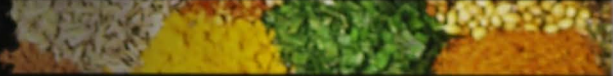


SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY



3 9345 01683832 2

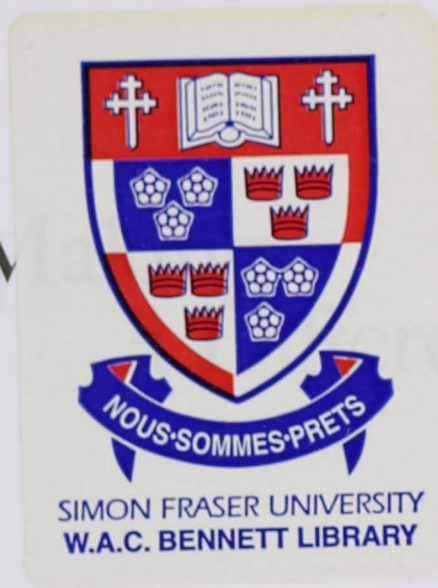
Making a Difference



**Canadian Multicultural
Literatures in English**

Second Edition Edited by Smaro Kamboureli

M



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
W.A.C. BENNETT LIBRARY

ence

PR 9044 M35 2007 c.2

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Making a Difference

**Canadian Multicultural
Literatures in English**

Second Edition

Edited by Smaro Kamboureli

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

OXFORD

UNIVERSITY PRESS

70 Wynford Drive, Don Mills, Ontario M3C 1J9
www.oup.com/ca

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford.
It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship,
and education by publishing worldwide in

Oxford New York
Auckland Cape Town Dar es Salaam Hong Kong Karachi
Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Nairobi
New Delhi Shanghai Taipei Toronto

With offices in
Argentina Austria Brazil Chile Czech Republic France Greece
Guatemala Hungary Italy Japan Poland Portugal Singapore
South Korea Switzerland Thailand Turkey Ukraine Vietnam

Oxford is a trade mark of Oxford University Press
in the UK and in certain other countries

Published in Canada
by Oxford University Press

Copyright © Oxford University Press Canada 2007

The moral rights of the author have been asserted

Database right Oxford University Press (maker)

First published 2007

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means,
without the prior permission in writing of Oxford University Press,
or as expressly permitted by law, or under terms agreed with the appropriate
reprographics rights organization. Enquiries concerning reproduction
outside the scope of the above should be sent to the Rights Department,
Oxford University Press, at the address above.

You must not circulate this book in any other binding or cover
and you must impose this same condition on any acquirer.

Since this page cannot accommodate all the copyright notices, pages 511–14
constitute an extension of the copyright page.

Every effort has been made to determine and contact copyright owners. In the case of any omissions,
the publisher will be pleased to make suitable acknowledgement in future editions.

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Making a difference : Canadian multicultural literatures in English / edited by Smaro
Kamboureli.—2nd ed.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-0-19-542288-7

ISBN-10: 0-19-542288-0

1. Canadian poetry (English)—Minority authors. 2. Canadian poetry (English)—20th century.
3. Canadian fiction (English)—Minority authors. 4. Canadian fiction (English)—20th century.
5. Minorities—Canada—Literary collections. I. Kamboureli, Smaro

PS8235.M56M35 2006

C810.8'08

C2006-902693-9

Cover Design: Hye Kyong Son
Cover Image: Pattern of Spices/Imagesource/Firstlight

1 2 3 4 - 10 09 08 07

This book is printed on permanent (acid-free) paper ∞.
Printed in Canada

- PATRICK FRIESEN 154
 sunday afternoon 155
 bible 156
 evisceration 157
- J.J. STEINFELD 158
 Ida Solomon's Play 159
- MARLENE NOURBESE PHILIP 164
 Discourse on the Logic of Language 166
- SADHU BINNING 170
 The Symptoms 170
 To Mother Teresa 171
- H. NIGEL THOMAS 173
 The Village Ram 174
- JEANETTE ARMSTRONG 184
 History Lesson 185
 Indian Woman 186
- KRISTJANA GUNNARS 188
 Mass and a Dance 188
- MARY DI MICHELE 193
 Life is Theatre 194
 Afterword: Trading in on the
 American Dream 196
- LEE MARACLE 197
 Bertha 198
- GERRY SHIKATANI 205
 from 'The Generalife Gardens,
 Alhambra, Granada, 1991' 206
- M.G. VASSANJI 210
 The London-Returned 211
- TOMSON HIGHWAY 218
 My Canada 219
- ALOOTOOK IPELLIE 221
 Love Triangle 222
- JANICE KULYK KEEFER 228
 Nach Unten 229
- DI BRANDT 234
 foreword 235
 Zone: <le Détroit> 235
- SKY LEE 240
 from *Disappearing Moon Cafe*
 Prologue: Search for Bones 241
- ROHINTON MISTRY 252
 Swimming Lessons 253
- DIONNE BRAND 268
 from *No Language Is Neutral* 269
 from *Land to Light On* 271
- ANTONIO D'ALFONSO 275
 Im Sachsenhausen 276
 The Loss of a Culture 277
 The Family 277
 On Being a Wop 277
- ARITHA VAN HERK 278
 Of Dykes and Boers and Drowning 279
- MAKEDA SILVERA 284
 Her Head a Village 285
- NEIL BISSOONDATH 289
 from *Selling Illusions: The Cult of
 Multiculturalism in Canada*
 The Uses of Ethnicity 290
- MARILYN DUMONT 298
 Letter To Sir John A. MacDonald 299
 Still Unserved Soul 300
 The Devil's Language 300
- ARMAND GARNET RUFFO 302
 Poem For Duncan Campbell Scott 303
 Power 304
 At Geronimo's Grave 304
 Detour 306
- VEN BEGAMUDRÉ 307
 Mosaic 308
- YASMIN LADHA 322
 Beena 322

- LAWRENCE HILL 335
 from *Any Known Blood* 335
- SHANI MOOTOO 346
 For Naan 346
 Denudation 348
- NICE RODRIGUEZ 349
 Big Nipple of the North 350
- NINO RICCI 352
 Going To The Moon 353
- GEORGE ELLIOTT CLARKE 358
 Look Homeward, Exile 360
 The Symposium 360
- NALO HOPKINSON 362
 A Habit of Waste 362
- ASHOK MATHUR 372
 Into Skin 373
- TESS FRAGOULIS 378
 Dear Mr Bail 379
- MIRIAM TOEWS 383
 A Father's Faith 384
- DAVID ODHIAMBO 388
 from *dissled banded nation* 389
- SHYAM SELVADURAI 395
 Pigs Can't Fly 395
- WARREN CARIOU 415
 from *Lake of the Prairies*
 Remembering Clayton 415
- HIROMI GOTO 422
 Stinky Girl 423
- GREGORY SCOFIELD 434
 Offering: 1996 434
 from *Thunder Through My Veins* 436
- PHINDER DULAI 443
 basmati brown 443
- LARISSA LAI 446
 The Salt Fish Girl 447
- SUZETTE MAYR 452
 The Education of Carmen 453
- RITA WONG 462
 lips shape yangtze, *chang jiang*,
 river longing 463
 cites of disturbance 464
 puzzlinen 466
- TAMAS DOBOZY 467
 Four Uncles 468
- RICHARD VAN CAMP 480
 Sky Burial 481
- EVELYN LAU 487
 Marriage 488
- WAYDE COMPTON 492
 O 492
 Where Heaven Lies 494
 Declaration of the Halffrican Nation 495
- DAVID BEZMOZGIS 497
 An Animal to The Memory 497
- Texts Cited 505
 Acknowledgements 511
 Index 515

Waiting for Saskatchewan

Waiting for saskatchewan
 and the origins grandparents countries places converged
 europe asia railroads carpenters nailed grain elevators
 Swift Current my grandmother in her house
 he built on the street 5
 and him his cafes namely the 'Elite' on Centre
 looked straight ahead Saskatchewan points to it
 Erickson Wah Trimble houses train station tracks
 arrowed into downtown fine clay dirt prairies wind waiting
 for Saskatchewan to appear for me again over the edge 10
 horses led to the huge sky the weight and colour of it
 over the mountains as if the mass owed me such appearance
 against the hard edge of it sits on my forehead
 as the most political place I know these places these strips
 laid beyond horizon for eyesight the city so I won't have to go 15
 near it as origin town flatness appears later in my stomach why
 why on earth would they land in such a place
 mass of pleistocene
 sediment plate wedge
 arrow sky beak horizon still waiting for that 20
 I want it back, wait in this snowblown winter night
 for that latitude of itself its own largeness
 my body to get complete
 it still owes me, it does

Father/Mother Haibun #4

Your pen wrote Chinese and your name in a smooth swoop
 with flourish and style, I can hardly read my own tight
 scrawl, could you write anything else, I know you could
 read, nose in the air and lick your finger to turn the large
 newspaper page pensively in the last seat of those half- 5
 circle arborite counters in the Diamond Grill, your glass
 case bulging your shirt pocket with that expensive pen,
 always a favourite thing to handle the way you treated it
 like jewellery, actually it was a matched pen and pencil set,
 Shaeffer maybe (something to do with Calgary here), heavy, 10
 silver, black, gold nib, the precision I wanted also in things,
 that time I conned you into paying for a fountain pen I
 had my eye on in Benwell's stationery store four dollars

and twenty cents Mom was mad but you understood such
 desires in your cheeks relaxed when you worked signing 15
 checks and doing the books in the back room of the cafe
 late at night or how the pen worked perfectly with your
 quick body as you'd flourish off a check during a busy
 noon-hour rush the sun and noise of the town and the cafe
 flashing. 20

High muck-a-muck's gold-toothed clicks ink mark red green
 on lottery blotting paper, 8-spot (click, click)

from *Music at the Heart of Thinking*

2

PREACT THE MIND AHEAD OF THE WRITING BUT STOP TO
 think notation of the mind ahead of the writing
 pretell the 'hunt' message doesn't run like the
 wind simile makes it the belief of the wild
 imagination or trees or animals too to preface up 5
 the head ahead but notice the body as a drum-
 mer preacts the hands to do to do insistent so it
 can come out tah dah at every point simply the
 mind at work won't do or the body minding
 itself thinking (which is why the drum's cedar) 10
 get it right or get it wrong just strike from the
 body falling back thoughts felt behind to the
 notes sometimes gives it shape or thought as
 body too my drum tah dum

10

NOW I GET TO HEAR THE LANGUAGE RATHER THAN
 only see it in French over my head fingers want
 to touch the sight of the letter oral tactile
 fragment hunger in another language the wolf's
 ear to make it up before it happens to hear it 5
 somewhere inside my body before the lips
 touch the mouthpiece or fingertip valves as soft
 as silk intelligence like that gets carried in the
 language by itself the cow simply eats the
 whole field I have to practise to get it right and
 blow away anyway 10

50

Going through the language of time.
Chronometrics. Horologicals. A book of years.

I like the water in it. And the footprints.
That movement. As you look for words
'sans intermission'.

5

Of course it's the heart. Pictograph—
pictogram.
Epigram—epigraph. Cardiogram. Histogram.
The paw again.

Cellular. Un instant. Je vais voir si je la trouve
dans ce livre. 10
It's that 'yelping pack of possibilities'
the hour as the order.

The predication, the pre-form of foot
in snow, log 15
on truck, finding out it never was lost,
fooling.

51

Everywhere I go here, here I go again.
But even if I worked it out ahead of time
I'd do it.

I know me. This train
crosses all the Chinese rivers in Canada. 5
Each one the same world water, the same
trestle, same deep gully.

In Japan Mt Fuji no more
than a quiet, black Shinkansen tunnel,
out of sight, out of mind. 10

When Dorn said
the stranger in town
is the only one who knows
where he's been and where he's going
I could see Pocatello's tracks. 15

Your symbol as 'accent
to the basic drum of consciousness' lurks.
St Am stutters and stumbles.
These rails are only half continuous.

52

tongue mist lip boat brown gull hill town bed
stone shadow crow tooth rain boat flood ham-
mer star gill shadow skin hammer mouth town
mist hill rock brown bed bird tongue snow creek
lip crow circle brown lip wave boat shadow city 5
light hill sky mouth talk snow gull hammer fog
moon wet grey stone boat bed mist skin gill
word flood crow tongue river mouth star brown
lip night flood sail wave sky tooth rock red bird
shadow stone snow city blue hammer bed hill 10
crow tongue

55

Map of streets stream of dreams
map of creeks street of cream, fragments
and imago imprint, geomance a glyph,
a place on earth, under, or from it.

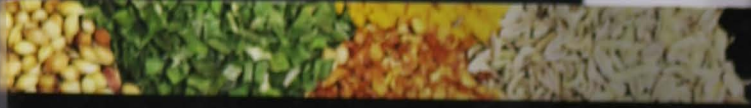
Name's broken letters maybe 5
words your body made.
Idiot bridges to parts of our selves still lost
in the palindrome.

A found chain on the coffeetable,
Some Scapes as a bookmark 10
to automobile between 3 and 6;
flex, flux, flooding, fl-

(☉ Creekscape: Looking Upstream)

Fred Was. Fred War. Fred Wan. Fred Way.
Fred Wash. Fred Wag. Fred Roy. Fred What. 15

Creek water hits rock with hollow sound.



Diaspora—the dispersal of a people around the world—necessitated as it is often by major historical upheavals, carries along with it seeds from the original land that help the people on the move and their descendants to root themselves in the new place.

—Smaro Kamboureli, Introduction to the First Edition

Since *Making a Difference* was first published, the 'face' of mainstream Canadian literature has changed irrevocably with the rise to prominence of writers representing the spectrum of Canadian multicultural society. Nevertheless, the intricate questions raised by the politics of difference and of representation persist.

Now in its second edition, this landmark collection continues to address such questions by drawing together poetry, fiction, life writing, creative nonfiction, and essays from more than 70 authors representing a wide range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. After thoroughly reconsidering the contents, Smaro Kamboureli has introduced over 25 authors, many of them seldom anthologized elsewhere, to the already extensive collection of established writers. The result is a unique survey that stands as the most engaging and comprehensive anthology of Canadian multicultural literatures written in English.

Key Features

- The collection bridges the gap between established authors—Thomas King, Rohinton Mistry, Dionne Brand, Joy Kogawa—and emerging writers—Larissa Lai, Suzette Mayr, Tamas Dobozy, and Wayde Compton.
- Over 25 authors and numerous selections have been added to bring the anthology up to date.
- Biocritical introductions, updated where necessary, give insight into each author's life and work.
- The addition of nineteenth-century fugitive slave narratives broadens the collection's historical scope to better represent the evolution of multiculturalism in Canada and the diversity of Canadian literature itself.

SMARO KAMBOURELI is Canada Research Chair in Critical Studies in Canadian Literature at the University of Guelph. She is the author of *Scandalous Bodies: Diasporic Literature in English Canada*, which won the Gabrielle Roy Prize for Canadian Criticism.

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

ISBN 0-19-542288-0



9 780195 422887