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- University of Victoria
- York University
- University of Toronto
- Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
- Université Laval
- Memorial University of Newfoundland
- University of Ottawa

Our Partners

- Statistics Canada
- Newfoundland & Labrador Statistics Agency
- Library and Archives Canada
- IBM Canada
- Institut de la statistique du Québec
- International Microdata Access Group

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Word from the Project Coordinator

The CCRI is in the final stages of finishing its core deliverables. The data entry of the years 1911 to 1941 is completed and 1951 is well underway. At this moment, the team is focusing on the release of the 1921 data set to the RDCs. The other components, our “Green Balloons”, are nearly completed. Finally, the GIS map layers for 1921 are in the process of being integrated into the database.

Meanwhile, the CCRI team gathered for its annual meeting in Quebec last August. The meeting was jointly hosted by the UQTR and Université Laval. I wish to express here my gratitude to the representatives of the two universities who joined the group for the opening comments. The gathering was also an excellent opportunity to meet some of the key players behind the scene in our two centres in Quebec. As you might know, the centres are supported by the Centre interuniversitaire d'études québécoises (CIEQ). Thus, the team was pleased to meet Brigitte Caulier, Co-Director of the Laval branch and Yvan Rousseau, Director of the CIEQ in Trois-Rivières.

This newsletter features an article by Laurent Richard and his colleagues from the CIEQ at Université Laval about The Quebec City History Project; an excellent example of the use of GIS and census data to analyse and document social change.

Also included in this newsletter is a report by Evelyn Ruppert, CCRI Co-Team Leader in York, about her research activities in UK. As announced in our previous issue Dr. Ruppert is currently a visiting senior research fellow at the ESCR Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change at the Open University.

This newsletter also presents some perspectives on the future of the CCRI infrastructure and the research that will be made possible with the database. One of the possible scenarios with respect to a new “home” for the infrastructure is offered by Peter Baskerville, Team Leader of our Center at the University of Victoria. Dr. Baskerville has recently been appointed as the first Chair-holder of the newly created Chair in Modern Western Canadian History at the University of Alberta. Congratulations Peter!

Carmen Bauer

UOttawa

Figure 1: Team Leaders during the Annual Meeting at UQTR, August, 2007. From left to right (1st row): Sean Cadigan, Gordon Darroch, Adam Green, Marc St-Hilaire, Alton Hollett and Chad Gaffield. From left to right (2nd row): Peter Baskerville, Evelyn Ruppert and Claude Bellavance.



A Social History of Quebec City

The Quebec City social history research project (PHSVQ), directed by professors Richard Marcoux and Marc St-Hilaire of Laval University's sociology and geography departments, respectively, investigates the transformation in Quebec City's population between 1850 and 1930. This period saw many changes, such as the emergence of industrial capitalism and increased urbanization in Quebec, that had major social, economic and political repercussions.

At the end of the 19th century, Quebec City went through an economic crisis. Population growth stagnated, increasing by a mere 9,000 individuals between 1871 and 1901. Despite this demographic slump, the city underwent major transformations. The proportion of Francophones grew, and the city's economic engine switched gears from shipbuilding and lumber to manufacturing (especially shoemaking) and tertiary sectors. Census figures from those years are ideal tools for studying these transformations.

The primary empirical basis of the project is nominal census data from 1851 to 1911, which researchers attempted to georeference at the household level for the whole city. To date, georeferencing has been completed for the 1871 and 1901 censuses, and all data have been compiled for the seven censuses being studied. Researchers were able to georeference 80.3% of individuals enumerated in 1871 at the household level, while the success rate for 1901 was 98.4%.

Georeferencing individuals at the household level supports higher-quality analyses than those using the spatial units of the censuses. For example, the 1901 census comprises 93 census tracts (dissemination areas) that are not broken down accord-

ing to very clear spatial logic (Figure 1). This breakdown would make the geographical interpretation of population phenomena difficult, if not impossible, because most of the census tracts are made up of

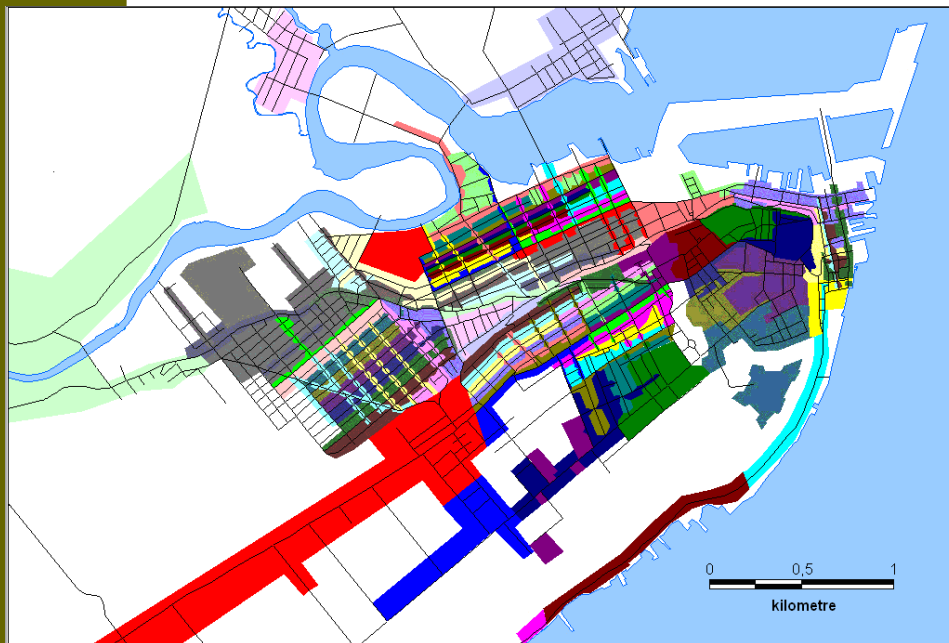


Figure 1: Reconstitution of 1901 enumeration areas (PHSVQ, Nicolas Lanouette)

“The primary empirical basis of the project is nominal census data from 1851 to 1911”

road segments creating units whose shapes and sizes vary considerably. Georeferencing at the household level makes it possible to carry out diachronic studies because the method is not bound by pre-set breakdowns and allows the spatiality of the phenomena to be expressed.

Georeferencing of the 1911 data is now being done. The team is currently completing validation and verification of the data by subjecting them to coherence tests. This also enabled the team to harmonize, as much as possible, the files for all seven censuses (creating uniformity in variable names, standardization of occupations, etc.). The team created a file for Quebec City's roads from 1851 to 1911 accompanied by a street name index that makes it possible to piece together the evolution of the city's built environment during that period. All of the geographic and demographic information drawn from the 1851 to 1911 censuses will be used to create a virtual exhibition of the capital's population as part of Quebec City's 400th anniversary celebrations. For more information on the research project, please visit www.phsvq.cieq.ulaval.ca.

Laurent Richard, Nicolas Lanouette and Étienne Girard

Université Laval

The Potential of CCRI Research

Regarding the question of "race", it will be of interest to the readers of H-Net that the forthcoming Canadian Century Research Infrastructure Project will provide a unprecedented source for the exploration of such questions. The database combines large representative national samples from each of the decennial censuses of 1911-1951 (potentially harmonized with existing data bases for 1871, 1881, 1901 and 1891 as well as Statistics Canada's Public Use Samples from 1971 onward). The database will include intensive geographical mapping and extensive documentation for every variable, including the original enumerators' instructions, published tables and comprehensive coded and transcribed texts from a wide range of national and regional newspapers and sundry other archival sources that comment on the taking of each of the 1911-1951 censuses and on many of the variables in those censuses. Some of the related variables are "race," ethnic origin, place of birth, nationality/citizenship, languages spoken, and mother tongue. In the CCRI the range of original responses to these questions can be related in a detailed fashion to every other question asked of Canadians by the census. We expect that the databases will be available for public use by the end of 2008.

An example of the possibilities of such research is the recently published volume, *Household Counts: Canadian Households and Families in 1901*, edited by Eric Sager and Peter Baskerville (UTP 2007) based on the Canadian Families Project's public use sample of the 1901 census. That Public Use Sample is easily available through the Data Liberation Initiative. For details of the CCRI, see *Historical Methods* (Spring, v. 40, 2007) devoted to the project.

Peter Baskerville (*University of Victoria*) and

Gordon Darroch (*York University*)

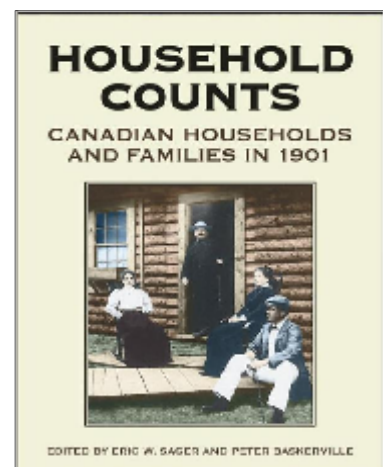


Figure 1: Cover of the volume *Household Counts: Canadian Households and Families in 1901*, ed. By Eric Sager and Peter Baskerville, UTP, 2007

Notes and comments from UK

Following the format of a column in early twentieth century newspapers I have assembled the following “miscellany” about UK census-related activities.

In September I met with Dr. Melissa Terras (School of Library, Archive and Information Studies, UCL) regarding an interesting research project that she recently led: *Researching e-Science Analysis of Census Holdings (ReACH)* (available at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/slais/melissa-terras/ReACHReport.pdf>). The project investigated the application of e-Science technologies and grid computing to large datasets, specifically historical census records. A main finding was that a key barrier to the application of e-Science is not technical: the necessary computational techniques, expertise and managerial practices all exist. The problem is the low quantity and poor quality of existing datasets, confirming the necessity of infrastructure-building projects like the CCRI. In November I travelled to the University of Essex to meet with Kevin Schürer (Director, UK Data Archive) and Edward Higgs (Historical Censuses and Social Surveys Working Group) to compare notes on census archive initiatives in the UK and Canada.

NATIONALITY FIGURES IN CANADA.

Sir,—I am much interested in the census figures of Canada given in your last issue, which show the growth of the various foundation stocks of that great country. But I think it is necessary to be very cautious before arriving at positive conclusions from those figures. I have lived in Canada twenty-four years, most of that time in Oak Lake, Manitoba. My father is English, my mother Irish, and I am Irish by birth. My wife is English. At the last census taken when I lived there I described myself as Irish. The census-taker asked me, “Is your father Irish?” I replied, “No, he is English.” “Was he born in England?” “Yes.” “You take the nationality of your father; you are English.” Now, two of our children, who were born in Canada, were teaching in Manitoba in schools far apart. When they were asked what was their nationality they both replied, “Canadian.” The census-taker told them there was no Canadian nationality, that they would take the nationality of their father. “Where was your father born?” “In Ireland.” “Then you are Irish,” and in each case they were so described.

Here is an instance of a father and mother being registered as of one nationality, and their children as of another. What conclusions is one to draw as to nationality from census records of that kind?—Yours sincerely,
THOMAS SANDELL.
Stubwood Farm, Hungerford, Berks.

As part of my research activities with the Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change (CRESC) at The Open University I recently published a paper, *Producing Population* (available at <http://www.cresc.ac.uk/publications/papers.html#2007>). The paper develops a theoretical approach for understanding how the census has not only played a role in constructing population (census making) but also has simultaneously created subjects with the capacity to recognize themselves as members of a population (census taking).

The digital archives of the *Toronto Star* and *Globe and Mail* proved to be a great resource when building ContextData. Recently the *Guardian* and *Observer* launched a digital archive, which will eventually contain the reproduction of every page, article and advert published since 1791. This is the first time a UK national newspaper’s print archive has been made available through its website (<http://archive.guardian.co.uk/>). One excerpt pertaining to the taking of the Canadian census is attached (Figure 1).

The references and links above remind me of how the Internet has been a key resource of the CCRI project for not only collecting, sharing and disseminating information, but also project management. For example, the client-server database developed for contextual data by UQTR (see article in Spring 2007 issue) has enabled me to “virtually” direct and monitor the data processing work at the York University Centre.

Evelyn Ruppert

Trent University and The Open University

Figure 1 : *Observer*, 26 March 1933, 9.

CCRI moves into a new phase at the University of Alberta

Building on CCRI accomplishments and under the leadership of Carl Amrhein, CCRI Team Leader and Provost, the University of Alberta has created a Chair in Modern Western Canadian History. Nicely reflecting the main agendas associated with the position, the Chair is situated within the Department of History and Classics and the Humanities Computing Program. The U of A has appointed Peter Baskerville, currently the CCRI Team Leader at the University of Victoria and Director of the Project's western operations, as the first Chairholder as of July 2008.

This is a very exciting development. The central agenda associated with this Chair emerges directly from CCRI initiatives and aspirations. Specifically the Chair's responsibilities are to gain national and international recognition for the University of Alberta as a centre for the practice of social science history. This will involve crafting major research proposals of a regional, national and international sort. It will involve mentoring post doctoral students and holding national and international conferences relating to social science history issues. In collaboration with other CCRI centres—especially the University of Quebec at Trois Rivières, Memorial University at St John's and the Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency—the Chair will establish the University of Alberta as a major dissemination point for CCRI data. The Chair will also seek to add to the data base in ways that facilitate the general research aims noted above.

In this short note it is impossible to demonstrate the many ways in which the University of Alberta provides an exceptional "fit" for the CCRI. The History Department is one of the largest in Canada; the Humanities Computing Program contains a wealth of relevant expertise and energy; the Sociology Department has a long commitment to social science history initiatives. One further significant example will have to suffice. Peel's Prairie Provinces Digital Project, situated in the Library at the University of Alberta, is on-going and has currently digitized some 9000 titles or some 2 million pages of western Canadiana. CCRI will complement this initiative in part by dramatically increasing the university's resources as the major portal to scholarship in Western Canadian history. Taken together, this marriage of print and numeric data sets the university at the national and international forefront of current research and scholarship methodologies. These approaches argue for the blending of qualitative and quantitative research as the hallmark of modern learning, a focus which has always been at the centre of CCRI operations. In sum, the Chair of Modern Western Canadian History will build on the CCRI in order to contribute further to international research on the making of the modern world.

Peter Baskerville

University of Victoria



CCRI Team Leader,
Dr. Peter Baskerville
Professor, Dept. of History,
University of Victoria



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CCRI Events



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redefine THE POSSIBLE.

York celebrating 10 years of research breakthroughs

On Monday November 12, 2007 the York CCRI centre participated in York University's celebration of the Canadian Foundation for Innovation's (CFI) first 10 years of investment in research infrastructure.

The open house was part of CFI Day at York, celebrating CFI's 10th anniversary. Since its creation, CFI has awarded over \$24 million to York researchers in disciplines ranging from health and applied mathematics to space science and fine art. Recent projects include the Gordon G. Shepherd Atmospheric Research Facility, located in the Petrie Building, which officially opened in August 2007.

Over forty researchers and their labs and centres were open to staff, faculty and students, as well as to the visiting President and Vice-President of the CFI. At a luncheon for researchers, Gordon Darroch, Team leader of York CCRI centre, met with the President of CFI Eliot Philipson, who was well aware of the CCRI project and inquired about its current progress. Dr. Philipson meets routinely with the leaders of other Federal funding Agencies, including University of Ottawa CCRI Team Leader, Chad Gaffield, the new President of SSHRC.