



Book Launch

We are pleased to invite you to join several of the authors in celebrating the release of

Troubling Tricksters Revisioning Critical Conversations

Deanna Reder and
Linda M. Morra, editors

Friday, October 22, 2010 • 6:30–7:30 pm

The Aboriginal Gathering Space at
Emily Carr University of Art + Design
1399 Johnston Street
Granville Island, Vancouver, BC

Sonny Assu, Richard Van Camp, and others will be reading.
Books will be available for purchase.

Event sponsored by Simon Fraser University, Bishop's University,
and Wilfrid Laurier University Press.

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Troubling Tricksters is a collection of theoretical essays, creative pieces, and critical ruminations that provides a re-visioning of trickster criticism in light of recent backlash against it. The complaints of some Indigenous writers, the critique from Indigenous nationalist critics, and the changing of academic fashion have resulted in few new studies on the trickster. For example, *The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature* (2005), includes only a brief mention of the trickster, with skeptical commentary. And in 2007 Anishinaabe scholar Niigonweddom Sinclair (a contributor to this volume) called for a moratorium on studies of the trickster irrelevant to the specific experiences and interests of Indigenous nations.

One of the objectives of this anthology is, then, to encourage scholarship that is mindful of the critic's responsibility to communities, and to focus discussions on incarnations of tricksters in their particular national contexts. The contribution of *Troubling Tricksters*, therefore, is twofold: to offer a timely counterbalance to this growing critical lacuna, and to propose new approaches to trickster studies, approaches that have been clearly influenced by the nationalists' call for cultural and historical specificity.

The essays, interviews, poems, and stories in this collection signal an important new phase of trickster studies: one that is deeply historically and culturally grounded.... Often with a captivating sense of humour and in highly readable prose, *Troubling Tricksters* follows the shift from "the trickster moment" of the 1980s to the ethical engagements of contemporary Indigenous theory. This timely intervention should become compulsory reading for anyone interested in literary studies in Canada today. – **Laura Moss**

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