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CALL FOR PAPERS

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Special issue of *Studies in Canadian Literature*

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

Edited by **Camille Isaacs** and **Karina Vernon**

*Studies in Canadian Literature / Études en littérature canadienne (SCL/ÉLC)* invites interdisciplinary contributions to a special issue on Black Lives Matter.

The resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement in the summer of 2020 in response to the brutal police murder of George Floyd in broad daylight is part of the 500 year-long genealogy of struggle against the violent policing of Black life that constitutes the foundational political, economic, and social structures of settler-colonial states on Turtle Island.

The long genealogy of struggle against anti-Black policing on the streets, in prisons, schools, at the border, in child welfare policy, in all levels of our social and cultural institutions, and even within our own political and social imaginations, opens up a radical critical space in which to imagine abolitionist futures and realize Black life in a free state. As activist Ravyn Wingz reminded audiences at a BLM-TO press conference in July 2020, after three activists were arrested for “defacing” colonial monuments with paint,

We’ve been writing letters, we’ve been creating books, photography, performance art. We’ve been doing every single way possible to let you know what we deserve, what we need. And you don’t even have to dream it up. We’ve done the work for you.... Our love is radical; it’s abolitionist. It’s a future where each and everybody has what they need, what they deserve, what they want. It’s raising your kid who is four years old and who is not afraid of the police.

*Studies in Canadian Literature / Études en littérature canadienne (SCL/ÉLC)* invites interdisciplinary contributions to this expansive cultural archive of abolitionist and anti-racist art, writing, scholarship, and activism. We welcome reflections on the history of art and activism on Turtle Island/Canada and contributions of new art, creative writing, literary-critical scholarship, manifestoes, and other cultural interventions. We particularly welcome contributions that connect the history of abolitionist and anti-racist activism on Turtle Island/Canada with the activism of the present moment. We are also open to reflections on the issue of special issues themselves as we recognize that Black Lives Matter should not have to be a special issue within the history of Canadian cultural institutions in general and literary critical journals in particular.

Other topics include but are not limited to:

- Anti-Black racism in Canadian arts and cultural organizations
- Anti-Black racism and public health
- The intersections between Black Lives Matter and Indigenous decolonial struggles
- Blackness in (and out of) the Canadian canon
- The pedagogy of Black Canadian literature, from elementary to tertiary levels and beyond
- The intersections of Black Pride and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities with BLM
- The role of publishers and publications, and alternate means of publication
- Disability, ableism, and making space in Black communities
- Monumentalization: How do we remember and account for various histories?
- Acknowledging the elders: ageism and its effects on community
- Multilingualism: How does language affect BLM activism?
- The effects of policing and various social agencies, such as child welfare institutions

English submissions of essays of 6000-8000 words, including Notes and Works Cited, should conform to the *MLA Handbook*, 8th edition; French submissions to *Le guide du rédacteur* (Translation Bureau, 1996).



We also welcome poetry, artwork, manifestoes, and other cultural interventions of varying lengths of less than 5000 words.

Please submit all work electronically via Word attachment to [scl@unb.ca](mailto:scl@unb.ca). Deadline for submissions is 6 January 2021. For further details about submissions, visit the journal’s website at <https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/SCL> or contact: Camille Isaacs, OCAD University, [cisaacs@faculty.ocadu.ca](mailto:cisaacs@faculty.ocadu.ca), or Karina Vernon, University of Toronto, [karina.vernon@utoronto.ca](mailto:karina.vernon@utoronto.ca).