

CHIMO

Newsjournal of the Canadian Association
of Postcolonial Studies (CAPS)

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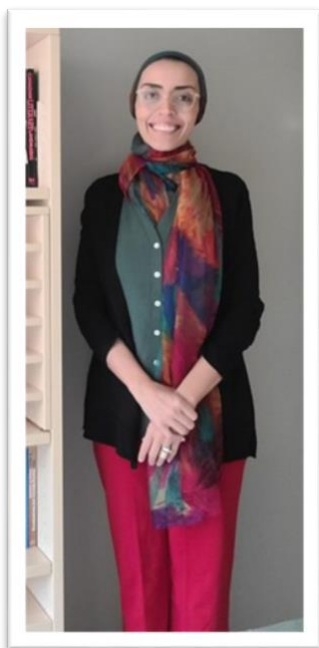
*Chimo (Chee'mo)
greetings [Inuktitut]*



Three Birds, 2003, ink on paper, by Damon Badger Heit

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“The conference program features an exceptionally rich and diverse range of presentations, panels, roundtables, and workshops that reflect the vitality and continued relevance of postcolonial studies today”

President’s Report

Azza Harras, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Culture, and Communication
Royal Military College

Dear CAPS members and colleagues,

It has been a tremendous honour to serve as President of the Canadian Association for Postcolonial Studies over the past two years. I would like to begin by thanking the CAPS Executive Committee, our membership, volunteers, and conference participants for their ongoing support, generosity, and commitment to sustaining such a vibrant intellectual community.

Over the course of this term, CAPS has continued to grow as an important interdisciplinary space for conversations on postcolonialism, decolonization, ecological justice, migration, Indigenous solidarities, race, conflict, and global inequities. Last year’s conference was a particularly important milestone, bringing together an exceptional range of scholarly conversations that have already extended beyond the conference itself. One of the major outcomes has been the development of a forthcoming edited collection on postcolonial ecologies, sustainability, and ecological justice, currently under contract with Palgrave Macmillan.

Another major achievement during this presidency has been the development of the CAPS–FHSS EDID initiative focused on Indigenizing and Decolonizing the Curriculum. This project received funding support from the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences and has been strengthened through collaboration with colleagues in the Indigenous Literary Studies Association. The project has evolved into an interdisciplinary initiative that now includes digital humanities aimed at supporting accessible and decolonial pedagogical resources.

This year’s conference has also been tremendously exciting to organize. We are especially fortunate to welcome outstanding keynote and plenary speakers whose work continues to shape important conversations across literary studies, cultural studies, environmental humanities, and postcolonial scholarship. Alongside these keynote events, the conference program features an exceptionally rich and diverse range of presentations, panels, roundtables, and workshops that reflect the vitality and continued relevance of postcolonial studies today.

As many of you know, this conference also marks an important leadership transition for CAPS. By the conclusion of this year’s conference, Dr. Prabjot Parmar will officially assume the role of President of CAPS. I am delighted to support this transition and look forward to seeing the association continue to flourish under new leadership. I will also be very happy to continue serving CAPS over the coming year as outgoing President in order to support continuity and assist the new executive where needed.

“We warmly welcome new voices and contributions to the association’s leadership”

Finally, I would like to encourage members to consider nominating themselves, or colleagues, for the vacant Executive Committee positions that will be discussed during our Annual General Meeting. The continued strength and sustainability of CAPS depend greatly on the active participation and engagement of its members, and we warmly welcome new voices and contributions to the association’s leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

Azza Harras

Join us!

Join the CAPS Executive Committee

There are a number of upcoming vacancies, including:

Executive Officer
Chimo Editor
Grad Student Reps (2)

For more information, email [Azza Harras](#) or self-nominate at the CAPS conference AGM

Conference Highlights

Join us at Concordia or online.
View the full program [here!](#)

Thurs, June 4

- **Joint Panel with ACCUTE: “Teaching, Researching, and Writing Literature in Genocidal Times: Gaza in the Classroom”** (10:30 am-12:00 pm, MB 3.255)
- **Workshop on Academic Publishing with the Editorial Board of the Journal of Postcolonial Writing** (1 pm-6 pm, LB619)
- **Literary Performance / Play Reading: Donia Mounsef** (5:30-6:30 pm, LB628)

Fri, June 5

- **Keynote: Prof. Janet Wilson, “Decolonising War in Aotearoa/New Zealand: The 28th (Māori) Battalion”** (9-10 am, H521)
- **Plenary Session: “War, Memory, and the Afterlives of Violence”** (11 am-12:30 pm, H521)
- **Graduate Student Presentation Prize Panel** (5-6 pm, LB 628)
- **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** (7-8 pm, LB 628)

Sat, June 6

- **Keynote: Prof. Donia Mounsef, “Don’t Call us Resilient: Freedom, Necropolitics, and the End of Democracy”** (9-10:30 am, H521)
- **Navigating Graduate Studies: Skills and Opportunities** (3:30-5 pm, LB 628 and Zoom)



“Our graduate student panels ... span from theories of resistance to performance art; literature to politics; diaspora to Indigenous presences; racialization to academic freedom; and archives to AI futures”

Graduate Student Representatives’ Report

Susan Rajendran

PhD Candidate, Department of Humanities
York University

As your Graduate Student Representatives, we encourage you to attend the CAPS 2026 conference, “Postcolonial Freedom(s),” held from Thursday, June 4 to Saturday, June 6 at Concordia University (downtown campus), Montreal. The conference will be in hybrid format with both in-person and online presentations.

Some of the highlights of this year’s conference include a joint CAPS/ACCUTE panel on “Teaching, Researching, and Writing Literature in Genocidal Times: Gaza in the Classroom,” keynote addresses by Prof. Janet Wilson and Prof. Donia Mounsef, and a plenary session that will look at “War, Memory, and the Afterlives of Violence.” Just as importantly, there will be a workshop on academic publishing with the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*.

Our graduate student panels exemplify a diversity and breadth of research interests. In brief, we would like to highlight the range of their scholarly significance that spans from theories of resistance to performance art; literature to politics; diaspora to Indigenous presences; racialization to academic freedom; and archives to AI futures.

We will also host a roundtable discussion for graduate students at this year’s conference on Saturday, June 6 from 3:30-5 pm. The session is called “Navigating Graduate Studies: Skills and Opportunities” – a friendly space where graduate students can come together and discuss the challenges of navigating the twin goals of scholarly and professional development. At present, university students are under immense financial strain and struggling, all the more, with pressures, both new and ongoing, in academia. We understand how the present reality hampers our ability to put our best work forward, where scholarly rigour and time management are needed in equal measure for success. Therefore, we would like this session to serve as a great opportunity for sharing our experiences and for exploring ways to create new avenues for thriving in academia. Support systems, too, are tremendously valuable to graduate students who often find themselves working in isolation. We hope that you will be able to expand your collegial networks and learn from one another.

In addition, don’t forget two other major events. On Friday, June 5, the Graduate Student Presentation Prize panel will be held between 5-6:30 pm, and the CAPS Annual General Meeting (AGM) will run from 7-8 pm. All CAPS members are welcome at both events. We will be seeking nominations for Graduate Student Representatives at the AGM, so please consider putting your name forward.

On a final note, I am happy to have served as a Graduate Student Representative for two terms with CAPS. As my term ends this June, I am sure that the incoming Graduate Student Representatives will also find the experience a very rich and rewarding one. I will be presenting a paper, “Writing with Freedom: The Liberated Subject in the Work of Punyakante Wijenaikē” at this year’s CAPS conference. I hope to see you there!

Susan Rajendran

Announcement



Deadline extended!
Now June 30th 2026!

SPECULATIVE FUTURES IN CANLIT

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR SCL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Article submissions in English or French are invited for a special 50th-anniversary issue of *Studies in Canadian Literature / Études en littérature canadienne* on the theme of *Speculative Futures in CanLit*. This issue invites submissions on the myriad manifestations of the "speculative" and "future" in the field of Canadian literature, from submissions about speculative fiction and cultural texts, to environmental and/or political futures, to speculations about the future of Canadian literature itself.

For our 40th-anniversary issue in 2016, *SCL/ÉLC* looked to the past of the field and of the journal itself. *Canadian Literature: The Past Forty Years*, co-edited by Cynthia Sugars and Herb Wylie, was a landmark contribution to remembering, taking stock, and acknowledging the achievements of Canadian literary writers, scholars, and editors since issue 1.1 was published in 1976. The past ten years have seen an intensification of serious challenges to the very idea of Canada from within and without: proclamations that "CanLit is a Raging Dumpster Fire"; numerous crises in universities and the liberal arts/humanities; disruptions of international norms, institutions, relationships, and arrangements that have benefitted Canada; the rapid rise of AI and the apocalyptic thinking it prompts; the widescale recognition of settler-Canadian genocidal practices and the discovery of unmarked graves at former residential schools; the rise of populist extremism and anxieties about immigration; and recognitions that climate change is not a distant future problem but an all-too-present one. Further, Donald Trump's imperialist rhetoric and economic warfare has led to a resurgence of interest in Canadian autonomy and in economic and cultural nationalism. Yet, while all of this change might suggest that another stock-taking is due, this special issue goes in the other direction and invites speculations and analyses of what's next. Who is looking past the present? What can we expect in near-term and longer-term futures in the writing and study of CanLit? What's happening in literary texts by Canadian and Indigenous authors that speculatively and imaginatively envision possible futures? What kind of future is being imagined differently in novels, comics, poetry, and plays? How are writers and critics creatively mitigating social and political crises in the future? What role will art play in the future?

Approaches and topics could include but are not limited to:

- Disciplinary and interdisciplinary futures for Canadian literature and criticism
- Threats to Canadian sovereignty and resurgent nationalisms: possible effects on Canadian literature, scholarship, and literary publishing
- The impact of new technologies on CanLit and its writers, scholars, and students
- The changing horizons of Digital Humanities
- The impact of social media on literature as cultural production
- The futures of CanLit archives: documenting and remembering the past for future generations
- The future of the CanLit PhD
- The dynamic relationship between Canadian literature and writing from other parts of the world
- Risk, risk-thinking, and risk-mitigation/avoidance in literature and scholarship
- The futures of Indigenous, Critical Race, and Gender Studies in Canada

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- Speculative fiction, science fiction, and futuristic fantasies
- Queer, Indigenous, and Afro futurisms
- Imagined futures for trans, queer, and nonbinary people
- Apocalyptic and dystopian futures in literary narrative
- Environmental futures, climate-change fiction, and the acceleration of change
- Hope, despair, and care
- Solarpunk and its optimistic futurities
- Animals, non-humans, and the future in CanLit
- Canadian children's literature and the future
- Indigenous knowledges and representations of the future
- Theories and narratives of transition, disaster, plague, and/or extinction
- Literature of protest and activism: challenging the present to transform the future
- Time, temporality, and the future in Canadian literature
- Post(-)colonial, postimperial, and/or transnational futures
- Futures for urban and/or rural Canada in literature
- Historical approaches to discourses of futurity, past and present

Essays should be between 6000 and 8000 words. Submissions and inquiries should be sent electronically via Word attachment by 30 June 2026 to scl@unb.ca. See <https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/SCL/about/submissions> for submission details

For more information, contact one of the co-editors: John Clement Ball (jball@unb.ca), Laura Moss (laura.moss@ubc.ca), or Cynthia Sugars (csugars@uottawa.ca).

Announcement

Invitation for Proposals

Environment, Senses and Emotions (University of Exeter Press), edited by Tatiana Konrad

Environment, Senses and Emotions aims to provide a comprehensive exploration of how environmental crises are represented, perceived and understood through the senses and emotions and the human impulse to make sense of the world. The series encourages diverse theoretical approaches to understanding the interrelations among environmental crises, the senses and emotions, and welcomes contributions from scholars in a variety of disciplines, including the environmental humanities, anthropology, sensory studies, media studies, geography, history, the health humanities, sociology and philosophy.

To discuss your book proposal, please contact:

Series Editor: Tatiana Konrad, University of Vienna,
tatiana.konrad@univie.ac.at

or Commissioning Editor: Becky Taylor, b.taylor@exeterpress.co.uk
Visit the website [here](#).

Environment, Health, and Well-being (Michigan State University Press), edited by Tatiana Konrad

Environment, Health, and Well-being welcomes projects from new and established scholars, in and outside of academia, which make visible for audiences the timeliness and necessity of interdisciplinary research on the relationships between humanity and environments.

Submissions and Questions?

Please email the series editor Tatiana Konrad at
tatiana.konrad@univie.ac.at
Visit the website [here](#).

Member News



Clara A.B. Joseph

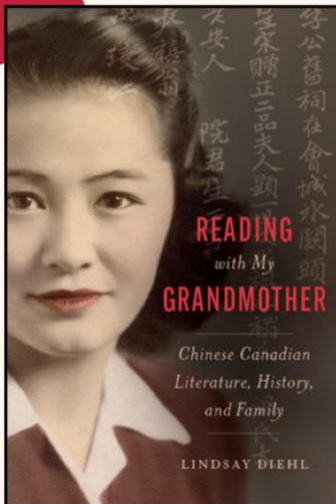
Clara A.B. Joseph has been appointed **Calgary Poet Laureate for 2026–2028.**

In this civic role, she will serve as a literary ambassador for the city, writing and presenting poems for public occasions and developing community-facing poetry initiatives that foreground listening, memory, and the civic value of the arts. Her current work continues to bring together poetry, public humanities, and questions of migration, faith, place, and belonging. Read the press release [here](#).



BOOK PUBLICATION

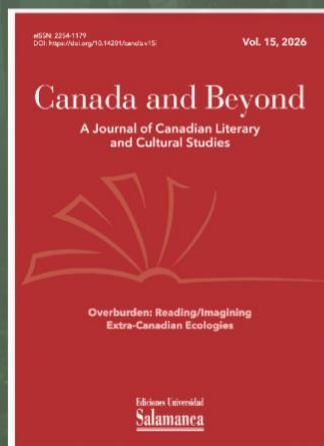
READING WITH MY GRANDMOTHER: CHINESE CANADIAN LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND FAMILY BY LINDSAY DIEHL



Examining a range of Chinese Canadian literature, this book incorporates elements of the author's own family story—her grandmother's letters and photographs—to demonstrate links and breaks between the past and present. The book's creative-critical form allows the author to explore concerns of connection, community, and identity, while also participating in wider discussions of national, gendered, and racialized importance.

For more information, visit [WLUP here](#).

FORTHCOMING SPECIAL ISSUE



A special issue of the journal *Canada & Beyond: A Journal of Canadian Literary and Cultural Studies*, co-edited by Zahra Tootonsab, Samuel Ikuetze and Susie O'Brien, will be published in June.

Titled *Overburden: Reading/Imagining Extra-Canadian Ecologies*, the special issue is part of the work conducted within the joint international research projects "The Premise of Happiness" and "Narrating Resilience" as well as TransCanadian Networks and in collaboration with the SSHRC project, "Racialized Ecologies in and Beyond Settler-Colonial Canada: Documentary, Speculative, and Poetic Texts and Contexts." Visit the *Canada & Beyond* website [here](#).

Asma Sayed

On May 7, 2026, Dr. Asma Sayed was awarded Kwantlen Polytechnic University's (KPU) **Distinguished Leadership Award** which recognizes the contributions of KPU's most exceptional leaders. It celebrates administrators, faculty and staff who, through their leadership of a team or project, make KPU greater than the sum of its parts.

The award committee noted that Dr. Sayed "has demonstrated impactful leadership at KPU through teaching, research, and administration. She leads the Office of Equity and Inclusive Communities, advancing anti-racism and inclusion through programs, policies, and events. Her scholarship and initiatives, including the Anti-Racism Symposium, deeply support student and employee learning and growth."



RESEARCH PROJECT AND BOOK PUBLICATION



Bulat Rakhimzianov started his Research Ireland Postdoctoral Researcher position at University College Dublin (2026 – 2028) with a project entitled "Tatar Historians and the State: Cooperation, Conflict and Reconciliation in Putin's Russia, 2000 – 2022." The project examines the relationship between Tatar historians (historians of Tatar origin located in the ethnic Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation) and the state and the ways in which this relationship affected historical production and the limits of political power in Tatarstan. It focuses on the period from Putin's first Presidential term until the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, a time when political power and the re-telling of the past have become increasingly entangled, with "history politics" weaponised by the state in the service of Putin's increasingly authoritarian rule. The project explores the ambiguous history of the mutual influence of knowledge and power.

He was co-editor (with Kati Parppei) of the *Images of Otherness in Russia, 1547-1917* (Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2023), which also appeared as *Obrazy "Drugikh" v Rossii, 1547-1917* translated from English by Arsenii Chernyi, Vladimir Petrov (Saint-Petersburg: Academic Studies Press/Bibliorossika, 2025). For more information, visit the Academic Studies Press website [here](#).

In 2027, he is organizing a seminar at University College Dublin entitled "The Personal Factor in History, Politics and the Politics of History," for which he invites participants to apply (details TBA).

CONGRATULATIONS

John C. Hawley (Santa Clara University, emeritus) received the **Distinguished Achievement Award for Service to the Field of South Asian Studies** at the annual meeting of the South Asian Literature Association conference in Charlotte, NC, in March 2026

sala
south asian literary association

Thank you!

After serving two consecutive terms on the CAPS Executive as Chimo Editor, this is my last Chimo issue.

Thank you for reading over the past four years as we revived the CAPS newsjournal. We hope it will continue with a new editor. Consider putting your name forward for this position at the CAPS conference AGM!

-Stephanie Oliver



CAPS Membership

- Membership is open to any academic, professional, or interested person engaged in the research, teaching, or study of postcolonial literatures and global literatures and oratures. CACLALS meets annually at Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities, hosted by different universities across Canada each year. Members become part of the most established research collective in Canada devoted to postcolonial studies, which provides a supportive and collaborative community of scholars, teachers, critics and creative practitioners.
- Visit <http://caclals.ca/membership/> to renew or purchase your membership



Editor: Stephanie Oliver, ssoliver@ualberta.ca

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On the cover: Three Birds, 2003, ink on paper, by Damon Badger Heit. Badger Heit holds a BA in Indian Art and English from the First Nations University of Canada, is a member of the Mistawasis First Nation, and resides in Regina. His art-making is education-based, and he has worked as an art instructor for youth programs in schools through organizations like the MacKenzie Art Gallery and Common Weal Inc., producing a number of public art works with youth at Regina's Connaught and Thompson Community Schools. Damon currently works as the Coordinator of First Nations and Métis Initiatives at SaskCulture Inc., a non-profit volunteer-driven organization that supports cultural activity throughout the province.