

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS: CACLALS CONFERENCE 2015**

### **Proposals due 31 December 2014**

In conjunction with the annual Congress of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, the Canadian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (CACLALS) will host its annual conference May 30-June 1, 2015, at University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON.

The theme of Congress 2015 is “Capital Ideas.” Deriving from the Latin word *caput*, or “head” (adj: *capitalis*), the word “capital” gathers an interesting collection of etymological ancestors. Following the medieval Latin usage of *capitalis* to refer the principal sum of a money loan, *capital* came in the 13<sup>th</sup>-century to describe dominance or pre-eminence (hence the later designation of “capital” cities), with close alignment to “chattel,” or property, often measured by “heads” of cattle. By the 16<sup>th</sup>-century it had also become common to speak of “capital” crimes, demanding the forfeiture of life. These etymological traces remain alive in the constellation of power, property, commodification of human and other animal bodies, and biopolitical regulation of life and death that comprises 21<sup>st</sup>-century capitalism. At the same time, capitalism as it is currently practiced and described often seems singularly ahistorical; impervious to association with formative practices like the slave trade and other aspects of colonialism; and indifferent to the future, except to the extent that it can be valued through derivatives and other financial instruments.

These distinct resonances and histories need to be highlighted if we are to thoroughly engage the theme of “capital ideas.” We welcome proposals for individual 20-minute presentations, panels, workshops, or other special events on these or any other themes related to “capital.”

Topics related to the conference theme that members may wish to consider could include but are not limited to:

- capitalism and its associations with empire/globalization
- human capital
- capital cities throughout the formerly colonized world
- capitalizing on environmental and geographical contexts
- historical and contemporary implications of bio-capitalism
- cultural politics of finance
- feminist, ecological, (post) Marxist, etc. alternatives to capitalism
- cultural capital: authors, canons, Institutions, prizes

CACLALS welcomes conference presentation or workshop proposals that address dimensions of any of the questions or issues above or are otherwise related to the Association’s mandate. We welcome equally traditional papers designed to be delivered in not more than 20 minutes; workshops; member-organized panels in which 3-5 members deliver 5-minute position statements related to a single issue or text and then open up discussion to the audience; and member-proposed special events. If the latter have funding implications, we ask that the proposal include ideas about how at least partial funding might be secured. By 31 December, 2014, proposals of not more

than 350 words should be submitted via [caclals.ca](http://caclals.ca) on the proposal form found under CFPs and Conferences, CACLALS, CACLALS at Congress 2015. They will be double blind-vetted. Please note that only proposals from paid-up members will be considered, and this stipulation applies to proposals for the Graduate Student Presentation Prize panel as well as regular proposals. The automated membership system created by the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences is now available on the new website [caclals.ca](http://caclals.ca), and we encourage everyone to use this system when renewing membership in CACLALS or joining for the first time. However membership inquiries and fee payment can still be directed to [pmccall@ucalgary.ca](mailto:pmccall@ucalgary.ca)

### **The Annual CACLALS Graduate Student Conference Presentation Prizes**

Information about the Graduate Student Conference Presentation Prize can be found at [caclals.ca](http://caclals.ca) under the CFPs and Conferences tab. This year's lead judge is Cynthia Sugars, Professor of English at the University of Ottawa. Students wishing to be eligible for the prizes must check the "Grad Prize Submission" box on the proposal form at [caclals.ca](http://caclals.ca) if they wish their proposal to be considered for the prize. They are welcome to submit proposals without entering the competition.

### **Other Conference Highlights**

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jennifer Henderson

Book Launch and Reading: Cyril Dabydeen

Joint Session with ACQL: Canadian Literature: The Past Forty Years

Fifteenth Annual Aboriginal Roundtable