

# **The Things We Think With**

**A Symposium celebrating objects of meaning in our teaching, learning and research**

**July 19 & 20, 2021**

**Hosted by Kathryn Ricketts and Esther Maeers**

*Presented in collaboration with the Living Heritage: Identities, Communities, Environments research cluster*



**This symposium is about the fascination and celebration of objects as an important catalyst, tool, container and provocation in our daily lives in the academy. We are a relatively small group from all corners of the campus bringing forward a kind of playful and thoughtful 'show and tell' around the objects that hold meaning for us in our lives. The library archivist, the scientist and the mathematician, the musician, dancer and the registered nurse are only a few of the presenters contributing to this rich event of exchange and inspiration. We will be looking at narratives, both fiction and non-fiction, notions of archiving and collecting and the act of curating on a granular and institutional level.**

*(Thanks to Sherry Turkle for the title of this symposium)*

**See schedule below**

**July 19<sup>th</sup>**

**10 AM -10:15**

**Kathryn Ricketts  
& Esther Maeers**

*Welcome remarks*

<b>10:15 – 10:45</b>	<b>Joseph Naytowhow</b> Faculty of Education	<i>ahkamiyimowin: Perseverance with my spiritual practice is my fortune that has helped me deal with life's challenges. Ceremonial objects that I use will be explained through my journeys acquisition of them.</i>
<b>10:45 – 11:15</b>	<b>Esther Maeers</b> Faculty of Education	<i>What objects do young children turn to when they are having a rough day? What objects bring them joy? What stories are contained within objects they play with? I will journey alongside young children using photography, poetry and narratives to uncover object stories and the power of things in their lives.</i>
<b>15 minute Break</b>		
<b>11:30 – 12:00</b>	<b>Laurie Clune</b> Faculty of Nursing	<i>I use fibre to share stories and self reflections about nursing and health care.</i>
<b>12:00 – 12:30</b>	<b>Mel Hart</b> Faculty of Science	<i>I work with animal bones (skulls and skeletons) so students experience real specimens instead of working from textbooks or online sources.</i>
<b>30 minute break</b>		
<b>1 – 1:30</b>	<b>Gale Russell</b> Faculty of Education	<i>I use various kinds of objects, including drawings and language, to explore and teach mathematics. The various representations help me and my students to understand the properties, purposes, contexts, and relationships within and between different mathematical ideas.</i>
<b>1:30 - 2</b>	<b>Ian Campbell</b> MAP	<i>I'm going to be examining the relationship between a specific tool and how having a tool allows you to navigate the construction of raw materials into meaningful objects.</i>
<b>2 – 2:30</b>	<b>Gerald Saul</b> MAP	<i>I take meditative breaks away from looking with cameras to looking at cameras, creating a series of non-lens-based paintings celebrating the diversity and tactile nature of cameras as objects.</i>

<b>2:30 - 3</b>	<b>Maria Velez Caicedo</b> Faculty of Science	<i>I study ancient life (fossils) to try understand our planet, back when there were no humans on Earth. Fossils are my window and my tool to a distant past.</i>
<b>July 20<sup>th</sup></b>		
<b>9:45 AM -10:15</b>	<b>Emily Ashton</b> Faculty of Education	<i>By thinking-with an everyday scenario of a sand-sandbox-child-adult assemblage, I highlight some limits of the child as subject-object-other of early childhood education. Instead, I propose a relational form of "geontological learning" that shifts from learning-about a thing to learning-with a range of existents.</i>
<b>10:15 – 10:45</b>	<b>Crista Bradley</b> Library	<i>As an archivist, I use primary sources like photographs, diaries, and letters to help people engage with, and learn about, the past.</i>
<b>10:45 – 11:15</b>	<b>Stacey Bliss</b> MAP	<i>I work together with objects that 'sound' (such as bowls, chimes, gongs) to evoke the non-material aspect of one's being.</i>
<b>15 minute Break</b>		
<b>11:30 – 12:00</b>	<b>Christine Ramsay</b> MAP	<i>Ceramic artist Mark Hewitt thinks about wood-fired kiln pots as "dusted by chance" and "painted by atmospheric turbulence"-- wild and primal natural "landscapes" that form part of the places, clay deposits, trees, and historical and geographic contexts in which they have emerged; so the object I've been thinking with, the Bialetti coffee pot, of which I make multiples, from clay.</i>
<b>12:00 – 12:30</b>	<b>Michael Trussler</b> Faculty of Arts	<i>If binoculars allow the inhuman world to move toward us, they also don't insert the self into the world the way a camera does (however negligibly in street photography or overtly with a Selfie). Binoculars expose us to the world's manifold temporal discontinuities. It's as though we're</i>

		<i>encompassed within time and yet simultaneously excluded from it.</i>
<b>30 minute break</b>		
<b>1 – 1:30</b>	<b>Amy Snider</b> MAP	<i>I am a ceramicist who uses plates, bowls, and cups to embody the climate crisis</i>
<b>1:30 - 2</b>	<b>Kathryn Ricketts</b> Faculty of Education	<i>For a long time, I have enjoyed the wall of Value Village where conglomerates of discarded house hold objects hang in clear plastic bags for the standard price of \$2.99. I thought of this wall as a museum with all the many authors/curators of these aggregates. Anthropology of the Discard is an ongoing project using these bulging bags of compelling narratives.</i>
<b>2 – 2:30</b>	<b>Trevor Tomesh</b> Faculty of Science	<i>I study the properties of systems by disassembling and recombining disused electronic objects.</i>
<b>2:30 – 3:00</b>	<b>Ken Wilson</b> Faculty of Arts	<i>My object is a basket woven from invasive species, including quack grass, creeping bellflower, Chinese elm, and dandelion. I call it 'Colonizing Basket,' because those plants were brought by settlers and have a habit of taking over the habitat of indigenous plant species. It also taught me how difficult it is to weave a basket!</i>

## Registration for Event

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-things-we-think-with-tickets-160295599453>

Zoom link is provided with registration confirmation

For more information [rickettk@uregina.ca](mailto:rickettk@uregina.ca)

For more information on the research cluster, please see:

<https://www.uregina.ca/research/research-expertise/research-strengths/living-heritage.html>