

**CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION/SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE POUR L'ÉTUDE DE LA
RELIGION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / ASSEMBLÉE ANNUELLE**

**CALGARY, ONTARIO
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
SCIENCE BUILDING A 123
MAY 28TH (2016), 2:00PM-4:00PM**

AGENDA/ L'Order du Jour

Present: Rubina Ramji (Cape Breton), Alyshea Cummins (Ottawa), Keelin Pringnitz (Ottawa), Bianca Romagnoli (Toronto), Saliha Chattoo (Toronto), Scott Craig (Ottawa), David Feltmate (Auburn), Richard Berg (Lakehead), Bethany Berard (Winnipeg), Judith Brunton (Toronto), Arlene MacDonald (Texas), Mark Chapman (Tyndale), Richard Mann (Carleton), Morny Joy (Calgary) and 3 unnamed persons.

Regrets: Samiksa Munro, Heather Shipley, Marybeth White, Brenda Anderson, Catherine Caufield, Peter Beyer

- 1. Welcome/Bienvenue**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda/Adoption de l'ordre du jour**

MOTION: approve the agenda.

Moved by David Feltmate; Seconded by Saliha Chattoo

In Favour: 13
Abstention: 0

Motion Carried

- 3. Adoption of the minutes of the (date) meeting of the 2015 Annual General Meeting/
/ Adoption du procès verbal de l'assemblée annuelle (2015)**

MOTION: accept the minutes

David Feltmate requested a change to his title in past minutes.

Moved by David Feltmate; Seconded by Richard Mann

In Favour: 12

Motion Carried Unanimously

- 4. Business Arising from the Minutes/Suivis aux procès-verbal**

None.

5. Reports/Rapports

a) **Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion/ Corporation canadienne des sciences religieuses**

- Christine Mitchell attend the AGM and informed members of a publication agreement signed by MQUP for english manuscripts and also a french press for french manuscripts. Topics are open to any focus in religion that is innovative and offers a critical methodology. Contact Kyla Madden at MQUP at kyla.madden@mcgill.ca or Christine Mitchell at Christine.Mitchell@usask.ca
- The press will handle peer reviews and ASPP funding – not required for the manuscript to be published.
- CCSR is providing a block grant to help fund publications

b) **Membership Secretary/Sécretaire aux admissions (Arlene MacDonald)**

- CSSR has maintained membership numbers from 2015
- Suggested tying membership due date to online paper submissions date in order to alleviate having to chase after people for membership payments.
- We should encourage members to only get online electronic versions of the Studies in Religion Journal to save paper. Members can use their membership number to get online access to the journal. They can get their membership number from the membership secretary
- Our membership information, including mailing address must coincide with Sage information so that members get their journal issues
- Attempts are still being made to automate membership renewal on the CSSR website directly

c) **Treasurer/Trésorier (Bethany Berard)**

- Slight changes to budget have been made in order to pay the Communication Liaison for regular maintenance of the website (\$700)
- Also, CCSR membership dues will be paid twice this year, as the invoice was not received in the last fiscal year
- Membership fees will increase due to Sage increasing Studies in Religion journal prices. Although they are asking for increases from all CSSR members (regular members \$8.00 and student members \$7.00), the Executive has agreed to only increase regular full members. CCSR's fiscal year is from May 1-April 30.

MOTION: This is a notification that CSSR will increase full membership fees by \$10.00 and full associate membership fees by \$5.00 in the 2017 year.

Moved by Richard Mann; Seconded by Saliha Chattoo

In Favour: 11
Abstentions: 2

Motion Carried.

d) **2016 Programme Chair/ Responsable du programme 2016 (David Feltmate)**

- The Call For Papers will remain on December 1 yearly. Programme chairs kept presentation rooms simple to keep down costs (no water bottles, tablecloths, or microphones were supplied and are deemed unnecessary)
- 6 Presenters withdrew from program on short notice. Proposed that this may be

mitigated by tying membership fee payment date to paper submissions date. David Feltmate will offer a two-week grace period for late payments.

- There has been interest by international members to present at Congress via Skype or other media platform (there was one request this year but the presenter withdrew their submission). In order to increase international members, we could offer it next year. It was proposed that those interested presenters would cover the technical costs of doing so. Alyshea Cummins noted that this could be done via more stable Webinar software system.
- AGM Members agree that **one** roundtable be held in 2017 by Skype or roundtable members pays the fees is a program must be paid for by the hosting institution.
- Request to find LACs for 2017 meeting in Toronto, ON – Program Co-Chairs will check with the Diaspora/Migration Program at Ryerson University for potential LACs.

MOTION: tie membership dues date to paper submissions date – December 1st (yearly)

Moved by Keelin Pringnitz; Seconded by Alyshea Cummins

In Favour: 12

Abstention: 1

Motion Carried.

e) MAL Graduate Students/Étudiants des études supérieures (Saliha Chattoo)

- Graduate Luncheon topic was on navigating non-academic jobs. This Luncheon was at no cost to the CSSR as the organizer was awarded a grant from the University of Calgary's Religious Studies Department.
- The CSBS is having the same topic for their graduate luncheon this year, so Saliha thought it would be good to have a group luncheon with CSBS in a future meeting.
- Saliha Chattoo proposed that the CSSR open a new voluntary position at universities: these positions will be titled "Local Student Ambassador". This position would allow for better communication between the Graduate MAL and Religious Studies programs at participating universities
- The Graduate Student MAL would disseminate necessary information to the Local Student Ambassadors and they would then circulate to their local networks. This will be done through a dedicated Facebook page for the Student Ambassadors. This position would also assist in marketing the CSSR student essay contests for Undergraduate, Master, and PhD Candidates.

f) Communications Liaison/ Liaison de la Communication (Samiksa Munro absent)

- Samiksa Munro submitted a written report, presented by Ruby Ramji
- The CSSR website continues to run smoothly and is always evolving to meet Executive and Member needs
- The CSSR Members and Friends list currently consists of more than 530 people. To be on this mailing list, one does not have to be a CSSR member – just create an account on the CSSR website.

g) President/Présidente (Ruby Ramji)

- Ruby is presiding over her last meeting President, but will continue to support the CSSR Executive as past President. She thanked all of the current Executive members for the fantastic job they have done serving the society (report was

circulated).

h) Nominations Committee/Comité pour les nominations (Peter Beyer absent)

- Ruby Ramji put forth the Nominations for: President; Membership Secretary; Member at Large; Recording Secretary

President:

Nomination: Heather Shipley

No nominations from the floor; Heather Shipley is acclaimed.

Membership Secretary:

Nomination: Catherine Caufield

No nominations from the floor; Catherine Caufield is acclaimed.

Member at Large:

Nomination: Arlene MacDonald

No nominations from the floor; Arlene MacDonald is acclaimed.

Recording Secretary:

Nomination: None

Alyshea Cummins was nominated by Ruby Ramji from the floor. Alyshea Cummins is acclaimed.

i) Student Essay Awards/Prix pour les essais étudiant(e)s

- Ruby Ramji presented the winners for the Undergraduate and Graduate Essay Competition. Only 5 submissions were received for the Undergraduate Essay Competition; 3 submissions for the MA Essay Competition and 9 for the PhD Essay Competition. Ruby Ramji proposed that more marketing must be done for these paper prizes as students did not seem to know about it, until the deadline was extended and professors were contacted to get students to submit papers. Ramji thinks that the new Local Student Ambassador positions can greatly assist in gaining more attention

CSSR Undergraduate Essay Winners:

BA First Place Winner: Sarah Gorman, Carleton University

“Reconciling Moral Autonomy with Submission to Religious Law”

BA Second Place Winner: Matthew Malone, McGill University

“Sexual Discourse in Contemporary Radical Sunni Islamist Thought”

CSSR Graduate Essay Winners:

M.A. Award Recipient: Sarah L. Veale, University of Toronto

“Refutatio Romana: The Political Dimensions of Religious Alterity in Tacitus’ Histories 5”

PhD Award Recipient: Anthony Scott, University of Toronto

“Bibles in the Badlands: Colonial Dinosaur discoveries and the Making of Canadian Origin Myths”

MOTION to accept the names of the CSSR Essay winners

Moved by Ruby Ramji; Seconded by Arlene MacDonald

In Favour: 10
Abstentions: 3

Motion carried

j) CSSR Book Prize

- The CSSR Book Prize Committee, chaired by the Past President, Peter Beyer, received 15 book submissions. Committee comments are included below:
- **Winner: Phyllis D. Airhart**, *A Church with the Soul of a Nation*, is a book that will establish itself as the starting point for any scholarly discussion of the United Church of Canada and its place in national history. As Mark Noll states on the back cover of the book, in the coming years no one can tell the story of religion in Canada without acknowledging the history Airhart so ably unfolds. Airhart writes history well and the story she unfolds flows in excellent prose. The story she tells of the founding and the early history of the founders' ambition to be a national church, at least for English speaking Canada, is both fascinating and engaging. As she brings the story into the post-war years and through to the 21st century, we have an insightful recounting of the United Church at the pinnacle of popularity followed by its decline into demographic and fiscal crisis. It is unusual to have a book to consider for a prize that is of such quality that it defines its subject matter for subsequent scholarship. Airhart, with *A Church with the Soul of a Nation*, does just that. The author thus richly deserves the CSSR/SCÉR book prize for 2016.
- **Honourable mention: Jennifer Reid**, *Finding Kluskap: A Journey into Mi'kmaw Myth*, is a complex and breathtaking ethno-historical account of Jennifer Reid's "hermeneutical pilgrimage" to understand and articulate Indigenous stories about Kluskap in Cape Breton, Canada, in an era where storytellers have become distrustful of non-Indigenous academics. As Jennifer Reid searches in vain for stories of Kluskap, a mythic hero, she comes to realize that she is engaged in a scholarly approach and method that depend on her ability to create relationships of trust and reciprocity. Reid discovers and articulates the important link between Kluskap and Saint Anne, the mother of the Virgin Mary, that has enabled, ritualized and preserved the value of mutual exchange in European colonial and Mi'kmaw post-colonial religio-cultural worlds through the language of treaties.

k) **Société québécoise pour l'étude de la religion (SQÉR)**

- David Koussens (Sherbrooke University) has become the new President of SQER. He has assembled a team from various francophone universities to revive SQER: this is great news for our francophone colleagues and we look forward to working with them again in the future.

MOTION: accept committee recommendations for the CSSR Book Prize winner:
Moved by Keelin Pringnitz; Second by Arlene MacDonald

In Favour: 12
Abstention: 1

Motion carried

8. Other Business/ Varia

None.

9. Adjournment/ Levée de l'assemblée