

# RESEARCH & INNOVATION CULTURE AND SOCIETY





A distinctly northern perspective,  
tempered by an understanding of  
globalization's influence.

# CREATING THE FUTURE NOW

In disciplines that range from anthropology to women's studies, from philosophy to history to education, Lakehead University researchers — including three Canada Research Chairs (CRCs) and three Lakehead University Research Chairs — offer innovative ways to understand, address, and analyze social issues and problems.

In the Faculty of Education, for example, research partner Dr. Lisa Korteweg is significantly influencing educational policy and practice through the Urban Aboriginal Education Project. Sociologist Dr. Gary Genosko, CRC in Technoculture, provides innovative ways to understand the complicated history of our relationship with technology, while historian and Women's Studies scholar Dr. Lori Chambers unearths largely invisible legal histories to broaden insights into the way society is structured today. Anthropologists Dr. Matthew Boyd and Dr. Scott Hamilton are making groundbreaking discoveries into the social organization of the ancient peoples of the Canadian North.

## WHEN INFORMATION and culture collide

What do computer hackers, phone "phreaks," Aboriginal legal history and Ontario's Liquor Control Board (LCBO) have in common?

For Dr. Gary Genosko, they are all examples of the ways in which technologies of surveillance are used to suppress certain individuals and populations. For example, in the recently released *Punched Drunk: Alcohol, Surveillance and the LCBO 1927-1975*, he and his former MA student Scott Thompson detail the liquor control board's excessive tracking of alcohol consumption in order to "control" drinking. In the process, notes Dr. Genosko, the LCBO helped to develop and foster persistent stereotypes around addiction, particularly for First Nations.

But Dr. Genosko, a sociology professor and Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Technoculture at Lakehead University, is as interested in resistance as he is in subjugation. Take a look, for example, at his pioneering study of "Mafiaboy" — a Montreal teen who hacked into Yahoo! and several other blue-chip companies' websites in 2000. It's just one of Genosko's many explorations of subcultures that insist on creatively thwarting the information systems that support but can also control everyday life. Whether he's researching the 1970s phone "phreakers," who hacked into telephone systems, or the folks who illegally infiltrate and explore "off-limits" urban sewer or utility systems, Dr. Genosko sees the ways in which the counterculture repeatedly forces the mainstream to reconsider the uses and abuses of information technology.

Dr. Genosko's research is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

Dr. Gary Genosko  
Department of Sociology,  
Canada Research Chair in Technoculture



# LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS IN CULTURE AND SOCIETY PROVIDE INNOVATIVE WAYS TO UNDERSTAND AND ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS OF HUMAN INTERACTION AND CULTURAL PRODUCTION

## — LAKEHEAD IS LEADING THE WAY



### CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE education

Dr. Lisa Korteweg, a professor in Lakehead University's Faculty of Education, is spearheading a project that addresses non-Aboriginal teachers' misperceptions of their Aboriginal students.

"Canadians have inherited the legacy of Indian residential schools," says Dr. Korteweg. "And we don't think about that. We like to think that we're neutral and that everything is great for every kid inside a school building. But, in fact, Aboriginal students feel that they have to deny their heritage to get through our current school system."

Building on their earlier research into the experiences of Aboriginal students, Dr. Korteweg with colleague Dr. Cynthia Nicol at the University of British Columbia, is working with a group of teachers in the urban school districts of Thunder Bay and Vancouver, which share increasing numbers of Aboriginal students. The initiative will track teachers' shifting understandings of their Aboriginal students perspectives, as well as their own embeddedness in a colonizing culture. It will also model educational strategies that aim to shift teachers' stance to one that responds to, respects, and includes Aboriginal systems of knowledge and culture — as a matter of course.

This project is funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

Dr. Lisa Korteweg  
Faculty of Education

### COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, global perspective

It's impossible to understand the issues facing today's forestry industry without taking a global approach. So say Drs. Ronald Harpelle and Michel Beaulieu, both professors in Lakehead's history department. Their joint project, "Northern Communities in a Changing World," seeks to arm people in remote, resource-based communities with the knowledge of how their lives and livelihoods are situated in the global economy, so that they can make more informed decisions about their futures.

"Today," says Dr. Beaulieu, "community resilience requires a global perspective." The interdisciplinary, international, trans-hemispheric, and multilingual project builds capacity for an international body of shared knowledge on the globalization of resource-based economies.

"In today's world," says Dr. Harpelle, "we can no longer pretend that we don't have competition. And in Northern Ontario, we can't argue that we are competitive unless we understand our competition."



This work is supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and the International Development Research Centre.

Dr. Michel Beaulieu  
Department of History, Centre for Northern Studies

Dr. Ronald Harpelle  
Department of History, Centre for Northern Studies

### (IL)LEGITIMATE history

Today, describing a child as "illegitimate" would seem like a throwback to a bygone era. But, argues Dr. Lori Chambers, the term is still remarkably powerful.

Ontario's court systems have struggled for generations with the issue of "legitimacy," says Dr. Chambers, a professor in Lakehead's Women's Studies department. She is studying the complicated legal history of illegitimate children and their families in Ontario from Confederation to the present day. Over the years, she notes, the issues have changed radically: from unwed mothers and their children fighting for any kind of support to heated debates over biological fathers' rights. In the end, however, she says, "what's at stake are the rights of children to the support and the care that they need, and the rights of women to define their families and their reproductive roles as they choose."

Dr. Chambers' study of — until now — a largely invisible historical population will contribute to our understandings of children's rights, reproductive freedoms, and just what constitutes a "legitimate" family. Her tenure as one of Lakehead University's first internal Research Chairs has allowed her to pursue

the project, which is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Hopefully, she says, it will also contribute to legal reform that acknowledges "the wide range of ways to define family life."

Dr. Lori Chambers  
Department of Women's Studies

### CURIOUS ABOUT Freud

*Killing Freud. Against Freud. The Late Sigmund Freud. Tales from the Freudian Crypt.* With a roster of book titles like this, it's tempting to imagine that Dr. Todd Dufresne, an internationally known critic of Freud and psychoanalysis, has some serious, well, issues with his research subject — perhaps the result of a childhood trauma at a particularly sensitive developmental phase?

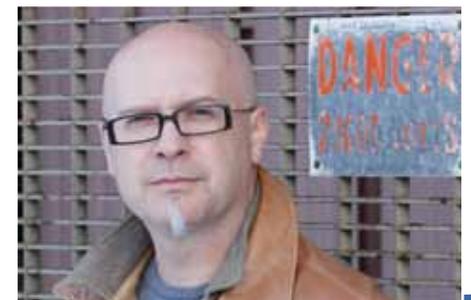
In fact, Dr. Dufresne, a professor in Lakehead's Department of philosophy, likes Freud just fine. His project is an argument for "nonpartisan, Critical Freud Studies." Rather than endowing psychoanalysis with a master key to understanding the universe, says Dr. Dufresne, he'd like to see Freud studied "the same way we study Plato or Descartes: not as a prophet or saviour, but as a powerful thinker with serious limitations — just like any other figure in social history."

Dr. Dufresne's latest book is an edited collection of essays created, in part, during his tenure as one of Lakehead University's first internal Research Chairs. In 2006, he was named one of Lakehead's 40 "Research Stars."

As one of the founding directors of Lakehead's Advanced Institute for Globalization & Culture (aig+c), Dr. Dufresne has helped to bring together a group of scholars, artists, urbanites, and other "curiosity-based" thinkers and researchers to collaborate across disciplines on the roles that culture plays as an inspiration, challenge, and economic stimulus.

Dr. Dufresne's research has been funded by Lakehead University and the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). The aig+c was also funded by SSHRC.

Dr. Todd Dufresne  
Department of Philosophy



## NEW UNDERSTANDINGS of ancient societies

What's for dinner?

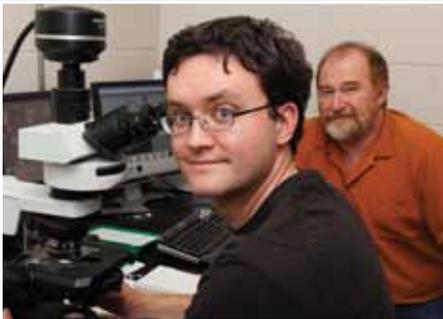
It's a question asked in millions of Canadian households each day, but, for anthropologists Matthew Boyd and Scott Hamilton, it's a key to understanding the lives of the people who lived in the Canadian North thousands of years ago.

Drs. Boyd and Hamilton, both professors in Lakehead's anthropology department, are making groundbreaking discoveries about the diets of Canada's ancient, subarctic peoples. By analyzing the carbonized food residues on shards of pottery dating back to between 600 and 2000 years ago, they've been able to extract microscopic plant remains that reveal much about what people were cooking.

The most surprising — and exciting — discovery so far has been the discovery of maize, or corn, on pottery dated to at least 1000 years before European contact.

"It blew us away," says Dr. Boyd. "Nobody has found evidence of people consuming corn this far north in North America, and this early."

The finding, says Dr. Hamilton, "will force fairly significant rethinking of the hunter-gatherer societies of the boreal forest." The research has been featured in the *Journal of Archaeological Science* and *American Antiquity*, as well as *Canadian Geographic* magazine.



Much of the project's analytical work is being done in Lakehead's Environmental Archaeology & Paleoecology Lab, a self-contained research facility developed in part through a Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) grant to Dr. Boyd. Lab technician Clarence Surette, a former graduate student of Dr. Boyd's, is a key member of the research team. The project is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

[Dr. Matthew Boyd](#)  
*Department of Anthropology*

[Dr. Scott Hamilton](#)  
*Department of Anthropology*

## LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY'S centres of excellence

### Advanced Institute for Globalization and Culture (aig+c)

The aig+c was founded to provide a platform for advanced research on any subject of relevance to our transnational reality, including the roles that culture plays as inspiration, challenge, and economic stimulus. Through aig+c, increased dialogue across disciplines will inspire exciting new research collaborations, and promote a distinctively urban appreciation of our unique place in the world. <http://theagency.lakeheadu.ca/>

### Centre for Northern Studies (CNS)

The Centre for Northern Studies is comprised of faculty from various disciplines and programs who are active researchers in the field of northern studies. The CNS has directly contributed through its speaker series, grants, and publications to the University's international reputation as one of the main centres for northern studies in Canada. <http://cns.lakeheadu.ca/>

### Centre for Tourism and Community Development Research (CTCDR)

The mission of the Lakehead University CTCDR is to promote balanced sustainable development in cooperation with communities and partners through involvement in interdisciplinary research, community education, and consultancy services. <http://ctcdr.lakeheadu.ca/mission/>

### Lakehead Social History Institute (LSHI)

The Lakehead Social History Institute is a partnership of historical researchers at Lakehead University and in the Thunder Bay community. The LSHI was created for the purpose of encouraging and promoting historical research in, and about, Northwestern Ontario. <http://lshi.lakeheadu.ca/>

### Paleo-DNA Laboratory

The Lakehead University Paleo-DNA Laboratory is a research laboratory affiliated with the Lakehead University Centre for Analytical Services (LUCAS) and is accredited in forensic human identification. The Laboratory has been a pioneer in the application of modern molecular genetic techniques and technologies to the study of archaeological, degraded and Paleo-DNA. <http://www.ancientdna.com/index.html>

## GRADUATE PROGRAMS in culture and society

### Faculty of Business Administration:

- MSc (Management)
- MBA (Business Administration)

### Faculty of Education:

- MEd (Educational Studies)
- PhD (Educational Studies)

### Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies

- MA (Economics)
- MES (Northern Environments and Cultures)

### Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

- MA (English)
- MA (History)
- MES (Nature-Based Recreation and Tourism)
- MA (Sociology)