



**Online Workshop
Canadian Coastal Histories
November 19–20, 2021**

Dialogues about Canadian coastal cultures, coastal places, and global oceanic connections have taken on a new tenor in a time of climate crisis that will dramatically and disproportionately reshape the future of such places. Growing international interest in coasts from a range of disciplines suggests a productive framework for rethinking histories from the land and tidewaters currently known as Canada, the country with the world's longest coastline.

Hosted remotely by the Gorsebrook Research Institute at Saint Mary's University, and co-sponsored by the Wilson Institute for Canadian History at McMaster University, this workshop will explore histories from the saline shores of this vast ocean-bound territory. Coasts are generative transitional spaces, sites of encounter in a constant state of change. The coast is a place where distinctive cultural and political formations emerge and an ideal setting for historical storytelling with contemporary relevance.

Unique Indigenous and settler cultures have been shaped in intimate relation with particular coastal environments and ecologies. The multi-racial and international social arrangements of urban waterfronts and rural resource ports have engendered distinctive political configurations. Dramatic weather and climate patterns have shaped coastlines and human fortunes alike, just as humans have reshaped coasts through industry, agriculture, fisheries, and leisure. Canadian ports have staged episodes of international law and family narratives in the history of global migrations. Ambiguous, fluid borders have long made coastal regions the objects of international diplomacy. Sea-level rise, melting ice, and coastal erosion are transforming the future of coastal communities, while also threatening irreplaceable sites of cultural heritage. All along the coast, the North Atlantic, North Pacific, and Arctic oceans have seeped into all aspects of Canadian history.

The event will include two public keynote presentations, streamed live online and open to all.
Public Keynote Lecture: Renisa Mawani (Professor of Sociology, University of British Columbia)
"Connecting Coastal Histories through Imperial Violence: The Ingress into India Ordinance, 1914-1922"

Public Keynote Roundtable: Zoe S. Todd (Associate Professor of Sociology, Carleton; Founder of the Institute for Freshwater Fish Futures) will chair a keynote roundtable on Indigenous coastal fish relations. The speakers will be Jennifer Brown (Haida, Ketchikan Alaska; University of Pennsylvania), Aliqa Illauq (Inuk, Kangiqtugaapik; Carleton), and Oscar Baker III (Black and Mi'gmaq journalist from Elsipogtog FN).

Participants for the workshop sessions will include scholars working in history, archaeology, geography, art history, Indigenous studies, sociology, the heritage sector, and from other perspectives on the past. We anticipate engagements with Canadian ocean coasts from any time period that are either explorations of particular situated environments or events, studies of cultural representations, or which make broader regional or transnational connections.

Full paper drafts will be pre-circulated ahead of the November workshop. After the workshop, presenters will be invited to submit papers to an edited collection for the consideration of the editors of the L.R. Wilson Rethinking Canada in the World Series with McGill-Queen's University Press.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with workshop convener Dr. Sara Spike at saraspike@gmail.com.