



Collaborative Masters Program in Community Development  
**PUBLIC SEMINAR**

# And Then What Happened? Trickster Pedagogy and Practice

Chris Cavanagh  
Co-founder of the Catalyst Centre

**Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**6:30-8:00 p.m.**

**Health Sciences Building, 155 College Street**

**Room Number 100 (tbc)**

**Abstract:** Every culture on the planet has a rich tradition of tricksters. Clowns, fools, jesters and more these tricksters have survived in stories and traditions that preserve an ancient form of teaching that uses riddling, storytelling, playfulness and more to teach by misdirection. Not exactly a secret knowledge, trickster pedagogy yet lies largely ignored or overlooked by dominant as well as alternative forms of education. The trickster is a teacher. But about what does the trickster teach? And/or what is to be learned *from* the trickster? There lies within these traditions a praxis of transformation that is desperately needed in our world of multiple, overlapping, intersecting (and very tricky) oppressions.

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**Chris Cavanagh** is a popular educator, storyteller and graphic artist, who has worked in popular arts production, coalition building, anti-racism, international solidarity and democratic organisational change. He is a co-founder of the Catalyst Centre ([catalystcentre.ca](http://catalystcentre.ca)), a Toronto-based popular education worker co-op that does curriculum development and design and facilitation for non-profits, educational institutions and trade unions. Chris has taught an annual graduate class in popular education (Popular Education for Social Change) since 2001 for the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University where he is also the coordinator of the Wild Garden Media Centre.

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