

Giving 'our' Past a Future: Re-Building and Sharing Inclusive narrative(s) for Canada

CALL FOR PAPERS / PROPOSALS FOR SESSIONS

October 2nd, 2023

Hilton Lac-Leamy Hotel, Gatineau (national capital region), Quebec

Deadline to submit: June 17th, 2023

National history narratives often imply a shared understanding and/or consensus around the foundational and defining markers of a country's history. Yet such narrative(s) also lead to lively debate as to the interpretation of pivotal events and past actions/ motivations of decision-makers when new information comes to light and/or a different interpretation arises from contemporary ways of looking at the past. At times, the perspective or lens through which the narrative is constructed reflects the dominant ideas and priorities of the era. Since the 1960s, there has been a significant rethinking of Canada's history narrative resulting in some unprecedented shifts in how the past was conveyed to previous generations of Canadians.

Perhaps the biggest change is in the perception of the respective roles of the British, French and Indigenous peoples across history and the relative impact of colonization, migration, settlement and racism. Coinciding with this is a continued rethinking of the concept of nation and identities with singular entities increasingly being seen in multiple and diverse iterations (i.e. regionalism, multicultural, multinational and multiple and intersecting identities). It all makes for a complex challenge for those seeking to construct inclusive history narrative(s) in which everyone can see themselves reflected. How are the many and diverse stories properly included in history narrative? Is such inclusive history narratives realistic?

Over the past two decades, the rethinking of the Canadian history narrative has sought to address the glaring historic omissions of Indigenous peoples. Is real progress being made in that regard? Yet another important expression of change is reflected in the growing call for the removal of and/or name changes to monuments and streets dedicated to leaders that implemented prejudicial or discriminatory practices.

Beyond the focus on Canada's history narrative, the ACS 50th anniversary Summit "Giving 'our' Past a Future" will look at best practices in teaching, learning and communicating the country's history. To what extent is the broader public interested and engaged in the changing history narrative? Is there a growing rift in the history narrative changes being presented/proposed by many Canadian thought leaders and the acceptance and support for these changes by the wider public?

Suggested themes and topics for the sessions:

- National History and/or National Histories
- Identities and History Narratives
- Discovering Canada and Founding Peoples
- The Role of History in Identity Formation
- Indigenous Histories
- Colonization and de-Colonization
- Quebec and the story of French in Canada
- Official Language Minorities
- Defining Majorities and Minorities
- Migration, immigrants and refugees
- Racial, Racialized, Visible and Ethnic Minorities
- Identifying Racism, Prejudice and Discrimination
- Personal Pasts: Family History and Ancestries
- The Evolving Role of Gender and Gender Identities
- Anniversaries, celebrations, festivals and ceremonies: Their role in and
- Impact upon developing a sense of identity
- Social Class and identities
- Politics of naming, de-naming: places, monuments, etc

Please note that presenters may be asked to submit a version of their presentation for an edition of *Canadian Issues* to be published following the conference.

WORKSHOP FORMATS

Workshops/panel presentation sessions (75 minutes)

Workshops will usually consist of a minimum of three to a maximum of five presentations of approximately 15 minutes each followed by at least 20 minutes of discussion. Workshop rooms will be equipped with a laptop, screen, and projector. Workshop organizers will preside over the session or designate another individual to do so.

Roundtables (75 minutes)

The roundtable format is suitable for more informal discussions of emerging issues or controversies. Roundtables are intended to facilitate discussion to a greater extent than time may permit in Workshop/panel presentation type sessions. It is a very effective format for the exchange of information and experiences among all participants attending the session.

Poster presentations

Poster sessions provide an alternative format through which conference participants can share research which has not been otherwise presented. Posters should provide some conclusive results, even if preliminary. Poster presenters must provide their own display materials of a maximum of 4' high and 3.5' wide posters.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

In order to open as many opportunities as possible for the most participants, we ask that:

- Participants may organize more than one workshop but on different topics;
- An organizer can choose to participate in additional workshops as a chair, participant or discussant;
- Each person listed as an organizer, participant, chair or discussant in a workshop must register to the conference either as a day or full conference participant and pay the applicable registration fees. Please inform your presenters of this requirement when inviting them to participate in your workshop.
- **An Adjudication Committee will meet to review the workshop proposals after the submission deadline.** The Adjudication Committee will consider proposals that include a clear title, abstract and summary as well as a list of at least three confirmed presenters.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

The Adjudication Committee will place priority on:

- Workshops that have confirmed and combined presenters from the three sectors: academic, non-governmental and government policy
- Workshops that involve graduate students.
- Workshops that bring perspectives of those with lived experience and that include diverse representation.
- Workshops that include participants across various regions of Canada or the world.

Please note that all presenters are required to register and pay the conference registration fee as posted on the conference website.

Session organizers will be required to provide the information listed below during the submission process via our website:

- Name and contact information
- Format of your session (workshop or roundtable)
- Theme (from the 5 above) in which the session falls under
- Title of your session
- Names of co-organizers (if applicable)
- Names of presenters including their affiliation, email address and titles of their presentation
- 50-word abstract which will be included in the program (please make sure it is descriptive but is also formulated to interest as many conference participants as possible)

Please note that the information you provide us will be included in the conference program. Please verify the spelling of your presenters' names and the titles of their presentations.

If you are organizing a session with both English AND French presentations, we ask that you provide us with the translation of the title and 50-word abstract for the program.

[Submit your proposal here!](#)

**If you have any questions, please contact
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