

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 research tasks related to English literary studies, so strong English language skills and familiarity with literary studies are important. Experience studying literary texts written in English is also an asset, but may not be required. Experience running library database searches, searching grey literature, writing annotated bibliographies, performing literature reviews, formatting citations in MLA style (8th edition), indexing, and other research skills are also valuable. Knowledge of RefWorks or other reference management systems is an asset, but not required. Applicants should be able to work well independently and with a team, and should have strong time management skills, a strong ability to follow through on tasks, close attention to detail, and strong problem solving skills.

FACULTY-DEPARTMENT

Augustana - Fine Arts and Humanities

OPEN TO STUDENTS FROM THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS

Chinese universities participating in the [Double First-Class Initiative](#).

DESIRED FIELD OF STUDENT STUDY

The applicant should have a strong background in English language skills (written/oral communication, grammar, etc.) and experience in literary studies. Experience reading and studying literature specifically written in English would also be an asset.

INTERNSHIP LOCATION

Augustana Campus, Camrose

NUMBER OF INTERNSHIP POSITIONS

1

INTERNSHIP DATES

Start: July 2, 2019

End: October 2, 2019

ARE THE DATES FLEXIBLE?

Yes, I am flexible regarding the internship dates. Selected students can contact me to request a date change.