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ISER Books is grateful for the support it receives for its publishing program from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Memorial University and the Awards to Scholarly Publications Program (with funds provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada).

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Robert Bond
A Political Biography

by James K. Hiller
ISBN 978-1-894725-47-7 • paperback • 512 pp • 6x9”
Black and white archival photos
SERIES: Social and Economic Studies #84
$29.95 CAD

James Hiller surveys and evaluates the political career of Robert Bond (Sir Robert from 1900) from the time of his first election in 1882. Bond resigned his seat in 1914, but remained a politically significant figure until his death. He was at the centre of political life in Newfoundland for over 30 years, and prime minister from 1900–1908.

Remembered as the man who might have saved Newfoundland from the humiliation of surrendering responsible government in 1934, Bond has been described as “Newfoundland’s only statesman.” James Hiller seeks to determine whether this reputation is warranted.

Rich with archival images of Robert Bond, his contemporaries, and of Newfoundland in the covered period.

James Hiller came to Newfoundland from England as a graduate student in the 1960s and was hired as a member of the Department of History in 1972. He retired as a University Research Professor in 2007 and was appointed professor emeritus in 2010. In 2011, Dr. Hiller was the recipient the Newfoundland Historical Society’s Heritage Award.

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The Earth is Flat!
An Exposé of the Globularist Hoax
by Dr. Leo Charles Ferrari, President,
The Flat Earth Society

drilled by David Eso and Kay Burns
ISBN 978-1-894725-59-0 • paperback • 264 pp • 5.5x7.5”
SERIES: Social and Economic Studies #85
$24.95 CAD

David Eso and Kay Burns’s edition of philosopher Leo Ferrari’s previously unpublished 1973 manuscript brings to light a long forgotten satirical work, which, in an age of fake news, possesses renewed relevance. The editors contextualize The Earth is Flat! for the reader with a scholarly introduction and a humorous “Forewarning.” Author, Leo Ferrari, draws on his extensive knowledge of classical thought and its key figures to present a history of ideas that is sometimes accurate, sometimes speculative. Speculative or alternative aspects of this history support his Flat Earth theme, as do a number of scientific experiments outlined, which the reader is encouraged to try. He traces the conflict between “Globularist” and “Planoterrestrial” beliefs from antiquity to his contemporary moment of the early 1970s, marked by space exploration. Later chapters chart the activities and philosophies of the Flat Earth Society of Canada, including Ferrari’s experience on the lecture circuit and in media platforms. The author’s method is to blur the line between seriousness and humour and to show that intellectual work can also be good fun. He uses the idea of a spinning, spherical planet to symbolically represent the alienating effects of technological modernity.

David Eso is a PhD candidate in the Department of English at the University of Victoria. He specializes in 1970s-era Canadian cultural studies and archival research.

Artist Kay Burns re-instated the Flat Earth Society of Canada in 2002. She now oversees that body and the Flat Earth Museum, which operates on Fogo Island, Newfoundland — the island placed at “the edge of the Earth” by original Society members.

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Creating a University
The Newfoundland Experience

edited by Stephen Harold Riggins and Roberta Buchanan
ISBN 978-1-894725-52-1 • paperback • 368 pp • 6x9”
Black and white photos
SERIES: Social and Economic Papers #36
$26.95 CAD

Creating a University is a collection of short essays by more than 30 former faculty and staff of Memorial University — a series of “MUNographies,” — about personal and professional experiences working at Newfoundland’s only university. In the years covered by this volume, primarily 1950 to 1990, few Memorial faculty were Canadians, let alone Newfoundlanders. These “come from aways” arrived in the middle of a post-colonial cultural renaissance, which saw a movement toward new interdisciplinary studies, and laid the groundwork for many of the programs and courses that are offered at the University today.

Stephen Harold Riggins taught sociology at Memorial University for 25 years. Stephen has edited four books about ethnic minority media, sociological theory, and material culture studies. He is the author of the autobiographical book The Pleasures of Time: Two Men, a Life. Stephen was born in southern Indiana.

Roberta Buchanan was a founding member of the Women’s Studies program at Memorial University. Publications include I Moved All My Women Upstairs (poetry); with Anne Hart and Brian Greene, The Woman Who Mapped Labrador: The Life and Labrador Expedition Diary of Mina Hubbard.
Shaped by Silence
Stories from Inmates of the Good Shepherd Laundries and Reformatories

by Rie Croll
ISBN 978-1-894725-53-8 • paperback • 288 pp • 6x9"
SERIES: Social and Economic Studies #83
$29.95 CAD

Shaped by Silence brings together the powerful stories of five women from Ireland, Canada, and Australia whose lives were shaped by forced confinement in Magdalene laundries and other institutions operated by the Roman Catholic Order of Sisters of the Good Shepherd. Their narratives include one teenager’s experience in a Good Shepherd training school in Canada; another story of a child who was born in a Canadian Good Shepherd laundry; and three accounts of adolescent girls held in Good Shepherd Magdalene laundries in Ireland and Australia. In these institutions, women and girls became a coerced workforce. Hard, unpaid and relentless physical toil, isolation, enforced silence, and prayer constituted the nuns’ strategy for converting their “fallen” charges into the Christian image of pure womanhood. Within this regime, girls and women suffered physical, psychological, and emotional abuse. While intimately capturing the dark and enduring after-effects of ill-treatment, the stories recounted in Shaped by Silence also describe survivors’ efforts to heal and rebuild their lives. This important book shines a light on a pervasive and systemic pattern of cruelty and exploitation. It reveals the unwarranted confinement of generations of girls and women in Good Shepherd institutions around the world and constitutes a call for full acknowledgement of their suffering.

Rie Croll is an associate professor of sociology in the social/cultural studies programme at Memorial University, Grenfell Campus, and a former therapist who worked with abused girls and women.

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We All Expected to Die
Spanish Influenza in Labrador, 1918–1919

by Anne Budgell
ISBN 978-1-894725-54-5 • paperback • 392 pp • 6x9”
Black and white archival photos
SERIES: Social and Economic Studies #82
$26.95 CAD

“Anne Budgell’s meticulous research ... provides the essential context that allows us to interpret the statistics and understand the severe and indelible impact of the 1918 pandemic.”
—Dr. Theresa Tam,
Chief Public Health Officer of Canada

At the end of World War I, after four years of unimaginable man-made destruction, a swiftly killing virus travelled the planet. Up to one hundred million people perished in the most lethal pandemic in recorded history, the so-called “Spanish” influenza.

Nowhere on earth was the flu more deadly than in isolated settlements on the far northeastern coast of North America. In We All Expected to Die: Spanish Influenza in Labrador, 1918–1919 Anne Budgell reconstructs the horrific impact of the pandemic in hard-hit Labrador locations, such as the Inuit villages of Okak and Hebron where the mortality rate was 71 per cent. Using the recollections of survivors, diaries kept at the time, Hudson’s Bay Company journals, newspaper reports, and government documents, this powerful and uncompromising book tells the story of how the flu travelled to Labrador and wreaked havoc there. It examines how people dealt with the emergency, when all were sick and few were well enough to care for others, and how authorities elsewhere refused to provide assistance. The story We All Expected to Die reveals is both devastating and haunting. It is a story of great loss, but also of human endurance, heroism, and survival.

Anne Budgell is a journalist who worked with CBC radio and television in Newfoundland and Labrador for over thirty years. Her interest in Labrador history was encouraged by her mother, the daughter of a fur trapper; and her father, the son of a Hudson’s Bay Company factor.
Mistress of the Blue Castle
The Writing Life of Phebe Florence Miller

by Vicki S. Hallett
ISBN 978-1-894725-49-1 • paperback • 212 pp • 6x9”
SERIES: Social and Economic Studies #81
$24.95 CAD

“A landmark book, Mistress of the Blue Castle seeks to illuminate the life and writing of a hitherto little-studied poet. This work is a significant contribution to the study of Newfoundland culture.”
—Mary Dalton, author of Edge and Merrybegot

Phebe Florence Miller was a poet and postmistress who lived in Topsail, Newfoundland and Labrador from 1889–1979. Despite her success as a poetic voice in the 1920s and ’30s, Miller is an obscure figure for today’s readers. This book brings her life and her contributions to Newfoundland and Labrador culture back into focus through the lens of her most personal writing. Mistress of the Blue Castle: The Writing Life of Phebe Florence Miller is an evocative exploration of the ways that identity and place are created together through the diaries, journals, poems, and letters that this mercurial artist left behind.

Vicki S. Hallett is an assistant professor in the Department of Gender Studies at Memorial University. For many years her research and writing have focussed on the co-constitutive aspects of identity and place as expressed through life narrative. She is from Newfoundland and Labrador.

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The Music of Our Burnished Axes

Songs and Stories of the Woods Workers of Newfoundland and Labrador

by Ursula A. Kelly & Meghan C. Forsyth

ISBN 978-1-894725-40-8 • paperback • 488 pp • 7x9”

Black and white archival photos

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“A strong, stirring composition of voices. What a resource. What a trove.”

— Joan Sullivan, The Telegram

The first comprehensive collection of musical compositions, recitations, poems, and narratives written by, for, and about twentieth-century woods workers in Newfoundland and Labrador. It analyzes their significance — as both grassroots social history texts and creative and musical contributions — and creates a portrait of a culture shaped by the harvesting of timber. Inside you will find: a history of lumbering and logging; an exploration of the place of song and story in woods work and culture; musical transcriptions of 76 locally composed songs and tunes, with analysis of this musical tradition; complete song lyrics with contextual discussion; more than 70 archival photos; and a glossary of occupational words.

Ursula A. Kelly is a professor in the Faculty of Education of Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada. Her areas of specialization are cultural studies, critical education, and critical literacies.

Meghan C. Forsyth is an ethnomusicologist specializing in the instrumental music and dance traditions of the Acadian diaspora. She is a lecturer in ethnomusicology and popular music studies and an Adjunct Professor in Memorial’s School of Music.
Food Futures
Growing a Sustainable Food System for Newfoundland and Labrador

edited by Catherine Keske
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Over the centuries, people living in Newfoundland and Labrador have demonstrated remarkable resourcefulness in order to reap the bounty of both sea and land. However, despite renewed interest in traditional Newfoundland and Labrador cuisine, the reality is that many cannot attain healthy and affordable food. Food Futures contributes to the Canadian food studies literature by exploring the origins, present day complexities, and future of the Newfoundland and Labrador food system. This interdisciplinary collection draws from the research of 24 scholars in disciplines ranging from anthropology to biology. Collectively, the authors offer a vision for a sustainable food system that meets the dual goals of achieving food security and food sovereignty for all.

Catherine Keske is an associate professor of management at the University of California-Merced. She is an adjunct professor in the School of Science and the Environment at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Catherine comes from an agribusiness family. She earned her PhD in agricultural and resource economics from Colorado State University.
The Democracy Cookbook
Recipes to Renew Governance in Newfoundland and Labrador

edited by Alex Marland & Lisa Moore
ISBN 978-1-894725-44-6 * paperback * 392 pp * 6 x 9" * $25.00
SERIES: Social and Economic Papers #34

“The Democracy Cookbook … is indisputably informative and engrossing. Marland and Moore’s innovative treatment deserves emulation.” — David E. Smith, Ryerson University

The Democracy Cookbook is a collection of short and snappy, non-partisan opinion pieces authored by a cross-section of opinion leaders, academics, creative writers and other citizens. A unique form of grassroots mobilization, the book brings together a wide variety of voices to speak to the matter of “fixing” democratic governance in Newfoundland and Labrador after a period of acute political turmoil.

Towards an Encyclopedia of Local Knowledge
Excerpts from Chapters I and II

by Pam Hall
ISBN 978-1-550816-74-7 * hardcover * 192 pp * $79.95
Colour photographs and artwork * 13 x 9.5"
NEW SERIES: Visualizing the North Atlantic #1

“The work is informative, illuminating, testimonial and preservative. This encyclopedia is as one-of-a-kind as the knowledge it holds between its blue covers, a unique and invaluable publication.” — Joan Sullivan, The Telegram

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