



Annual General Meeting Minutes

3 October 2015, 12:00 to 2:00 pm
Thompson House, McGill University, Montreal, Québec

Present: Joe Blades (UNB), Marian Bredin (Brock), Colin Coates (York), Henry Daniel (Simon Fraser), Gwen Davies (UNB), Maria del Carmen Suescun Pozas (Brock), Jane Koustas (Brock), César Rafael Maldonado Mercado, Lourdes Morales Mendoza (McGill), Gabrielle Slowey (York), Sarah Smith (Harvard/Queen's), Kevin Spooner (Wilfrid Laurier), Will Straw (McGill), Peter Thompson (Carleton), Christl Verduyn (Mount Allison)

1. Adoption of agenda
 - a. moved: Peter; seconded: Christl; adopted.
2. Adoption of minutes from previous AGM on 27 September 2014
 - a. moved: Will; seconded: Christl; adopted.
3. Business arising
 - a. addressed in President's Report and subsequent agenda items
4. President's report (Jane Koustas)
 - a. Thanks to Will Straw and his team for organizing and hosting the conference. It is important for the CSN to be holding its AGM in the context of a scholarly conference given its mandate to support and contribute to the scholarly and professional community in Canada.
 - b. Thanks to the membership and executive for their support, especially Colin Coates who remained on the Executive and took over while Jane was recovering from her serious injury.
 - c. Thanks to Karli Whitmore for all of her hard work including, and especially, the web site. It is a very valuable tool that proves the value of the CSN and provides excellent publicity. The web site is unique and increases the profile of the CSN, sometimes garnering 1500 hits on site items.

- d. CSN-REC Prizes: grateful to members for adjudicating prize committees. The prizes increase the profile of CSN-REC. They are unique because they are open to scholarship in both English and French and straddle disciplinary boundaries. Thanks to Christl Verduyn and Peter Thompson for chairing the Undergraduate essay and MA prize committees respectively. The 2015 PhD prize currently under review with 4 submissions. This committee is chaired by Donald Wright. The 2015 book prize is under review with 12 submissions. This committee is chaired by Andrew Nurse. Prize winners in 2015 and from previous year included:
- i. **Canadian Studies Network Prize for the Best Undergraduate Essay 2015:** Claire Stewart-Kanigan - essay, " "Accomplices or Appropriation" Theorizing Indigenous-Settler Partnerships in Anti-Colonialism in Decolonizing Street Art 2014 in Tiohtià:ke (Montreal)"
 - ii. **Canadian Studies Network Prize for the Best MA or Equivalent Thesis or Major Research Paper in Canadian Studies 2015:** John Laman - essay, " Revisiting the Sanctuary City: Citizenship or Abjection? Spotlighting the Case of Toronto"
 - iii. **Canadian Studies Network Prize for the Best PhD Dissertation in Canadian Studies 2014 :** Philip Van Huizen - "Flooding the Border: Development, Politics, and Environmental Controversy in the Canadian-U.S. Skagit Valley." University of British Columbia (2013)
 - iv. **Canadian Network Prize for the Best Book in Canadian Studies 2014:** Christopher Alcantara - "*Negotiating a Deal: Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement in Canada* (University of Toronto Press)
- e. ICCS Prizes: Two graduate student prizes have been awarded. The ICCS book prize was also awarded to the CSN-REC nominee, Chris Alcantara.
- i. **ICCS Graduate Student Scholarships:**
 1. Ms. Roxana Akhbari: Currently a Ph D. student in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Alberta, Ms. Akhbari will pursue her research project "*Islamaphobia &*

Epistemologies of Ignorance” in collaboration with colleagues at OISE, the University of Toronto.

2. Ms. Kristjana Loptson: Currently a Ph D. student in the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta, Ms. Loptson will pursue her research project “Housing Policy and Housing Insecurity in Canada” in collaboration with colleagues at the U of T.

ii. **The ICCS Pierre Savard Award for the best book in Canadian**

Studies 2014: Christopher Alcantara *Negotiating the Deal:*

Comprehensive Land Claim Agreements in Canada (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013).

- f. CSN-REC supported graduate student Karen Everett with funding to attend an international conference/workshop.
- g. Canadian Studies as a teachable subject: regrettably still on the agenda. Faculties of Education in Ontario currently in transition so not the appropriate time to attempt to negotiate this.
- h. ICCS: Jane attended the Peterborough ICCS meeting, as did Colin. Thanks to Colin for assuring CSN’s full membership in the ICCS. ICCS now under the direction of Susan Hodgett, so there is good reason to be optimistic. There has been progress moving forward on constitutional revisions (Colin has helped with this). Colin noted that the ICCS is complicated given that it is an association of associations. The loss of federal funding has had serious implications, but perhaps the election will make a difference and result in improvements. Christl discussed the Canadian Studies Association in the Netherlands and noted that scholarships are now available there for students. Jane concluded by noting that CSN had contributed to the ICCS crowd sourcing initiative: CSN donated \$1 for each member. This challenge had been taken up by other national associations and the campaign was extended.
- i. Participation on international scene: A letter was sent to Robert Nicholson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to protest the events that led to the dismissal of Professor Rachel Killick and resignation of Professors Steven Hewitt,

Margaret MacMillan, and Susan Hodgett from the Foundation for Canadian Studies in the UK. A very non-committal reply was received.

5. Secretary and Treasurer's report (Kevin Spooner)
 - a. Kevin reviewed the Secretary-Treasurer's Report provided in the AGM meeting package (including budget projections for 2015-16 and membership numbers – thanks to Karli for the latter). In particular, he drew attention to what could become a structural financial problem if expenses continued to outpace revenues, particularly given nearly all CSN-REC revenue comes from membership dues. A proposed increase in membership fees will be raised for discussion later in the meeting.
 - b. Kevin presented the Notice to Reader report prepared by Allied Associates and asked for a motion to accept these financial statements. Moved by Colin to accept the prepared financial statements; seconded by Joe; approved.
6. Student report (Joe Blades)
 - a. Joe particularly noted the importance of the CSN-REC prizes and funding for students. These are very important for raising the profile of the association with students. We should explore further ways to more widely distribute information about the association and its prizes as a way to increase student membership.
7. Membership in the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences
 - a. There was discussion on the question of whether CSN-REC should take out membership in the Federation. Potential benefits from Federation membership were noted: inclusion in Congress; advocacy; prestige and stature. Some questioned whether CSN-REC would want to participate in Congress. Christl suggested it was premature to join the Federation. She noted that CSN AGMs coincide well with other Canadian Studies conferences, etc. and have typically met in the fall, not spring. Christl also noted that the Federation sometimes requests lots of additional information (make work). Political Science had withdrawn from Congress, but has now rejoined – a report is available on their association website. Many other associations have similar issues. Jane noted that expenses charged by the Federation for

conferences held in association with Congress can be quite high. Overall, discussion leaned towards not joining the Federation – at least at this point.

8. Prizes

- a. There was discussion on the issue of prize eligibility and institutional memberships. Perhaps what is meant by ‘institutional member’ needs to be clarified? There can be multiple institutional members at a single institution (does not mean university membership exclusively). Do we want to restrict to one nomination from one institution/university; this approach, however, would require somebody at such institutions to identify an institutional nominee. Gabrielle Slowey noted that some academic units might take out a membership just to be able to nominate a student. Colin Coates expressed some concern with respect to York in terms of overlap in Canadian Studies there; students might be disadvantaged at large universities. Will Straw noted that at McGill, colleagues forward to Canadian Studies. Christl suggested that perhaps it was a good idea to filter through Canadian Studies – do we do this work for other disciplines? Jane noted that we do need some clarification on the website to express what we are trying to achieve with the prize and institutional nominations. Peter Thompson suggested that a ‘one size fits all’ approach may not work; we may need to change what is meant by institutional membership. Christl noted that committees would need to be alert to Canadian Studies content of the works being nominated. Jane concluded by noting we would work on the wording to make sure it is clear and would watch in future to see if this develops as an issue.

9. Executive and elections

- a. There was discussion of the proposed interpretation of the existing bylaws to achieve greater continuity and succession, by facilitating the movement of VP to President, and President to Past President.
- b. Given flexibility within the existing by-laws, we would not propose a formal constitutional change. Instead, the AGM could consider a motion to approve the Executive’s interpretation of the current by-laws in a manner that would

permit continuity and succession. The proposed interpretation was circulated in the AGM agenda package.

- c. Moved to accept the proposed interpretation of the by-laws: Colin; seconded: Gwen Davies; approved.

10. Advisory Board membership

- a. A number of members of the Advisory board were renewed, with some new members named to fill vacancies. There are now 14 board members. A current list of Advisory Board members is maintained on the CSN-REC website.

11. Elections

- a. Congratulations to Andrea Beverly (VP by acclamation). Sincere thanks to Christl for her years of service on the Executive. Joe, Jane, Peter, and Kevin are continuing in their roles.

12. Location of next AGM

- a. Carleton will be the location for the next (2016) AGM; specific date still to be determined. Location for 2017 not yet set: Alberta or Glendon (?)

13. *Journal of Canadian Studies* – Update

- a. To what degree should we coordinate more closely between *JCS* and CSN-REC? Should we consider a prize for the best *JCS* article? *JCS* seems to be very much in a state of potential transition, so best to consider this at a later time. The prize question could be turned over to the Executive of the *JCS*. We should keep talking, but wait to see what happens with *JCS*.

14. AOB

- a. There was further discussion of potential revenues. Karli wondered if we could have a member wall on our website, with certain parts only open to members. Kevin suggests we should try to increase the number of memberships and dues, targeting a level of membership dues (across categories) that would ensure adequate funding to cover annual expenses. He proposed modest increases to dues for regular members (from \$70 to \$80) and for institutional members (from \$125 to \$150). Other categories would remain unchanged. Christl moved to implement these changes to the

membership fee schedule; Joe seconded; passed unanimously. Peter was not in favour of a member wall – better to keep the website mostly public. Will concurred. Christl noted that we could increase institutional memberships through a wider interpretation of what we mean by Canadian Studies.

- b. It could be possible to encourage donations as well, in association with membership applications/renewals or directly through the website. Perhaps donations could even be directed to specific projects (student travel, prizes, etc.)
- c. Jane noted funding opportunities: Killam at Bridgewater State, an announcement to be made on their website. Ireland Canada University Foundation funding opportunity (Jim Flaherty award) - announcement will be on web site.

15. Motion to adjourn at 1:55 pm by Joe; seconded by Will; approved.