

Notre Dame
Nulungu
**Talking Heads
Seminar Series**



A New Partnership, William Roe, 1994

**‘Intercultural bridges across the Romaine River flowing through the
Nitassinan and Minganie (North Shore, Québec)’**

Date: Wednesday 5th August 2020

Venue: UNDA Hall NDB10/101

Time: 12:30pm – 1:30pm



Presenter: Dr Laurie Guimond (Nulungu Adjunct Research Fellow)

Abstract

Since 2009, a major hydroelectric project on the Romaine River, located in the heart of the Nitassinan, Innu’s ancestral territory, and the regional county municipality (RCM) of Minganie on Québec’s North Shore region, has reshaped the relationships between the Innu and non-Innu and their territory. Given the magnitude of the project, a broader analysis of its economic and environmental impacts has been conducted mainly by Hydro-Québec and other government bodies. However, the intercultural incidences of such project were not anticipated nor included in the project planning phase, which has impeded its maximization of the regional economic spinoffs.

This seminar will present a research project, which one of the main outputs is the book *Des ponts interculturels à la rivière Romaine? (Intercultural bridges at the Romaine River?)* that investigated:

- the geographies of everyday life and the cross-cultural encounter of workers in remote northern workplace;
- the transformations of the Romaine River experienced by the Innus through time;
- how such major economic project influences – or not – regional intercultural dynamics.

We therefore questioned the dialectics between northern development and intercultural co-living in territories where cultures should be at the heart of the regional governance. Part of a wider critical reflection on neocolonialism, our analysis also questioned the current neoliberal resource development model in indigenous territories.

Biographies

Dr. Laurie Guimond is a professor in the geography department at Université du Québec à Montréal (Québec, Canada), an Adjunct Research Fellow in the Nulungu Research Institute at the University of Notre Dame Australia (Broome Campus) and a Research Fellow at Edith Cowan University. Her research revolves around enhancing the essential role of intercultural relations in the territorial development of northern Québec. Other fields of research she investigates include: contemporary northern and rural mobilities and migrations; indigenous – non-indigenous geographies of everyday life of the North; Indigenous awareness training.