

## Critical Conversations: Rethinking Borders -- Transnational Movements, Resistance, Identity, and Gender



**Lorena Sekwan Fontaine** (BA, LLB, LLM, PhD) is Cree and Anishnaabe and member of the Sagkeeng First Nation in Manitoba. She is an Associate Professor in Human Rights and Co-coordinator of Indigenous Languages at the University of Winnipeg. Dr. Fontaine's research includes Indigenous language rights, the legacy of residential schools and cultural genocide. Recently, she was awarded a Canada Fulbright research chair at San Diego State University to explore the repatriation of Indigenous cultural memory and language. Her research on the legacy of the residential schools was presented in a CBC documentary entitled *Undoing Linguicide*. Dr. Fontaine has co-organized educational forums with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC and the Dornsife Centre for Advanced Genocide in Los Angeles. For over two decades, Dr. Fontaine has been an advocate for Residential School Survivors as well as their descendants. She was a task force member and contributor to the Assembly of First Nation's Report on Canada's Dispute Resolution Plan to compensate for abuses in Indian Residential Schools. Dr. Fontaine also acted as a legal consultant to the Toronto law firm Thomson, Rogers in a National Class Action on Residential schools. In 2019, she was invited as an expert witness to the Standing Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal peoples regarding the Indigenous Languages Act. Dr. Fontaine has also served on several national committees such as an Equality Rights Panel member for the Court Challenges Program of Canada and a National Steering Committee Member for the National Association of Women and the Law in Canada. She has also been involved with the Women's Legal Education and Action fund as a board member and subcommittee member.



**Dr. Shauna Labman** is the Executive Director, Global College at the University of Winnipeg. She is an Associate Professor of Human Rights and a legal scholar who writes and speaks extensively on refugee law, resettlement and private refugee sponsorship within a broader context of human rights and public international law. Her book, [Crossing Law's Border: Canada's Refugee Resettlement Program](#) (UBC Press 2019) examines the intersection of international rights, responsibility and obligation in the absence of a legal scheme for refugee resettlement. *Crossing Law's Border* was awarded the 2019 K.D. Srivastava Prize for Excellence in Scholarly Publishing. She is co-editor of the book [Strangers to Neighbours: Refugee Sponsorship in Context](#) (MQUP 2020). Both books were consecutively named in The Hill Times' list of 100 Best Books in 2019 and 2020. Dr. Labman completed both her PhD and LLM at the University of British Columbia, Faculty of Law and received her LLB from the University of Victoria. She has worked for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in New Delhi, the Canadian Embassy in Beijing, the Law Commission

of Canada in Ottawa, the Workers Compensation Board of BC, and the Nunavut Court of Justice in Iqaluit. She articulated as a law clerk at Canada's Federal Court of Appeal. She previously sat on the Executive of the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers and is a Member of the Legal Help Centre's Board of Directors (Winnipeg). Dr. Labman is a member of the Law Society of Manitoba and was a member of the Law Society of Ontario from 2004-2018.



**Robert Lorway** is a professor of medical anthropology in the Institute for Global Public Health, University of Manitoba, where he holds the Canada Research Chair in Global Intervention Politics and Social Transformation. His research analyzes how forms of intervention life unfurl around transnationally-mediated attempts to alleviate the suffering of stigmatized people. He has written two books on the subject, *Namibia's*

*Rainbow Project: Gay Rights in an African Nation*, and *AIDS Activism, Science and Community across Three Continents*.



**Dr. Shayna Plaut's** work sits at the intersection of academia, journalism and advocacy focusing on ethics, methods and self-representation in journalism and transnational advocacy - particularly with people who do not fit in well in the traditional understanding of the nation-state. Her work has been published in a variety of human rights, sociological and journalism academic journals and she is the lead editor for an upcoming collaborative book entitled, "The Messy Ethics of Human Rights Work" to be published by UBC Press. As an educator, researcher and journalist, Shayna has taught and designed

numerous courses on human rights, migration, ethics and methods, and human rights journalism/human rights stories. Shayna is the Director for the Centre for Social Science Research and Policy at the University of Manitoba and incoming Director of Research at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. She has served as a consultant for the UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Amnesty International and a variety of migrant and human rights organizations throughout Canada, the US and Europe. Since 2014, Shayna has served as the Research Manager for Strangers at Home, a project of the Global Reporting Centre, which has won numerous journalistic and human rights award. Shayna is a frequent contributor to local, Canadian and international media.



Sociologist **[Dr. Lori Wilkinson](#)** focuses on the migration and resettlement experiences of refugees, particularly children, youth and their families. She is the director of [Immigration Research West](#) and was recently appointed as Canada Research Chair in Migration Futures. Wilkinson is currently working on a nationally funded study on the arrival experiences of Afghan refugees to Canada, a study of gender- and sexually-based violence experienced by refugee women, and heads a three nation study of the socioeconomic and mental

health effects of the COVID-19 social and economic restrictions on immigrant and refugee families.