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Word from the Project Coordinator

The CCRI centres are wrapping up their work on the various CCRI components and the preparation for the final celebration is well advanced. CCRI team members will gather for a closing meeting in conjunction with the gala conference announced below. I take the opportunity here to thank the team for many years of collaboration and look forward to seeing everyone in Edmonton.

Carmen Bauer

UOttawa

Carmen Bauer, CCRI Project
Coordinator



CCRI Announcement

In celebration of our successful project, CCRI invites you to attend a gala conference to be held at the University of Alberta, on October 3-5, 2008 titled: *State of the World: Information Infrastructure Construction and Dissemination for Humanities and Social Science Research*. One of the prime objectives of this conference is to boost the image of social science and humanities research within the broader Canadian research environment. To that end we have, for example, planned sessions on medical research and social science databases and on research infrastructural development within Humanities. A second objective is to situate Canadian developments within an international context. To that end we have invited leading scholars in these areas from Europe, England and the United States.

Confirmed speakers include (in addition to CCRI speakers): Eliot Phillipson, President, Canada Foundation for Innovation; Ian Wil-

son, Librarian and Archivist of Canada; Chad Gaffield, President, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council; Steve Ruggles, Director Minnesota Population Centre, University of Minnesota; Ernie Ingles, Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian, University of Alberta; Gunnar Thorvaldsen, Norwegian Historical Data Centre, University of Tromso, Norway; Kees Mandemakers, Senior Research Fellow, International Institute for Social History, Amsterdam; Geoff Rockwell, Director, Humanities Computing Centre, McMaster University; Susan Brown, Universities of Guelph and Alberta, co-founder Orlando Project; Kris Inwood, Economics and History, University of Guelph; Lisa Dillon, Department of Demography, University of Montreal; Proton Rahman, Professor of Medicine, Memorial University, Head, The Population Therapeutics Research Group.

And more to come.....

For information please contact Peter Baskerville, Department of History, University of Victoria and in-coming Chair, Modern Western Canadian History (July 2008) University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta (pab@uvic.ca)

Using Historical Census Data in Teaching

When I teach an upper level course in Sociology I want to get the students involved in the kind of original research that is innovative (the topic hasn't been done before), that teaches them some transferable skills regarding

how to frame a problem, how to make sure that it's a soluble one, how to analyze the data and how to communicate the results, and that sensitizes them to the ethical issues involved in

research with human subjects. I plan the course in such a way that the students can create a poster that summarizes their work. This constitutes a "deliverable": a product that will impress their family members as well, perhaps, as prospective employers or graduate admissions committees.

Given modern curricula, all this has to be done within about 13 weeks.

Over the last three years I have found that a course oriented to substantive issues related to past Censuses provides a solid foundation that meets most of these objectives. Such issues include work, family, gender, ethnicity and migration. A good initial example is provided by Elliot Jaspin's book *Buried in the Bitter Waters*, a journalistic account of how past Censuses, along with contemporary newspaper accounts, can be used to provide compelling evidence that forced population movements of the kind that we would now call "ethnic cleansing" have occurred in specific towns and counties over several decades in past time.

I find that students are pleased at the ease with which access can be gained to those Censuses that are over 90 to 100 years old and quite enthusiastic when they learn that web based data analysis packages such as SDA (Survey Documentation and Analysis) or *Beyond 2020* can so easily be used to interrogate these huge data sources via web sites such as IPUMS (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series), NAPP (North Atlantic Popula-



Map of Canada in 1898

selected from the National Atlas Maps (c) Natural Resources Canada. Reproduced with the permission of the Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada.

Source: website (<http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/index.html>)

Located by Ms. Stella Park, a U of T graduate student

tion Project) and my own university's data library. These packages are web based, free to the student and much simpler than SAS, SPSS or STATA. Both IPUMS and NAPP now support the SDA package while *Beyond 2020* is useful for accessing aggregate tables from more recent Canadian Censuses. Public Use Microdata Files (PUMF) from recent Censuses can also be analyzed with SDA. Many student projects start out as a comparison between selected aspects of Canada at 1901 and at 2001 and this provides the motivation for discussing several important topics: why certain questions were or were not asked in a given Census; why coding schemes have changed; and why variables in the public use files from modern Censuses protect confidentiality by using very broad categories while the older Censuses have no need to do this. The course has a strong historical element since summaries of the Census data almost always give rise to substantive questions that require library or web-based research. It is appropriate at this point to express thanks to Andrew Nicholson, Laine Ruus and other professional librarians who have helped my students with their searches. The course would not work without their availability and cooperation.

Each student is required to use Excel to create charts and PowerPoint to create a large poster suitable for presentation at a conference or science fair, along with a 15-20 page descriptive and analytical paper that provides the scholarly argumentation and bibliography associated with the poster. Students benefit by studying examples of previous projects such as Stella Park's posters on "Visible Minorities in Canada: Comparing 1901 with 2001" and "Age, Gender, Immigration Status, Visible Minority Status and Religion as Predictors of Economic Position in Canada and the USA at 1901 and 2001." Students learn a lot from making up a poster. Among other things it forces



Albrede Road Camp, B.C., 1942.

Masao Yoshitake Collection.

Reproduced courtesy of the Japanese Canadian National Museum .
JCNM 93/40.027.

Picture was located by Mr. Jeffrey Ting, a U of T Mississauga student.

them to specify their hypotheses, argument and findings in a circumscribed space. It also allows them to develop their design and communication skills. Students have had their posters presented at sessions in scholarly conferences such as those of the Canadian Population Society (many students) and the Population Association of America (Stella Park in 2006 and Georgios Fthenos in 2008).

Recent undergraduate student projects include those of Jessica Doberstein, "Quality of life for Deaf and or Blind Americans: 1860 to 1880"; Karyn Edwards, "Changes in Marital Status and Age for Women School Teachers between 1901 and 2001"; Georgios Fthenos "Aboriginal Languages in Canada: Comparing 1901 with 2001"; Michael Hickey, "Comparative analysis of changes in the number of adult children living at home in Canada 1971- 2001"; Jeffrey Ting, "Effects of Anti-Japanese Sentiment on the Chinese Population Between 1930 and 1950"; Jennifer Tinker, "The Formation of the United Church of Canada: A Look at Denominations Involved in Union"; Amanda Tran, "Visible minority women in the Ontario labour force: 1991-2001"; Gregg

NOTICE TO ALL JAPANESE PERSONS AND PERSONS OF JAPANESE RACIAL ORIGIN

TAKE NOTICE that under Orders Nos. 21, 22, 23 and 24 of the British Columbia Security Commission, the following areas were made prohibited areas to all persons of the Japanese race:—

LULU ISLAND (including Steveston)	SAPPERTON
SEA ISLAND	BURQUITLAM
EBURNE	PORT MOODY
MARPOLE	IOCO
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CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER	MAILLARDVILLE
	FRASER MILLS

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that any person of the Japanese race found within any of the said prohibited areas without a written permit from the British Columbia Security Commission or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police shall be liable to the penalties provided under Order in Council P.C. 1665.

AUSTIN C. TAYLOR,
Chairman,
British Columbia Security Commission

Notice to All Japanese persons

Courtesy of Japanese Canadian
National Museum.

Picture was located by Mr. Jeffrey
Ting, a U of T Mississauga student

Cullen and Ezgi Kapcak carried out two separate projects on the inmates of mental asylums.

There is a fairly long tradition of using data from Censuses or surveys in teaching. James Davis, Gregg Carter, Bill Frey and Steve Ruggles were pathfinders in the United States. My own efforts have benefited enormously from exposure to

the CCRI project as well as from the generosity with which Peter Baskerville and Eric Sager have made available their very well-documented sample from the 1901 Census (from the SSHRC-funded Canadian Families Project).

Charles Jones

University of Toronto

Surrounding the Census: a Note on some CCRI Contextual Data Research

In the fall of 2004 I was about to learn far more than I expected when I joined the CCRI as a research assistant. My role with the CCRI has seen me involved with the collection and dissemination of two important components of CCRI contextual data: the political debates, and Statistics Canada archival sources. This work has raised a profusion of questions. I will share a few of them in this brief note on my work.

Given some recent Canadian and international studies on the politics of the census, when we began our explo-

ration of the Hansard volumes of parliamentary proceedings I was expecting to find heated debates concerning the making and taking of census questions. I was instead struck by a lack of such debates, at least on the floor of the House of Commons. It often seemed that many MPs were indifferent to the census, and quite content to let the Dominion Bureau of Statistics (DBS) determine what questions, and how many of them, would be asked. Were politicians in fact indifferent to the census? Did they really provide the DBS with that much autonomy to carry out the task? How

would this challenge us to rethink the politics of the census? What does it tell us about the relationship between elected politicians, civil servants, and governance in Canada? These and similar questions led to some valuable material. Extending the political debates research outside Hansard, a review of Sessional Papers and Journals of the House of Commons and Senate allowed us to excavate some new material, such as a 1912 Senate Committee report considering the “Unsatisfactory Character of the Movement of Population” from rural to urban areas. If Senators and MPs left the making and taking of the census to civil servants, the findings of the census were certainly not shelved in DBS archives. Still, many questions concerning the politics of census making and taking are begging for attention.

The debates we did find in Hansard, and the questions they raised, were nothing short of fascinating. MPs inquiring into the appointment of census commissioners in their constituency seemed mundane at first, but many of them developed into fiery debates on patronage and the power of patronage. In another debate in 1941, a number of MPs suggested that taking the census was an unjustifiable expense during a time of war. Others suggested postponing it. Still others suggested requiring teachers to act as enumerators, without pay, on their summer break. As census day approached, it was unclear in the House of Commons whether or not the census would in fact be taken (you can examine more of these in the political debates database!).

Beginning a new phase of my CCRI life in 2006, I joined other team members working on Statistics Canada archival material. Only a cursory examination of this material revealed to me that the census was about more than the numbers it provided: labourers from Quebec and Ottawa involved in salary negotiations during the Depression, for example, wrote to the DBS seeking information concerning average worker salaries. No sooner had

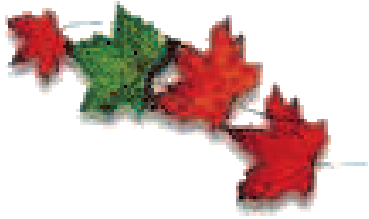
the “radio” question been asked in 1931 than the DBS teamed up with the CBC to provide Canadian radio listeners with “A Fact a Day” derived from census results. “A Fact a Day” became a regular segment and lasted throughout the 1930s and 1940s.

Again, a host of questions are raised. How has the census been used by those outside of government circles? To what extent has the census guided fundamental decisions by Canadians in their lives? Was the census also a form of entertainment? Indeed, daily releases from STC that blanket Canadian print and electronic media in our present time have continued the legacy of “A Fact a Day” and suggest that the census often is a source of entertainment. These numbers provide us with more than public policy. To many average Canadians, they provide a source of knowledge to make informed decisions. To the media, they provide a fountain of leads and stories. To newspaper readers, radio listeners, and television viewers, they provide new and interesting information. Sometimes construed as trivial, sometimes humorous, and sometimes very serious, they are also the icebreakers, the conversation pieces, and the stuff of deliberation that connect us to our colleagues at work, strangers in coffee shops, and others we interact with in our daily lives.

Then and now, the census permeates Canadian politics and daily life in more ways than I considered when I began work as a CCRI research assistant in 2004. I have yet to peruse the wealth of newspaper material collected by other CCRI team members, but I can hardly wait. The census has grabbed a hold of my curiosity and imagination. Or was it the census at all? The contextual data, I am certain, will offer a new passion for the census, and all that surrounds it.

Anthony Di Mascio

University of Ottawa



CANADIAN CENTURY RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

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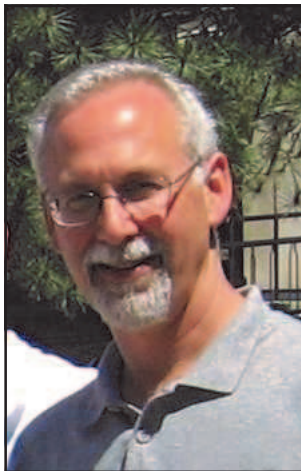
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CCRI Events

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Canadian Century Research Infrastructure Project: Historical GIS in the service of modern census mapping and analysis,
Byron Moldofsky, CCRI Project Coordinator, U of Toronto and
Kerrie Lowe, CCRI Geocoding supervisor, U of Toronto

The Canadian Century Research Infrastructure Project has created a microdata sample database of individual census records for the 1911 to 1951 censuses. The project has included the construction of a geographic framework for the historical census data, using GIS, at the census subdivision level. This enables location, selection, aggregation and analysis of sample data, as well as some mapping of generalized census data. Challenges have included the acquisition and validation of historical map sources, using modern GIS data sets

as reference bases for redrawing historical census boundaries, and integrating GIS functionality into a large database project.

Abstract of Byron Moldofsky's presentation at the joint conference of the Canadian Cartographic Association and the Association of Canadian Map Librarians and Archivists (Carto2008) from May 13-16, 2008 (see <http://mercator.geog.utoronto.ca/ccri/news.htm>)

Also, see the conference website at: <http://www.rdl.sfu.ca/carto/>