

Workshop 'Print in French and English Canada'
Organized by Claire Battershill and Julien Lefort-Favreau
Jackman Humanities Institute

March 21st 2025, 9 AM – 1PM

The Canadian book ecosystem (Josée Vincent and Marie-Pier Luneau use the expression *système-livre*) is split both linguistically and economically. On one side, an independent/Canadian-owned portion, on the other side, publishing businesses handled by international conglomerate companies. This division is rooted in the convergence of New Nationalism and Quebec nationalism in the 1960s and 1970s. This era is the birthplace of Canada's largest publishing houses (both in French and English and across Canada) and the public institutions (Canada Council for the Arts, translation programs, Canada Book Fund) that support them financially. This workshop has two central aims:

1) define and interrogate “print nationalism” and to analyze its mechanisms in Canada. This notion, derived from “print capitalism” by Benedict Anderson (*Imagined Communities*, 1983), has not been fully conceptualized^[1]. This is a major gap both in the scholarship of Canadian Book History and Print Culture, and a better understanding would help shape professional practices promoted by granting agencies and professional associations.

2) We aim to bridge Book History work in the English and French languages in Canada and to consider the ways in which collaborations and networks of scholars working across languages and print traditions might mutually enrich one another's research. Some phenomena require attention to cultural transfers. Crossing perspectives seems beneficial, even necessary.

This workshop aims to discuss in groups, around 2 or 3 texts, various historical and contemporary issues concerning the complexity of print cultures in the 20th century in Canada

This workshop will be an opportunity to discuss your current research topics or simply your research interests in relation to the theme.

Please write to Claire Battershill (claire.battershill@utoronto.ca) and Julien Lefort-Favreau (jlf10@queensu.ca) to register.

Lunch will be provided.

^[1] Leslie Howsam, the great Canadian book historian, has begun to define the notion in an issue of *Mémoire du livre/ Studies in Book Culture*, 2010, but has since then changed the direction of her scholarship. Yvan Lamonde and Patricia Fleming have produced a landmark history of print in Canada, but it stops in 1918.