

**EQUITY STUDIES  
STUDENT UNION**



**UNIVERSITY  
OF TORONTO**

2013-2014  
YEAR IN  
REVIEW

**GENDER**

**GLOBAL WOMEN**

**COMMUNITY**

**EQUITY**

**DISABILITY JUSTICE**

**QUEER**

**SEXUALITY**

**YOUTH**

**LOCAL**

**FOOD**

**INTERSECTIONALITY**  
**SOCIAL JUSTICE**  
**FREEDOM**

**DECOLONIZATION**

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**LINKED  
OPPRESSIONS**  
Nov. 4-7, 2013

Screening: Gun Hill Road  
November 4th 8:00pm  
November 5th 7:00pm  
November 6th 7:00pm  
November 7th 7:00pm

Workshop: Gun Hill Road  
November 4th 10:00am  
November 5th 10:00am  
November 6th 10:00am  
November 7th 10:00am

Panel: Gun Hill Road  
November 4th 12:00pm  
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Panel: Gun Hill Road  
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Panel: Gun Hill Road  
November 4th 8:00pm  
November 5th 8:00pm  
November 6th 8:00pm  
November 7th 8:00pm

**LINKED  
OPPRESSIONS**

**Birds, Bees and... Beef?**  
A talk on The Future of Local Food by YU Ranch's Bryan Olwey  
featuring local food served by U of T campus chefs

December 2nd, 2013  
40 Willcocks St. (at the bridge)  
Starts: 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. \$10 (free for U of T)  
Talk: 7:30 - 8:00 p.m. (free for all)

[www.ussu.toronto.ca](http://www.ussu.toronto.ca)

**FOOD EQUITY**

**CULTIVATING  
COMMUNITY**  
CRITICAL INSIGHTS, CHALLENGES  
AND VISIONS

Join the conversation with community panellists:  
Mark V. Campbell  
ARTS ACTIVITY DJ AND SCHOLAR  
Sylvia Plain  
GRASSROOTS ORGANIZER WITH FIRST NATIONS STUDENTS  
Amanda Munday  
SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGIST FOR  
SOCIALLY ACTIVE AND ARTS  
AND CULTURE CENTRE

NOVEMBER 1, 2013  
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

WILLIAM DOO  
AUDITORIUM  
45 WILCOCKS

**COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

Students for Barrier-Free Access and the Equity Study Students Union present  
**CHALLENGING ABLEISM:  
Creating a Culture of Accessibility**

**DISABILITY  
STUDIES**

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# WELCOMES YOU

A message by the incoming  
ESSU Co-presidents:  
Rosemary Costelloe & Andrea  
Sriskandarajah

The Equity Studies Students' Union (ESSU) is a student-run organization that supports individuals in the Equity Studies Program by offering resources and services to complement in-class education. We work to develop safe spaces in which people can openly express their experiences with discrimination. Our members work alongside department administration, the University of Toronto and the community at large to host extra-curricular activities, such as the annual "Decolonizing Our Minds" conference. We ensure that all of our events are free and wheelchair accessible with ASL interpreters and gender-neutral bathrooms.

Operating through an anti-oppressive framework that seeks to deconstruct the racist, sexist, ableist, homophobic and transphobic ideologies that are embedded in the structures of our everyday lives, ESSU reaches out to students within and outside of the Equity Studies program, to people engaged in equity work at the university and in the Toronto area. This year, we are looking forward to new collaborations with a number of University of Toronto organizations and groups and hope to continue our relationships with our professors, the Sexual Diversity Office, The Women and Gender Studies Institute, The Anti-Racism Office, The Women and Trans Centre and The University of Toronto Student Union (UTSU), among other campus groups.

Between September and April, we invite you to join us at our weekly meetings. We strive to create an inclusive and friendly space for students and executive members to come and discuss issues of social justice and plan ESSU events. If you would like to get involved with ESSU, please send us an email at [uoft.essu@gmail.com](mailto:uoft.essu@gmail.com). Our executives will also hold office hours throughout the year in Room 500-A at the New College Student Centre located at Wilson Hall, New College, 40 Willcocks St.

# DISCOVERING QUEER POLITICAL COMMUNITIES

On Tuesday September 24, 2013, as part of **Queer Orientation**, the Equity Studies Students' Union presented "Discovering Queer Political Communities." A diverse array of panelists talked about their experiences and involvement in the queer political scene in Toronto. Speakers discussed multiple ways of doing activism and community engagement, whether on the streets, in the academy, or behind the scenes.

Panelists included:

**Natalie Kouri-Towe**, UofT activist and PhD student whose work examines the politics of solidarity and the growing transnational queer movement of Palestine solidarity activism.

**Alan Sears**, Ryerson professor, writer and activist, who has written about queer activism, AIDS/HIV and radical movements. His most recent book is called "The Democratic Imagination," co-written with James Cairns.

**janaya khan**, community organizer and queer cyborg (model #5483172) manufactured in the diaspora, who believes in the transformative power of emergence, consent and community accountability.

# GLOBAL FOOD EQUITY

In October 2013, Equity Studies co-sponsored a series of events to celebrate and support **World Food Day**, which is observed every October 16 to increase awareness of global food issues and inspire solutions for world change.

## **Can Public Art Help Us Connect Food, Cities and Sustainability?**

A panel discussion featuring artists from the Land/Slide Possible Futures Exhibition was held on Wednesday October 2, 2013, at Wilson Hall, New College.

## **What would you announce in the Speech from the Throne?**

A national webinar on World Food Day calling on all politicians to make our food system more equitable, healthy, safe and sustainable was organized at OISE on Wednesday October 16, 2013.

## **Home is Where The Spoon Is**

As part of the World Food Week this event has brought the University community together for five years to share a delicious local and sustainably made meal and talk about their relationship with food. On Friday October 18, at Wilson Hall, New College, students, faculty and community members enjoyed a free local lunch and had the opportunity to learn more about food initiatives on campus and beyond.

## **Alternative Food Networks—With Chinese Characteristics**

On Friday October 18, 2013, at 40 Willcocks New College, farmer and food policy expert, **Theresa Schumilas** presented a lecture on her research about alternative food and agriculture in China.

## **BIRDS, BEES &...BEEF?: A TALK ON THE FUTURE OF LOCAL FOOD**

On December 2, 2013 "Birds, Bees and...Beef?" was a collaborative event between UeaT, YU Ranch and New College at the University of Toronto. This event highlighted the sustainable farming practices used at Y U Ranch and informed students of the relationship between alternative farming methods and local food. At this event YU ranch's **Bryan Gilvesy** talked about the "Future of Local Food". Campus chefs came together to present delicious menus that combined produce from Y U Ranch other local Ontario ingredients.

# WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS: 'COMFORT WOMEN' OF WWII IN ASIA

On Tuesday afternoon, October 22, 2013, **Lola Fidencia David**, 87, a survivor of Japanese military sexual slavery from the Philippines joined a panel to discuss the experiences of "Comfort Women" during World War Two (WWII). Other panel members included **Dr. Anne Bunting** (Associate Professor of Law & Society, York University), **Tiffany Hsiung** (Filmmaker of 'Within Every Woman'), **Dr. Janice Kim** (Associate Professor, Department of History, York University), **Dr. Cristina Lope Rosello** (Psychologist and author of 'Disconnect: The Filipino Comfort Women') and **Dr. Joseph Wong** (Founder of Toronto Association for Learning and Preserving the History of WWII in Asia).

In the evening, the panel participated in a community conversation that included a presentation on the systemic violence faced by women during WWII in Asia. The presentation encompassed a creative visualization of healing, and implications for women's human

During WWII the Japanese Army forced over 200,000 women from across Asia into a military sexual slavery system; the victims are euphemistically known as 'comfort women'. Without receiving an official apology from the Japanese government, survivors are still waiting for justice.

# GOING TO GRADUATE SCHOOL WORKSHOP

As the end of their undergrad approaches, many students are unsure of how to make the transition to graduate school. The Equity Studies department hosted a workshop to address these concerns on Wednesday October 30, 2013, at Wilson Hall, New College. Fourth year students were provided with information on graduate programs that best fit the interests of Equity Studies students and were given a breakdown on how the application and admissions process works. With expert advice from **Deborah Knott** (Director, New College Writing Centre), **June Larkin** (Director, Equity Studies) and **Laura Kwak** (Equity Studies Senior Doctoral Fellow) who is currently maneuvering her way through graduate life, the students were able to gain important knowledge about graduate school options, how to apply for graduate school and how to complete scholarship applications.

## CULTIVATING COMMUNITY: CRITICAL INSIGHT, CHALLENGES AND VISIONS

On November 1, 2013 students and faculty gathered at the William Doo Auditorium for a conversation about community building in Toronto.

Panelists included:

**Mark V. Campbell:** arts activist, DJ and scholar who works with Afrodiasporic youth. Mark is co-founder of Nia Centre for the Arts and the Canadian hip hop archive, Northsidehiphop.

**Sylvia Plain:** grassroots organizer with First Nations youth and member of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation. Sylvia is also coordinator of the Great Lakes Canoe Journey Project that involves young people who want to connect with the land and the water.

**Amanda Munday:** social media strategist for non-profits & startups. Amanda teaches social media at George Brown College.

**CULTIVATING COMMUNITY**  
CRITICAL INSIGHTS, CHALLENGES AND VISIONS

Join the conversation with community panelists:

**Mark V. Campbell**  
ARTS ACTIVIST, DJ AND SCHOLAR  
CO-FOUNDER OF NIA CENTRE FOR THE ARTS AND THE CANADIAN HIP HOP ARCHIVE, NORTHSIDE HIP HOP; COMMUNITY ORGANIZER WITH AFRODIASPORIC YOUTH

**Sylvia Plain**  
GRASSROOTS ORGANIZER WITH FIRST NATIONS' YOUTH FROM AAMIJWNAANG FIRST NATION, WORKS WITH SEVERAL FIRST NATIONS YOUTH & STUDENT BODIES, COORDINATOR OF A GREAT LAKES CANOE JOURNEY PROJECT

**Amanda Munday**  
SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGIST FOR NON-PROFITS AND STARTUPS  
MARKETING AND OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR THE MOMENT; TEACHES SOCIAL MEDIA AT GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE

**NOVEMBER 1, 2013**  
**2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

**WILLIAM DOO AUDITORIUM**  
(45 WILLCOCKS)

Refreshments provided.

Sponsors and Supporters:  
New College Principal Investment Fund  
New College Learning, Pedagogical Institute  
New College Office of Residence and Student Life  
New College Community Engaged Learning Program

Centre for Community Partnerships, University of Toronto  
NEW275 Foundation of Community Engagement  
Equity Studies Program, New College  
Equity Studies Student Union (ESUSU)  
Black and Indigena Alliance (BIAA)

# LINKED OPPRESSIONS

From November 4-7 2013, ESSU hosted **Linked Oppressions**. This annual tradition of the Equity Studies Students' Union consisted of a weeklong event series that examined how various forms of marginalization, with a special focus on racism, homophobia and transphobia, are articulated, experienced and resisted.

Linked Oppressions was born out of the realization that our individual lives and identities continue to be shaped by the intersection of multiple types of discrimination. The ways in which we are racialized and marked by gender, sexuality and dis/ability impact how we occupy certain spaces, negotiate personal relationships and encounter everyday realities.

## THE 2013-2014 EVENT LINE UP

### **Monday, November 4**

#### **Film Screening of Gun Hill Road**

The opening event for Linked Oppressions was a film screening of **Gun Hill Road**. After three years in prison, Enrique (Esai Morales) returns home to find that the world he knew has changed. His wife, Angela (Judy Reyes), struggles to hide an emotional affair, and his teenage son, Michael (Harmony Santana), explores a sexual transformation well beyond Enrique's comprehension. *Gun Hill Road* (2011) is an honest portrayal of the challenges that a family faces as their child negotiates a transgendered identity in an intolerant and judgmental world. The screening was followed by a lively discussion of important issues raised in the film.

### **Tuesday, November 5**

#### **Branded by the Pink Triangle**

Award winning author, **Ken Setterington**, spoke on his recently published book *Branded by the Pink Triangle*. The book explores the rarely told experiences of gay men in 1930s Germany and throughout the dark years of the Holocaust and includes experiences of imprisonment in concentration camps, where they had pink triangles sewn onto their prison uniforms. His presentation included many testimonies and real life stories of survivors. The audience at the William Doo Auditorium, New College, left committed to share what they learned about this horrid persecution that is often ignored throughout history.

### **Wednesday, November 6**

#### **De-stigmatizing HIV/AIDS Workshop**

The workshop on homophobia and HIV/AIDS-related discrimination, entitled **De-Stigmatizing the Out Group**, was hosted by **Keith Cunningham**, a Jamaican born gay man who immigrated to Canada in order to seek a new, and more accepted life. Cunningham currently works as an Outreach Coordinator at the Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention and interacts with individuals globally to remove the stigma against homosexuality. The workshop was highly interactive and sought to debunk myths and highlight issues that negatively impact work around HIV/AIDS. By discussing experiences of those who live with HIV/AIDS and those who interact with individuals who have HIV/AIDS, participants were able to tackle some of the basic issues of AIDS and homophobia and increase their own awareness.

### **Thursday, November 7**

#### **Healing and Hope: A Q21 Conversation Café**

The Equity Studies Students' Union partnered with the Sexual and Gender Diversity Office to present **Healing and Hope: A Q21 Conversation Café** at the Centre for Women and Trans people. A group of more than twenty students gathered to share and discuss the meanings of healing and hope. As two peer facilitators led the group in an open discussion on how they cope with the sometimes-oppressive ways of University, a conversation developed that fostered caring and understanding between strangers, friends, and acquaintances. Although the event was scheduled for two hours, it was clear that it could have run for much longer. Even though discussing sometimes violent situations, there was an underlying feeling of hope for change through solidarity.



# CONSCIOUSNESS, CREATIVITY AND MUSIC

On November 15, 2013, hundreds of people lined up outside of the Earth Science Building for a lecture and Q&A on **Consciousness, Creativity and Music** by **GZA/Genius**. Project Freedom proudly presented GZA of the Wu-Tang Clan with a powerful opening by **Dr. Stan Doyle-Wood**, Equity Studies, New College and special introductions by **Project Freedom** founders **Jo'el Douglas** and **Falak Mujtaba**. The Scarborough-based organization works with youth to raise social and political consciousness through the arts. Through hip-hop GZA/Genius, an accomplished student of history, philosophy and science, promotes alternative forms of education that can be more engaging for youth. GZA encouraged the captivated audience to never stop learning about themselves and to be conscious of the social, political and economic inequities that shape the world around

# RESEARCHING DISABLED PEOPLE'S SEXUAL LIVES: SOME REFLECTIONS

On December 3, 2013, at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, the **New College Disability Studies Speaker Series** presented **Dr. Kirsty Liddiard**, Ethel Louise Armstrong Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Disability Studies, Ryerson University.

In her talk, Dr. Liddiard offered a reflexive account of the processes, politics, problems, practicalities and pleasures of storying disabled people's sexual lives for the purposes of sociological research. Drawing upon her doctoral study which explored disabled people's lived experiences of sex, intimacy and sexuality through their own sexual stories, she considered how her identity, subjectivity and embodiment – as a white, British, young, heterosexual, disabled, cisgendered woman with congenital and (dependent upon the context) visible impairment – was interwoven within and through the research methodology; most explicitly, as an interlocutor and co-constructor of informants' sexual stories. Dr. Liddiard identified a number of reflexive dilemmas that raise important questions for qualitative sociology, disability studies scholarship and research, and current knowledges of the emotional work of qualitative researchers.

# DECOLONIZING OUR MINDS: IDENTITIES, COLLECTIVITIES AND IMAGINED COMMUNITIES

Over the past six years, the **Equity Studies Students' Union** has hosted the **Decolonizing Our Minds (DOM)** conference to identify and interrogate the ways different groups of people practice resistance. The February 8, 2014, conference examined how identities are actively negotiated and constructed, ultimately bringing together “non-traditional” communities to work against colonial domination and structural oppression.

Although colonialism and neocolonialism have led to the imposition of particular identity markers, individuals have been increasingly re-appropriating the processes of identity formation to create their own sense of “self.” Identities are thus constantly in flux, contested relationally and contextually. The goals of the 2014 DOM were: 1) to understand the attempts to define one’s own identity as a means to disrupting hegemonic discourses and dominant paradigms; 2) to look at how similar narratives and personal histories generate collective identities and espouse solidarities; and 3) to analyze collective identities as the foundation for communities of resistance.

The conference took place at 45 Willcocks Street with a great turnout, consistently increasing throughout the day. The day opened with a talk by **Dr. George Dei**, whose areas of interest are anti-racism, minority schooling, international development, anti-colonial thought and Indigenous knowledge systems. The first panel discussion entitled "Coming into Self" included **Terry Woo, Kavita Bissoondial, Noor Baig** and **Andrew Morrison-Gurza**. The panelists discussed identity through various lenses, addressing how different communities are able to resist and press for change.

Throughout the day there were many other events and performances, including **Sonny Bean's** acapella set, a short film screening of Petra's Poem by **Petra Tolley**, spoken word by **Yursa Ali**, storytelling by **d'bi young anitafrika**, and hoop dancing by Anishinaabe dance artist **Nimkii-nini (Thunder-man)**. Presentations covered an array of identities that were not only fluid, but able to mobilize for change.

The keynote speaker, **Roronhiakewen (He Who Clears the Sky) Dan Longboat** was followed by **Tony Toneatto, Director of Buddhism, Psychology and Mental Health** who closed the day. DOM 2014 was a major success; participants left inspired to take part in resistance within and beyond their communities.

The event was fully accessible: ASL interpreters were present, gender-neutral bathrooms were available, and child-minding provided. A delicious free lunch was also provided free of charge.

# CHALLENGING ABLEISM: CREATING A CULTURE OF ACCESSIBILITY

**In March 2014, Students for Barrier-Free Access, ESSU and other groups, organized a series of disability awareness events.**

## **Organizing Disability Justice: The Importance of Accountability, Care and Relation-building**

Thursday March 6

Location: The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

## **Navigating Ableist Spaces: Stories of Resistance**

Thursday March 13

Location: The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

Panel speakers: **Kayla Carter, Lee Maracle, and quinto zazoue**

## **Night of Art and Expression: Creating Disability Differently**

Friday March 14th

Location: Wilson Hall Lounge, New College

## **Cooking Discussion Group on Mental Health**

Wednesday March 19th

Location: Centre for Women and Trans Persons (CWTP)

## **Learning Disabilities Workshop with Integra**

Tuesday March 24th

Location: Hart House

All events provided ASL, Live Captioning, and Care Attendants.

# THE STUDENT EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAM IN BELIZE

In May 2014, 10 University of Toronto undergraduate students from different programs including Caribbean Studies, Aboriginal Studies, Human Biology, and Equity Studies participated in a collaborative 8-day student Experiential Learning Program in Belize.

The internship partly sponsored through the Dean's International Initiatives Fund, was organized in partnership with the Belize Institute of Sustainable and International Studies (ISIS).

Students engaged in an intellectual, emotional, and experiential journey guided by **Dr. Filiberto Penados, ISIS**, and in the company of Equity Studies Program Director, **Dr. June Larkin**. The experience focused on exploring ***Food and Indigeneity*** through topics of health, education, land, food sustainability and development in Belize.

Through their interaction with two indigenous groups in Belize: the Garifuna and the Q'eachi Maya, students reflected and gained profound insights about the lives, struggles and accomplishments of indigenous peoples in Belize.

## PROFESSOR TARA GOLDSTEIN'S BOOK LAUNCH AND READING OF HER PLAY: ZERO TOLERANCE

On Tuesday April 8, 2014 students from Equity Studies performed excerpts from **Zero Tolerance**, a play written by Professor **Tara Goldstein** instructor for NEW345H: Equity and Activism in Education. The event, held at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, was part of the program for the launch of Professor Goldstein's book, *Zero Tolerance and Other Plays: Disrupting Xenophobia, Racism and Homophobia in Schools*.

From left to right: Emily Thomas, Kaye Caronongan, Tara Goldstein, Cayla Wiseman, Maria Ayaba, and Audrey Kim.

# NORMALCY LECTURES

On June 17th, New College hosted a Disability Studies Speaker Series event titled "Normal?" which took place in the OISE library. The event featured lectures by **Dr. Rebecca Mallett** and **Dr. Jenny Slater** from Sheffield Hallam University. Dr. Mallett's talk, "The 'Urge to Know' and the Rise of the New Normals", interrogated the cultural desire for impairment labels. Such labels, she argued, ultimately serve a normalizing function as they gloss over the contradictions and complexities of the lived experience of disability. Dr. Slater's talk, "The (Normal) Non-normativity of Youth", explored, in her words, "the strange relationships between 'youth' and 'normal'". Located somewhere between the unruly abnormalcy of childhood and (the promise of) normative adulthood, the bodies and minds of teenagers come to represent a unique risk to be managed. The two lectures were warmly received by an audience of over 150 people. Some of the themes from this event will be further explored in a new 2014-2015 Equity Studies course offering taught by **Dr. Anne McGuire**: NEW448H Theorizing Normalcy and the Mundane, an advanced topic in Equity Studies.

## DR. ANNE MCGUIRE APPOINTED LECTURER IN EQUITY STUDIES

**Dr. Anne McGuire**, who has taught within the disability studies stream in the Equity Studies program since 2011, was appointed to the rank of Lecturer effective July 1, 2014.

Dr. McGuire's outstanding contributions to the field of disability studies make her an ideal appointment. Her teaching and research focus on the cultural production of disability at the intersections of race, class and gender. The University of Michigan Press will soon publish her book, *War on Autism: On Normative Violence and the Cultural Production of Autism Advocacy*.

Dr. McGuire will continue to teach the popular courses, NEW241Y: Introduction to Disability Studies and NEW449H: Contemporary Theories in Disability Studies in the Equity Studies Program. In the fall 2014, she will also teach NEW344H: Equity and the Body and a new course, NEW448H: Theorizing Normalcy and the Mundane.

EQUITY  
STUDIES  
DOCTORAL  
FELLOW  
2013-2014:  
LAURA KWAK

**Laura J. Kwak** is a PhD candidate in the department of Social Justice Education at OISE/UT. She is also a collaborative student in the Women and Gender Studies Institute at the University of Toronto. She researches, writes and teaches on the sociology of race and ethnicity, feminist epistemologies, and social and political theories. Her dissertation "The Rise of Racial Conservatism in Multicultural Canada and the Post-Racial United States" looks at how Asian political conservatives have played key governmental and legislative roles in the U.S. and Canada since the Post-War era. Her project charts how Asian American political figures shape and are shaped by shifting racial formations. This work contributes to a fuller understanding of political incorporation and how newcomers and minorities are significantly engaged in Canadian and U.S. politics. Laura has guest lectured on Asian American politics in neoconservative times at the University of California, Berkeley and has presented her work in the U.S., Canada and the U.K. She currently holds an Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS).

In her role as Equity Studies Senior Doctoral Fellow Laura worked with students in the Equity Studies Writing Group, mentored Equity Studies students who were applying to graduate school and participated in numerous Equity Studies program activities. On March 19, Laura presented a paper on her doctoral research in the New College Senior Doctoral Fellow Luncheon Speakers series.

THE CHRIS  
BELL AWARD:  
geoff

Equity Studies and Sexual Diversity student, **geoff**, is the recipient of an honourable mention for the **Chris Bell Memorial Scholarship** for their paper, "The Addict Constructed As Disposable" they presented at the Society For Disability Studies (SDS) Conference held in Minneapolis in June 2014. The Chris Bell Memorial Scholarship honors the life and scholarship of Chris Bell, disability scholar and activist, former Society for Disability Studies president and co-founder of the SDS People of Color Caucus.

geoff identifies as a rad mixed race gender queer anarchist who believes in creating communities of love and still dreams of dismantling the state. They also identify as an addict in recovery who wishes to politicize their experiences with substance use and sobriety while unravelling the limited representation of the addicted body. More of their work can be found at [livingnotexisting.org](http://livingnotexisting.org)

geoff plans on either applying to graduate school to further their analysis of addiction and culture or starting an addiction and substance use day program in Toronto.

# THE JANET LAMBERT PRIZE: YADESHA SATHEASWARAN

**The Janet Lambert Book Prize** in Equity Studies, named in honour of a long-serving member of the New College administrative staff, goes to a graduating student who has excelled, and made a contribution, in the Equity Studies Program. This year's winner is **Yadesha Satheaswaran**.

Yadesha graduated in June 2014 with a BA in Equity Studies, Anthropology and History. As a leader in the dynamic Equity Studies Student Union Yadesha organized numerous events that advanced the social justice goals of the program. Throughout her undergraduate career, Yadesha was also involved with various campus organizations including the Because I am a Girl UofT Chapter and the UofT Powderpuff Football Team. She has also volunteered off-campus with Big Brothers Big Sisters Toronto and Plan Canada. She is passionate about issues of social justice, having worked with the Anti-Racism & Cultural Diversity Office from 2013 to 2014. An aspiring educator, Yadesha hopes to pursue her PhD in Anthropology. For now, she is taking a gap year to explore the world, hear new stories and acquire different perspectives.

## EQUITY STUDIES

Equity Studies is an undergraduate program that focuses on social justice theory and practice in a variety of local and global contexts. Cutting across a spectrum of academic disciplines, the program uniquely combines classroom based learning with community and activist work so that students can build tools for social change.

Course offerings focus on disability, social advocacy, and global food equity. With a vibrant student body, a wide range of community partners, and a bold curriculum, Equity Studies at New College is a leading centre for social justice education in Canada.

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