

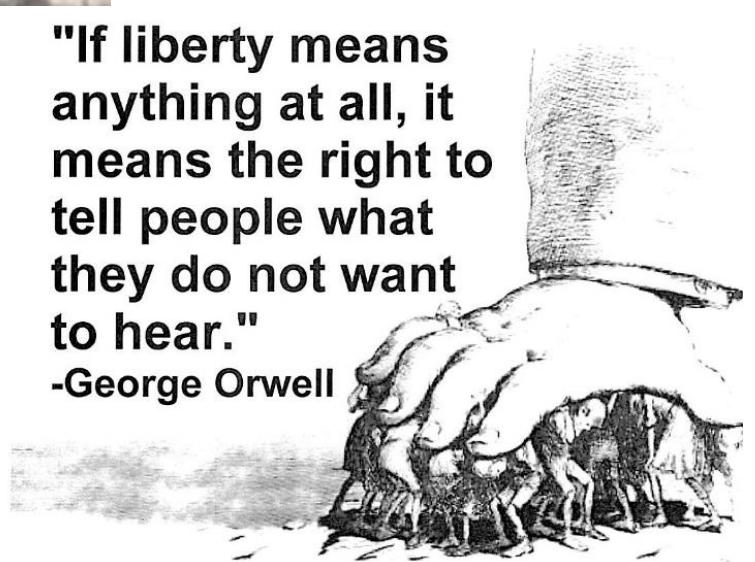
The Faculty of Arts and Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship Present:

Two Events about **Academic Freedom** & **Freedom of Expression** at Mount Royal University



"If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear."

-George Orwell



James L. Turk,

"Is There Room for **Academic Freedom in Today's University?",
Public Lecture, February 8, 2018, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Jenkins Theatre**

Academic freedom is properly understood to be the foundation of the university's mission to educate students and advance knowledge. But academic freedom is endangered in today's changing university environment with its unprecedented use of contingent faculty, its obsession with its "brand", and its embrace of students as customers. Can academic freedom survive other than as a romantic ideal? If so, how?

"Freedom of Expression and Making the Campus a **Safe Space:
Where Should the Line be Drawn?", Public Forum, February 9, 2018,
2:30-5:00 p.m., Lincoln Park Room**

Featuring Sinclair MacRae (Mount Royal University), James Turk (Ryerson University), Rinaldo Walcott (University of Toronto), Frances Widdowson (Mount Royal University), and Kimberly Williams (Mount Royal University)

Moderated by Marc Schroeder

Over the last two decades, assertions that campuses should be a safe space have become prominent. While safety used to refer to being free from physical harm, it now includes the notion that ideas believed to be derogatory can also constitute a form of violence. This has led to arguments about restricting offensive speech in the pursuit of social justice. These arguments have been challenged by those who see these proposals as a threat to freedom of expression. To explore the arguments in favour and against making the campus a safe space, Mount Royal University is bringing together scholars with different positions on this subject. By enabling contrasting points of view to be aired in one venue, a more robust understanding of the limits of freedom of expression can be developed.

Participants (in alphabetical order):



Sinclair MacRae is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Mount Royal University. He received his PhD from the University of Toronto and is the author of *An Introduction to Ethics: Theories, Perspectives, and Issues*, published by Pearson Education Canada. His main areas of expertise are value theory and ethics. Sinc is the author of the MRFA Code of Ethics and has a longstanding interest in controversies over freedom of expression, principled dissent, academic freedom, hate speech, discrimination, equality, tolerance, and respect for diversity.



Marc Schroeder is the President of the Mount Royal Faculty Association. He has been teaching Computer Science at Mount Royal University since 2002, including courses in introductory programming, hardware and system software, computer architecture and low-level programming, functional and logic programming, and the study of programming languages and paradigms. He has also worked as a software developer and teacher in industry, and continues to work on occasion as a consultant. Marc's academic interests include programming languages, object-oriented programming, functional programming, low-level software, web development, computer science education and pedagogy.



James L. Turk is Distinguished Visiting Professor and Director of Ryerson University's Centre for Free Expression. From 1998 to 2014, he served as Executive Director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers. Prior to joining CAUT, Jim was an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Toronto where he taught Canadian society and labour studies. He gave up his tenure to work in the trade union movement – in senior positions at the United Electrical Workers, Ontario Federation of Labour, and CUPE. Jim has written and spoken extensively on freedom of expression, academic freedom, civil liberties, university governance, commercialization of universities and related public policy issues. His most recent book is an edited collection, *Academic Freedom in Conflict: The Struggle over Speech Rights in the University*.



Rinaldo Walcott is an Associate Professor and Director of the Women's and Gender Studies Institute at the University of Toronto. He is a member of the Department of Social Justice Education at OISE, as well as the Graduate Program in Cinema Studies at the University of Toronto. His teaching and research is in the area of black diaspora cultural studies and postcolonial studies with an emphasis on questions of sexuality, gender, nation, citizenship and multiculturalism. Rinaldo is the author of *Black Like Who: Writing Black Canada* and *Queer Returns: Essays on Multiculturalism, Diaspora and Black Studies*. He is also the editor of *Rude: Contemporary Black Canadian Cultural Criticism* and co-editor (with Roy Moodley) of *Counselling Across and Beyond Cultures: Exploring the Work of Clemment Vontress in Clinical Practice*. Recently, he has co-edited (with Dina Georgis and Katherine McKittrick) *No Language Is Neutral: Essays on Dionne Brand*. Currently, Rinaldo is completing *Black Diaspora Faggoty: Readings Frames Limits* and *The Long Emancipation: Moving Towards (Black) Freedom, An Essay*.



Frances Widdowson received her PhD in Political Science from York University and is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics, Justice and Policy Studies at Mount Royal University. Frances has co-written and co-edited (with Albert Howard) two books on aboriginal policy – *Disrobing the Aboriginal Industry: The Deception Behind Indigenous Cultural Preservation* and *Approaches to Aboriginal Education in Canada: Searching for Solutions*. She is currently working on two manuscripts. One, *Separate but Unequal: How Parallelist Ideology Conceals the Historical and Material Roots of Aboriginal Dependency*, is under review with University of Ottawa Press. Her other research project is investigating how advocacy studies are “murdering” the human sciences and effective policy development.



Kimberly A. Williams is a self-proclaimed professor, activist, writer, nasty woman, feminist killjoy, and dog lover. She mobilizes all these identities to undertake a wide variety of world-making projects, including an historical walking tour of Calgary's consensual adult sex industry, which she launched last summer in an irreverent response to the #Canada150 celebrations. She earned her PhD in Women's Studies from the University of Maryland and now directs the Women's & Gender Studies Program here at MRU. Kim is a settler trying to live and work *unsettled* in the land of the Blackfoot, Nakoda, and Tsuut'ina peoples. Learn more at kawilliams.weebly.com.