SYMPOSIUM & CELEBRATION

HONOURING DR. RITA IRWIN

MAY 4, 2024

Symposium, Scarfe 100 | 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Celebration | Haida House, MOA | 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Faculty of Education
Department of Curriculum & Pedagogy
WELCOME

Welcome to Celebrating Rita Irwin!

On behalf of the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy (EDCP) I want to welcome everyone to the celebration and symposium where we are honouring the work of our friend and colleague, Dr. Rita L. Irwin. Dr. Rita Irwin was the Head of the Department of Curriculum Studies (that later became EDCP) when I first joined the department and faculty at the University of British Columbia in 2001. Even then, I knew I was in the presence of a remarkable human being. In the years since, I have been astonished by the depth of her scholarship, leadership and humanitarianism including her ability to bring people together. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Rita Irwin for her many wonderful accomplishments and her many years of outstanding teaching and service to the university and to the profession.

Sincerely,

Dr. Samson Nashon,
Head and Professor,
Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy, UBC.

INTRODUCTION

Since first attending UBC in Art Education as a doctoral student in 1986, Rita Irwin has left an incredible legacy of scholarship, commitment and caring in our Department, Faculty, the University and quite literally the academic world beyond. For those of us who have had the privilege to be colleagues and friends, we know Rita beyond her extensive vitae. Rita Irwin has been an innovative and committed artist, researcher and teacher advancing art education, curriculum studies and a/r/tography. Rita L. Irwin is a scholar, mentor and leader in the most significant art education and curriculum associations in Canada and internationally. As a graduate advisor, she is beyond compare. From her stellar work in these areas within Canada and abroad, she has received numerous well deserved awards and accolades including her most recent award to be presented at the CSEA conference in Halifax. More than anything she brings together colleagues and students into a world where collegiality goes hand in hand with creativity, scholarship and the arts. The number of folks that wanted to be a part of this symposium clearly indicates the high regard we all have for this remarkable woman. We wish her well in this next chapter of her life as she continues to inspire us personally and professionally.

Symposium and Celebration Committee

Dr. Kit Grauer
Dr. Marie-France Berard
Dr. Shannon Leddy
Dr. Anita Sinner

Cover image credit, left | Kris Krüg, photography, InSEA 2019 World Congress.
Symposium

Scarfe 100 | 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

8:30  Registration

Neville Scarfe Lobby, 2125 Main Mall.

*as there is no food or drinks allowed in Scarfe 100 be prepared with your own water bottles.

Displays in the Lobby will include; videos and photos, the Paper Quilt Project, artworks by Wendy Stephenson, and a Sam Black print.

9:00  Territorial acknowledgement

Grace Point (Musqueam Nation & University of British Columbia)

Welcome

Dr. Samson Nashon
(Head and Professor, Department of Curriculum & Pedagogy)

Introduction & Welcome

Dr. Kit Grauer (Professor Emerita, University of British Columbia)
Dr. Lorrie Miller (University of British Columbia) Paper Quilt Project
9:30

Leadership

Rita Irwin redefined what leadership can mean as she brought people together in community. We look at her leadership in ARTE, Curriculum Studies, Teacher Education, the Canadian Society for Education Through Art and the International Society for Education through Art. This is just a sampling of her influence.

10:00

Music

Dr. Peter Gouzouasis
(University of British Columbia)
10:15

Scholarship

This segment of the symposium offers a reflective exploration of Rita’s impact in the fields of education, arts education, and curriculum studies, and extends beyond them. Speakers will share their moments, stories, and insights into the broad-reaching implications of Rita’s scholarship and her role in shaping a community of artists, educators, and scholars.

Dr. Adrienne Boulton (Kwantlen Polytechnic University), Dr. Yichien Cooper (Washington State University), Dr. Yung-Shan Hung (National Academy for Educational Research, Taiwan), Dr. Ching-Chiu Lin (Simon Fraser University), Dr. Blake Smith (Art educator, curriculum designer, Rhode Island), Dr. Michele Sorensen (University of Regina), Dr. Dai-Rong Wu (Taipei National University of the Arts)

10:45

Break

Book Signing & Paper Quilt Project

11:15  
Artful Pedagogy

Through a choreography of interwoven offerings this session honors what Rita has made possible, and what her work continues to “do” for our own thinking-making-doing as artists and scholars and as we shape artful pedagogies.

Dr. Sylvia Kind (Capilano University), Dr. Stephanie Springgay (McMaster University), Kwang Dae Mitsy Chung (PhD candidate, University of Western Ontario).

12:00  
Lunch

Lunch - [room 310] Pick up food and eat in adjoining rooms or outside.

1:00  
ME/N/TO/RING

in the Irwinian style

Two of Rita Irwin’s past students who are now professors present their thoughts on an Irwinian style of mentorship that includes 1) the mentee’s agency as a “Me” that moves to a relational “We” as the mentee pathfinds within a community of practice, 2) a “Nurturing” way of being-in-relation that fosters care and encourages growth, 3) a supportive journey “To” destinations that are in-the-making and not-yet-imagined, and 4) an ongoing ripple effect of the “Ring” of influences that interfere with established patterns far and wide.

1:30  
Dance & Poetry

Dr. Celeste Snowber  
(Simon Fraser University)
1:45

**A/r/tography**

As Rita Irwin beautifully explained; “To be engaged in the practice of a/r/tography means to inquire in the world through an ongoing process of art making and writing not separate or illustrative of each other but interconnected and woven through each other to create enhanced meanings. A/r/tographical works are often rendered through the methodological concepts of contiguity, living inquiry, openings, metaphor, reverberations and excess.” In this session, colleagues and collaborators articulate some of their journeys as artist/researcher/teachers and allow this collective moment to reverberate.

2:15

**Poetry**

Dr. Kedrick James (University of British Columbia) reading poems by Dr. Carl Leggo
2:30

**Walking**

In this session, current and former doctoral students of Rita Irwin come together in acknowledgement of the generative practices of walking and study. “To create this symposium offering, we generously exchanged prompts for making which yielded c/a/r/tographic and a/r/tographic responses. These short responses aim to recognize the influence Rita has on our collaborations. In and through the art we make, we seek to know better how the transformation of material and immaterial forms sets our thought in motion and inspires us to think with Rita and the networks she’s helped to craft.”

**Dr. Marie-France Berard** (University of British Columbia), **Dr. Angela Baldus** (EDCP Graduate, University of British Columbia), **Dr. Nicole Lee** (NSCAD University), Marzieh Mosavarzadeh, Yasaman Mousavi, Nicole Rallis, Elmira Sarreshtehdari, Joanne Ursino (EDCP Graduate students, University of British Columbia)

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**Cover Illustrations by Dr. Angela I. Baldus.**
3:00  Presentation of Purple Suitcase

Dr. Shannon Leddy (University of British Columbia)
Dr. Angela Baldus (University of British Columbia)

Closing words by Dr. Rita Irwin

Book Signing (Continued)

A/r/tography: Essential Readings and Conversations will be available for purchase in the Scarfe Lobby.

Whispering Light | Dr. Rita Irwin
Celebration

Haida House, Museum of Anthropology | 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Videos, slides, food, dancing, photo booth
Planning Committee
Dr. Kit Grauer
Dr. Marie-France Berard
Dr. Shannon Leddy
Dr. Anita Sinner

Technical & Media Support Wizards
Kieran Forde (EDCP Graduate student)
Dr. Angela Baldus (EDCP Graduate)

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Ken Morimoto
Elmira Sarreshtehdari
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Special Thanks
Department of Curriculum & Pedagogy
Dr. Samson Nashon (Head and Professor, Department of Curriculum & Pedagogy), Saroj Chand (Administrative Manager), Kirsty Robbins (Graphic Design), Gina Hiu Lam Wong (Administrative Assistant).

Paper Quilt Project
Dr. Lorrie Miller (University of British Columbia)

Museum of Anthropology
Gwilyn Timmers (Public Services Manager)

Faculty of Education
Michael, C.S. Murphy (Associate Director, Alumni Engagement)

Catering
Bay Area Gourmet Ltd.
Carol Livingstone, bayareagourmet.ca

Salishan Catering
Dennise Sparrow and Manoj Haley
salishancatering.com

Music
The Phonix Band Inc
Eric P.H.Tsang, thephonix.ca
Don’t forget to share your photos of the event on our Facebook and Instagram page as an ongoing tribute to Rita:

#honouringrita

Highlights of the Symposium and Celebration will be posted on EDCP’s website.

edcp.educ.ubc.ca