Note: all this could not have been achieved without the marvelous support from the Canadian Embassy in The Hague and the Directorate of ICT, OCenW. Photos taken during Junior Master Class in May 2003: 1. Sugar Bush in Florenceville/ New Brunswick; 2. The longest covered bridge in the world in Hartland/ New Brunswick.

Zutphen, Bob Hofman

'But, I dream in Canadian'

By Madeleine Thien, as featured in the "Globe and Mail", Saturday, December 27, 2003

Never do you forget the language in which your mother loved you, says MADELEINE THIEN, the Canadian-born daughter of Malaysian-Chinese immigrants who chose Canada for a better life. But, what is a good life and how do we seek it?

As I write this, I am sitting in a small flat in the village of Scharnegoutum, in the province of Fryslân, in the rural north of the Netherlands. My fiancé, a Dutch citizen, and I, the daughter of Malaysian-Canadian immigrants, moved to Holland last year. At the age of 29, it was my first experience of emigration, enacted almost 30 years after my parents immigrated to Canada in 1974.

Here, in the rural north, the lingua franca is not Dutch but Frisian, a surviving but distant relative of old English. A year of living here and I can speak passable Dutch, but to live in a language that is not your own is difficult, lonely and very humbling. When I think of Vancouver,



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I remember how it feels to be at home in a place, to be among the landmarks of childhood that are engraved in my memory, that will not be replaced by another country.

My mother was 30 years old, and had two children, when she emigrated to Canada. She had grown up in Kowloon, Hong Kong, not far from the gambling dens and neon lights of Mong Kok district. She went to school in Australia, where she met my father. They settled in East Malaysia, lived there for a few years, and then decided to throw chance to the wind and immigrate to Canada. It is too late now to ask her what she hoped to find in Canada, though I think that most children of immigrants instinctively know the answer to that question. It's written upon our childhoods, and is played out in the present existence that my siblings and I are now living.

To say that my mother hoped to find a better life is to fall back on a cliché that still holds true. In the 28 years that she lived in Canada, my mother returned to Hong Kong only twice: once, when I was a child, and once, to celebrate her father's 80th birthday. My mother did not like Hong Kong. She loved the expanse of Canada, the beauty of Vancouver and the surrounding islands, the landscapes marked by the footprints of glaciers. "When you are famous," she used to say, "you can buy me a little house on the Sunshine Coast."

For the last decade of her life, she worked as a purchasing manager for Canfor Corp., and travelled extensively to the lumber mills of the province. I will always remember the incongruity of my mother, a petite, laughing Chinese woman, who, for her work, always carried a construction hardhat in the trunk of her car. She died in Prince George last year, a world away from the geography of Hong Kong.

A few months ago, my fiancé and I went into a souvenir shop in Leeuwarden, the capital of Fryslân. We fell into a discussion with the shop owner about immigration, race, and national identity. My fiancé, who had lived in Canada for eight years, was describing, with enthusiasm, the multicultural city of Vancouver. The shop owner frowned and shook his head. "The foreigners in Canada," he said, "will never dream in Canadian."

There is a saying in Dutch: Never do you forget the language in which your mother loved you. For me, that language is English. Like many new immigrants, my parents raised my siblings and me to speak and think in the language of the new home. My mother watched in quiet curiosity as I hoarded books from the library. Like my sister's daughter, who is now 11, I read at the breakfast table, in the car, on the bus, even while walking. She must have been certain that I dreamed in English because it was the only language that I had, and the one in which she had loved me.

In Leeuwarden that day, I told the shop owner, *Maar ik droom in Canadese* [But, I dream in Canadian], but he didn't really believe me, and I didn't have the language to explain how this could be.

When my parents arrived in Canada in 1974, neither one had ever set foot in this country before. One of my mother's sisters was already settled here, and so there was family to welcome them. I was born just a few months later, an automatic Canadian, the only one in my family who never required immigration papers.

I can't speak for all immigrants, but it seems to me that in our family there was a hope that was never explicitly stated. And I think that hope was to be regarded as being deserving of their new citizenship, of being considered equal, not by themselves, but in the eyes of those around them.



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My mother fretted over her English, something that surprises me still because it was near perfect. My sister and I were enrolled in Chinese language classes, Chinese calligraphy, dance and painting, in addition to piano, ballet, acrobatics, swimming and tap dancing. We performed in Chinese New Year festivals and in parades; I was a toy soldier in a National Ballet production of *The Nutcracker*. My mother believed that all the opportunities of the world were here, and all we had to do was open our hands and grasp them.

Living in the rural Netherlands this past year has been difficult. On the streets, I am regularly confronted by racial slurs, something that I have not experienced in Canada since I was a child. In social life, such is the state of my Dutch that personal and complex conversations are difficult. I express myself with the vocabulary of a child, and, as a result, am sometimes treated as one. In my head, I reassure myself that I am more than I appear to be on the surface. I hold onto the person I know am, as I was in another country, another time.

I wish that I could confide in my mother because I know, with certainty that she would understand. In the end, we only want to be free to live our lives as we choose. Immigration is part of a conversation that is necessary in our increasingly globalized world: Who has the right to seek a better life? And how does one enact that right?

In his book, *The Warrior's Honour*, Michael Ignatieff writes about the construction of national identity, and of a nation's abiding myths. He writes toward the hope of individuals coming awake, "to come to yourself, to force a separation between what the tribe told you to be and what you truly were."

When I say that my mother dreamed in Canadian, it is part of an expression of hope in the potential of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and in the individual human rights and obligations that this document entails. The Charter does not express the society that we have, in my opinion, but the society we glimpse, and that we each create in our day-to-day choices, and in the actions we take within our communities. Where a true multicultural society exists in Canada, it exists in the choices and consciousness of the people, to see minor difference for what it is, and to know that the rights we hold are equal.

For as long as I can remember, my mother would finish her day job, and then go to teach business courses in the community colleges. She helped to start a support group for new immigrants. She seemed to move effortlessly through myriad circles of Canadian society. It was not effortless, of course. My mother looked at the opportunities, the gains and losses available to her, and she chose. Such choosing brought both heartbreak and joy to her life. In doing so, she claimed a place in the old Canada, and helped to bring about the new.

We children of immigrants often seek to return to the country that our parents have left behind. I have made my own wanderings through Malaysia, through Hong Kong and China. We know there is something to be recovered, we want to open what our parents have closed, we are ever curious. I make these journeys not because I hold onto the belief that there is another place and culture in which I might be more at home, but because I place my trust in empathy, in what Michael Ignatieff describes as the possibility that "human understanding is capable of transcending the bell jars of separate identities." I want to understand. I hope that by understanding, I too will be able to choose wisely. In the end, the old question remains. What is a good life, and how do we seek it? In this time and place, the act of immigration, as well as our attitude towards immigration, is one way of trying to answer that question. In the course of her

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life, I think that my mother found the answer in Canada. I follow after, carrying the same question.

Madeleine Thien, 29, the Canadian-born daughter of Malaysian-Chinese immigrants is the author of the award-winning short story collection Simple Recipes and holds an Masters of Fine Arts in creative writing from the University of British Columbia.

Canadian currently filming in Rotterdam

Canadian filmmaker Demetri Estodacropolis is currently working on a project about relationships between the Netherlands and Canada. The Canada council for the Arts funds this project. Rotterdam will be central in Estodacropolis' film. The port and themes as departure by boat to the new world and the multicultural city will be central in his film.

Cirque du Soleil in the Netherlands with "Dralion"

The Cirque du Soleil returns to Amsterdam in 2004 with a new show called Dralion. Once again it is a very dynamic show, based on ancient Chinese circus traditions with the eternal search for harmony between man and nature as a central theme. The dragon and the lion are important symbols in this show, one representing the East, the other the West.



Location: circus tent next to Amsterdam Arena (P2). February 27 till May 2004. Bookings: Cirque du Soleil Ticket Line (Netherlands): 0900-0233 (€ 0,45 per min) Prices range from € 27.00 till € 63.00. For more details and schedule:

<http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/CirqueDuSoleil/en/tickets/touring/dralion/amsterdam.htm>

The next newsletter will appear in **May**. Deadline for contributions: **April 15, 2004**
Please send contributions to Amanda Helderma, preferably by e-mail:
A.C.Helderma@uva.nl or by regular mail: AME/UvA, Nieuwe Prinsengracht 130, 1018 VZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

THE ACSN NEWSLETTER

The "ACSN newsletter" appears three times a year and is a publication of the Association of Canadian Studies in the Netherlands ("Canadees Studiegenootschap"), exclusively for members, with a circulation of 130.

Editor: Amanda C. Helderma (E-mail: A.C.Helderma@uva.nl), with contributions from Frank de Reus, Jaap Lintvelt, Pauline Sarkar, Daphne Schoeber and Bob Hofman in this issue.

The individual membership is only €27,- a year (€100,- for institutions). New members will now receive the book "Images of Canadianness, visions on Canada's politics, culture, economics" as a welcoming present. Members will be informed of and invited to all kinds of activities relating to Canadian Studies. The form to become a member can be found on: <http://www.acsn.nl/extra/memberform.pdf>, otherwise please ask Amanda for the form via E-mail: A.C.Helderma@uva.nl or via mail: A.C. Helderma, UvA/ AME, Nieuwe Prinsengracht 130, 1018 VZ Amsterdam and she will send it to you.