



ACS N Newsletter

Dear ACSN-members,

In this issue of the ACSN newsletter we would like to address some changes on the board. Some people are leaving while others have joined the board. Ruben Vroegop and Kathelijne Schenkel have written letters to ACSN about their adventures at McGill University in Montréal and at the 14th European Graduate Student Seminar, held in York earlier this year. Hans Bak has finished his edited volume on *First Nations of North America: Politics and Representation*. ACSN will make a number of copies available to her members. If you would like to receive a copy, please send a quick note to Conny Steenman-Marcusse at canlit@xs4all.nl, and we will send you a copy in due time. As always you will find news from the ICCS, the Canadian Press and a selection of conferences and scholarships in this newsletter. *ACS N wishes everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year!!!*

Happy reading,
Amanda Helderma
Evelyn Ersanilli

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NEWS FROM ACSN

New board members ACSN

This month, the board of ACSN says farewell to Pauline Sarkar as a board member. We are grateful to her for her many years of actively taking place on the board and will miss her input very much. She assured us that she remains an active member of the ACSN. Jaap Lintvelt (Groningen) has kindly agreed to take over Pauline's spot, and we are delighted to welcome him in our midst. Another newcomer on the ACSN board is Manik Sarkar. His name is familiar to you all, since he has been our Webmaster for four years. We are happy to welcome him on the board.

Amanda Helderma

New with ACSN: International Student Networking Program

ACS N is starting a new program in the spring of 2006, entitled the *International Student Networking Program*. Suitable candidates are excellent students, of Dutch nationality and ACSN members, enrolled in a university in The Netherlands or in one of The Netherlands' colleges, who have obtained at least 120 ECTS, and aim to travel to Canada to enrol in challenging courses with Canadian content for their degree, and meet with Canadian experts in their discipline in the Humanities and Social Sciences. The aim of the program is to provide opportunities to students to advance academically in the milieu of some of the best Canadian universities. The courses should have a direct and obvious relation with the student's curriculum of choice. The time in Canada should be used to orientate oneself in the chosen field. Contacts with experts should be established prior to writing the proposal and the experts in question should provide a written statement that they are in contact with and prepared to meet with the eligible candidate. Visits to the Canadian university of choice should span at least two months. Applications should contain a detailed plan, which clearly states in what way a student advances academically through the chosen courses and expert meetings and what the relevance of the selected courses is for the student's curriculum. A detailed preliminary budget plan should be included. Travel and



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accommodation expenses may be granted up to €1,250.00. The grants may also be used towards tuition fees. An application form will be posted on the ACSN-website in January 2006: www.acsn.nl. Deadlines for proposals will be twice a year: on March 31 and October 31. First deadline: March 31, 2006. For further information please contact Dr. Conny Steenman-Marcusse (canlit@xs4all.nl) with copies to Drs. Fred Toppen (F.Toppen@geog.uu.nl).

PEOPLE AND ACSN

Farewell Jaap Lintvelt from Canadian Studies Centre Groningen

Ever since the foundation of the Canadian Studies Centre at Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Jaap Lintvelt has been director. He gave his farewell lecture on "Québec as a city and an identity" on September 20, 2005. Even though he will remain on the board of the Centre, Jeanette den Toonder has taken over the position as director from Jaap Lintvelt. Besides seminars in 2006 en 2007, the Centre will organize an international conference in 2008, in cooperation with ACSN. Other Canadian Studies Centres in Europe will actively participate in this event.

New minor Canadian Studies Groningen

The Centre for Canadian Studies offers a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary minor "Canadian Studies: aspects of a multicultural society". The minor aims to study different aspects of the multicultural society from different theoretic and methodological viewpoints. The program consists of several courses like "Dimensions of Space in Canada and the US" that focuses on comparative analysis of American and Canadian cultural, ethnic, political and ideological spaces by paying attention to the successes and failures of the Canadian policy of multiculturalism and bilingualism as compared to the American ideals of *assimilation* and *melting pot*. Other courses are entitled "Multiculturalism in Canadian literary and cultural texts" and "Multiculturalism in geography and ecology". The latter focuses on the relationship between man and his natural environment and the way of life of the first peoples in Canada. The course "Multiculturalism in a historical and political context" has the historical component of the Canadian multicultural society from Colonial Canada of 1760-1867 to the present as the main topic.

In collaboration with Bureau Internationale Samenwerking of the University of Groningen The Centre for Canadian Studies has exchange programs with seven Canadian universities: Université Laval (Québec), Université de Sherbrooke (Québec), Concordia University and McGill University (Montreal, Québec), Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario), University of Western Ontario (London, Ontario), University of Calgary (Alberta).

Registration for courses: via Progress for students enrolled in the University of Groningen, or via the secretariat of European Languages: 050-3635850 for others.

More information about the minor or The Centre: The Canadian Studies Centre; 050-3635891; canstudy@let.rug.nl; <http://www.rug.nl/let.canada>

Letter from Ruben Vroegop at McGill University

"*This is where your dad and grandfather went.*" A timid toddler who anxiously hides behind his mother to escape the gaze of James McGill seems duly impressed. In another decade or two he might find himself meandering through this campus too, looking for classrooms or the nearest downtown bar. I have been here for three months now and sometimes I feel just like the little man in his bright yellow raincoat. When I passed under the Roddick Gates on my first day to



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class, the remnants of hurricane Katrina were turning the roads into miniature versions of the St. Lawrence River, which flows just a mile to the south.

After the inspiring ICCS seminar in one of the youngest cities of the country, Vancouver, I find myself at the oldest university in Canada. Settling in has been relatively easy, all the more since my previous experience at the University of Ottawa has impressed on me both the need for bilingual sensitivity as well as appropriate winter attire (with temperatures plummeting to minus thirty, Montreal's underground city starts making sense). In the meantime, I have learned how to juggle being a grad student and a teaching assistant, without a need for pulling *all-nighters* in the library... so far. McGill University is an Anglophone island in the vibrant multicultural atmosphere that is downtown Montreal. Although that might sound as if it came straight from a travel guide, it is nonetheless accurate and there are just about as many tourists as squirrels on campus, both frantically dodging workaholic students.

Unfortunately, my perception of the Dutch education system has received quite a thrashing while at McGill. In all honesty, I fail to see any similarity between North American degrees and their Dutch "equivalents". The Bologna Agreement may have promised European students international mobility, but the sad truth is that graduate degrees on this side of the Atlantic display an enormous amount of dedication that I rarely encountered in my Dutch peers. Therefore, I strongly encourage every ACSN student member to seriously consider spending some time at a good Canadian university. Getting accepted might prove difficult, but once in, it is nothing short of a life-changing experience. For more information on McGill University, other Canadian universities, or funding possibilities, feel free to contact me at ruben.vroegop@mail.mcgill.ca. Leaves me to thank the ACSN for enabling me to participate in the Vancouver seminar!

Ruben Vroegop

Kathelijne Schenkel on Macedonian diaspora in Toronto

From May to August 2004 I stayed in Toronto to study the Macedonian diaspora in Toronto. My research focused on the relation between homeland conflicts in the Balkan and tensions in the diaspora setting. I analyzed the history of the Macedonian diaspora in Toronto as a process of community formation.

When the first Macedonians arrived in Toronto, at the beginning of the 20th Century, their identification as 'ethnic Macedonians' wasn't that strong. But, as in the Old World, most didn't feel part of the Bulgarian or Greek communities even though these both claimed them as belonging to their churches. Within the free Canadian environment the Macedonian identity could be expressed and developed. In the course of the 20th Century three waves of Macedonian immigrants entered Canada, from different countries in the Balkan (Greece, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia). From the 1950s onwards, Macedonians established organizations and institutions in Toronto, which recognized the differences in background but united them by affirming their shared ethnic identity and relationship with the homeland. Within the Toronto Macedonian community the boundaries, which were put up between the Macedonians in the Balkans, were broken down and the sense of a common national identity was strengthened. At the same time, the tensions between the Macedonian and Greek communities increased.

The disagreement over the ownership of 'Macedonia' has been a continuing issue between the Toronto Greeks and Macedonians. In the Greek national narrative the ancient Macedonians play



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an important historic role. In Greek nationalist discourse, it is believed the ancient Macedonians are their ancestors. Macedonian nationalists claim the same heritage as uniquely theirs. However, for neither Greeks, nor Macedonians, this linear descent to the ancient Macedonians can be proved. As the divisions between the Macedonian and Greek communities became stronger, ethnicity became a social force in the overall Canadian society with the official policy of multiculturalism of 1971. The different ethnic backgrounds were valued under an umbrella of equal individual rights, but reinforced group boundaries.

In 1991, the Republic of Macedonia became an independent state after the fall of communism and the Yugoslav Federation. This was celebrated among the Macedonians in Toronto: now there was a state, which represented their nation. The independence of the Republic was thus an incentive for ethno-nationalist sentiments to grow. The Greek state opposed heavily to the name of the Republic. The dispute now became deterritorialized, with the opposing parties fighting each other publicly, in different places worldwide. There were several confrontations between the Greek and Macedonian communities in Toronto, some of them very aggressive, reinforcing their opposite points of view. Tensions have since calmed down. Nevertheless, the disagreements on Macedonian issues haven't ceased and still remain in the consciousness of the two communities.

Kathelijne Schenkel

Report 14th European Seminar for Graduate Students in Canadian Studies in York

From the 8th to the 11th of September the 14th European Seminar for Graduate Students in Canadian Studies was held, hosted by the University of Leeds & the British Association for Canadian Studies at York St John College. I had the opportunity, made possible by the ACSN, to attend this seminar (as the only Dutch student) to present my thesis. A special conference sub-theme was 'Visualizing Violence' in which I was mainly interested but the topics presented differed widely. This actually made the conference very interesting. I learned for example about economic voting in Canada and about the work of the 'not-so-well-known' novelist Monique Bosco. And who knew the Canadian Hockey team (ice hockey - of course!) actually played a political role during the Cold War? A conclusion which could be made, after 27 presentations in 2.5 days, was that we all love Canada but it isn't always the peaceful place 'the world' thinks it is. Next to this full programme there was also time to relax and get to know the other participants. It was really great meeting people from Russia, Spain and even Brazil (amongst others) to exchange ideas, just chat and drink pints in the English pubs. York is a beautiful city to stay in and the accommodation of the conference was also very nice. In short: I think it is a very good experience intellectually as well as socially to attend seminars like this. For me, this experience confirmed I want to continue working on the topics I studied. Again; many thanks to the ACSN for giving me this opportunity. I recommend it to everyone who gets a chance!

Kathelijne Schenkel

Report Brussels conference "The ties that bind", November 17-19 2005

The European Network for Canadian Studies in conjunction with the Université Libre organized a three-day conference on accommodating complex diversity in Canada and the European Union in Brussels, November 17-19, 2005. Scholars from Canada and the European Union gave their views on the title of the conference "Ties that Bind". The keynote opening address was given by Lord



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Bikhu Parekh who commented on the common belonging in diverse societies, such as, for example in Great Britain and India. The Afro-Canadian writer George Elliott Clarke talked on strategies for legitimizing difference as is exemplified in the works of Andrea Thompson and Lorena Gale. Lively debates took place on constitutional patriotism, social and economic conditions for accommodation, deep diversity and possible situations beyond the nation-state. The conference proceedings will be published next year. At a reception in the Canadian Ambassador's residence Cornelius Remie was showered with thanks and presents for his convenorship of the European Network. He was one of the initiators of this network for Canadian Studies in Europe and has done tremendous work in making it the successful organisation it is today.

Conny Steenman-Marcusse

NEWS FROM ICCS

New executive-directors ICCS

After the departure of Catherine Bastedo-Boileau as an executive director, the slimmed-down Secretariat will be under the 'twin' leadership of Guy Leclair and Cristina Frias. This strategy is not necessarily permanent and will be reviewed at upcoming meetings of the Executive Committee.

ICCS Programs deadlines

Please note that the following deadlines are fast approaching: Graduate Student Scholarships: December 31, 2005; Canadian Studies Postdoctoral Scholarships: December 31, 2005; The Governor General's International Award for Canadian Studies: December 31, 2005. For details, please visit the ICCS website at <http://www.iccs-ciec.ca>.

FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

MacLean's ranks the universities

Sunday, November 6, 2005 Canadian Press

Toronto — Maclean's magazine released its annual ranking of Canadian universities Sunday and for the first time in 10 years, the University of Toronto has lost the distinction of being called the top medical school in Canada. Now it shares the honour for top marks with McGill University. The top rankings are identical to last year's in the undergraduate category, with St. Francis Xavier University first, followed by Mount Allison University and Acadia University. The University of Waterloo took top spot once again in the comprehensive category, while the University of Victoria leaped past the University of Guelph into second place.

The findings should be a message to Prime Minister Paul Martin that the government needs to do more for post-secondary education, said Ann Dowsett Johnston, editor-at-large for Maclean's. She said the med-school tie between McGill and the University of Toronto has less to do with actual changes compared to last year and more to do with the recent challenges faced by Ontario universities. She said that of the 17 Ontario universities, eight fell in this year's rankings, seven held steady and only two improved. The rankings are based on data in up to 24 categories including enrolment grades, class sizes, calibre of faculty and quality of libraries. If there's one thing the rankings prove, it's that high tuition fees are not directly linked to a better education.



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Giller prize awarded to relatively unknown Manitoba author

Toronto, November 8, 2005 - David Bergen has been named the 2005 winner of The Scotiabank Giller Prize, Canada's premier literary prize for fiction, for his novel *The Time In Between*, published by McClelland & Stewart. The announcement was made at a gala dinner and award ceremony that drew more than 450 members of the publishing, media and arts communities. Hosted by Seamus O'Regan, The Scotiabank Giller Prize was broadcast live on tv.



Bergen's book tells the story of a troubled war veteran's return to Vietnam 30 years after the war and his family's search for him. The jury commented that Bergen's book "worked with the reader's emotions." In his acceptance speech he acknowledged his early editors and his family, as well as his interpreters and others who helped him in Vietnam. The B.C.-born, Winnipeg-based Bergen began his writing career in his 30s, after working as a high school teacher, a bricklayer's assistant, a carpenter and an orderly. His previous writing includes the short story collection *Sitting Opposite My Brother* and the novels *A Year of Lesser*, *See the Child* and *The Case of Lena S.*, which won the Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award and was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award.

More information about the Giller Prize: <http://www.scotiabankgillerprize.ca/home.htm>

CONFERENCES AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

Canada in the Americas

The 27th annual conference of the Association for Canadian Studies in German-Speaking countries (GKS - Gesellschaft für Kanada-Studien) will be held at Hotel am Badersee in Grainau/Bavaria, February 17 - 19, 2006. All participants must register with the Hotel am Badersee directly: Baderseeweg 1-5, 82491 Grainau. Tel: 49-8821 8210, Fax: 49-8821 821292, info@hotelambadersee.de. **Deadline** for registration: December 31, 2005. www.kanada-studien.de

British Association for Canadian Studies, legal studies group

Call for papers for an international one day conference entitled "Anglo-Canadian Perspectives on Contract and Unjust Enrichment/Restitution," to be held at Canada House, Trafalgar Square, London, 30 June 2006. Keynote Speaker: Professor Stephen Waddams (Goodman/Schipper Chair, University of Toronto). The conference will examine how British and Canadian lawyers treat questions of contract and unjust enrichment/restitution. Proposals for papers are welcome. **Deadline:** 31 January 2006. **Contact:** Dr. Paula Giliker, paula.giliker@law.ox.ac.uk.

Underhill Graduate Student Colloquium

Papers from all areas of history and other disciplines touching on historical issues are welcome at the Underhill Graduate Student Colloquium, an annual interdisciplinary colloquium presented by the graduate students of the Department of History, Carleton University, Ottawa, March 9-10, 2006. Keynote Speaker: Dr. Paige Raibmon, from the Department of History at the University of British Columbia. **Deadline** for proposals: January 20, 2006. **Contact:** underhill@carleton.ca. Website: www.carleton.ca/underhill.



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McGill-Queen's Graduate Student Conference

The Graduate Students in History at McGill University and Queen's University are pleased to invite proposals for the Annual McGill-Queen's Student Conference in History. The intention of the conference to be held March 16-18, 2006 is to bring together graduate students working in a wide variety of fields in order to foster discussion in a multidisciplinary and bilingual environment. Submissions from students of all historical periods and places, working in either French or English, on the broad theme of Formations/Transformations are welcome. **Deadline:** January 6, 2006. The keynote address will be given by Professor Natalie Zemon Davies, Charles Lea Professor of History, Emeritus, Princeton University. **Contact:** gash.history@mail.mcgill.ca. More information: <http://www.arts.mcgill.ca/history/gash/ConfIndex.htm>.

Status of Women Canada's policy research fund (PRF)

SWC seeks proposals for research projects on Urban Migration and Gender Equality. Researchers whose proposals are selected for funding will be offered a research contract. Research projects must be completed within one calendar year. The call for proposals will be posted on the following web site at http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/funding/prf/prfcfp_e.html. For more information on the Policy Research Fund: http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/funding/prf/index_e.html. **Deadline** for proposals: January 16, 2006. **Contact:** www.research@swc-cfc.gc.ca.

INFORMATION RESOURCES

Populations Studies Centre Newsletter

Those interested in information on population studies may be interested in visiting the following website: http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/sociology/popstudies/PSC_Highlights.html. Contact: Suzanne Shiel, shiel@uwo.ca.

Publications by and for Canadianists

Perspectivvas Transnacionanaís, Sandra Regina Goulard Almeida, editor, ABECAN, 2005, 302 p. Publications containing texts from the ABECAN 7th biennial conference.

Critique de l'américanité : mémoire et démocratie au Québec (suivi de l'essai *L'américanité après le 11 septembre*), Joseph Yvon Thériault, CRÉQC, Chaire de recherche du Canada en études québécoises et canadiennes ; Édition: Québec Amérique, p. 384.

Dancing Backwards: Social History of Canadian Women in Politics, Sharon Carstairs and Tim Higgins. Winnipeg, MB: Heartland Associates Inc., 2004.

<http://www.heartlandbooks.com/books/dancingbackwards.htm>.

Intersecting Worlds: Rural and Urban Aboriginal Issues, Denise Fuchs and Mary Jane McCallum, eds. Winnipeg, MB: St John's College Press, 2005. This is a collection of graduate student papers given at a colloquium of the same name in the spring of 2004. Contact: Lesley Cowan: cowanlj@ms.umanitoba.ca.

The journal *Cités*

Issue 23 of this journal, published by the PUF (Presses Universitaires de France), is dedicated to Québec. Information: <http://www.revue-cites.net/>.



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BOOK RELEASES

"Volkswagen Blues" by Jacques Poulin



Volkswagen Blues is a novel by Jacques Poulin, the famous French-Canadian author. This novel was published in 1984. Sheila Fischman made the translation into English in 1988. (I always feel very close to this translator, because all the Quebec novels I translated into Dutch, she has translated into English: those of Anne Hébert, Jacques Poulin, Suzanne Jacob, etc.) *Volkswagen Blues* is a road story about an author named Jack Waterman and his search for his long-lost brother, Théo. Along the way, Jack picks up all kinds of people, of whom the most important is the aboriginal young woman Pitsimine, also known as "La Grande Sauterelle" (the Big Grasshopper, because of her long, skinny legs) with her cat Chop Suey. Together they travel from Montréal all the way to San Francisco and they explore on the way the history of contact with the native peoples of both Americas. Along the way their trip also becomes a metaphor for the history of the French in this part of the world. Among the five books selected by CBC Radio earlier this year to promote reading among Canadians was *Volkswagen Blues*, translated by Sheila Fischman.

Pauline Sarkar

Vertaling "Volkswagen Blues" gepubliceerd!

The following book review is in Dutch because the translation of the original Québécois novel in Dutch was released recently.

De Nederlandse vertaling van *Volkswagen Blues* geschreven door Jacques Poulin, vertaald door een groep studenten Frans van de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, onder leiding van Pauline Sarkar is verschenen! In gezelschap van een jonge Indiaanse met de bijnaam Grote Sprinkhaan gaat de schrijver Jack Waterman op zoek naar zijn broer Théo van wie hij al een paar jaar niets meer heeft gehoord. De reis, in een oude Volkswagenbus, begint in Gaspé (Québec), waar Jacques Cartier voor het eerst voet op Canadese bodem zette. Vandaar gaat de tocht langs de Sint Laurens en de Grote Meren en de Mississippi naar Sint-Louis. Van daaruit nemen ze de Oregon Trail (la Piste de l'Orégon), in de voetstappen van de emigranten uit de 19^e eeuw die in een lange stoet huifkarren op zoek waren gegaan naar het verloren paradijs. De tocht eindigt, via de Rocky Mountains, in San Francisco. Dit is een road novel à la Kerouac, maar dan liefelijker, een reisverhaal met veel geschiedenis erin verweven, over twee mensen die een bijzondere, ontroerende liefde beleven. Bij elke afgelegde kilometer hoort een verhaal, elk gebied heeft zijn eigen verleden. Jacques Poulin is erin geslaagd het verleden tastbaar en levendig te maken. Hij toont ons hoe de Indianen zijn uitgemoord door de pioniers en slaagt er toch in niet te vervallen in een automatische veroordeling zonder genade. Een prachtig boek! ACSN-leden bestellen het net verschenen boek met korting! Meer informatie: www.acsn.nl

First Nations of North America: Politics and Representation

Edited by Hans Bak; VU University Press, Amsterdam

In the 22 essays collected in *First Nations of North America: Politics and Representation* native and non-native scholars and writers from Canada, Europe, and the United States explore the manifold ambiguities and pitfalls of intercultural contact between "indigenous," "native" or



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"aboriginal" peoples in North America and their European colonizers, from the encounters of 18th and 19th century explorers and ethnographers, to the efforts of older and contemporary native artists and writers to negotiate a politics of human and artistic survival. Writing from a wide range of disciplinary perspectives - political, social and economic history; literature, theatre, visual art, and photography; anthropology, media and museum studies - they explore the shifting sands of "representation" (in culture and scholarship) and its seemingly inevitable implication in "politics." This volume, then, highlights the long-lasting and ongoing struggle of native people to find a way out of the maze of identity politics, and towards self-empowerment against the odds of history and cultural memory, as well as the attempts of scholars - native and non-native, self-reflexive and critical - to illuminate the double bind of seeking cross-cultural understanding. With Canadian contributions by Aritha van Herk, Yvette Nolan and Lorna Roth. Hartmut Lutz, Annie Kirby, Conny Steenman-Marcusse, Barbara Saunders, Yannick Meunier, Dimitre Portier, Charlotte Townsend and Martin Whittles have written papers with Canadian content.



ACSN has pre-ordered a number of copies for her members. Please let us know if you would appreciate a copy of the book: canlit@xs4all.nl

'Une belle mort', nouveau roman de Gil Courtemanche

Gil Courtemanche, *Une belle mort*, Éd. Boréal, Montréal, octobre 2005.

Une belle mort, le nouveau roman du journaliste-devenu-écrivain Gil Courtemanche, est l'histoire «d'un fils typiquement québécois et de son père typiquement québécois». En 240 pages, Courtemanche nous décrit la veille de Noël d'une famille dont le père - homme tyrannique que son fils n'a jamais aimé - souffre du parkinson rigide, ce qui bouleverse non seulement la relation avec son fils, mais aussi toutes les autres relations dans la famille. Que faire d'un père qui bave, qui est presque incapable de parler, qui crie parfois et qui pleure comme un bébé, et surtout: qui n'est plus le dictateur, le «Staline» qu'il a toujours été? Rappelons-nous que le fils, le narrateur du roman, n'a jamais aimé son père despotique, qui ne supportait pas la contradiction, qui manipulait et qui abusait de son pouvoir. Pourtant, le fils est touché par la déchéance de son père. L'approche de la mort changera-t-elle son attitude?

Gil Courtemanche est devenu célèbre par son premier roman *Un dimanche à la piscine à Kigali*, où il a tenté de décrire les horreurs du génocide rwandais de 1994. L'une des questions que Courtemanche s'y posait était alors actuelle et importante, surtout pour le public canadien: quel a été le rôle de Roméo Dallaire, le général canadien des forces de l'ONU? Courtemanche soutient dans le roman que celui-là aurait pu empêcher le génocide.

Dans ce nouveau roman, situé beaucoup plus près de chez nous, une question tout aussi actuelle est posée. Les enfants du père moribond sont divisés en deux camps: doit-il suivre les conseils des médecins, ou a-t-il le droit de mourir avec dignité, c'est-à-dire comme il veut mourir lui-même? Ce débat mène à un débat sur la liberté de l'individu de pouvoir vivre et mourir selon ses propres idées, et surtout sur l'euthanasie, thème très actuel au Canada en ce moment.

Mais tout comme dans son premier roman, Courtemanche veut dépasser l'actualité et le débat politique. Comme dans *Un dimanche à la piscine à Kigali*, il veut nous peindre l'aspect humain derrière l'actualité. *Une belle mort* est tout premièrement le portrait d'une famille qui se voit



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confrontée avec la maladie débilante de son chef. L'écrivain y pose de nouveau des questions d'amour et de haine, de dignité humaine, de vie et de mort.

Manik Sarkar

ACS N PROGRAMS AND DEADLINES

ACS N 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 deadlines for applications are March 31 and October 31 of each year. More information: <http://www.acsn.nl/activities/student.html>

ACS N Student Networking Award

The aim of the program is to provide opportunities to students to advance academically in the milieu of some of the best Canadian universities by enrolling in challenging courses with Canadian content, and meet with Canadian experts in their discipline in the Humanities and Social Sciences. More information: see page 1 of this edition of the ACS N Newsletter.

European Speakers Program

In order to promote European co-operation in Canadian Studies, the ACS N 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 academic award holders to come to Canada and gather the necessary information and material to devise a new course on Canada. Deadline is October 31 of each year. More information: http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/pages/5_govprogs/b_FEP_countries/netherlands.html

Sauvé Scholarships

The Sauvé scholarships represent an opportunity for highly-motivated people, under thirty, of demonstrated leadership potential, to come to Montreal (McGill University) for eight months to research, reflect, question and enlarge upon their understanding of the state of the world and their roles in effecting positive change. The Program will provide intimate weekly seminars with eminent journalists, political figures and innovators in business, academia and the arts. Scholars will be awarded a stipend valued at C\$30,000 for travel, tuition, housing, meals and supplies. Application information can be found on the Sauvé scholars website. The deadline for receiving the complete application package in Montreal is December 31, 2005. More information: <http://www.sauvescholars.org/> and <http://www.mcgill.ca/>

The next newsletter will appear in **May 2006**; deadline for contributions: **April 15, 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: canlit@xs4all.nl.