



[Forward to a Friend](#)

Recent events

Louis Patrick Leroux and Cirque du Soleil's Lyn Heward engaged in a public conversation on circus, society, and creativity as part of Concordia University's "Thinking Out Loud" Conversation Series in March. The conversation mediated by the Globe & Mail's Sophie Cousineau was destined to a broad, non-specialist audience. It included the presentation of ongoing research-creation developed by the National Circus School's Industrial Research Chair in Circus Arts in collaboration with 7 doigts de la main, and Géodézik. To see the laboratory performance and the conversation, please follow link:

<http://www.concordia.ca/news/publications-reports/conversation-series.html>

While in Prague this April as a Visiting Professor at Charles University, Louis Patrick Leroux was also invited by Czech circus journal *Cirqueon* to give a talk on **current trends in contemporary Québec circus at the inaugural Cirkopolis Fest.**

<http://www.cirqueon.cz/cs/zpravy/zpravodajstvi/item/875-o-novy-cirkusu-v-kanade-bude-prednaset-kanadan>

Our Czech colleague, Veronika Stepanova, hosted the event and led the Q&A session.

Activités récentes

Louis Patrick Leroux et Lyn Heward, du Cirque du Soleil, se sont livrés à une conversation publique sur le cirque, la société et la créativité dans le cadre de la série « Thinking Out Loud » de l'Université Concordia. La conversation, animée par Sophie Cousineau du Globe & Mail, s'adressait à un grand public plutôt qu'aux spécialistes. La soirée comprenait une présentation de la recherche-création en cours développé par l'École nationale de cirque de Montréal en collaboration avec les 7 doigts de la main et Géodézik. La performance et la conversation peuvent être visionnés à l'adresse suivante :

<http://www.concordia.ca/news/publications-reports/conversation-series.html>

Lors de son passage à Prague en tant que professeur invité à l'Université Charles, Louis Patrick Leroux a été invité par la revue circassienne *Cirqueon* de présenter les tendances actuelles du cirque québécois dans le cadre de la première édition du festival *Cirkopolis*. Notre collègue Veronika Stepanova l'accueillait et animait l'échange suivant la

Next Event:

Circus Research in the ROC: A Roundtable and demonstration of practice

Tuesday 27th May, 2:45-5:45, room TH141, Brock University, St-Catharine's Ontario.

Part of the Canadian Association for Theatre Research conference within the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences

Formally and aesthetically innovative circus practices are burgeoning worldwide in our times, with Québec acting as one of the global hubs of contemporary circus creation, production, and touring. New scholarship on circus, in turn, is emergent. This session will take stock of scholarly, performance-critical, and creative activity around circus across Canada, and to bring Québec circus researchers into dialogue with their Canadian counterparts.

The panel will focus on articulating and exploring the particularities of circus research, and its relationship to theatre and performance studies; it will ask how we as performance scholars can best use our skills and experience in approaching, analysing, and writing about contemporary circus.

The event will be in two halves, one running from 2:45 – 4:00, on **Labour, Bodies and Activism in Contemporary Circus** (with David Fancy and Zita Nyrady presenting); and the other from 4:15 to 5:45, on **Circus Research in the ROC** (with Charles Batson, Joe Culpepper, Karen Fricker, and Patrick Leroux presenting).

Participants:

Charles R. Batson, Associate Professor of French, Union College, Schenectady, NY

Joe Culpepper, PhD candidate in Comparative Literature, University of Toronto

David Fancy, Associate Professor of Dramatic Arts, Brock University

Karen Fricker, Assistant Professor of Dramatic Arts, Brock University

Louis Patrick Leroux, Associate Professor of French and English, Concordia University

Zita Nyrady, PhD candidate in theatre and performance art, York University

Claude Schryer, Co-ordinator, Inter-Arts Office, Canada Council for the Arts

présentation.

<http://www.cirqueon.cz/cs/zpravy/zpravodajstvi/item/875-o-novy-cirkusu-v-kanade-bude-prednaset-kanadan>

Mise à jour du site web, du membership et création d'un répertoire de recherche en cours

Au cours des prochains mois, nous mettrons à jour la page web du groupe. Ceci nous oblige à clarifier les paramètres de participation au groupe selon l'engagement, l'intérêt et la contribution des gens. Nous reviendrons prochainement à ces questions.

Nous recevons régulièrement des courriels d'étudiants et de chercheurs qui travaillent sur diverses études sur le cirque. Nous envisageons préparer un répertoire de la recherche circassienne en cours (subventionnée ou non, mémoires de maîtrise et de doctorat). **Veuillez svp nous faire parvenir tous les renseignements sur vos recherches en cours.** Ceci, dans l'esprit de partage, d'échange et de communauté d'intérêts qui ne pourra que rendre encore plus pertinent notre travail.

Updating website, membership criteria, & Répertoire of ongoing research

We will soon be updating the Group's website and associated information. This will force us and allow us to more clearly define the parameters of membership, interest, and involvement in the Group's activities.

We regularly receive e-mails from graduate students and post-doctoral fellows working on circus. We'll be preparing a "Repertoire of ongoing circus scholarly research" (funded, unfunded, and graduate work). **Please send us information on any ongoing research projects you are involved in.** We all want our work to circulate and to matter.

Cours en cours

L'ouvrage savant frôlant les 600 pages manuscrites déposées auprès de McGill-Queen's University Press, *Cirque Global: Québec's Expanding Circus Boundaries*, sous la direction de Louis Patrick Leroux et Charles Batson, est en cours d'évaluation scientifique. On espère un parution à l'automne 2015. Le processus est très long, mais il en aura valu la peine. Merci à tous ceux qui ont contribué leur expertise, des articles, des commentaires, des suggestions et des photographies.

Le dossier "North-South Circus Circulations" dans la revue savante américaine Québec Studies paraîtra à l'automne 2014-hiver 2015. Vous pouvez déjà anticiper des articles et des critiques de Louis Patrick Leroux, Charles Batson, Zita Nyarady, Carlos Alexis Cruz, Roy Gomez-Cruz et la transcription d'une table ronde rassemblant Amy Cohen, Francisco Cruz, Kyle Driggs, Sarah Poole, and Duncan Wall.

Le projet l'Histoire du cirque québécois : passée, présente et à faire dirigé par Jan Rok Achard et Louis Patrick Leroux prendra sous peu de l'ampleur... Des demandes précises d'entrevues, de photos et d'objets circassiens suivront en vue d'une exposition et d'une archive de la mémoire

Upcoming: Montréal Complètement Cirque!

Once again, **Montréal Complètement Cirque** will draw the circus world and diverse audiences to what promises to be an exciting festival of international contemporary circus. <http://montrealcompletementcirque.com/> In addition to its regular programming, the festival brings together circus professionals and stakeholders for various discussions, panels, and workshops. Group members will be part of a number of those panels. <http://montrealcirquefest.com/professionals/>

Circus Now will be converging onto Montréal, 10-13 July for a series of talks and events. For more information: <http://circusnow.org/events/2nd-annual-cnmontreal-completement-cirque/>

The **American Circus Historical Society** will be holding its annual meeting for the first time in Montréal, 10-12 July at the Auberge royale Versailles. Schedule to follow. <http://www.circushistory.org/Conference/convention.htm>

Friday 11 July, 1-2:45 p.m., under the TOHU tent, Circus Now, the Circus Historical Society, and the Working Group on Circus Research will be combining forces and hosting a **Conversation: "A Big Tent: Bridging the Gap between Circus Past and Present,"** with the [Circus Historical Society](#) & the [Montréal Working Group on Circus Research](#).

Despite the circus evolutions and revolutions of the last forty years, much remains consistent in the way circus artists perform, train, and live, and in the special satisfaction that circus performance offers to fans. What then to make of this divide between "traditional" and "contemporary" circus? Where does it come from? Does it accurately reflect the changing nature of circus or is it counterproductive? What common ground can be found among the forms, and how can the different circus communities work to support each other? Come join some of the most knowledgeable circus scholars in North America for what promises to be a lively, productive discussion about a collective passion and diverse perspective.

Panelists will include colleagues from all three associations as well as circus professionals. Details to follow.

2014-15 Schedule of Events

Full schedule for Fall-Winter 2014-15 will follow after Montréal Complètement Cirque!

Look forward to talks and discussions on:

- what place for social circus;
- transcultural contacts and frictions in circus;
- Québec circus history;
- authorship and agency in developing circus acts

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any ongoing research you would like to share or test out with us! The Working Group strives to be a place of open and rigorous discussion.

Programmation 2014-15

Le programme
complet de nos
activités de 2014-15
suivra au cours de
l'été!

Quelques thèmes qui
seront assurément
abordés :

- quelle place et
quelle(s)
modèle(s) pour
le cirque
social;
- les rencontres
et les frictions
transculturelles
en cirque
(quelques
expériences);
- suivis sur le
projet
d'histoire du
cirque
québécois;
- quel statut
d'auteur et
d'action sur les
numéros de
cirques?

N'hésitez pas si vous
voulez partager votre
recherche en cours
avec le groupe. Nous
cherchons à créer un
environnement
d'échanges rigoureux
et ouverts sur
plusieurs
perspectives.

Cirque Global: Québec's Expanding Circus Boundaries,
edited by Louis Patrick Leroux and Charles Batson, is
currently under peer-review with McGill-Queen's
University Press. Hopefully, the now 600-page book will
be out in Fall 2015. The process is very long, but it will
be worth the wait. Thanks to everyone who contributed
articles, photographs, illustrations!

The "**North-South Circus Circulations**" special issue in
the American academic journal *Québec Studies* is
forthcoming in Fall 2014-Winter 2015. Look forward to
articles and reviews by Louis Patrick Leroux, Charles
Batson, Zita Nyarady, Carlos Alexis Cruz, Roy Gomez-
Cruz, and a panel discussion with: Amy Cohen, Francisco
Cruz, Kyle Driggs, Sarah Poole, and Duncan Wall.

The Québec Circus Oral Histories and Objects Project
led by Jan Rok Achard and Louis Patrick Leroux will soon
be moving into high gear... Be on the lookout for
interview, photo and object requests! We will be working
towards an exhibition and series of video interviews to
create an archive of the recent past and current memories
of our circus world.

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