



June 12, 2019

The Canadian Society for the Study of Religion | la Société Canadienne pour l'Étude de la Religion has submitted a letter of response to the incident of racial profiling at Congress 2020; we continue to remain concerned about the experiences of Black and racialized people at this and future conferences, as well as in academic spaces generally.

In addition to those concerns, we have noted other exclusionary issues and spaces that we want CFHSS to be made aware of in order to address these concerns at future conferences.

To that end, we wish to express concern regarding the lack of gender-neutral washrooms (and signage) and the lack of accessible options, particular at the entrance of AMS The Nest but as witnessed across multiple sites on campus. While UBC is responsible for their own infrastructure, Congress is responsible for ensuring that members are able to fully participate and should be ensuring an inclusive and safe environment. This includes clear and comprehensive signage, designating gender-neutral washrooms where the campus might not already have them, selecting central hubs that are both accessible and provide clear access points for individuals who use mobility devices.

Our Society respects the multiple, lived experiential diversity of its community members and will be soliciting feedback from members this year to develop a statement of values to demonstrate our commitment to ensuring inclusive and welcoming spaces. These values align with the principles of human rights, equity and inclusion, with zero tolerance for anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous attitudes and behaviours, trans and queer exclusion and discrimination, gendered discrimination and disadvantage, ableist and exclusive spaces and environments.

Sincerely,

Heather Shipley, PhD

President/Présidente

On behalf of:

Canadian Society for the Study of Religion

Société Canadienne pour l'Étude de la Religion

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