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Memorial University Press 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). We are also grateful for support from the Government of Canada.

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About Memorial University Press

Memorial University Press is a scholarly monograph publisher. We publish cutting edge writing about the North Atlantic region (and beyond). As part of Memorial University, we have a special mandate to publish work that is relevant to Newfoundland and Labrador, and our books cover topics ranging from Indigenous issues, to oil and energy, to fisheries, to folklore. We publish authors from academic institutions across Canada and internationally, as well as independent scholars and non-academic experts and practitioners. Our books are read by scholars, students, and general readers the world over.

History

The Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) was founded at Memorial University in 1961 to foster Newfoundland-related research. Its publication arm, ISER Books, followed just five years later in 1966. Housed in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, ISER Books initially published doctoral theses of ISER research fellows relating to the uniqueness of Newfoundland in the fields of economics, anthropology, and sociology.

This mandate held through the 1960s, but soon after, recognizing Memorial University as a centre of academic excellence for social science research on both the province of Newfoundland and Labrador and the wider North Atlantic, ISER Books expanded its mandate to include scholarly multidisciplinary monographs about the society, economy, and culture of the North Atlantic region.

In its 55 years, ISER Books has published more than 120 books, of which close to 100 are still in print. The press has seen exceptional sellers, a number of award-winning publications, set a high bar for scholarship, and has emerged as a leader in research about the North Atlantic region.

In 2021, as approved by the Vice President’s Council in October 2020, ISER Books rebranded as Memorial University Press. The press’s priority for publishing high calibre research focused on the North Atlantic region remains the same, and ensures the press’s ongoing alignment with the geographic reality and research strengths of Memorial University.

Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that Memorial University Press is located the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, whose culture has been lost forever and can never be recovered. We also acknowledge the island of Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland) as the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and the Mi’kmaq. And we acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu of Nitassinan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut. We recognize all First Peoples who were here before us, those who live with us now, and the generations to come. We strive to be responsible stewards of the land and to respect the cultures, ceremonies, and traditions of all who call it home. Memorial University Press is committed to equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization, and we pledge dedicate ourselves to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.
Muskrat Falls
How a Mega Dam Became a Predatory Formation

edited by Stephen Crocker and Lisa Moore
ISBN 978-1-894725-94-1 • paperback • 300 pp • 6x9”
SERIES: Social and Economic Papers # 39
$ 27.95 CAD • ebook available

A multi-dimensional analysis of the social, political, and environmental problems the hydroelectric project has caused.

For almost a decade, the $13 billion Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project has been a central defining problem in the public life of Newfoundland and Labrador. The dam’s promise of clean hydro-power has been accompanied by an assemblage of crises linking together the threat of methylmercury poisoning with catastrophic flooding and cultural genocide for people living near the dam, and unmanageable public debt, suppression of alternative energy, and threats to affordable domestic heat and electricity for everyone else.

Muskrat Falls: How a Mega-Dam Became a Predatory Formation offers a multi-dimensional analysis of the social, political, and environmental problems the hydroelectric project has caused. This rich case study covers issues including Indigenous resistance; politics and economics; the role of journalism and social media; geophysical stability; and also contains interviews, original artwork and photography, and fictional prose about life in the area around the Falls.

Stephen Crocker is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Memorial University. He is the author of Bergson and the Metaphysics of Media (Palgrave 2013) and of numerous essays and works in social theory and Newfoundland culture.

Lisa Moore is an Associate Professor in the English Department of Memorial University and the author of three collections of short stories, three novels, a stage play, and a young adult novel. Her new novel, This Is How We Love, is forthcoming in May 2022.
Fishing Measures
A Critique of Desk-Bound Reason

by Daniel Banoub
ISBN 978-1-894725-97-2 • paperback • 264 pp • 6x9”
SERIES: Social and Economic Studies # 89
$26.95 CAD * ebook available

An investigation into the economic, political, and scientific history of the saltfishery in Newfoundland.

Fishing Measures investigates the introduction and development of fisheries science to Newfoundland’s saltfishery between the 1880s and 1930s. It demonstrates a shift in fishing expertise and authority in the organization of the saltfishery, from embodied fishers’ knowledge governed by colonial authority to modern scientific state management. It situates this shift in the history of capitalism, by showing how the development of abstract scientific knowledge is an integral component of the development of capitalist value relations.

Through theoretically-sensitive archival research, Fishing Measures trawls a variety of sources to document the introduction of scientific knowledge to all phases of saltfish production: from extraction to processing to consumption. The empirical sections of the book document scientific developments in artificial propagation, the knowledge of life-history and movements of cod, curing techniques, and cod liver oil production. The introduction and conclusion contextualize this narrative in a subterranean school of political economy known as “form analysis.” Fishing Measures contributes to contemporary debates regarding the relationship between capitalism, the environment, and science.

Daniel Banoub completed his PhD in Geography at the University of Manchester and is currently an OFI Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Geography at Memorial University. His research examines the historical-geographical political economy of resource extraction in Newfoundland and Labrador, with a focus on fisheries, aquaculture, and mining.

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Corner Windows and Cul-de-Sacs
The Remarkable Story of Newfoundland’s First Garden Suburb

by C.A. Sharpe and A.J. Shawyer
ISBN 978-1-990445-01-9 • paperback • 352 pp • 6x9”
SERIES: Social and Economic Studies #90
$28.95 CAD • ebook available

Grounded in research, the very human story of the creation of Churchill Park and the growth of a city.

At a distance, Corner Windows and Cul-De-Sacs is a study of urban growth, planning, and household reform; up close, the study reveals a much more human story. In 1942, while Newfoundland was in an active war zone, the death rate in St. John’s was higher than anywhere else in the colony. Overcrowded and dilapidated tenements, huddled on a maze of narrow lanes, fell prey to rampant tuberculosis, shockingly high infant mortality rates, and infectious disease.

In 1944, under crippling debt, the St. John’s Housing Corporation was formed, with a mandate to build a new garden suburb north of the city that would lead to the abandonment and demolition of the derelict housing. Churchill Park became the core of this residential development, and between 1945 and 1947 more than 200 houses and nearly 100 apartment units were constructed, laying the groundwork for the orderly post-war expansion of the city.

Chris Sharpe is a Professor Emeritus of Geography, Memorial University. During his 40-year career at MUNL, he pursued an interest in urban landscapes and housing. He is co-author of Sweat Equity: Cooperative House-Building in Newfoundland, 1920–1974.

Jo Shawyer is a retired Associate Professor of Geography, Memorial University. Throughout her career she has explored the dynamic character of cultural landscapes — their creation, maintenance, and change. She is co-author of Sweat Equity: Cooperative House-Building in Newfoundland, 1920–1974.
Strange Terrain
The Fairy World in Newfoundland

by Barbara Rieti
ISBN 978-1-894725-80-4 • paperback • 372 pp • 6x9”
SERIES: Social and Economic Studies #88
$27.95 CAD • ebook available

Thirty years after its original publication, a special anniversary edition of Barbara Rieti’s iconic work.

Winner of the Raymond Klibansky Prize, 1993 (now called the Canada Prize)

“A renaissance in fairylore studies...”
- Folklore Forum

“The first extensive study of belief in fairies in Canada...”
- Books in Canada

“One of our best modern fairy books. “
- Fairies, Folklore and Forteana

Barbara Rieti’s study began in 1983 when she met a young man who told her that he had been followed by the fairies. Subsequent research drew on hundreds of archival accounts of fairies and on Dr. Rieti’s own fieldwork on Newfoundland’s Avalon Peninsula. Rieti describes the specific contexts in which fairy experiences are recounted and the manner in which they are told, keeping the storytellers at centre stage. She also highlights themes such as connections between fairies and nature, and the relationships between fairies and people. Comparative material sets the subject in historical and international context and demonstrates the remarkable tenacity of these old yet persistent tales.

The fairies may be going, but they are not gone yet. The stories still to be heard offer a window on everyday folklife, as well as on an extraordinary world.

Barbara Rieti has an MA in Folklore from the University of California at Berkeley and a PhD in Folklore from Memorial University. In addition to Strange Terrain, she is the author of Making Witches: Newfoundland Traditions of Spells and Counterspells (McGill-Queen’s, 2008).
The Foresters’ Scribe
Remembering the Newfoundland Forestry Companies Through the First World War Letters of Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant John A. Barrett

by Ursula A. Kelly
ISBN 978-1-894725-73-6 • paperback • 354 pp • 6x9”
SERIES: Social and Economic Studies #87
$27.95 CAD • ebook available

A poignant and comprehensive study of the Newfoundland Forestry Companies of the First World War, as told through letters sent home from Scotland.

Short-listed, Newfoundland and Labrador Book Award for Non-Fiction 2021

More than one hundred years have passed since the end of the First World War, yet little has been written about the Newfoundland Forestry Companies—the men who answered the call to cut timber overseas in support of Newfoundland’s and the United Kingdom’s war effort. The letters of Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant John A. Barrett of the Newfoundland Forestry Companies, collected here for the first time, provide a comprehensive account of the work and life of the foresters during their time at Dunkeld and Kenmore, Perthshire, Scotland.

From the Unit’s inception and departure from Newfoundland in 1917 to its return in 1919, Barrett’s letters offer insights into the daily lives of the men, their successes and challenges, and the care extended to them by the Scottish people. Significantly, his reports are given insightful context by Ursula Kelly’s illuminating text as well as by dozens of archival images. The Foresters’ Scribe foregrounds the experiences of an often-forgotten group of soldiers, and in the process, it expands the narrative of Newfoundland and Labrador’s Great War history.

Ursula A. Kelly is a John Lewis Paton Distinguished University Professor at Memorial University. Her research is interdisciplinary and within the areas of cultural studies and critical education.
Voices of Inuit Leadership and Self-Determination in Canada

edited by David Lough
ISBN 978-1-894725-69-9 • paperback • 212 pp • 6x9”
SERIES: Social and Economic Papers #38
$24.95 CAD • ebook available

A broad range of perspectives and voices united in their commitment to understanding what Inuit leadership is, has been, and will be.

This book presents a broad range of perspectives and voices—Inuit and non-Inuit, youth and Elders, academics and community members—united in their commitment to understanding what Inuit leadership is, has been, and will be. Premised on the understanding that new ways of blending traditional knowledge with scientific epistemologies must be forged, this volume represents a continuum of voices and styles. It also deploys a diversity of formats, ranging from traditional storytelling to structured critical discourse. Always considering past, present, and future, Voices of Inuit Leadership and Self-Determination in Canada examines not only the political aspects of leadership, but also, cultural narratives, community practices, and research agendas.

Across the pages, a portrait of Inuit leadership for the twenty-first century emerges. It is visionary and consensual, brutally honest about the past and optimistic for the future. It is rooted in ancient cultural traditions, yet focused on a future that will define its political and cultural autonomy on the very principles that underscore that culture. It is unwavering in its will toward self-determination and resolute in its desire to assume control for the creation of knowledge about itself and its people.

David Lough has held positions with the Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, and Nunatsiavut over almost 50 years. He is presently Executive in Residence at the Faculty of Business Administration, Memorial University. For over 25 years of his career, David has lived in Labrador and studied and practised community economic development in Canada’s north.

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Resettlement
Uprooting and Rebuilding Communities in Newfoundland and Labrador and Beyond

edited by Isabelle Côté and Yolande Pottie-Sherman
ISBN 978-1-894725-68-2 • paperback • 284 pp • 5.5x8.5”
SERIES: Social and Economic Papers #37
$25.95 CAD • ebook available

A collection of essays situating Newfoundland and Labrador resettlement in conversation with global relocation debates, such as those in Quebec, Greenland and Ireland.

Resettlement is a global phenomenon once again at the forefront of political debate in Newfoundland and Labrador. This collection, edited by Isabelle Côté and Yolande Pottie-Sherman, presents an assembly of interdisciplinary voices. Contributors consider common themes of contemporary resettlement programs including resistance, collective-decision-making, power, place, and identity. Newfoundland Studies scholars have underscored the significance of Smallwood-era resettlement programs (1954–1977), but have not yet adequately addressed the second, ongoing phase of resettlement (1977–present), carried out at the request of communities and implemented to mitigate the fiscal mismatch between shrinking populations and infrastructure costs. In these pages, scholars examine a process that begins before and continues long after communities or individuals move, and places the Newfoundland and Labrador experience in conversation with other global contemporary resettlement projects.

Isabelle Côté is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Memorial University. Her works examine the role of internal population movements on intrastate conflict and contentious politics in Asia and beyond.

Yolande Pottie-Sherman is an Assistant Professor in Geography at Memorial University. She is the co-founder of the Adaptive Cities and Engagement Space, a research collective promoting social justice in small cities and communities, and author of numerous academic articles and reports on migration, socio-cultural diversity, and community change.
A Long Journey
Residential Schools in Labrador and Newfoundland

by Andrea Procter
ISBN 978-1-894725-64-4 • paperback • 528 pp • 6x9”
SERIES: Social and Economic Studies #86
$29.95 CAD • ebook available

The previously untold history of residential schools in Labrador and Newfoundland, recounted by former students and survivors.

Short-listed, BMO Winterset Award 2021
Winner, Peter Cashin Prize 2021
Winner, Atlantic Book Award for Scholarly Writing 2021
Winner, Clio Prize (Atlantic) 2021
Short-listed, Newfoundland and Labrador Book Award for Non-Fiction 2021

Left out of the national reconciliation process, survivors of residential schools in Labrador and Newfoundland received a formal apology from the Canadian government in 2017, finally acknowledging their experiences as similarly painful and traumatic.

For years, the story of residential schools has been told by the authorities who ran them. A Long Journey helps redress this imbalance by listening closely to the accounts of former students, as well as drawing extensively on government, community, and school archives. The book examines the history of boarding schools in Labrador and St. Anthony, and in doing so, contextualizes the ongoing determination of Indigenous communities to regain control over their children’s education.

Andrea Procter is an anthropologist with nearly twenty years of experience working with Indigenous communities in Labrador. In 2017, she joined the Newfoundland and Labrador Healing and Commemoration project with James Igloliorte to document the stories of Labrador’s boarding schools. She has a Ph.D. from Memorial University.

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The Earth is Flat
An Exposé of the Globularist Hoax
by Dr. Leo Charles Ferrari, President, The Flat Earth Society
edited by David Eso and Kay Burns

*A long-forgotten philosophical satire about the nature of knowledge and truth, which, in an age of “fake news,” possesses renewed relevance.*

This book is an antidote to our climate of polarized opinions and beliefs, so it may be most useful for those who don’t want to read it. Ferrari’s philosophical work in the book is surrounded by humour, of course—sometimes cutting, sometimes joyous, sometimes absurd. We need books like this today, ones that refuse to remain in a particular box, ones that defy the divide between seriousness and irreverence.

Robert Bond
A Political Biography
by James K. Hiller

*An in-depth view of the political actions and legacy of Newfoundland’s first Prime Minister.*

Long-listed, Newfoundland and Labrador Book Award for Non-Fiction 2021

Winner of the 2020 Heritage and History Book Award

One of *The Hill Times* Top 100 Non-Fiction Canadian Books of 2019

“comprehensive, splendidly documented, and very detailed study.”
— Patricia E. Roy, *The Canadian Historical Review*
Shaped By Silence
Stories from Inmates of the Good Shepherd Laundries and Reformatories
by Rie Croll

The powerful and painful stories of five survivors of Magdalene Laundries in Canada, Ireland, and Australia.

Finalist for the 2020 Atlantic Book Award for Scholarly Writing

“Rie Croll’s superbly written and important book … seeks to correct the world’s ignorance about life for girls and women institutionalized in Magdalene laundries. The clever cruelty behind this system of oppression is shocking and frighteningly parallels the horrors of Margaret Atwood’s The Handmaid’s Tale.”
—Judy Donaldson, for Atlantic Books Today

Creating a University
The Newfoundland Experience
edited by Stephen Harold Riggins and Roberta Buchanan

A nostalgic collection of memoirs from Memorial University’s early years of innovation and community-building.

“This collection of memoirs…attests to the resilience and sense of community among the faculty especially in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. While by no means a comprehensive history, its authors collectively provide personal glimpses of what it was like to build a university on the edge of the Atlantic.”
—Linda Kealey, Acadiensis
We All Expected to Die
Spanish Influenza in Labrador, 1918–1919
A. Budgell
ISBN 978-1-894725-54-5 • paper $26.95 • 2018

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A Memoir of Mi’kmaw Life in Newfoundland
J. N. Jeddore, Elder

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A. Tanner
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J. L. Briggs

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H. Chaulk Murray

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Place-Based Development in Rural, Island, and Remote Regions
K. Vodden, R. Gibson, & G. Baldacchino
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G. Baldacchino, R. Greenwood, & L. Felt
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L. Felt & P. R. Sinclair
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C. T. Palmer, E. K. Groom, & J. H. Brandon
ISBN 978-1-894725-11-8 • paper $24.95 • 2011

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Ecology, Economy, and Society in Rural Newfoundland
R. E. Ommer

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A. Kahn
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K. Side

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L. Kealey
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A. Marland & L. Moore
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Essays on Culture, Memory and Identity in Newfoundland and Labrador
U. A. Kelly & E. Yeoman
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