

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING / REUNION DU CONSEIL  
UNIVERSITY OF REGINA  
MAY 26, 2018; 9-12PM**

**Present:** Ruby Ramji, Alyshea Cummins, David Feltmate, Qamer Hameed, Michelle Folk, Sharday Mosurinjohn, Roxanne Korpan, Catherine Caufield, Heather Shipley

**Regrets:** Samikṣā Love, Arlene MacDonald, Bethany Berard

**1. Welcome/Bienvenue**

9:00 AM

**2. Accept Agenda/ Accepter l'ordre du jour**

- **MOTION** : Accept the agenda  
Moved : Ruby ; Seconded : Alyshea  
**Motion carried unanimously**

**3. Minutes/rendu d'une reunion – March 2018 Tele-Meeting**

- **MOTION** : Accept minutes  
Moved : Catherine ; Seconded : Ruby  
**Motion carried unanimously**

**4. Reports/ Rapports**

**Treasurer/Trésorier (Bethany Berard absent – presented by Heather Shipley via skype)**

**Travel to Congress 2018:**

-Fewer travel applications submitted this year.

-We don't always use up the entire amount in the budget allocated to travel funding.

- **MOTION:** Any remaining funds in the travel budget will carry over into the next year's budget line.  
Moved: David; Seconded: Qamer  
**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Executive Travel:**

-There are more Graduate students filling executive positions.

-Michelle: there should be a stipend to participate in yearly Exec and AGM meeting

-CSSR provides stipends to Executive members, covering all travel, hotel and meals

- **MOTION:** CSSR will provide graduate student members with a stipend up to \$500.  
Moved: Ruby; Seconded: David  
**Motion Carried Unanimously**
- **MOTION:** CSSR will provide a stipend of \$300 to each Executive member who attends the Executive and AGM meetings at Congress yearly. Funds will come from the interest accrued from investment income. The principal amount of the investment shall not be touched.  
Moved: David; Seconded: Catherine  
**Motion Carried Unanimously**
- **MOTION:** The stipend of \$300 for each Executive member, will apply to the 2018 CSSR Meeting.  
Moved: Alyshea; Seconded: David

## **Motion Carried Unanimously**

### **Keynote Speaker:**

CSSR should start looking for a keynote speaker for the International Lecture (Craigie).

David: we should look outside academic for “big names”

Show how our skills are useful to those outside academia

## **Membership Secretary/Secrétaire des membres (Catherine Caufield)**

### **Congress 2018**

-CSSR Membership is at 134 members

-Make members aware that they should build their professional profile on the CSSR website; can link it to LinkedIn and Academia.edu account profiles

### **Three categories of membership:**

-Regular, Associate (retired or part-time), and Student. Membership is on an annual basis, from January 1 to December 31.

-Regular members receive Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses (SR) with membership, while Associate and Student members have the option of receiving SR through CSSR or another society

-Sage Publishing receives member names, addresses, and e-mail for the journal only: it is the only time we share our member information.

## **Programme Chair/Présidence pour le programme (Qamer Hameed/David Feltmate/Michelle Folk)**

### **Program:**

- David thanked Michelle for all her hard work as the Local Area Coordinator: she helped with booking rooms, and catering

- Showing two films at annual meeting: first will be after the President’s Reception and the second in the Conference Program Sunday Afternoon

-There are 26 panels featuring 33 individual papers, 7 arranged panels (with 18 papers) and 3 roundtables: low rate of participation this year

-Had a problem getting session chairs and people removing themselves from the program

-Ruby: ask Executive members to preside over sessions as Chairs

-Ask Samiksa to add: “Would you like to Chair your session/any session” on SUNFLOWER online submission form

-This year we have 2 sessions with only 1 presenter due to cancellations: ask Samiksa to send out e-mail to members to attend these sessions

-Session Chairs should be given a one-page template that shows session title, time and date

-Anticipate greater participation at the next Congress in Vancouver, BC in 2019

-CSSR co-sponsored panel with Zarqa Nawaz

## **Graduate Students/Étudiants des études supérieures (Roxanne Korpan)**

-Roxanne thanked Student Ambassadors (13) for passing along CSSR information to students

### **Graduate luncheon:**

-scheduled on Sunday May 27<sup>th</sup> and is entitled “Religious Studies in the Public Sphere: Public Engagement and Community-Centred Scholarship” by Dr. Brenda Anderson (URegina), Dr. Michelle Folk (URegina), Dr. Rebekka King (Middle Tennessee State University) and Dr. Adela Sandness (St. FX)

-CCSR is funding part of luncheon (\$150-250): thanks given to CCSR for supporting this event and to Marie-Josée Blanchard for her help coordinating the event

### **Student Networking Event**

-4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 26

-CSSR will be providing professional headshots after AGM

-CSSR has a Facebook page: Ruby asked Roxanne to use it to include updates for deadlines for travel funds, essay competitions, etc., and to get graduate students to use it more often

### **President/Président (Heather Shipley via skype)**

-thanked Executive members for their work through the year  
-conducting a review of the CSSR Constitution, which might require amendments  
-in order to make Amendments to the Constitution, motions will be brought forth at the fall 2018 or winter 2019 CSSR tele-conference meeting for Executive vote, and then have a final vote on Amendments at the AGM

### **Past President (Ruby Ramji)**

#### **Book prize committee 2017**

-Winner for 2017 Book Prize was "Growing Up Canadian: Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists" by Peter Beyer and Ruby Ramji, editors.  
-Ruby recused herself from the Book Prize Committee because of the conflict of interest.

#### **Book prize committee 2018**

-Total of 11 books have been nominated  
-Book Prize Committee will be comprised of Ruby Ramji, Michelle Folk and Qamer Hameed  
-2018 Book Prize Winner will be announced at the 2019 meeting

#### **Executive Nominations:**

- Treasurer: Ted Malcolmson
- Program Co-Chair: Paul Gareau; Michelle Folk
- President: Heather Shipley

### **Recording Secretary/Secrétaire archiviste (Alyshea Cummins)**

-Samiksa has taken over responsibility for Newsletter but Alyshea continues answering e-mail requests  
-Suggests new way to complete executive calls as Skype is constantly changing and meetings are delayed  
-Skype for Business is currently free and we will try using it for future Executive tele-conference meetings  
-Benefits of Skype for Business is that it allows reports/images/PPT to be viewed by all of us  
-Alyshea is keeping CSSR Twitter account active, and is live tweeting Congress meetings

### **Communications liaison/Liaison des communications (Samīkṣā Munro in absentia)**

#### **Website:**

-CSSR website was hacked, which affected function of the database, making it unavailable for a short while  
-No member data was exposed  
-In the future, if the CSSR website decides to store financial or sensitive information, a SSL certificate will be added (this is not an issue at the moment).  
-Samiksa spoke to Joe Velaidum: he suggested hiring a Drupal freelancer once every three years to do a security update on the website  
-SUNFLOWER is running smoothly now  
-Membership status: Catherine has been entering profiles on the website (name, institution, e-mail address)  
-Add to the Paypal Membership Payment page: tell members to build their own "CSSR Profile" on the website  
-Dates for all deadlines will be streamlined so they remain the same every year and do not need to be constantly updated (i.e. Submission Deadline: December 1)  
-Executive members should monitor the website pages that directly relate to their mandate to make sure the page is up-to-date

### **Student Essays/Essai étudiant (Sharday Mosurinjohn-Undergraduate; Arlene MacDonald-Graduate)**

-Sharday received ten essays, ranging from tangentially related to the field of religious studies, to cutting-edge in terms of their analysis and highly polished in their presentation.

Undergraduate 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner, Lilly Gates (McGill University) “Failing to Reconcile: Why the Canadian Legal System Falls Short in Protecting Indigenous Religious Rights”: wonderfully clear writing and a seamless progression of ideas. It offers an analysis of an ongoing struggle between the Ktunaxa First Nation and developers of the Jumbo Glacier Ski Resort, which the Supreme Court of Canada has cleared for construction on a sacred Ktunaxa site.

Undergraduate 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner: Jonas Brandt (University of Winnipeg) “The Idea(l) of Public Reason: Religion in Rawls’s Political Liberalism”: beautifully nuanced. It builds on another recent piece of scholarship that tests Martin Luther King Jr.’s theologically grounded Letter from Birmingham Jail against Rawls’ idea and ideal of public reason.

-Arlene found the essay entries represented a truly impressive, diverse, and scintillating array of scholarship. 2 MA essay submissions and 8 PhD essay submissions were received.

MA Winner: Connor Thompson (University of Regina) “In the Eye of the Divine: The Category “Religion,” Spirituality, and Consumer Culture on the Canadian Prairies”. The essay undertakes a clearly argued and extensively researched exploration of the emergence of “individualist spirituality” on the Canadian Prairies, tying the discussion to a case study of the West Edmonton Mall.

PhD Winner: Christopher Emory-Moore (University of Waterloo) “Present Peace, Future Freedom: Children’s Meditation Instruction in Two Diasporic Tibetan Buddhist Lineages”. This essay is a sophisticated, compelling, and innovative examination of two children’s meditation manuals produced by divergent Buddhist organizations.

- We may wish to require submissions to be in pdf format. Arlene occasionally had papers full of formatting glitches. It was difficult to know if these were in the submitted paper or due to non-translatibility between the program that created the document and my own.

-one problem having them all in pdf format is that not all submitters send in a blind copy, with no name, for readers. Cannot remove any info from a pdf document.

-if readers would like a second opinion on the top 3 essay submissions, they can ask the other reader to examine the short list, or circulate them to other Executive members who may have more expertise in a particular area.

## **5. Additional items/ Des articles supplémentaires**

-CCSR AGM will be held on Monday May 28 : all Executive members should attend it if possible.

-SQER President is David Cousin: Heather will ask SQER if they would like any information circulated on the CSSR website.

-we need to find LAC for UBC Congress next year. Paul Crow is at Simon Fraser, ask him if he would like to be the CSSR LAC next year. Can also ask for suggestions from Paul Bramadat and Michael Wilkinson.

## **6. Next Meeting to be scheduled – Tele-conference call in Fall 2018**

## **7. Adjournment/ Adjournement**

David and Ruby