

Concordia University Part-time Faculty Association

Association des professeur(e)s à temps partiel de l’Université Concordia

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CUPFA ANNOUNCES SPECIAL PROJECT AWARD RECIPIENT**

Montreal, November 26, 2014 – Concordia University Part-time Faculty Association (CUPFA) is pleased to announce that Part-time Faculty member Dr. James Freeman is the recipient of the 2014-15 Special Project Award.  The $10,000 award will allow Dr. Freeman to carry out field research in Brazil next summer and present his findings at two International conferences.

Dr. Freeman teaches part-time in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment.  He earned his PhD in geography from the University of California at Berkeley in 2002.  Researching popular culture, public space and political economy in Rio de Janeiro for almost 20 years, James is the author of numerous scholarly articles on these topics.  He has recently given a series of public and academic lectures on the consequences of the World Cup and the Olympic Games for Rio's citizens, including a presentation at the first CUPFA MicroTalk event, entitled 'Control and Identity' held in October 2013 at Concordia.  This year James has presented his research at UQAM; the Université de Montréal; the Association of American Geographers' conference in Tampa; the Second International Mega-Events and the City Conference in Rio de Janeiro.  Last June, he was an invited speaker at the 'What is the Meaning of the World Cup' conference at Georgia State University.

James' research project, 'Pacification by Gentrification: Mega-Events and the Transformation of Rio de Janeiro's Favelas' looks at the impact of the World Cup and the Olympics on housing markets in Favela communities.  He writes:

“Rio de Janeiro is in the midst of a dramatic transformation as part of a mega-event led strategy of urban development, centered on the recent soccer World Cup and the upcoming 2016 summer Olympics. The business of the games is highly dependent on a policy of favela pacification, which combines military occupation and public works. Gentrification is an emerging consequence of these interventions, which in turn helps further “tame” these favelas, making them less threatening to outsiders. Once police expel drug gangs and instill a more formal rule of law, favela housing becomes more appealing to outsiders who push up property values and push out long-time residents.”

CUPFA has teamed up with Concordia's Office of Community Engagement to support Dr. Freeman's community focused project.  During the winter semester of 2015 Dr. Freeman will be a guest at one of the public conversations organized by the University of the Streets Café.  As a program of the Office of Community Engagement, the University of the Streets Café organizes conversations in cafés and community spaces across Montreal.  These events seek to reinvent the idea of the university by creating spaces for lifelong learning, critical thinking and community engagement in local neighbourhoods.

Dr. Freeman's research will act as a catalyst for an important conversation about the complex human and economic issues that arise when large international events promise revitalization and growth.  The program is free and open to participants of all ages, backgrounds and levels of education. Dr. Freeman will also present and discuss his research at a public lecture at Concordia in the fall of 2015. Both of these exciting events, focusing on the impact of mega events on local communities, offer a unique opportunity to engage and participate.  Make sure to keep an eye out for publicity providing further details.

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For more information contact Sally Cooke, Chair of Communications, CUPFA 514 848-2424 extension 3691 or svccupfa@gmail.com