



CACLALS: President's Report

July 31, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Hope you are keeping well and safe during these challenging times.

It is no secret that 2019-20 has been a difficult year. Nonetheless, CACLALS memberships have been stable and I thank all the members for their continued support.

Given the evolving situation with Covid-19, in March 2020, the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, after consultation with all the member associations and Canadian health authorities, decided to cancel face-to-face Congress which was to be held May 30 – June 1, 2020 at Western University in London, ON. We were presented with an option of hosting our conference virtually by the Federation, and after consultations with the executive, we decided not to go that route; an email detailing the reasons for our decision was sent to all the members.

At the time of the cancellation of the conference, we had already prepared a preliminary program for our annual conference. We had a rich roster of 75 presentations by members from Canada, India, Bangladesh, Spain, England, Australia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and the US. In addition, we had planned a keynote, a graduate student prize panel, a graduate student professional development panel, a creative writing workshop, a name-change discussion panel, our annual roundtable with ILSA, launch of multiple books, AGM, and a conference dinner.

We were collaborators, with the Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE), on the Federation's International Fund application to host Anthony Stewart. Anthony Stewart's talk was held virtually by ACCUTE on June 1, 2020. I would like to thank ACCUTE, especially the organization's President, Jennifer Andrews, for the opportunity to collaborate and for making the virtual talk accessible to CACLALS members.

Our second collaboration was with the Canadian Comparative Literature Association (CCLA) for hosting a talk by George Elliott Clarke. As a result of controversies that ensued in January 2020 after cancellation of Clarke's talk at the University of Regina, and after multiple consultations with our partner associations and our executive, we made the decision to withdraw our co-sponsorship of the talk. The consultation process was long and complicated, and the decision we arrived at was not an easy one. Detailed emails explaining our decision were sent to our members. We were to host a poetry writing workshop with Kendal Hippolyte in collaboration with CCLA. This event has been postponed to 2021.



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We were to receive financial support from *Ariel* as well as the *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*; we have deferred receipt of this support to 2021. We thank both the journals for their sponsorship of our annual conference. CACLALS members are encouraged to consider these journals for their upcoming articles.

In June 2020, we issued a solidarity statement in support of Black Lives Matter; the statement is available on our website. We are building an anti-racism resource guide for our members. We are in the process of reviving Chimo, our newsletter, as a blog; launching a Facebook page; and developing pedagogical resources for our members.

In August 2019, we applied for the Commonwealth's 70th anniversary funding. We had anticipated approval of at least partial funding, but our application was unsuccessful.

On behalf of CACLALS, I participated in many virtual briefing sessions with the Federation. I also attended the annual general meeting of the Federation on June 18, 2020. Planning for the 2021 Congress at the University of Alberta in Edmonton is underway. As the Covid-19 situation is still unfolding, we do not know much about the format and feasibility of the conference. I am in touch with the Federation and will update our members as and when more information becomes available.

In February 2020, we got the required number of signatures (as per our Constitution) from our members in support of forwarding the motion to change the name of our association. CACLALS has had a discussion about changing the current name for the past few years, and the matter has been discussed at international branches as well. CACLALS will organize a virtual panel in Feb-March 2021 to discuss the matter further and to brainstorm alternative names. Name change will be implemented by a vote after the panel discussion. Given the current extraordinary circumstances, we have postponed restructuring of CACLALS executive until our next AGM.

Next ACLALS triennial, now headed by ACLALS Chair, Prof. Anna Guttman at Lakehead University, will be held at the University of Toronto in 2022. In accordance with our previous arrangements, we donated \$710 to ACLALS in June 2020. A motion to discuss CACLALS' ongoing financial support of ACLALS will be brought to the floor at our next AGM.

Our membership numbers are stable. Yet, in order to remain fiscally strong, we need to make sure that our revenues are sustainable. I encourage our members to continue their support and to invite others to consider becoming members. Please look into your professional development funds and other grants to support our association.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank a few individuals. I thank Mariam Pirbhai and Henghameh Saroukhani for a smooth transition of records and for supporting the new executive. Mariam also served a year-long term on the executive as the outgoing president.



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Thanks, Mariam, for all that you have done for CACLALS. Special thanks are also due to our local area coordinator, Jason Sunder, who worked with us on planning the conference in London, ON. Jason did all the room and restaurant bookings and attended the Federation's planning meetings on behalf of CACLALS. Thanks, Jason! Thanks to all the members of the executive (Anindo Hazra, Mariam Pirbhai, Copen Rose, Sara Rozenberg, Shalika Shivathasan, Alia Somani, Terri Tomsy) for vetting abstracts, for consultations (which have been many this year given the special circumstances), and for their ongoing support. Special thanks to our Secretary-Treasurer, Jesse Arseneault, who has been wonderful to work with; over and above dealing with regular CACLALS matters, Jesse also facilitated all our meetings with Indigenous Literary Studies Association (ILSA). I also thank my research assistant, Jacqueline Walker, for her help with abstract sorting and compiling and for emailing presenters. I thank our host institution, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, for generously supporting CACLALS in a myriad of ways.

Thanks are due to all the members without whom this association would not exist. Thanks for your patience as we navigated, and continue to do so, through challenging times and for your unwavering support of the association.

Asma Sayed, PhD
President, CACLALS



TREASURER'S REPORT

29 May 2019 – 16 June 2020

Credit

Memberships:	\$4045
Donations:	\$490
ACCUTE Keynote Support (Puar):	\$155.27
CFHSS International Keynote Fund:	\$800
Congress 2019 final bill:	\$1444.92
Bank fee refunds for bank error:	\$178.08
CHFSS deposit	\$0.04

TOTAL CREDITS: +\$7113.31

Debit

Expenses

COVID-19 membership refunds:	\$195
CFHSS license fee:	\$150
CFHSS membership fee:	\$684.34
Bank Fees:	\$593.05
Visa/MC fees:	\$129.68
Website domain and hosting:	\$90.79
Donations to ACLALS:	\$710

CACLALS 2019 Conference Expenses

Musqueam Tour:	\$346.50
Jasbir Puar accommodation costs:	\$969.4
Jasbir Puar honorarium, per diem, and transport:	\$2171.48
Puar/Chariandy hospitality:	\$233.07
Indigenous Roundtable contribution:	\$525
Printing costs:	\$25.55
Contribution to David Palumbo-Liu keynote (CCLA):	\$300
Water for panelists	\$26.61
Graduate prizes:	\$150
Graduate travel funding:	\$1844.47
President's (Pirbhai) travel funding:	\$549.83

TOTAL DEBITS: -\$9694.77

NET TOTAL: -\$2581.46

ACCOUNT BALANCE (May 31, 2019): +13,641.28