

ASTRA Seminar Series 2013-2014



Dianne Newell

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University of British Columbia

Imagining Possible Futures: Expat Science-Fiction Writer Judith Merrill and Anti-Vietnam War Activism in Toronto and Japan

October 24, 2013 • 12 - 1:15pm • MacKinnon 020
All are welcome – bring your lunch!

Researchers are only beginning to consider the presence and influence of American female antiwar activists in Canada in the Vietnam era: their broader political reasons for coming, and their contributions to the larger world of Canadian social and political movements. As an influential American science-fiction celebrity and self-styled “intellectual refugee” living in the experimental communities of youthful American anti-war, draft-resisting exiles and expatriates in Toronto, Judith Merrill (1923-1997) was, unusually, a woman who was middle-aged and not accompanying a draft-age male partner.

Diane Newell is a Professor of History at the University of British Columbia. Her research interests span a range of subjects within these broad areas: Canadian social and economic history; science and technology in late industrial society; women in American Cold War science fiction and in Canadian 1970s radio documentaries; Aboriginal women in the industrial economy; and Pacific/Northwest Coast fisheries and anthropology.

She has authored, co-authored, and edited seven books, the latest of which is *Judith Merrill: A Critical Study* (2012), co-authored with Victoria Lamont. Recently she retired as Director of the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies at UBC.



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