Pacs grants.

TransCanadiana 5, 239-247

2012
PECTURE TOURS

Objective: to contribute to travel and accommodation costs of invited Polish and Canadian academics and artists lecturing at Polish universities. All tours are co-financed by hosting universities. Details: http://www.ptbk.org.pl/grant_dofinansowanie,19.html

François Turcot – 27 février – 8 mars 2011 – Université de Silésie, Université Jagellonne à Cracovie et Université Nicolas Copernic à Toruń.

Denise Merkle (University of Moncton) – 5 May 2011 – Guest lecture – Canada and Official Language Translation, English-French and French-English. Fact and Fiction – Canadian Studies Centre, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń.

Marlene R. Atleo (University of Manitoba, Winnipeg) – Lectures and workshop – 12 May 2011 – Canadian Studies Centre, University of Silesia, Sosnowiec.

Kinga Araya - 12 May 2011 – Work-

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GRANTS

Objective: to cover part of travel expenses of PACS members participating in Canadianist conferences abroad. Details: http://www.ptbk.org.pl/grant_konferencyjny,17.html

Tomasz Wieciech (Jagiellonian University, Kraków) – University of Bucharest, Romania – 3-8 April 2011 – Guest course

Marta Śniegocka (Collegium Civitas, Warsaw) – Association for Canada Stud-

The annual 2011 Association for Canada Studies conference took place in Groningen, Netherlands, 10-13 November. The conference was hosted by Cornelius Remie, President Association for Canada Studies in the Netherlands. A number of students from Europe (Russia, Poland, Germany or Great Britain) as well as from other countries around the world (Canada, Brazil, Australia) were invited to present their research on various topics: politics, literature, Indigenous peoples, history and sociology. Each session was devoted to one area of studies and included students’ presentations followed by a discussion. Evening entertainment was provided by students from Rijksuniversiteit Groningen who enabled the participants to learn about Dutch cuisine and prepared a traditional Dutch dinner. All the participants were given a chance of publishing their research in the immediate future.

I was pleased to present my research on Canadian literature entitled ‘Lola Lemire Tostevin’s Concepts of ‘Femspeak’ and ‘Menspeak’ and Linguistically-determined Silence.’

The conference was a memorable experience and it was an honour to meet the ambassador of Canada to the Netherlands, James Lambert as well as Canadianists from around the world, including the President of Association for Canada Studies in the Netherlands, Jeanette den Toonder (Director, Centre for Canadian Studies, University of Groningen), Conny Steenman-Marcusse and the M.A. and PhD students.

(Report by Dominka Górecka)

GRAINAU CONFERENCE GRANTS

Each year PACS offers one grant to those wishing to participate in the conference held annually (in February) by the Canadian Studies Association of German-Speaking Countries (GKS) in Grainau, Germany. The successful applicant’s re-
search interests should be related to the central topic of the conference. Preference is given to those who have not attended previous GKS conferences. The grant covers the cost of participation at the conference (registration fee, accommodation, all meals) excluding travel expenses.

2011 Marta Śniegocka (Collegium Civitas, Warsaw).

2011 Polish Awardee:
Anna Kawalec (Jagiellonian University, Krakow)
Rafał Madeja (University of Silesia, Sosnowiec)

In autumn 2011 I had a great honor to participate in the second edition of the EU-Canada Study Tour and Internship Programme ‘Thinking Canada 2011’. ‘Thinking Canada’ is a new initiative of the European Network for Canadian Studies (ENCS), funded by the European Commission. The programme consists of a four-week study tour to Canada for European students, previously selected by Canadian Studies associations in their countries, and two-month internships for some of them. For instance in 2011 there were eight internships which were performed in think tanks, in foundations, in cultural institutions, in government departments etc.

The main objective of the programme is to offer its partakers a unique experience of Canada through interesting visits to major public and private institutions, government bodies, think-tanks and NGOs. At each place, the students receive briefings and have the opportunity to exchange views with representatives of these bodies, many of them leading experts in their fields.

In 2011 the tour’s programme was focused mainly on cultural diversity (i.e. English and French relationship, policy of multiculturalism, First Nations), some political issues (i.e. federalism, regionalism, Canada-EU relations), the environment (primarily Arctic problem), urban and economic issues (i.e. the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement’s negotiations).

EU-CANADA STUDY TOUR AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME THINKING CANADA

“Thinking Canada” is a new initiative of the European Network for Canadian Studies, funded generously by the European Commission – a three-and-a-half week study tour to Canada for European students and is followed for selected participants by two-month internships. It is preceded by a couple of days of briefings in Brussels on the EU and EU-Canada relations. The aim of the study tour is to offer its participants a unique in-depth experience of Canada through an intensive programme of visits to major private and public institutions, government bodies, think-tanks and NGOs. At each place, the students receive briefings and have the opportunity to exchange views with representatives of these bodies, many of them leading experts in their fields.

In 2011 PACS offered Polish awardees grants to cover the participation fee and costs of travel from Poland to Brussels.
The tour began on September 4th 2011 in Brussels where we spent a few days having appointments with famous EU politicians like Mrs Morag Donaldson (Overview of the European Parliament), Mr Ellis Mathews (The European External Action Service), Mr Philippe Rispal (Role, functions and monetary policy strategy of the European Central Bank), Mr Charles White (The EU’s Regional Policy) and Mr Christofer Fretwell (The European Court of Justice), along with some representatives of various NGOs, namely Mrs Patsy Sorensen, the founder of PAYOKE, an organization that combats the trading in and exploiting of human people (human trafficking). We visited also the Canadian Mission to the EU.

After spending few days in Brussels the whole group flew to Ottawa, which was our first stop on a different continent. In Canada’s capital city we had a pleasure to see the EU Delegation to Canada and the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages who tried to explain us what bilingualism really is. We extremely enjoyed a visit at the Nunavut Sivuniksavut College as young Inuits presented their life and history in a very interesting way, along with the Museum of Civilization and the Canadian War Museum. More formal, though still absorbing, were meetings at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Health Canada, Canadian Conference of the Arts, Assembly of First Nations or Canadian Labour Congress.

From Ottawa we drove to Québec where we had an opportunity to listen riveting presentations about Canada-Québec relationships and the North Plan at the Ministry of International Relations, as well as about the Québec policy at the National Assembly of Québec. We visited also Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques and Huron Museum in Wendake, charming small Indian village near Québec. Our next stop was Montréal, the most multicultural city in the province of Québec. In Montréal we spent some time at the Ministry of Immigration and Cultural Communities, Hydro Québec and one of the most famous think tanks in Canada, the Institute for Research on Public Policy. Our last afternoon we spent at PORTAGE, a Canadian non-profit organization which helps people suffering from substance abuse to overcome their addictions. The meeting with young and already addicted people who are fighting every day with such horrible problems fell deep in memory of all of us.

From Montréal we travelled to Toronto. Multiple presentations of the members of the Government of Ontario, as well as of the City of Toronto, supported by a very interesting visit at Artscape Wychwood Barns, a NGO which makes space for creativity and transforms small communities in Toronto, made our stay there unforgettable. We enjoyed also a nice reception at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland where we had a chance to meet people from the European Union Chamber of Commerce in Toronto (EUCOCIT) and the European Union National Institutes of Culture (EUNIC).

From Ontario we flew to the West Coast, Vancouver in British Columbia. We had
a chance to listen to absorbing lectures at Asia Pacific Foundation, Pembina Institute, Ecojustice and INSITE – a safe, health-focused place where people inject drugs and connect to health care, along with social services. At INSITE our group divided into two camps as we could not agree if it is better to cure people as they do at PORTAGE or to help them live longer with their addiction. Fortunately visit to Vancouver's impressing Chinatown saved us from further difficult discussions.

Our last stop was the most British city in North America, Victoria, where we listened to presentations about BC history, politics, trade strategy and initiatives. The last afternoon we spent at the University of Victoria, getting to know what the students’ life in Canada looks like.

The study tour was over on October 1st. It was a very interesting time during which we learnt many things about Canada, met wonderful people and saw places which are normally difficult to visit. What is more, thanks to a well prepared programme, everyone found something useful for himself or herself.

In the period of October and November 2011, thanks to the opportunity given me by the ‘Thinking Canada 2011’ Programme, I had a great pleasure to take part in two internships in Toronto: the first one at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland and the second one with EUCOCIT, EUNIC and the University of Toronto.

In my opinion the EU-Canada Study Tour and Internship Programme ‘Thinking Canada’ is a great initiative which can help the EU students to understand better this fascinating country. As for those who already are interested in Canada, like I am, it really gives an opportunity to meet valuable people from various Canadian institutions and to broaden horizons. Seven cities, tens of places, nearly hundred of lectures, presentations and meetings, thousands of conversations or vivid discussions - it is something, it really matters.

Personally I found this programme one of the most important experience in my life which I can highly recommend to everyone.

(Report by Anna Kawalec)

The programme of the EU-Canada Study Tour – “Thinking Canada” was so varied that it covered an enormous number of topics, such as the EU and EU-Canada relations; Aboriginal people, institutions, culture and governance; bilingualism, multiculturalism and immigration; business, industry and labor relations; social issues, health and human trafficking; human rights and civil society; urbanism and urban planning; and environmental issues. Significantly, from the vantage point of my interdisciplinary research interests, I – within the course of the tour – was able to attend numerous thought-provoking lectures by local Canadian academics and government officials, opening a new window to delving into a number of nagging me questions concerning Canada.

Namely, to name but a few, at the Nunavut Sivuniksavut College in Ottawa,
I participated in the discussion on the Inuit people and their culture as well as changes they need to undergo in an effort to preserve their values. Furthermore, at the Assembly of First Nations, more light was shed upon how First Nations work together to realize their rights and responsibilities, provide education funding on reserves, manage resource development, and embark upon establishing economic relationship with China. In a similar vein, what likewise attracted my attention was presentation concerning Canada’s Northern policy as well as a discussion of the inclusion of Indigenous people and Permanent Participant organizations in circumpolar dialogue and activities.

Another issue that was put forward during the study tour was Canada’s drug policy and a dialogue to compare and contrast Canadian and European approaches. The series of lectures on the topic at stake were followed by a visit at the major drug treatment facility in Canada located in Montreal – Portage. Interestingly, the topic of drug addiction was discussed further and in minute detail in Vancouver. That is to say, numerous approaches towards fighting drug addiction in British Columbia were brought to the fore by Russell Maynard and Monika Stein at the INSITE, a legal supervised injection site in Downtown Eastside Vancouver. They also talked about the history of the INSITE, the events that actually precipitated its creation, how the place operates on a daily basis, and who the demographic is that attends the injection site. Along went an introduction to the continuum of services targeted at healing the community struggling with the urban issues that all low income areas struggle with on a global scale.

Yet, most importantly, the EU-Canada Study Tour and Internship Programme 2011 – “Thinking Canada” provided me with a unique opportunity to further my research into the practice of oral storytelling in fiction as a mechanism of dealing with hyphenated identities of Asian-Canadian writers via having a insight into various unpublished documents, photos, and private records concerning the internment period of the Japanese Canadians and their relocation processes to internment camps during the First and Second World War. Importantly, they may serve as an underlying basis of understanding various issues conveyed in the plotlines of their novels. I was able to conduct interviews about hyphenated identity and the internment period with a few people representing the second and third generations of Japanese and Chinese Canadians. What also turned out to be of paramount importance was UBC Professor Haybe Wai’s presentation on the Chinese, Japanese, and South Asian communities in British Columbia followed by a walking tour of historic Chinatown. Although Vancouver was presented as proudly multicultural, its past racism, once silenced history, slow social change, and current institutional challenges were not underscored but addressed.

Furthermore, as an intern at the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, I played an essential part in the functioning of the National Conversation on Asia, having a wide-ranging role in the APF project.
staff both contributing and learning in tandem. More precisely, I was responsible for carrying out research on the controversial issue of Confucius Institutes and for preparing a conversation along backgrounders on the topic at stake. Additionally, together with another intern Nabila Pirani, I created and launched a conversation on Canada's bilateral and multilateral trade agreements with Asia which are under negotiation or consideration. Another internship task worth mentioning is that over the next few weeks, I gathered information on the APEC and G20's approach to fossil fuel subsidy reduction and phase out from a collection of essays, reports, segments of speeches, and television commentaries.

During this time, I was likewise requested to help in updating the NCA Resource page, particularly the latest op-eds, research reports, policy papers, news articles, and videos that have Canada-Asia content for the Education, Culture and Communities section. Moreover, I looked for various information on the relationship of APF’s founding partners with Asia. Towards the end of my tenure, I concentrated solely on conducting research on hypothetical conflict triggers and scenarios in the South China Sea and Indian Ocean and their implications for Canada for the purpose of APF's workshop Strategic Implications of Conflict in the South China Sea and Indian Ocean.

The internship at the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada enabled me to delve further into Canada-Asia relations and their benefits for Canada. What needs to be therefore emphasized is the fact that I was provided with an opportunity to increase my exposure to Asia via taking part in distinguished lectures and roundtables on Asia-related issues, such as “Thailand’s Flood Crisis 2011”; “Green Development of India’s Energy Sector”; Singapore's New Citizenship Project”; “Japan's Recovery Post March 2011 Triple Disaster” etc. What was also of great importance was the fact that such events were frequently featured numerous panelists and speakers who are senior government officials, renowned social practitioners and researchers speaking with authority about developments in their fields of interest and work.

Moving further, working with people from multicultural backgrounds, especially of Asian descent, was an excellent opportunity to understand their complicated Asian Canadian identity and probe into the rich blend of cultures, lifestyles, religions, and aspirations within the Asia Pacific region and British Columbia alongside possible effects on each other's societies. Notably, drawing on my coworkers' expertise in different specialties of Canada-Asia relations helped me to collect novel and reliable ideas related to Canada's links with China as well as Canadian citizens of Chinese and Japanese descent living in British Columbia, which cannot be obtained via online sources. The internship largely fuelled my interest in free trade agreements, substantially enriching my previous knowledge on various trade negotiations between Canada and EU with Canada's trade negotiations with Asia since there is a rising importance of Asia in the global economy.
Doing research on possible conflict scenarios having crucial implications for Canada, fishing grounds, and sea lanes in the South China Sea and Indian Ocean, I realized the importance of this area for the global trade and its strategic value for the claimants, such as China, Taiwan, Vietnam, and the Philippines. Thus, as has been already mentioned, equipped with a solid knowledge of South China shipping lanes and regional tensions, with particular emphasis on territorial disputes between China and Vietnam, I played an essential role in the preparation of the workshop proposal devoted to the discussion of possible conflicts in the South China Sea along their long-term implications for Canada.

To sum up, during the EU-Canada Study Tour and Internship Programme 2011 – “Thinking Canada”, with particular emphasis placed on the internship at the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, it turned out to be a unique chance to enrich the interdisciplinary panorama of my research interests. Having a wide-range role in the APF staff and working on the National Conversation on Asia project, I learned to create active online conversations in social media to inspire thought-provoking and fruitful discussions, bringing together established Canada-Asia experts, Canada’s emerging leaders on Asia, and ordinary Canadians. During data base meetings and video conferences with the office in Toronto taking place every week, I was obliged to present a summary of my activities for the National Conversation on Asia, which substantially enabled me to build up my self-confidence in my presentation skills.

Working in the multicultural background where I could speak other languages than English, I was able to improve largely my command of Japanese and Chinese. Last but not least, during my tenure at the foundation, I – having an access to the rich archives of the Vancouver Public Library as well as the Asia Pacific Foundation – was capable of largely furthering my research on the storytelling mechanisms and hyphenated identity of Asian-Canadians.

(Report by Rafał Madeja)

GRANTS FOR PUBLICATIONS

Objective: to contribute to costs of Canadianist publications by PACS members.

TransCanadiana, vol. 4: Changing Discourses on Canada: at the Crossroads of Cultures and Identities / Changement du discours sur le Canada: croisements culturels et déplacements identitaires

Towards Critical Multiculturalism: Dialogues Between/ Among Canadian Diasporas / Vers un multiculturalisme critique: dialogues entre les diasporas canadiennes. Ewelina Bujnowska, Marcin Gabryś, Tomasz Sikora (eds.)
NANCY BURKE BEST M.A. THESIS AWARD

Objective: to foster a new generation of Canadianists by rewarding high-quality research at M.A. level. The award is given every year to the author of the best M.A. thesis in Canadian Studies in Poland (written in Polish, English or French).
Details: http://www.ptbk.org.pl/nagroda_ptbk,18.html


2012 Nancy Burke Best M.A. Thesis Award: Jacek Mulczyk-Skarżyński (Université de Varsovie) – Dialectique de l’aliénation dans les drames de Michel Tremblay.


GRANTS FOR ORGANIZING CONFERENCE / SEMINAR

Objective: to support Canadian Studies centers in organizing conference or seminar.

Renata Jarzębowska-Sadkowska (Université Nicolas Copernic, Toruń) – Mars arabe et francophone.

Eugenia Sojka (University of Silesia, Sosnowiec) – Day of Canadian Culture.

Joanna Warmuźnińska-Rogóż (Université de Silésie, Sosnowiec), Journées de la culture québécoise.