

circus
circus

RESEARCH

[Forward to a Friend](#)

Pistes de mémoires. Quelle histoire orale et matérielle pour le cirque québécois?

Le mardi 7 juillet, au Quartier général de Montréal Complètement Cirque, 330 rue Emery, Montréal; 13h30 à 15h30.

Louis Patrick Leroux et Jan Rok Achard, avec Rodrigue Tremblay, Nicolette Hazewinkel et Catherine St-Arnaud.

Produit dans l'urgence et dans le mouvement vers l'avant, le cirque québécois cumule des décennies d'expériences, d'anecdotes et de documents qui se perdent au fil des années. Comment consigner la mémoire des genres de l'éphémère? Comment « faire » l'histoire du cirque québécois de manière cohérente, dynamique et attrayante pour ses praticiens et ses chercheurs?

Comment une histoire orale peut-être devenir le projet d'une communauté,

Working Group at Montréal Complètement Cirque

Rings of Memory. What Oral and Material History for Québec Circus?

Tuesday 7 July, Festival HQ, 330 rue Emery, Montreal, 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

Louis Patrick Leroux, Jan Rok Archard, with Rodrigue Tremblay, Nicolette Hazewinkel, and Catherine St-Arnaud

Live performance in Québec, and circus in particular, has been produced with a sense of urgency, constantly moving forward with little concern to document its decades of experiences, anecdotes, and archival documents. How does one constitute the living archive of an ephemeral field? How to « make » québec circus history in a coherent, dynamic and compelling way for both its practitioners and its scholars?

More importantly, we'll be exploring how an oral and material history can become community-driven, fuelled and supported by that community for its own posterity. What criteria does one follow to historicize events, the sort them, and attribute importance? How to make the research democratic while avoiding egotistic asides? What tools are in place to construct such a history?

Excerpts from a first series of interviews with Rodrigue Tremblay and Nicolette Hazewinkel will be presented, with the artists present, and interwoven with many of the

nourrie et soutenue par elle et pour sa postérité? Quels sont les critères d'historicisation? Comment procéder à une démocratisation de la recherche sans tomber dans les palmarès, ni dans les exceptions à la règle? Comment rendre disponible une telle histoire?

Des extraits d'une première série d'entrevues de fond avec Rodrigue Tremblay et Nicolette Hazewinkel seront présentés, entrecoupés de réflexions sur les prochaines étapes à suivre et d'un appel à contribution pour les intéressés.

questions asked above. We will articulate a call to action from the circus milieu, based on its desire to remember and to learn from the recent and farther removed past.

Recent Talks -- Montreal Working Group in Ottawa

Members of the Working Group gave talks at the **Canadian Congress for the Humanities in Ottawa** late May, early June. Talks included a seminar contribution by Louis Patrick Leroux on circus dramaturgy as part of the "[Bodytexts-- Writing the Body](#)" seminar curated by Catherine Cyr (UQAM) and Louis Patrick Leroux (Concordia), a talk explaining the program of research being developed by the "[Circus and its Others](#)" cluster by Karen Fricker (Brock) during the pre-Congress Société québécoise d'études théâtrales conference, and a panel on "[Circus and Capital](#)" which was organized by Joe Culpepper (McGill) and Zita Nyarady (York) and featured papers by co-organizers as well as Jennifer Spiegel and Alisan Funk (both at Concordia).

Recent Media Presence

[Cirque du Soleil's recent sale to American and Chinese interests excited the international press.](#)

Upcoming Talks this July

Many of us will be present at the [ATHE \(Association for Theatre in Higher Education\) conference during their "Border Crossings: The Art and Theory of Contemporary Circus" event](#) held in Montreal Thursday July 30th. For more information: https://athe.site-ym.com/?Border_Crossings

Recently Funded Circus Research

While the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) recommended the [Transnational, Transdisciplinary Circus Research Network](#) for funding, we did not rank highly enough to obtain the Partnership Development Grant. This was a long-term initiative involving 10 partner institutions worldwide, as many researchers with co-applicant status in addition to 21 collaborators. Over the next few months, we will rethink our approach and hopefully preparing a successful application offering opportunities to further the development of our field of research internationally.

Congratulations to Patrice Aubertin at the National Circus School of Montreal (along with other colleagues: Dean Kreillaars (Manitoba), Douglas Klein (Alberta), Michael Ungar (Dalhousie),

Working Group Members were offering considered opinions and expert commentary in a number of venues. Jan Rok Achard was interviewed by RDI (Radio-Canada) and gave a much relayed (on social networks) and viewed testimonial. Louis Patrick Leroux was interviewed and cited in print by *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The Daily Mail*, *Financial Times* (London), *Le Devoir*, *The Globe and Mail*, *The Financial Post*, *The Australian*. Leroux also gave live interviews and commentary on radio and television, on many networks, including CNN, RDI, Radio-Canada television and radio, CBC television and radio, Radio-Canada international, CTV, LCN-TVA, and Czech National Radio.

On another note, Jan Rok, Louis Patrick, and Anna-Karyna Barlati also offered expert commentary on the *Historia* documentary *Bêtes de foires* on Québec circus broadcast this June.

and Louis Patrick Leroux (Concordia) who was successful in obtaining a [Partnership Development Grant from SSHRC's Community and College Social Innovation Fund](#). The pan-Canadian project will study [children's initiation to circus arts and its effects on physical literacy, creativity, and resilience](#).

Other good news: Louis Patrick Leroux and Howard Richard (NCS) have obtained a 3-year [FRQSC \(Fonds de recherches société et culture Québec\) research-creation grant](#) into the study of [contemporary circus dramaturgy \("Poétique du cirque contemporain \(dramaturgies et grammaires d'une écriture en mouvement\)](#)". This Québec-based grant will allow them, a number of graduate students from Concordia, and National Circus School students to work together in a combination of applied and theoretical research exploring a circus narrative, grammar, and creative process.

Finally, our upcoming volume of scholarship on contemporary circus, [Cirque Global: Québec's Expanding Circus Boundaries](#) with McGill-Queen's University Press, was awarded [Aid to Research Dissemination](#) by the Office of the Vice-Provost Graduate Studies and Research, Concordia University and a obtained an grant from the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences's [Awards to Scholarly Publications Program](#). Look for the book in 2016!

[Resonance](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

*Copyright © 2015 Montreal Working Group on Circus Research,
All rights reserved.*

The MailChimp logo is displayed in a white, cursive font within a grey rounded rectangular box.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)