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The Promised Land Project: What's my Name

In this presentation, I'd like illustrate the ways in which the “politics of knowledge” is articulated through the *Promised Land Project: The Freedom Experience of Blacks in the Chatham and Dawn Settlements*—a black Canadian historical research project, funded in 2007 by the Social Science and Humanity Research Council of Canada. This analysis of the politics of knowledge through this project will help me demonstrate the ways in which certain cultural authorities and cultural symbols can be produced and become secured in time, space, and in specific imagined territories and trajectories. To perform such a demonstration, I'll use several photographs to illustrate one particular level of tension, which is articulated around with dominant/minority binary symbolization of Canada's socio-cultural history. Two key questions guide this analysis: (1) What kinds of tension can lead to the production and validation of contested historical knowledge; and (2) To what extent are the procedures of writing history and ultimately of knowledge mobilization inescapably linked to specific affective articulations that constitute both an institutional and individual “geography of identity”? I conclude this paper in noting that the *Promised Land Project* is a valuable experience that can help us understand not only how history is generally written, manufactured and articulated, but also how a particular history—in this case a *real* Canadian history—must carefully mobilize specific politics of knowledge to become part of the national grand narrative.