



Canadian Studies Network
Réseau d'études canadiennes
1600 West Bank Drive, Peterborough, ON K9J 7B8

Annual General Meeting Minutes

15 November 2019, 6 pm
Hotel Omni Mont-Royal, Montréal

1. Adoption of agenda
 - a. Adopted by consent
2. Adoption of minutes from previous AGM: 28 September 2018
 - a. Moved: Christl Verduyn; seconded: Andrea Beverley; approved.
3. President's report (Renée Hulan):
 - a. After welcoming everyone to the meeting, Renée introduced the members of the Executive and expressed her appreciation for their unflinching support over the past year: Past President Andrea Beverley and Grad Student Rep Gemma Marr; Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Spooner (via Skype), and Member-at-Large Jaime Yard (who sent regrets from the CASCA conference). She also thanked Karli Whitmore for her work as the CSN Administrative Assistant. For members who may not be aware, Karli oversees the website (including e.g. calls for papers, conferences, job opportunities, prizes, and financial support for students) and maintains our presence on Twitter. We simply could not function without her technical support and diligence.
 - b. **Business Arising:** Since our last AGM, an election for Graduate Student Representative was held, and Gemma Marr was elected by the graduate student members. Gemma has been a great addition to the Executive, providing student insight at our meetings and attending the

ICCS meeting in June 2019. We also awarded the remaining prizes for 2018 and announced them on the website. Although we saw a downturn in membership this year, the website continues to see a high level of traffic: a snapshot taken by Karli from October 3-9 showed 3665 hits. On November 14, 2019, for example, 1862 were following us on Twitter; we had 1395 regular followers and 2307 likes 😊.

- c. **Prizes:** CSN provides six annual awards for Canadian Studies researchers at all academic levels: best book, best edited book, best article in the *Journal of Canadian Studies*, best doctoral dissertation, best MA thesis, best undergraduate essay. These awards recognize interdisciplinary research on Canada, in French and English. Managing the annual awards requires the considerable, collaborative work of six adjudication committees of at least three people each, to select the winners. Thanks to all those who have taken time to complete nominations for the prizes and who currently sit on the prize juries. Although membership numbers are down, our current members are stepping up, and we had no trouble finding the 12 + volunteers to serve on the prize committees this year to undertake the work of reading submissions and selecting a winner for each of our six prizes to Canadian Studies. As usual we received fewer nominations for the prizes given to students than for the book prizes; however, we received a higher than usual number of nominations for the best PhD dissertation. So far, we have awarded:
- i. Best undergraduate essay to Evania Pietrangelo-Porco's "Sex and the City Streets: Intersections of Politics, Morality, Race, and Community in Vancouver, 1983-1989" History, York
 - ii. Best MA thesis to Kristan Newell's "Redefining the Acadian French Lexicon: The Role of English Loanwords in Two English Villages", English UBC

- iii. Best PhD dissertation to Warren Bernauer, “Extractive Hegemony in the Arctic: Energy Resources and Political Conflict in Nunavut, 1970-2017,” Human Geography, York University
- iv. Best Book is Valerie Korinek’s *Prairie Fairies: A History of Queer Communities and People in Western Canada, 1930-1985* (UTP, 2019)

As an association member of the ICCS, CSN REC nominates members for ICCS awards and prizes, as well as for postdoctoral fellowships, each year.

- d. **ICCS:** Nous sommes membre du Conseil international d’études canadiennes et nous avons assisté à l’AGA du 8 juin 2019 à Ottawa. Après la réunion, nous avons organisé une table ronde sur la recherche et l’enseignement, une pratique introduite par Andrea il y a deux ans. Merci Andrea, pour cette collaboration et pour avoir assuré la présidence de la séance. I was pleased to represent the network as a delegate to the ICCS and to be accompanied by Past President Andrea Beverley and Graduate Student Representative Gemma Marr. The afternoon research session was fascinating to hear academic perspectives on Canada from Ireland, China, France, the United States, India, Australia, and many other countries. This year, the session began with a keynote by Dr. Peter Thompson, Director of Canadian Studies at Carleton. The title of his talk was “Canadian Studies in Ruins? Thoughts on Disseminating Critical Canadian Studies Research Through Teaching”/« Études canadiennes en ruines? Réflexions sur la diffusion de la recherche en études canadiennes par l’enseignement » In it, Peter gave a comprehensive account of current Canadian Studies in Canada, and in the discussion that followed, he engaged the audience perspectives of the representatives of Italy, Poland, Ireland, France, and others present. After the keynote, there was a panel on Research in Canadian Studies in the Classroom, which included:

- i. Dr. Norie Yazu (Kanda University, Japan) “Teaching Canadian Studies at Kanda University of International Studies, Japan”
- ii. Dr. Oriana Palusci (University of Naples, Italy) “Canadian Studies and the Cultural Context: an Italian Workshop”
- iii. Dr. Katalin Kurtosi (University of Szeged, Hungary) “Teaching Canadian Studies at Central European Universities”

Another lively discussion followed with delegates exchanging experiences and ideas from their respective regions. At the reception following the AGM, Kevin Spooner was recognized with a Certificate of Merit from ICCS for his many contributions to teaching and scholarship in Canadian Studies—and for his long service as Secretary-Treasurer! Congratulations, Kevin!

Colin Coates asked how well ICCS was functioning. Renée spoke to the value of seeing and hearing from delegates from around the world who bring international perspectives to the work we do as Canadianists here in Canada. The ICCS meeting was lively. Jane Koustas noted that Global Affairs provided some funding for association representatives to attend, so there was better representation. ICCS has a large endowment, but it’s important not to operate from this endowment alone. ICCS is seriously considering spending cuts to demonstrate financial responsibility. Nik Nanos, as part of the Advancing Canada Coalition, is looking for ways to generate financial support for ICCS, beyond Global Affairs. There is now only one employee at ICCS. The next meeting will be at the end of May, in Ottawa.

4. Secretary and Treasurer’s report (Kevin Spooner):
 - a. **Memberships:** There was some discussion of increasing the cost of a regular membership to \$100 to achieve balanced budgets. This would require an official motion by the Board, followed by approval from the membership at the next AGM. We will follow up with membership reminders to those who have not renewed. The decline in numbers of

graduate student members was noted. Gemma is developing a list of programs, etc. to identify potential new members. Colin Coates noted the Graduate Student conference held at York in the spring that might be used to highlight CSN. Jane Koustas wondered if we might develop an online pop-up on the website, asking people viewing the site to take out memberships or to donate (but not a 'pay wall' on the site). Christl Verduyn noted that the association prizes are good, concrete ways to help graduate students.

- b. **CSN Administrative Assistant:** Peter Thompson moved that we increase compensation for Karli Whitmore, in line with increases in the cost of living. The motion was seconded by Christl Verduyn and approved unanimously.
- c. **Financial Statements:** Kevin presented the attached financial statements. Christl Verduyn moved to approve the financial statements. The motion was seconded by Colin Coates and approved unanimously.

5. Elections and AGM

- a. The call for nominations and attempts to recruit individuals for the positions of Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer were not successful.
- b. Kevin had intended to end his term early, if it proved possible to recruit a new Secretary-Treasurer. He will complete his term if needed. We could reopen/extend nominations for these positions.
- c. The next AGM might be held at the Atlantic Studies Conference in May 2020 (in Belfast, Maine). This would mean a one-time only change in scheduling the AGM to the spring, but perhaps there would be some value in having our AGM associated with the Atlantic Studies conference and doing this with them every other year. Could we be more flexible about when the AGM is held?
- d. There was discussion of holding the AGM as part of a one-day symposium that would be hosted by a partner institution. The event

could feature a speaker and the AGM could align with it. Trent, Carleton, Brock and York were all mentioned as potential hosts of such an event. The idea of joining Congress was raised. This has been discussed in the past but has not been pursued. There are concerns about the workload that might arise as a consequence of associating with Congress and there are financial implications as well. Perhaps we could approach Emily Gilbert at University of Toronto to see if U of T might host an event in the fall where the AGM could also be held. There was consensus that we should try to keep the AGM in the fall and associate it with an event or conference (if possible) rather than align with Atlantic Studies in the spring.

- e. Colin Coates moved to extend nominations for Executive positions to 1 February 2020. Peter Thompson seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

6. Any other business

- a. none

7. Adjournment:

- a. Approved unanimously.