

# Michelle Gadpaille

Professor Michelle Gadpaille has contributed significantly to Canadian Studies in the areas of teaching, research, organization and administration as well as in community outreach.

Since arriving at the University of Maribor in 1996, Michelle Gadpaille has virtually single-handedly introduced Canadian literature and culture to the institution, originally at the Bachelor's level and more recently at the graduate level. With in-depth reading courses and a translation programme that focuses on cross-cultural elements, she has ensured that the Canadian element has a strong position within the university. In addition, she was the driving force behind the establishment of the Canadian Studies Centre at the university in the late 1990s. This centre is crucial as it was and remains the only such centre in Slovenia.

Michelle Gadpaille is extremely well-published in Slovenia, in the region and on the world stage. Her work has appeared in *The Oxford Companion to Canadian Literature* and her *Canadian Short Story* from Oxford University Press is a standard on the topic. This year, she published "*As She Should Be*" – *Codes of Conduct in Early Canadian Women's Writing* at Universitätsverlag Winter in Heidelberg.

As a strong believer in cross-border cooperation, Michelle Gadpaille has helped further Canadian Studies in the region by regularly presenting at conferences and carrying out fruitful collaboration with Canadianists in Austria, in particular at Karl-Franzens Universität, Graz, and in Croatia.

She has also been key to organizing two major student-centred Canadian Studies events. The first was the University of Maribor's 2008 summer school, held jointly with the Central European Association for Canadian Studies, entitled "Europe and Canada – Contemporary Issues," while the second was the 18th European Seminar for Graduate Students in Canadian Studies, held in September of this year with participants from across Europe.

Arguably, Professor Gadpaille's most personal and distinctive contribution to Canadian studies has been raising Canada's profile beyond the university. She regularly presents formal and informal seminars to primary and secondary school teachers, and over a thousand listeners have heard her speak on such topics as Margaret Atwood, Canadian cultural geography, Canadian children's literature and Native literature.

In recognition of the importance of her services to Canadian Studies in Slovenia as well as in the wider Central European region, the Central European Association for Canadian Studies is pleased to present Michelle Gadpaille with its Certificate of Merit.

