PREFACE

As part of its mandate to promote interdisciplinary research and to bring the wisdom of the humanities to bear on issues of contemporary concern, the Humanities Research Group began to publish a series of Working Papers in the Humanities. The current volume is the fifth to appear.

The series is designed to present works in progress by various scholars representing a broad spectrum of disciplines, methodologies, and perspectives, all united by a focus on a single theme. Earlier volumes have presented the papers of our annual Distinguished Speaker Series, and of a conference held at the University of Windsor. The papers included in this volume were delivered as part of the Humanities Research Group’s Community Seminar programme. Those seminars are an important initiative that allow members of the community to take a day to reflect on an issue of immediate relevance to both the local community and society as a whole. Discussion is promoted by the case studies or papers offered by members of the University of Windsor faculty. The opportunity to bridge the distance between town and gown, between theory and practice, in an interdisciplinary humanities setting, is important to the mission of the Humanities Research Group, to the academy and to the community. In an era of technological overload and utilitarianism the humanities still have an important role to play. It is essential as well, for the academy and humanists in particular, to recognize their social responsibility and share their insights and perspectives with those in society charged with developing and implementing policy. Such dialogue is essential and this volume is part of our contribution to it.

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