

# radix



MCGILE'S STUDENT SPIRITUALITY MAGAZINE  
NOVEMBER 2019 - ATTACHMENTS

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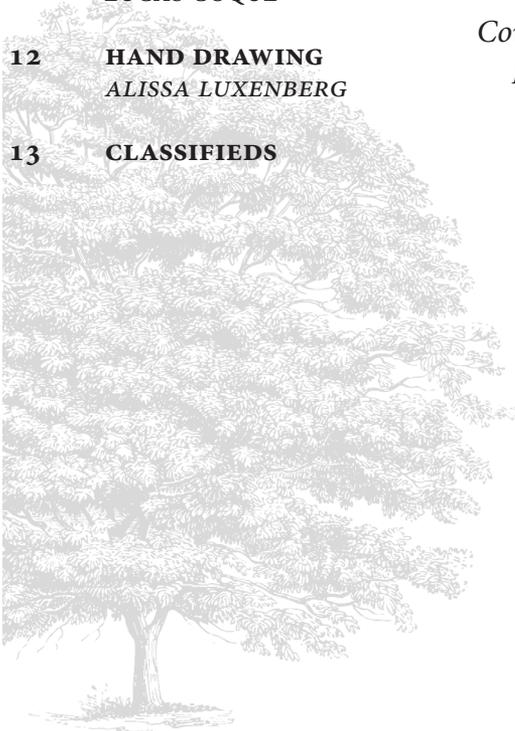
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RADIX is a student-centred magazine providing literary and artistic space for expression on spiritual themes, produced by the McGill Office of Religious and Spiritual Life. Visit us at: [mcgill.ca/morsl/radix-magazine](http://mcgill.ca/morsl/radix-magazine)

## About our cover:

Cover artist *Laura (@laurasartjournal)* probably shouldn't have gone into science but did anyways.



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# INTRODUCING ATTACHMENTS

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Our world is full of attachments. We make connections with everything around us. The people we meet, the food we eat, the houses we live in; we are bonded to our surroundings; we are defined by what we are attached to. Beyond the external, we are connected to ourselves, the parts that constitute the inner self and nourish the immortal spirit.

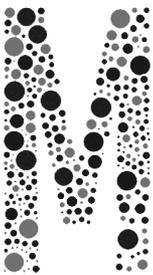
The poets and artists in this issue have explored attachments in their lives. For some, it is a physical attachment that creates relationships. For others, it is a strong grip on an ideology. And at the cusp of technological advancement, Jeffrey Mackie's "Machines" describes our reliance on technology. But thinking it further, are we proactively choosing technology as an attachment? Which or whom are we attached to behind that? Clearly, attachments surround all of us in many different ways, both explicitly and implicitly.

Dear Reader, as you browse through this issue, reflect on your own attachments, the ones you cling to, the ones you embrace, the ones that you wish to pull closer and the ones you wish to let go. Keeping the attachments which are strong and endearing, we let go of others. We pick them up wisely, but still, we might be bewildered and desperate. They manipulate our emotions; they create us as human beings.

As you peruse this issue and witness the various attachments in these works, rest and reflect on your own experiences. As you notice the many facets of attachments in these pages, we hope that they may awaken you to the web of attachments and your philosophy towards them in your own life.

With deep gratitude to the contributors to this issue of Radix for so generously sharing their reflections on Attachments with us.

*Andrew Yang & Muzi Li*



**MCGILL OFFICE  
OF RELIGIOUS AND  
SPIRITUAL LIFE**

**Our 2019-2020 Radix Advisory Board:**

*Written Word -- Andrew Yang & Muzi Li*

*Visual Arts--Sonora Grimsted & Jassim Ahmed*

*Promotion--Akshaya Upadhyay*

*Production--MORSL*

*Machines*

When I was younger  
There were fewer machines  
Later I sat in an office  
Surrounded by wires and lights  
They didn't keep me alive  
But somehow connected

When I was younger  
I was afraid of machines  
Now I am surrounded  
One feeds me  
One relieves me  
One measures my breath  
One measures my heart

So many machines  
Always noise and light  
You wonder if you're seen  
Like living in a city  
That you cannot leave  
Until it goes quiet

*Jeffrey Mackie is a seminarian at Montreal Diocesan Theological College  
associated with McGill.*



*Photograph by Wakaba, a McGill BSc student minoring in religion.  
About this work: “Architectural beauty can attract people as earthly marvels  
designed by a greater eminence.”*

## *Language of a Candle*

-1-

It's a candle  
A candle of which you never heard  
She cries everyday a thousand tears  
She suffers repeatedly  
Again and again  
She lights up a part  
Of the heart  
Neither war nor deception does she  
know

-2-

I said to her from the pile  
From peasants' sickle  
From people's voices:  
Teach me how to endure  
Sourness, longing  
And the flame revolution  
Without a word being said  
With deep certainty  
Like the string of a guitar

-3-

How can I fathom  
The magic mixture

Behind this ambiguous language  
How can I understand and realize  
How can I know and recognize  
Without entering that eddy  
And diving into its yellow oceans  
And red seas

-4-

Who understands the language of a  
candle?

Where the prison  
Meets with the beach  
Where the ship  
Adores the smell of the port  
Its words are taken  
From the dictionary of sadness  
Its poetic work is written  
Without a title  
All what I can say, my dear lady,  
Is that a candle's language  
Is a strange language  
That resembles in its ambiguity  
A ship without a captain  
A ship sailing with no men

*Abed is a Syrian grad student at McGill. He writes prose and poetry in Arabic, and translates some of them into English. See opposite page for the original of this poem!*

--1

هي شمعةٌ وما أدراك ما الشمعة  
تبكي كل يوم ألف دمة  
تتجرع العذاب جرعة جرعة  
وتنير من القلب بقعة  
تعطيه توهجًا ولمعة  
لا الحرب تعرف ولا الخدعة

--2

خاطبتها من تحت الزكام  
من مناجل الفلاحين  
من أصوات الملايين  
أن علميني كيف تتحملين  
كيف تصبرين  
على الحرارة والمرارة  
واشتعالة الشرارة  
ثم تظلين صامته  
كجنود اليقين  
كريشة القيثارة

--3

كيف لي أن أعرف  
الخلطة السحرية  
خلف هذه اللغة المبهمة  
كيف لي أن أعي وأفهم  
كيف لي أن أدرك وأعلم  
دون دخولي تلك الدوامة  
وإبحاري في محيطاتها الصفراء  
وبحارها الحمراء

--4

من منا يفهم لغة الشمعة؟  
حيث السجون تطل على الشواطئ  
حيث تعشق السفن عطر المرافئ  
كلماتها..  
مقتبسة من قاموس الأحران  
دواؤها..  
مكتوبة دون عنوان  
فكل ما يمكنني قوله يا سيدتي  
أن هذه اللغة الغريبة

# BERNADE

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## *Autumn*

I had never paid  
a thought to the falling leaves  
up until this year

The land had again  
run its course around the stars  
just to find me stand

Beneath the golden  
shades of molten caramel  
remembering the spring

That had come too soon  
It had left me shivering,  
green fruit on my lips,  
taste of bitter jealousy  
running down my heart.  
The overwhelming scent  
Clouded up my ears  
from drinking the breeze  
and catching the petals  
who led the way to summer,  
the honeymoon that never was,

until the gentle  
rays guided down the dying  
leaf into my eyes

did I let go of  
the dead fruits I clutched on and  
kiss the falling snow

*Bernade enjoys the company of cats and indulges on ice cream a bit more  
than he should.*

*Ten drops*

You gently reach in  
And ease me from sleep  
Patiently pulling  
Past my protests  
With bitter resolve  
    your mission is clear

The sun shines more brightly on days you are here

Your skin often black  
And sometimes light brown  
Your face at times hidden beneath a white crown  
Your warm embrace in wintery weather  
Becomes soothing mist  
in the sweltering summer

I pick you up, your lip to mine  
And drink from you deeply,  
    This day will be fine.

*Idunn is a linguistics student with a coffee addiction.*

# KACPER NIBURSKI

---

*tap out*

are we only we in the broken things  
must we continue to bleed on those  
who never wounded us  
who do you talk to now that you are alone  
like a scab

does the moon behind your chest still  
hold a reflection in the knife  
can butter still bend the metal  
where are you now when  
i am told there are people  
dressed in long robes  
against a longer road  
still looking for the promised land

listen to how the ducks call your home their own  
watch as the many miss the leaves that will fall over  
their heads in a few year's time

my shoes no longer fit  
my feet have stayed the same size  
in the smell

i am as i was  
when i came to be i  
though i hear dancing miles away  
and the rice sours in the sink like my memory breathing morning  
and i am done with the tired dirty words  
that left you before you left me

*Kacper Niburski is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year McGill medical student, a wannabe triplet,  
and unfortunately, only a twin. Follow his IG: [\\_kenkan](#).*

*On letting go*

When the air was dense and dark, like unmet expectations clenching my lungs, like the smell of grass already burnt by the month of May, or the disappointing brown slush on my boots in late November

When my heart was heavy pumping mercury and lead through my veins, intoxicating my life with delirium and grey madness instead of vivid red blood; when my body was distant, like something borrowed from a friend I no longer talk to and I wish I could give it back but at this point it is way too late so I just try to live with it and maybe give it to someone else, hoping I won't be asked to give it back; when the world was a walk in a forest, but withered and damp, and I was hungry and cold, and I wanted to stop and go home but I didn't know which way I've come from

When angels ignored my prayers, refusing to bring them to the mercy seat, hushing and hissing as to one unclean. When my tears were unspoken, and dry, and my throat parched and burning, and my insides seemed to crawl outwards like a hungry ghost seeking a way out of Mara's belly. When the breath that moves the world refused to blow, and when the light of my eyes was dark, and I couldn't stand still before the abyss

I held the breath

I stepped forward and leaped off the cliff of my soul

I dove alone.

Heavy

Screaming

Till I heard a little

Laughter

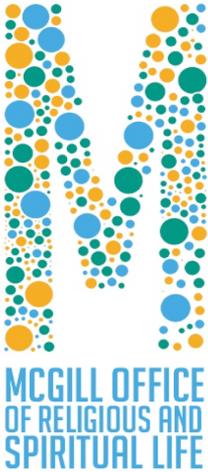
Finally, everything was quiet. The ground was no longer a rollercoaster, but a gentle, rocking boat. The earth was cradling me. The wind murmured like a lover on my bedside, mellow in their dream, in a fragile serenity that conquers the world.

I could see God hiding behind the curtains, his little feet showing all along. I caught him and hugged him, and I opened the windows, and the wind cleared the dust away. The sun shone strong into my heart's apartment, and my demons went to sleep.

*Lucas Coque is a B.Th student and a poet, interested in the ways we communicate our spirituality in a post-religious world.*



*Alissa is a second year psychology student who loves to spend her free hours drawing with a pot of tea by her side.*



# MY NEIGHBOUR'S FAITH

## Visit to a Presbyterian church with dinner

*Sunday, December 15 at 4:45pm*

<b>4:45 PM</b>	Tour of the Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul
<b>5:30 PM</b>	Communal dinner with the congregation
<b>7:00 PM</b>	Candlelit caroling concert
<b>8:30 PM</b>	End

***We will meet in the church entrance.***

*Caroling is an important element of the Christmas season for many Christians. Join MORSL for an interactive visit to the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul to learn more about this rich cultural tradition as well as the meaning and celebration of Christmas and a beautiful candlelit caroling concert.*



**Location:**  
 Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul  
 3415 Redpath St  
 (corner of Sherbrooke)  
 Montreal, QC H3G 2G2



**This is a wonderful opportunity to engage in interfaith learning and musical celebration!**

**Free but registration required:**  
[mcgill.ca/morsl/my-neighbours-faith](http://mcgill.ca/morsl/my-neighbours-faith)



*Looking for more events during exams and throughout the winter break? Visit our website ([mcgill.ca/morsl](http://mcgill.ca/morsl)) and sign up for our newsletter to get a specially-curated weekly listing of spirituality and wellness events.*

# CLASSIFIEDS

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## MCGILL CHAVURAH (GHETTO SHUL)

The McGill Chavurah continues on the legacy of Ghetto Shul as a community intent on creating inclusive spaces for Jewish students. We host regular Shabbat services and other events in the McGill neighbourhood which aim to integrate the peace and comfort of shared Jewish experience into the hectic feeling of student life. We are progressive, sustainable, inclusive, traditional, non-hierarchical, and egalitarian in both structure and practice. Because we are student-run, we evolve to fit the needs of our changing community every year. Learn more about us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/themcgillchavurah/](https://www.facebook.com/themcgillchavurah/)

## MCGILL YOGA CLUB

The McGill Yoga club offers accessible, by-donation yoga classes within 5 minutes from campus. Our goal is to improve the physical, mental, and spiritual health of the community.

[Facebook.com/mcgillyc/](https://www.facebook.com/mcgillyc/)

## MCGILL SIKH STUDENTS

The Sikh Students' Association aims to provide an inclusive space and platform to connect with Sikh students and come together for Sikh-oriented events.

[Facebook.com/sikhsatmcgill/](https://www.facebook.com/sikhsatmcgill/)

## HILLEL

Hillel McGill is an organization on campus to provide Jewish life and education for both Jews and non-Jews at McGill. They offer a wide variety of programs, events, internships, and connection opportunities for everyone to take part in. From socials to Shabbat services, fashion to politics, Hillel's vision is that every student be inspired to take part in Jewish life on campus. Find them by their handle HillelMTL on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, or by email:

[hillelmcgill@ssmu.ca](mailto:hillelmcgill@ssmu.ca)

## MUSLIM STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (MSA)

The Muslim Students' Association brings together Muslim students to provide resources, essential services, and educational tools needed to enhance their university experience. Through the services and events provided, the MSA aims to facilitate the spiritual and social growth of its members and the larger McGill community, supporting student needs. Our "Discovering Islam" event will take place in Spring 2020. Like MSA on Facebook to get updates on this event, as well as all our other initiatives! Email [Communications@MSAMcGill.com](mailto:Communications@MSAMcGill.com) to join the listserv.

[Facebook.com/MSAMcGill/](https://www.facebook.com/MSAMcGill/)  
[www.MSAMcGill.com](http://www.MSAMcGill.com)

**McGILL CHURCH OF JESUS-  
CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS  
STUDENT GROUP**

We meet every Friday at the chapel across from Laurier metro for a free delicious supper and various scripture study classes given in English, French, and Spanish, with fun activities afterwards. Everyone is welcome! For meeting times, and more info on specific scripture study classes and activities, check out the Montreal LDS Institute Facebook page: JAS de Montréal | Montreal YSA, or send an email to:

[celeste.groux@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:celeste.groux@mail.mcgill.ca)

**FALUN DAFU**

Falun Dafa (aka Falun Gong) is a Chinese self-cultivation practice which takes the principles of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance as guiding principles. It includes five meditative exercises and, different from other qigong, emphasizes the role of virtue in improving health. McGill's Falun Dafa club meets every Friday for weekly exercises (free instruction provided on site) in Room 361, 688 Sherbrooke W, from 5pm-6:30pm  
Email: [falundafa.mcgill@gmail.com](mailto:falundafa.mcgill@gmail.com)

[Facebook.com/falundafa.mcgill/  
falundafa-mcgill.com](https://www.facebook.com/falundafa.mcgill/falundafa-mcgill.com)

**NEWMAN CATHOLIC  
STUDENTS' SOCIETY**

Through our vibrant spiritual and social life, we seek to grow in the love of Jesus and spread the joy of his Gospel to the McGill University campus and beyond in a spirit of friendship and service. Inspired by the legacy of Cardinal John Henry Newman, we strive to provide a point of intersection between our lives as students and our lives as Christian disciples. We are based out of the Newman Centre at 3484 Peel Street, where students are welcome to hangout during the day, as well as attend various social, spiritual, and academic events held at the centre. Everyone is welcome! You can find more information at our website or on our Facebook page.

[McGillCatholics.ca](http://McGillCatholics.ca)

[Facebook.com/McGillCatholics/](https://www.facebook.com/McGillCatholics/)

**MIDWEEK QUAKER MEDITATION**

During the academic year, the Montreal midweek Quaker Meeting meets Wednesdays 17:30-18:30 in the Ryan Library on the 2nd floor of the Newman Centre (3484 Peel Street). Keep an eye on our Facebook group for updates:

[Facebook.com/groups/mtlmidweek](https://www.facebook.com/groups/mtlmidweek)

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**Looking for more community connections?**

Visit MORSL's website ([mcgill.ca/morsl](http://mcgill.ca/morsl)) for additional listings, or come to our drop-in centre! Open M-F, 10am-4pm. 3495 Rue University, Level 2.

Winter 2020  
*Call for Submissions*



radix

McGill's Student Spirituality Magazine

Submit Online:  
[mcgill.ca/morsl/radix-magazine](http://mcgill.ca/morsl/radix-magazine)