

# Bulletin

Canadian Society for the Study of Religion  
Société canadienne pour l'étude de la religion

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## Mot du président / President's Update

Dear colleagues:

It is a pleasure to begin my second year at president of the CSSR/SCÉR in the current academic environment and I look forward to working closely with the new executive over the next year. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of out-going executive members Aaron Hughes (University of Calgary), Faydra Shapiro (Wilfrid Laurier University) and Terry Woo. We will miss their input and we look forward to their continuing participation in the society. I extend a warm welcome to the new members of the executive, Alain Bouchard (Université Laval), Christopher Brittain (Atlantic School of Theology) and Rubina Ramji (University of Ottawa). I look forward to working with you and the continuing members of the executive this year.

To all of the CSSR/SCÉR members, your commitment to the field of Religious Studies continues to do much towards creating a stimulating professional environment that facilitates scholarly exchange, both internally, amongst ourselves, as well as with our colleagues across the disciplines. To those of you who participated in last spring's meeting, it was great to see you and to learn more about your research and your research interests. The wide spectrum of topics covered at last year's conference reflects the diversity of our roster of members. Clearly, we are moving in various directions in the field, not only in terms of our own individual academic interests but also in response to the communities we serve. The participation of graduate students at the conference as well as at all levels of our society is indicative of our good health. Reaching out and revitalizing our connection with graduate students is one of this executive's prime goals.

As in the past, the upcoming annual meeting of our society is an important intellectual event as well as a significant opportunity for us to make visible our discipline. This year, the theme of the Congress is "The City: A Festival of Knowledge." The executive, especially the program committee, has been working hard over the summer to ensure that our annual meeting in May 2006 at York University will be a success. Tony Michaels has graciously agreed to act as our local representative at York University. As last year, we are organizing a set of sessions around a keynote address. Donald S Lopez, (Arthur E. Link Distinguished University Professor of Buddhist and Tibetan Studies, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan) has graciously accepted our invitation to deliver this keynote address. A brief biography of Dr. Lopez is included in this *Bulletin*.

The executive continues to focus its attention on expanding our membership and increasing the participation of members in our annual meeting. This was a major item on the agenda at the executive's teleconference in August. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to participate by delivering papers, chairing sessions, attending and generally offering up ideas and new directions that you think should be on our agenda. In this context, please refer to the Call for Papers in this edition of the *Bulletin* as well as other information regarding the upcoming conference at York University.

The executive has been working hard on the website for some time now and we hope to have our new site up and running very soon. Mark Chapman has been working closely with our Webmaster, Don Eldershaw, to make our site more user-friendly and to better reflect our mandate.

This year, as every year, there are vacancies to be filled on the executive. If you are interested in serving the society in this way, please let us know! Mark Chapman is the chair of the Nominations Committee; if you would like your name to be considered, and/or if you would like further information about the executive and its various positions, he would be happy to help you. I encourage each of you to involve yourself in order that the executive might most accurately represent your interests.

The well being of the society is dependent upon its members, so please keep us informed as to your research projects as well as to developments in your departments so that we can include that information in the *Bulletin*.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting at York University, Toronto, Ontario, May 28 – May 31<sup>st</sup> 2006. In the meantime, all the best for a productive academic year

Leona Anderson  
President, CSSR/SCÉR

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### **Word from the Editor / Mot du rédacteur**

We have packed this edition of the *Bulletin* with more information than usual. You will find minutes from the Annual General Meeting in London, some reflections on that meeting from Darlene Juschka (2005 programme chair), a report on this year's meeting of the International Association for the History of Religions (of which we are members), the call for papers for next year's Annual Meeting in Toronto, a description of the annual student essay contests, a biography of our keynote speaker for the 2006 symposium, a call to be involved with a seminar focused on paganism, member and departmental news, and a note from the CSSR Student representative. You will also find brief biographies of the new executive members elected at the Annual General meeting.

If you have not yet renewed your 2005/2006 membership in the CSSR/SCÉR I would encourage you to do that. The various activities of the Society (e.g., running the annual meeting, publishing the *Bulletin*) are dependent on your membership dues. Membership forms can be downloaded from our website. Regrettably, the cost of providing online membership services is prohibitive. However, we will be periodically reexamining the issue to determine if such services have become financially viable. As always we welcome your feedback on any aspect of how the CSSR/SCÉR is run or the services provided to you.

I appreciate that more of you are taking the opportunity to list your academic activities in the *Bulletin*. Please continue to make use of the *Bulletin* to communicate your activities to your colleagues. You can use the form at the end of the *Bulletin* or send me an email with the information or publication(s) you would like included in future editions of the *Bulletin*.

The society also maintains a mailing list that is used exclusively by our society to send you information about what the CSSR/SCÉR is doing or information that we think would be important to our members. If you are not currently receiving email from us and would like to be added to this mailing list please contact our recording secretary, Christopher Brittain, and request

that your name be added to our list. We do not sell or rent out our membership list. Nor do we accept paid advertising of any kind.

As always I welcome your comments on how this publication can be of more use to you.

Mark Chapman  
Rédacteur / Editor

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**Procès-verbal de la réunion du conseil / Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**University of Western Ontario, London**  
**Le mai 28, 2005 / May 28, 2005**

**Present:** Leona Anderson, Mark Chapman, André Couture, Christopher Cutting, Darlene Juschka, Ken MacKendrick, Terry Woo  
Bruce Alton (as observer)

**Regrets:** Aaron Hughes, Faydra Shapiro

**1. Welcome/Bienvenue**

Anderson welcomed all.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda/Adoption de l'ordre du jour**

MacKendrick/Juschka

**3. Adoption of the minutes of the May 28, 2004 meeting of the Executive Committee/  
Adoption du procès-verbal de la réunion du conseil du 24 mai 2004**

MacKendrick/Couture

**4. Business Arising From the Minutes/Suites au procès-verbal**

Two notices of motions arising from the previous minutes of the AGM were noted for inclusion in the agenda of the upcoming AGM.

**Motion:** The composition of the executive committee will be amended to add a position of student representative to be elected for a two year term. (Coward/Beyer)

**Motion:** that the name of the Vice-President be changed to Past President (Seljak/Clark)

**5. Reports/Rapports**

**5.1 President/Président**

No specific items to report.

**Motion:** to accept the President's report: Juschka/Chapman

**CARRIED**

**5.2 Treasurer/Trésorier**

Summary of the many issues that were discussed:

- a) AGM Registration Fees will be changed from \$1,000 to \$2,000 and the balancing entry for AGM Expenses will show \$1,500 instead of \$500; Graduate Students' snacks to be included here
- b) Suggestion for Controller under Office Expenses which can be further broken down into Bank Charges, Postage and Stationary – agreed that this is under MacKendrick's discretion
- c) Travel for IAHR & HSSFC will be separated into 2
  - i. Clarification re: expenses for travel & registration fees for Federation. No expenses have been claimed while David Seljak has been in the position as he has been able to combine the trip with other responsibilities.
  - ii. Anderson suggested limits to be set for IAHR travel: travel to include air ticket and taxis with receipts, a per diem of US\$45, total travel not exceeding CDN\$3,500
- d) Charged with looking into SIN because of GIC interest from one-year deposits
- e) Special Speaker budget: \$1,200 (\$500 for honorarium and \$700 for flight and accommodation)
  - i. Discussion about support agreement with other associations (CWSA, CSBS, CTS) Sered was brought in only with CSSR monies
  - ii. Juschka noted that there may be some differences in theological perspective with Juergensmeyer
  - iii. Chapman suggested that the President write to the CSBS and CTS about the informal agreement for multi-Association funding for special speakers
- f) What budgetary items can MacKendrick approve independent of the executive? Anything that falls within the approved budget.
- g) Requiring a filled out form and receipts assures that student travel expenses are legitimate

**Motion** to receive the report: Chapman/Juschka  
**CARRIED**

**Motion** to approve the report: Juschka/Couture  
**CARRIED**

### 5.3 Membership Secretary/Secrétaire aux admissions

VISA or Mastercard payment for membership is now accepted. There has been an increase in student membership but decrease in Regular and Associate members. Accepting memberships online is not realistic because the costs are prohibitively high.

**Motion** to receive the report: Chapman/Juschka.  
**CARRIED**

### 5.4 Nominations Committee/Comité pour les nominations

MAL Programme Chair (3 year term): Alain Bouchard  
 MAL Student Essay Contest (3 year term): Francis Landy  
 Recording Secretary (3 year term): Christopher Brittain  
 Graduate Student MAL (2 year term): Christopher Cutting

**Motion:** That the position of new student MAL position be instituted  
Chapman/MacKendrick

**CARRIED**

**Motion:** to accept the report of the nominating committee - Couture/Chapman

**CARRIED**

### 5.5 Programme Chair/Responsable du programme

Juschka discussed the volume of work. She received close to 500 e-mails from the presenters. There was simply too much work for one person, the work needs at least two people plus the local coordinator. Juschka suggested that two people should work on the program: one would deal with submissions and developing layout for the programme; the other would act as liaison to the local arrangements person and coordinate (for examples, forms) with the CFHSS.

**Motion:** a student may be paid to do administrative tasks associated with the program up to an amount approved by the treasurer. Chapman/Juschka

**CARRIED**

### 5.6 IAHR Report

Juschka submitted her report on the quinquennial IAHR conference in Tokyo and a discussion of this conference and our participation in the IAHR ensued. Juschka reported that the question of whether Canada would like to host the IAHR in 2010 had been raised. University of Toronto has already indicated that it is not interested and University of Alberta may be a possibility. She informed the committee of some of the steps that would be required. The committee decided that the question of whether or not the CSSR/SCER would be willing and able take a leadership role in preparing a proposal to host the next quinquennial conference would be brought to the AGM. Juschka informed the committee that a proposal would be due in December.

### 5.7 Student Essay Awards/Prix pour les essais des étudiant(e)s

The executive committee agreed that winners presenting at the conference should be given a per diem of \$45.

The undergraduate essays were judged by Aaron Hughes. Adriana Woodburn, University of Toronto, won the award with "Women in Early Eastern Christian Asceticism." The runner-up was Deborah Stanbury, Wilfrid Laurier, with "Ground Zero As Sacred Space." We had 12 submissions this year.

The graduate essays were judged by Faydra Shapiro. Karen Cheatham, University of Toronto, won the award with "Bodily Barriers Conceptualized: Rupert of Deutz and the Virginal Male Body." We had 23 submissions this year.

**Motion:** to approve the results of the contests as above. Juschka/Chapman

**CARRIED**

**5.8 Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion/Corporation canadienne des sciences religieuses (CCSR)**

No report.

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

No report.

**5.10 Canadian Federation for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (CFHSS) /Fédération Canadienne des Sciences Humaines (FCSH)**

No report.

Cutting asked about religious studies programs in Canada, Chapman directed him to the CCSR website. Woo asked about possibility of asking Chairs of Religious Studies at universities that have large graduate student populations about areas of weakness in CFHSS programs. It was suggested that there might be a panel at future meetings that explored the direction of the discipline.

**5.11 CSSR Web Site/Site Web de la SCÉR**

The committee discussed the current status of the new website and the difficulties that have arisen in this regard. Chapman suggested that Anderson should check with Shapiro regarding the status of the project and then write a letter to Richardson asking for the code for the program and then turn the project over to Don Eldershaw.

**5.12 Academic Freedom/Liberté académique**

No special issue.

**6. Other business/Varia**

- a) Suggestions from members like theme panels, inclusion of non-academic participants, and panels around new publications were discussed
- b) Resignation of Recording Secretary was noted and members expressed that they would miss her but wished her well in her new appointment.

**7. Adjournment/Levée de l'assemblée**

**Motion:** Chapman/Couture

**CARRIED**

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**Annual General Meeting Minutes / Procès-verbal de l'assemblée annuelle  
University of Western Ontario, London  
Le 30 mai 2005 / May 30, 2005**

**Present:** Leona Anderson, Paul Bramadat, Paul Bowlby, Susan Brown, Mark Chapman, André Couture, Chris Cutting, Barb Davy, Pamela Dickey Young, David Feltmate, Bill James, Ken MacKendrick, Thom Parkhill, Rubina Ramji, Dana Sawchuk, David Seljak, Braj Sinha, Randi Warne, Terry Woo  
**Regrets:** Darlene Juschka, Aaron Hughes, Faydra Shapiro

**1. Welcome/Bienvenue**

Leona Anderson welcomed those present.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda/Adoption de l'ordre du jour**

Thom Parkhill/Randi Warne

**3. Adoption of the minutes of the May 29, 2004 meeting of the Annual General Meeting/Adoption du procès-verbal de l'assemblée annuelle du 29 mai 2004**

Randi Warne/André Couture

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes/Suites au procès-verbal**

Members voted on the motions to amend the constitution passed at the 2004 AGM as follows:

**Motion:** The composition of the executive committee will be amended to add a position of student representative to be elected for a two year term. (Coward/Beyer)

**CARRIED**

**Motion:** that the name of the Vice-President be changed to Past President (Seljak/Clark)

**CARRIED**

**5. Canadian Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative/ Représentant de la Fédération canadienne des sciences humaines et sociales**

Doug Owram (past president, CFHS/FCSH) and Paul Ledwell (executive director, CFHS/FCSH) presented an update on the activities of the CFHS/FCSH including current issues of research quality, research capacity and research access.

Their update included :

- a) Focus on encouraging first time publications and bringing in new scholars
- b) Standard Research Grants to be increased
- c) Collaborative cluster grants are under-represented in the humanities
- d) The maintenance of continuity given the departure of Mark Renaud
- e) Janice Halliwell renewed AUCC and student groups' meetings in late November so that the focus on post-secondary education in government was not lost. Attention continues to be paid to issues of quality, capacity and access

f) Future Congresses

2006 at York

2007 at Saskatchewan

2008 at UBC

Tentatively: 2009 in Carleton and 2010 in Montreal

g) Issues of copyright and Open Access

- In response, a variety of concerns were raised by members and a lively discussion on copyright and open access issues ensued. Members stressed the negative impact of increasingly stringent copyright legislation on teaching and scholarship. Members also noted that SR, for example, has been available online for the past two years.
- Several members noted that much of the copyright lobbying is driven by U.S. interests and suggested that academic concerns will be subsumed under entertainment interests.
- MacKendrick picked up the issue of Tri-Council Ethical Issues, and noted that if the legislation passes as it is there will be repercussions. For example, when a journalist photographs a crowd, she would be compelled to get clearance from everyone. Seljak reinforced this when he said that if SSHRC were to be held to the same rules as Health and NSERC, researchers will need to get certificates from medical practitioners as well as psychologists for interviews.

h) Women's and equity issues will be reported online on the CFHS website

i) Rob Merritt has raised \$700,000 for Federation's Canadian Endowment for the Humanities and Social Sciences for long-term activities.

- Members also voiced concern regarding the withdrawal of Metropolis funding especially in view of the fact that the Atlantic contingent was established only two years ago.
- Members indicated concern over the study of religion as an enterprise in the humanities, stressing the need to fund religion as the multidisciplinary study that it is, Members suggested that adjudication of multidisciplinary projects ought to be carried out by multidisciplinary committees that understand the nature of the area. There was discussion of the manner in which adjudicators are selected.
- David Seljak (CSSR/SCÉR representative to the CFHS) noted that the Federation, under the leadership of Don Fisher and Doug Owsram, have become increasingly effective in lobbying the government to understand the importance of research in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

## 6. Reports/Rapports

### a) President/Président

Anderson remarked that this year's program represented a wide spectrum of academic interest and commended the program chair for producing such a stimulating set of offerings. The program chair was also responsible for setting up the three special panels on Ritual. Susan Sered who was invited to speak as a part of the panels on Ritual was especially welcomed.

Anderson went on to comment on the increase in Graduate Student membership and participation in panels and presentations; she congratulated them and encouraged them in this regard.

**b) Treasurer/Trésorier**

MacKendrick was pleased to report a surplus of \$2,709.36. We receive income from membership dues, interest on investments, and AGM registration (we also receive a SSHRC grant that supports the cost of membership travel and participation in the Society). All sources are relatively stable. MacKendrick was contacted by the IAHR this year and discovered that they do not mail out an invoice to their membership, which is why we haven't received an invoice since 1999. In order to catch up with our membership dues, we paid for the years 2000-2004 this year. It will be the responsibility of the Treasurer to contact the IAHR on an annual basis. Also on the expense side, we sent a representative to the IAHR this year. Publication and office expenses remain low because of the generosity and frugal wisdom of the executive membership. MacKendrick concluded: "Our budgets have been very close to their targets, and our anticipated income has been fairly predictable. For the last several years we have managed to generate a moderate but healthy surplus. In light of this I have made very few changes to the budget."

**Comments and discussion:**

- MacKendrick indicated that further clarifications were going to be made to the itemization of the budget as a means of making the AGM income and AGM expenses more apparent.
- Members noted that increase in the cost of on-site registration for our meetings, and asked how the additional monies were going to be spent. Warne reminded the members that the increase was implemented for two reasons: 1) to bring the CSSR in line with the registration charged by other societies and 2) to fund the travel of the new Student member of the CSSR Exec. The Treasurer confirmed the success of these measures.
- Members asked if there was a plan for the slow surplus that has been accumulating, and some suggestions were discussed, such as increasing the prize money for the student essay contests.
- Parkhill and Bowlby expressed concern that SSHR funding may be cut off but the Treasurer indicated that we are, at least, covered until 2006.

**Motion:** to receive the report: MacKendrick/Sawchuk  
**CARRIED**

**Motion:** to approve the report: Dickey-Young/Feltmate  
**CARRIED**

**c) Membership Secretary/Secrétaire aux admissions**

Chapman reported that it is now possible to pay membership dues by credit card. Online application, however, would not be prudent because it is prohibitively

expensive. There have been some delays working with WLU Press, as Cheryl Beaupre, our primary contact, has left, and the information they provided to us was difficult to use, as members were listed by postal code rather than alphabetically, making it difficult to pin down who had paid fees and who had not. Approximately \$1500 was spent on two issues of The Bulletin.

Chapman noted that faculty membership is down while student membership is up.

**Comments and discussion:**

- James said that there should be a mechanism to ensure that presenters are paid up members He also expressed concern that Regional AAR meetings are scheduled so close to the time of the Congress, and wondered if that had an impact on student withdrawals from the CSSR program. Feltmate suggested that a table be set up at the Congress to facilitate the payment of membership fees. Sinha emphasized that membership should be encouraged regardless of whether a person is presenting or not.
- Bowlby said that availability of addresses on the web site subjects members to SPAM and suggested that they be put in a PDF format that could be easily downloaded but not easily harvested by spammers.
- On the subject of mailing costs, James reminded the Executive that the schools in Ontario can take advantage of the IUTS (a free inter-university postal service)

**d) 2005 Programme Chair/ Responsable du programme 2005**

Mark Chapman summarized the Programme Chair's report. The amount of work that is required to put the program together was highlighted.

- Regular Paper Submissions: total of 65 regular paper submissions, 3 were rejected
- Panel Submissions: total of 11 panel submissions.
- Roundtable Submissions: total of 4 roundtables.
- Joint Sessions: total of 3 joint sessions
  - i) 2 with CSSR and the Environmental Studies Association of Canada (ESAC), sponsored by the Canadian Forum on Religion and Ecology (CFORE)
  - ii) 1 between the CSSR and ACTR.(Association for Canadian Theatre Research)
- Special Symposium on Ritual: organized by Juschka, with the assistance of Anderson. Session chairs Ken MacKendrick, Donna Seamone, and Thomas Parkhill, put the panels together under the topics of ritual and fundamentalism, ritual and politics and ritual and power respectively. As much as possible they were asked to keep in mind a mix of systems of belief. The resulting panels were excellent.
- Special Speakers:
  - i) The ritual symposium culminated in the keynote address "Synergy, Syncretism, and Appropriation: Ritual healing in the Contemporary United States" by Dr. Susan Sered (research director of the Religion,

Health and Healing Initiative at Harvard University's Center for the Study of World Religions, and Associate Professor of Anthropology at Bar Ilan University in Israel), the CSSR's special speaker.

ii) The second special speaker was Professor Mark Juergensmeyer (director of Global and International Studies and Professor of Sociology and Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara) whose address was entitled "Religion, Terror, and Globalization." This session was organized by William Morrow.

- Withdrawals from the Programme: 12 submissions withdrawn from the programme after its posting.
- Further, the Programme chair mailed out a chair's guide to all chairs of panels this year.

On behalf of the programme chair and the executive, Chapman thanked Susan Brown, the Local Coordinator, for her efforts in coordinating room assignments, etc.

Finally, Chapman raised the question of the increasingly onerous amount of work required of the Programme Chair, particularly given the large number of submissions. He noted that the executive committee was considering ways of reducing the workload.

#### **Comments and discussion:**

- Members commented on the excellence of the sessions including the ritual panels and the keynote address and commended the programme chair for her success in making the program interesting and engaging. Members also noted that the thematic arrangement of the program, which had been suggested at the 2003 AGM, made several sessions stimulating. Some members voiced a preference for a more traditional model and Chapman responded that there were several panels at the conference this year that followed this pattern.
- Members discussed ways in which the work load of the programme chair might be reduced to a manageable task and suggested, for example, that MALs might be able to assist the programme chair and that a student be hired to do some of the administrative duties.
- Members expressed some concern regarding withdrawals from the program and a general discussion ensued with members suggesting various reasons for withdrawals. Members also noted that withdrawal rates this year seem to be consistent with withdrawal rates in previous years. They encouraged the executive to explore ways in which they could motivate presenters to alert the program chair as well as the session chair of their inability to attend.
- The timing of the AGM was raised as was the issue of attendance at the AGM in light of the concurrent scheduling of other CSSR sessions. Members also raised the question of poor attendance at some sessions.
- A discussion was undertaken about how best to address these various concerns. There was general agreement that in future the AGM should be held in a timeslot in which no other CSSR sessions are scheduled. Some members noted

that in the past attendance at the AGM was encouraged by linking it to a social event, such as a Wine and Cheese reception and/or the Society dinner. General approval was expressed at this suggestion.

- Some members suggested that reducing the number of concurrent sessions from 3 to 2 might help to increase attendance at sessions.

**Motion:** The AGM should always be scheduled independent of any other program of the Society on either day one or two during the conference.

Sinha/James

**CARRIED**

#### e) Nominations Committee/Comité pour les nominations

The Nominations Committee put forward the following nominations:

- MAL Program Chair – Alain Bouchard
- MAL Essay competition – Francis Landy
- Recording Secretary – Christopher Brittain
- Student Representative – Christopher Cutting

Nominations were then invited from the floor

- Rubina Ramji was nominated for the position of MAL by Bramadat/Sinha. Sinha introduced her as a scholar of Islam. He also mentioned her involvement with Citizenship Canada, that she had been a representative on the University of Ottawa Board of Governors and Chair of the AAR Committee for Religion and Film.
- No other nominations from the floor were forthcoming. Bouchard, Brittain and Cutting were acclaimed by Anderson. Voting by secret ballot was undertaken; Ramji was elected

#### f) Student Essay Awards/Prix pour les essais des étudiant(e)s

Anderson summarized the MAL reports

- The undergraduate essays were judged by Aaron Hughes. He received 12 submissions this year, all of which were of high quality. Adriana Woodburn, University of Toronto, won the award with “Women in Early Eastern Christian Asceticism.” The runner-up was Deborah Stanbury, Wilfrid Laurier, with “Ground Zero As Sacred Space.”
- The graduate essays were judged by Faydra Shapiro. She received 23 essays this year, an increase from previous years. Karen Cheatham, University of Toronto, won the award with “Bodily Barriers Conceptualized: Rupert of Deutz and the Virginal Male Body.”

#### g) CSSR Web Site/Site Web de la SCÉR

In response to a query, the executive noted that Don Eldershaw is still the Webmaster and that the executive was working on implementing a new website.

#### Comments and discussion:

- It was suggested that Fedcan emails can be put on the CSSR/SCER website for easy access rather than having to be downloaded from the Fedcan site.

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

Anderson reported that the Corporation is in general good financial health and is continuing its work.

**i) Allied Associations**

No reports.

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

The meeting was held in Chicoutimi. André Couture's report noted that there was a decrease in representation attendance from previous years.

**k) Academic Freedom/Liberté académique**

No business.

**7. Other Business/Varia**

**a) Possible Local Coordinators for the 2006 conference**

Becky Lee and Tony Michael at York

**b) IAHR December application for Canada to host the conference:**

Juschka's report on the XIXth quinquennial IAHR conference is included on p. 17 below. The executive reported that sites are now being considered for the next quinquennial IAHR Congress, specifically, Canada, Denmark and Turkey.

**Comments and discussion:**

- Members noted the importance of the IAHR as a venue for international academic linkages in the study of religion and discussed the desirability of hosting the IAHR and, although the membership was not generally opposed to the idea, they noted that there were difficulties.

**c) Increasing regional representation and faculty participation:**

Woo raised the issue that larger schools like UBC, U of T and McGill that have large graduate student populations need to be encouraged to participate more in the CSSR/SCÉR

Members discussed the possibility of increasing the number of MAL positions and Warne reminded them that originally there were six MAL positions. The number was reduced to three when infra-structure funding to society executives was cut back, and the Treasurer at the time argued that the CSSR could not afford to pay for travel and accommodation for six MALs. She commented further that while there is no more infra-structure funding for society executives; executive members are eligible to compete for travel funds on the same basis as every other member of the society, and receive a modest sum (\$45) to help defray the cost of an additional day's accommodation in order to attend the executive meeting. Since there would be a minimal additional cost to the society (\$135 per year), and

since the duties of the MALs are proving onerous, she suggested it makes sense to consider expanding the number of MALs again. This would further help with ensuring appropriate representation by region, gender, area of specialization, etc..

MacKendrick suggested that society members should be encouraged to initiate conversations regarding participation in the society and welcomed initiatives in this regard.

**d) Suggestions from members:**

Woo noted that suggestions that had been received in previous AGM's had been implemented in this years program including an emphasis on thematic sessions, meet the authors sessions, and the participation of John Biles as a non-academic speaker.

**9. Adjournment/ Levée de l'assemblée**

**Motion:** to adjourn the annual meeting – Chapman/Warne

**CARRIED**

## **Autres rapports / Other Reports**

### *Reflections of a Programme Chair, 2005 Congress*

First I want to thank all those folks who made a contribution to the 2005 CSSR programme. I think we had a fine programme this year, one that covered a broad spectrum of topics related to the study of religion along with a special symposium on ritual. The special speakers, Susan Starr Sered and Mark Jurgensmyer, made a wonderful contribution to the programme. Next year we are arranging a special symposium focused on "text" and again bring in a speaker who specializes on this topic (see the biography of Donald Lopez Jr. on p. 24).

As successful as the programme was in parts, there was one significant problem with the 2005 programme: people withdrawing at the last minute. This year there were TWELVE withdrawals that occurred within the last 10 days preceding the Congress. Those who withdraw at the last minute seriously impact the programme and their respective panels. In order to have a well-balanced panel the programme chair assigns three papers per panel and if there are withdrawals from the programme those panels are negatively impacted. In several instances panels were left with one presentation. We realize that people's lives take unforeseeable turns, however, there are steps that members can take to ensure a robust programme:

- Submitting an abstract to the CSSR Programme means you have a serious obligation to fulfill to your society and colleagues
- Do not submit an abstract unless you are relatively certain you can fulfill your obligation
- If one cannot, at the last minute, participate, then please arrange to have someone else give your presentation
- Remember, late withdrawals (one month preceding the meeting) create gaps in the programme as a whole, and negatively impact the panel on which you are participating.



For the 2006 Congress meeting held at York University (May 28th thru to May 31st) the theme is:

**The City: A Festival of Knowledge**

Alain Bouchard of Laval University will act as the CSSR Programme Chair, Tony Michaels of York and U of T will act as local co-ordinator, while I will liaison with both to assist in this process. The Call for Papers, is, as usual, included in this edition of the *Bulletin* (p. 20) and will be sent out separately to Religious Studies departments across the country.

Looking forward to next year's meeting,

Dr. Darlene M. Juschka  
MAL, Canadian Society for the Study of Religion  
Programme Chair

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***Report on the 2005 Meeting of the International Association for the History of Religions  
Tokyo***

*May 22, 2005*

I left for Tokyo to attend the IAHR on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and returned to Regina, SK on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March. Never having been to Tokyo, or Japan for that matter, I found the experience to be quite invigorating. Tokyo is a beautiful city, both very clean and organized. I was able to visit one Buddhist temple, the Sensoji Temple in Tokyo, and several of the magnificent gardens, one being the Koishikiawa Korakuen Gardens in Tokyo. I found both the temple and gardens to be breathtakingly beautiful.

The IAHR is an extraordinary experience in that one meets scholars from all over the world. There was a vast array of papers, panels, and special plenary speakers (with follow-up panels) scheduled over the seven day conference. I was fortunate enough to attend the plenary sessions of Mark Juergensmeyer, Talad Asad and Tomoko Mazuzawa. The latter was of particular interest to me in terms of her historicizing the world religions model. Mazuzawa provided the audience with a sneak preview of her current book in progress. I look forward to reading this book in light of my own ideas.

I attended a number of sessions from work done on Shamanism as a category in China, Korea and Japan, to healing, death studies and ancient religions. I found the Shamanism panel to be of particular interest as I have written a piece on this category, noting the Eliadean spin wherein authentic shamanism in scholarly inquiry functions as a masculine category. However, in many Asian countries the category is, they argued, feminized in scholarly inquiry. We had a wonderful discussion of the gendering of the category of shamanism.

In another session I was introduced to the work of Harvey Whitehouse and how a few folks who work in Greco-Roman Studies are adapting his theories to their own work. Whitehouse's work seems to have had an affect on anthropology (he did his field work in New Guinea) in terms of bringing into anthropology Whitehouse's brand of cognitive theory. I sat

through two panels wherein scholars applied Whitehouse's cognitive theory to their own Greco-Roman data. Although I found the exercise quite intriguing, I am not quite sure that Whitehouse's theory elucidated the data in any significant way. I also would argue, cognitive theory tends toward empiricist science, and as such neutralizes political (the elite) and social (gender) categories in relation to how power operates within the socio-cultural context. This I see as problematic as data are taken to be neutral in and of itself. In light of the data available I certainly question this assumption.

I enjoyed all of the sessions I attended. I also participated in two sessions, one as a respondent on the panel "The Underlying Terror: Religious Studies Perspectives on the War on Terrorism" and delivered a paper "Male Sacrifice: Gendered Discourses of Masculinity and Warfare."

## **International Executive Committee**

### Changes to the IAHR Executive Committee

As you might know the IAHR executive is reconstituted every five years. There were several new members elected to the Executive, while a few stayed on. Prof Rosalind Hackett allowed her name to stand for President of the IAHR, and in this she was unopposed. Elected, were two Vice-presidents, Gerrie Ter Haar from the Netherlands and Akio Tsukimoto from Japan. Tim Jesen of Denmark took over the position of General Secretary, while Ingvild Saelid Gilhus, from Norway, took over the position of Deputy General Secretary. Gary Lease allowed his name to stand again for Treasurer, while Pratap Kumar of South Africa was unopposed as Deputy Treasurer. Membership secretary is Abraham Khan of Canada, Brian Bocking of the United Kingdom is Publications Secretary and Francisco Diez de Velasco of Spain is Internet Officer. Finally, Morny Joy of Canada and Alef Theria Wasim of Indonesia were both elected to the position of Members without portfolio.

## **International Committee Meeting**

The meeting took place Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup> from 9am until 1pm. Aside from the typical agenda items such as adoption of agenda, minutes and so forth, reports were given by the Executive Members of the International Committee, but the report by the outgoing General Secretary, Armin Geertz, provided a broad-based overview that included: new affiliates (this brings the total of affiliate societies to 42) to the IHAR such as the Turkish Association for the History of Religions, Legal Incorporation of the IAHR in May of 2004, the election of committee members, policy of the IHAR, the economic straits of the IAHR, the website as THE main source of information in regard to the IAHR (as opposed to a regularly published Bulletin), and, of course, the location for the next World Congress in 2010. Three of these agenda items go beyond regular business: economic straits, e-news and the website and the 2010 World Congress, and so I shall report on them in more detail.

The **economic straits** of the IAHR, unless dealt with, are going to put a severe limitation on the activities of the IHAR. Armin Geertz stated in his report that "If our financial situation continues as it is, we will witness an association that is more virtual than real, where even the small amounts we have been using as seed money to develop IAHR affiliates in various parts of the world must cease, where we no longer will enjoy the economic benefits that CIPSH (Conseil

international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines) grants to the IAHR citation and abstract journal *Science of Religion* (SQR). Unless things change, we will see an association in which the full privileges of membership will be contingent on fully paid dues.” The financial problems (opening balance 1999 was \$56,110.00 as opposed to \$32,681.11 (main balance) and \$10,957.01 (African Scholarship) for this year) can be related to two primary issues:

1. CIPSH has not provided funding since 2002 and according to calculations owes the IHAR 12,000.00 in support of past conferences. The IAHR also applied for 8000.00 in support for the Tokyo conference. It is not clear in any of this money will be forthcoming.
2. Affiliate associations have not been paying their dues and out of 38 national and regional associations only 12 are paying regularly. Particularly problematic, states Dr. Geertz, is that many of those who have not paid their dues for several years are from affluent nations. He also added that those associations from economically weak countries have been asked to work out alternative contributions with the IAHR treasurer.

In light of the global nature of the IAHR, and the need to reduce overhead costs where and when it can, it was decided that the General Secretary maintain the **IHAR website** keeping it fully up to date, and email information and updates to affiliated association officers. Therefore, the IAHR Bulletin will only be published occasionally. This requires, however, that affiliate associations provide the General Secretary with current contact information.

A discussion of the **2010 meeting of the World Congress** was begun at the meeting. Where would this meeting take place and who would oversee its operations? To take on this task includes securing a venue with university support and a significant amount of money to organize the event. In terms of the formal process to host the IAHR World Congress, a bid is made. Bids are to be advanced in all seriousness and must have a clear view as to institutional support, volunteer support, and funding. I suggested at this meeting that I would return to the CSSR to inquire if our organization was interested in hosting the next world congress. My suggestion was based on discussions with Willi Braun who alluded to a possibility that institutional support could come from the University of Alberta, Russell McCutcheon who suggested that NAASR would be willing to pitch in, and Don Wiebe, who having organized a World Congress in Winnipeg could offer advice. Each felt that hosting the Congress in Canada was a possibility. Therefore, I am bringing to the CSSR Executive Committee and the CSSR membership the request to consider if indeed the CSSR wants to be the central hosting affiliate for the 2010 IHAR World Congress. If so, then a committee should be immediately struck and venue and finances investigated in order to put forward a serious bid to Tim Jensen, General Secretary of the IHAR (December 2005). Three countries indicated their interest to host the 2010 Congress; Canada, Turkey, and Denmark.

As a last note, I had to leave the Congress prior to the AGM and so unfortunately cannot comment on it. The AGM Agenda tells me, however, that the AGM reflects, for the most part, the discussion at the International Committee meeting. What I did miss were recommendations from the membership to the new executive committee.

So that is the end of my report. I want to thank the CSSR for funding conference fees and airfare to the World Congress in Tokyo.

Sincerely,  
Darlene Juschka

**Annual Conference 2006 Information / Information concernant la conférence  
annuelle 2006  
York University, Toronto**

***Call for Papers***  
**Canadian Society for the Study of Religion  
Annual Conference**

The Programme Committee invites submissions for the 2006 Annual Meeting of the CSSR, to be held in conjunction with the Congress of the Humanities and the Social Sciences on the campus of York University, Toronto, Ontario, May 28 – May 31<sup>st</sup> 2006.

The Board of the Federation has adopted the following as the major theme for Congress 2006:

**The City: A Festival of Knowledge**

The Board of the Federation encourages associations to adopt this theme and to develop sessions related to the topic within their own programs.

We also seek to encourage papers that deal with religious traditions that have recently been under-represented at the CSSR annual meetings, including **Judaism, Islam, Taoism and Confucianism**. As always, the CSSR welcomes papers and proposals on *all aspects of religion, from various academic perspectives*.

The deadline for all submissions (special papers and abstracts of regular papers, panels and roundtables) is January 13, 2006. Abstracts are to be no more than 150 words. Those greatly exceeding this limit will not be printed in the programme.

Chaired sessions are an integral part of an effective program. Please indicate if you would be willing to chair a session at the annual meeting.

Completed special papers, abstracts of regular papers, panels and roundtables, are to be sent to:

Alain Bouchard  
Département des sciences humaines  
Collège de Sainte-Foy  
2410 Chemin Sainte-Foy  
Québec, QC G1V 1T3  
Fax: (418) 659-4563  
[Alain.Bouchard@cegep-ste-foy.qc.ca](mailto:Alain.Bouchard@cegep-ste-foy.qc.ca)

\*\* Please include the following information with your submission: institutional affiliation, mailing address, phone number(s), fax number, and e-mail address. Submission via email attachment is preferred.

**Submissions for the CSSR Annual Meeting may be of four types.**

*a. Special Papers*

In order to effect a more full discussion of complete studies by Society members, blocks of time may be set aside for the presentation of, responses to, and discussion of “special” or “major” papers. A special paper may be grounded in a special field, but it should address matters important to all students of religion. In order to be considered, a complete version of the paper together with an abstract is to be submitted by **January 13, 2006**.

*b. Regular Papers*

The Committee invites proposals for presentations of works in progress and shorter scholarly papers for presentation. Normally, the time for actual delivery is twenty minutes, with ten minutes for questions and discussion. A 150 (maximum) word abstract should be submitted by **January 13, 2006**. All audio-visual needs must be clearly noted with your initial submission. Abstracts should include some background to the topic you are proposing, a statement of methodology and an indication of your argument.

*c. Panels*

The Committee encourages proposals for panels, workshops and seminars. The organiser is responsible for setting the topic and involving the participants in a maximum three hour block of time (two sessions of an hour and a half each). An abstract(s) as above, together with the names and institutional affiliations of the participants, audio-visual needs, and the name of a chair (who should not be making a presentation) is to be submitted by **January 13, 2006**. Panel organizers should submit both the panel abstract and the individual paper abstracts as one package. Panel organizers are expected to coordinate communication between members of the panel(s) and the Programme Chair.

*d. Roundtables*

The Roundtable format usually focuses on a particular issue, book, or the body of work of an individual. It consists of four (or more) short presentations followed by discussion, both with the roundtable members and audience members. As with the panel, the organiser is responsible for submitting an abstract for the Roundtable which includes the names and institutional affiliations of the participants, equipment needs, and chair (who may also be a participant).

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- 1. The CSSR strongly discourages panel presentations of more than three papers as it inhibits discussion. Presentations of more than 3 papers should use the Roundtable format.*
- 2. Requests to present on specific dates MUST accompany the initial proposal.*
- 3. Joint proposals (two societies combining their efforts) should be submitted to both societies for approval.*
- 4. Acceptance of proposals will be done via e-mail, and Panel/Roundtable organizers will be responsible for informing their presenters. Members who require a ‘hard copy’*

*acceptance of their proposal for funding purposes may request one from the Programme Chair.*

5. *Multiple presentations are not permitted. However, a participant is permitted to present both a regular paper/panel presentation and a roundtable presentation.*

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***Invitation à proposer une communication***  
**La Société canadienne pour l'étude de la religion (SCÉR)**  
**Conférence annuelle, 2006**

Le comité de programme de la Société canadienne pour l'étude de la religion vous invite à lui envoyer des propositions de communication pour sa prochaine conférence annuelle qui se tiendra sur le campus de l'Université York à Toronto, Ontario, du 28 mai au 31 mai 2006, dans le cadre du 75<sup>e</sup> Congrès des sciences humaines.

Comme thème principal du congrès de 2006, le Conseil de la Fédération a adopté :

**La ville : un festival du savoir**

et encourage donc les différentes sociétés à proposer ce thème à leurs membres et à promouvoir à ce sujet des sessions à l'intérieur de leur programme.

Nous souhaitons vivement recevoir des communications traitant de traditions religieuses jusqu'ici sous-représentées à nos réunions annuelles, comme par exemple **le judaïsme, l'islam, le taoïsme et le confucianisme**. Vous noterez que, conformément à sa politique habituelle, la SCÉR accepte des propositions de communication portant sur *n'importe quel aspect de la religion, mais uniquement à visée académique.*

La date limite pour soumettre un résumé de 150 mots (maximum) de toutes les propositions (conférence, communication ordinaire, séminaire ou atelier, table ronde) est le 13 janvier 2006. Les résumés qui dépasseront largement la limite de 150 mots, ne seront pas publiés dans le programme.

Président ou présidente de session : Nous avons grand besoin de personnes qui accepteraient de présider l'un ou l'autre session de cette rencontre. Vous voudrez bien nous indiquer si vous êtes disposé à le faire.

Vous voudrez bien envoyer le texte complet de votre proposition de conférence, le résumé de votre communication, d'un séminaire ou d'une table ronde à :

Alain Bouchard  
Département des sciences humaines  
Collège de Sainte-Foy  
2410 Chemin Sainte-Foy  
Québec, Qc G1V 1T3

Fax: (418) 659-4563  
[Alain.Bouchard@cegep-ste-foy.qc.ca](mailto:Alain.Bouchard@cegep-ste-foy.qc.ca)

\*\* Avec toute proposition, veuillez inclure les informations suivantes : affiliation institutionnelle, adresse postale, numéro(s) de téléphone, de télécopieur, courrier électronique. On vous encourage à envoyer votre proposition en document attaché par courrier électronique.

**Quatre types de propositions sont recevables lors de ce congrès :**

*a. La conférence :*

Afin de permettre un débat plus en profondeur concernant des recherches d'envergure réalisées par nos membres, des périodes peuvent être réservées à la présentation de communications plus longues avec répondants et discussion. Bien qu'appuyé sur une expertise précise, ce type de communication devrait éviter une trop grande spécialisation et déboucher sur des questions générales susceptibles d'intéresser une plus large audience. Pour qu'une telle conférence puisse être organisée, il faut que le texte complet de la conférence nous soit soumis avant le **13 janvier 2006**, de même qu'un résumé de cette conférence.

*b. La communication ordinaire :*

Le comité vous invite à proposer une brève communication faisant état de travaux en voie de réalisation ou portant sur tout autre sujet spécialisé. L'exposé est normalement de vingt minutes, et est suivi de dix minutes de questions et discussions. Il faut à cet effet soumettre un résumé de 150 mots (maximum) avant le **13 janvier 2006**. Ce résumé doit préciser le thème abordé, inclure des éléments de méthodologie et donner une première idée de votre argumentation. Vous devez immédiatement signaler si vous aurez besoin d'appareils audio-visuels.

*c. Le séminaire ou l'atelier :*

Le comité encourage à faire des propositions de séminaires, d'ateliers, etc. À de telles activités, on alloue au maximum trois heures, soit deux sessions d'une heure et demie. C'est à l'organisateur ou à l'organisatrice de tels séminaires de décider de son thème, de choisir et de contacter ceux ou celles qui y participeront. C'est à lui ou elle à soumettre avant le **13 janvier 2006** un résumé de cette activité, y compris le nom, l'affiliation institutionnelle, les besoins audio-visuels de chacun des participants, ainsi que le nom d'un président ou d'une présidente (qui ne devrait pas normalement faire de communication). La personne qui organise cette activité doit soumettre ensemble le résumé global et les résumés provenant de chacun et chacune des membres du groupe. C'est à cette personne d'assurer la coordination entre les membres du séminaire et le président du comité du programme.

*d. La table ronde :*

Le format de table ronde est habituellement réservé à une question particulière, à un livre ou à l'œuvre d'un auteur. Il consiste en quatre présentations (ou davantage), suivies de discussions entre les membres de la table ronde autant qu'avec l'audience. Comme pour le séminaire, c'est à l'organisateur ou à l'organisatrice de soumettre un résumé de cette activité, y compris le nom, l'affiliation institutionnelle, les besoins audio-visuels des participants, ainsi que le nom d'un président ou d'une présidente (qui peut lui-même participer à la table ronde).

**REMARQUES IMPORTANTES :**

1. *La SCÉR n'encourage pas les séminaires ou ateliers de plus de trois communications, car ils ne laissent pas suffisamment de temps à la discussion. Les présentations de plus de trois communications devraient plutôt utiliser le format de « table ronde ».*
  2. *Le comité accepte d'analyser une demande de communication faite à une journée précise, à la condition expresse que cette demande accompagne la proposition initiale.*
  3. *Toute proposition de communication conjointe (i.e. impliquant la participation de membres de deux sociétés) doit être soumise et approuvée par les deux sociétés concernées.*
  4. *Les personnes dont les propositions de communication sont acceptées sont avisées par courrier électronique, mais ce sont les personnes en charge de séminaire ou de table ronde qui sont responsables d'aviser les membres de leur groupe. Toute personne ayant besoin d'une lettre officielle d'acceptation de sa communication, en raison de subventions par exemple, n'ont qu'à le demander au président du comité.*
  5. *On ne permet pas à la même personne de présenter plusieurs communications ordinaires. Cependant, il est permis de présenter à la fois une communication ordinaire et une communication à un séminaire ou à une table ronde.*
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***Biography of Donald S. Lopez, Jr: Keynote Speaker for the 2006 Annual Meeting Symposium***

Donald S. Lopez, Jr. was born in Washington, D. C. in 1952 and was educated at the University of Virginia, receiving a doctorate in Religious Studies in 1982. After teaching at Middlebury College, he joined the faculty of the University of Michigan in 1989, where he is currently Arthur E. Link Distinguished University Professor of Buddhist and Tibetan Studies in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. He is the author or editor of more than twenty books, some of which have been translated into French, Italian, Dutch, Czech, Polish, Korean, and Chinese. His books include *Elaborations on Emptiness: Uses of the Heart Sutra* (Princeton, 1996), *Buddhism in Practice* (Princeton, 1995), *Curators of the Buddha: The Study of Buddhism Under Colonialism* (Chicago, 1995), *Prisoners of Shangri-La: Tibetan Buddhism and the West* (Chicago, 1998), *The Story of Buddhism* (Harper San Francisco, 2001), *A Modern Buddhist Bible* (Beacon, 2002), *Buddhist Scriptures* (Penguin Classics, 2004), *Critical Terms for the Study of Buddhism* (Chicago, 2005), and *The Madman's Middle Way: Reflections on Reality of the Tibetan Monk Gendun Chopel* (Chicago, 2005). He has also served as editor of the *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies*. In 2002-03 he served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts at the University of Michigan. Prior to becoming Associate Dean, he served for four years as chair of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. In 1998 he was named Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, the University of Michigan's highest award for undergraduate teaching. In 2000 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2005, he was named a Distinguished University Professor.

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### *Pagan Studies Seminar*

Studies in New Religious Movements, particularly contemporary Paganism, are of growing interest to Canadian Religious Studies scholars. To facilitate further research and networking, a Pagan Studies Seminar is being proposed for the next 3 years. It is to be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the CSSR. We are looking for participants for the first session to be held in 2006. We are proposing to hold a panel session on Paganism in Canada and a roundtable discussion concerning the definition of Pagan Studies? We invite proposals for papers and/or roundtable participation to be submitted by **January 15, 2006**. Proposals can be submitted to:

Chris Klassen  
Religion and Culture  
Wilfrid Laurier University  
75 University Ave. W  
Waterloo ON N2L 3C5  
[cklassen@wlu.ca](mailto:cklassen@wlu.ca)

Please follow standard proposal submission protocol for the CSSR.

Chris Klassen, Barbara Jane Davy and Mandy Furney  
Organising committee

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### *Student Essay Contests / Concours d'essai pour étudiant et étudiante*

#### **Undergraduate Student Essay Contest**

**Subject:** Any topic in the general field of religious studies

**Length:** 10-15 pages, typed and double-spaced

**Eligibility:** Any undergraduate currently registered in a Canadian university or college

**Prize:** 1st prize: \$200 / 2nd prize: \$100

**Deadline:** One copy of the completed essay, with the accompanying letter, must be submitted no later than April 18, 2006

Essays do not need to be written specifically for this contest. They may be assignments from a religious studies course. Essays must be accompanied by a letter from a member of the sponsoring religious studies department, indicating that the student is an undergraduate in good standing in that university or college.

Students entering the contest should send a hard copy of her/his essay, their full mailing address on the first page of the essay, and a letter of certification, to

Dr. Rubina Ramji  
Department of Classics and Religious Studies  
University of Ottawa  
70 Laurier East, Room 102

Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5  
[rramji@uottawa.ca](mailto:rramji@uottawa.ca)

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### **Concours d'essai pour étudiants et étudiantes du 1<sup>er</sup> cycle**

**Sujet:** Un thème relevant du domaine des sciences religieuses

**Longueur:** 10 à 15 pages dactylographiées, double interligne

**Éligibilité:** Toute personne inscrite dans un programme du premier cycle dans une université ou un collège canadien

**Prix:** 1<sup>er</sup> prix: 200\$ / 2<sup>e</sup> prix: 100\$

**Echéance:** La rédaction et l'attestation d'inscription doivent être reçues au plus tard le 18 avril 2006.

Les rédactions présentées dans le cadre du concours peuvent avoir été rédigées en vue de répondre aux exigences d'un cours de sciences religieuses. Une attestation d'inscription, rédigée par un professeur de département des sciences religieuses de l'institution, doit accompagner la rédaction.

Envoyer une copie de la version finale de l'essai, accompagné de la lettre d'attestation, à l'attention de:

Dr. Rubina Ramji  
Department of Classics and Religious Studies  
University of Ottawa  
70 Laurier East, Room 102  
Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5  
[rramji@uottawa.ca](mailto:rramji@uottawa.ca)

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### **Graduate Student Essay Contest**

The Graduate contest is open to all graduate students (Masters and PhD).

**Subject:** A theme in the general field of religious studies.

**Language:** English or French

**Length:** 3000-5000 words

**Eligibility:** Full-time M.A. or PhD student status in a Canadian university.

**Prize:** \$300

**Deadline:** 25 March 2006

The winner will be invited to read her/his paper at the next annual meeting. Submissions must include the full mailing address of the candidate and a letter from the chairperson of the department certifying the degree and programme status of the candidate.

Students entering the contest should send a hard copy of her/his essay, their full mailing address on the first page of the essay and a letter of certification, to:

Dr. Darlene M. Juschka  
Coordinator, Women's Studies  
University of Regina  
Regina, SK S4S 0K2  
Darlene.Juschka@uregina.ca

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### **Concours d'essai pour les étudiants et étudiantes diplômé(e)s**

Le concours d'essai est ouvert à tous les étudiants et étudiantes diplômé(e)s (maîtrise ou doctorat).

**Sujet:** Un thème relevant du champ général des sciences religieuses.

**Langue:** anglais ou français

**Longueur:** 3000-5000 mots

**Personne éligible:** Tout étudiant présentement inscrit à temps plein dans un programme de maîtrise ou de doctorat dans une université ou un collège canadien.

**Prix:** \$300

**Échéance:** 25 mars 2006

Le gagnant ou la gagnante sera invité(e) à présenter son texte à la prochaine réunion annuelle. Les essais doivent être accompagnés d'une lettre rédigée par le directeur ou la directrice du programme de l'institution attestant que leur auteur est bien un étudiant ou une étudiante présentement inscrit(e) à temps plein dans un programme d'études supérieures.

Envoyer une copie de la version finale de l'essai, accompagnée de la lettre d'attestation, à l'attention de:

Dr. Darlene M. Juschka  
Coordinator, Women's Studies  
University of Regina  
Regina, SK S4S 0K2  
Darlene.Juschka@uregina.ca

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## **Information en provenance des membres / News and Notes from Members**

### ***Information des membres / Member Notes***

Dr. Peter Bisson, SJ (Religious Studies, Campion College at the University of Regina)

I have a fellowship from the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy to do research on how faith-based social justice groups in Regina use the resources of their religious traditions. The fellowship provides a teaching release for one course.

Dr. Michael W. Higgins (St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo)

I have been short-listed as one of the thirty top lecturers in the TVOntario competition. There were over 300 nominations from all eighteen Ontario universities and of the short-listed number I am only one in Religious Studies.

I have a new book *Stalking the Holy: In Pursuit of Saint-Making* which will be published by Anansi in October followed by a CBC Radio One Ideas series scripted from the book that will air in mid-November.

Dr. Rubina Ramji (Department of Classics and Religious Studies, University of Ottawa)

I am working as a postdoctoral fellow (with Shandip Saha) on a research project led by Peter Beyer, entitled "Religion Among Immigrant Youth in Canada" in the Department of Classics and Religious Studies at University of Ottawa. Lori Beaman (Concordia), Nancy Nason-Clark (UNB) and John Simpson (University of Toronto) are team leaders as it's a multi-city project. It began in 2004 and ends in 2007.

The project is "A first of its kind, in-depth study of Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu immigrant youth in Canada, by conducting interviews and collating information to understand integration and religious issues of the second generation youth within Canadian society."

Randi Warne (Department of Philosophy/Religious Studies, Mount St. Vincent University)

I have recently completed a chapter on Nellie McClung for *The Prairie West as Promised Land*, Ed. Douglas Francis, to be published by University of Calgary Press.

I have also been active in developing curriculum for both Religious Studies and Cultural Studies, with courses like Women, Culture and Food; Myth America; Evil; and in Fall 2005, Advanced Evil. (No, there is no lab!)

### ***Biographies of New Executive Members / Biographies des nouveaux membres du conseil exécutif***

Alain Bouchard

Alain Bouchard est professeur Collège de Sainte-Foy et chargé de cours à l'Université Laval. Il étudie le phénomène des nouvelles religions depuis près de vingt ans. Ses travaux portent sur les aspects culturels de l'innovation religieuse, en particulier sur la question des groupes soucoupistes et de la présence de la magie et des nouvelles religions dans notre société. Il étudie depuis quelques années la réception des nouvelles religions, en particulier la couverture médiatique du phénomène.

Principales publications :

- « L'étude des "nouveaux mouvements religieux" et du phénomène des "sectes" » dans LAROUCHE Jean-Marc et Guy MÉNARD (dir.), *L'étude de la religion au Québec. Bilan et perspectives*, Québec, Les Presses de l'Université Laval, 2001, p. 217-226.
- « Les médias carburent au scandale, comme les raëliens carburent au... La secte, le sexe et la rationalité : du divertissement à l'exclusion sociale » dans DUHAIME Jean et Robert-Guy ST-ARNAUD (dir.) *Les sectes, un danger?*. Montréal, Fides, 2001, p. 49-62.
- « Un règlement de "conte" avec les sectes. Drame religieux et gestion de crise: le cas de Saint-Casimir. » dans CÔTÉ Pauline (dir.) *Chercheurs de dieux dans l'espace public – Frontier Religions in the Public Sphere*. Ottawa, Presses de l'Université d'Ottawa, 2001, p. 97-112.
- En collaboration avec Richard BERGERON et Pierre PELLETIER, *Le Nouvel Âge en question*, Montréal, Éditions Paulines, 1992. (Traduit en espagnol sous le titre *La Nueva Era Cuestionada*, Buenos Aires, San Pablo, 1993; et en portugais sous le titre *A Nova Era em questão*, São Paulo, Paulus, 1994)
- « Les croyances exotiques : une reconstruction ludique du sacré », dans LEMIEUX Raymond et Micheline MILOT (dir.), *Les croyances des Québécois. Esquisses pour une approche empirique*, Québec, Les cahiers de recherche en sciences de la religion, vol. 11, 1992, 295-324.

Christopher C. Brittain (Atlantic School of Theology)

Christopher C. Brittain is Assistant Professor of Ethics and Theology at the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax. His research interests are in critical social theory, political theology, and the concept of secularism. His publications include: "Social Theory and the Premise of all Criticism: Horkheimer on Religion" in *Critical Sociology* vol 31.1-2 (2005); and "The Secular as a Tragic Category: On Talal Asad, Religion and Representation," in *Method And Theory In The Study Of Religion* vol. 17.2 (2005).

Rubina Ramji (Department of Classics and Religious Studies, University of Ottawa)

Rubina Ramji is currently a postdoctoral fellow and part-time professor in the Department of Classics and Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa. She is also a Public Policy Analyst for Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Born in East Africa and raised in Canada, Rubina received her B.A. in Psychology and M.A. in Religion and Culture at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, ON. She received her Ph.D in Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa in December 2003, which focused on images of Islamic women in various media discourses, including film and television. In the winter of 2005, she was the John W. Altman Humanities Scholar-in-Residence at Miami University of Ohio.

Rubina teaches a wide range of courses, including courses on Islam, Christianity, Religion and Sexuality as well as Popular Culture. She finds a way to show movies and television clips in all her classes. Her postdoctoral research is an in-depth study of Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu immigrant youth in Canada to understand integration and religious issues of the second generation youth within Canadian society

Rubina was a Chair of the Religion, Film and Visual Culture Group at the American Academy of Religion for seven years and has served on the Board of Governors at the University of Ottawa for six years.

Rubina is the author of articles entitled “Women’s Bodies and Islam: Individual Freedoms in the World of Fundamentalisms” (*The Journal for Culture and Religious Theory*: Forthcoming) and “From Navy Seals to The Siege: Getting to Know the Muslim Terrorist, Hollywood Style” (*The Journal of Religion and Film*: Forthcoming) and book chapters in *Mediating Religion: Conversations in Media, Religion and Culture* (T&T Clark Ltd, 2003), *God in the Details: American Religion in Popular Culture* (Routledge, 2001), *Islam in America* (Columbia University, 2000), and *The Encyclopedia of Women and World Religion* (Macmillan Reference USA, 1999).

### *Nouvelles en provenance des départements / Departmental News*

#### Mount St. Vincent University

The department of Philosophy/Religious Studies at Mount St. Vincent University is delighted to report that Arthur McCalla has been hired into a tenure-track position. Dr. McCalla’s most recent publications are “Louis de Bonald’s Traditionalist Science of Society and Early Nineteenth-Century Biological Thought” in *Historical Reflections/Reflexions historiques* 30 (2004): 337-357 and entries on Ballanche, Fabre d’Olivet, Maistre, Romanticism, Saint-Martin, and Wronski for the *Dictionary of Gnosis and Western Esotericism*, 2 vols., ed. Wouter Hanegraaff, in collaboration with Antoine Faivre, Roelof van den Broek, and Jean-Pierre Brach. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2005. He is currently working on a book on the historical sciences and the Bible for Cassel / Continuum.

#### Saint Mary’s University

The Religious Studies Department at Saint Mary’s University is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Alec Soucy to fill the new position on the social scientific study of religions. Alec completed his doctorate in Anthropology at the Australian National University. He will be training religious studies students in field research methods, Buddhism in Vietnam and East Asia. Alec is joining the department’s research team working on “The New Religious Diversity in Halifax Regional Municipality”, a project funded by the Department of Heritage, Multiculturalism.

#### St. Thomas More College

Mary Ann Beavis is now Head of the Department of Religious Studies and Anthropology.

#### University of Winnipeg

Jane Barter Moulaison (Ph.D., Theology, St. Michael’s ‘04) was recently appointed to the position of asst. professor of Church History and Theology at the Faculty of Theology, University of Winnipeg. Jane is taking up this position after having taught in the

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Women's Studies Program at the University of Lethbridge for three years.

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## Du bureau des affaires étudiantes / From the Student Desk

### *CSSR Graduate Student Representative Bulletin Report* September 2006

A hearty **welcome back** to another exciting year of graduate and undergraduate school to all students out there! I sincerely wish you all a fun and successful academic year!

A deep thank-you to all students who participated in this year's **CSSR conference** in May. It was a huge success, and I was fortunate enough to be able to sit in on a number of sessions in which students presented. All the student papers I was able to listen to were top-notch, which says a lot about the quality of our students, the quality of their professors and programs, and the quality of the CSSR.

I would like to enthusiastically encourage students to submit applications to present at this year's upcoming conference in **May 2006** to be held at York University. The deadline as usual is in January, and the call for papers will be posted on the CSSR website.

The **student lunch session** at this year's conference "Netting a job with a degree in religious studies" was a great success and plenty 'o' pizza was had by all. Many thanks to our panelists and to those students able to make it out to the session.

After two years of Ad-Hoc status the **CSSR Graduate Student Representative position** on the CSSR executive is now an officially existing two-year term position, signaling the CSSR's growing commitment to the professional development and representation of its student members. **I would encourage all students to become members of the CSSR** and enjoy member benefits: present at the CSSR conference, receive a year subscription to *Studies in Religion* the premier journal of the study of religion published in Canada, and be an active member of a lively body of scholars deeply involved in the study of religion in Canada and abroad.

Since the student position on the CSSR is still quite new, I would very much appreciate any **suggestions** as to what I might do to raise the student profile of the CSSR and how I might better serve the students of the CSSR generally. My contact information is below.

Last year I created a **list of liaison contacts** with most graduate programs in Canada in an attempt to keep in contact with Canadian students. A number of you may have received emails from me this past year as a result. If you are a graduate student and did not hear from me please email me and I will make sure I get your institution on my contact list pronto.

I could also use **ideas for the student panel session for next year's Congress**. The year before last I put together a panel on how to construct and teach a first year course coming out of graduate school. I am open to any and all ideas that you think might be helpful for professional development.

And finally a reminder that the deadline for submission to the **student essay contests** for both graduate and under-graduate students will be coming up in early spring 2006, so think about using the papers you are writing right now as potential submissions. The winners receive cash prizes, and although we are happily seeing an increase in the number of papers submitted each year there is still plenty of room for friendly competition. So please submit! If you win it looks good on a CV and is a great opportunity to present your work.

**I wish everyone a fantastic year.** I look forward to making contact with you over this coming year and building a network of Canadian students interested in religion. I also look forward to meeting as many of you who can attend the 2006 CSSR conference at York University next year. All the best.

Christopher Cutting  
CSSR Graduate Student Representative  
[cdcutting@hotmail.com](mailto:cdcutting@hotmail.com)



## Membership Form

### Canadian Society for the Study of Religion

Please use this form in forwarding your membership fees, whether a new membership or a renewal. Your membership pays your 2006 CSSR dues, CFH dues, and (unless you are an associate member) a subscription to *Studies in Religion*. In addition, your membership entitles you to receive the bi-annual *Bulletin* of the Society and to submit papers to the Programme Committee for consideration for presentation at the Annual Meeting. It does not cover your registration fee for the Annual Meeting. **Please make cheque or money order payable to: "Wilfrid Laurier University Press."**

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Mark D. Chapman  
 19-630 Keats Way  
 Waterloo, ON N2T 2M8  
[mchapman@alumni.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mchapman@alumni.uwaterloo.ca)

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## Information concernant la façon de s'acquitter de la cotisation Société canadienne pour l'étude de la religion

Prière d'utiliser ce formulaire pour vous acquitter de votre cotisation même s'il s'agit d'un renouvellement. Votre cotisation couvre vos droits d'adhésion à la SCÉR, à la FCÉH, et (à moins que vous ne soyez membre associé) un abonnement à la revue *Sciences religieuses*. En plus, cette cotisation vous permet de recevoir le *Bulletin* bisannuel de la Société et de soumettre des textes au Comité de programme pour une présentation lors de la réunion annuelle. Il faut toutefois noter que cela n'inclut pas les frais d'inscription au congrès annuel. **Veillez libeller votre chèque ou mandat à l'ordre de : "Wilfrid Laurier University Press."**

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 Waterloo, ON N2T 2M8  
[mchapman@alumni.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mchapman@alumni.uwaterloo.ca)

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