



Western

Centre for Research on
Migration and Ethnic Relations

**Fall Colloquium
Series 2021**

Joanna Quinn



Dr. Joanna R. Quinn is Director of the Centre for Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction and a professor of Political Science at The University of Western Ontario, where she is cross-appointed to the Faculty of Law and affiliate-appointed to the Department of Gender Sexuality and Women's Studies. She is Past President of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists of the Royal Society of Canada. Dr. Quinn's research considers the role of acknowledgement in overcoming the effects of human rights abuses after conflict. She has written widely on the role of acknowledgement in truth commissions and in customary law in Uganda, Haiti, Canada, Fiji, and Solomon Islands. Her current project considers the importance of thin sympathetic engagement in post-conflict societies and how to flip the switch to make people care about what has taken place there through thicker engagement in reconstruction efforts. She holds a Ph.D. from McMaster University, a Master's from Acadia University, and a B.A (Hons.) from the University of Waterloo.

“Mobilizing Thin Sympathy to Deal with Harm and Atrocity”

In helping deeply-divided societies come to terms with the past, transitional justice efforts often fail. The thin sympathetic hypothesis suggests that taking the time to cultivate a basic understanding of the basic facts of the other's suffering prior to convoking a transitional justice process can effectively “prime” the population to begin to engage in the process. Developing “thin sympathy” among individuals from each of the different factions and groups will effectively change the broader social ethos to allow the work of transitional justice to succeed, and can foster the development of a more durable transitional justice process.

Thursday, September 30th, 2021

4:00 pm, Virtual Zoom Event

All Welcome!

<https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/94548605821>