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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

About our cover:
Cover artist Laura (@laurasartjournal) probably shouldn't have gone into science but did anyways.

@MORSL
@MORSLMcGill
@SpiritualMcGill
morsl@mcgill.ca
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

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

-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
لغة شمعة

1-
هي شمعة وما أدرًاك ما الشمعة
تبكي كل يوم ألف دمعة
تترعع العذاب جرعة جرعة
وتنير من القلب بعة
تعطي لهجة وهمة ولمعة
لا الحرب تعرف ولا الخدعة

2-
خاطبتها من تحت الركام
من مناجل الفلحين
من أصوات المليين
أن علمني كيف تتحملين
كيف تصبرين
على الحرارة والمرارة
واشتعالة الشرارة
ثم تظلين صامتة
كجذور البقين
كريشة القيثارة

3-
كيف لى أن أعرف
الخليط السحرية
خلف هذه اللغة المبهمة
كيف لى أن أعي وأفهم
كيف لى أن أدرك وأعلم
دون دخولي تلك الدوامة
وابحاري في محيطاتها الصفراء
وبحارها الحمراء

4-
من منا يفهم لغة الشمعة؟
حيث السجون تطل على الشواطئ
حيث تسعق السفن عطر المرافئ
كلماتها
مقتبسة من قاموس الأحزان
دواوينها
مكتوبة دون عنوان
فكل ما يمكنني قوله يا سيدتي
أن هذه اللغة الغريبة
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.
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._
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 3rd 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

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<th>Activity</th>
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<td>Tour of the Church of St. Andrew &amp; St. Paul</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>Communal dinner with the congregation</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Candlelit caroling concert</td>
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<td>8:30 PM</td>
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We will meet in the church entrance.

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

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.

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

Free but registration required:
mcgill.ca/morsl/my-neighbours-faith

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

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/

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/

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

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 to join the listserv.
Facebook.com/MSAMcGill/
www.MSAMcGill.com
CLASSIFIEDS

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

FALUN DADA
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 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 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

Looking for more community connections?
Visit MORSL’s website (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

Submit Online:
mcgill.ca/morsl/radix-magazine