

ATHENA



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

After another year of bracing technological, social, and political change, the HRG looks forward to our sophomore season of the return to in-person, face-to-face dialogue with our audience. We will gather in 2023-24 to engage this year's theme, "Interpreting Experience," through a lineup of speakers with expertise in art, politics, education, and journalism. Each will consider a different facet of how we communicate and act upon personal and collective truths. We are excited to launch in September with **Deborah Dundas** speaking about her book *On Class*, published as part of Biblioasis' Field Notes series. October features educator **Michael Naicker** presenting on his memoir *African Sons*. In November, **Jason McBride** will discuss issues of autobiography and autofiction related to his critically acclaimed book *Eat Your Mind*. In the new year, political science professor **Dr. Rebecca Major** will present her research on the foundation of the growing participation of Indigenous women in politics. In February, celebrated journalist, filmmaker, author, and podcaster **Michelle Shepherd** will interrogate truth in the age of Post-Truth from her perch as a media maestro. Our events culminate with our 2023-2024 HRG Fellow **Catherine Heard** in a talk exploring her long-term community textile installation project, *Redwork: The Emperor of Atlantis*, craftivism, collaborative textile traditions, and the links between textiles, protest, and revolution.

Thanks to everyone who came out to our events last year, which featured Lawrence Hill, Cornelia Lund, Gord Griesenthwaite, Randy Boyagoda, Jeff Noonan, and our 2022-23 fellow Emmanuelle Richez. The HRG also appreciates the generous support of the University of Windsor's Feminist Research Group and their legacy donation to the HRG that saw the launch of a student fellowship to reward feminist research in the humanities with recipients: **Diwen Shi, Ayesha Mian Akram, and Gena Dufour**. The HRG would like to warmly thank our audience for their attendance and participation—and for spreading the word about our public events. Please stay alert about future happenings with our HRG listserv. If you do not subscribe already, please email your request to join to HRGmail@uwindsor.ca. We invite your comments and suggestions to our email address as well. You can also find out what we are up to at any time at uwindsor.ca/hrg. We look forward to seeing and hearing from you this year!

KIM NELSON

DIRECTOR OF THE HUMANITIES RESEARCH GROUP



HRG 2023-2024 UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2023 @ 5:00 PM - PERFORMANCE HALL, ARMOURIES



Deborah Dundas is a writer, journalist, and the Books Editor at the Toronto Star with a broad background in the media. She has interviewed some of the world's most recognizable authors including Salman Rushdie, Margaret Atwood, Colson Whitehead, Jonathan Franzen, Zadie Smith and John Irving. She regularly appears on stage, television, and radio and is deeply involved with the literary community, often acting as a juror or host. She studied English and Political Science at Toronto's York University and has an MFA in Creative Nonfiction from the University of King's College.

Opening Up a Conversation About Class

A journalist who grew up poor and almost didn't make it to university, Deborah Dundas will draw from her book, *Opening Up a Conversation About Class*, in which she talks to writers, activists, those working with the poor, or are poor themselves, about what happens when we don't talk about poverty or class—and what will happen when we do. She explores who tells the stories about class and who doesn't, which ones tend to be repeated most often, and why this must change. Her talk asks the question: What don't we talk about when we don't talk about class? And what might happen if, finally, we did?

OCTOBER 18TH, 2023 @ 5:00 PM - PERFORMANCE HALL, ARMOURIES



Michael Alliemuthu Naicker was born in South Africa and grew up in Zululand. Naicker was active in the teacher unions in South Africa. These activities led to his involvement in the amalgamation of all teacher unions into one nonracial teacher union in South Africa. This early involvement led to a natural transition to politics at a municipal level. Currently a Vice Principal in Windsor, he has been in education for more than 37 years, making Windsor his home since 2005.

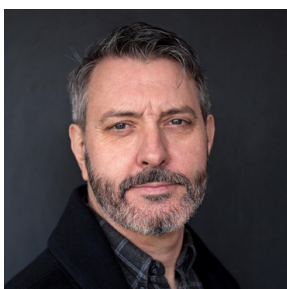
The Journey from Africa

Author of *African Sons: The Zululander*, Michael Naicker will detail his autobiography, tracing the sacrifices his ancestors made in crossing over to Africa, through the dark days of apartheid, to growing up as an Indian in a racially segregated society; all of which set the stage for his evolution as an educator.

This talk is co-sponsored by Assumption University.



NOVEMBER 30TH, 2023 @ 5:00 PM - PERFORMANCE HALL, ARMOURIES



Jason McBride is a Toronto-based freelance writer and editor. His writing on culture, politics and business has appeared in Maclean's, The Walrus, New York, Toronto Life, the Globe and Mail, The Believer, Hazlitt, and many other publications. His acclaimed first book, *Eat Your Mind: The Radical Life and Work of Kathy Acker*, was published by Simon & Schuster in 2022.

Autobiography, Autofiction, Autoeroticism

Jason McBride will examine the challenges of writing a biography of a figure like the avant-garde writer Kathy Acker, who refuses ideas of coherent subjectivity in her work (and life) while also compulsively, perpetually mining her own biography. McBride will explore how Acker prefigures some of the most popular autofictional writers of the moment, why autofiction continues to be such a compelling microgenre, and where it might be going next.

To access recent articles and essays by Jason McBride, please go to: www.jason-mcbride.com

HRG 2023-2024 UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 25TH, 2024 @ 5:00 PM - PERFORMANCE HALL, ARMOURIES



Dr. Rebecca Major is a member of the Métis Nation of Ontario. She is a descendant of the Northwest fur trade and spent most of her life in her modern community of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Major holds a PhD from the University of Saskatchewan in Indigenous Public Policy. She worked as a policy analyst and served as Métis local president in the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan. Since arriving in Windsor in 2018, she's been involved in the local community and in the creation of the Indigenous Studies minor. She holds two SSHRC grants, one exploring Indigenous women's impact in politics and another on EDID and Indigenization.

Indigenous Women in Politics—spontaneous tidal wave or sleeping giant?

Since the first term of Justin Trudeau's reconciliation government (2015-2019), Indigenous engagement in Canadian electoral politics increased, particularly that of Indigenous women. Some may attribute this increase to a more welcoming space because of Reconciliation discourse, but such an explanation discounts previous efforts made by other Indigenous women over generations. Dr. Major's talk focuses on Indigenous women's agency and the harms of reductionist explanations of its roots.

FEBRUARY 29TH, 2024 @ 5:00 PM - PERFORMANCE HALL, ARMOURIES



Michelle Shephard is an award-winning journalist, author, filmmaker and podcast host, and producer, recognized by the Governor-General's Michener Award for public service journalism. During her two decades at the Toronto Star, she reported from more than 20 countries, including Somalia, Yemen, Syria, Pakistan, going behind the wire at the U.S. Naval prison in Guantanamo Bay more than two dozen times. Among her many projects across multiple media, Shephard is the co-director and producer of the Emmy-nominated and multi-award-winning documentary *Guantanamo's Child*, (TIFF2015).

Telling The Truth in a Post-Truth Era

It's getting harder to sort fact from fiction, with the advent of AI and our declining attentions spans, along with populist politicians who encourage partisanship in an increasingly divisive world. Michelle Shephard's talk will consider how journalists and filmmakers can continue to tell stories that matter.

Films: [*"The Perfect Story."*](#)
[*"Guantanamo's Child."*](#)
Podcasts: [*Sharmini*](#),
[*Brainwashed*](#),
[*White Hot Hate*](#)
Book: [*Decade of Fear*](#)

MARCH 28TH, 2024 @ 5:00 PM - PERFORMANCE HALL, ARMOURIES



2023-24 HRG Fellow **Catherine Heard** is an Assistant Professor in the School of Creative Arts at the University of Windsor. Her practice utilizes fine craft as a foil for abject subject matter, delving into contested imagery and primal anxieties of the human psyche. Her current project, *Redwork* invites the public to collaborate in creating a textile installation using traditional redwork embroidery techniques to catalogue histories of injustice. Her work has been exhibited internationally and is in many permanent collections across the country. She is represented by Birch Contemporary Gallery in Toronto.

The Angel of History Sews with Red Thread

More than five years in the making, *Redwork: The Emperor of Atlantis* is a community textile installation that integrates embroideries by over two hundred and fifty individuals led by artist, professor, and 2023-24 HRG Fellow Catherine Heard. In her talk, Heard will reflect upon the evolution of the piece, providing insights into the histories of redwork embroidery, craftivism, collaborative textile traditions, and the ties between textiles, protest, and revolution. As AI rises, Heard will explain why the work of the hand becomes ever more important.



WHO WE ARE

The Humanities Research Group is an interdisciplinary council comprised of University of Windsor faculty, students, staff, and community members. We support humanities research and facilitate events where thinkers and audience members grapple with issues relating to the human condition. Our goal is to bring people together to challenge, inspire, and stimulate, in a space of open dialogue, sharing, and exchange.

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