

MLC ANNUAL

IMPACT REPORT



// 2023 - 2024

Name and Address

Modern Literature and Culture Research Center (MLC)
415 Yonge Street, Suite 1802
Archive: 415 Yonge Street 1802-F and P3

MLC Gallery: 111 Gerrard Street East (Ground Floor)

TEL: 416-979-5000 ext 554771

Website: mlc.torontomu.ca

X (Twitter): @MLC_Research

MLC Director & Executive Team

Irene Gammel, PhD, Executive Director
Cintia Cristiá, PhD, Academic Lead
Cigdem A. MacInnis, MFA, MLC Coordinator
Jaclyn Marcus, MA, PhD, Executive Member
Jason Wang, PhD, Executive Member, Space & Technology
Warsan Amin, MA, Communication Consultant
Anna Krentz, MA, Archive and Rare Material Consultant

MLC Research Associates

See our website for a listing of research associates who are involved in projects.

MLC International Advisory Board

Silmy Abdullah, J.D., Writer and Lawyer, Toronto
Jonathan P. Eburne, PhD, Professor, Pennsylvania State University
Tsitsi Ella Jaji, PhD, English Department, Duke University
Sarah Milroy, C.M., Chief Curator, McMichael Canadian Art Collection
Joseph Plaster, PhD, Public Humanities, Johns Hopkins University
Victoria Rosner, PhD, Professor and Dean, Gallatin School at New York University

Disruption and Note on Location:

Because of mold damage in the GER Building, the MLC was asked to move to 415 Yonge Street (YNG-1802) in 2021-2022, though our MLC Gallery has not yet been relocated and we are hoping for the university to provide us with a new Gallery space.

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Literature in Times of Crisis

When I was interviewed by *New York Times* journalist Elisabeth Egan in October 2023 about the post-World War I novel *Emily of New Moon*, I was struck by the international craving for Canadian cultural heritage, especially during times of high conflict.

In periods of crisis and upheaval, literature and art serve as important sources of solace and escape, as well as tools of criticism. At the Modern Literature and Culture (MLC) Research Centre, we advocate for literature's powerful agency in reconstructing our increasingly complicated world with empathy and care.

In 2023-2024, we ramped up our research program's triple focus on (1) Operation Canada with focus on Canada's cultural heritage; (2) Storytelling, Crisis, and Upheaval; and (3) Archives and Community.

Our team delivered 40 international conference papers across five countries—Australia, England, Spain, the United States, and Canada—and published 20 scholarly articles and book chapters, all while engaging with cutting-edge technological disruptions like Generative AI.



Moreover, the year has marked a bold step forward in amplifying the global impact of the MLC scholarship. We hosted 35 prominent international speakers, including Pulitzer Prize winner Susan Chira, editor-in-chief for the *Marshall Project*; post-9/11 novelist Amy Waldman, author of the haunting novel *The Submission*; and scholars across the world from Canada to Uzbekistan.

As a powerhouse for hands-on learning, the MLC Research Centre has trained 37 highly qualified personnel (HQP) this past year, in addition to supporting experiential teaching innovations in nine courses across the Faculty of Arts and the Creative School, involving 220 students. Backed by our international advisory board of 6 global thought leaders, we organized numerous workshops and an open house featuring 20 World War II quilts donated to the Centre's archive in 2023.

Confronting--and creatively navigating--the current austerity surrounding university education, we forged new partnerships locally with the City of Toronto for the upcoming *Threads of History* exhibition, and globally with the prestigious Hemingway Society to bring the annual conference to Toronto in 2026, a first for Canada. We forged internal partnerships with TMU Library Collaboratory on sharing our high-tech equipment and we supported the Creative School's SSHRC-funded *Fashion Studies* journal, co-edited by long-time MLC Research Associate Alison Matthews David.

I am thrilled to report on the Obama Fellowship award. Being the first Canadian woman scholar to receive this honour is momentous, representing a significant opportunity to forge connections between the MLC Research Centre and the Obama Institute in Germany. As we chart our future, we take inspiration from our achievements, our values, and collective mission.

I extend my deepest gratitude to those who support us, including the Tri-Council granting agencies, Toronto Metropolitan University via the Dean of Arts, the Provost, the Vice-President Research and Innovation, and our donors, stakeholders, and media partners. We share a passionate belief in the power of globally impactful research on cultural heritage and the value of experiential learning for the next generation.

Your support is invaluable for our success.

Irene Gammel



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2023-2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

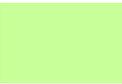
Research Foci

1. Operation Canada and Canadian Cultural Heritage
2. Storytelling, Crisis, and Upheaval
3. Archives and Community

Research Impact:

The MLC program has achieved substantial international recognition, highlighted by Irene Gammel's historic Obama Fellowship and a globally impactful mobilization through interviews and documentaries, reaching large audiences. Additionally, the program's extensive research initiatives, international collaborations, and hosting of prominent global scholars have significantly enhanced the university's global reputation and influence in modern literature and culture, modernism, and Canadian heritage.

Training Impact:

1. Diverse and Inclusive Training: The MLC Research Centre has trained 37 students and recent graduates, fostering diversity and inclusivity with a strong international presence.
 2. Interdisciplinary Projects: Trainees engage in projects like Operation Canada and Storytelling, Crisis, and Upheaval, merging practical and theoretical knowledge.
 3. Global Exposure: Hosting 35 international speakers and forming global partnerships, the Centre prepares trainees for leadership in academia and culture globally.
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IMPACT BY NUMBER

35

**International
Speakers Hosted**

20

Articles and Chapters Published

40

**Conference
Papers and
Keynotes**

18

**National
and Global
Partners**

37

**Highly Qualified
Personnel Trained**

20

**WWII Quilts
Received as
Donation**

9

**Experiential
Courses Supported**

8

**Grant-funded
Projects**

146 Million

Readers for Top News Impact

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STRATEGIC PARTNERS



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LITERATURE
& CULTURE**
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