# Showcase Feature: Derek Newman Stille

**1 minute, 59 seconds in length**

Derek Newman-Stille – PhD Candidate, Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies speaking:

I'm Derek Newman-Stille. I'm a PhD student in Canadian Studies at Trent University and I'm doing my PhD at the Frost Centre for Canadian Studies.  My research is on representations of disability in Canadian Speculative Fiction.  So that's Canadian horror, Canadian Science Fiction and Canadian Fantasy.  I thought this was important, particularly as a disabled person, to talk about the representations of disability and the way that those images around disability affect the bodies and lives of disabled people.

I'm really hoping that the academic research that I'm doing will open up a lot of opportunities, both within academia for looking at portrayals of disabilities in popular culture, but also for the opportunities to be able to transgress, I guess, the academic boundaries - to be able to go back to the community.  And that's something that I learned during my undergraduate at Trent - I was here for my undergrad as well - is the connection between the community, in this case of Peterborough, and a University.

I'm really hoping that over the next few years, after I finish my PhD, that I have the opportunity to bring some of these learning experiences and teaching experiences out to other locations. I hope to continue to really represent the speculative fiction as well as the disabled community in my interactions in the world as I go forth.  And also to just have the opportunity to take some of those techniques that I've learned at Trent in terms of being able to really engage in conversations with students and faculty and serve as a bridge between those two - that we're not so different, that we're all part of that collective process of learning.

Description: Three pieces of Derek Newman-Stille’s art shown.

You can see here I've got some of my art up on the walls. This is a current show that's going on of my art.   And I actually was inspired by the works that I'm reading in speculative fiction to be able to bring my art into a new speculative format which has worked really well.