

FORUM2017

ESSENTIAL IDEAS

15-17 NOVEMBER 2017
HOTEL OMNI, MONTRÉAL

Better understanding major issues today

#PETforum

FONDATION
PIERRE ELLIOTT
TRUDEAU
FOUNDATION



FEEDBACK ON *ESSENTIAL IDEAS*

THE 14th ANNUAL FORUM OF THE PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU FOUNDATION

December 2017

This document presents the responses to a survey sent to 160 participants of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation's 2017 annual forum. The Foundation received 44 replies, of which 31 were submitted in English and 13 in French.

The Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation recognizes the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we gathered. The Foundation is grateful to have met on such a historic meeting place among First Nations and others in the Montréal community.

Essential Ideas thanks its donors for their generous support:



BACKGROUND

Essential Ideas was the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation's 14th annual forum featuring ideas and research on some of the pressing issues of our time. Congregating in panels, breakout discussions, and networking time, 160 policymakers, researchers, and thought-leaders met from 15 to 17 November 2017 in Montréal to explore aspects of five themes:

The Reinvention of Montreal
The Indigenous Future Imaginary
Youth and Conflict in the 21st Century
Journalism, Data, and the Future of Democracy
The Emergence of Extremism: Extreme No Longer?

The forum featured 32 scholars, fellows, and mentors and 19 experts from outside the community, 28% of whom were from the province of Quebec, as speakers and moderators. Approximately 55% of the speakers and moderators were francophone, 36% were anglophone, and the rest were allophone. Four sessions took place predominantly in French, five predominantly in English, and fourteen in both languages.

Essential Ideas aspired to be eco-friendly. It maximized the use of local suppliers, sought to reduce the generation of residual materials, minimized food waste, and encouraged participants to use sustainable modes of transport and offset their greenhouse gas emissions.

"Many thanks to the organizers for the tremendous care they invested in the forum! I especially appreciated the emphasis on French-language sessions."
Anonymous Foundation member



Jean Lebel
@JeanLebel

Abonné

Superbes et excellents Maîtres de Cérémonie
#ForumFPET @F_Trudeau_F @anna_dion
@mcgillu ex @IDRC_CRDI et Antoine Pellerin
@universitelaval



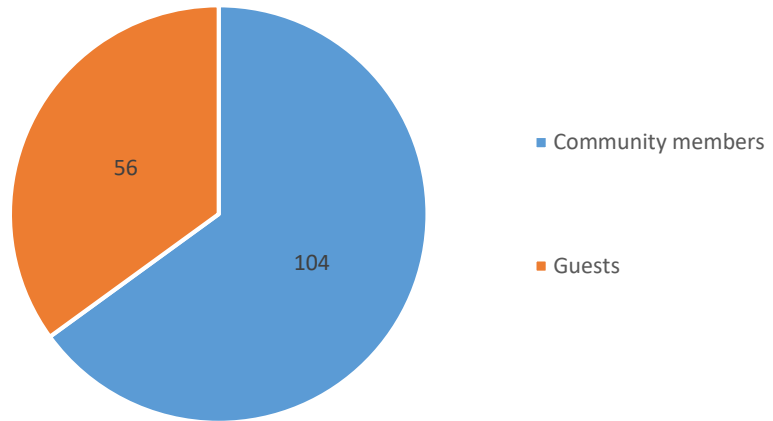
15:21 - 16 nov. 2017

Anna Dion and Antoine Pellerin,
2016 scholars and
co-masters of ceremonies

"Wonderful balancing of French and English! I have never been prouder of the bilingual nature of a Foundation event. Highly successful."
Mélanie Millette, 2011 scholar and Foundation director

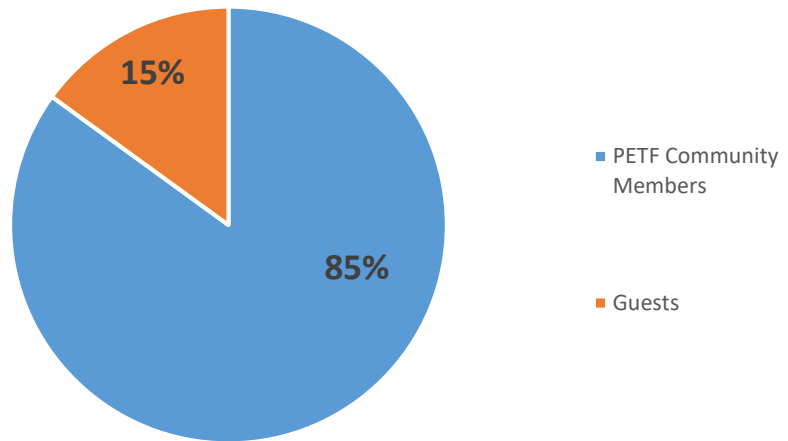
FORUM PARTICIPANTS

Origin of Forum Participants



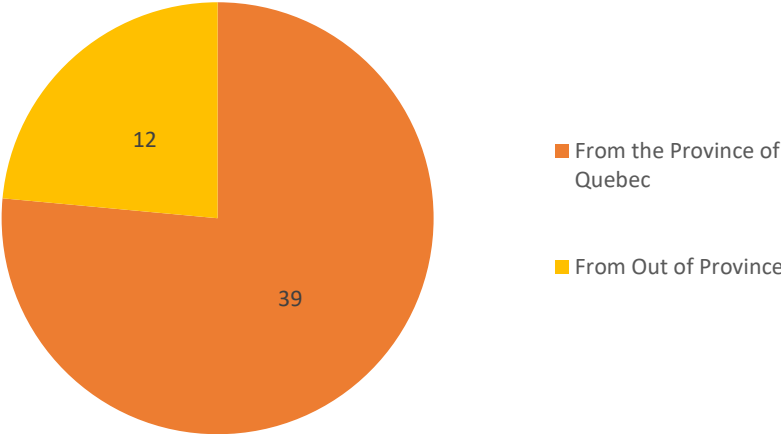
Total = 160 participants

Origin of Survey Respondents



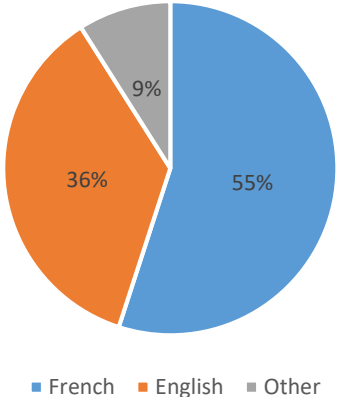
Total = 44 respondents

Geographical Distribution of Speakers and Moderators

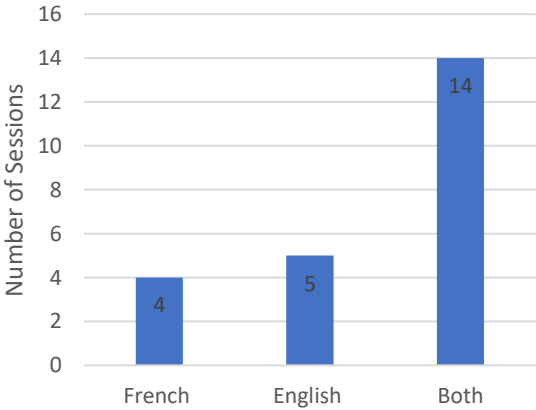


Speakers and moderators = 51

Speakers' and Moderators' Primary Language



Principal Language(s) Used During the Sessions





Student leaders from Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf (high school) with their teacher



Stephen Angus McComber (Silverbear), Mohawk elder and artist, welcomed us to the Tiohtiá:ke/Montreal territory.

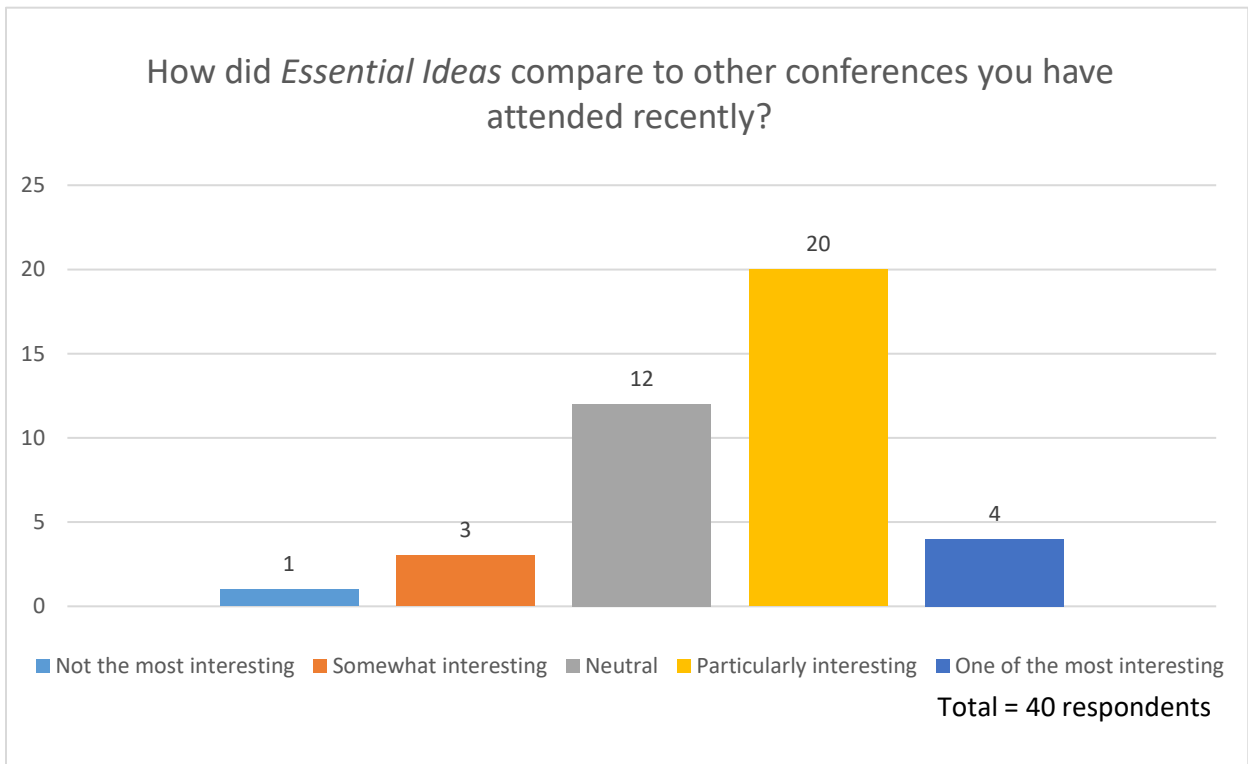
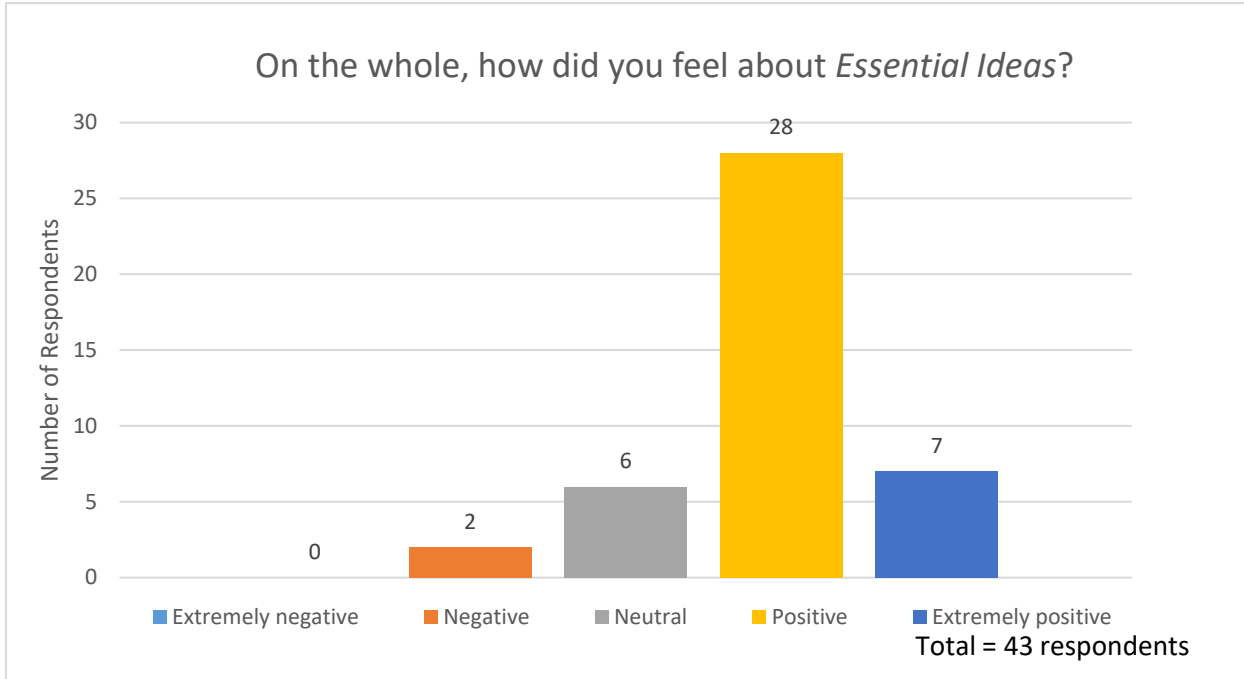
"I only wish the type of support provided by the Foundation could be replicated or extended to those of us who are very actively engaged in changing society - in our own humble way - but who don't have access to the elevated scholarly platforms of the current scholars, fellows and mentors."

Cheryl Armistead, Professor, Ingram School of Nursing, McGill University

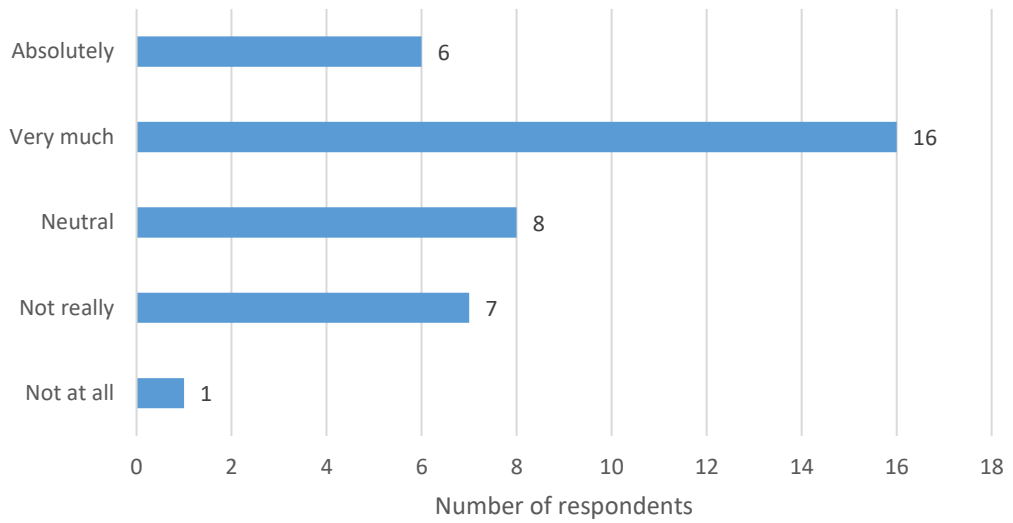


Students from the Trafalgar School for Girls with their teacher

OVERALL IMPRESSIONS

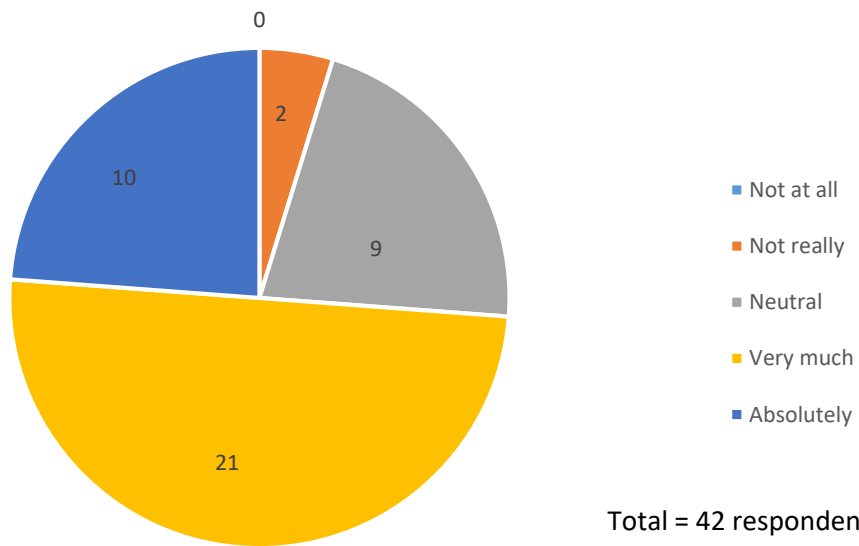


Did you appreciate that *Essential Ideas* covered multiple themes?



Total = 38 respondents

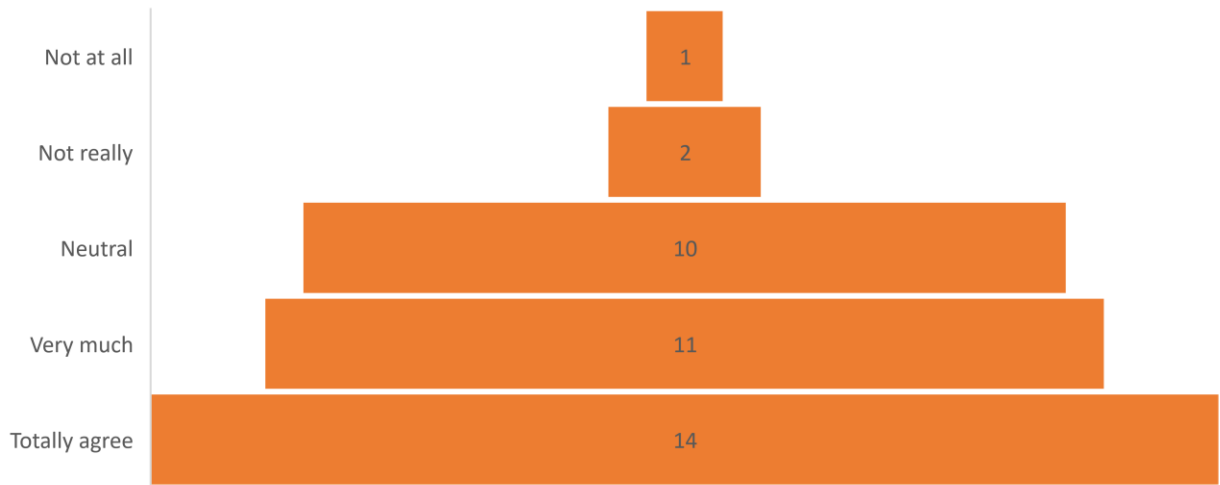
Did you feel that the plenaries and break-out sessions complemented each other and allowed a diversity of opinion?



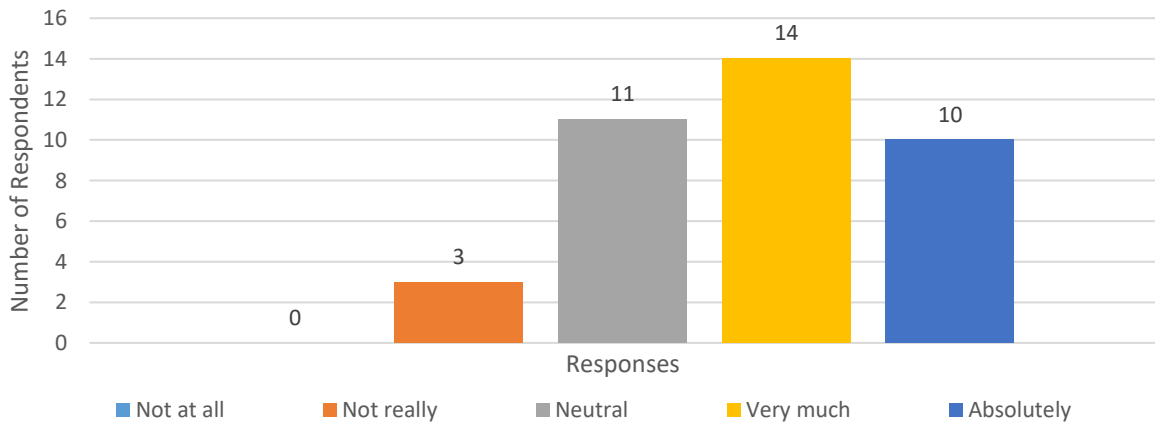
Total = 42 respondents

Did you like that the Foundation's community figured so prominently as speakers and moderators?

Total = 38 respondents



Did *Essential Ideas* give a good platform to fellows, scholars, and mentors?



Total = 38 respondents

"Fascinating. I loved the speakers, and could have listened to much, much more of this conversation."
Anonymous Foundation member

**PRE-FORUM EVENTS:
WORKSHOP ON VALUING ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP
WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH ETHICS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND
HUMANITIES**

“(On 14 November 2017), I attended a forum on community-engaged scholarship, organized by the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation. Some of the participants were people who have made a tangible impact on public policy and how we debate key issues in Canada. Dalhousie University’s Jocelyn Downie, who has been a key voice on physician-assisted death, and the University of Ottawa’s Constance Backhouse, who focuses on sexual assault law, are just two of many, many examples.

[Even though] university presidents and the people who run university [communications] departments are only too happy to have their scholars out building a profile, the academic system is not set up to help them connect with the public. Writing a piece for Maclean’s or appearing on CBC’s The National doesn’t count toward tenure or get you a promotion: publish or perish is about peer-reviewed journals and books. Time for public engagement is not often budgeted into a professor’s employment – scholars do this on top of their personal and academic responsibilities (I always feel a bit sheepish when I approach a busy prof to write something for me). The challenges are arguably tougher for some women in academia, whose pursuit of tenure or awards is already interrupted by maternity leave or childcare responsibilities. So, who exactly is cramping their style? I learned that colleagues, not just department heads and deans, can react with hostility to co-workers who spend time outside the ivory tower. Pressure can be brought to bear on institutions by politicians or corporate funders who don’t like positions taken by scholars in the public sphere.”



Jennifer Ditchburn, editor-in-chief of *Policy Options*

Excerpt from Ditchburn, Jennifer. “Go Public and Perish? Supporting the Engaged Scholar.” Institute for Research on Public Policy: *Policy Options* (2017).

“I found the pre-forum ethics event to be profoundly important for my work.”

Ido Katri, 2016 scholar



“This was a wonderful event. It was bold and engaging. What made it particularly powerful were the comments and interventions by audience members, and the rich discussion that ensued.”

Anonymous Foundation member

**WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2017:
THE REINVENTION OF MONTRÉAL**

This session explored Québec's recent economic resurgence and the reinvention of Montréal. A panel of Montréal innovators set the table by exploring the city's leadership in social enterprise, artificial intelligence, the celebration of culture, and municipal initiatives. Forum participants then joined smaller groups to hear from urban designers, meet Montréal feminist authors, and learn what campuses and festival organizers are doing to protect women from harassment.



Simon Harel
Full Professor and
Associate Professor of
Director of *Les récits du
soi mobile*, Department of
World Literatures and
Languages, Université de
Montréal; 2009 Fellow



Doina Precup
Professor of Computer
Science, McGill University;
Head of Deepmind



Pauline D'Amboise
Secretary General and
Vice-President of
Governance and
Sustainable
Development at Desjardins
Group;
2017 Mentor; session
moderator



Stéphanie Jecrois
International Affairs
Advisor City of
Montréal;
Cofounder, Technovati
on Montréal



Natalie Volland
Social Entrepreneur;
Founder and President,
Quo Vadis Property
Management Company

COMMENTS

The Reinvention of Montréal (plenary)

“The moderation of the Reinventing Montreal panel was very good.”

Anonymous Foundation corporate member

Urban on Purpose: Using Design to Reinvent the City (break-out session)

“I really loved the openness and dynamism of the talks in this session. It was stimulating.”

(translation)

Mélanie Millette, 2011 Scholar and Foundation Director

Reinventing Feminism and Activism in Montreal Literature (break-out session)

“A very interesting and informative discussion about the creative process and the political expression of marginalized groups”

Anonymous university student

“The duo of authors {Talia Dorsey and Jonathan Lapalme} was exceptionally well chosen. Interviewing two authors with different backgrounds and approaches – what an original way to think about contemporary issues in Quebec.”

Samuel Blouin, 2016 Scholar

Women’s Safety on Montreal’s Campuses and In Public Spaces (break-out session)

“I thought this was very important, but there might have been an overview of women's safety in general, e.g. linked to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and how this systemic problem can be fixed.”

Nancy Turner, 2015 Fellow

“As someone who teaches Women’s Health I found this breakout particularly salient and was able to make new connections to add to my growing network.”

Cheryl Armistead, Professor, Ingram School of Nursing, McGill University



**Benjamin
Gagnon Chainey**
2017 Scholar and
session
moderator



Melanie Doucet
2014 Scholar
and session
moderator



Joël Thibert
2010 Scholar
and session
moderator

**WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2017:
THE INDIGENOUS FUTURE IMAGINARY**

How will Indigenous cultures, worldviews, and practices look in 300 years? And why is it important the Indigenous people ask the question? At *Essential Ideas*'s opening dinner, Foundation fellow, artist, and Canada Council for the Arts leader Steven Loft interviewed three Indigenous Quebec-based artists about their creative work and why they teach Indigenous youth – whether through rap, videogame design, poetry, or film – to develop their own vision for the future.



Samian

Anishinabe Musical Artist,
Actor, Photographer, and
Wapikoni Mobile
Spokesperson



Skawennati

Kanien'kéha:ká Artist



Jason Edward Lewis

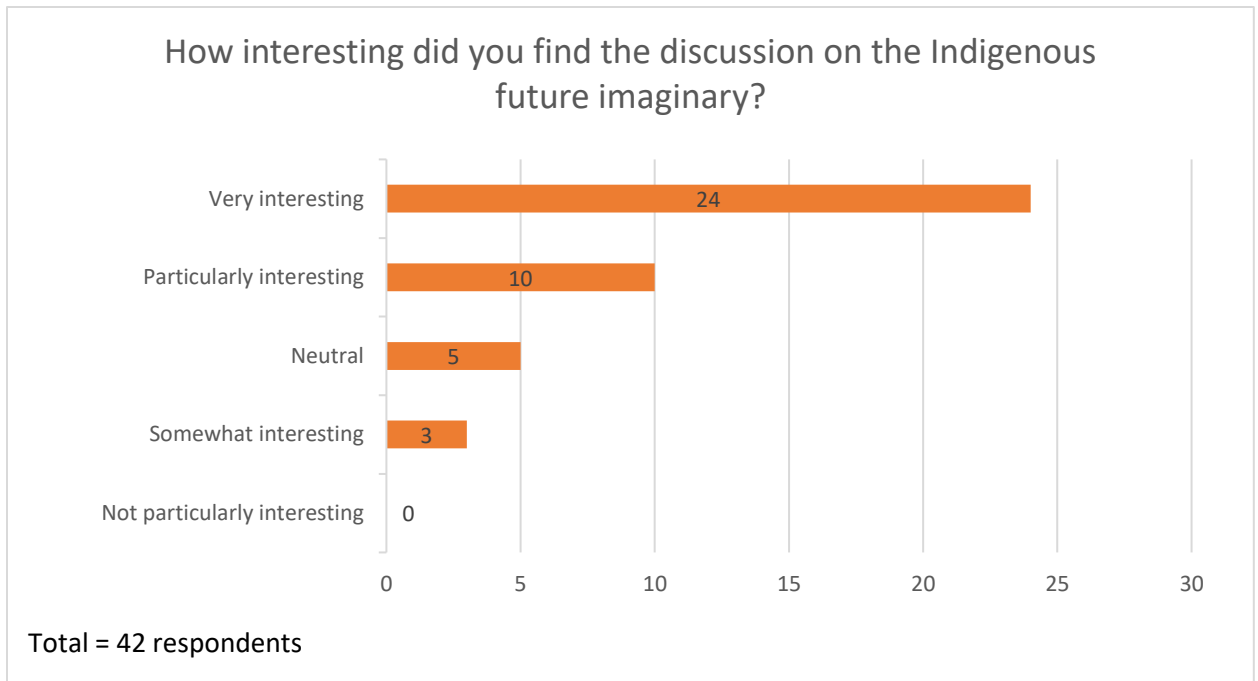
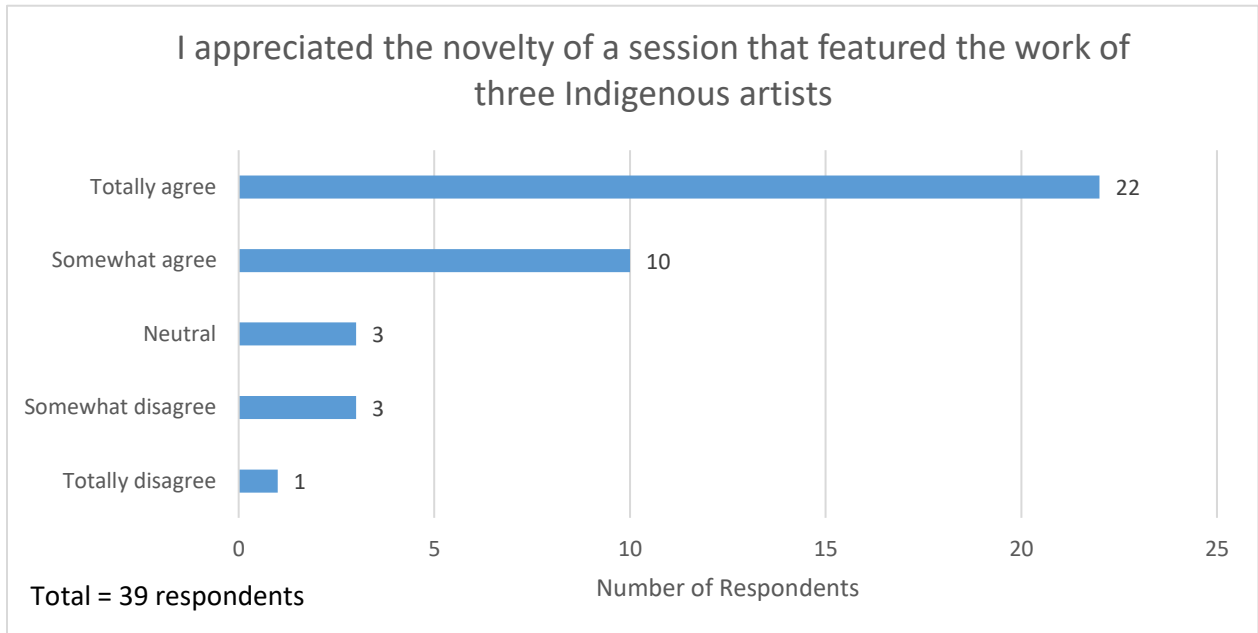
Professor and Research Chair
in Computational Media and
the Indigenous Future
Imaginary, Concordia
University; 2014 Fellow



Steven Loft

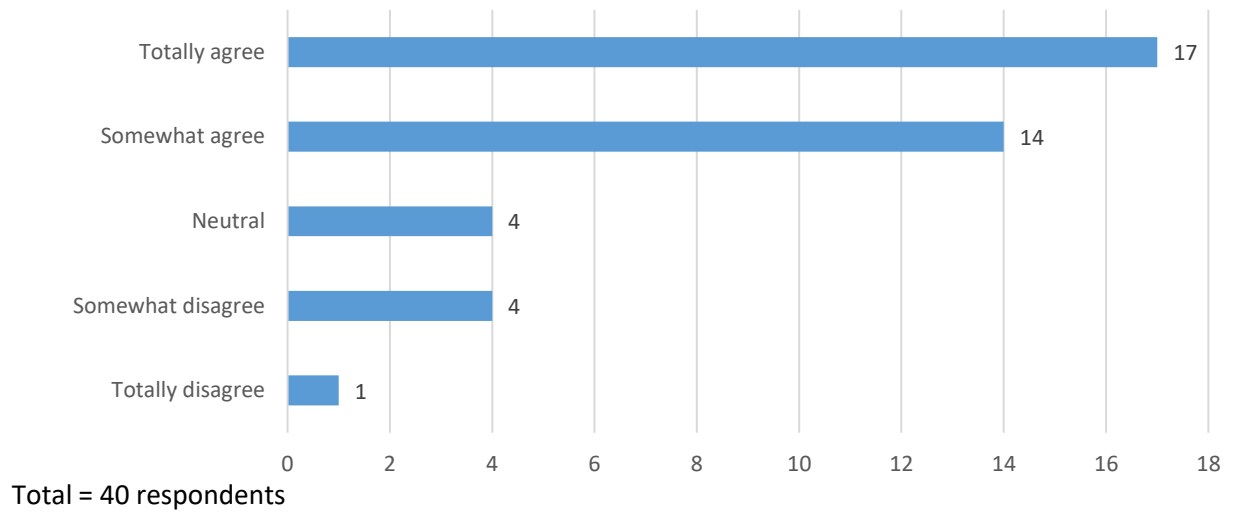
Director, Aboriginal Arts
Office of the Canada
Council for the Arts; 2010
Fellow; session moderator

COMMENTS

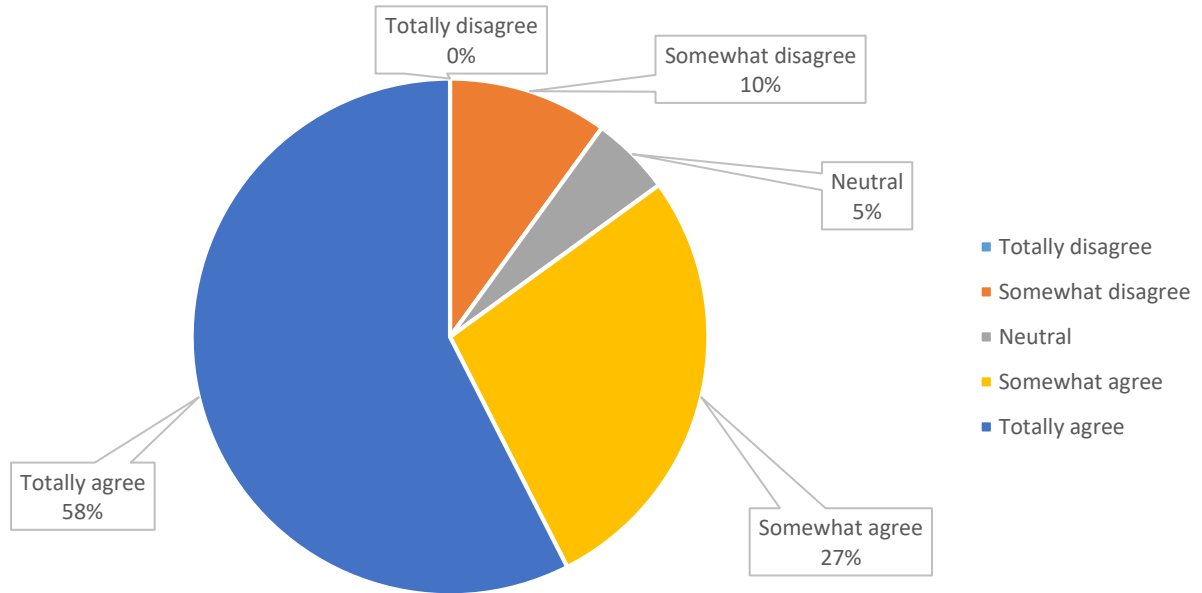


"This was a wonderful event. It was bold and engaging. I am so grateful that we were able to experience it."
Deborah Cowen, 2016 Fellow

The discussion featuring Indigenous artists motivated me to imagine the future



The discussion on the Indigenous future imaginary helped me better understand Indigenous people's cultural reflections



*“I particularly appreciated the contrast between the points of view of Jason Edward Lewis and Skawennati, on one hand, and Samian’s point of view, on the other. I can imagine that this contrast may have made the speakers uncomfortable, but it highlighted the complexity of Indigenous experiences and undermined the fact that Indigenous people are hardly a homogenous group.” (translation)
Samuel Blouin, 2016 Scholar*



Jamie Snook

@jamiesno

Abonné



Interesting to learn about the Indigenous pine influence on Montreal's official flag at [#PETForum](#)

À l'origine en anglais



09:15 - 17 nov. 2017

White pine seedlings graced the dinner tables in honour of the evening's speakers. The white pine represents the original presence of Indigenous people in Montréal. Symbolizing the Tree of Peace, the white pine is featured on Montréal's flag in the centre of a circle open to the four compass points, depicting the Circle of Life and the council fire — a place for meeting and dialogue. The white pine is a fast-growing native conifer commonly found in North America.

**THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2017:
YOUTH AND THE CHANGING NATURE OF CONFLICT**

Why do young Canadians join extremist combatant groups abroad? What does Omar Khadr's experience tell us about how states should treat children whose parents have failed in their responsibilities? Should soldiers put themselves at greater risk to protect child soldiers even when the child soldiers are attacking them? And does it help or hurt young migrants when states insist on treating them as children? This session looked at some of the thorniest questions about the role of youth in 21st century conflict.



Sylvie Bodineau
Child Protection
Practitioner,
Doctoral Candidate,
Université Laval; 2013
Scholar



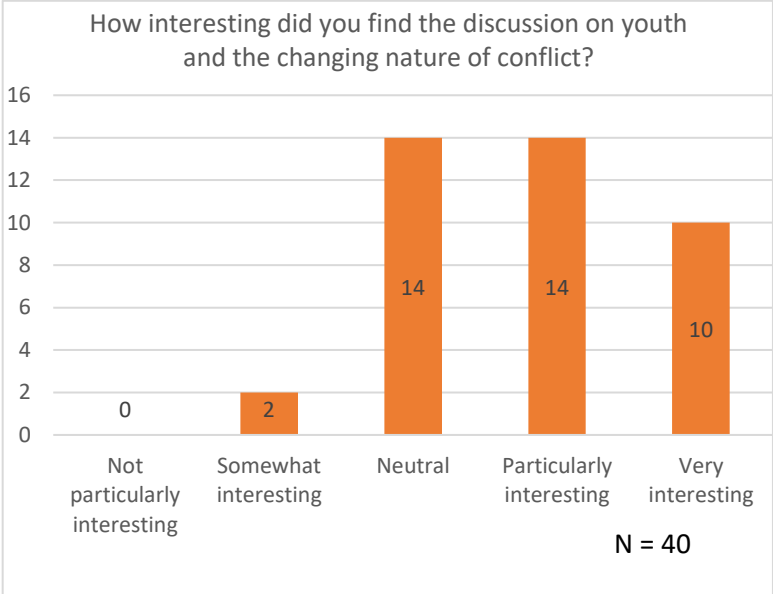
François Crépeau
Hans and Tamar
Oppenheimer Chair
in Public and
International Law,
McGill University;
2008 Fellow



René Provost
Professor of Law,
McGill University;
2015 Fellow



**Benjamin
Ducol**
Research Team
Leader, Centre
for the
Prevention of
Radicalization
Leading to
Violence



Audrey Macklin
Professor,
Director of the
Centre for
Criminology and
Sociolegal
Studies, Chair in
Human Rights
Law, University
of Toronto; 2017

COMMENTS

Meeting Child Soldiers on the Battlefield: Ethical Dilemmas and Legal Guidelines

“Do children who take up arms in armed conflict remain civilians or should they be considered as any other combatant? Does international humanitarian law impose constraints on the military force used against child soldiers participating in attacks? These are the questions Stéphanie Roy and René Provost meticulously analysed while considering the ethical dilemmas and judicial considerations.”

Anonymous Foundation member

“The panel made me rethink my assumptions about the agency of children. Very interesting for my work.”

Anonymous Foundation member

Young Canadians and International Extremism: The Motivations, Challenges, and Consequences of Involvement

“Cultural understanding, prevention, and state’s involvement are all topics Benjamin Ducol discussed in his talk about young Canadian and International Extremism.”

Anonymous Foundation member

Does it Matter If Omar Khadr Was a Child? State Responsibilities Towards Citizens Abroad

“Omar Khadr raises the case of a minor accused of being a ‘terrorist’ and engaging in violence. How should we think about the obligations of states toward children whose parents have failed in their responsibilities? Professor Audrey Macklin helped us understand the complexities of Omar’s case.”

Anonymous Foundation member

Recognizing the Agency of Child Soldiers and Young Migrants

“This session created entirely new awareness on my part of the existence of child detention (migrant parents) in Canada.”

Cheryl Armistead, Professor, Ingram School of Nursing, McGill University



Sarah Mason-Case

2017 Scholar
and session
moderator



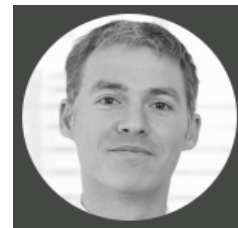
Stéphanie Roy

2017 Scholar
and session
moderator



Sophie de Saussure

2017 Scholar
and session
moderator



Brett Schrewe

2017 Scholar
and session
moderator

**THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2017:
JOURNALISM, DATA, AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY**

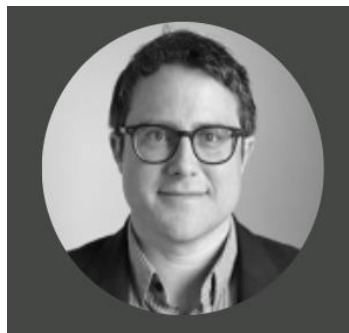
The past ten years have witnessed a profound shift in the media landscape and the use of big data. The exponential increase in data and its concentration within a small number of global platforms have changed the media landscape. Campaign finance laws – where they exist – do not control for the availability of big data, and newly dominant players like Google and Facebook are increasingly controlled by opaque algorithms and artificial intelligence. How will these developments affect the exercise of democracy going forward? What can governments and other actors do to protect the integrity of elections and civic discourse?



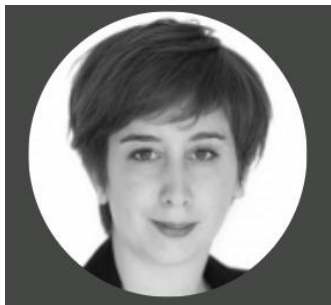
Mike Annany
Assistant Professor,
University of Southern
California Annenberg
School of
Communication and
Journalism; 2006
Scholar



**Gabriella (Beilla)
Coleman**
Professor, Wolfe Chair in
Scientific and Technological
Literacy, McGill University



Taylor Owen
Assistant Professor of
Digital Media and Global
Affairs, University of
British Columbia ; 2006
Scholar



Juliette de Maeyer
Assistant Professor,
Department of
Communications,
Université de Montréal



Andreas Katsouris
Senior Vice-President
for Global Services,
Aristotle

COMMENTS

Journalism and Big Data: The Risks and Benefits of Seeking Truth in an Ocean of Data (breakout session)

"I'm very interested in campaign financing, and it was great to hear about the tech side of the debate. The panellists did a great job of presenting some of the problems and areas we are uncertain about in terms of solutions.

Anonymous Foundation member

Big Data, Campaign Funding, and Electoral Law (breakout session)

"In any discussion of the risks to democracy posed by the proliferation of personal data, it's important also to remember the potential benefits, especially outside our country. The risk –to our privacy, the quality of our political discourse, our ability to unite around a common purpose – are very real, especially in a democracy like Canada's, which has operated generally quite effectively over the last few generations."

Andreas Katsouris, Senior Vice President of Global Services, Aristotle

Journalism, Data, and Dissidence: The Promise and Pitfalls of Freedom of Speech Online (breakout session)

"I really liked Biella and Elena's style – they managed to facilitate a discussion where every question was welcome, be they questions about the subject matter, questions about one's personal use of tech or questions of a more general nature." (Translation)

Samuel Blouin, 2016 Scholar

Democracy, Journalism, and Citizenship: What Girls Have to Say

"I really enjoyed hearing these young women and the discussions and ideas they have: so impressive! i would like to have heard a discussion relating to environment, climate change and resource exploitation as a part of this conversation."

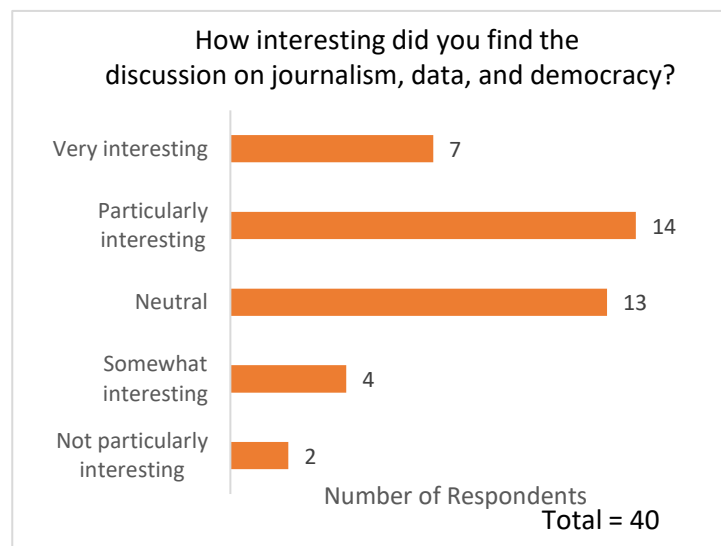
Nancy Turner, 2015 Fellow



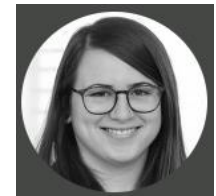
Daniel Del Gobbo
2017 Scholar and
session moderator



Mélanie Millette
2011 Scholar and
session moderator



Simon Thibault
2010 Scholar and
session moderator



Elena Waldispuehl
2017 Scholar and
session moderator

**FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2017:
THE EMERGENCE OF EXTREMISM: EXTREME NO LONGER?**

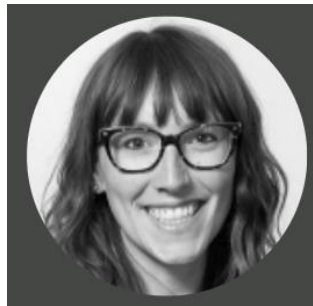
Canada and other countries are witnessing a rise in popularity of far-right movements. *Essential Ideas*' session probed the differences between the alt-right and religious and national extremism, and learned about how far-right and far-left movements are instrumentalizing the concept of freedom of expression to promote hate speech. The speakers also reflected on the limitations of anti-terrorism programs, and ways that educators can counter exclusionary discourse and action.



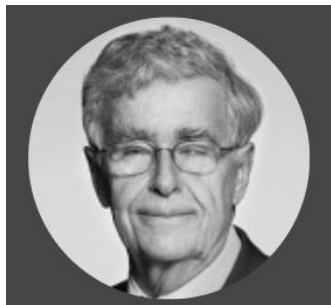
Aurélie Campana
Professor of Political
Science, Université
Laval



Maxime Fiset
Advisor on Prevention,
Centre for the Prevention
of Radicalization Leading
to Violence



Cynthia Morinville
Doctoral Candidate,
University of Toronto;
2016 Scholar



Louis Lebel
Legal Advisor, Langlois
Lawyers; 2016 Mentor



Kent Roach
Professor, Prichard
Wilson Chair in Law
and Public Policy,
University of Toronto;
2013 Fellow

COMMENTS

Preventing Extremism and Genocide: The Role and Limits of Education (breakout session)

"[This was a] good presentation, excellent questions by the audience, led to a very interesting discussion." (translation)

Pierre Cloutier de Repentigny, 2017 Scholar



Ryan Beaton

2017 Scholar and session moderator

Hate Crime or Terrorism? Free Speech or Hate Speech? (breakout session)

"This is a pressing topic and I was glad to see it on the program. I appreciated the openness of the speakers and the engagement of the audience."

Deborah Cowen, 2016 Fellow

An Insider's View of the Far Right (breakout session)

"I loved the talk by Maxime Fiset. He took a dense and exceptionally complex subject and presented it with nuance, with intelligence, and in a grounded manner. We should invite him again." (translation)

Antoine Pellerin, 2016 Scholar

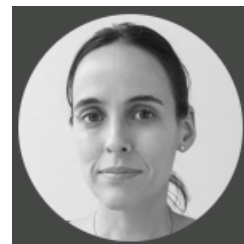
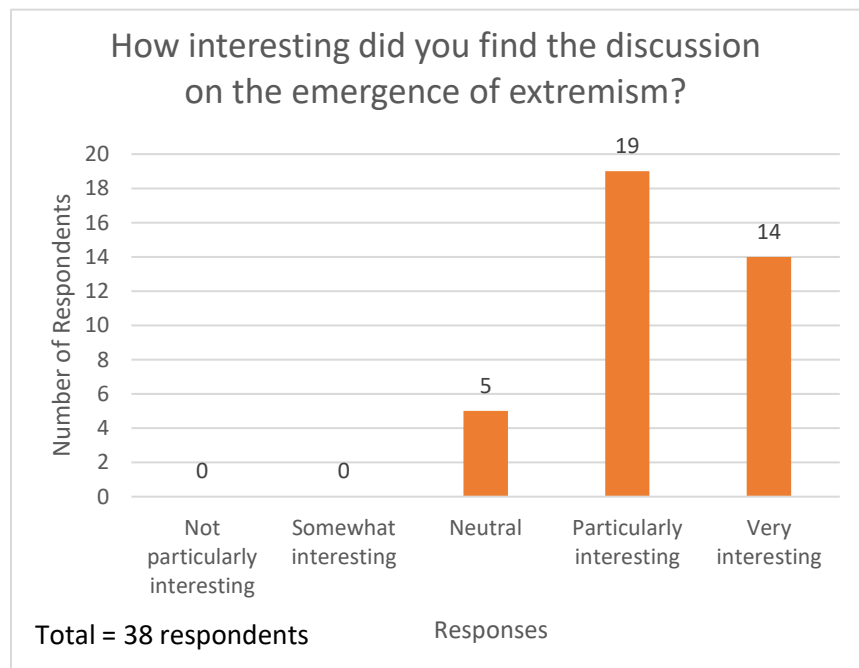


Ido Katri

2016 Scholar and session moderator

"I was delighted to hear from someone who had been part of a far-right ideology and who managed to change his point of view. He answered all our questions with frankness, in both languages, and kept things interesting by moving about the room." (translation)

Samuel Blouin, 2016 Scholar



Marina Sharpe

2011 Scholar and session moderator

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

"I understand the need to accommodate the diversity and multiplicity of subjects representing the scholars or interests of academics, [but] Finding common unifying thread is important."
Anonymous Foundation corporate member

"I was uncomfortable with the lack of racial diversity in most of the sessions. It is a little shocking to see so many panels without a single person of colour or indigenous person participating, especially given that the topics addressed have racial dynamics at play. I am not accustomed to seeing panels with so little representation and would really really encourage the Foundation to ensure a greater diversity of experiences be represented in future."
Anonymous Foundation Scholar

"I enjoyed the Forum, but it was somewhat underwhelming compared to Whitehorse, Vancouver, and Winnipeg."
Anonymous Foundation Scholar

I think we would benefit from making more space for discussions – whether debates or other kinds of exchanges – that expose different or contradictory points of view. An example might be the debates that used to be organized by the now-defunct Institut canadien des affaires publiques."
Antoine Pellerin, 2016 Scholar

"I prefer one-on-one conversations and sessions; I think too many large panels makes discussion difficult."
Anonymous Foundation Scholar

"Themes were too scattered or lacked a connecting thread of narrative."
Anonymous Foundation Scholar

"I appreciated a concerted effort to have a range perspective on panels. We need to also use these opportunities to amplify marginalized voices around many of these topics (eg. those who are directly affected by extremism, by hate speech, etc). When this did occur within the Forum, it was powerful (eg. the Indigenous Future Imaginary, the final breakout session that I went to). Some of these voices exist within the Foundation, and especially in the broader [Montreal] community."
Anonymous Foundation Scholar

"The breakout session was excellent. The speakers were both thoughtful and passionate, and the discussion addressed a range of pressing issues. The panel discussion on [the Reinvention of Montreal] felt very flat and seemed to avoid challenging and pressing issues (bill 62, Haitian refugee crisis, gentrification...)."
Deborah Cowen, 2016 Fellow

CONNECTIONS

“The most extraordinary aspect of my engagement with the Foundation is always the membership. I am humbled by the incredible people I spent time with in Montreal — some who I had met before and some who are new acquaintances. I had a series of discussions with mentors, fellows and scholars, (and a few guest speakers too!) who were all generous with their time and who shared ideas, insights and questions from their own work.”

Deborah Cowen, 2016 Fellow

“I had multiple exchanges that helped validate the importance of my work (women's health) and helped me to frame challenges within my academic work in new ways that may lead to solutions.”

Cheryl Armistead, Professor, Ingram School of Nursing, McGill University

“I am more persuaded than ever that I need to think about connections between my work on refugee-settler society relations and Indigenous-settler society relations.”

Anonymous Foundation member



“I met and talked with many colleagues (mentors, fellows and scholars and PE Trudeau Foundation staff), including those who supported and were interested in my Trudeau project; I also learned about new projects and ongoing projects of others in which I will be involved in various ways.”

Nancy Turner, 2015 Fellow

88 % of respondents reported making good use of networking time at coffee breaks, breakfast, lunches, and the cocktail.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Melanie M Doucet @MelanieMDoucet
 Thank you @jadupont, Dorothy Alexandre @C_Montrealaises, @lucynalach and @danieldeigobbo for an engaging conversation on Women's safety on Montreal's campuses and in public spaces this afternoon at the @F_Trudeau_F 2017 forum! #PETFFORUM



2002 - 15 nov. 2017

Tahnee Prior @Tahneeta
 Shifting our conversation to Journalism, Data, and Democracy @F_Trudeau_F. @taylor_owen @ananny @BiellaColeman @juliettedm @AndrsKatsouris



13:54 - 16 nov. 2017



Heather Bullock @heath_bullock
 Who in the audience is on an electronic device? (Yes, I know I was to take the shot) 2 days of people actually paying attention #petfforum



15:27 - 18 nov. 2017

Adelle Blackett @AdelleBlackett
 De-centrer ou recentrer l'écrivaine? Sur la littérature montréalaise engagée au #ForumPETF #PETfforum @MartineDelvaux #ChloeSavoieBernard



22:35 - 15 nov. 2017

Rebecca Sutton @RebeccaSutton
 Audrey Macklin @UofTNews hosts a fantastic session on #Omar #Khadr & how he has been viewed through #US & #Canada legal systems #PETfforum @F_Trudeau_F



17:48 - 16 nov. 2017

INFO-RADICAL @info_radical
 Prise de parole @info_radical sur "L'engagement des jeunes canadiens auprès de groupes extrémistes dans le cadre de conflits internationaux : motifs, enjeux et conséquences" au #ForumFPET @F_Trudeau_F bit.ly/2Ahnznp



13:10 - 16 nov. 2017

Milad Parpouchi @MiladParpouchi
 It was great to learn and catch up with the Trudeau Foundation community! #PETfforum has been inspiring and informative. @F_Trudeau_F

15:27 - 18 nov. 2017



Jamie Snook @jamiesno
 Interesting to learn about the Indigenous pine influence on Montreal's official flag at #PETfforum



09:15 - 17 nov. 2017

Jean Lebel @jeanlebel
 Superbes et excellents Maîtres de Cérémonie #ForumFPET @F_Trudeau_F @anna_dion @mcgillu ex @IDRC_CDI et Antoine Pellerin @universitelaval



15:21 - 16 nov. 2017

"The biggest thank-you ever to everyone who worked behind the scenes to make the forum such a success!"

Anonymous Foundation member