

e-Simone

connecting to the “feminist” in you...

January 2010 Volume 1, Issue 1

Launching E-Simone

I would like to thank Melissa-Anne Cobbler, the Simone de Beauvoir Institute’s Events Coordinator and Information Officer, for putting together and being instrumental to the launch of e-Simone. This is an exciting and important moment! My thanks also go to the members of the Simone de Beauvoir’s Forum Committee as well as the many students, staff and faculty who supported the idea of this newsletter. I do hope it becomes a useful tool to bundle up and communicate news from all of us at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute and the wider community of feminist enthusiasts. Congratulations Melissa-Anne and thanks in advance to all of you for keeping in touch with us through this medium.

Dr. Geneviève Rail, Principal of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute

Haiti, Haiti, Haiti

Haiti has been in our thoughts and in our hearts for many days now. There has been a Concordia University-wide response in support of Haiti and so our thanks go to all those who have been part of this. **Linda Bowes**, Academic Administrator at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, put a call out for winter clothes for in-coming Haitians and was overwhelmed by the response. The donations will go to the Bureau de la communauté haïtienne de Montréal. Our thanks to all those who donated. The Simone de Beauvoir Institute is currently considering plans for a longer-term response to support feminist colleagues in Port-au Prince. More on this in the next *e-Simone*...

In this Issue:

Congratulations!!!.....	2
A Semester in Review	3
Spotlight:	
SdBI Post-Docs.....	5
Lillian Robinson Scholars	6
News, Happenings & Opportunities ...	7
Keeping in Touch	9



Congratulations!!!



Prof Gets Award and Grant

Dr. Viviane Namaste was awarded a Concordia University Research Chair (CURC) in HIV/AIDS and sexual health in 2008 but already the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network and Human Rights Watch honoured her with the 2009 International Award for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights for her research and activism with communities of people invisible in HIV/AIDS prevention and services, including bisexuals and transsexuals. In January 2010, Dr. Namaste was also awarded a \$75,000 grant from the Canadian Institute of Health Research for a study entitled “An Oral History of Transvestites and Transsexuals and HIV/AIDS in Montréal and Paris, 1980-2000.” Congratulations for these two outstanding accomplishments!

Deserving Students

Kudos to the following students for receiving these 2009 scholarships: **Meg Leitold** received the Mair Verthuy Scholarship, **Kinneret Sheetre** received the Provost Scholarship, and **Liam O'Grady** received the Lillian Robinson Scholarship.

Making the Dean's List

Congratulations! These students' outstanding academic performance in the Simone De Beauvoir Institute during the 2008/2009 academic year has placed them on the Faculty of Arts and Science Dean's List: **Liam O'Grady, Julia Vyse, Kinneret Sheetre, Eva Burrill, Meg Leitold, and Jennifer Deidrich.**



A Semester in Review

The Fall 2009 semester at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute hosted and sponsored a full schedule of events and discussions related to feminist philosophy, sexuality and the arrival of the new Principal to name a few.

Welcoming the Principal

On November 11th, 2009, Simone de Beauvoir Institute professors, past principals, students, and staff welcomed their new Principal, Dr. Geneviève Rail. President Judith Woodsworth, Provost David Graham, Vice-President Louise Dandurand and others were in attendance to celebrate this addition to the Institute. Former Vice-Dean of Research at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Health Sciences, Rail will be teaching courses in Women's Health. Rail's research centers on the intersection of race, culture, ethnicity, gender and sexuality. She examines conceptualizations of women's bodies and health, and how they are influenced by science and medicine. Concordia's academic vibrancy and progressive ideas are the main reason Rail was attracted to the Institute. Coming at a time of change, she is enthusiastic and dedicated to shaping SdBI into one of the world's leading Women's Studies program. Let's all join Dr. Geneviève Rail in achieving this goal.

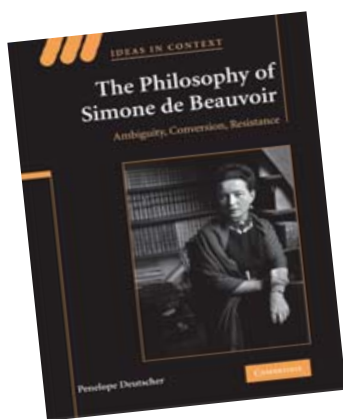


Dr. Marc Lafrance of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology spoke highly of Dr. Rail



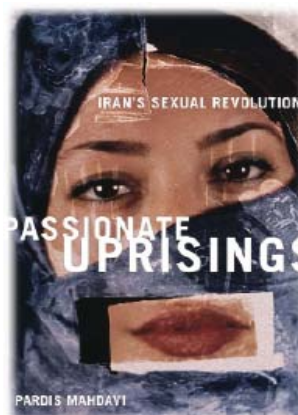
Former Principals (L to R) Dr. Chantal Maillé, Dr. Arpi Hamalian, Dr. Viviane Namaste and new Principal Dr. Geneviève Rail

Anne-Fausto Sterling - Hosted by UQAM's Département de psychologie and sponsored by Simone de Beauvoir Institute *Transcending the nature/nurture dispute: Using dynamic systems to study gender and sexuality*, spoke on restructuring discourse on the dichotomy of gender within academic institutions, in the public and, ultimately, in the formulation of social policies.



Penelope Deutscher - Hosted by Concordia University's Department of Philosophy and the Simone de Beauvoir Institute Deutscher's *The Philosophy of Simone de Beauvoir: Ambiguity, Conversion, Resistance*, moved away from the literature of de Beauvoir's life to a more grounded ideology looking at our relationship to ageing, to generational difference, and to race and cultural difference in the context of contemporary feminist philosophy.

Pardis Mahdavi - Hosted by Concordia University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology and sponsored by the Simone de Beauvoir Institute (SdBI) Mahdavi's *Passionate Uprisings*, offered a firsthand look at the daily lives of Iranian youth, sexual uprising and the politics of sexuality in Iran.



Ellen Gabriel - Guest speaker in Dr. Gada Mahourse's *Postcolonialisms & Feminism* course and President of the Québec Native Women's Association, discussed Canada's inability to fully recognize Indigenous people's rights and how grassroots activism is the key to fighting the effects of modern day colonization on the Native community.

Loree Erickson - Sponsored by the SdBI this workshop by filmmaker and activist Loree Erickson encouraged those to begin, or continue, thinking about and discussing how ableism worked in our daily lives, communities, and within a larger anti-oppression framework.



Mary Bryson - In *Can We Play Fun Gay? Disjuncture and Difference, and the Precarious Mobilities of Millennial Queer Youth Narratives*. Drawing on an analysis of research interviews that is framed as “anecdotal theory,” the author discusses four properties of networked publics — searchability, replicability, persistence and invisible audiences — not uniquely as properties of technological interfaces, but rather, as “technologies of otherness.”

Spotlight: SdBI Post-Docs

Postdoctoral Fellows are individuals who have completed a doctoral degree, and who are dedicating themselves to an intense period of research. The SdBI is happy to welcome Postdoctoral Fellows interested in feminist issues. Post-doctoral fellows are offered an office space, internet access, library privileges, and a community of scholars committed to feminist inquiry and research. In 2009/2010, the Institute is happy to welcome Dr. Haïfa Tlili and Dr. Shannon Jette.



Dr. Haïfa Tlili. La Dre Tlili a complété un doctorat en sociologie à l'Université Paris Descartes--Sorbonne (2008). Ses travaux portaient sur l'engagement social et moteur de jeunes femmes de culture arabo musulmane. Afin de compléter cette analyse, elle a intégré l'équipe de Geneviève Rail afin de se pencher sur la population maghrébine qui a immigrée à Montréal, dans une réflexion plus large sur l'impact du discours dominant sur la santé et le rapport au corps de jeunes femmes canadiennes d'origine maghrébine. Etre à l'Institut Simone de Beauvoir lui offre l'opportunité de travailler dans un environnement riche et de compléter ses connaissances pour interroger au mieux ces femmes.

Dr. Shannon Jette completed her graduate studies at the University of British Columbia (School of Human Kinetics). She is interested in issues pertaining to gender and health, with a focus on historical and sociological aspects of medicine and the body. As part of her post-doctoral fellowship she will explore pregnant women's understandings of physical activity, obesity and health under the supervision of Geneviève Rail.



Lillian Robinson Scholars 2009/2010

The Simone de Beauvoir Institute has created the Lillian Robinson Scholars program as a living memorial to Lillian S. Robinson, the late Principal of the Institute. Robinson, a feminist scholar whose career spanned over 35 years, was Principal of the Institute from 2000 to 2006. She was widely recognized as one of the leading feminist theorists of the twentieth century whose essays and books inspired feminist scholarship around the world. The Scholars Program is designed to attract distinguished visiting scholars working on a range of feminist research topics. The Scholars Program does not pay salary costs, but provides different awards each year to help offset travel, living and research expenses for scholars in residence at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute. For 2009-2010, three scholars received this award.

**** Please look for upcoming
Feminist Café discussions with these scholars!****



Dr. Marie-Hélène Bourcier (Université de Lille III, France)

Dr. Bourcier is Maître de conférences at the UFR Arts et Cultures and is an expert in queer feminist materialism, radical democracy and trans studies. While at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, she will be involved in research on a number of interrelated issues: queer French theory and cultural practices in the 20th century; cultural practices, queer politics and identity construction in the 20th century; pornography and minorities; and rights and cultural affirmation/reinvention.



Dr. Erica R. Meiners (Northeastern Illinois University, USA)

Dr. Meiners is a professor of Women's Studies and Education. Her research strengths reside in educational studies (prison/school nexus, lesbian, gay, trans and queer schooling, etc.), social justice movements and anti-prison organizing, and qualitative research methodologies. While at the Institute, she plans to work on her research project entitled "*Recasting innocence in a prison nation: Sexuality, childhood and safety.*"

Dr. Andrea Doucet (Carleton University, Canada)

Dr. Doucet comes from a Department of Sociology and Anthropology and is an expert on the issue of mothers balancing paid work and childcare. Her research interests are in the area of gender and the sociology of personal life. Her stay at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute will allow her to complete the writing of her book on women breadwinners which is titled *Bread and Roses and the Kitchen Sink*.



News, Happenings & Opportunities

SdBI in Delhi

Professor Chantal Maillé (Simone de Beauvoir Institute) and Professor Rachel Berger (Department of History) are going to India from February 19 to March 6, 2010 with a group of 16 students for a WSDB course titled: *Narrating Women's lives: Canada and India* and to be held at the University of Delhi. Please keep in touch for their "Notes from India," sometime in April, 2010.

***Montreal International Women's Conference 2010
For a Global Militant Women's Movement in the 21st Century!***

August 13-16 2010

For more information or to volunteer:

Tess Tesalona

T: 514 342 2111

E: wdofdo@gmail.com

W: <http://wdofdo.wordpress.com/>

Modernity and Archaism in the New Wave

Public lecture with:
 Geneviève Sellier - Université de Caen
 Friday, February 12, 2010 at 4:30pm
 MB-3.210
 (John Molson School of Business building, 1450 Guy Street)

**Missing Justice**

Thursday, February 11th, 2010
 Panel Discussion at Cegep du Vieux Montréal, 6-8pm
 255 Rue Ontario Est

Jessica Yee, the founder of the Native Youth Sexual Health Network.
 Rachel-Alouki Labbe, filmmaker (en Francais).

Sunday, February 14th, 2010: Assemble 1:30, March at 2pm
 Parc Emilie Gamelin to Rachel and St Laurent
 with Native female drumming group **Odaya**
 For more information: <http://www.missingjustice.ca/>



Concordia University's **The Link** presents its:

Annual Women's Issue!

You can contribute submissions on:

- Bachelors and Cougars
- Body dimorphism, anorexia, plastic surgery, how they effect the sexes
- The myth of "having it all" (career/family)
- Two-sex/Hermaphroditus in popular discourse & the media (Lady Gaga, Caster Semenya, etc.)
- Later-life divorce trends
- Later-life "coming out" trends
- Daddy's girl/Manchild complexes
- Babies as 'pawns' & the myth of condom breakers



OPEN TO ALL IDEAS, ARTWORK, POETRY, and OPINION PIECES!!

Deadline for submissions: **Tuesday, February 23rd, 2010**
 Issue out on: **Tuesday, March 2nd, 2010**

Send your submissions to:
 Chris at sports@thelinknewspaper.ca
 or Laura at features@thelinknewspaper.ca

YWCA Montreal Women of Distinction Awards

YWCA Montreal will be celebrating its 135th anniversary and its 17th edition of the Women of Distinction Awards. Do you know an exceptional woman that deserves public recognition? The YWCA Montreal invites you to present your candidate for consideration as a Woman of Distinction.

The Women of Distinction Awards are presented to women who are represented in eleven categories:

- Arts and Culture
- Business and Professions
- Communications
- Community Service
- Education
- Entrepreneurship
- Science and Health
- Sports and Wellness
- Young Woman of Distinction (18 to 30 years)
- Advancement of Women
- Pioneer

For more information:

Isabelle Baril
 Directrice / Director
 Fondation Y des femmes / Women's
 Y Foundation
 1355, boul. René-Lévesque Ouest
 Montréal QC H3G 1T3
 T: (514) 866-9941 poste 218
 E: ibaril@ydesfemmesmtl.org
 W: www.ydesfemmesmtl.org

The selection criteria for the Women of Distinction are influence, impact, achievement and actions. The nomination period ends on **Monday, March 8, 2010**. Laureates will be honoured at an awards ceremony on Monday, October 4, 2010.

Keeping in Touch

Women's Studies Students Association (WSSA), is a small group of elected students dedicated to upholding an anti-oppression, anti-poverty, anti-class, anti-racist and anti-sexist mandate. We consider this mandate when we organize our events, and we actively strive to make our events accessible and available for all the student body and friends in the community. We work hard to offer events and resources that are useful and facilitate learning, as well as being fun and exciting! We are always looking for partners in our continued activism and outreach. We also publish a journal –Subversions, so if you would like to contribute ideas for art, poems, stories, etc. or just to get info please email us at [***wssa.concordia@gmail.com***](mailto:wssa.concordia@gmail.com)



WSSA Members (L to R) Hector Martinez Villeda, (VP of External Affairs), Julie Matson, (VP of Events), Andrea DeBruin, (VP of Finance).

e-Simone is a regular publication of
the Simone de Beauvoir Institute

Its purpose is to promote the organization and its activities in the community and to provide information about issues related to scholarship, collective movements, and opportunities rooted in, and stemming from, a pro-feminist perspective. If you wish to submit event information, job, educational and publication opportunities, please do so before the **15th** of each month. Thanks!

“I wish that every human life might be pure transparent freedom.”

-Simone de Beauvoir



Melissa-Anne Cobler

Events Coordinator & Information Officer
Simone de Beauvoir Institute
2170 Bishop (MU 201)
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3G 1M8
T: (514)848-2424 ext. 2373
E: coorsdbi@alcor.concordia.ca
O: Mondays - 8:30-1pm; Tuesdays & Wednesdays - 8:30-4pm