

CanadaForum

KICK-OFF EVENT

Universität Mannheim,
Anglistik III/American Studies
Nov 6, 2025
10.30 am – 5.00 pm
Schloss, Seminarraum SO 418

Guest lecture:
Prof. Myra Bloom
(York University, Toronto)
„Canadian Literature and
the Culture of Confession“
10.45 – 11.45 a.m.

Guests welcome!

Organizers:
Stefanie Schäfer and Antonia Purk

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Anglistisches Seminar/American Studies

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Seminarraum SO 418 or via Zoom

November 6, 2025

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Canadian Literature and the Culture of Confession

Confession is everywhere in our culture. It drives banal social media posts, sensational reality television shows, revolutionary social justice movements, and is prominent in literature. Confession has also been central to feminist movements throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. Nevertheless, self-disclosure comes laden with an array of dangers, particularly for women: that they will be disbelieved or retraumatized, seen as narcissistic and/or unliterary, or professionally stereotyped and blocked from opportunities. In this talk, Myra Bloom will discuss how writers negotiate the potentialities and pitfalls of confession, focusing specifically on Canadian women/nonbinary writers including Tanya Tagaq, Nelly Arcan, Sheila Heti, and Sina Queyras, whose experiments in life writing are fueling literary innovation in Canada and beyond. Bloom will also show how “CanLit” itself has become confessional, as personal disclosure increasingly shapes its texts, institutions, and discourse.

All guests welcome!

If you would like to participate via Zoom, please contact hiwisa3@uni-mannheim.de

