



# ACS N Newsletter

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Dear ACSN members,

Winter is here, and the holiday season is approaching. On behalf of ACSN I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. In this issue of the newsletter you will find a report of our very successful annual seminar in Groningen last October (CinéCanada); Lea Zuyderhoudt reports on the conference on Native American studies that was held in Leuven last May and announces the conference book that is now available. We also have an account from Irene Salverda of the 13<sup>th</sup> European Student Seminar on Graduate work in Canadian Studies that was held in Hungary last October. In this issue you will also find a lot of recommendations for Canadian literature for your winter reading by the fireplace. As always, I would like to ask your attention for our website ([www.acsn.nl](http://www.acsn.nl)) that is regularly updated. For news on Canada and upcoming events also have a look at the website of the Canadian Embassy ([www.canada.nl](http://www.canada.nl)) every now and then please.

Happy reading,  
Amanda Helderman  
(E-mail:  
[A.C.Helderman@uva.nl](mailto:A.C.Helderman@uva.nl))

*The "ACS N 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. Editors: Amanda C. Helderman and Evelyn Ersanilli.*

## **CinéCanada: a day on new Canadian film, October 29, 2004**

On October 29<sup>th</sup> the ACSN held its annual seminar. This year's subject was new Canadian film and the organizers had decided not to show mainstream films, but to concentrate on two aspects which are less known in the Netherlands. A film from Québec and an introduction to film made by black Canadians were selected for this purpose. (There are of course plenty of other interesting subjects... perhaps for another year?) The board took the risk of planning the day in Groningen, which is of course not 'mainstream' either! Luckily, the attendance was good for our standards: 54 people came to listen to introductory talks by Annie van den Oever and Jeanette den Toonder, and see *La Grande Séduction* in the morning, and/or came in the afternoon to listen to a talk about black Canadian film by Louis Taylor, prize-winning director of short films, among which *Esther, Baby and me* and *You are evil*. Both short films were screened. After the day program, there was a boat tour through the canals of Groningen and a lovely dinner at the Groninger museum.

### *La Grande Seduction*

Everyone attending enjoyed the screening of the charmingly comic film "*La Grande Seduction*" in the morning, directed by Jean-François Pouliot. The plot unravels in St. Marie-La-Mauderne, a tiny fishing village in the middle of nowhere. For eight years the locals have stood in line for weekly welfare cheques, wearing patched sweaters and glum expressions, and remembering the good old days when the catch was good, the fishermen were proud, and life seemed a lot better. Then one day, there is a chance at salvation: a small company wants to build a factory on the island, but only if a full-time doctor lives in the village. The situation seems hopeless until a young doctor in Montreal has an unfortunate incident with a traffic cop and finds himself on a boat to the faraway village. But how to convince young, urbane Dr. Lewis to stay? As it turns out, the answer lies in just a bit of seductive subterfuge - along with a tapped phone, and a hastily assembled cricket team. In the end honesty prevails...



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## *Black Canadian Film*

Black Canadian filmmaker Louis Taylor trained as a classical ballet dancer but after a few years in the field he found the form too rigid and moved to jazz. For many years he played 'the bad guy' in American movies that were being shot in Canada. Taylor is primarily interested in making documentaries and POVs (Point Of View) as Canada simply cannot compete with the American feature films and blockbusters. After all, 95% of what is being broadcast in Canada comes from their southern neighbours and only 2% of what is screened in Canadian cinemas is a Canadian product. With the rise of multiculturalism, black Canadian film found a voice and an identity in the 1970s. There is a black Canadian film festival in Toronto every year. Taylor's first documentary film "*Esther Baby and Me*" portrays the shock of the black father when he hears the news that his white wife is pregnant. He goes through a rough period and gains as much weight as his wife. Unfortunately due to technical difficulties the audience could not see the end when the father embraces the newborn child and apparently becomes an extremely proud and happy father. Taylor's POV *You Are Evil*, shot shortly after 9/11 when everyone was angry but no one said anything, shows a very interesting interpretation of a certain event. Taylor has just finished shooting *Moloch*, a satire on patriarchy. Two of Dawn Wilkinson's movies were shown as well: *Dandelion* and *Instant Dread*.

*Pauline Sarkar and Conny Steenman-Marcusse*

## **Louis Taylor on Black Canadian film**

Beginning in the 70's - concomitant with the emergence of an independent Canadian film (drama) industry - large numbers of people of colour immigrated to Canada. Racist and anti-immigrant organizations' rise fostered a concurrent rise in anti-white sentiments among Canadians of colour. To counter this, the Federal government, under Pierre Elliott Trudeau, launched various programs aimed at easing racial and ethnic strife. Black, Asian and Native organizations sprang up and communities of colour began entering the mainstream. Artist run organizations like the Black Film and Video Network (1988), *Desh Pardesh*, the Aboriginal Film, Video and Arts Alliance, Artists Networking Together, Full Screen and Can Asian paved the way for today's filmmakers of colour. In the early 90's, the Canadian Film Centre (Norman Jewison's school for filmmakers since 1986) created a program for filmmakers of colour. It was through this that Clement Virgo ("*Save My Lost Nigger Soul*") and Stephen Williams ("*A Variation On The Key 2 Life*") made their feature film debuts: Clement with "*Rude*" and Stephen with "*Soul Survivor*". Both films went on to international acclaim and opened the doors for other black filmmakers and filmmakers of colour. Presently Alison Duke ("*Raisin' Kane*") in the documentary world and David "Sudz" Sutherland in drama are garnering international accolades. Up and comers like Dawn Wilkinson and Sarah Brown promise to continue the success of black film in Canada. From POV to documentaries, film essays to protest videos, dramas to music videos: black Canadian filmmaker and filmmakers of colour are changing the face of Canadian film. Whatever the future of Canadian film, black filmmakers and filmmakers of colour will continue to push the boundaries of what it means to be a Canadian filmmaker.

*Lou Taylor*

NB: This is an excerpt from Lou Taylor's 3-page essay that he wrote shortly after CinéCanada. If you would like to receive the full essay, that also deals with Canadian film in general, please request Amanda to send it to you: [A.C.Helderman@uva.nl](mailto:A.C.Helderman@uva.nl)



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## Books on Canadian Film

On the occasion of CinéCanada, University of Toronto Press offered ACSN-members a 20% discount on books on Canadian film. There are still some special order forms left, so if you are interested, please let us know. The titles and discounted prices in Canadian Dollars are: *"Hundred years of Canadian Cinema"* - George Melnyk (2004, see September newsletter for more details, from \$35 for \$28), *"The girl from God's country: Nell Shipman and the silent cinema"* - Kay Armatage (2003, paperback, from \$32.95 for \$26.36), *Candid Eyes: Essays on Canadian Documentaries* - Eds. Jim Leach and Jeanette Sloniowski (2002, paperback, from \$27.95 for \$22.33), *"Take one's essential guide to Canadian Cinema"* edited by Wyndhem Wise with a foreword by Patricia Rozema (2001, paperback, from \$26.95 for \$21.56) *"The artist as a monster: the cinema of David Cronenberg"* - William Beard (2001, cloth, from \$53.00 for \$42.40), *"So close to the state(s): The emergence of Canadian feature film policy"*- Micheal Dorland (1998, paperback, from \$20.95 for \$16.76), and *"Gendering the nation: Canadian women's cinema"*- Eds. Kay Armatage, Kass Banning, Brenda Longfellow and Janine Marchessault (1999, paperback, from \$24.95 for \$19.91). More information: [A.C.Helderman@uva.nl](mailto:A.C.Helderman@uva.nl)

## ACSN Conference 2005: Building Liberty

In the year of the association's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, ACSN organizes a three-day international conference on June 2-4, 2005 to address and, where appropriate, reassess the role of Canada as a force for liberty and peace in the Netherlands and the world since 1945. There are many different perspectives on this theme viewed from social, political, legal and literary angles. We are very busy selecting papers and inviting participants for this exciting multi-day conference. We can already reveal some speakers to you: Ko Colijn, Janice Kulyk Keefer, George Elliott Clarke, Frank Davey and Christl Verduyn.

More information: <http://www.acsn.nl/activities/callforpapers.html>

## The challenges of Native American studies

In May 2004, more than one hundred researchers of Native North Americans came from all over Europe, Canada and the US to meet in the historic Oude Begijnhof (beguinage) of Leuven, a charming university city in Belgium. The occasion was the 25th anniversary of the American Indian Workshop (AIW) and was celebrated with a Festschrift: "The challenges of Native American studies" (Saunders and Zuyderhoudt 2004, Leuven University Press) containing a collection of papers. One major question is who is to represent Native Americans in museums, research and the media and who is to define the topics and next steps in this field of inquiry: non-indigenous or Native American experts? It has been claimed that unequal power balances and political issues hinder true dialogues. In contrast, other scientists have reasoned that a true collaboration between Native Americans and scholars from outside their communities is the best and perhaps only way to arrive at balanced and multi-vocal debates on the past and present of Native North Americans. Both the conference and the book provided a forum for a wide range of views.

The conference, organised by professor Barbara Saunders from Leuven University and Lea Zuyderhoudt from Leiden University, brought researchers together in a series of interdisciplinary panels. Discussions involved the ways Native Americans present themselves and



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are represented in literature, academia, museums and the media in Canada and the US. Presentations included the experiences of First Nations teachers such as Sven Haakanson, who is working with youth and museums on Kodiak Island. Canadian speakers ranged from researchers and museum specialists such as Ruth Phillips to performers such as Tamara (actress/singer/songwriter) and Jennifer (actress/filmmaker/producer) Podemski. The Podemski sisters are well known for their representations of modern Native American life in Canada. In addition to presenting at the conference they gave an enchanting musical performance together with professor musician Allan Ryan during the closing dinner. Thus the conference appropriately ended with a collaborative event, and by showing a part of Native American culture, as it is alive today.

*Lea M. Zuyderhoudt M.A., Leiden University*

## **The challenges of Native American Studies, essays in celebration of the twenty-fifth American Indian workshop**

Barbara Saunders and Lea Zuyderhoudt eds.; Leuven University Press; Leuven; Studia Anthropologica, Volume 8, 2004; 338 pp.; ISBN 90 5867 379 0; €38.00

The essays gathered in this volume celebrate the founding of the American Indian Workshop (AIW) twenty-five years ago as a European forum for Native American studies. We present in this collection of ongoing debates on the interlaced and interlocking arena of Native American studies and its complicated relation with Native Americans themselves. These debates tie in with such questions as: Can Native American studies shake off its past and deal with the complexity of political and academic issues in the present? Why, by whom and for who is research conducted within this domain and who decides what the next step should be? This volume is a modest response to these questions, to the validation and substantiation of the cat's cradle of practises of the many disciplines that compromise Native American studies, and an attempt to ask the right questions, to get past the imperial categories, and to thoughtfully mediate and reorientate perspectives.

More details: <http://www.kuleuven.ac.be/upers/cnas.htm>

## **English-Canadian Literature**

Let me introduce you to some new Canadian books whose writers were reading from their work at the 25<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Authors (IFOA) at the Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, October 20-30, 2004. All six books were published in 2004.

*What Casanova Told Me*, Susan Swan, Knopf

The niece of American President John Adams accompanies Casanova in 1797 and keeps a diary on their travels from Italy through Greece to Istanbul. Two centuries later this travel journal falls into the hands of Luce Adams who is on her way to her mother's memorial service in Crete. Luce unravels the mysteries of the past and realizes that past events have helped her to find her own way in the modern world.

*The Big Why*, Michael Winter, House of Anansi Press

Newfoundland writer Michael Winter has based his new novel on the real life artist Rockwell Kent, who moved to Brigace, Newfoundland from New York in 1914. The villagers accuse Kent of being a spy for the Germans during World War I, and he is deported from the country. When he



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is an old man he returns to the harsh landscape of The Rock that inspired his early work. Winter certainly knows how to apply humour.

*Look For Me*, Edeet Ravel, HarperCollins

Like her previous novel, *Ten Thousand Lovers*, this book is set in the Middle East against the background of problematic lives of Palestinians and Israelis. *Look For Me* relates Dana's quest to find her husband who disappeared while serving in the Israeli army. After a decade of searching in the midst of confrontations with the police, threatening situations and curfews Dana meets another man and questions her past and future.

*Prisoners of the North*, Pierre Berton, Doubleday

A Yukoner himself, Berton tells the amazing stories of five characters whose adventures in Canada's north are as interesting today as they were more than a century ago. There is a gold prospector, an eccentric who claims the existence of "Blond Eskimos", the famous poet Robert Service, a public school Englishman and Lady Jane Franklin whose efforts to find her explorer husband are legendary. (Berton recently died at the age of 83.)

*All That Matters*, Wayson Choy, Doubleday

Sequel to *The Jaded Peony*, both books deal with the Chen family caught up in the Chinese diaspora of the 1930s. Adaptation to Canadian society follows but not for PohPoh, the grandmother who clings to values and traditions of Old China. The novel is rich in cultural and historical details. (Giller award nominee 2004.)

*Robinson's Crossing*, Jan Zwicky

This collection of poetry originates in Robinson's Crossing in northern Alberta where European settlers crossed the Pembina River and continued on foot. With long narrative meditations and shorter lyrics Zwicky, also a musician, reflects on the realities of colonial experience in a poetic language that resembles movements in music.

*Conny Steenman-Marcusse*

## Giller Prize 2004

The Giller Prize is Canada's premier literary award that consists of \$25,000.00. On November 11, the ceremony was broadcast live on CBC-TV throughout Canada. The nominees were Wayson Choy ("*All that matters*"), Pauline Holdstock ("*Beyond measure*"), Miriam Toews ("*A complicated kindness*", this year's winner of the governor general's literary award in the category fiction), Paul Quarrington ("*Galveston*"), Shauna Singh Baldwin ("*The tiger claw*") and Alice Munro, who once again won the Giller Prize for a collection of stories entitled "*Runaway*". In 1998 she also won the Giller Prize for "*The love of a good woman*".

*Amanda Helderman*

## Reading suggestion: the work of Serge-Patrice Thibodeau

Thibodeau (1959) was born in New Brunswick and his work is partly devoted to Acadian literature. However, he pays attention to the great sacred, mythological and religious texts as well as to travel diaries and archaeology. Having lived in Montreal since 1986, he has become a well-known poet and essayist. In 1996 he won the governor general's literary award in the category poetry for "*Le Quatuor de l'errance*", followed by "*La Traversée du desert*".

*Conny Steenman-Marcusse*



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## **La Journée de la Francophonie 2005**

Découvrez chaque année les manifestations organisées de par le monde pour cette Journée qui, en 2005, aura lieu le 20 mars. En ce moment nous ne savons pas encore ce qui se fera aux Pays-Bas, mais nous vous conseillons de vous renseigner dans quelque temps à l'Ambassade du Canada à La Haye et à la Maison Descartes à Amsterdam.

*Pauline Sarkar*

## **13<sup>th</sup> European Student Seminar on Graduate work in Canadian Studies**

This year's European Student Seminar was held in Szeged, Hungary, from October 7th until October 9th. Together with Esther Sloof and Evelyn Ersanilli, I represented "the Dutch team". We visited the seminar together and presented our research. The seminar was organised for young scholars who had conducted a research in the field of Canadian Studies. For me as well as other visitors, it was a unique chance to meet other people with a special link to Canada. A wide variety of topics were presented, ranging from Canadian economics and literature to multiculturalism.

The seminar's success was undoubtedly thanks to the huge amount of effort its organizers had put into the program. During various lunches and dinners, all the participants were able to talk to each other and exchange experiences. We visited the wonderful town of Szeged and even found some time to relax in the local spa. The seminar was concluded with a nice field trip to a historical National Park, where our guide told us all about Hungary's past. Afterwards we enjoyed another nice meal and listened to live Hungarian music. There was enough "palinka" (a Hungarian fruit liquor) to get all the participants to do something that was supposed to look like Hungarian dancing. I suspect that our audience had at least as much fun as we did!

The seminar has revitalised my interests in the field of Canadian Studies and gave me many new ideas for my thesis. I hope the next seminar will be just as much fun and inspiring!

*Irene Salverda*

## **Prime Minister Martin announces \$194 million to create new Canada Research Chairs**

November 12<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister Paul Martin, joined by the Honourable David L. Emerson, minister of industry and responsible for the Canada Research Chairs Program announced an investment of \$194 million in Canada's top researchers. 194 new Canada Research Chairs were created, 79 of which for expatriates and international researchers coming to Canada. The Canada Research Chairs program was launched in 2000 to attract and retain the best and brightest researchers from around the world. It has created 1,348 research positions at 73 Canadian universities since. 395 of these positions were filled by researchers from abroad.

More information: [http://www.chairs.gc.ca/web/media/releases/2004\\_nov\\_e.asp](http://www.chairs.gc.ca/web/media/releases/2004_nov_e.asp)

## **Summer Explorations in Canadian Cultures, August 14 - 28, 2005, Trent University**

Preparations are well underway for the eighth annual Summer Explorations in Canadian Cultures program at Trent University in Ontario, Canada. This is an experiential, academic and cultural immersion program in Canadian Studies for academics from around the world. The program strives to forge international ties and further the study and curriculum development of Canadian Studies abroad. Canadian culture, environment and history will be examined through lectures, discussion groups, seminars, field excursions and literary workshops. The program is offered in



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5, 7 and 14 day sessions and will take place this summer from August 14 - 28, 2005 in Peterborough, Ontario and the surrounding area.

More information: [www.trentu.ca/secc](http://www.trentu.ca/secc), E-mail: [secc@trentu.ca](mailto:secc@trentu.ca), or write: SECC/JBC, Trent University, 1600 West Bank Dr., Peterborough ON, K9J 7B8, CANADA.

## **Book review: *Dark Age Ahead* by Jane Jacobs**

(Random House, Toronto, 2004, 241 pp., ISBN 1 4000 6232 2, \$23.95)

It is not only because of its ominous title that many futurists will be attracted to *Dark Age Ahead*. Their interest perhaps grows when they learn that the book at hand has been written by Jane Jacobs. Indeed, since the early 1960s this American 'little old lady in tennis shoes', now living and working in Toronto, has been world-famous for her unconventional and sparkling ideas on urban and societal development. Her *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (1961) is a real classic and reshaped the way the urban planning establishment thinks about its profession. Unlike most planners, Jane Jacobs advocated the socio-economic importance of vibrant street life, mixed-use development and dense concentrations of people working and living downtown. In *Dark Age Ahead*, Jacobs attempts to make us think again.

"The purpose of this book", Jacobs writes, "is to help our culture avoid slipping into a dead end", because "we show signs of rushing headlong into a Dark Age because in particular five pillars of our culture are in a state of serious decay. These domains in decline include the unit of the family and family life; the higher education system; the traditional independency of science; the system of taxes; the self-regulation by professional groups. According to Jacobs, these institutions are nothing less than the foundations on which the Western civilization is built; as a matter of fact, all problems in society can be related to them. In the next five chapters of the book the development of each of these pillars is carefully explored on the basis of historical facts, illustrative figures and last but not least Jacobs' own feelings. In this respect, many of today's well-known problematic issues pass in review. As examples of the breakdown of the five cultural pillars Jacobs points to the increasing number of divorces, the fight for students among educational institutions, the growing dependency of universities on externally-financed research, the waning tax morale in society and the recent accounting scandals of well-known multinational enterprises.

As Jacobs sees it, the deterioration of the Western culture is notably visible in the United States and may spread over the rest of the world. If the current trend continues, she fears that the generations after us will not be aware of the deeply rooted and binding character of the values that shaped our civilization, varying from everyday customs to moral principles - with the unavoidable consequence that society in the end will be disrupted. In order to turn the tide, Jacobs makes a strong appeal in the last chapter of the book. There she pleads for what reminds one of the biblical principle 'Explore many things, but keep the good thing'. Jacobs refers to the recent economic rise of Japan and Ireland: both countries have successfully anticipated new developments, while purposefully holding on to their national cultural traditions. As the key for realising such a global-local interface, Jacobs stresses the need for 'subsidiarity': solutions work best when they are closest to the people that are in need for them. The book ends with a supplement containing all kinds of notes, quotes and comments. This part can be seen as a list of references and an inspiration source for further reading.



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Despite the rather unsystematic approach of Jacobs in addressing the themes, she has been able to draw the attention to the pressing problems of our time. To be sure, it may be questioned why precisely the five pillars mentioned by Jacobs will be the very determinants of tomorrow's society. After all, for our future other values like tolerance and care for the environment and trust in politics can be considered important as well. But at the same time, we think, it is not so much for the agreement or disagreement of the argument, that *Dark Age Ahead* deserves a wide read, but for the thought it invokes. Thus, as in her other works, Jacobs succeeded in her mission: she makes us think.

*Gert-Jan Hospers*, School of Business, Public Policy and Technology, University of Twente, Enschede. E-mail: [g.j.hospers@utwente.nl](mailto:g.j.hospers@utwente.nl)

## **Le Québec en classe Français Langue Étrangère aux Pays-Bas**

Quand on parle d'enseignement du français aux Pays-Bas, le Québec semble avoir été oublié. En tant qu'étudiante de français et future professeur de français de l'enseignement secondaire, je suis heureuse que l'ACSNews m'a attribué une bourse, pour la période novembre 2003 - janvier 2004, qui m'a permis de connaître le système scolaire québécois et d'introduire le Québec dans les écoles secondaires aux Pays-Bas. Premièrement, j'ai fait une étude théorique sur le système scolaire au Québec et je l'ai comparé à celui aux Pays-Bas. L'éducation est plus ou moins la même jusqu'à l'école secondaire. A partir de là, il y a des grandes différences. Aux Pays-Bas, il y a différents niveaux, on distingue les 'bons' élèves des 'moins bons' élèves en créant une différenciation de niveaux : VMBO, HAVO et VWO. Au Québec, après le secondaire, il faut suivre une formation de deux ans au niveau collégial, le cégep (collège d'enseignement général et professionnel) avant de pouvoir entrer à l'université. Lors de mes nombreuses visites aux cégeps, francophones et anglophones, j'ai observé comment l'enseignement y prenait forme. Je trouvais qu'il y régnait une ambiance chaleureuse et que les étudiants étaient, en général, très motivés.

Ensuite, j'ai étudié la pédagogie et la didactique de l'enseignement des langues en assistant à des cours de langue aux écoles secondaires et aux cégeps. J'ai aussi observé quelques cours à l'université pour des futurs professeurs de langue. Les objectifs visés en ce qui concerne la pédagogie et la didactique des langues modernes se ressemblent beaucoup.

Le dernier volet de mon projet se voulait avant tout un effort d'internationalisation. J'ai interrogé plusieurs professeurs québécois sur leur volonté de mettre sur pied des projets d'échange ou de promotion du Québec aux Pays-Bas. Or, les écoles québécoises que j'ai visitées à Québec et à Montréal n'étaient pas tellement intéressées aux Pays-Bas. Mais de retour aux Pays-Bas, j'ai moi-même donné un cours didactique sur le Québec à mes camarades de classe de la formation professionnelle pour l'enseignement qui était reçu avec beaucoup d'enthousiasme. En plus, j'ai donné quelques cours sur le Québec à mon école de stage (niveau VMBO) et les élèves trouvaient intéressant d'apprendre quelque chose sur un 'pays' francophone autre que la France. Le Québec en classe Français Langue Étrangère... c'est bien possible !

*Dianne van Meerveld, novembre 2004*

## **Federal liberals revive plans to decriminalise marijuana**

In November the federal Liberals re-introduced legislation decriminalizing possession of marijuana for personal use. A previous attempt stopped with the federal election call. The decriminalization bill would replace criminal sanctions and jail terms for the possession of less



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than 15 grams of marijuana with fines akin to those for traffic tickets. "Possession and consumption of marijuana is illegal and will remain illegal," Justice Minister Irwin Cotler said. "The only change here revolves around decriminalization for people holding small quantities." Instead of jail time, the punishment would be a \$150 fine for adults and \$100 for minors. However, anybody caught with more than 15 grams would still face jail time and a maximum fine of \$1,000. "We want to combat the growth in grow-ops, their relationship to organized crime," Justice Minister Irwin Cotler said. An argument quite similar to one for the Dutch focus on hard-drugs instead of soft-drugs. At the same time Cotler reintroduced a bill that would allow police to act more forcefully against drug-impaired drivers. Seemingly trying to show he was not going 'all soft' on the drug issue.

Already in September 2002 the Senate Committee on Illegal Drugs had presented its report on Canada's current anti-drug policies. It stated that marijuana is not a gateway drug and should be treated more like tobacco or alcohol than like hard drugs. In December of the same year the House of Commons Special Committee on the Non-Medical Use of Drugs stated that though marijuana is unhealthy the current penalties for possession and use of small amounts are disproportionately high. The Liberals' minority government position means that they will need help from the opposition to pass the Bill. Both the Bloc Quebecois and the NDP have indicated they have a positive take on the Bill. The American ambassador to Canada has already warned that Ottawa's plan to de-criminalize marijuana would exacerbate already dire congestion problems at the U.S. border.

*Evelyn Ersanilli*

## **ACSNI and government programs:**

### *ACSNI student research award*

This award is designed to assist students of higher education, whose M.A. theses or doctoral dissertations are related in substantial part to Canada, to undertake research in Canada in topics within the social sciences and the humanities. The deadline for applications is March 31st and October 31st of each year. More information: <http://www.acsn.nl/activities/student.html>

### *European Speakers Program*

In order to promote European co-operation in Canadian Studies, the ACSNI has established this program to give financial support to teaching faculties at Dutch universities to bring in expert Canadianists from Europe as guest lecturers. We also have a seminar support program and a conference participation program.

More information: <http://www.acsn.nl/activities/programs.html>

### *Faculty Enrichment program*

This is a program of the Government of Canada to increase knowledge and understanding of Canada abroad by assisting academics in higher education institutions to develop and teach courses about Canada in their own discipline, as part of their regular teaching load. The program enables coming to Canada to gather the necessary information and material to devise a new course on Canada. Deadline: October 31 of each year. More information: [http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/pages/5\\_govprogs/b\\_FEP\\_countries/netherlands.html](http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/pages/5_govprogs/b_FEP_countries/netherlands.html)



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## ICCS deadlines December 31

*Graduate student scholarships:* Twelve scholarships to spend 4-6 weeks at a Canadian university or research site to do research related to a thesis or dissertation in the field of Canadian Studies. *Eligibility:* Scholars from social sciences or humanities programs, who are in the process of preparing a graduate thesis or doctoral dissertation on Canada. Application procedure: students must send their dossier to their Association. Applications must be submitted to ICCS by an Association. *Value:* \$3,500.00 maximum.

*Canadian Studies Internships:* Two internships to visit a Canadian or foreign university with a Canadian Studies program for a teaching or research internship. *Eligibility:* Canadian and foreign academics, who have completed a doctoral degree on a topic primarily related to Canada and who are not employed in a full time university teaching position. Application procedure: application must be submitted with a recommendation from an ICCS Canadian Studies Association. *Value:* \$2,500.00 per month (min. one month and max. three months), plus a return airline ticket.

*The governor general's international award for Canadian Studies:* Award to an outstanding scholar who has made a significant contribution to scholarship and to the development of Canadian Studies internationally. Awarded alternately to a Canadianist having a career primarily in Canada and to a Canadianist having a career in Canadian Studies primarily in a foreign country. *Eligibility:* citizens of any country.

## Jeanne Sauvé Scholarship: McGill

The Sauvé Scholarship Program offers 14 students of journalism, media or communication the opportunity to go to McGill University in Montreal. Deadline: December 31, 2005.

More information: [www.sauvescholars.org](http://www.sauvescholars.org) or

<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canadaeuropa/netherlands/nieuws/studie/041130sauve.asp>

## ACSN members list

Over time, people generally move house, change jobs, and change research interests. Please send us your change of address and research interests, so that we are able to inform you efficiently. We sometimes use E-mail to supply extra information in between newsletter issues, so if you are not sure we have your E-mail address, please send a message to Amanda: [A.C.Helderman@uva.nl](mailto:A.C.Helderman@uva.nl)

## ICCS members database

The International Council for Canadian Studies in Ottawa, our mother organization, is currently working on building an online database with which members can find other scholars working on similar topics elsewhere in the world. If you have the ICCS questionnaire, please fill it out and send it to ICCS. If you would like to receive a (new) questionnaire to participate in this worldwide network of Canadianists, please contact: [A.C.Helderman@uva.nl](mailto:A.C.Helderman@uva.nl)

The next newsletter will appear in **April 2005**; deadline for contributions: **March 15<sup>th</sup>**, 2005. Everyone is most welcome to contribute! So if you have any news, a publication or a book review for us, let us know! Please send contributions to Amanda Helderma, preferably by e-mail: [A.C.Helderman@uva.nl](mailto:A.C.Helderman@uva.nl) or by regular mail: UvA, Nieuwe Prinsengracht 130, 1018 VZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands.