

## **Mennonite/s Writing: Manitoba and Beyond**

University of Winnipeg  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA

**Thursday to Sunday October 1-4, 2009**

The fifth international conference on Mennonite/s Writing since 1990, features scholarly papers on the work of individual "Mennonite" writers, on Mennonite writers' inscription of Winnipeg or Manitoba landscapes, and on other subjects related to Mennonite/s writing across North America.

Writers who have grown up within the Mennonite communities of Manitoba have made a huge contribution to Canadian literature over the course of the last half century. Among those recently nominated for national literary awards are novelists David Bergen, Sandra Birdsell, Miriam Toews, Rudy Wiebe and poets Di Brandt and Patrick Friesen. These and other Mennonite writers well known in the worlds of Canadian literature and beyond (among them Sarah Klassen, David Waltner-Toews, Armin Wiebe, David Elias) have roots in various parts of Manitoba. Most of these writers were first published by Manitoba's premier literary publisher, Turnstone Press. Several were founding members of the still thriving Manitoba Writers Guild. Many first received attention in Winnipeg's stellar literary magazine, *Prairie Fire*. Their work is read around the world.

The conference will begin Thursday evening, October 1, 2009 and conclude Sunday October 4, with a day-long literary bus tour featuring sites inscribed and/or inhabited by Manitoba's writers of Mennonite heritage.

### **For more information contact:**

Royden Loewen,  
Chair in Mennonite Studies at the University of Winnipeg  
<r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca>

or

Hildi Froese Tiessen,  
Conrad Grebel University College at the University of Waterloo  
<htiessen@uwaterloo.ca>

## CALL FOR PAPERS

# **Mennonites, Melancholy and Mental Health: A History Conference**

Winnipeg, Friday-Saturday, October 8-9, 2010

**Hosted by:** The Chair in Mennonite Studies

**Location:** University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA

### **Like all social groups, the Mennonites have experienced mental health issues in their history and**

- suffered from mental illness and subsequent marginalization.
- stigmatized mental illness.
- faced the gravest consequences of mental illness, including suicide.
- worked as mental health nurses, psychologists, psychiatrists, counselors, etc.
- built mental health facilities.
- worked to integrate people living with mental illness into their communities.
- been clients, consumers or psychiatric survivors of mental health care services.
- theologized on melancholy and sadness.
- deconstructed medical authority using "madness studies".
- engaged in creative ways (painting and writing) to seek healing.

**"Mennonites, Melancholy and Mental Health," the seventh Divergent Voices of Canadian Mennonites (DVCM) history conference, invites proposals for scholarly papers on the history of mental illness, mental health stigmatization, and mental health practices among Mennonites in Canada and other parts of the world.**

Deadline for conference paper submissions: February 1, 2010. Please send a 200-word proposal for a conference paper in a Word file to the conference organizer: Royden Loewen, Chair in Mennonite Studies at the University of Winnipeg <r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca>

Proposals should include a clear statement of the central theme or argument, a 100-word biography. Provide your name, academic affiliation (if applicable), and contact email address.

A selection of the conference papers will be published in *Journal of Mennonite Studies*, 2011.

### **Further details will be available in 2010:**

Google "Mennonite Studies" or visit [www.uwinnipeg.ca/academic/as/mennstudies](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academic/as/mennstudies)

### **Organizing Committee:**

Chris Dooley (Ph.D. Student, York U);  
Irma Janzen (MCC Canada);  
Elizabeth Krahn (MSW Student, U Manitoba);  
Royden Loewen (University of Winnipeg);  
Ken Reddig (Eden Mental Health),  
Major funder: Mennonite Central Committee Canada

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### 'Mennonites in Siberia and Asiatic Russia' A History Consultation in Omsk, Russia on June 1-4, 2010

The largely hidden story of Mennonites in Siberia will be explored in a special section of the 'Germans in Siberia' History conference slated for June 2010 in Omsk, Siberia.

Siberia holds a profoundly important place in Mennonite global history.

- It marked a place of frontier hope when the first of many voluntary farm settlements were established around Omsk and on the Kulundasteppes between 1897 and 1912.
- It became a place of unspeakable sorrow to which tens of thousands of Mennonites were exiled in the 1930s and 40s.
- Later it became a place of hope again when Mennonites survived communism as an Anabaptist people,
- Finally, it holds a place of memory for the thousands who arrived as Aussiedler to Germany, and most recently to southern Manitoba.

A consultation sponsored by the Chair in Mennonite Studies (University of Winnipeg), Omsk State University and the Russian Culture Institute (Siberian Branch). Supported by various Mennonite historical agencies in Canada, the United States and Germany.

Proposals for history research papers on the Mennonite experience in Siberia are invited by the 'Mennonites in Siberia History Consultation' Planning Committee.

Please send a 200-word conference paper proposal in a Word file to both of the Consultation co-chairs: Royden Loewen, Chair in Mennonite Studies at the University of Winnipeg [r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca) and Paul Toews, Fresno Pacific University [pttoews@fresno.edu](mailto:pttoews@fresno.edu).

#### **Deadline for submissions: October 15, 2009.**

Proposals should include a clear statement of the central theme or argument, a short biography. Provide your name, academic affiliation (if applicable), and email address.

The North American planning committee: Paul Toews (Fresno) and Royden Loewen (Winnipeg), co-chairs. Peter Penner (Calgary), Aileen Friesen (Edmonton), Olga Shmakina (Fresno) and Rudy Friesen, Peter Letkeman, Ken Reddig, and Hans Werner (Winnipeg)

The 'Mennonites in Siberia and Asiatic Russia History Consultation' is inspired by the Chortitza '99 and Molotschna '04 history conferences and the Siberian Mennonite Research Project launched in 2001.

**Further details will be made available:** Google "Mennonite Studies" or visit [www.uwinnipeg.ca/academic/as/mennstudies](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academic/as/mennstudies)

Call for Papers  
**Marginal or Mainstream?**  
**Anabaptists, Mennonites and Modernity in European Society**

Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas  
 June 25 and 26, 2010  
 Proposal deadline: Oct. 1, 2009

In contrast to earlier general surveys of sixteenth-century European history that ignored Anabaptists, or at most mentioned the horrors of Münster without much context, today the history of Anabaptism in the second and third decades of the 1500s has made its way out of the narrow confines of denominational history and on to the main stage of European history. Once chronological surveys arrive at the 1540s, however, the lights go dim and Anabaptist/Mennonite historiography retreats back to its corner where both its practitioners and European historians in general often seem to assume it belongs. Does nothing lasting remain from that early radical impulse that might have continued to irritate, shape or fertilize European society from the sixteenth century to today? Mennonites, in fact, because they represented an alternative and cohesive community that was Christian,

pacifist, and non-state, forced the societies and states where they lived to grapple with recurrent exceptions to the laws and to assumptions about the proper behaviors of subjects and citizens. To what extent did this community, although often marginalized, nonetheless provide models or stimuli for important developments in European economics, politics, religious practice and gender relations, or other areas? This conference invites proposals that demonstrate how European history can be better understood by incorporating key aspects from five centuries of Anabaptist and Mennonite history. How did Mennonites experience and help to shape industrialization, urbanization, capitalism, imperialism, feminism, republicanism, nationalism, institutionalization, and Enlightenment rationality? Or were most Mennonites happy to stay on the margins of European modernity?

Paper topics are welcomed from a variety of perspectives, such as social, economic, political, cultural, religious and gender history. Sample questions for consideration that could be applied in specific geographic settings can be found at <http://www.bethelks.edu/mennosandmodernity/index.php>

Submit papers to Mary Sprunger at Eastern Mennonite University: [sprungms@emu.edu](mailto:sprungms@emu.edu) or Mary Sprunger, Department of History, 1200 Park Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22802, U.S.A

Travel subsidies may be available. Publication of conference proceedings is planned.

**Co-Organizers:**

Mary Sprunger, Eastern Mennonite University, and Mark Jantzen, Bethel College



## CENTRE FOR MENNONITE BRETHREN STUDIES IN CANADA

1310 Taylor Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3 3Z6 (204) 669-6575  
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**Doug Heidebrecht, Director**  
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## Mennonite Heritage Centre



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PUBLISHED BY THE MENNONITE LITERARY SOCIETY

*get it fresh!*

**Rhubarb** is the new quarterly magazine published by The Mennonite Literary Society featuring fiction, poetry, thematic commentary, creative non-fiction, art, reviews, and humour by North American artists and writers of Mennonite heritage.

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