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Youth coming to King's this summer to consider the role fear plays in setting political agendas

Halifax | At the University of King's College's fourth annual Humanities for Young People (HYP) summer program, teens will engage with a wide-ranging curriculum spanning Ancient Greece to contemporary debates about the role fear plays in both our everyday lives and in setting political agendas.

"We at HYP recognize the important role that the humanities play in developing citizenship and the leaders of tomorrow," says King's humanities professor and HYP Co-Director Dr. Sarah Clift. "It therefore strives not only to inculcate important skills such as media literacy and critical thinking, but also encourages them to apply those skills to urgent issues."

This year's theme, "Thinking Through Fear," will give participants the opportunity to work closely and collaboratively with scholars from a variety of disciplines. Keynote speakers include activist and freelance journalist Desmond Cole, and critically acclaimed author Elisabeth di Mariaffi, both of whom will also give a public talk on July 13 at the Central Library.

"Fear is experienced unequally within our communities, and I'm particularly interested in how women live with and against fear," says Elisabeth di Mariaffi. "Women are constantly being told that they are the unreliable narrators of their own lives and that their fears are ungrounded. Whom do we believe and why? Why do we pathologize unreliable women narrators? So, writing about women and violence in a popular genre is challenging, but there are important issues to work on and assumptions to question."

In February 2019, HYP received a grant from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) for nearly \$23,000. King's assumes more than half the costs related to providing the space and running the programming, and this SSHRC funding will help cover the difference so that more resources may be allotted for student bursaries.

"HYP attracts students who enjoy challenging themselves and each other. Each HYP cohort is very diverse—our students come from across the country and have a wide range of interests and skills. What they share is a commitment to reading, thinking, and discussing," says Dr. Clift. "We encourage students whose interests lie in politics, culture, and the arts to cultivate those interests with other like-minded young people."

HYP is a live-in summer camp that takes place on King's campus from July 6-14, giving high school students aged 15 to 17 a taste of university life while attending lectures, creative workshops, exploring Halifax, and more. The deadline to apply is June 5. For more information on the program, and to see if your student qualifies for a bursary, please visit hyp.ukings.ca.

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About the University of King's College

Established in 1789, King's College is Canada's oldest chartered university. A small and extraordinarily lively academic community located in Halifax, Nova Scotia, King's is known nationally and internationally for its highly acclaimed interdisciplinary programs in the humanities and journalism, including our Master of Fine Arts in Creative Non-Fiction.

For more information and to arrange interviews, please contact:

Dr. Sarah Clift

HYP Co-Director

University of King's College

Sarah.Clift@ukings.ca

Alison DeLory

Advancement Office

University of King's College

Alison.DeLory@ukings.ca

Tel: (902) 422-1271, ext. 295