

THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES
FEMINIST RESEARCH SPEAKERS SERIES 2016–2017 PRESENTS

STOLEN LAND: The Recursive Logic of Colonial Dispossession

a lecture by Dr. Robert Nichols

Friday, October 21, 2016, 3:00 – 4:30

Humanities Centre L2

Abstract:

What does it mean to lose something you did not know you had to begin with? Can you have something stolen from you if it was not yours to begin with? Does theft presuppose property? This talk will consider these fundamental questions of legal and political theory through a critical-historical reconstruction of one especially salient context in which they have arisen: the systematic theft of land from Indigenous peoples in the colonization of North America. Through this investigation, Nichols seeks to develop a conceptual framework responsive to the politics of dispossession in its historic and contemporary manifestations.

Biography:

Robert Nichols is an Assistant Professor of Political Theory at the University of Minnesota. He was previously a Humboldt Research Fellow in Philosophy at the Humboldt University of Berlin (2014–16), an Assistant Professor of Political Theory at the University of Alberta (2010–2014), and has held visiting positions at Columbia University and the University of Cambridge. His first book, *The World of Freedom: Heidegger, Foucault, and the politics of historical ontology*, was published with Stanford University Press in 2014. He is currently working on a second monograph, provisionally titled *Dispossession: Colonialism, Capitalism, and Critical Theory*.



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
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