



November 13, 2020

Taan'shi and Bonzoor, hello everyone

I hope you are healthy, well, and safe.

I am writing to you today on behalf of the CSSR executive. Due to the complications and life circumstances that have come from the global pandemic and economic downturn, the CSSR has chosen to hold our annual conference separately from the Humanities and Social Sciences Congress 2021, hosted by the University of Alberta.

**We will be organizing and hosting our own CSSR conference completely online at the same time — to be held from the end of May and the beginning of June, 2021.**

We came to the decision that it was not economically feasible for many of our members to participate in the official Congress as a completely online event. Our focus as an association is to keep costs low and make sure all our members receive a positive experience that is flexible and straightforward. As we do every year, we invite you to participate in our conference, even though it will be held as a separate and stand-alone conference, while continuing to engage with other associations at Congress, if you wish to do so. We are very excited to host the 2021 CSSR Conference in this format and we hope you will enjoy this unique undertaking.

This letter serves first and foremost to inform you of our decision. Rest assured, our members will have the same opportunity to present their research to the religious studies community at large. This decision was not made lightly: we believe that this is the best course of action so that our conference remains inclusive and accessible for all our members, from graduate students to retired members. We will soon send out a “call for papers” with specific details and information on the spring conference. Furthermore, our executive is meeting at the beginning of December to go over the major details like cost and duration. We will then be sending you that information promptly.

Thank you again for your patience and continuing support in the CSSR as we work together to make this conference work for our current situations.

Respectfully,

Maarsii,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul L. Gareau', is written over a light blue circular watermark.

Paul L. Gareau, PhD

President | Président

Canadian Society for the Study of Religion (CSSR) |

Société canadienne pour l'étude de la religion

[CSSR Website](#)

[pgareau@ualberta.ca](mailto:pgareau@ualberta.ca)