

**Textile and Materiality Research Cluster  
Activity Report for Hexagram RC - May 2019 to April 2020**

The Textiles and Materiality Research Cluster is part of the Milieux Institute for Arts, Culture and Technology at Concordia University. Textiles and Materiality brings together research creation expertise from textile arts and material culture to experiment with methods, processes and interdisciplinary modes of thinking that will shape the future of textiles, material objects and charged experiential spaces.

The cluster fosters research-creation expertise in textile arts and technologies, such as complex weaving, electronic fabrics, interactive garments, rapid prototyping technologies, emerging materials, soft surfaces, and smart fashion. The synergy, momentum, and strategic collaborations that emerge from this collective, support innovation in new material research practices, leveraging the rich potential of interdisciplinary work.

## **RESEARCH SPACES**

The cluster is located in the Engineering and Visual Arts Complex (EV) in downtown Montreal, at 1515 Ste-Catherine Street West. There are four designated research spaces currently under management of the Textiles and Materiality Cluster:

**EV10-730** The Cluster Commons is a shared space for various activities, meetings, exchanges, computation, and small equipment usage. Visiting researchers are invited to use this as a production space, as well as all cluster members. This space also features a large flatbed scanner for textiles and other materials.

**EV10-725** The Tajima Laying Machine can be used for large scale embroidery and for laying flexible circuitry onto fabrics. The room includes design stations and small equipment and materials storage.

**EV10-735** The Jacquard Loom combines digital and traditional approaches for imagery in textile.

**EV10-615** This room is used by Studio subTela, an international team of researchers and RAs from Arts and Engineering in the development of textile antennas for interactive wearables and environments.

**Temporary Space** Two large, older digital textile printers are currently housed in a temporary space, which will soon become unavailable in the future.

## LEADERSHIP

From May 2019 – December 2019, the cluster was co-directed by Barbara Layne, Joanna Berzowska, and Kelly Thompson. From January 2020 – April 2020, Kathleen Vaughan stepped in as interim co-director while Kelly Thompson was on sabbatical.

## CLUSTER MEMBERSHIP

**Full-time Faculty** – Joanna Berzowska (cluster co-director), Barbara Layne (cluster co-director), Kelly Thompson (cluster co-director), Kathleen Vaughan (cluster co-director), pk langshaw, Elaine Cheasley Paterson, Alice Jarry, Kelly Jazvac, Cathia Pagotto, Patrick Traer, Surabhi Ghosh, Miranda Smitheram, and Aaron McIntosh

**Part-Time Faculty** – Sarah Bertrand-Hamel, Karen Kraven

**Graduate Students** – Geneviève Moisan (former), Nicholas Shulman, Kaitlyn Niedermayer, Anna Eyler, Patil Tchilinguirian, Elizabeth Johnson, Etta Sandry, Emma Hoch, Iso E. Setel, Maisa Mreiwed, Cecilia McKinnon, Avy Loftus, Jolee Smith, Diyar Mayil, Eréndira Gonzales, Shelley Ouellet, Joni Cheung, Rixt de Boer, Megan Stein, Danielle Bessada, Andrew Rabyniuk, Tasha Lavdovsky, Vanessa Mardrossian (PhD student), Suzanne Kite (PhD student), Kelly Arlene Grant (PhD student), Magdalena Hutter (PhD student), Molly-Claire Gillett (PhD student), Elsy Zavarce (PhD student)

**Undergraduate Students** – RythÂ Kesselring, Alexandra Bachmayer, Charline Lemieux, Andrea Mestre, Alyse Tunnell, Meghan Riley, Jacqueline Beaumont, Amélie Belanger, Marie-Christine Larivière, Marie Pontais, Alessia Signorino, Alexia Farina, Shirley Ceravolo, Negar Nakhai, Paulina Bereza, Thorhildur Sunna Johannsdottir, Kenza Ka, Salomé Blain, Sophie Heyen-Dubé, Indigo Danielson, Anne Boutet, Isabelle Charette, and Nina Parenteau

**Internal Affiliates** - Skawennati Fragnito

**External Affiliates** – Lauren Osmond, Janis Jefferies, Yingxian Xiao (Visiting Scholar)

Of the 70 cluster members, there are 13 full-time faculty members, two part-time faculty members, 51 Concordia student members, one internal affiliate member, and three external affiliate members. Of the student members, there are 23 undergraduate students and 28 graduate students. The 17 undergraduate students are all from Fine Arts (Fibres and Material Practices, Sculpture, Film, Art History, Intermedia, Music, Theatre, and Computation Arts). Of the graduate student members, faculties include Fine Arts (Fibres and Material Practices, Sculpture, Design, and Computation Arts, Art Education), INDI, English and Creative Writing, and the Humanities. Our internal affiliate member is the co-founder and co-director of Aboriginal Territories in Cyberspace and member of the Institute for Indigenous Futures at Concordia University. One external affiliate member is a graduate student in Art Conservation at Queens University, and the

former Head of Operations and Coordination at Milieux. Another affiliate member is a Professor of Visual Arts at Goldsmiths, University of London, UK. Our visiting scholar is an Associate Professor at the Fashion & Technology Department in the School of Design at the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou.

All student members have Textiles and Materiality listed as their primary cluster.

Of the student members, nine graduate and seven undergraduate students were recruited in 2019 – 2020. Of the faculty members, Aaron McIntosh (ADsassociate Professor, Studio Arts) and Miranda Smitheram (Assistant Professor, Design and Computation Arts) joined the cluster in 2019 – 2020. Of the part-time faculty members, Karen Kraven (Artist-in-Residence, Studio Arts) and Sarah Bertrand-Hamel (Artist-inResidence, Studio Arts) joined the Cluster in 2019-2020.

One undergraduate student, RythÂ Kesselring, graduated in December 2019 but will remain a cluster member for one year following graduation.

The following members acted as research assistants throughout the 2019 – 2020 year: Alexandra Bachmayer (assistant to Joanna Berzowska), Kaitlyn Niedermayer (assistant to Kathleen Vaughn), Martin Peach (assistant Barbara Layne), Fanny Savoie (assistant to Barbara Layne), Muhammad Mustafa Tahseen (assistant to Barbara Layne), Claire Nadon (assistant to Barbara Layne), Marie Pontais (assistant to Alice Jarry), and Alexia Farina (assistant to pk langshaw).

Geneviève Moisan was employed as the Research Support Technician for the Cluster. Anna Eyler held the position of Research Cluster Coordinator during the 2019 – 2020 period.

<https://textilesandmateriality.wordpress.com/about/research-members/>

## **PRODUCTIVITY REPORT (May 2019 – April 2020)**

### **T&M ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE | VISITORS**

From February 2020 – February 2021, the Cluster is hosting Yingxian Xiao as an Academic Visitor in the role of Visiting Scholar at Concordia University for the period of Yingxian Xiao is currently an Associate Professor at the Fashion & Technology Department in the School of Design at the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou. Yingxian Xiao is researching various conceptual and technical approaches of combining the new media arts with traditional hand-craftsmanship (knitting, weaving, etc.) as part of her research project focusing on sustainable fashion. Many of our Cluster members are keenly interested in the topic of sustainability, therefore the residency will provide an excellent opportunity for the Concordia community to engage in an exchange of ideas and skills on an international level. Furthermore Yingxian Xiao has offered to deliver

workshops including her PLUG & PLAY project which will be of benefit to the Cluster and to the Milieux Institute.

The Cluster has offered individual and group tours to students and researchers over the past year, both from Montréal and abroad. Notable visitors have included:

- On June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the cluster provided a tour for college level students participating in *Vestechpro: The Collegial Center for the Transfer of Apparel Technology (CCTT)*, which is affiliated with the Cégep Marie-Victorin.
- On October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, T&M provided two tours of the facilities for participants in the Communicating the Arts Conference, organized by Andy Murdoch.
- On October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Kelly Thompson provided a tour of T&M for participants in the conference, *Post/Colonial Port Cities : Place and Nonplace in the Ecotone*.
- On November 8<sup>th</sup>, the Cluster invited members of the Concordia community to visit the facilities during the Open House for Milieux's Bauhaus festival.

In her role as Research Support Technician, Geneviève Moisan coordinated, organized and gave multiple tours of our facilities to members of the Concordia community, different companies, museums and members of varied art communities and donors. Moisan also assisted with a variety of cross-cluster events, including the Open Doors Event on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019, in collaboration with the Post Image Cluster. As Research Cluster Coordinator, Anna Eyler coordinated tours for Concordia students and staff as well as prospective students from different schools across the country. Moisan also responded to requests from researchers and students who were interested in how our cluster and equipment could help forward their research.

## CONFERENCES | TALKS | EXHIBITIONS

### **Barbara Layne – 18<sup>th</sup> International Festival of the Image**

In June 2019, Barbara Layne, participated in the *18th Festival de la Image* at the El Museo de Arte de Caldas, Manizales, Colombia. Layne presented a Studio subTela project (The Table Runner, Boots and Magic Wand) in the Gallery of the Cultural Center, Banco de la República from June 10-14, 2019. The central theme of the 18th Festival was Digital Humanism: an invitation to reflect on a dynamic digital environment and human nature. In addition, an interactive dress was performed at the opening and also at a private reception venue for the sponsors.

<https://textilesandmateriality.com/2019/05/17/barbara-layne-in-manizales-colombia/>

### **Anna Eyler – Currents New Media Festival**

From June 7<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. Anna Eyler participated in the Currents New Media Festival in Santa Fe, New Mexico, presenting her digital work, *PAN/PAN* (2018). The festival provides the community with opportunities to experience New Media Arts in traditional venues, public and outdoor spaces. Over 9,000 visitors attended festival events in 2019.

<https://textilesandmateriality.com/2019/05/24/anna-eyler-at-the-currents-new-media-festival/>

### **RythÅ Kesselring – HAVN's Sonic Art Series**

From the 14<sup>th</sup> of June until the 5<sup>th</sup> of July, 2019, RythÅ Kesselring participated in HAVN's Sonic Art Series 2019! Celebrating ALL THINGS SOUND! The works in the exhibition played with ideas of sound creation in the process of labour in nature and by machine. Listen and interact with these works at the Factory Media Centre.

<https://textilesandmateriality.com/2019/05/24/rytha-kesselring-in-havns-sonic-art-series/>

### **Geneviève Moisan – Centre d'action culturelle de la MRC de Papineau**

From the 24<sup>th</sup> of July until the 6<sup>th</sup> of September, 2019, Gen Moisan participated in the exhibition « Présence » at the centre d'action culturelle de la MRC de Papineau. Through weavings and a series of embroideries, Moisan explored her relationship with the action of making.

<https://textilesandmateriality.com/2019/07/03/genevieve-moisan-au-centre-daction-culturelle-de-la-mrc-de-papineau/>

### **Barbara Layne – *The Enchantment of Textiles***

In September 2019, Barbara Layne presented *The Enchantment of Textiles* at the Central de Diseño at El Matadero Arts Centre in Madrid, Spain, in conjunction with the 2019 World Textile Art Biennial in Madrid. This major exhibition marked the culmination of the 4 year SSHRC Insight project. Several cluster members and members of the Studio subTela team and collaborator Janis Jefferies traveled with Barbara Layne for the installation and participation in the Biennial. RythÅ Kesselring also included one of her sound textiles in the exhibition. To accompany the exhibition, an 88 page exhibition catalog was produced (designed by Patil Tchilingurian with a foreword by Ixchel Ledesma and essays by Janis Jefferies and Hilary Bergen).

<https://textilesandmateriality.com/2019/09/03/studio-subtela-goes-to-madrid/>

### **Kelly Thomson – Icelandic Textile Centre**

In September 2019, Kelly Thomson completed a residency at the Icelandic Textile Centre, Blönduós, using the TC2 digital jacquard loom. The residency culminated in a group exhibition, which allowed them to share completed and works-in-progress with each other and the local community.

<https://textilesandmateriality.com/2019/09/24/kelly-thompson-at-the-icelandic-textile-centre/>

### **RythÅ Kesselring – MMAQ**

During her residency at the MMAQ, RythÅ Kesselring investigated the sound potential of a textile workshop run by several weavers. Eventually, this sound exploration could be extended to the institution's other workshops to create an orchestra of looms. The

sound trace of the workshop would then be transformed into an imprint, a legible movement in the materiality of the weaving. Could the fabrics, which are bearers of history and traditions, also be seen as scores and/or traces of an ancestral choreography?

<https://textilesandmateriality.com/2019/10/23/rytha-kesselring-en-residence-de-creation-a-mmaq/>

### **Kathleen Vaughan, Kelly Thompson, and Elaine Cheasley Paterson – TextilesTradeTime Symposium**

Several Cluster members were responsible for organizing the TextilesTradeTime Symposium, which took place on October 18 and 19 and November 29, 2019. TextilesTradeTime explored the histories, presents and futures of textiles across multiple sites, with a focus on Tiohtiá:ke | Montreal as a locus of trade across cultures, nations, fibres and moments. Artists and scholars within and beyond the university considered Indigenous textile traditions; the role of textiles in colonialism; local or global labour and environmental textile implications; artistic and technological innovations in textiles; and speculative spheres.

<http://textilestradetime.ca/>

### **Kirsty Robertson – Artist Talk at T&M**

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Kirsty Robertson gave a talk at Milieux entitled “Synthetic Forever: The Afterlife of Clothing and Textiles.” This talk considered the moment where a once-loved item of clothing is discarded. Part meditation on the shedding of identity that goes along with turning clothing into waste, and part research into what actually happens to clothing once it is discarded, this presentation investigated the afterlife of clothing as it unfolds into futures unknown. Concentrating primarily on synthetic clothing (or clothing made at least partially from plastics), Robertson uncovered the exceedingly long life of “petrotextiles” before they break down to their molecular compounds. What does it mean to create textiles and clothing that cannot be “unraveled” and that exact great demands upon the environments from which their component parts have been extracted? Are such textiles a potential resource for or a weight on future generations?

<https://textilesandmateriality.com/2019/10/23/kirsty-robertson-at-tm/>

### **Barbara Layne – AS-Helix**

In November 2019, Barbara Layne participated in *AS-Helix: The Integration of Art and Science in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*, 5<sup>th</sup> Art and Science International Exhibition at the National Museum of China in Beijing. The AS-Helix exhibition and symposium encourage dialogues and reflections in relevant fields such as human cognition, production revolution, future education, art paradigm, design innovation, health and medical care, and sustainable development. It also explores how art and science can be deeply integrated in the age of AI, and how we can promote sustainable development based on the concept of consultation, contribution and shared benefits.

<https://www.ico-d.org/connect/events/events/907.php>

### **Kathleen Vaughan – McClure Gallery**

From March 6-28<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Kathleen Vaughan presented *You Are Here|Vous Êtes Ici* at the McClure Gallery. This solo exhibition and series of related events featured tactile, colourful textile maps created over the past 15 years. The exhibition used visual art and storytelling to elaborate connections between place and belonging, with an environmental slant. Emphasized were works about parks and greenspaces in Montreal, an urban forest in Toronto and environments in Iceland and Norway. Maps are a means to evoke place without using pictorial traditions. Maps also help bring to life questions of power, partiality and exclusions that are embedded in all forms of representation. At the same time, maps are cross-cultural, familiar and easily understood, and so an accessible format for diverse audiences.

<https://textilesandmateriality.com/2020/03/02/kathleen-vaughan-at-mcclure-gallery/>

### **Barbara Layne – Face Mask Project in response to Covid-19 outbreak**

In April 2020, Barbara Layne coordinated a group of volunteers for a face mask making initiative which started in April and was completed in May 2020. Frederic Guilhem of Concordia's Environmental Health and Safety Office partnered with Milieux to provide materials and distribute masks. The 34 volunteers also included Milieux members Kathleen Vaughan, Aaron McIntosh, Miranda Smitheram, Alex Bachmayer, Etta Sandry, Cecilia McKinnon, Marie-Christine Larivière, Molly-Claire Gillett, Lauren Osmond, Ida Toft, pk langshaw, Sara Hanley, Peter C. van Wyck and Haidee Wasson.

<https://textilesandmateriality.com/2020/05/23/tm-mask-project-complete/>

### **BARBARA LAYNE - NFRF Evaluation**

Barbara Layne served as an Evaluator and Committee Chair in the Tri-Council's new funding program, "New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) in 2019.

The full archive of cluster members' activities can be found on the T&M website's home page: <https://textilesandmateriality.com/>.

## **ACTIVITY REPORT**

As Co-Directors, Barbara Layne, Joanna Berzowska, Kelly Thompson, and Kathleen Vaughan were involved in facilitating cluster exchanges, workshops, and artists-in-residence for the 2019-2020 session.

As Research Support Technician, Geneviève Moisan supported projects by several different Concordia researchers, including Kathleen Vaughan, Patrick Traer, Ingrid Bachmann, Kelly Thompson, and artist-in-residence Karen Kraven. Moisan also trained

and provided support to many PhD, Masters, and BFA students including: Suzanne Kite, Diyar Mayil, Patil Tchilinguirian, Kay Noele, Alessia Signorino, Meghan Riley, Charline Lemieux, Melina Vera J, Magdalena Hutter, Molly-Claire Gillett, Kahentawaks Tiewishaw, Joni Cheung, Annie Descôteaux, Rythâ Kesselring, Negar Nakhai, Shelley Ouellet, Scott Benesiinaabandan, Vanessa Mardrossian, Alexandra Bachmayer, and Mylene Raiche, among others. These researchers created work either on the Jacquard loom, the Tajima machine, the Brother embroidery machine, the textile printer, the flatbed scanner, or the floor looms. These researchers and students come from varied backgrounds ranging from Design and Computational Arts to Engineering and Studio Arts. As technician, Moisan also trained the subTela studio team in their continued work with Barbara Layne.

Moisan trained and supervised Charline Lemieux (BFA) on the Tajima machine and Rythâ Kesselring (BFA) on Pointcarré and the Jacquard loom.

Moisan maintained existing equipment as well as suggesting new purchases, which enriched the cluster's supply of materials for current and future researchers. This maintenance extended to the Jacquard loom (replaced oiler, fixed pressure, changed warp); the serger (repaired, blades sharpened, oiled); and the Tajima Embroidery Machine (found piece numbers and liaised with Rubenstein). Likewise, Moisan ensured that all of the Mac computers were upgraded to their capacities with Pointcarré installed on each. All of the PC computers (except for the scanner's computer) were backed up and linked to the Milieux server. Backups are now programmed to run automatically every week. All the PC computers (except for the scanner's computer) were upgraded to Windows 10 and all of the required programs were reinstalled as necessary. Moisan also purchased materials for a new warp as well as thread for the Jacquard loom.

Moisan designed and offered a series of training workshops for the different equipment and software available within the cluster, including Embird and the Brother embroidery machine; Pointcarré and the Jacquard loom and DG/ML and the Tajima laying machine. Moisan trained researchers and students to weave on the Jacquard loom and to prepare their files with the following software: Pointcarré Basic Weave Structures and Pointcarré Cloth. For the Brother Embroidery machine, Moisan offered workshops in "Basic Embroidery with Embird and Machine Training" and "Textile Quotes." For the Tajima machine, Moisan gave several workshops throughout the year, including the introductory workshops: "Drawing with Threads: Materializing Data" and "The Merit of Making." These workshops varied in length from three hours to up to nine hours each. Moisan also provided workshops introductory and intermediate workshop in soft circuits, entitled "In the Loop." In conjunction with Milieux, Moisan offered a new workshop with Marc Beaulieu entitled: "Milieux Make: Defiant Wearables." Moisan also prepared material for a new series of workshops for the Fall 2020 semester, including "Pressure Sensors on the Tajima" with Alexandra Bachmayer and "Modular Soft Electronics." Six electronic components kit were bought put together in preparation for the first iteration of the workshop. Test files and prototypes have been prepared and tested for the upcoming pressure sensor workshop.

Moisan provided support to the broader Concordia community, answering a variety of questions and providing references and advice on many different subjects ranging from textile printing facilities in Montréal, to sewing machine training and support as well as scanner help.

Moisan worked with the Research Coordinator, Anna Eyler, to support the TextilesTradeTime Symposium, both before and during the symposium. Moisan and Eyler designed and implemented a new workshop for Milieux's Bauhaus event in November 2019, entitled: "Run-of-the-Mill: A Textiles Workshop." The workshop spanned two sessions and culminated in the creation of a collaborative quilt to be displayed in the T&M Cluster Commons space.

Co-director Kelly Thompson and Gen Moisan coordinated a three-week long weaving residency for Cluster members. The three-week skill-share residency was intended to bring together Cluster members at an introductory, intermediate, and advanced level. Beginners to digital processes were welcome, involving varying skill levels operating in parallel within a collaborative learning environment. More advanced researchers would be able to work with multilayer structures, texture and densities, on one manual and the jacquard loom. Different approaches to working with Pointcarré software were shared by participants.

Moisan also conducted research into file formats and file conversions between the Embird and Tajima softwares. Likewise, Moisan has conducted research into sequin suppliers for a new Tajima workshop (by request). Moisan also purchased embroidery foam in a variety of colours to support a broader range of embroidery projects. Likewise, several different varieties of backing were purchased and tested. These new materials have allowed Moisan to better support the research of our members.

As Research Cluster Coordinator, Anna Eyler completed and submitted proposals on behalf of the Cluster. Eyler hosted a grant-writing workshop for Cluster members as well as administering the selection process for student grants within the Cluster. The Coordinator also facilitated the artist residency of Yingxian Xiao, a Visiting Scholar who is researching various conceptual and technical approaches of combining the new media arts with traditional hand-craftsmanship (knitting, weaving, etc.) as part of her research project focusing on sustainable fashion.

Eyler also redesigned the Cluster promotional materials with the support of Cluster member and graphic designer, Patil Tchilinguirian. These materials will support a broader visibility for the T&M Cluster, both within and without of Concordia. This also included a logo re-design and updates of the Cluster website. Eyler regularly maintained the website and communications with the T&M Cluster and broader Milieux community.

The coordinator worked with the Research Support Technician to design a focused workshop program for each semester, soliciting information from members about what would best support their own research projects.

Eyler also coordinated a new workshop series entitled “Knit-Ins,” which allowed members to share their research ideas and proposals while working on a textile-based project. This ongoing series continued online in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cluster members Elaine Cheasley Paterson were involved with Kathleen Vaughan, Kelly Thompson, and Nadia Myre’s October 2019 symposium *Textiles Trade Time*: a series of events (October 18, 19 and November 29) that explored the histories, presents and futures of textiles, with a focus on Tiohtiá:ke/Montreal as a locus of trade across cultures, nations, fibres and moments. TTT particularly welcomed work that considered Indigenous textile traditions; the role of textiles in colonialism; discussions of local or global labour and environmental textile implications; artistic and technological innovations in textiles; and projects that considered speculative spheres.

In January 2020, undergraduate Cluster member Alyse Tunnell offered a Material Swap for Cluster members. This Material Swap resembled a clothing swap, but with arts and crafts supplies. All remaining materials were donated to the CUCCR to encourage environmentally-sustainable art-making practices. During the same month, graduate Cluster member Avy Loftus offered the workshop: “Batik Jumputan – Javanese Modern Batik Technique” to Cluster members. Participants learned batik jumputan techniques step by step as well as how to transfer batik jumputan into functional art.

Active membership in the cluster requires presenting a talk or other activity to the rest of the cluster members, ranging from 5-minute lightning presentations to formal talks. Over the past year, a number of members offered presentations on their work, research activities, and grant-funded projects. On October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Molly-Claire Gillett gave a presentation on her Cluster-supported research project surrounding lace production and communities of craft in Ireland. The T&M INDI Grant supported her research-creation in Ireland. On the same date, Kelly Arlene Grant gave a grant presentation to the Cluster. Her research looks at last quarter 18<sup>th</sup> century clothing in Nova Scotia. Grant considers how pieces in museum collections can be used to inform living history programs. The Cluster grant allowed her to spend a week in Shelbourne, NS, one of the only intact 18<sup>th</sup> century towns in Canada. During the same meeting, Anna Eyler also presented on her Cluster travel grant, which allowed her to travel to Santa Fe, New Mexico to attend the Currents New Media Festival, where she exhibited her video work and graduate research, *PAN/PAN* (2018). On November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Jacqui Beaumont gave an artist talk to the cluster entitled: “Towards Transgenic Structures.” In this talk, Beaumont considered genetics as a structure and how it may expand of discussions of material futures. On January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Shirley Ceravolo gave an artist talk to the Cluster entitled: “Astrofibres: An Artistic Inquiry into Astrophysical Concepts.” The artist presented her research into the materiality of the universe and the ways it translates into her artistic practice.

## RESEARCH FUNDING REPORT

**BARBARA LAYNE**

Canada Council for the Arts Travel Grant (for the *18th Festival de la Image* at the El Museo de Arte de Caldas, Manizales, Colombia)

**Total: \$2250**

## **AARON MCINTOSH**

Associate Professor in Fibres & Material Practices, Aaron McIntosh, was awarded a 2020 United States Artist Fellowship. The unrestricted grant will be used to pursue ongoing research projects focused on community engagement with LGBTQ2+ archives in the United States and Canada, as well as queer subjectivity's intersections with plant life, nature studies and interspecies collaboration.

**Total: USD \$50,000**

## **ALICE JARRY**

2020/4 - 2023/3 PI

“Membranes souples dynamiques : la filtration de l'air comme processus d'échange matériel, interdisciplinaire et socio-environnemental agissant,” Bourse de recherche

Fonds de recherche du Québec - Société et culture (FRQSC) Soutien à la recherche-création pour la relève professorale

**Total - \$44 634**

## **JOINT GRANTS**

### **ALICE JARRY**

2021/4 - 2027/3 Co-researcher

Hexagram - Réseau de recherche-création en arts, cultures et technologies.,  
Subvention Sources de financement: Fonds de recherche du Québec - Société et culture (FRQSC)

Regroupements stratégiques / Réseau – fonctionnement

**Total - \$1 827 000**

PI: Jean Dubois

2019/4 - 2022/3 Collaborator

Cadence en cours, Bourse de recherche Sources de financement: Fonds de recherche du Québec - Société et culture (FRQSC) Recherche-Création -

**Total - \$196 132**

PI: Michael Montanaro;

Co-researcher: David Morris;

Collaborator: Harry Smoak

2019/12 - 2020/11 PI

“Engagement durable et cycle de vie des matériaux : le bien-être des communautés et la récupération d’une infrastructure routière, Bourse de recherche”

Université Concordia Cities Program

**Total - \$10 000**

Co-researcher: Carly Ziter; Lan Lin; Shauna Janssen

## **SUPERVISION**

### **ELAINE CHEASLEY PATERSON**

Over the past year, Elaine Cheasley Paterson has supervised one student in the Cluster:

INDI PhD: Molly-Claire Gillett

### **KATHLEEN VAUGHAN**

Kathleen Vaughan has supervised the following Cluster members and research assistants:

MA, Art Education, supervisee/RA: Kay Noele  
BFA, Studio Arts, RA: Rythâ Kesselring

### **ALICE JARRY**

Alice Jarry supervised the following T&M Cluster graduate students and research assistants:

BFA: Jacqueline Beaumont (RA)  
PhD: Vanessa Mardirossian (graduate student)

### **KELLY THOMPSON**

BFA: Negar Nakhai, Milieux Undergraduate Research Fellow 2019-20 (sponsor)  
MFA: Etta Sandry, Elizabeth Johnson  
PhD: Kelly Arlene Grant (HUMA)

## **STUDENT GRANTS**

Student grants are awarded through a competitive process twice per year: once in the Fall semester and once in the Spring. Students are eligible for funding after three months of active membership, and can apply repeatedly for up to three months before the date of graduation, for a maximum funding total of \$3000. This year, 7 grants were awarded to student Cluster members.

The student grant categories include: Travel (\$400 national/ \$700 international), Independent Research (up to \$800), and Seed grants for interdisciplinary team research projects (up to \$2000).

For the fall 2018 semester, the Cluster awarded an Individual Research Grant to Shelley Ouellet (MFA Fibres and Material Practices) and a Travel Grant to Alessia Signorino (BFA Design and Computation Arts).

Shelley Ouellet received an Individual Research Grant for her ongoing research project, Cold Comfort. For this series, Ouellet intends to produce several sculptural works that take the form of domestic and decorative objects created to critique endless resource extraction and consumption amid the global climate crisis. Leaning into her Albertan roots, these works are intended to operate as sardonic infiltrators for the homes of climate change deniers and were inspired by those who prioritize the oil and gas industry above all else. Through collaging techniques of textile production and embellishment (weaving, sewing, and embroidery), the sculptures are reminiscent of souvenir throw cushions, blankets, and lampshades that traditionally portray majestic landscapes and aspects of regional pride.

Alessia Signorino received a Travel Grant to conduct on-site research for her project, Tactile Landscapes of the Po Valley Industry. The valley was the fulcrum of a textile industry that worked with an extensive range of materials and techniques from the 14th century to the 19th century with subsequent waves of new practices in the 20th century. Signorino will travel to the town of Busto Arsizio, where the Museum of Textiles and Industry of Busto Arsizio is located, the Museo del Tessuto of Prato, Lottozero, a center for textile design based in Prato, the Silk Museum of Como and the Fondazione Antonio Ratti's Textile Museum. These institutions were chosen due to their intrinsic ties to the industrial heritage of natural, such as fustian and silk, and synthetic fibers. This on-site research will culminate in an intimate, interactive storytelling experience built around the industrial heritage and oral histories of workers from the Po valley in Italy.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the winter semester call for grant applications was delayed until May 2020. All information will be included in the 2020-2021 Hexagram report.

## **COLLABORATIONS**

Kathleen Vaughan, Kelly Thompson, Elaine Cheasley Paterson, and Nadia Myre worked together to organize TextilesTradeTime. This symposium and exhibition took place on October 18 and 19 and November 29, 2019. TextilesTradeTime explored the histories, presents and futures of textiles across multiple sites, with a focus on Tiohtiá:ke | Montreal as a locus of trade across cultures, nations, fibres and moments. Artists and scholars within and beyond the university considered Indigenous textile traditions; the role of textiles in colonialism; local or global labour and environmental textile implications; artistic and technological innovations in textiles; and speculative spheres.

During her sabbatical (Jan-June 2020), Kelly Thompson undertook a short residency and wool research collaboration at the Textile Design Lab, Auckland University of Technology <https://tdl.aut.ac.nz/> building connections with TDL Director Francis Joseph, her PhD students and Peter Heslop, manager at the lab. The TDL has acquired a TC2 Digital loom as part of their extensive technical facilities. <https://tdl.aut.ac.nz/newsletters/december-2019>

In early March, Thompson gave an artist talk to a senior Textile Design class and met with colleagues at the College of Creative Arts at Massey University, and was invited to demonstrate and sample on their new TC2 digital loom. The plan was for Thompson to return in April for a longer residency, when their classes were fully in underway, but the Covid-19 situation changed this.

## OUTREACH

T&M offered several Milieux-wide workshops to introduce new members to the Cluster, including: “Run-of-the-mill: A Textile Workshop” for the Bauhaus event in November 2019. In collaboration with Marc Beaulieu, T&M organized a new Milieux Make workshop on soft circuits entitled: “Defiant Wearables.”

In her role as Research Cluster Coordinator, Anna Eyler actively organized events and workshops that included both Cluster and non-Cluster members.

\*Please see attached PDF entitled “T&M\_Outreach” for more information.

## FUNDING REPORT

Hexagram funds were used primarily to support the salary and benefits of the Research Cluster Coordinator, who organizes and administers research-associated activities of the Cluster and Hexagram RC members. This position is held by one Master’s or Doctoral student from Concordia University. The position was held by Anna Eyler during the 2019 – 2020 period. Additional funds were allocated towards a contract for a Research Support Professional (incl. Technical Support Stipend) to assist with cluster research projects and artists-in-residence. In summer of 2019, two undergraduate Cluster members, Rytha Kesselring and Charline Lemieux, were also hired to support research while Gen Moisan was away at a residency for July and August 2019.

Other funds supported visiting researchers, workshops, and guest speaker events organized by the Cluster and held during the year. Funds covered coordination, travel, special equipment, and technical support. Additional funds were used to create up-to-date promotional material for the Cluster. Events and workshops will involved the cluster footprint and were open to Cluster and Hexagram RC members.

Activity report – Hexagram RC 15

Research Cluster Coordinator (10 hours / week)	\$9608
Technical Support (Casual) + UGRAD Research Funds	\$1337
Research Support Technical	\$4164
Benefits – Research, Student Employees	\$2060
Visiting Lecturers + Accommodations + Conferences	\$2730
Promotional Material	\$101
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$20000</b>
<b>2019-2020 SHORTFALL = \$0.00</b>	