

Call For Papers International Conference 2009

The École Polytechnique Massacre (“Montreal massacre”) Twenty Years On Male Violence Against Women and Feminists

Conference to be held in Montreal on December 4, 5 and 6, 2009 under the auspices of the Institut de recherches et d'études féministes (IREF) of the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM).

Organizers:

Mélissa Blais, professionnelle de recherche, IREF, UQAM

Francis Dupuis-Déri, professeur au Département de science politique et IREF, UQAM

Lyne Kurtzman, responsable du développement de la recherche, IREF, UQAM

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On December 6, 1989 at the École polytechnique de Montréal, a man murdered 14 women because they were women. He declared in a letter that he wanted “to send feminists back to their maker” because they had “always ruined [his] life.” The social shock wave touched off by this anti-feminist assault has given rise to debates over the meaning of the event. Interpretations have run the gamut from blaming the feminists to attributing the crime to the killer’s insanity or his difficult childhood. The analyses proposed by feminists have focussed on the importance of locating this tragedy, and the ensuing debates, within the social-historical framework of sex-gender relationships, especially violence against women and resistance to feminism.

As part of the 20th anniversary commemorations of the massacre, we are organizing an international and multi-disciplinary conference in order to assess how this tragedy has been understood in Quebec and other parts of the globe, to reflect on the collective memory of this event, and to discuss the issue of violence against women and feminists.

The conference will deal in particular with four major themes: (1) the collective memory of the École polytechnique massacre, (2) the effects of the event on the feminist movement, (3) violence against women and feminists, (4) the renewal of actions and practices aimed at eliminating violence against women.

The conference will provide an opportunity to take stock of the analytical and practical tools and the preventive measures that have been developed with a view to eradicating the phenomenon of violence against women. It will also be a forum for a collective investigation of the distinctive features of the different areas where male violence against

women is deployed: the public, domestic, and familial spheres, educational institutions, the work environment, and the media. The experiences specific to the First Nations and immigrant communities will also be examined.

Since we wish to promote a multi-disciplinary approach, we are soliciting papers from researchers in fields such as communications, ethics, history, philosophy, psychology, political science, sociology, and social work. Proposals from other disciplines will also be considered. We strongly encourage submissions from students as well as from feminists and community workers who are active on the ground.

Deadline: 15 February 2009

Maximum proposal length: 250 words (New Roman, 12 pts.)

Required information: The title of the paper, your name and institutional affiliation.

Required content of the proposal: (1) The subject of the paper (research focus), (2) the thesis being argued, (3) the analytical approach, (4) the method, and (5) the historical and geographical context, if applicable.

Contact information: Your email address, your mailing address, and your telephone number (including the country and area or city codes).

Languages: Proposals can be submitted in French or English.

Intended audience: Women's support workers and advocates, academics, feminist activists, public policy actors.

Send your proposals via email attachment in Word format to Méli^ssa Blais, blais.melissa@uqam.ca

For information on the Institut de recherches et d'études féministes (IREF) go to <http://www.iref.uqam.ca/>

This conference is organized in collaboration with the Centre de recherche en éthique de l'Université de Montréal (CRÉUM) <http://www.creum.umontreal.ca/>