

The Association for Canadian Studies in the United States is deeply frustrated and saddened by the policy of the new presidential administration that has denied entrance to the country by immigrants, visa holders, refugees, and other people from selected countries. That outrage includes, but is no means limited to, the denial of entry to scholars, teachers, and other academic, professional, and intellectual practitioners.

The concern of ACSUS is two-fold. First, this policy is an affront to the principles of justice and inclusivity that the association consistently champions. Second, it severs our membership from intellectual contact with colleagues and associates from these countries. It also undermines the pursuit of knowledge and critical thinking that is needed especially at this time and particularly within this country. ACSUS strongly supports NAFTA and will oppose any efforts to diminish intercourse among Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Moreover, by making the Canadian experience with diversity and multiculturalism known to Americans, we hope that ACSUS will be part of the solution to America's current position on immigration and refugee settlement.

ACSUS understands the desire of some of our colleagues abroad to refrain from traveling to the United States in protest of this policy and in solidarity with people from the countries that have been targeted and affected. We respect that desire, despite the fact that the loss of attendance at our biennial conference would not only isolate us and but also serve a direct blow to our financial stability. The loss of Canadian government funding severely challenged our future as an association and, now, we fear that the current presidential administration would like nothing more than to realize the demise of scholarly academic associations dedicated to the sharing of knowledge and critical expression such as ours. Ultimately, we hope that wiser and more humane policies, in all of these areas, will prevail.