

**Call for Proposals: Performing Cartography**  
York University Theatre and Performance Studies  
5th Annual Graduate Symposium  
**Keynote:** Dr. Mishuana Goeman

**Deadline:** January 15th, 2016

**Symposium Date:** April 29th, 2016

**Location:** Traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy,  
Wendat Nation, Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation  
and the Métis Nation of Ontario  
York University, Toronto, Ontario.

“To begin to (re)map the settler nation, we must start with Native forms of mapping and consider Native-made spaces that are too often disavowed, appropriated, or co-opted by the settler state through writing, imagining, law, politics, and the terrains of culture”  
(Mishuana Goeman, *Mark My Words* 24)

“Who is it *really* that is hankering after a notion of place as settled, a resting place? Who is it that is worrying about the breakdown of barriers supposedly containing an identity?”  
(Doreen Massey, *Space, Place and Gender* 122)

As we move towards Canada's 150th birthday (2017) and its subsequent celebration, it is important to look back and consider the circumstances surrounding that birth. While carving out its own space, Canada violently displaced and dispossessed Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island. One of the ways this displacement and dispossession was (and continues to be) enacted is through the cartographic eye of the colonizer. Thinking about the performative act of cartography and how it has helped shape the settler state Canada, this symposium inquires what performance can contribute to embodied or other alternative forms of mapping.

Feminist geographer Doreen Massey asks us to reconsider “space not as static but as dynamic sets of relationships” (*Space, Place and Gender* 2), forcing us to critically examine the performative act of mapping place as locale on a map, but also to think about alternative mapping forms. Building on the scholarship of Massey, Native American literature and gender studies scholar Mishuana Goeman invites us to consider the “metaphoric and material capacities of map making, to generate new possibilities” (*Mark My Words* 3) that are specific to Indigenous authors and their communities. We echo Goeman and Massey’s calls in our fifth annual Theatre and Performance Studies graduate symposium, and hope to ask: who is really “hankering after” the notion of “Canada” (place) as settled, and how can performance and Native forms of mapping generate new possibilities on Turtle Island?

Some specific questions one could explore are: What can theatre and performance offer for geographical thinking? How are geographies held in our bodies; how do our bodies map or remap places? How might digital technology contribute to remapping? How do performance scholars, artists and activists make visible the intangible nature of geographical experience? How might we consider, as do Goeman and other scholars such as Julie Nagam, Native forms of mapping; how do Indigenous artists (re)map the “settler nation” (Goeman 9)? We encourage performative responses for radical rethinking of mapping and how performance as a medium engages with ideas of embodied geographical knowledge.

We are inviting proposals for various engagements with mapping: walks, installations, papers, performances and workshops.

**Possible topics include (but are not limited to):**

- Mapping and (re)mapping the settler state
- Heritage landscapes
- Intangible/sensory geographies
- Border politics – straddling, rethinking and reconceptualizing Canadian borders
- Maps as pedagogy – how do different kinds of maps in education (institutional or otherwise) inform how we conceptualize space?
- Maps as performances – mapmakers’ agendas, map legends, what maps leave out, and the readers’ relationship to the map
- Maps of genealogy
- Tools and technologies of mapping
- Landscapes and/or landmarks
- Theatrical spaces
- Mapping public and private spaces
- Performance and digital mapping practices

Please send proposals for papers, performances/installations and/or workshops (250-300 words) and a brief bio (100 words) to [yutps.symposium@gmail.com](mailto:yutps.symposium@gmail.com) by **Friday January 15, 2016**. Please include with your proposal any technical requirements (internet access, smudging needs, sound, video, etc.).