



## Presenter Biographies



**Thierry Giasson** is the Pacific Northwest-Québec Initiative Visiting Professor in Québec studies at the University of Washington, Seattle. Dr. Giasson is Assistant Professor in the Information and Communication Department at Université Laval, Québec City. He holds a Ph.D in Political Science from the Université de Montréal. His research focuses on Québec-Canada politics, electoral communication and marketing, media impact on political behavior and decision making process, and non-verbal communication in political discourse. Before becoming professor, Dr. Giasson worked as web reporter for Radio-Canada and with the education department of Télé-Québec. Some of his recent work was published in *The Canadian Journal of Political Science*, *Communication* and *Questions de communication*.



**Natalie Debray** is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Communication at the University of Washington specializing in international communication. Her research is cross-disciplinary, intersecting many areas of scholarship. She is keenly interested in how Diaspora scholarship expands and enhances our knowledge of communications. She is particularly interested in media systems in francophone countries, notably Canada, with a special emphasis on Quebec, and the role of media in French Canadian society. While completing her MA in UW's Jackson School, Natalie explored globalization's impact on Canadian popular culture and a comparison between what steps the EU and Canada had taken to impede being engulfed by American cultural products. While researching the similarities between Quebecois and French media policy she became interested in further exploring the unique relationship between Quebec and France. Her dissertation research explores the myth and legacy of France in the French Canadian province of Quebec to examine specifically how the collective memory and public discourse surrounding France is used to construct a distinct cultural identity for political gain.



**Timothy Pasch** (B.A., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, M.A., University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Diplôme, Université Paul Valéry III Montpellier) is a doctoral student in the Department of Communication at the University of Washington. Timothy is a fluent French and Japanese speaker and a FLAS recipient for Inuktitut. His dissertation research is focused on electronic communication in the Inuit Communities of Nunavik. His work looks at language preservation in online social spaces where aboriginal and minority language use can be encouraged through web-tools such as blogs, email clients and online chatting. Enabling this work is a Graduate Student Grant from the Canadian Embassy in Washington D.C. which will fund fieldwork in Nunavik this summer. Tim's teaching portfolio includes three years of teaching in Japan, two years at the University of Hawaii and three years of teaching at the University of Washington. In addition to French language and literature courses, Tim assisted with the UW Introduction to Communication and European Media Systems, and developed and taught his own Concepts in New Media section (COM300).



**Cody Case** is a second-year MA student in Ethnomusicology, a discipline founded on the study of culture and music. Fall 2002, Cody returned from University of Ghana in the capital Accra, Ghana, the Epicenter of African Ethnomusicology to Seattle, Washington. Cody graduated with a BA in Ethnomusicology from UW in Spring 2005 and decided to continue directly into the MA program. Returning to Ghana in Fall 2005 as an assistant for his Professor, Dr. Ter Ellingson, Cody made great discoveries in the realm of fieldwork during this assistantship, and began to develop a new fascination with West African migrants and music in Europe and North America. Finally, upon returning to UW in 2006, he began applying this interest to the multicultural—and intercultural—musical environment of Montreal Québec, where West African music and migrants (as well as Caribbean migrants of African descent) have had profound impacts on popular music. Cody's current research focuses on hip-hop, politics, and interculturalism in Québec. He gratefully received a FLAS from Canada Studies for 2006-2007, and will attend University of Montreal this summer to continue studying French and conducting fieldwork.