

CACLALS AGM Minutes
June 18, 2022, 1-3pm
(Zoom)

Attendance: Jason Sandhar, Susan Spearey, Asma Sayed, Jesse Arseneault, Coplen Rose, John Ball, Susie O'Brien, Stephanie Oliver, Brandi Estey-Burt, Alessandra Capperdoni, Shalika Sivathan, Anindo Hazra, Lincoln Z. Shlensky, Alexander Sarra-Davis, Andrew Law, Kris Singh, Miriam Mabrouk, Heather Snell, Ranjini Mendis, Sara Rozenberg, Jonathan Nash, Susan Rajendran, Jacqueline Walker

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of the Agenda

- **Moved: Coplen Rose**
- **Second: Jason Sandhar**
- **MOTION PASSED**

3. Approval of the 2021 Minutes

- **Moved: Anindo Hazra**
- **Second: J. Coplen Rose**
- **MOTION PASSED**

4. President's Report (Asma Sayed)

- Asma Sayed said that she has been in touch with the federation throughout the year and that we would be back with congress next year.
- Taking stock of what the association had accomplished in the last three years. Asma noted that she agreed to take over for a year, but that year became three. The first year, we did the work for the conference and were ready but had to cancel at the last minute. This also involved dealing with a controversy over a potential speaker and standing in solidarity with partner associations. 2020, we stood in solidarity with BCSCA, leaving Congress, voicing concerns about the event, culminating in us posting open letter regarding these concerns. We also held first independent virtual conference. In doing these things, Asma emphasized, CACLALS/CAPS drew clear boundaries about where we stand as an association.
- Last year, in response to CFHSS's "Igniting Change" report, the association organized our own panel in response, and agreed to host our own EDID panel and move our association toward the recommendations set out in the report
- Commenting on this year's virtual conference, Asma noted that we could have gone back to Congress, but negotiating with their web portal was overly complicate and expensive. Also, our partner association ILSA and ACCUTE backed out and—given that Congress's primary appeal is gathering with other associations—we made the decision to back out.

- We were hopeful that we could partner with ILSA this year, and we organized a panel, but coordinating joint events for two virtual conferences was ultimately not possible.
- Asma still recognized the value of hosting our conference alongside our partner and other associations and that we will be returning to congress next year as it will be hosted at York University.
- Commenting on the current conference, Asma noted that we received fewer abstracts this year, partly because of ACLALS occurring not long after our conference, but also because of fatigue in the third year of the pandemic. She noted we nonetheless had some thought-provoking and inspiring sessions this year.
- This year we also completed the steps to change our name. Asma detailed the process that led to the name change, in which Miriam Pirbhai had sent a letter regarding the name change to ACLALS. Asma noted that we have since gone through a meeting with members to discuss new names, a poll to choose a name, and a referendum to ratify the new name.
- Asma announced officially that CACLALS is now called CAPS and congratulated everyone on completing this change. She also recognized the limitations of this name, but stressed that this is what our membership voted. She stressed that we should not let this compromise our practices.
- We will, as next steps, get our name changed with CFHSS and on the bank account, change logo, and complete other remaining milestones to formalize the name change process.
- We also had the intention of resurrecting CHIMO over these years, which we did not accomplish. However, Asma also noted that we have a position on the executive devoted to CHIMO, which will take us forward in a direction we used to have in the past.
- Asma said she had represented CACLALS at ACLALS, and will be attending the ACLALS triennial, where she would represent CACLALS there for another three weeks despite stepping down as president.
- Asma thanked KPU for tech support over the last two years. She noted that this saved us between \$3000 and \$5000.
- Asma noted that, while we are in strong financial position, when we return to Toronto next year, our expenses will be high. We need to be mindful of how we use the funds. Our only source of revenues is membership fees.
- Asma encouraged looking into pdf funds for supporting students and potential travel bursaries.
- Asma announced that the next ACLALS triennial conference will take place in Toronto at TMU in July. The next triennial is slated to be in Nairobi.

- Asma emphasized that those who presented at CACLALS and were interested in presenting ACLALS, they may.
- Lastly, Asma took a moment to thank everyone. She thanked Lekeyton for his opening address, the executive committee for their work vetting abstracts, noting that we're one of the few conferences that provides feedback on abstracts. Asma notes that she hears wonderful feedback from members on receiving comments. She thanked everyone who served on the vetting committees (Anindo Hazra, Terri Tomskey, and Coplen Rose) and Susan Spearey for joining the adjudication committee for the Graduate Student Prize Panel. She thanked Julietta Singh as well. She then gave thanks to Sara Rozenberg and Shalika Sivathasan, for their excellent work and setting the bar high for the graduate panel. Ajaypal Cheema was thanked for providing tech support from KPU. Asma also thanked Jesse Arseneault, noting the extensive labour of running the association. She concluded by thanking attendees of the conference and AGM

5. Treasurer's Report (Jesse Arseneault)

- Susan Spearey asked if honoraria are decided year by year or whether we have an established amount for all speakers.
- Jesse responded that they were decided for each individual speaker.
- Asma noted that the amount depends on a lot of factors, including the speaker, and whether we cohost with other associations.
- Stephanie Oliver asked why we ultimately decided to return to the Federation.
- Asma commented on why we divested when we did (see above details in President's report) and why hosting conference a virtually would be cost effective this year. She also reiterated the benefits for members attending multiple events/association conference.
- Jason Sandhar asked why we don't shift to a credit union to avoid high bank fees and to avoid supporting large banking corporations.
- Jesse Arseneault had no objection to doing so, provided it was economical.
- Susan Spearey said there are huge expenses in moving an account between provinces, even within the same bank.

6. General Business – Items for Discussion

a. Ratification of Executive Committee Restructure (Jesse Arseneault)

- **Motion: I move that section 7 of our constitution be amended to the following:**

7. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the Association will consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Executive Officer, the Past President (for one year), the President Elect (for one year), an Early

Career Representative, a Contract Academic Representative, a Communications Officer, a CHIMO Editor, two Student Representatives, and an Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization (EDID) Representative.

- Jesse Arseneault provided the original signed motion and the results of the referendum on the motion presented to CAPS. He noted that we received 11 signed motions and the motion itself was circulated to all members 12 weeks in advance of the conference, well before the six-week deadline outlined by the constitution.

- **MOTION PASSED**

b. Elections of Executive Committee (Asma Sayed)

- Asma detailed why we are electing a fully new executive here, given that the pandemic involved some members serving beyond their terms.
- Graduate student representatives elected by acclamation Alexander Sarra-Davis, Susan Rajendran
- Asma detailed that the EDID position should come in with some background in EDID and critical race theory. No nominations were submitted or offered from the floor.
- No nominations were submitted or offered from the floor for CHIMO Editor. Stephanie Oliver was elected by acclamation.
- No nominations were submitted or offered from the floor for Communications Officer. The position remains open.
- Jason Sandhar was nominated for Contract Academic Representative. No nominations from the floor were offered. Jason Sandhar was elected by acclamation.
- Anindo Hazra was nominated for Early Career Representative; no nominations from the floor were offered. Anindo Hazra was elected by acclamation.
- J. Coplen Rose self-nominated for Executive Officer. Coplen Rose nominated himself and was elected by acclamation.
- No nominations were submitted or offered for Vice President. The position remains open.
- Jesse Arseneault was nominated for president. No other nominations were submitted or offered. Jesse was elected by acclamation.
- Asma Sayed offered that she would serve for one year as the EDID representative should nobody else be found.

c. Criteria for Graduate Student Prize Panel Selection (Asma Sayed)

- Asma detailed that we have run into issues where we have GSPP panels that did not fulfill the EDID criteria. She detailed that the blind vetting process did not always allow us to have a panel reflective of EDID criteria.
- Asma Sayed opened for discussion whether the executive should have powers to consider other top candidates in the prize panel to make panel more diverse.
- Jason Sandhar shared the concern that it would break anonymity for candidates to state whether they are a visible minority or non-male.
- Susie O'Brien suggested inviting submitters to self-identify.
- Jacqueline Walker asked whether some panelists might forego their position in light of EDI concerns.
- Susan Spearey suggested we have better guidance on how to write an abstract to welcome work or potential panelists who might not fall inside the conventional parameters of the academic institution.
- Asma suggested that some people may choose not to follow guidance models offered. What about people who don't want to follow a North American or colonial model? She said we could also have criteria in place to mentor committees to be open-minded to receive abstracts that don't follow models.
- Stephanie Oliver seconded providing resources on abstracts, as well as mentorship. She noted ILSA's mentorship programs. Stephanie also asked whether we have a rubric. Asma Sayed detailed that we have a process in place for evaluating.
- Jesse Arseneault explained that we do not currently have a detailed rubric, only vague guidelines.
- Stephanie Oliver suggested that the executive has power to step back and examine the roster of candidates.
- Asma said we also need to be cognizant of the labour of the proposal vetters. It is labour intensive for the vetting committee and the program chair to engage in these processes.
- Susie suggested graduate prize winners could be invited onto the panel. She also suggested that we have EDID reps on the judges panel both for initial vetting and any adjustments.
- Asma supported Susie's suggestion.

MOTION to extend meeting by 15 minutes

- **Moved: Susan Spearey**
- **Second: Susie O'Brien**
- **MOTION PASSED**

d. Graduate Student Prize Announcement (Anindo Hazra)

- Anindo Hazra commented: The Graduate Student Prize for the 2022 conference of CACLALS/CAPS goes to Miriam Mabrouk for her paper, “‘The Moment is a Wound’: Perpetual Temporality of War and Occupation in Sinan Antoon’s *The Book of Collateral Damage*”. The Adjudication Committee takes this opportunity to commend the papers by the other panellists: in order of presentation, Jumoke Verissimo, Jonathan Nash, and Thomas Hanson. We would also like to note the exemplary quality of collegial spirit and support fostered by all members of the Graduate Student Prize Panel. All four presenters have made visible to us Committee Members and the audience the operation of decolonizing praxis in intellectual and institutional life. For that, we thank them.
- The Adjudication Committee’s work this year was very challenging, deciding on one paper out of four that each showed skilful analytical and theoretical orientations to a range of texts and contexts. All presentations were well argued, clearly focused, and appropriately paced. In diverse ways, moreover, all papers pointed to urgent interventions against deployments of reductive “taxonomies” (to borrow a term from one of our presentations) to fix person and place, type and time. Our presenters capably responded to many post-presentation questions posed. And, the Committee agreed that it was easy to imagine all four papers being developed for publication.
- Miriam’s work was felt by all members of the committee to be excellent, satisfying holistically the range of criteria used to select the winning paper. The theoretical foundations presented were very well-formed, the textual analysis articulated original insights into generative writing, narration, and cataloguing-through-colloquy that interrupt the temporal and generic enclosures within which the subject-object of war and terror are (carcerally) held. In her polished delivery, effective use of learning aids as clarifying tools, and ready ability to field questions, Miriam showed her considerable abilities. Her work combined granular textual readings with a broad-level engagement concerning how the novel-format may enable proliferating representations of moments-in-moments.
- In the same spirit of collegiality shown by our panellists, we also want to highlight the notable contributions made by Miriam’s fellow presenters on the Graduate Student Prize Panel.
- Jumoke’s paper pursued fascinating lines of inquiry. The Adjudication Committee felt that the theoretical framing of the project was compelling, and we eagerly look forward to future iterations of her work as it continues to shape sustained readings of her chosen primary text/s. We felt that her synthesis of *ubuntu* with literary representations of war, trauma and hate/ “negative emotions” opens new vistas for her own research as well as those of future scholars. The Adjudication Committee also noted how capably Jumoke engaged with

questions, both from the audience and from her fellow panellists, in the Q & A session, enabling her to provide further insights into her reading of *Heroes*.

- Jonathan's excellent paper presented an original approach to the representation of refugee life, affirming temporal dynamism over emplaced stasis. The linkage between textual form and temporal dynamics was felt to be immediately interesting, especially in the ways Jonathan's reading problematized received understandings of temporal motion and in his analysis of generative time in the formal structure of graphic text in Kate Evans' work. The Adjudication Committee also commented on Jonathan's well-paced delivery and his skilful close reading of presentation slides. The selection of visual images he included in them concretized, and amplified, his argument about the world-making capacities of the refugees in the face of conditions often understood, in biopolitical readings, to render them disposable and perpetually out of place/in limbo.
- Thomas's paper and theoretical insights are remarkable, the work of a scholar of considerable promise. His paper showed top-notch analytical skills and a well-developed capacity for synthesis. The reparative model out of which he has developed nuanced readings successfully indicates ways to move beyond oversimplified binaries and absolute enclosures of oppositional thinking to a broader critique by means of which the "alternative" may be re-imagined. Thomas' reading skills are both strong and subtle, and his work will likely find a ready and appreciative audience.
- Once more, we extend congratulations to all our panellists, and to Miriam for her significant contribution to the conference.

7. Other Business

- None offered

8. Motion to adjourn

- **Moved: Anindo Hazra**
- **Second: Ranjini Mendis**
- **MOTION PASSED**