

Landscapes of Injustice

Research News and Project Updates

Spring 2018



Message from Project Director

Dr. Jordan Stanger-Ross

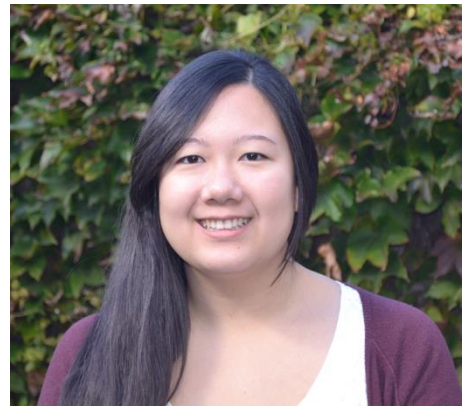


It has been a spring of accomplishment for *Landscapes of Injustice*! To put first the matter of greatest significance, our project passed, with much acclaim, its mid-term review by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. An expert committee convened to assess the progress of partnership projects described ours as “inspired” and our results as “substantial, relevant, and diverse.” The committee noted especially our “exceptional number of communications,” publications of “significant influence” and “exceptional quality,” and the “impressive number of young researchers” trained. Congratulations and thanks to the entire Research Collective!

Meanwhile, our students and postdoctoral fellows have been making waves. For her outstanding work to encourage undergraduate research in the *LOI* archives, Research Coordinator Kaitlin Findlay was awarded the University of Victoria’s Andy Farquharson Teaching Excellence Award (see page 9). Postdoc Yasmin Railton (see page 9), whose work supports the development of our museum exhibit, is the recipient of a Mitacs Elevate Award, which will provide her with postdoctoral fellowship funding for a 2-year period. Congratulations RAs!

Our academic scholarship has also been amassing acclaim. The *Osgoode Hall Law Journal* article, “[Promises of Law](#),” which I had the pleasure of writing with legal history cluster chair Eric Adams, was awarded two separate prizes by the Canadian Historical Association, having been recognized as

the best article in political history as well as the best article on the history of ethnicity, migration, and transnationalism in Canada. Our book [Witness to Loss](#) was shortlisted for the \$10,000 Wilson Institute Prize and, we’ve been recently informed, has sold-out its first print run. McGill-Queens press has sent it back to the printers for more copies! Congratulations to all of us. Let’s keep up this “inspired”, “exceptional”, and “impressive” work.



Landscapes of Injustice congratulates Kara Isozaki on receiving the NAJC/LOI Hide Hyodo-Shimizu Research Scholarship funded by the National Association of Japanese Canadians and Landscapes of Injustice, valued at \$10,000. We are thrilled to welcome her to the project.

Can you tell us about yourself and your academic background?

I am a fourth-generation Japanese Canadian on both sides of my family. I was born and raised in Toronto, which is where my grandparents settled after WWII. I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto in East Asian Studies and archaeology. I graduated this June from the Master of Museum Studies program and the Master of Information program in the archives and records management concentration from the University of Toronto.

How did you hear about the project and the research fellowship?

I first heard about the project while volunteering at the Moriyama Nikkei Heritage Centre (MNHC) at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC). This past February, a board member of the Greater Toronto Chapter of the NAJC told me about the research fellowship. I immediately contacted Mr. Abe and was delighted to learn that I was eligible to apply.

In addition to your studies, what work experience do you feel you will bring to the project's dissemination goals in Phase 2?

Through my work at the JCCC, I am very familiar with different aspects of Japanese Canadian history and the types of materials that have been collected to preserve and tell this history. At the MNHC, I catalogued hundreds of archival materials and artefacts, such as photographs of Hastings Park and Japanese dance costumes. With the SEDAI Project, I helped the Manager develop a way to regulate the vocabulary used to create metadata tags for interviews. I produced tags for over 50 hours of video with interviewees who generously shared their stories about the war years and life before and after them.

I have experience producing interpretive materials that contextualize archival records, artefacts, and deliverables developed from research data sets. In terms of online content, I created an exhibition for the Royal Ontario Museum about Toronto archaeology as well as one for a University of Toronto research program featuring student projects.

I understand that you are also deeply involved in the Japanese Canadian community. Can you elaborate on this, perhaps highlighting some of the special initiatives you have undertaken?

I have more than ten years' experience volunteering and working in the community, especially with the JCCC. One of the most memorable experiences was assisting with the installation of 'A Call for Justice – Fighting for Japanese Canadian Redress,' which was a travelling exhibition from the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre. Members of my family were involved in Redress, including my grandparents who went to Ottawa, so it was wonderful to help convey this part of the community's history.

How might you imagine combining your academic studies with your work experience and community service as you embark on your work with the project?

I am excited to apply the theoretical and practical knowledge I have gained from my archives and museum courses, particularly regarding usability, privacy, and collections management of digital repositories. I look forward to using this knowledge and my critical thinking skills to help the Digital Archival Cluster facilitate access to and promote content with which I already have professional and personal connections.

Do you have any advice to other Japanese-Canadian youth to help them identify with their heritage?

I would encourage them to get involved with their local Japanese-Canadian groups. By working alongside the JCCC staff and volunteers, I learned about many of the shared and individual experiences that make up my community and family heritage.

New Community Council Members

We are pleased to introduce our two new Community Council members; Norm Ibuki and Jennifer Hashimoto.

Norm Masaji Ibuki is an elementary school teacher in Brampton, ON and has written for a variety of Nikkei publications over the past 2 decades including the Nikkei Voice (Toronto), Northwest Nikkei (Seattle) and now, primarily, the Discover Nikkei website. Before WW2, his Dad's family lived on a 10-acre farm in Strawberry Hill, BC. His Mom's (nee Hayashida) family is from Steveston. Norm was born in Toronto. He attended Ryerson (Journalism) and Trent for teacher's college. He has lived on Bowen Island, Lemon Creek and South Slokan, BC. He worked as a journalist before changing careers. He taught and lived in Sendai and Ibogun, Japan for nine years and calls Oakville home now. He is particularly excited about being a member of the Community Council and looks forward to answering his father's question "Whatever the hell happened to our farm"



Jennifer Hashimoto is a Winnipeg sansei who has lived and worked in Toronto as an editor and researcher for a legal publisher for over 30 years. Her parents' families were sent to Manitoba to work in the sugar beet fields during WWII. Jennifer was active in the redress movement in the 1980s and in the Japanese-Canadian (JC) community, serving on the board of directors of the Greater Toronto chapter of the NAJC in the 1980s and as Toronto NAJC president in the 1990s. Jennifer is also a former managing editor of Nikkei Voice, a national JC monthly newspaper. She started Nikkei Books, a community-based book business, in 1999, to promote JC history and JC writers, poets and artists. Jennifer would like to promote knowledge of the WWII JC uprooting among younger Japanese Canadians. She strongly supports the creation of resources to assist educators teaching a segment on the JC experience during WWII and hopes that these resources will link to other injustices and stories of dislocation — past and present — in other communities.

2018 Spring Institute

Sydney Fuhrman

At the end of April the entire research collective was hosted at the University of Victoria for our annual Spring Institute. The Spring Institute is the one time a year the entire research collective gets together. It's an excellent reminder of how much work goes into this project, and how many people work on the various aspects of this important endeavour. The weekend started with the RA intensive, where the new and returning research assistants met to discuss the project and their roles. The Community Council joined them in the evening for introductions and discussion.

The Spring Institute began the next day with the entire research collective engaging in meetings, discussions and listening to presentations about the project; what we have done and what the future looks like as we head into Phase Two. One particularly engaging event was the exhibit design jam led by the Museum Exhibit design cluster. The collective separated into groups based on their Phase One clusters and each picked on object that they felt it was important to include in the exhibit. The day ended with a fun dinner at our project director's house.

Day Two of the institute started with "Reflections on Redress" a public talk by Art Miki as he was interviewed by Audrey Kobayashi. The full video of the talk is available here: <https://bit.ly/2tbF4dT>

The day continued with more meetings and discussion, then after a boxed lunch the research collective went on a "Colonial Realities" bus tour led by Cheryl Bryce, the Director of Land Management, Songhees Nation. The day ended with a final talk about colonialism led by Laura Madokoro.

The last day of the institute was led by the Digital Archives and Narrative Website clusters. The weekend was an engaging and dynamic event full of academic discussion, but also socializing across the clusters.



Art Miki and Audrey Kobayashi



RAs Nicole Yakashiro, Lindsey Jacobson, Kaitlin Findlay and Trevor Wideman



Spring Institute meetings



Pam Sugiman



Colonial Realities Tour with Cheryl Bryce



NAJC president, David Mitsui and Research Assistants (RAs)



Museum Exhibit co-chair Leah Best



Cluster co-chair reps Jordan Stanger-Ross, Lisa Uyeda, Mike Perry-Whittingham, Sherri Kajiwara



Community Council (L-R) Front: Vivian Rynestad (chair), Tosh Kitagawa, Mary Kitagawa, Art Miki
 Back: Norm Ibuki, Sally Ito, Eiko Eby, Jennifer Hashimoto, Susanne Tabata

All photos courtesy of Tosh Kitagawa

RECENT EVENTS

Moshi Moshi - Edmonton Japanese Canadian Association newsletter

March-April 2018 issue

By Daiyo Sawada

On a snowy Saturday morning in early March, a special presentation took place at the EJCA Centre: An eye-opening/mind-opening glimpse into the “Landscapes of Injustice” that framed and colored the politics, policies and legal actions taken by the Federal Government and its agents during the forcible uprooting and disposal of Japanese Canadians living on or near the Pacific waters of Canada. Looking back on these events, approximately 25 Edmontonians, mostly EJCA members, were treated to an insider’s view of a multi-million dollar research project funded by SSHRCC (Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada) inquiring into, documenting and revealing the many (50?) shades of injustice impregnating the policies and actions undertaken by officials and friends of the Government of Canada both during and after WW-II.

Attendees were treated to a succinct overview of the project by Project Manager Michael Abe including ongoing plans and procedures to collect, archive and make available the rich documentation they have collected, much of it uncovered/discovered for the first time. With such a plethora of rich sources and resources to draw upon, the opportunity and challenge for the project is to develop programs that have the potential to curtail the many motives that seemingly led to the many injustices that plagued the Japanese community living on or near the Pacific coast. One such program described by Mr. Abe stood out for me –the development of new social studies curricula for elementary schools. Students would not just “learn **about**” what happened during this period but would “**live it**” in a “**hands-on**” enactment of ***Powell Street in the classroom***. Participating as residents of the Powell Street community, the impact of “living and breathing” on Powell Street, feeling the pain and exasperation of being treated in some instances literally as cattle, just might viscerally kindle in the “hearts, minds and guts” of young Canadians that “**this is not fair!**” ***Why is it happening? Who is doing this?*** Perhaps such experiences ***brought to life*** in the classroom might lead to a new generation of Canadians imbued with well-formed hearts and minds with the will to “**do the right thing**”. In addition to the Powell Street simulation, the project also provides Canadians of all ages and circumstances with rich opportunities to learn from the experiences of injustice suffered by our “forefathers/mothers” by making available detailed historical documentation in many accessible forms and settings. A good place to get started is with the project website: **www.landscapesofinjustice.com**.

Later in the morning, legal scholar Eric M. Adams, a law professor and legal historian at the University of Alberta, treated the audience to a carefully nuanced account revealing “how the Government of Canada employed the law to activate and authorize racist policy” thus rendering victims of such policy impotent to receive justice in Canadian courts despite competent legal representation. A consideration of the fate of Japanese Americans in similar wartime circumstances reveals historically that justice in Canada under Canadian Law and Canadian Government policy didn’t always come out looking good in comparison. Even though decades later the Japanese Canadian Redress Settlement eventually led to long overdue changes in the Canadian Constitution, the strenuous and often disheartening path that proved necessary to overcome past injustices highlighted once again that justice seems never to arrive on its own – thus the importance of projects like “Landscapes of Injustice”. With events south of the border now returning again to a mode resembling the “Rule of the Jungle” the never ending mouthing of “our thoughts and prayers are with you” may be just one of too many proclamations preserving the ongoing “Landscape of Injustice” still plaguing Planet Earth.

After a heartfelt round of applause, the morning session was followed by a tasty bento luncheon that was almost but not quite as nourishing as the morning’s food for contemplation. And the conversations continued. . . .



Mike Abe presenting in Edmonton



Enjoying lunch after presentation Photos: Takashi Ohki

Calgary Japanese Canadian Association (CJCA) Newsletter Calgary June 2018 issue By Pat Jetté

March 4, 2018 - After 44 hours of non-stop snowfall we were glad to see that Mr. Michael Abe (Victoria) and Dr. Eric Adams (Edmonton) were able to make it safely to the Centre to present their Landscapes of Injustice project recap.

Michael is the Project Manager of this 7-year project which began in 2014. He is a Nikkei Sansei and is based at the University of Victoria. He has been involved in the Japanese Canadian community in Ontario and Victoria. He has been past-president of the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society, editor of the Victoria Nikkei Forum and involved with the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC).

Eric is a Law Professor at the University of Alberta, Faculty of Law. He is currently leading the legal historical research team of [Landscapes of Injustice](#), a large SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada) funded inter-disciplinary research project investigating the dispossession of Japanese Canadians during the Second World War. Eric outlined the aspects of the War Measures Act and a guided timeline of various Orders-In-Councils that were inflicted on the Japanese community. He showed court proceeding case files and samples of original "Letters of Loss" and discussed the impact of the dispossession of property loss.

Michael explained how the project was broken up into various clusters to study and develop teaching aids. This was accomplished by researching archival files, tracing historical sources, interviews, catalogued and digitizing documents. To further highlight what was achieved by the clusters, he prepared a mini-case study on 3 of our members. These family bios were participants of the CJCA's publication of "Okage Sama De". He was able to uncover a paper trail of unseen documents that their parents and grandparents were coping with.

"Knowledge Mobilization" is Phase 2 of this project. The plan is to communicate their findings via a travelling museum, educational curriculum and public database of the research material that was collected.



Eric Adams presenting in Calgary
Photos: Paul Jetté



Mike Abe, Roger Teshima, CJCA president and Eric Adams

IDEAFEST 2018

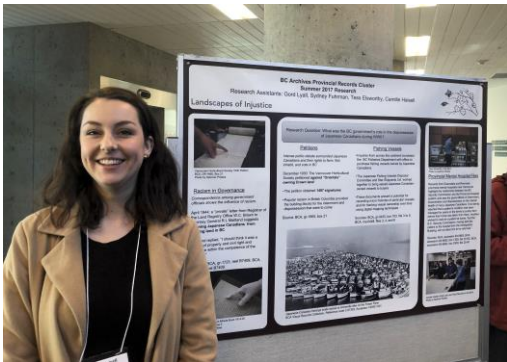
In March our project participated in the University of Victoria's week long research festival, Ideafest. On Saturday March 10th on the university's campus Dr. Stanger-Ross and several of the project's research assistants presented aspects of our project's research to the university community and the Victoria public in a pop-up museum exhibit.

Project Manager Mike Abe spoke first; he introduced the project and described how we are in the process of moving forward into our second phase. Mike also displayed a [short video](#); a sixty second display showing photos of Japanese Canadians being uprooted, the property taken from them, and the reports and letters our project has used research this history.

Dr. Stanger-Ross gave the main presentation; discussing the project, its goals and purpose as well as the public reaction he has received. He spoke to a full house and ended with an engaging question and answer period.

The pop-up museum exhibit included work from several RAs from the project. Camille Haisell, Sydney Fuhrman and Alissa Cartwright were there to present their work, however, the work of other RAs was also on display.

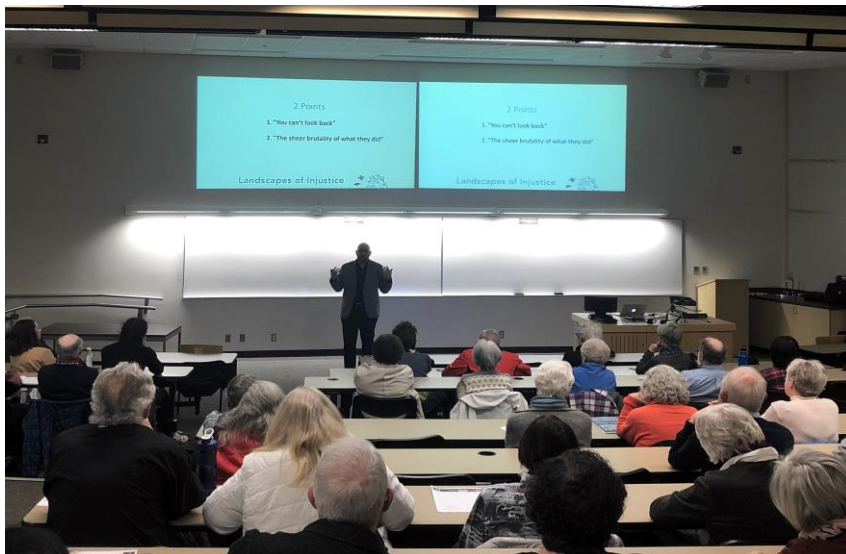
The event was exceptionally well received and was an engaging effort to let more people know what our project has been doing.



Provincial Records RA Camille Haisell



Former RA Alissa Cartwright



Project Director, Jordan Stanger-Ross

Photos: Dave Lang

Student News

Congratulations to Kaitlin Findlay for being recognized with the Andy Farquharson Teaching Excellence Award for Graduate Students at the University of Victoria

Kaitlin Findlay, MA History

Some teachers change lives. According to her students, Kaitlin Findlay should be counted among them. “Kaitlin’s support,” one student writes, “sent me on an academic trajectory that I hadn’t imagined possible” by conveying the “ability of academic pursuits to affect real and compelling changes in the world.” Independently developing and overseeing an assignment that enabled students to communicate cutting-edge research to public audiences, Findlay brought scholarship into the classroom and then back out onto the streets. See some of the [student work that she inspired](#).



The Ring, University of Victoria
April/May 2018

Yasmin Railton

Museum Exhibit cluster Postdoc Fellow

Landscapes of Injustice is pleased to introduce Dr. Yasmin Amaratunga Railton as the postdoctoral curatorial fellow in the museum exhibit cluster for Landscapes of Injustice. She holds an honours BA in Art History, an MA in Art Business, and a PhD in Contemporary Art/Conservation from the Courtauld Institute of Art, London, UK. She has over ten years' experience in major art institutions and auction houses in London, UK. She specialises in contemporary art with a focus on the conservation, new media, museum studies, and critical theory. Bridging art history, object-based studies, and conservation, her interdisciplinary research focuses on the ephemerality of contemporary art within the art market and public museums. She has lectured extensively internationally in English and French.



Video Links

Several people in our research collective have participated in lectures and public talks this year. They have spoken at universities and public spaces all around the west coast. A few of these talks have also been filmed so that people who were unable to attend the events themselves can watch as well.

In March, Landscapes of Injustice participated in University of Victoria's research festival; Ideafest. To watch Dr. Stanger-Ross's lecture <https://bit.ly/2JMZ1iv>

In January, Jordan Stanger-Ross and Masako Fukawa spoke at the Vancouver Maritime Museum about *Witness to Loss*. It was part of their lecture series in conjunction with the Lost Fleet exhibit displaying the history of the confiscated Japanese Canadian fishing vessels. To see the video <https://bit.ly/2Mm3SjB>

Also in January, Pamela Sugiman spoke at the Royal BC Museum. Her talk, Acts of Kindness and Complicity: The silence of bystanders and eyewitnesses to the dispossession and internment of Japanese Canadians, was a resounding success with almost ninety people in attendance. To see her talk <https://bit.ly/2JY8B5c>

Facebook

Like us on Facebook and stay updated on news and events on the project and in the Nikkei community

<https://www.facebook.com/Landscapes-of-Injustice>

and follow us on **Twitter**: www.twitter.com/LandscapesInjus

Touched By Dispossession

We would love to hear your stories. A section on the project website conveys stories that readers have submitted. These include firsthand account, stories from of JC neighbours as well as memories passed down through generations. The stories of people touched by the dispossession are an important resource that we hope to preserve.

<http://www.landscapesofinjustice.com/touched-by-dispossession/>