

**CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION/SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE POUR L'ÉTUDE DE
LA RELIGION**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / ASSEMBLÉE ANNUELLE

Via Zoom

June 15, 2022, 13:00–15:00 EDT

AGENDA/Ordre du Jour

Minutes prepared and presented by Diana Dimitrova, recording secretary of the CSSR, June 15th, 2022

Present: Rachel Brown, Jacob Legault-Leclair, David Seljak, Rebekka King, Jacqueline Giesbrecht, Alyshea Cummins, Diana Dimitrova, Chris Miller, Michelle Folk, Paul Gareau, Qamer Hameed, Ruby Ramji, Jocelyn Hendrickson, Lily Kim, Michael Gillingham, Jeanine Leblanc, Alison Marshall, Chris Miller, Ted Malcolmson, Ruby Ramji, Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme
Regrets: Heather Shipley

1. Welcome/Bienvenue

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

MOTION : *Accept the agenda*

Moved: Ruby Ramji

Seconded: Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme

Motion carried unanimously

3. Adoption of the minutes of the 2022 meeting of the Annual General Meeting / Adoption du procès verbal de l'assemblée annuelle 2022

MOTION: *Accept the minutes.*

Moved: Ruby Ramji

Seconded: Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme

Motion carried unanimously

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

None

5. Reports/Rapports

a) Membership Secretary/Sécretaire aux admissions Sarah Wilkins-LaFlamme

CSSR Membership Details for 2021: Renewed: 78%, new: 22%

Associate member: 18%
Regular member: 51%
Student member: 31%

-Receiving Studies in Religion to CSSR: 80%

- Total Number of Paid CSSR Members, in May of Each Year

2010	126
2011	133
2012	138
2013	150
2014	140
2015	136
2016	144
2017	134
2018	133
2019	113
2020	94
2021 (June 8th)	127
2022	96

Other measures taken to encourage CSSR membership

- 2021-2022 CSSR webinar series
- 2022 CSSR conference

- I'm following up by e-mail with conference presenters who have not yet paid their 2021 membership
- Anyone who registers to attend the conference will need to be a 2022 paid CSSR member
- Activities seem to be the best way to encourage new/renewed membership, as well as people's sense of service to the society.
- Piece that Paul wrote for the SIR might help with this ■ Other ideas to promote membership?

Other CSSR Membership Business

- *Studies in Religion* is now e-access only for our members
- Accessed via the CCSR's new website
- I'm sending the CCSR our updated list of 2022 members to grant them e-access to the journal on April 23rd, 2022
- Instructions for e-access can be found at: <http://www.cssrscer.ca/?q=node/64>

CSSR webinars

- New initiative, to give back to our membership this academic year, since the 2020 conference was cancelled.
- Six webinars in all, the recordings of which are now all up on our CSSR Youtube channel
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3UdDKhWDgEzdnWujG8luag> ■ I consider it a success:
- Relatively good attendance, and good viewership on Youtube afterwards
- Produced some great new content for research and teaching
- Kept us engaged with our membership
- Did bring in a few new members

- A big thank you to all who helped organize and promote the webinars, and who took part. A special thank you to:
- Samiksa
- Alyshea
- Qamer
- Paul
- Diana
- Jeanine
- Michelle

2022-2023 CSSR Webinar Planning

I was thinking of organizing a 2022-2023 “Meet the Author” CSSR webinar series for September 2022 – April 2023

- Would dovetail nicely with my new role as *Advancing Studies in Religion* book series editor with McGill-Queen’s
- Could do a couple of 1-hour webinars for the new 2022 and 2023 books from the series in partnership with the CSSR + cross-promotion with McGillQueen’s; open to all CSSR societies’ members
- Also do a webinar for the 2021 CSSR book prize winner
- If there are any other books that come out in 2021/2022 that you would like to see a webinar on, then I can help you organize a webinar in this format for this series ▪ Record the webinars and post them on our Youtube channel afterwards ▪ Thoughts? Good or bad idea?
- If someone else wants to do a different 2022-2023 series of virtual activities instead, I’m totally ok with that.

2022 CSSR Conference wrap-up

- The conference was a great success overall from my point of view
- Good attendance

- Great research, teaching advice, grad workshops and discussions
 - Happy vibe
 - Relatively smooth technical running
 - The programme chairs Qamer and Michelle provide more details about the 2021 conference in their report.
 - Three of the conference sessions were recorded. Two are already up on the CSSR's Youtube channel. The third will be posted next week:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3UdDKhWDgEzdnWujG8luag>
- Things to potentially carry forward to 2023 (at Congress) if possible
- Each session in 2022 had overall much better attendance than in prior years. Main reasons for this was because only one session ran at a time + virtual format. Consider only running one session at a time in 2023 as well? Would probably have to limit each member to only one presentation at conference then.
 - One of the highlights of the 2022 conference in my opinion was the extra discussion and resources shared in the chat on Zoom during sessions. Maybe create a live chat room that can run during the 2023 sessions and that people can access via their phones?
 - See if having a hybrid in-person and virtual format would be possible for 2023 conference. If not possible in session rooms at Congress, then consider a virtual pre-conference the week before, open to all CSSR members for those who can't make it in person?

Things to improve for 2023

- Although in the end we had a great and full conference programme, initially we did not have many paper submissions via Sunflower for the 2023 conference, compared with prior years.
- The pandemic work slow-down and virtual-only format of the conference were probably important factors in this.
- But we could consider making next year's theme for the call for papers broader, to make sure we are not discouraging potential presenters?

Membership

Appendix A: How CSSR Membership Works

There are three categories of membership: Regular, Associate (retired or parttime), and Student. Membership is on an annual basis, from January 1 to December 31.

When payment for membership is received, the Treasurer sends the file to the Membership

Secretary, who enters the data online on the CSSR website.

Discussion: Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme says that Zabeen Khamiss has confirmed that she is available to take on the responsibilities of CSSR digital coordinator, which will not be an executive position in the first year (June 2022-June 2023), but will become a new executive position after that. She will be involved in the 2022-2023 CSSR webinar series. Sarah will be staying on the webinars to help. As for the next CSSR conference, maybe it would be a good idea to go with Congress, but to have a one-day virtual conference for those who cannot attend Congress in person. Lily Kim adds that she is on the committee of the Canadian Disability Studies Association and that they decided to do a virtual conference 2023.

b) **Treasurer/ Trésorier (Ted Malcolmson)**

- **Travel Funds**
- No claims
- **Account Status**
- Current
- Community Account: 25,208.49
- BMO Mutual Funds Investment March 10th: 70,374.98
- Paypal: 0\$
- Total: 95,583.47
- **BMO Mutual Funds**
- I have deep concerns about market overvaluation and the possibility of devaluation of stocks – I would suggest a conservative outlook and lowered expectations about returns.
- **Etransfer**
- Etransfer appears to be continuing to proceed as expected with no major problems. Barring any objections – I am of the opinion this should continue to be the norm going forward.
- **Double Payment**
- We had one case of someone who double paid through etransfer – a cheque was mailed to keep documentation consistent and easier to track than looking at an email history

- **Outgoing Expenses**
- IAHR dues are 2.40 euro per member as before. The way wire transfers work money is difficult to impossible to recover if sent incorrectly. When I was at the bank the teller was not confident in the procedure and suggested I come back with the documentation from the last time I had done it – I have not done so yet but I will this week.
- Paul paid for a Zoom license at 210\$
- **Incorporation**
- I still very, very strongly believe that the CSSR should be pursuing incorporation.
- **General ideology about spending**
- There's a tension between a recognition that things are hard therefore we should be helping more and the idea that times are hard so we should be more conservative with our capital.
- I am generally of the opinion we should be spending more.

Discussion: Alyshea Cummins mentions that the CSSR book prize was raised to \$500. As for conference travel funds, Chris Miller asks what the pay for students is in km. Ruby Ramji says that we go by the amount that is requested in the form, which is usually 100% of the amount of the graduate students. We reimburse what it costs you, not what you pay per km. We try to cover student expenses 100%. If there are too many applications, we define a percentage for the reimbursement. Michelle Folk adds that students could get \$500 from the Federation, and we could cover a certain amount for certain people.

c) **Programme Chairs/ Responsables du programme**
Oamer Hameed and Michelle Folk

CSSR withdrew from Congress 2022 proceedings to hold our annual conference separately from the Humanities and Social Sciences Congress 2022 for the second year. We held our own CSSR conference completely online at a different time from Congress 2022 —May 28 to June 1, 2022.

This year we did not seek a LAC as there was no physical location for the conference. The theme was “Why We Shouldn’t Return to “Normal:” Working Towards Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization.”

We had different zoom masters for each day of the conference (Ted, Paige, Paul, Sarah, and Diana). Big thanks to all of them for hosting the zoom rooms to facilitate the virtual mode for the meetings. Also thanks to those who also took part in recording select few sessions to host on YouTube, with presenters’ permission.

The CFP closed March 31, 2022 with an extension this year. The draft program included the following:

The following sessions were recorded and are on the CSSR YouTube channel:

- Mixed Race in the Study of Religion
- Putting Religion in its Place: Religion and Bio-Regionalism in Canada
- A Post-Secular Canada and Decolonization

The graduate student luncheon was replaced this year by 3 sessions (organized by Chris Miller):

- Graduate Student Networking Session
- Successful Grant Writing for Graduate Students
- Translating Academic Writing for Public-Facing Work

17 individual papers grouped into 8 panels and one standalone session (Reflections on Teaching). Each session had a moderator.

3 Roundtables including:

- 2022 Plenary: Mixed Race in the Study of Religion
- Panel: The Transmission of (non)Religion Across Generations in Canadian Families
- RoundTable: Putting Religion in its Place: Religion and Bio-Regionalism in Canada
- Book Panel: Relation and Resistance: Racialized Women, Religion, and Diaspora

Session chair responsibilities were not submitted with the sunflower submissions and were fulfilled by CSSR executives and members. Thank you to all who volunteered.

It was decided that this year's executive meeting and AGM would be held after the Conference. The Executive Meeting and AGM are June 15 2022.

Discussion: Rachel Brown asks when we need to make a decision about going back to Congress. Michelle Folk answers that in September there will be a planning session. Then we could have our executive meeting and make a decision. Even if Congress is big and expensive, it helps networking with other Associations as well. We could open a Plenary Session to other associations or to all – so that anyone could attend. In this way, we could grow membership.

d) **Graduate Student Member at Large/ Conseiller étudiant**
Chris Miller

Student Ambassador Program

Now in its sixth year, the Student Ambassador program is continuing to run. We currently have 15 Student Ambassadors, listed below. The Ambassadors have played a role all year in helping to forward such announcements as call for papers, funding opportunities, and webinars.

Student Ambassadors for the 2021-2022 Academic Year

Durga Kale, University of Calgary

Paige Thombs, University of Victoria

Heather Patrick, University of Manitoba

Prasenjit Debnath, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Lindsay Mayhew, Laurentian University

Manaal Alsabagh, Queen's University (Religious Studies)

Jacqueline Giesbrecht, Queen's University (Cultural Studies)

Zaheeda Alibhai, University of Ottawa, Classics and Religious Studies

Christina Pasqua, University of Toronto

Tevfik Karatop, McGill University

Sonia Benchaib, Université de Montreal

Morad Bkhait, Université du Québec à Montréal

Findlay Monteith, Saint Mary's University

Doaa Shalabi, University of Waterloo

Marie-Eve Larivière, Université d'Ottawa, Sociology

Graduate Student Programming at the Annual Meeting

We hosted three sessions geared towards graduate students at the 2022 Annual Meeting.

- The first was titled Getting Your Research Out There – Writing for Broader Publics. This workshop was hosted by Haley Lewis from *The Conversation*, who discussed translating research to more public-facing audiences.
- The second was titled Getting Your Research Funded – Writing Successful Grant and Fellowship Applications. This was hosted by Dr. Lori Beaman from the University of Ottawa, who discussed strategies to make stronger fellowship applications.
- The third session was a networking opportunity for graduate students. This session happened on the Sunday of the conference, and gave students a chance to meet and get to know each other.

Abstracts for the two more formal workshops have been included below.

Virtual Writing Groups

Along with the student reps of several other Canadian associations, we will be hosting Virtual Student Writing sessions over the summer. Happening June 16, July 21, and August 18, these 2-hour sessions, hosted over Zoom, will give students a chance to connect and do some writing over the summer.

Thank You

I also want to share the good news-bad news, in that I recently defended my dissertation and I am set to graduate from my program, but therefore will no longer be serving as the Graduate Student Member-at-Large. I want to extend a thank you to everyone for the opportunity to hold this position, to the executive for being so welcoming, to the student ambassadors, for making this job that much easier, and to all CSSR members, for making this association so great to be a part of. I look forward to the opportunity to hopefully assist the CSSR in a different capacity, and connecting with everyone at future meetings.

Workshop Abstracts

Getting Your Research Out There – Writing About Your Research for Broader Publics

All student members of the CSSR/SCÉR are invited to attend this Graduate Student Workshop, where Haley Lewis (Culture + Society Editor, The Conversation Canada) will be leading a conversation on writing for broader publics. Through coursework, fieldwork, and comprehensive exams, graduate students are experts in a wide range of topics. Although students are typically trained in how to write seminar papers, conference presentations, and journal articles, there is an even bigger audience beyond academia that is interested in how religion impacts society. Drawing on her experience as a writer and editor, Haley Lewis will share insights on how to translate academic writing into clear language, and navigating the process from writing a ‘pitch’ to the final story.

Getting Your Research Funded – Writing Successful Grant and Fellowship Applications

All student members of the CSSR/SCÉR are invited to attend this Graduate Student Workshop, where Dr. Lori Beaman (University of Ottawa) will be leading a conversation on writing successful funding applications. Graduate students are filled with topics to explore and questions to answer. However, undertaking these investigations costs money. There are a range of grant, scholarship, and fellowship opportunities available, but how can students go about finding the

one(s) that is right for them? Once you've found an opportunity, how can you craft the perfect application? What are some common mistakes in the process that students (or even advanced scholars) make? Drawing on her experience as lead researcher on several major projects, Dr. Beaman will share insights on how to navigate the application process from start to finish.

e) **Communications Liaison/Liaison de la Communication**
Samiksa Love

WEBSITE AND SERVER

- All running smoothly again after a DDOS attack on the website on May 15 which was resolved in two days.
- Hostpapa: is where our domain name is hosted since it offers .ca domains. Bluehost site nameservers are pointing to the Hostpapa domain name. We still have some credit on our account through Hostpapa so we will use the remaining amount to continue renewing our domain there every year. The most recent renewal was in December 2021, and next one will be in December 2022. The total amount for renewal is \$22.59 per year, and we still have around \$100.66 left in our account.
- Bluehost: Bluehost continues to be our web hosting provider, and the website is regularly maintained and backed up. Through Bluehost, basic web hosting was renewed until February 2025, and the SiteLock Security Essential feature renewed until February 2023. Both of these products were paid for in February 2022 (\$518.35 CAD) and I was reimbursed by our CSSR Treasurer shortly afterward.
- A reminder that if the website ever goes down, it is very likely due to the index.php file needing to be re-uploaded properly, so please let me know if you ever notice the website is down (in case I don't notice it).



WEBSITE CHANGES WE MADE SINCE LAST MEETING

- Changed wording of CSSR Member Bookshelf to include monographs, edited books, journal articles, and chapters in edited volumes as valid submissions.
- We updated the past Book Prize Winners section of the website.



WEBSITE TO DO AFTER THE AGM

- Update Annual General Meeting minutes for 2021 and 2022 on the website's AGM Minutes page. The AGM Minutes are publicly available. In contrast, the past

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Executive Minutes have also been posted onto the website but are only accessible by the website administrator and are mainly there for archival and a resource of institutional memory for the CSSR Executive. (Still missing are the ones for 2005 and 2011).

- Update the Book Prize Winners section for the 2021 winner. Change due dates for 2022.
- Create 2023 Annual Meeting page.

- Change Essay Contest due dates for 2022.

SUNFLOWER

- SUNFLOWER (our automated paper submission system) ran smoothly during autumn 2021. It is ready to be used again for the 2022-2023 year.

NO CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT SYSTEM

- We had switched from a PayPal payment system to Interac E-Transfer, which we began implementing in November, 2019. It seems to be running smoothly at least on the website side of things. No changes.

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

- There are roughly 802 members within our website's database as of June 12, 2022 (minus a few duplicates), up from 770 in October 2021.
- Thank you to our Membership Secretary Dr. Sarah Wilkins-LaFlamme for diligently updating members' membership status on the database as she receives notice of their payments from our Treasurer, and creating new profiles for them if they are new members. The website database is usually consistent with the list we send to CCSR (formerly we sent this to SAGE).
- We started to more vigorously promote membership renewal during autumn 2019 with a poster and included it all over the website and in our weekly newsletter consistently. We have continued this habit into Autumn 2021.
- I continue to be vigilant about bots/hackers trying to create accounts on our website.

CCSR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

- Our Mailchimp newsletter service is still running smoothly. As of June 12, 2022, we have 546 subscribers to our Mailchimp mailing list (it fluctuates as people subscribe and unsubscribe. In October it was 541).
- "SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER" option is still on our website's home page as well as under the "Connect" menu.
- Thank you to other CCSR Executive members who also send news to post onto the website and include in our newsletter each week.

Discussion: Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme mentions the need to include platforms for younger audiences, such as Instagram. Everyone agrees.

f) Recording Secretary/ Secrétaire archiviste

Diana Dimitrova

Documents

We had a great AGM 2021, fall 2021, which was very productive and went very smoothly. I have submitted to Paul the minutes of the AGM 2021.

AGM June 15th, 2022

Paul and I would like to thank everyone for the quick response to the doodle poll. The date for our AGM was set up quite quickly.

Many thanks for your reports!

Other items

CSSR webinars

I attended one spring CSSR webinar, which was really interesting, and I chaired another CSSR webinar on April 1st – on my edited volume *Rethinking the Body in South Asian Traditions*, published in the Routledge series on South Asian Culture. The webinar was free and open to all. I think that this has been truly a success! We had 71 participants, who had registered, and some 40 people attended the webinar. (I hope that some of the attendees will become CSSR members!) Special thanks to our Zoom master Paul!! Many thanks to Samiksa for preparing the beautiful poster!! Thank you to Sarah for posting everything on YouTube and for blurring the images in Gita's powerpoint!! Thank you, Alyshea for posting it on Twitter!!

Roundtable on Disrupting Colonialism, EDID committee of the CCSR, May 9th, 2022

Paul and I are members of the EDID committee of the CCSR and we had two meetings this winter and spring, which were very productive. We exchanged many ideas and discussed different strategies about creating and implementing important policies on equity, diversity, inclusion and decolonizing. We organized and held a round table on “Disrupting Colonialism in the ‘Study of Religion:’ Decolonizing our Field,” which took place on May 9th at noon ET. The event was free and open to all and I hope that there will be other similar events in the future as well.

AGM of the CCSR, May 12th, 2022

On May 12th, 2022, Paul and I attended the AGM of the CCSR. I presented the report for the series « Matière à pensée », together with my colleague Marc Dumas. The chair of the EDID committee, Mona Tokarek-Lafosse gave an update on the EDID committee and reported on the round table conversation, which took place on May 9th, as mentioned above. We received many positive comments and were encouraged to continue our work.

CSSR annual conference May 28th - June 1st, 2022

I attended the preparation meeting for the conference and volunteered to be a Zoom master on May 31st. I also presented a paper and chaired a session on June 1st. It was a really nice conference, very interesting and engaging, and very well organized!! Thank you, Michelle, Qamer, Sarah, Paul, Ted and Paige!! It was absolutely fabulous!! Thank you!

g) President/Président
Paul Gareau

Taan'shii/Bonzoor and hello everyone,

It has been a long semester and I hope that you are surviving and taking time for self-care. That said, thank you for taking the time to meet and help organize our second independent conference for CSSR.

1) Spring Conference 2022

Our spring conference went off without a hitch this year. Our dates are May 28–June 2, 2022. We had around 20 people participating per session with little to no technical issues. A sincere thank you to Qamer, Michelle, and Sarah for your dedication to making this work; and thank you to our Zoom masters. And to everyone who presented and took part. This was an excellent online experience for a community that is very much done with online work! Maarsii!!

2) President's Reception and Writing Competitions

We held the president's reception and writing competition on February 11, 2022 via Zoom. It was well attended. Many thanks to Ruby, Jeanine, and Alyshea for your hard work on this competition. And a hearty congratulations to Pamela and Heather on their book prize win!! Amazing!! I would like to discuss are the book and student essay prizes that will be pushed to Fall 2022/Winter 2023. Here is the link to the Zoom recording: [link](#).

3) CCSR meeting in Montreal

Participated in the CCSR meeting in February 2022 that took place on Zoom. I was joined by Heather; thank you Heather! One of the main concerns that we brought up to the CCSR was the SR's policy that requires scholars to choose between serving on any executive committee under the CCSR umbrella or serving in an advisory or editorial review capacity for the journal. CSSR does not see the conflict of interest in serving these two roles, as no one holding both would ever be in a voting position against the other role, and it gives the appearance that SR assumes scholars cannot be objective about the articles they would be asked to review for consideration in the journal. This especially disadvantages junior scholars, who need opportunities to build their CVs in an environment where jobs are increasingly sparse.

The response from the SR editor was that they would rescind this rule so that, if willing, CSSR executive members can participate in SR editing duties and activities.

4) CCSR EDI-D Committee:

Currently working on the EDI-D committee for the CCSR led by Mona Tokarek LaFosse, and involves Diana Dimitrova and Néstor Medina. We have been meeting a few times a year to discuss a policy for the CCSR. It has been a great experience.

5) Future Plans

I am planning for my first sabbatical starting July 1 2022–June 30 2023. In that time, I want to focus on research in my home community that has long been delayed by teaching and

service. I will be stepping down as president of the CSSR this year and stepping into the role of past president. This has been a blasssst! :D

I want to take this opportunity to thank each of the members of the CSSR executive. Especially those of you who are leaving your posts or moving into new positions. Thank you Rubina Ramji, Diana Dimitrova, Ted Malcolmson, Sarah Wilkins-LaFlamme, Alyshea Cummins, Jeanine LeBlanc, Qamer Hameed, Michelle Folk, Chris Miller and Samiksa Love And lastly, a very special thank you to Heather Shipley for her dedication to the CSSR and to our scholarly community. You have produced excellent and award-winning scholarship, and have led us all of these years. You can't be present to hear these words, but thank you! Maarsii,

h) Nominations Committee/Comité pour les nominations

Heather Shipley

Nominations for:

President:

Membership Secretary

Member-at-Large 1

Member-at-Large 2

Graduate Student Member-at-Large

Recording Secretary

Nominations

We are seeking nominations for the following positions:

- President
- Membership Secretary
- Member-at-Large
- Member-at-Large
- Graduate Student Member-at-Large
- Recording Secretary

Nominations:

- President: Diana Dimitrova, Université de Montréal
- Membership Secretary: Rachel Brown, University of Victoria
- Member-at-Large: Kalpesh Bhatt, University of Toronto
- Member-at-Large: Jacqueline Giesbrecht, Queen's University

•Graduate Student Member-at-Large: Michael Gillingham, University of Alberta

Recording Secretary: Chris Miller, University of Waterloo

As always, we will also accept nominations from the floor at the AGM. I want to thank our outgoing members, Alyshea Cummins, Jeanine Leblanc, and Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme. Your dedication and energy to ensuring that members were engaged, especially during COVID, is truly admirable. As this is my last report as Past-President, and my last as a member of CSSR's Executive Committee, I want to say what an incredible experience being on the executive has been for the last 10 years. I am astounded by the work that is done every day by our executive members, tirelessly putting forward new ways of connecting CSSR to other societies and showcasing the work of our amazing membership.

Thank you all for the amazing work you are doing!

All nominated executive members are elected unanimously.

i) Student Essay Awards/Prix pour les essais étudiant(e)s
Alyshea Cummins and Jeanine LeBlanc

2021 Essay Winners:

This year we received a total of 14 student essay submissions.

Undergraduate Winners

We received a total of 5 Undergraduate Submissions

- 1st Place (\$250) – Liam O'Toole, Bishop's University
- 2nd Place (\$100) – Devan Munn, University of Waterloo

Graduate Essay Winners

This year we received a total of 9 Graduate Submissions:

- MA Prize (\$300) – Jessica Lynn Gibson, Memorial University
- PhD Prize (\$650) – Heather Patrick, University of Manitoba

Call for 2022 Student Essay Submissions:

The Call for Student Essay Submissions commenced in April 2022. The deadline for the Student

Essay Contest is August 1st, 2022. Student Essay Prize winners will be announced in the Fall of 2022 and those winners will be invited to discuss their papers during the Fall CSSR Webinar Series.

j) CSSR Book Prize
Rubina Ramji

Last year, seventeen books were submitted to the CSSR book prize committee. The committee was comprised of myself, the prior book prize winner, Nicholas Shrubsole, and Qamer Hameed. The committee unanimously chose the following book as the 2020 Book Prize winner: Pamela Dickey Young and Heather Shipley. *Identities Under Construction: Religion, Gender, and Sexuality Among Youth in Canada*. (McGill-Queens University Press, 2020). The committee provided the following statement for choosing this book as the winner: This book gives insight into youth engagement with religion and the relationship of religion with gender, and sexuality. It is an intersectional look into the social dynamics between gender, sexuality, religion, and youth experience. It offers exposition of these dynamics and the ways that younger Canadians are navigating diversity in the changing landscape of Canada. The book is not only descriptive but offers a fulsome analysis of the findings. They are able to effectively and convincingly manage their claims and offer new insights and ways of thinking to religious studies scholarship. The committee strongly believes that this work is very important to understanding the changing religio-cultural landscape of Canada. The authors' attention to the complexity and nuances in the conversations is of great value to the reader to understand the thoughts and ideas portrayed in the book. The authors' have also introduced new ways of thinking and talking about religion for understanding youth and identity which will prove useful for future studies. This book is helpful to bring the reader beyond simplistic labels and frameworks when thinking about youth identity, religion, gender, and sexuality. Its value added is in the way it illuminates social relations, forces, and dynamics that are often not well understood in conversation with one another. It helps the reader see and understand the thoughtfulness and care that many young Canadians show in navigating the intersectionality of religion, sexuality, gender, and diversity.

The winner of the 2020 CSSR Book Prize was announced in January 2022 through the CSSR Newsletter and the winners were formally presented with the award at the CSSR President's Reception in February 2022. The authors were given time to both receive the award and to briefly provide an overview of the book to those in attendance. In the past, the announcement of book prize winner has been made at the Annual General Meeting following the year of the book prize (May 2021), but with Covid and the large number of books received that committee

members had to read and evaluate, the announcement date was delayed until the end of the year. Happily, this delay has led to the creation of special session (webinar) to not only publicly celebrate the author/s but to allow the author/s to present the book in a longer conference style session with critics/respondents, so that CSSR members could have the opportunity to better examine and understand the subject matter of the publication. I am happy to say that this session will remain a regular part of the CSSR yearly webinar series and perhaps can be a regular part of the annual meeting..

It is my honour to continue serving on the CSSR Executive and to work with an amazing group of dedicated people.

Discussion: Alyshea Cummins says that we should have again a President's reception in February to announce our prize winners. We have raised the prizes. Student essays : 1st prize: \$250, second prize, \$100; M.A. prize \$300, Ph.D. prize \$650, CSSR book prize \$500. Diana Dimitrova adds that it may be a good idea to honour the prize winners at the CSSR reception at Congress, if we have an in-person conference with Congress, as we used to do before the pandemic, and then we could have a CSSR webinar as well, to which we invite the prize winners to present. Diana also suggests having not only a prize winner, but also a list of finalists for the CSSR book prize

k) Allied Associations/Associations alliées

Rebekka King, President of the North American Association for the Study of Religion (NAASR), affiliated with the IAHR reports that they'll hold their annual meeting at the AAR in Denver. She invited everyone, who will be at the AAR, to come to the meeting. She also adds that they plan to organize the first ever Congress for North America in August 2023 and she would love for the CSSR and the NAASR to collaborate.

7. Adjournment/ Levée de l'assemblée

MOTION: *Adjourn the meeting.*

Moved: Sarah Wilkinson-Laflamme

Seconded: Diana Dimitrova

Motion carried unanimously. The AGM adjourned at 2.45 pm ET.