



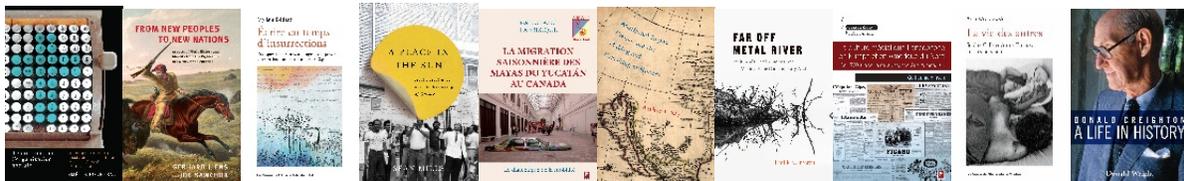
2017 Canada Prizes Media Kit

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Media release

Winners of Canada Prizes announced



OTTAWA, April 10, 2017 – The Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences is very pleased to announce the winners of the 2017 Canada Prizes.

The Canada Prizes are awarded annually to the best books by Canadian scholars in the humanities and social sciences that make an exceptional contribution to scholarship, are engagingly written, and enrich the social, cultural and intellectual life of Canada. Winners are selected from books that have received funding from the Awards to Scholarly Publications Program, which is administered by the Federation.

“These books are representative of the excellence in scholarly publications in Canada,” said Stephen Toope, President of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. “Both of this year’s winning authors examine difficult times in our history — one examining the extreme discord around litigation of Indigenous rights and treaty claims in this country, the other looking at bravery behind the written works of Lower Canadian “Patriotes” in the turbulent 1830-40s. Despite stemming from different disciplines and perspectives, both of these books deepen the understanding of how we grew to be who we are today, and help prepare us for where we are headed as a nation.”

This year’s winners are:

Canada Prize in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Arthur J. Ray, *Aboriginal Rights Claims and the Making and Remaking of History* (McGill-Queen’s University Press)

From the jury’s citation:

Arthur J. Ray’s masterful study is based on three decades of experience in academic research and in courtrooms as an expert witness in the litigation of aboriginal rights and treaty claims in Canada. Contrasting native peoples’ forms of transmitting history with that of academic disciplines like Law, History, and Archaeology, his work illustrates the profound discord between historical evidence based on robust oral traditions and that grounded in the documentary records of European societies.

Prix du Canada en sciences humaines et sociales

Mylène Bédard, *Écrire en temps d’insurrections : Pratiques épistolaires et usages de la presse chez les femmes patriotes (1830-1840)* (Presses de l’Université de Montréal)

From the jury’s citation:

Written in a highly accessible style, Écrire en temps d’insurrections examines the epistolary practices of patriot women in Lower Canada between 1830 and 1840. Mylène Bédard’s fascinating analysis of previously untapped sources recognizes the role of women during a turbulent period in Canadian history.



The prizes, each valued at \$5,000, will be presented at a ceremony during the 2017 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences at Ryerson University on Sunday, May 28.

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About the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences

The Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences promotes research and teaching for the advancement of an inclusive, democratic and prosperous society. With a membership now comprising over 160 universities, colleges and scholarly associations, the Federation represents a diverse community of 91,000 researchers and graduate students across Canada. The Federation organizes Canada's largest academic gathering, the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, bringing together more than 8,000 participants each year. For more information about the Federation, visit www.ideas-idees.ca.

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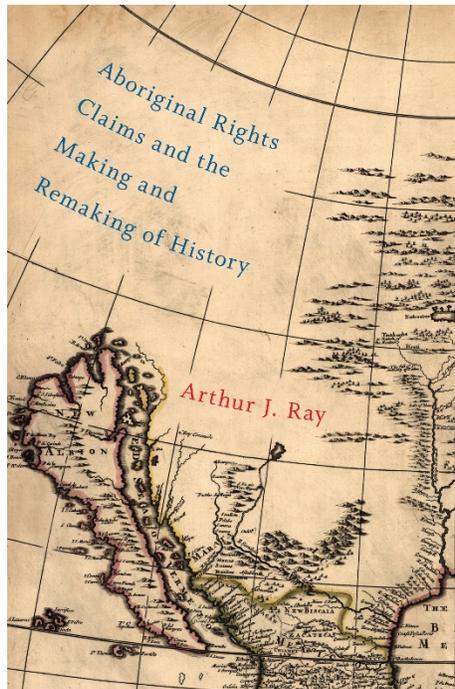
Canada Prize in the Humanities and Social Sciences



Arthur J. Ray

Aboriginal Rights Claims and the Making and Remaking of History

McGill-Queen's University Press

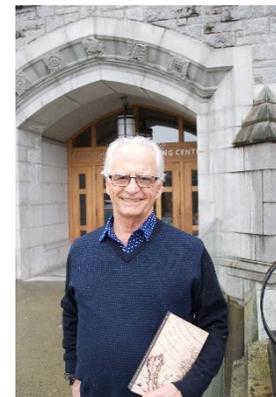


Jury's citation:

*Arthur J. Ray's masterful study is based on three decades of experience in academic research and in courtrooms as an expert witness in the litigation of aboriginal rights and treaty claims in Canada. Contrasting native peoples' forms of transmitting history with that of academic disciplines like Law, History, and Archaeology, his work illustrates the profound discord between historical evidence based on robust oral traditions and that grounded in the documentary records of European societies. With examples drawn from five countries with colonial pasts, he shows how the practises of adversarial courtrooms and other legal forums have shaped the construction of historical knowledge and the writing of national histories. In proposing Arthur J. Ray for the Canada Prize, the jury evaluated *Aboriginal Rights Claims and the Making and Remaking of History* as 'an exceptional contribution to international scholarship'.*

Arthur J. Ray, Professor Emeritus, UBC, is an historical geographer who writes extensively about native people, aboriginal claims, and the Canadian fur trade. His recent publications include: *Aboriginal Rights Claims and the Making and Remaking of History* (2016), *Telling It To the Judge* (2011), *An Illustrated History of Canada's Native People* (4th edition 2016). For over twenty-five years he also served as an expert witness in First Nations land and treaty rights cases and Métis rights litigation, including the landmark cases of *Horseman v. the Regina* (1990), (treaty rights), *Delgamuukw v. British Columbia*, (1997) (aboriginal title), and *Regina v. Powley* (2003) (Métis rights).

Photo: Michelle Blackwell



Litigation and negotiation work together to advance Aboriginal rights, says professor

Written by Daniel Drolet

As a historian specializing in Aboriginal rights and history, Arthur J. Ray has often been called as an expert witness in court proceedings involving Aboriginal land claims.

After decades of research, and many appearances in court, Ray found himself wondering whether the adversarial legal arena was the best forum for settling Aboriginal rights issues. Wouldn't it be better to negotiate these things instead?

In a new book that examines how native peoples' rights are handled in five countries, Ray concludes that there's no single, direct path to Aboriginal rights. What seems to work best, he says, is a mix of litigation and negotiation – tempered by an awareness on the part of everyone concerned that different groups can have very different perspectives on the same event.

Ray's book, *Aboriginal Rights Claims and the Making and Remaking of History*, looks at how indigenous people's rights have been handled in Canada, the U.S., New Zealand, Australia and South Africa. The book has won the 2017 Canada Prize in the Humanities and Social Sciences awarded by the Federation.

Ray says that each of the five countries he examined has wrestled with the litigation/negotiation question. Litigation, which is adversarial in nature, is not well suited to dealing with historical issues, he says. On the other hand, negotiation doesn't always work.

"What comes out of it all is that you have to have both litigation and negotiation," he says. "One depends on the other. If you set up a commission or tribunal, in some ways it's the ongoing litigation that keeps pushing the settlement process forward."

Ray says this is true in all the countries he studied. "No country has been able to do one or the other; they have to do both." He adds that case law and academic research actually evolve in tandem in what he calls a "circular cumulative process." Each builds on the work of the other.

Ray says one of the big issues for either the courts or tribunals is perspective. Each group involved needs to be aware that others don't necessarily see things the same way they do. Native perspective is based on oral history and traditions, he says. Academic perspective (and European legal traditions) are based on documentary records.

"The perspectives sometimes clash," he notes. "And one of the difficulties courts or commissions face is how to evaluate those different perspectives."

For example, he says that to accommodate native perspectives, the courts have sometimes had to bend the rule that says hearsay evidence is inadmissible.

And he says there is no one perfect forum for accommodating varying perspectives. Whether it's the courts, a tribunal or a commission, each has advantages and shortcomings. Aboriginal rights claims, he says, "challenge what are standard understandings of colonial history, because we have to consider from the Native perspective what the newcomers did."

“The good thing about Canada is that while at the beginning of the claims process the native perspective was dismissed out of hand, that’s not the case anymore. “That is a legacy of the claims process. The Canadian courts have moved the ball forward quite a lot.”



Prix du Canada en sciences humaines et sociales

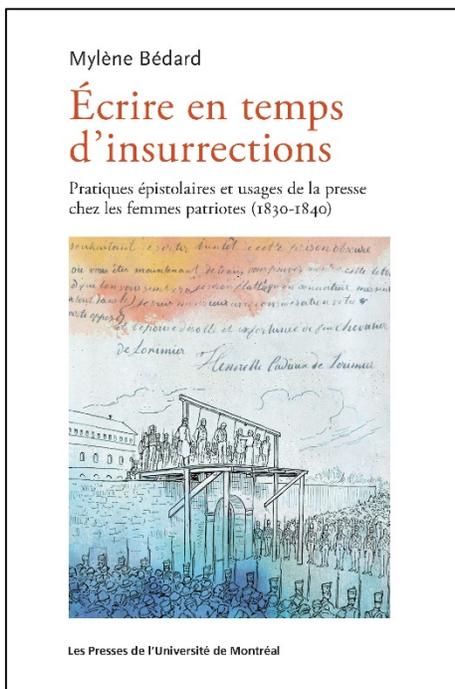


Mylène Bédard

Écrire en temps d'insurrections : Pratiques épistolaires et usages de la presse chez les femmes patriotes (1830-1840)

Presses de l'Université de Montréal

Jury's citation:



*Written in a highly accessible style, *Écrire en temps d'insurrections* examines the epistolary practices of patriot women in Lower Canada between 1830 and 1840. Mylène Bédard's fascinating analysis of previously untapped sources recognizes the role of women during a turbulent period in Canadian history. The new insights recast the official historical narrative, which mainly centres around male figures in the patriot and reform movement. This engaging, well-researched book will appeal not only to specialists, but to Canadian history buffs of all stripes.*

Mylène Bédard is an assistant professor at the Department of Literature, Theatre and Cinema of Laval University. She is a member of CRILCQ (Interuniversity Research Centre for Quebec Literature and Culture) and of the "Literary Life in Quebec" team. She collaborated with Marie-Andrée Beaudet on a collective work titled *Relire le XIXe siècle québécois à travers ses discours épistolaires*, recently published by Les éditions Nota bene. In 2016, a reworked version of her doctoral thesis was published by Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal under the title *Écrire en temps d'insurrections : pratiques épistolaires et usages de la presse chez les femmes patriotes (1830-1840)*. Her work in Quebec literary and cultural history focusses on the literary practices of women, including their personal writings as well as published material.



Letters show women were politically engaged during the 1837-38 rebellions

Written by Daniel Drolet

In the 19th century, there was a sharp distinction between home life – a private domestic world that was essentially feminine – and the public life of business and politics, which was dominated by men.

In a new book, Mylène Bédard of Laval University demonstrates that the boundary between the two worlds was more permeable than it had been believed, particularly for women. By analyzing letters written by some of the women in the lives of the “Patriotes” – the leaders of the 1837-38 rebellions in Quebec – Bédard shows how these women were involved in the political world from which, officially, they were excluded.

Bédard’s book, *Écrire en temps d’insurrections : Pratiques épistolaires et usages de la presse chez les femmes patriotes (1830-1840)* (Writing during the insurrection : Letter-writing and newspaper use among Patriote women (1830-1840)) is the winner of a 2017 Canada Prize awarded by the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Bédard says she chose the topic because she wanted to explore what she calls a blind spot in Quebec’s history – the contribution of women to the rebellions.

Many historians, she says, say the women of that time left little in the way of written records. But after a painstaking search through archives – and she invites other historians to go back to original sources – Bédard was able to unearth some 300 letters from five women with links to prominent Patriotes: Julie Bruneau-Papineau (wife of Patriote leader Louis-Joseph Papineau); Rosalie Papineau-Dessaules; Marguerite and Reine-Marie Harnois; and Marguerite Lacorne-Viger.

Her book presents an analysis of those letters. It shows that in addition to having political awareness, these women exerted influence, either to support a husband or to make demands of public authorities. The women of the time formed their opinions by reading newspapers. “The press was for them a springboard to political ideas,” explains Bédard.

And the opinions they formed were expressed in their letters, which were often written just after they had finished reading the morning papers. “It’s kind of like today, when you see something on Facebook and then you comment on it,” explains Bédard.

Julie Bruneau-Papineau, for example, wrote to her husband after reading that he had recently taken a stand on a burning issue of the day. She chastised him for not having talked to her about it, explaining that people in the town were asking her for information on the topic – information she was embarrassed to be unable to provide.

Politics is not the sole topic of the letter. The women also wrote of the children and the ups and downs of domestic life. But Bédard says she is struck by how these women wanted to broaden their world. “There was a desire to not remain silently within the private, domestic world.” she says. “There was a desire to not be excluded from the political arena.”

In fact, she says, the women were on the boundary between two worlds. They entertained each other with elegant dinners, while at the same time talking revolution.



“What fascinates me is that they kept one foot inside what was seen as acceptable for women, while taking advantage of the opportunity offered to them to expand the concept of feminine behaviour.”





PRIX DU
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PRIZES

What are the Canada Prizes? The Canada Prizes are a prestigious national book prize, awarded each year to two books by Canadian scholars that contribute groundbreaking insights on the human condition.

What's special about them? The Canada Prizes are distinctive because they focus on books by academic scholars working in the humanities and social sciences. National in scope, and recognizing books in both official languages, they enjoy similar prestige in academic circles as other major non-fiction book awards, such as the Governor General's Literary Awards, the RBC Taylor Prize, the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Non-Fiction, the Donner Prize and the Prix Victor-Barbeau.

Who awards them? The Canada Prizes are awarded by the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. This not-for-profit organization promotes research, learning and an understanding of the contributions made by the humanities and the social sciences towards a free and democratic society. Established in 1940, with a membership now comprising 160+ universities, colleges and scholarly associations, the Federation represents a diverse community of 91,000 researchers and graduate students across Canada.

What books are eligible? All eligible books have received funding from the Federation's Awards to Scholarly Publications Program (ASPP), which provides financial support for the publication and translation of books of advanced scholarship in the humanities and social sciences that make an important contribution to knowledge. The ASPP was established in 1941 by a group of Canadian scholars, among them noted public intellectuals Harold Adams Innis and Northrop Frye, who wanted to support the dissemination of the unique scholarship being produced in Canada. Since then, the ASPP has funded the publication and translation of more than 7,000 books—the winners of the Canada Prizes represent the very best of these books.

What are the award criteria? The winning books make an exceptional contribution to scholarship, are engagingly written, and enrich the social, cultural and intellectual life of Canada.

How many prizes are awarded? Every year, two prizes of \$5,000 are awarded:

- Canada Prize in the Humanities and Social Sciences
- Prix du Canada en sciences humaines et sociales



Michael Adams, President of Environics, delivering the 2014 keynote address.



Who are the jurors? The Canada Prizes are adjudicated each year by a panel of distinguished scholars and public intellectuals. Recent jurors include:

- Michael Adams
- Lise Bissonnette
- Denise Bombardier
- Gérard Bouchard
- Charlotte Gray
- Janice Gross Stein
- Steven Guilbeault
- Joseph Heath
- Catherine Mavrikakis



Sandra Djwa, winner of the 2014 Canada Prize in the Humanities and recipient of the 2014 Governor General's Literary Award for English Non-Fiction.

When will the next prizes be awarded? The finalists for the 2017 Canada Prizes were announced on **Monday, March 6, 2017**. The winners will be announced on **Monday, April 10, 2017**. The 2017 Canada Prizes winners will be honored during a special event at the 2017 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

A complete list of past winners is available here:
www.ideas-idees.ca/events/canada-prizes/archives

For more information about the Canada Prizes:
www.ideas-idees.ca/events/canada-prizes

For more information about the ASPP:
www.ideas-idees.ca/aspp

