Pedagogies of Modernity: Re-Educating Canadians for the New Energy Regime, 1880-1940

Dr. Ruth W. Sandwell | Professor, OISE/University of Toronto

January 15 | Scarfe 310 | 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Host | Dr. Penney Clark

As twenty-first century Canadians contemplate their upcoming energy transition away from fossil fuels, this talk will explore the massive and multi-faceted public re-education campaigns of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that attempted, with little initial success, to convince householders to make the transition to modern energy systems.

Image | The Manitoba Power Commission’s Cook by Wire float as it appeared in a parade in Carman on May 24, 1926. The electric stove on the float was the only one for sale in town (population 1,591 in 1921, 1,418 in 1931.) Manitoba Hydro: A History

Professor Sandwell is a Canadian social historian and history educator who teaches in the Department of Curriculum Teaching and Learning at the Ontario institute for Studies in Education and the Department of History at the University of Toronto. Her recent books include a collection co-edited with Amy von Heyking, Becoming a History Teacher: Sustaining Practices in Historical Thinking and Knowing (University of Toronto Press, 2014), an edited collection Powering Up Canada: A History of Power, Fuels and Energy from 1600 (McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2016) and the monograph Canada’s Rural Majority: Households, Environments and Economies 1870-1940 (University of Toronto Press 2016). She is the founding co-director and educational director of the history education website series, The Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History (www.canadian mysteries.ca).

This seminar is supported by the Faculty of Education and the Michael Cromer Memorial Fund, which was established after his death on November 7, 2005, in order to promote projects which would have excited him, had he been here to organize and contribute to them himself.