

ACQL Call for Papers Member-organized sessions

ACQL's annual conference will take place at the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities at the **University of Regina** in Regina, Saskatchewan from **May 26-28, 2018**.

Featuring English- and French-language plenaries and panels, the 2018 conference adapts the theme of Congress 2018, "Gathering Diversities," to the Association's commitment to language as a living archive of culture and politics. In Regina, home of longstanding Fransaskois, Métis, and anglophone communities, we will bring junior and established scholars together to consider the roles that literature plays in expressing Canadians' relations to their many languages here and around the world.

Plenary speakers include **Zarqa Nawaz, Wendy Roy, Pamela Sing, and Audrée Wilhelmy**.

Please send your proposal to the organizer(s) associated with the sessions listed below. Contact information for each organizer appears at the end of each call.

All proposals may be written in French or English. Those who propose papers or sessions must be members of the ACQL by 1 March 2018. See the ACQL website (www.alcq-acql.ca) for membership and registration information.

Sessions:

[Travelling Diversities: Canada's Writers and Their Homes Abroad](#)

[And now for a creative perspective: A graduate student reading and roundtable \(CACLALS/ACQL/ACCUTE Session\)](#)

[Spirituality in Contemporary Canadian and Québécois Literature](#)

[Louis Dudek: A Centenary Reflection](#)

Travelling Diversities: Canada's Writers and Their Homes Abroad

Whether they leave Canada for different parts of the world or move to Canada from elsewhere, writers frequently bring their experiences of other places to bear on their representations of the lives that Canadians live. This panel will explore how this global travel has shaped Canadian literature in the past and present, and in particular how it has fostered encounters, indeed confrontations, between the members of different cultures. The organizer welcomes proposals with any of the following foci:

- Literatures of displacement
- Refugee literature
- International peacekeeping
- Economic migrancy
- Travelling women in the 19th and 20th centuries
- The idea (myth?) of the cultural mosaic
- Political and diplomatic travel
- Colonial mobility and immobility

Please send **paper proposals** (no more than 300 words) with a short biography in Word or RTF to the coordinator listed below **by 15 January 2018**. Please specify the nature of your presentation (traditional paper, poster, pecha kucha, etc.).

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And now for a creative perspective:
A graduate student reading and roundtable
Co-presented by CACLALS, ACQL and ACCUTE

Attention all graduate students who are creative writers: You're invited to submit a brief proposal to participate in a reading and roundtable event at Congress 2018 on Saturday, May 26, from 6:30 – 8:00, University of Regina. The event is co-presented by CACLALS, ACQL and ACCUTE.

Creative work gives graduate students unique opportunities to explore the Congress 2018 theme of gathering diversities. Let's get together and share some poems, prose, drama, creative non-fiction or anything in-between – as we reflect on the myriad implications of diversity.

Depending on the number of proposals received, students will have approximately 5 to 10 minutes to read / perform their creative work. Feel free to take creative risks and play with sound, language, performance and collaboration.

Following the reading will be a roundtable discussion. Readers will discuss the role that creative writing can play in developing and critiquing diversity. The roundtable discussion will focus on questions such as:

- How can creative texts such as poems, plays, short stories and novels have an impact on the public discourse around diversity?
- What role can creative writers play in effecting change regarding diversity issues in Canada (and around the globe)?
- How do creative texts differ from non-fiction narratives in their ability to change how readers understand diversity?
- To what extent does creative work have an impact on particular communities, groups, sites or identities?

We are open to widening the discussion – if you have a suggestion for a roundtable topic, please let us know. A Q and A session with the audience will follow the roundtable discussion.

The subject matter for this event is designed to be broad, so that students can explore the topic through their chosen form and perspective.

Your proposal should be 100 to 300 words and can be quite straightforward – we know you're busy. Just tell us how you would like to examine the theme, referring to both form and content. Please include a brief bio. We hope to include everyone who submits a proposal, but we will limit the numbers if necessary to ensure readers have at least five minutes to perform their work. **Send proposals by January 15 to:** Jane Chamberlin at gjechamb@ucalgary.ca

If you have questions about the event, please ask us:

Jane Chamberlin (CACLALS grad student rep) at gjechamb@ucalgary.ca
Shamika Shabnam (CACLALS grad student rep) at shabnams@mcmaster.ca

Spirituality in Contemporary Canadian and Québécois Literature

This panel seeks to explore the theme of spirituality in the writings of late twentieth and early twenty-first century novelists, poets, and playwrights. Is it possible to identify a merging group of writers that we can associate with the “post-secular”? Jacques Derrida, Jürgen Habermas, Charles Taylor, and André Comte-Sponville among others have discussed the implications for social and political institutions of resurgent or nascent spiritual belief systems within Western, secular states. In his study of contemporary American authors, Brian McClure proffers the genre of “post-secular fiction” as a new narrative genre that rejects both militant secularism and religious fundamentalism to rethink the nature of the human experience beyond the material or immanent. How might a post-secular literature be taking shape in Canadian and Québécois texts? How do evolving literary representations of spiritual paradigms (which may or may not be grounded in belief in a deity) help us to discuss the still largely undertheorized notion of the post-secular in literature? The organizer welcomes proposals on a variety of approaches and themes related to contemporary spirituality and the notion of the post-secular in literary texts, including their intersection with nature and ecology, multiculturalism, the post-modern, the Information Age, theoretical physics, identity, genre, and atheism.

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Louis Dudek: A Centenary Reflection

Co-organizers: Graham Jensen (Dalhousie U) and Karis Shearer (UBC Okanagan)

Louis Dudek (1918-2001) was a prolific poet and critic, an active editor, a beloved professor at McGill University, and a staunch defender of the arts for over sixty years. Yet, despite his impact on Canadian culture, and despite the work of critics such as Frank Davey and Brian Trehearne, Dudek has received comparatively little scholarly attention, particularly in recent years. Marking the 100th anniversary of Dudek's birth, this panel aims to provide a forum for reflection on any aspect of Dudek's writing, editorial work, or his broader influence as a transitional figure between Canadian modernisms and postmodernisms. We particularly welcome contributions that reassess Dudek's role in Canadian literature and culture.

Possible themes to be addressed include, but are not restricted to:

- Poetics and Polemics: Dudek, little magazines, and small-press publishing in Canada
- The New York Years: Trilling, Pound, Williams, and the "Poetry Grapevine"
- Dudek and the long poem in Canadian literature
- Fighting with Frye: Dudek, myth criticism, and the mythopoeic poets
- Modernism on the move: Dudek in Canada, Europe, and Mexico
- Dudek as defender of the arts
- Pedagogical approaches to Dudek

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