

**CPI Welcomes the Fall 2018 Special Issue: “Spirit and Heart” with  
Guest Editors Alesha Moffat, Tiffany Prete, Celia Haig-Brown and Cecille DePass**

“Stories are wondrous things. And they are dangerous.” (King, T., 2003, p. 9)

Inspired by the Indigenous participants’ presentations at the Comparative and International Education Society of Canada’s (CIESC’s) Preconference, held at the University of Calgary, in Spring 2016; influenced by the reading of some of Chief Dan George’s poetry at the Preconference, hence the Special Issue’s title, and as importantly, by drawing intensively and extensively, on First Nations and Indigenous peoples lived experiences within Canadian and international educational institutions, this Special Issue is a remarkable tour du force, for many reasons.

For the first time, a CPI publication includes contributions by academics from several former British colonies. Accordingly, members of the former global empire, not only write, but paint, sing and speak back to the centre (Ashcroft et al., 2001). The group of academics, poets, and artists whose submissions have been carefully solicited, screened, reviewed, revised and finally, selected for inclusion in the issue, grapple in multiple ways with the major historical and contemporary impacts of colonization on Indigenous peoples in Canada, Australia, and Aotearoa (New Zealand). As importantly, a few of the academics in Canada, include discussions of Chief Justice Murray Sinclair’s, Commission on Truth and Reconciliation (2015). The Sinclair Report to the federal government, documents the experiences of residential school survivors. It issues clarion calls for structural and systemic actions which redress the long term effects of the residential schools on: the incarcerated students, their nuclear and extended families, their descendants and communities.

Secondly, the Special Issue is intergenerational. It acknowledges, respects and honours cultural influences. The works of the two Elders, as well as, contributions by the emerging and established Indigenous scholars, are bathed within warm, bright, positive spotlights, of living cultures. To this end, the issue presents neither curiosity quests, nor museum, nor exotic approaches to teaching and learning cultural traditions. Even further, the contributions demonstrate fully, that Indigenous peoples and cultures are alive and are often, flourishing.

Thirdly, with some exceptions, many of the contributions in this Special Issue have been conceptualized, researched, and written, as collaborative processes in which research is a vital form of resistance (Brown and Strega, 2005). All contributors indicate in different ways that their worldviews, ways of living and being are located (explicitly or implicitly), within their respective, cultural communities.

Fourthly, in this Special Issue, insiders’ perspectives and life worlds are brought to bear, in the discussions, dialogues and critiques of the legal policies, practices and procedures developed and implemented by the states’ gatekeepers which have had and continue to have pervasive, negative impacts on Indigenous peoples. The contributions indicate that in each country, enduring legacies of colonization have far reaching impacts on Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples. The contributors’ voices speak passionately to issues to which CPI readers are likely to respond in visceral ways. Further, some contributions showcase a series of case studies which illustrate

ways in which academics with close links to their Indigenous communities, work unstintingly, to transform their respective Eurocentric universities and schools. In doing so, they influence the lives of future generations of graduate and undergraduate students.

Fifthly, the contributions disrupt taken-for-granted, conventional discourses. They interrupt deliberately, the real and imagined perspectives and notions regarding Indigenous communities. To do so, the articles, poetry, and artwork paint vivid, thought provoking pictures of cultural resistance and resilience. As a whole, the issue illustrates Indigenous people's determination to survive, to dare to dream and to thrive, despite the harsh realities of lived experiences.

Finally, this Special Issue, the second for 2018, is a fitting way for CPI to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## **References**

Ashcroft, B., Griffiths, G., and Tiffin, H. (2001/1991). *The Empire Writes Back: Theory and practice in post-colonial literatures*. London and New York: Routledge.

Brown, L. and Strega, S. (2005). *Research as Resistance: Critical, Indigenous and Anti-oppressive approaches*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press.

King, T. (2003). *The Truth about Stories: A Native Narrative*. Toronto: House of Anansi Press.

## **Future CPI publications include the following:**

**In Winter 2019** (Vol. 11, No. 1), **Cecille DePass, Faye Lumsden, Eleanor Jones and Beverley Phillips'** eBook, the first in the CPI Legacy Series, will be published. (See further highlights below).

**In Summer 2019** (Vol. 11, No. 2), **Paul Crutcher**, invited Guest Editor, will produce a Special Issue which explores contentious issues such as, politics in education and political correctness in contemporary education. As importantly, Crutcher's CPI issue will analyze attempts to censure and control the curricula and literature used in formal education. See Call for Submissions in this issue.

**In Fall 2019** (Vol. 11, No. 3), **Carol Campbell**, invited Guest Editor, will produce a Special Issue which illustrates new directions of the arts in the Caribbean region. The proposed issue will "throw into sharp focus the [key roles of] tertiary/post-secondary educational institutions...and highlight [their] global impacts and diasporic influences". See Call for Submissions in this issue.

**In Summer 2020** (Vol. 12, No. 1), **Cecille DePass, Enid Lee, Sonia Aujla-Bhullar, Alleson Mason** will produce a Special Issue, inspired by Maya Angelou's poem: "I know why the caged bird sings". The issue will highlight historical and contemporary, institutional, familial and individual strategies of resistance, resilience, survival and growth adopted by immigrants/visible minorities in the diaspora. See Call for Submissions in this issue.

**In Fall 2020** (Vol. 12, No. 2), strong interest has been expressed to develop a special international issue which concentrates on international migrations and the resultant impacts on the receiving and home countries. At present, two senior researchers from the Caribbean have indicated willingness to be involved. CPI plans to create an international team of academics, to conceptualize and produce this issue.

**In Summer or Fall 2021 or 2022**, a team of Indigenous academics from the University of Alberta, plan to co-create, an international Special Issue. The intent is to follow up and develop further, some of the central themes in the Fall 2018 issue.

CPI welcomes proposals (which fall within the overarching themes) to contribute to any of the Special Issues identified. Current CPI Editorial Board members who wish to develop future CPI issues, or to take more active roles in the journal are invited to write Cecille DePass, [depassc@ezpost.com](mailto:depassc@ezpost.com).

### **CPI's Book Review Editor:**

In this issue, Kathleen Sitter, Book Review Editor and Editorial Board member, presents three book reviews prepared by the CPI Book Review Committee. For the 2019 Summer issue, Sitter and her team plan to include recent publications by Indigenous researchers at home and abroad. Any Indigenous scholars who wish to be involved, please contact Dr. Kathleen Sitter. Further, if any CPI readers or Board members, wish to review books for CPI, please see the Call for Reviewers, published in the Fall 2017 issue, and submit the completed application to Dr. Kathy Sitter, [ksitter@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ksitter@ucalgary.ca).

### **Arrivals and Departures**

#### **Arrivals:**

Davina Rousell's Dissertation (2018), a case study, explores some Nehiyaw/Cree students' lived experiences with key learnings in a community school program. The Photography class incorporates the Elders teachings regarding pre and post contact histories (including residential schools), with students' photography. The program offers more positive and accurate knowledge concerning Nehiyaw/Cree identity and culture. Such knowledge mediates the dominant racist media narratives concerning Cree people.

CPI launches **the Legacy Series: The Poetics of UWI, Geography: Tributes and Memories, Volume 1**, by Cecille DePass, Faye Lumsden, Eleanor Jones and Beverley Phillips. All proceeds generated from readers' generous donations will be used to establish a trust fund, administered by the University of the West Indies (UWI). The trust fund will provide a bursary for a Geography student who has excelled academically, but due to circumstances beyond her/his control, might be forced to withdraw from the UWI, prior to completing a Bachelor's Degree. Interested CPI readers, please contact Cecille DePass: [depassc@ezpost.com](mailto:depassc@ezpost.com).

## **Departures:**

CPI acknowledges the passing and remembers the legacies of the following exceptional individuals who have contributed in so many ways, to our lives:

**Kofi Atta Annan**, a Ghanaian Diplomat, was the well known UN Secretary General (1997-2006), and a Nobel Peace Prize co-recipient with the UN (2001). Annan is remembered for his: astute analyses of international development issues, integrity, erudition, diplomatic skills and as importantly, tireless work to create a more peaceful world.

**Aretha Franklin**, America's 'Queen of Soul', was a civil rights activist, singer, songwriter, pianist and actress. Her remarkable voice, her dynamic personality, and well known songs which live on, include: 'Say a little prayer for you', 'A natural woman', and 'Respect'.

**Arthur Mitchell**, was the co-founder of the first African American classical ballet company, the Dance Theatre of Harlem, USA. His company toured extensively across the USA and internationally, giving performances in schools, colleges, universities and at dance festivals. He will be remembered for breaking deliberately and repeatedly (established and accepted), Eurocentric notions that African Americans, indeed, all people of African descent, were unable, to become classical ballet dancers and performers.

Perhaps, it is best to close this issue, with some of Kofi Annan's apt words: "To live is to choose. But to choose well, you must know who you are and what you stand for; where you want to go and why you want to get there."

(Sources for the above information: Google).

Best wishes for the northern hemisphere winter and the southern hemisphere summer.

Cecille DePass and Ali A. Abdi  
CPI Editors and Founders