



Canadian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies

CFP: CACLALS at Congress 2020

Western University (London, Ontario)

May 30-June 1, 2020

Proposals Due: January 15, 2020

Confirmed Keynote Speakers

Anthony Stewart (Bucknell University)

George Elliott Clarke (University of Toronto)

CACLALS Theme

Ecologies of Alliance in a Divided Age

We are living in turbulent times.

In the face of climate change and potential ecological collapse, mass migration, economic precarity, the spread of misinformation, and the rise of neo-nationalisms, there has been a visible surge in hate crimes, racism, anti-blackness, and hostility to migrants and ethnic minorities. Our age thus feels existentially fraught and more divided than ever. While some of the challenges we face are new, others have emerged directly out of settler and extractive colonialism, slavery, displacement, environmental devastation, and gendered violence, to name just a few. In response to Congress 2020's theme, "**Bridging Divides: Confronting Colonialism and Anti-Black Racism,**" this year's CACLALS conference ruminates on the kinds of alliances that animate post- and de-colonial thought, as well as antiracist praxis. Postcolonial studies, building from its foundations in anticolonial thought and resistance, has long sought to make racism legible and to challenge its hegemony. Moreover, given the immediacy of anthropogenic climate change and its implication, and obfuscation, in the divisions of our age, the question of "alliance" arguably propels us outside humanistic understandings of political community; it recalls anticolonial activism's long relationship with environmental struggle, from the Ogoni Nine and Ken Saro-Wiwa's environmental movements against the Royal Dutch Shell Company, to Waangari Maathai's Green Belt Movement, to Idle No More's ongoing insistence on the relationship between settler colonialism and ecological demise, to anticapitalist and environmentalist protests and their suppression in India, to the recent surge in ecocritical thought in postcolonial, cultural, and globalization studies. Our CFP inquires into the multiple valences of alliance and division that mark our urgent times.

CACLALS welcomes conference paper or panel proposals that address any aspect of the CFP's central questions or issues.

We also welcome proposals otherwise related to the Association's broader mandate to examine postcolonial, decolonizing, and global literatures.

The following are suggestions in this vein:

- International and/or intersectional solidarities
- Anti-colonial practices
- Migration and mobility justice
- Ecological diversity, eco-alliance, and forms of environmental activism
- Environment and gender
- Environment and race; environmental racism; ecologies of anti-blackness; black life in the Anthropocene
- Ecocriticisms of colour
- Indigenous ecocriticism
- Geontology and colonial geographies
- Queer ecology
- The Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Plantationocene, and Cthulucene
- Literary activism and climate fiction
- Green postcolonialism
- Interspecies networks and connectivities
- Interactions between biological, chemical, and geological
- Water and the littoral
- The black Atlantic/the black Pacific
- The non/human, inhuman, and posthuman in (de)colonial studies; dehumanizing critique
- Racialized surveillance, "dark sousveillance," and activism against racialized policing
- The fraught politics of alliance and allyship

Formal papers should be designed to be delivered in not more than 20 minutes; member-organized panels or roundtables should include 3-5 members and deliver 5-minute position statements related to a single issue or text and then open up discussion to the audience; member-proposed special events and workshops are also welcome. If the latter have funding implications, we ask that the proposals include ideas about how at least partial funding might be secured. We additionally welcome member-proposed panels that draw on a creative-critical interface, provided the submission includes a full description and rationale.

Proposals of approximately **250-350 words** should be sent by **January 15, 2020**, as a Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) attachment to caclals2020@gmail.com with the subject heading of "CACLALS 2020 Proposal." Proposals should also include the following information: presenter's affiliation (department and university), contact information (email), a presentation

title, a 50-word abstract, a short bio, and an indication of any special media or other needs. Please also indicate if you are a graduate student, so that your paper can be considered for the Graduate Student Conference Presentation Prize, outlined below. Proposals are double blind-vetted.

Conference queries should be sent to CACLALS President, Dr. Asma Sayed (info@caclals.ca). Please also see the [CACLALS website](#) and follow us on twitter ([@caclals_ca](https://twitter.com/caclals_ca)) for more information about the association and for conference updates.

Membership renewal or new membership must be paid in full for inclusion in the final conference program. The automated membership system is available on the [CACLALS website](#). Membership inquiries and fee payments can also be directed to CACLALS Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Jesse Arseneault (treasurer@caclals.ca).

The Annual CACLALS Graduate Student Conference Presentation Prize: Information about the Graduate Student Conference Presentation Prize can be found at the [CACLALS website](#) under the “[Graduate Students](#)” tab. All graduate student proposals (which should be indicated in your proposal submission) will be considered for the prize, with the exception of previous winners.