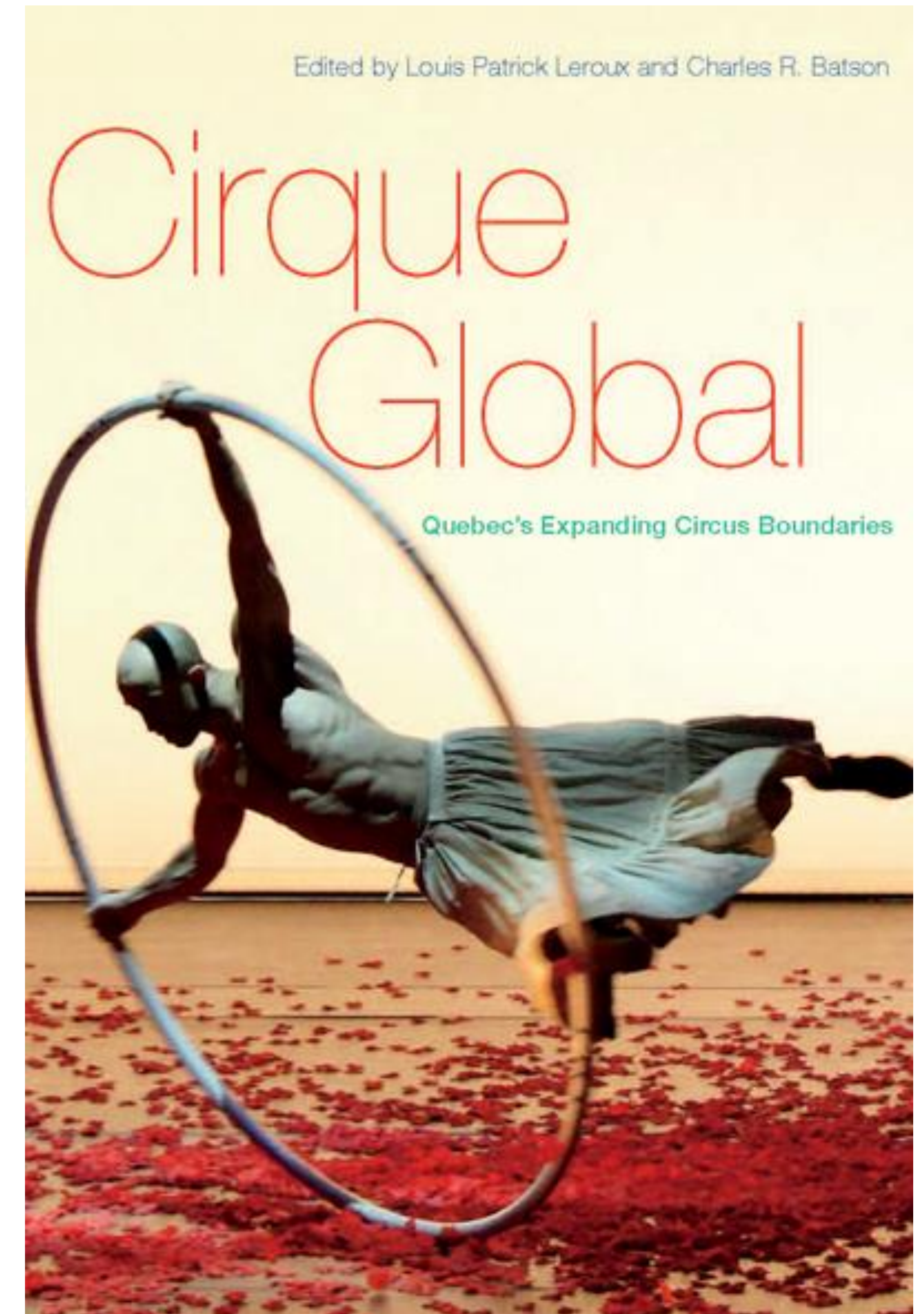


Public Lecture

Wednesday, 15 June 2022, 15.30-16.30 hours

Haus der Wissenschaft, Sandstr. 4/5, Bremen, Olbers-Saal

Cirque du Soleil and Beyond: Québec's Expanding Circuses



An Exploration of Québec's Highly Influential Cirques in Historical, Aesthetic, and Cultural Contexts

Charles R. Batson (Union College, USA)

Abstract

With its billion-dollar annual revenue stream, its international touring shows and its striking cultural presence in such destination-cities as Las Vegas, Cirque du Soleil has greatly contributed to the image of Québec as a world-renowned capital of the circus arts. This talk offers an exploration of this brightly shining figure by anchoring it in historical and cultural specificities that helped shape the development of Québec's highly influential *cirque nouveau*. The presentation examines ways in which we can see that Québec's *cirques* is not just *Cirque du Soleil*, as Québec's circus worlds find significant expansion beyond any one enterprise and beyond provincial and national borders.

Bio

Charles R. Batson is Professor of **French and Francophone Studies** at Union College, Schenectady, NY, and immediate Past President of the **American Council for Québec Studies**. He has published widely on Québécois, French, and Francophone cultural production and performance, including as co-editor, with Louis Patrick Leroux, of a compendium of essays on Québec's contemporary circus called ***Cirque Global: Québec's Expanding Circus Boundaries*** (McGill-Queens University Press, 2016). He is co-leading a series of research encounters in the new field of inquiry currently called *Circus and Its Others*.

Organized as part of the teacher training day "Kanada und Québec | Canada and Québec | le Canada et le Québec." Inquiries and registration welcome: Dr. Paula von Gleich (bikqs@uni-bremen.de).