

DIFFUSE CONNECTIONS: MAKING SENSE OF SMELL IN CANADIAN DIASPORIC WOMEN'S WRITING

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

I am seeking research assistants to assist with my book project, *Diffuse Connections: Making Sense of Smell in Canadian Diasporic Women's Writing*. Shifting from visual and auditory paradigms that tend to dominate discussions of power and representation in postcolonial theory and Canadian literary studies, this book examines why Canadian diasporic women writers turn to smell – a sense historically marginalized in the Western tradition – to represent diaspora as a condition of subjectivity marked by race, gender, sexuality, and class. Extending work by Lily Cho that theorizes the relationship between diaspora and taste, I argue for considering smell in its specificity, as scents shape diasporic subjectivities in particular ways. Focusing on novels by Indo-Caribbean-Canadian writer Shani Mootoo, Japanese-Canadian writer Hiromi Goto, and Chinese-Canadian writer Larissa Lai, this book explores how Canadian diasporic women writers represent diasporic subjectivity as a constellation of “diffuse connections,” a term I use to describe the blending of memories and experiences across time and space that occurs during olfactory encounters. For example, the same scents that connect diasporic subjects to a sense of homeland and community often mark their bodies as “other” in new sites of settlement. This book argues that negotiating this dynamic is particularly complex for diasporic women, who are expected to embody “home” and preserve cultural traditions while sanitizing their bodies and cultural practices to assimilate in new lands. Research assistants may be asked to assist with a range of tasks, including literature searches, literature reviews, research summaries, MLA citation, and indexing.

FACULTY-DEPARTMENT

Augustana-Fine Arts and Humanities

DESIRED FIELD OF (STUDENT) STUDY

Ideally English literary studies, but I would also welcome students who work in fields such as Chinese literature/art/culture, cultural studies, media studies, sociology, interdisciplinary studies, legal studies, anthropology, linguistics, and potentially

INTERNSHIP LOCATION

Augustana Campus (Camrose, Alberta)

NUMBER OF INTERNSHIP POSITIONS

Contact: Brendan Cavanagh, Internship Coordinator (Inbound)
University of Alberta International
intern@ualberta.ca

2

INTERNSHIP START DATE

July 4

INTERNSHIP END DATE

October 3

ARE THE DATES FLEXIBLE?

Yes. After receiving an offer for the internship, selected students will have the opportunity to contact the supervising professor to request a date change.

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