

Winter 2006

Volume 1, Number 2

CCRI Newsletter

Canadian Century Research Infrastructure

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Our Partners

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



Partner Universities

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

Dear Friends of the CCRI,

How should a multi-institutional, interdisciplinary and internationally-linked project be organized to maximize effective collaboration? This question has become increasingly familiar as major research initiatives not only transcend disciplinary boundaries but also connect scholars and resources across provincial and national borders. The challenge is to connect “horizontally” structures and cultures that developed during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries within “vertically” defined policies and practices. This challenge is particularly significant for the Canadian Century Research Infrastructure project that includes scholars in History, Geography and Sociology across seven universities as well as private and public sector partnerships both in Canada and internationally. Our approach is based on the use of diverse communication and management strategies that range from conventional mail to pioneering applications of VoIP. After five years of collaboration beginning with the development of the project proposal, our most significant conclusion about such strategies is the unique

and unparalleled importance of face-to-face meetings. While we could not have even imagined the CCRI without the latest IT-based communication and management tools, we have found that our periodic team meetings are essential complements to the ongoing virtual interactions. Moreover, such meetings give us the chance to visit the different CCRI Centres, and to exchange information and ideas with additional researchers about the possibilities of the infrastructure for various projects in the coming years. In this context, the Team Leaders, Coordinators and IT sub-group are all grateful to the University of Toronto’s University College and Departments of Geography and Sociology for hosting us along with York University during September 14-16. Our next meeting will be held August 26th and 27th at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St.-Johns. We hope to have the chance to see you there.

Yours in CCRI, *Chad Gaffield.*

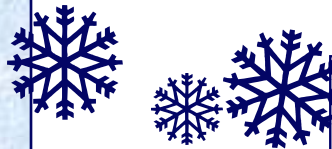


Photo of the CCRI Team Leaders, Coordinators and IT Group taken at the Annual Team Meeting held in Toronto, Ontario, in September 2005.



Historical Canadian Census Initiatives at the Université de Montréal

In the absence of dwelling and household numbers, to what extent can we rely upon building type information to identify the head of the household? What happens if this information is recorded next to an adult son who is the third-listed person in the dwelling, following his father and mother—is the son the head or the father? Why have we found so few francophone married couples from the 1871 Canadian database living in the U.S. in 1880, when we know that during this period many francophones headed south of the border in search of work? These are some of the knotty questions facing the Université de Montréal census research team as it completes an industrious summer of work and heads into the fall semester.

As with contemporary 20th century documents, computerizing 19th century censuses brings a number of challenges. However, the wealth of demographic and socioeconomic information made available by reconstructing successive databases from 1852 to date makes this endeavour well worth the effort. The Demographics Department assigned a team of six research assistants to this task throughout the summer. They have completed data capture for a sample consisting of 20% of the 1852 Canadian census and have started cleaning the database. The team also worked on linking individuals drawn from an 1871 Canadian census sample to individuals in the full 1881 census. This work is being supervised by project coordinator Alexandre Bujold, with support from programmer Denis Duval. The entire project is being directed by Professor Lisa Dillon.

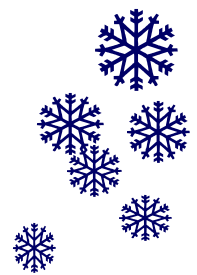
To date, working with the 1852 Canadian census has uncovered a certain number of anomalies and

inconsistencies in this document. In the absence of household numbers, we have had to reconstruct certain household data ourselves. Fortunately, our experience with the 1871 and 1881 censuses has made us quite familiar with this type of delicate reconstruction in which we determine family relationships with the head of the household. However, with the 1852 census, we even have to decide who the head of the household is. To resolve this issue, we are facing familiar choices, i.e. how much can this decision-making process be automated versus how much must judgments be left to human intelligence?

At the moment, the 1852 census research team is concentrating on basic checking and cleaning, resolving inconsistencies among the marital status, age, sex and occupation fields. We have posted a (very) preliminary version of the 1852 Canadian census data on our download website at: <http://www.irdh.umontreal.ca/1881data/>. Our next data release will include 20% of every 1852 census sub-district available

for transcription, bringing our database to a total of 235 542. We have also linked 6,271 anglophone and francophone married couples and 370 francophone individuals from the 1871 to the 1881 census databases. Record linkage of couples in the 1871 and 1881 Canadian census data is complete and linkage of individuals will be completed this year. The completion of these databases will permit us to move forward with a larger research agenda to explore the diversity of household forms and the sequencing of diverse household patterns in the lives of individuals during the late nineteenth century. For further information, please contact Lisa Dillon at ly.dillon@umontreal.ca or Alexandre Bujold at a.bujold@umontreal.ca.

- Lisa Dillon
- Alexandre Bujold



International Conference on Humanities Computing and Scholarship

The 17th international conference was held in Victoria, B.C., in June 2005. The session was nicely attended and the discussion following the presentations was lively and informative. Particularly gratifying was a special invitation from one of the conference organizers to participate in next year's conference to be held in Paris, July 2006. The CCRI participants included Dr. Chad Gaffield who provided a general overview of the CCRI with special attention to the contextual data aspects

of our project and well illustrated via the green balloons; Dr. Marc St-Hilaire who provided a discussion of the mapping strategies completed with examples of the utility of such information drawn from his past and current research; and Dr. Peter Baskerville who situated the CCRI in the context of past Canadian PUMS projects and current projects of a related sort throughout the world.

- Peter Baskerville
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CCRI York University Centre held a celebration in August 2005 to mark the conclusion of 1911 microdata entry.

Reflections in the Mirror of the 1891 Census of Canada

During the spring of 2005 the University of Guelph and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) finalized an award that will permit completion of a public user database from a census undertaken in Canada 114 years earlier, during the spring of 1891. Unique features of this census include the first Canadian enumeration of family relationships, birthplace of parents and employment status, and an improved reporting of occupations and dwelling types. The loss of returns from the 1885 and 1886 Prairie enumerations mean that this census provides the earliest available micro-data for many western Canadian communities.

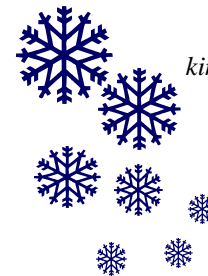
The completed database will include

information from a random 5% selection of census pages (10% in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto and western Canada). The data are being prepared to be consistent with the 1911-1951 census data assembled by CCRI and the multi-country North Atlantic Population Project (NAPP).

The 1891 project, which began in 2003 under an earlier award, to date has provided employment and learning opportunities for more than 25 students, who are encouraged to develop numeracy, software expertise and a critical use of systematic historical evidence. Since working on the project more than half of the students have entered a graduate program or plan to do so. Student research is now beginning

to explore the unique occupational designations in this census, the 1891 enumeration of aboriginal communities, the interpretation of census returns for public institutions, the enumerators themselves, newspaper coverage of the census process and relevant records held in provincial and federal archives.

A network of scholars at Guelph and other Canadian institutions, the UK Data Archive and the Minnesota Population Centre provide support and advice. The leadership of the CCRI community has been especially important for the successful launch of the 1891 census project at the University of Guelph.



- Kris Inwood
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Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences 2005: Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association University of Western Ontario

What began as a vision to increase awareness of the work and data of the CCRI research team in the larger academic community developed into a very successful series of three sessions and one roundtable at the recent Congress meetings in London, Ontario. These sessions were listed with the CSAA, and crosslisted with the CPS, as well as listed as an adjunct to the program of the CHA. The sessions were co-organized by Heather Maddocks a former UofT CCRI team member who is now attending UWO, and Augustine Park, a York CCRI team member.

It was only through the enthusiastic participation of our CCRI team and invited guest participants that we were able to provide a successful series of sessions. Graduate students, research team members, and faculty from York, UofT, Carlton, Laval, Montreal, Victoria, Ottawa, and the University of Essex participated as chairs, and presenters. The sessions

included "Re-Reading and Re-Writing the Canadian Century: Accounts from Early Canadian Censuses", "Taking Account: Methodological Challenges in Researching Early Canadian Censuses", "Using Canadian Historical Census

Data: Exploring Avenues of Research and Building on Previous Studies", and "Making Sense of the Census: Theorizing Citizenship, Nation, Identity and Counting Practices in the Early Twentieth Century Canadian Census."

Thank you to all of our presenters, chairs and helpful faculty including Gordon Darroch, and Chad Gaffield. It is hoped that next year's congress will include more sessions organized

by other willing researchers or graduate students who are interested in obtaining more experience in conference participation.

- Heather Maddocks
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"...no dear, I'm Penelope... You are Harry..."

Len Norris, Vancouver Sun, June 1st, 1966, p.4

The Hidden History of Individualization

In the book *Lives of their Own* (1990), sociologists Charles Jones, Lorna Marsden and Lorne Tepperman reported that Canadian women's lives, by 1990, had become more varied, fluid and idiosyncratic than they had been a century earlier. Women were engaged in a more varied range of occupations than ever before, much more so than the generations before them. Their fluidity – i.e., their movements in and out of formal education, the labour market, even particular jobs – was likewise far greater than their mothers', and even more than their husbands'. And, as a whole, they were living many different kinds of lives – as traditional homemakers, professionals and nearly everything in between.

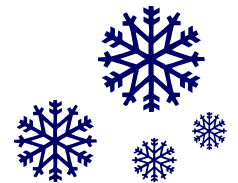
A woman's experiences had become so varied and distinctive that they could potentially be completely different from those of their mothers, their husbands or even their sisters. Women had truly come to lead unique lives – in effect, lives of their own. This was particularly true of women with children, who, unlike unmarried women or married men, were obliged to organize their education, work and family lives to accommodate childcare and other domestic responsibilities.

Individualization grew out of domestic complexity and social vulnerability, but we have yet to track in detail the path of this momentous change in women's lives.

The CCRI will allow us to shed more light on this. Once we have identified the bare outlines of this history – when it started, when turning points occurred, when it started slowing down or flattening out, for example – we can then zero in on explanations.

Finally, our analysis of these census data will help us make educated guesses about the future and whether, for example, women's lives will finally become similar to one another, and to their husbands' and brothers' if they give up childbearing and/or childcare altogether.

- Lorne Tepperman and Albert Kwan
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Governing by Counting

On October 28-29, 2005 members of the CCRI/IRCS research team and the Association of Canadian Studies/Association d'études canadiennes joined Canadian historians and teachers of Canadian history for "New Frontiers in Our History: 100 Years of Alberta and Saskatchewan in Confederation" at the Westin Hotel in Edmonton. As an arm of the larger conference CCRI/ACS held a small but diverse forum filled with a spectrum of panels ranging from family history to transformations in communications technology. In the closing session, "Counting the West Into Confederation," Evelyn Ruppert and Gordon Darroch of the CCRI/IRCS team pointed to the ways in which census taking was both a means of political arithmetic and a technology of knowing and governing. Put another way, the census is what Michel Foucault would call a technology of biopower – a means of governing life.

Although the panels in our small forum were by no means organized around the concept of biopower, what strikes me is that many of the papers drew implicitly on this notion: Cathryn Staring Parrish discussed the role of the internet in providing a link between parents and schools in order that parents could monitor more closely their children's workload; Peter Baskerville pointed out that the Married Women's Property Law's had a profound effect on the ability of women to accrue and bequeath wealth; in a paper on public heritage projects Claire Campbell questioned how the past was made useable and who did this making; the panel I was on looked at the regulation of homeless bodies in city spaces; in a discussion of queer maternity Susan Knabe illustrated the monitoring of non-heteronormative pregnant bodies. What the weekend left me with is a sense of the ways in which a diversity of issues can be linked – through biopower – to questions of governing: Who is governed? By whom? And who is counting?

Many thanks to Carl Amrhein, CCRI Toronto Team Leader and Provost, University of Alberta, for his enthusiastic support for this event as well as to David Woolf, Dean of Arts, University of Alberta.

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