



An Cumann le Léann Ceanadach in Éirinn  
Association of Canadian Studies in Ireland  
Association irlandaise d'études canadiennes

21<sup>st</sup>

**Biennial International Conference**

## **Canadian Anthropocene(s): Pathways to Sustainable Futures**

**9 – 11 May, 2024**

**Queen's University Belfast**

### **Call for Proposals**

Our 2024 Biennial Conference will be hosted in person by the Centre of Canadian Studies at Queen's University Belfast (Northern Ireland). The Call for Proposals is for papers, performances, screenings or exhibits on any aspect of Canadian Studies. While we warmly welcome contributions that engage with the conference's keynote theme – Canadian Anthropocene(s): Pathways to Sustainable Futures – the conference scope goes beyond this to include any aspect of Canadian studies from any academic discipline or field of practice. ACSI greatly values the breadth of contributions that typically characterise our conferences and Canadian Studies at large. For those interested in presenting on the keynote theme, please see the bullet points and ideas for topics below.

- It can be argued from a range of perspectives—geological, economic, cultural, societal—that Canada has a special relationship to nature and the land. But rather than viewing this interconnection through an idealized lens, conference keynotes and other contributions will seek to investigate and problematize how Canadian culture and society relate to the environment in the age of the Anthropocene. The Anthropocene, broadly speaking, can be considered the geological age in which the planet is dominated by a human-centred, materialist ethos which ignores ecological concerns, leading to disastrous consequences such as climate change and global warming.
- How does Canadian culture exploit the land, and how can we picture a better future? What kinds of practices and knowledges will enable a way forward and allow for a sustainable future, one which fosters respect for the environment and for the diversity of beings, both human and non-human, that inhabit it? How do media representations and other framings of 'sustainability' shape societal knowledge, understanding, resistance and action? Can Canada envision a way forward by fostering and respecting indigenous knowledges and decolonizing- extractivist practices with regards to its natural resources? How can Canadian economic, political, and societal arrangements be mobilised to create more sustainable trajectories?

This in-person conference will address the above questions and many other dimensions of Canadian Studies through a wide array of disciplines such as language and linguistics, history, literature, cinema, the arts, media studies, economics, political science, sociology, anthropology, geography, geology, and ecology, among others. Proposals stemming from emerging areas such as eco-humanities, ecolinguistics, ecotranslation, ecofeminism, place studies, plant studies, spatial humanities, blue humanities, etc. are also encouraged.

We emphasise that discussion of any area of Canadian studies outside of the keynote theme is welcomed. However, papers, panels, performances, screenings, or other contributions related to the conference keynote theme might include the following topics:

- Extractivist practices
- Indigenous knowledges
- The Great White North?
- Petroculture
- Nature and wilderness
- Environmental activism
- Sustainable finance
- Just transitions
- Societal environmental coalitions
- Disaster capitalism
- Extinction
- 'Mother' Earth? Gendering the environment
- Environmental justice
- Circular economy
- Framings & representations of sustainability
- Forests / forestry
- Intergenerational issues
- Toxicity, waste & pollution
- Conservation, heritage
- Human/non-human entanglements
- Representing animals
- Waterways and oceanscapes
- Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Plantationocene, Chthulucene
- Reconciliation and regeneration
- Race and (bio)diversity
- Queering the Anthropocene
- Decolonizing place
- Utopian and dystopian futures
- Climate change & policy implications
- Towards net zero in policy & practice

Keynote speakers: to be announced shortly.

Proposals as a 300-word abstract (in English, French or Irish, on any Canadian studies subject) bundled with 5 key words, and a short bio, should be submitted online by **22 December 2023** at:

<https://forms.office.com/e/7XDGGXadmN>

A limited number of bursaries to attend the conference is available for emerging scholars. Applications for these bursaries are primarily encouraged from ACSI members on the island of Ireland but members of other Canadian studies associations may also apply. Please address any enquiries about bursaries to Niall Majury at [n.majury@qub.ac.uk](mailto:n.majury@qub.ac.uk)