

A Link to the Past: Creating Relevancy in the Humanities and Social Sciences

The first ever virtual iteration of the *Annual CLARE Graduate Symposium* hosted by the Graduate Students of the Department of Classics and Religion at the University of Calgary will be held on **March 12th-13th, 2021**. This conference will focus on how the Humanities and Social Sciences maintain relevancy in the modern world with a continuously evolving global social climate. In the past, research in the classical humanities was flawed by male-centric, exclusionary, and isolationist approaches. Moreover, classical humanities were late to incorporate self-reflective attitudes on its methods and assumptions, thus delaying confrontation with contemporary social issues and tendencies. Such methods provided minimal links between different geographical locations and identities, let alone between the past and the present. These attitudes have often discouraged a broader, more open integration of the humanities with the general public's interests and has been unsuccessful to facilitate public engagement; and thereby impeding many researchers in the humanities from tying their academic research to contemporary global and social issues. Therefore, this conference aims at discussing and creating relevant links between the humanities and the present while attempting to encourage public engagement to further develop more progressive methodologies through transdisciplinary co-operation and research approaches.

Though this conference will focus on Classics and Religious Studies, all disciplines within the framework of Humanities and Social Sciences are welcomed to submit abstracts. We encourage graduate and undergraduate students to submit their **abstracts, academic affiliation, and a short bibliography** of their proposed papers by **January 8th, 2021**. Abstracts should not exceed **250-300 words** and may be sent to **clareconference1@gmail.com**. We strongly recommend that these proposed papers include accessible language, a section on the modern-day relevancy of their topic and/or plans for community engagement through public outreach with the goal of creating this relevancy within the Humanities and Social Sciences.