



*Institute for
Advanced Studies
in the Humanities*



Joint IASH/STAR/Centre of Canadian Studies Seminar

Monday, 25 October, 4 pm

Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, 2 Hope Park Square

Prof. Kevin Hutchings (University of Northern British Columbia): "Scottish Writers and Canadian Indian Policy, 1800-1940"

This paper will explore some key Scottish literary contexts that have informed colonial relations and the administration of Indigenous governance policy in Canada. First, I will discuss Scottish poet Thomas Campbell's celebrated "Indian romance" *Gertrude of Wyoming* (1809), showing how its representations engaged and informed structures of attitude and reference surrounding the making of Upper Canada's first Indian treaties—the Robinson Treaties of 1850—in part via Campbell's personal connection to Canadian Chief Justice Sir John Beverley Robinson. This discussion will be complicated by a consideration of Campbell's interesting encounter with Mohawk chief John Brant (Ahyonwaeghs), whom he met through Robinson in 1822. Moving to the early twentieth century, I will then consider John Buchan, the Scottish novelist who became Canada's governor general in 1935. Here I will discuss some of the formal ceremonies in which various First Nations made Buchan an honorary chief, paying particular attention to Buchan's friendship with Cree chief Sam Swimmer. Finally, I will examine some of Buchan's views on Canadian "Indian policy" as articulated in his essay "Down North" (1937) and in his final novel *Sick Heart River* (1941). Although Campbell and Buchan are far removed from each other temporally, they offer interesting comparative case studies of the ways in which Scottish writers responded to an "Indian Atlantic" world whose legacy is still very much alive in Canada today.

and Dr. Fiona Black (Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia): "Supporting the intellectual life of colonists: a conceptual model for studying 19th Century book trades in Canada"

Print culture was a crucial component of the development of colonies in what was to become Canada. The use of print for religious, administrative, educational, cultural and ephemeral purposes informed the nature and supported the structure of colonial life. Print culture is a complex phenomenon and theoretical models have been advanced that we now might test using some of the tools available to digital humanists, including historical geographic information systems. Print culture in any region depends on the financial, social and cultural capital of those in the book and allied trades. Drawing on 14,000 records of early Canadian book trade workers this paper suggests a conceptual model for analysing their contributions.