

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING / REUNION DU CONSEIL
VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA
JUNE 8, 2021 (17:00–19:00 EST)**

Present: Alyshea Cummins, Diana Dimitrova, Michelle Folk, Paul Gareau, Qamer Hameed, Samiksa Love, Chris Miller, Ted Malcolmson, Sana Patel, Ruby Ramji, Heather Shipley, Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme,

Regrets: Jeanine LeBlanc

1. Welcome/ Bienvenue

2. Accept Agenda/ Accepter l'ordre du jour

MOTION : Accept the agenda

Moved : Diana

Seconded : Samiksa

Motion carried unanimously

3. Minutes/ Comptes rendu – May 30, 2020

MOTION : Accept the minutes

Moved : Michelle

Seconded : Ruby

Motion carried unanimously

4. Reports/ Rapports

a) Programme Chair/ Présidence pour le programme (Michelle Folk/Qamer Hameed

During this global pandemic, CSSR withdrew from Congress 2021 proceedings to hold our annual conference separately from the Humanities and Social Sciences Congress 2021, hosted by the University of Alberta. We will be organizing and hosting our own CSSR conference completely online at the same time — to be held from May 29 to June 2, 2021.

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

Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme was zoom master for the first three days and Paul Gareau for the last two. Big thanks to both for hosting the zoom sessions to facilitate the virtual mode for the meetings. Also thanks to both for their part in recording select few sessions to host on YouTube, with presenters' permission.

Three sessions were recorded and posted to the CSSR's YouTube including two CSSR organized panels and the plenary, noted below.

The CFP closed March 1, 2021. There was no deadline extension this year. Instead, we ran the CFP later and the closing date was later.

The program included the following:

- One special paper by Clara A.B. Joseph from the University of Calgary on *Decolonising the Study of Colonialism in the Face of Eastern Christians*.
- The graduate student luncheon was replaced this year by three 30 minute sessions held in between the regular sessions. They were scheduled for 30 minutes each.
 1. Saturday, May 29: jobs after graduate School where the speaker was Alyshea Cummins
Attendance: 20
 2. Sunday, May 30: Q&A about managing graduate school during the pandemic, where the speaker was Cory Steele.
Attendance: 8
 3. Monday, May 31: an informal networking session.
Attendance: 13
- Nine individual papers grouped into 4 panels. One paper dropped out from the original submissions.
- Three roundtables including
 - *Bridging Divides Beyond Borders and Personal Anecdotes: Teaching in Religious Studies and Thinking About Positionality Through Sharing Experiences* and
 - two authors meet critics sessions: *None of the Above: Nonreligious Identity in the US and Canada* (New York University Press, 2020) and *After the Revival: Pentecostalism and the Making of a Canadian Church* (McGill-Queen's Press, 2020).
- We developed several CSSR organized Panels in a "speaker series" to bring timely conversation to this year's conference:
 - CSSR 2021 *Plenary Address on Decolonising Urgency* (posted on YouTube) which was situated as the conference plenary where four authors reflect on how the pandemic "moment" has reinforced the need to prioritize decolonization in their respective areas,
 - *Religious Studies in Today's University: A Case Study of the University of Alberta* with Paul L. Gareau (moderator), Shawn Flynn, Peter Sabo, Sharmin Sadequee, and Joe Wiebe,

- *Examining Why and How We Teach Religious Competency: Real World Applications* with Michelle L. Folk (moderator), A. Brenda Anderson, Alyshea Cummins, Qamer Hameed, and Rebekka King, and a
- a two-part series on the *Past, Present, and Future: Religious Studies in Canada - CSSR 50 Years Later* with David Seljak (moderator), Ruby Ramji, Bill James, Pat Dold, and Paul Bramadat and *Religious Studies in Canada - CSSR 50 Years Forward* with Paul L. Gareau (moderator), David Feltmate, Michelle L. Folk, Jeanine LeBlanc, and Michael Wilkinson (both posted to YouTube).

We had 46 individuals on the programme as well as another 43 registered to attend the conference this year. There was no registration fee for this year's annual meeting. Attendees and participants had to be current members of the CSSR. Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme kindly handled registration. Attendance levels at each session usually ranged between 20-40 people.

Last year (2020) we were set to host the Craigie/International Speaker. Amir Hussein, Professor of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University, agreed to deliver the International Joint Speaker lecture. The title of his presentation was *Muslims Challenging and Changing Images of Muslims on Film and Television*. When we decided as a committee not to go forward with the virtual Congress forum and cancelled the 2020 meeting, we also declined funding for the International Speaker. Since we were not scheduled to host in 2021 we did not approach him to participate this year and instead focused on the speaker series. If/when there is interest, we could invite him to do a future webinar and provide a small honorarium. He previously indicated flexibility on the topic.

Session chair responsibilities, where not submitted with the sunflower submissions, were fulfilled by CSSR executives and Megan Hollinger, a graduate student at the University of Ottawa who volunteered to moderate the session on constructing narratives. Thank you to all who volunteered.

This year the major differences to note were:

- Independent of Congress,
- Entirely virtual (over Zoom),
- Several sessions were recorded and will be available on the CSSR YouTube channel (with speaker permission via email),
- Special speaker series dedicated to the field of religious studies and timely topics,
- Only one session at a time, and
- Graduate student luncheon replaced with 3 timely and shorter sessions, not concurrent with other panels/sessions.

We would like the committee's feedback on the conference and would also like to hear from the membership at the AGM about what worked, what didn't and what we might like to consider going forward, even if/when the opportunity to return to Congress or have in-person meetings is possible next year. It is likely that we will need to plan for hybrid annual meetings moving

forward if in-person meetings resume. Also, the Federation has not yet announced the location for next year's Congress. In fact, they are still soliciting host universities for 2022 as of now.

Suggestions for future CSSR programming from members at the annual meeting included organizing a future session on how departments are functioning or operating at every annual meeting and monthly virtual conversations where people can discuss issues in religious studies teaching and research.

We would also note that some of the people who submitted in 2020, when we did not hold a conference, were invited to do webinars over the past year that have been generally well received. We suggest including this in the discussion at the AGM.

b) Membership Secretary/ Secrétaire des membres (Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme)

CSSR Membership Details for 2021: Renewed: 80%, new: 20%

Associate member: 23%

Regular member: 53%

Student member: 24%

-Receiving Studies in Religion to CSSR: 85%

- 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)	97

Other measures taken to encourage CSSR membership

- 2020-2021 CSSR webinar series
- 2021 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 2021 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 2021 members to grant them e-access to the journal on April 23rd, 2021
- 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

2021-2022 CSSR Webinar Planning

I was thinking of organizing a 2021-2022 “Meet the Author” CSSR webinar series for September 2021 – April 2022

- 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 2021 and 2022 books from the series in partnership with the CSSR + cross-promotion with McGillQueen’s; open to all CCSR societies’ members
- Also do a webinar for the 2020 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 2021-2022 series of virtual activities instead, I’m totally ok with that.

2021 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 2022 (at Congress) if possible
- Each session in 2021 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 2022 as well? Would probably have to limit each member to only one presentation at conference then.
 - One of the highlights of the 2021 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 2022 sessions and that people can access via their phones?
 - See if having a hybrid in-person and virtual format would be possible for 2022 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 2022

- Although in the end we had a great and full conference programme, initially we did not have many paper submissions via Sunflower for the 2021 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

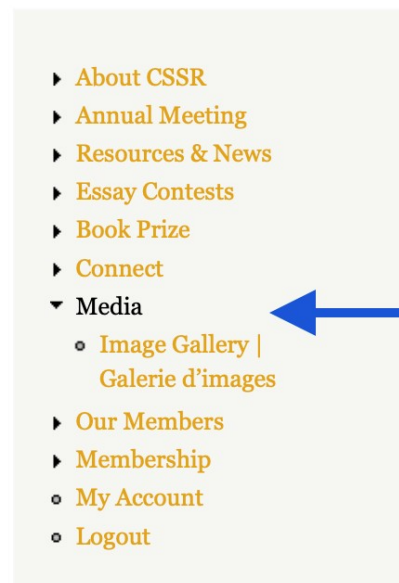
There are three categories of membership: Regular, Associate (retired or parttime), and Student. Membership is on an annual basis, from January 1 to December 31.

When payment for membership is received, the Treasurer sends the file to the Membership Secretary, who enters the data online on the CSSR website

c) Communications Officer/ Agente des communications (Samikṣā Love)

WEBSITE AND SERVER:

- Everything is running just fine now that we switched to Bluehost web hosting provider. The website is regularly maintained and backed up. Ongoing issue: we need to continue renewing our domain name with Hostpapa since Bluehost does not support .ca domain names. Our Bluehost site nameservers are simply pointing at the Hostpapa domain name now. 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. One thing for me to continue to watch out for is that Bluehost seems to like updating specific features on its own (e.g. index.php file) which makes our website not show up properly. It is a matter of reuploading the correct file into the website and is not difficult. So if the website goes down in the future this is the first place to check.
- We were forced to upgrade to the “Sitelock Essential” feature on Bluehost and this was done successfully in February and will expire in February 2022. Thank you to Ted, our Treasurer, for reimbursing me.
- Website appearance was in early March 2021 to create more consistency between website and newsletter colours (yellow and black). A new banner was created consisting of the old logo and a sunflower image, an unofficial design until we perhaps decide we want a more official logo or banner (see image at top of this report).
- Shall we remove the media menu item on the website, since it is no longer relevant and is outdated?
- We need to update the [Book Prize Winners](#) section of the website since the most recent entry is from 2018.
- We are also missing some entries on the [AGM Minutes](#) page on the website, specifically for years 2012, 2017-2020.
- SUNFLOWER:
- SUNFLOWER (our automated paper submission system) ran smoothly during autumn 2020.



- Section in SUNFLOWER instructions on [special papers](#) needs editing to remove the requirement for the submission of a complete version of the paper (at least clarify that it would not be submitted via SUNFLOWER).

Submissions for the CSSR Annual Meeting may be of six 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 the CFP deadline.

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 un plus grand public. Pour qu’une telle conférence puisse être organisée, il faut que le texte complet de la conférence nous soit soumis avant le 1 décembre 2016, de même qu’un résumé de cette conférence.

NEW 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:

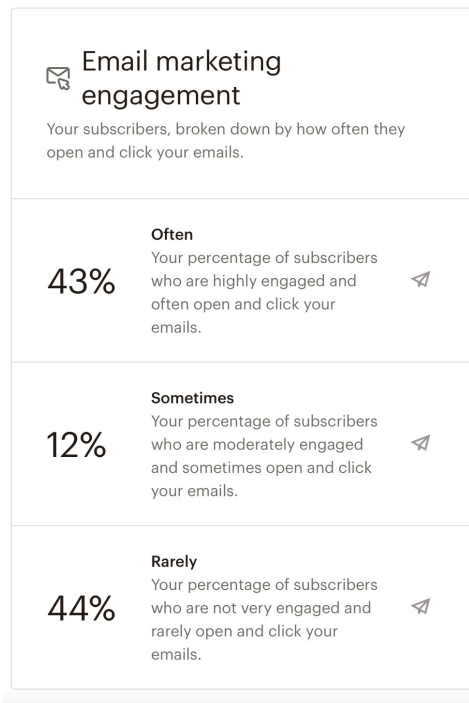
There are roughly 750 members within our website’s database as of June 8th, 2021 (minus a few duplicates).

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 SAGE.

We also 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 into the new year. We have continued this habit into winter 2021.

CSSR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER:

Our Mailchimp newsletter service is still working great for us. As of April 14, 2021, we have 524 subscribers to our Mailchimp mailing list (it fluctuates as people subscribe and unsubscribe). Here are the latest stats from Mailchimp for our newsletter:



“SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER” option is still on our website’s home page as well as under the “Connect” menu.

Thank you to other CSSR Executive members who also send news to post onto the website and include in our newsletter each week.

NEW CSSR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:

Due to covid-19, CSSR is now running online webinars starting in Autumn 2020, and our Membership Secretary, Dr. Sarah Wilkins-LaFlamme has kindly recorded these and has uploaded them to youtube for members. The CSSR Youtube channel is listed on our website under the “Connect” menu (<http://cssrscer.ca/?q=node/1515>)

CSSR FACEBOOK PAGE:

The only Admin for the CSSR FB page is Aldea Mulhern. Facebook page is unofficial and not regularly maintained by anyone.

CSSR TWITTER ACCOUNT:

Kindly run by Alyshea Cummins (former Recording Secretary), and she makes regular updates there. Thank you Alyshea!

THANK YOU!

d) Treasurer/ Trésorier (Ted Malcolmson)

Confidential

This report explains the expenses of 2020-2021, as well as giving the context for comparison. This report is divided into three parts. Part one is an overview of the 2020-2021 budget, and part two is a justification of the 2021-2022 budget. Part three is looking for input Congress, as well as a look forward at potential problems and solutions going forward.

Part One: Past Budgetary Year in Context

Membership dues

2005-2006 \$7,494.25
2006-2007 \$6,471.88
2007-2008 \$17,375.08
2008-2009 \$8,584.60
2009-2010 \$11,708.08
2010-2011 \$10,496.85
2011-2012 \$11,250.00
2012-2013 \$10,950.00
2013-2014 \$11,430.00
2014-2015 \$10,540.00
2015-2016 \$9,340.00
2016-2017 \$9,940.00
2017-2018 \$10,050.00
2018-2019 \$ 9,717.00
2019-2020 \$ 6,560.00
2020-2021 \$ 10,385

AGM Income and Expenses

AGM Registration (from 2010-2011 through to 2020-2021):

AGM Income and Expenses 2009-2010 AGM Income \$3,900.00
AGM Expenses \$923.78 (A/V, Catering, GST, PST)

\$2,976.22

AGM Income and Expenses 2010-2011

AGM Income \$2,805.00
AGM Expenses \$719.58 (A/V, Catering, GST, PST)

\$2,085.42

AGM Income and Expenses 2011-2012 Including the AGM Reception

AGM Income \$2,430.00

AGM Expenses \$1,436.81 (A/V, Catering, HST)

\$993.19

AGM Income and Expenses 2012-2013 Including the AGM Reception

AGM Income \$4,125.00

AGM Expenses \$1,810.00 (A/V, Catering, HST)

\$2315.00

AGM Income and Expenses 2013-2014 Including the AGM Reception

AGM Income \$3,360.00

AGM Expenses \$892.50 (A/V, HST)

\$2,467.50

AGM Income and Expenses 2014-2015 Including the AGM Reception

AGM Income \$3,690.00

AGM Expenses \$1,826.92 (A/V, Catering, HST)

\$1,826.92

AGM Income and Expenses 2015-2016 Including the AGM Reception

AGM Income \$3,405.00

AGM Expenses \$2,766.78 (A/V, Catering, HST)

\$638.22

AGM Income and Expenses 2016-2017 Including the AGM Reception (Calgary)

AGM Income \$3,040.00

AGM Expenses \$1,933.68 (A/V, Catering, HST)

\$1,106.32

AGM Income and Expenses 2017-2018 Including the AGM Reception (Ryerson)

AGM Income \$3,545.00

AGM Expenses \$4,617.18 (A/V, Catering, HST)

(\$1,072.18)

AGM Income and Expenses 2018-2019 including AGM Reception (Regina)

AGM income \$2,335.00

AGM Expenses \$2,114.63 (A/V, Catering, Tax)

220.37

AGM Income and Expenses 2019-2020 (Vancouver)

Revenue

AGM Income 3,705.00

AGM Expenses 3,853.21

(\$148.21)

148.21

Expenses

Essay Contests

No PhD prize this year, so it's 550.00 instead of 1200.00. Undergraduate essay first prize of 250.00 to Ian Greer. Undergraduate second prize of 50.00 to Sophie Sklar. MA Prize of 250.00 to Jonas Brandt.

CFHSS - Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences Membership fee
Membership dues were 1001.25.

IAHR – International Association for the History of Religions Dues

IAHR Dues were 304.80 Euros. There is a 25\$ Processing fee so with exchange the total is 489.09, about par with last year's 495.15.

Studies in Religion Subscription Dues

Thanks to Heather for catching this when I missed sending out the cheque.

SR Subscription dues in 2021 were \$ 2,985 up from \$ 2,835 last year

Paypal Fees

Paypal's totally shuttered. The cost in the last year was 197.74.

Website/IT

A few minor IT expenses popped up. Samiksa had to pay 32.04 for Bluehost SiteLock Security, and a mandatory upgrade to their 'sitelock essential' was 94.80. Paul purchased a Zoom subscription for 200.00. We pay 700.00 to our website admin annually.

Book Prize

The book prize of 100.00 went to Dr. Nicholas Shrubsole. This amount is unchanged from previous years.

Office Expenses

No office expenses this year, there were sufficient envelopes and stamps left over.

Executive Travel

Zero this year. This was 3,400 across eight members last year.

AGM Travel

Zero this year.

Previous Years

2019 \$ 5,495.35 (Vancouver)
2018 \$ 6,551.18 (Regina)
2017 \$5,454.08 (Ryerson)
2016 \$6,017.00 (Calgary)
2015 \$1,006.97 (Ottawa)
2014 \$1,326.36 (St. Catherines)
2013 \$5,500.02 (Victoria)
2012 \$5,105.45 (Waterloo)
2011 \$8,090.21 (Fredericton)
2010 \$3,647.90 (Montreal)
2009 \$5,081.15 (Ottawa)
2008 \$7,939.94 (Vancouver)

Investment Gain/Loss

This year's gain was 5,813.59, compared to last year's 1239.51 and the previous year's 1,548.97. Please note that there has been a great deal of market volatility through Covid.

Operating Income/Expenses

Operating Income 16,198.59
Funds from investment account 5000.00
Operating Expenses 5150.93
Net surplus 16,047.66

Closing Balances

Community Account	27,498.80
Investment Account	72,077.26

	99,576.06
On the books June 8, 2021	99,576.06
On the books 27 May 2020	92,280.82
On the books 27 May 2019	\$98,743.41

On the books 15 May 2018 \$100,536.60
 On the books 30 April 2017 \$96,423.12
 On the books 30 April 2016 \$87,735.89 (this is lower because membership fees from PayPal had yet to be transferred into our account due to issues with transferring account authority from Richard Mann to Bethany Berard).
 On the books 30 April 2015 \$95,433.06
 On the books 30 April 2014 \$93,220.97
 On the books 30 April 2013 \$87,412.43
 On the books 30 April 2012 \$75,967.14
 On the books 30 April 2011 \$69,610.34
 On the books 30 April 2010 \$58,752.78
 On the books 30 April 2009 \$58,378.29
 On the books 30 April 2008 \$57,326.88

Total Value of Investments

2007-2008	44,000
2008-2009	40,991.05
2009-2010	44,925.55
2010-2011	47,124.30
2011-2012	48,432.11
2012-2013	50,144.45
2013-2014	54,158.63
2014-2015	59,592.36
2015-2016	58,106.69
2016-2017	61,414.08
2017-2018	64,475.19
2018-2019	65,024.16
2019-2020	66,263.67

Part Two: Justification of the Budget 2020-2021

It's at present unclear if 2020-2021 will be an in person congress – I'm not sure if the general sentiment is that we should be planning for an in person conference or not – if we are I would propose the same 2019 budget we had before.

Part 3: Questions and looking forward

Change of Mutual Fund

I should mention this since I had previously proposed it – but this year the mutual fund was an absolute powerhouse, so I think staying the course for the moment is the correct course of action.

Incorporation

I still think this should be a priority, but I recognize being mid pandemic it's not the ideal timing.

e) President/ Président (Paul Gareau)

Tan'shii/Bonzoor and hello/bonjour everyone,

Thank you for taking the time to meet together for our annual Congress executive meeting and for our executive meeting.

1) CSSR Online Conference Organization

I was in contact with Qamer, Michelle, and Sarah all spring helping organize our CSSR online conference. It happened between May 29th and June 2nd and it was a complete success! I was Zoom master for June 1 and 2, and was chair for two panels: one on the state of Religious Studies at the University of Alberta, and the other on the same topic for the CSSR, which included Michelle and Jeanine as discussants. Thank you! Each session was very well attended with 20 to 30 people per session. And after the closing of each panel, conversations went on for 1.5 to 2 hours. It was one of the best online conferences I have attended with compliments coming from many people including Randi Warne from Mount St. Vincent University. She absolutely loved it! Exceeded expectations. I want to thank everyone involved, but especially Qamer, Michelle, and Sarah for your dedication and calm competence. We could not have done it without you!

2) CCSR Meeting in Montreal

Participated in the annual CCSR board meeting with other member societies on Saturday January 30. It was our first conference by Zoom, which had been proposed before the pandemic by past President Mathieu Boisvert as a cost-cutting decision. With regards to the CSSR, we discussed on new methods of reporting society members and membership and access to SR publications through the CCSR new website: [link](#).

I volunteered to join a working group for the CCSR on equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization (EDI-D). This committee is chaired by Mona Tokarek LaFosse and includes Nestor Medina and Diana Dimitrova. Our focus is to continue writing sexual harassment policy for the CCSR and to focus on decolonization in the study of religion more broadly. We had an initial meeting in March and it extremely well. I look forward to working across societies.

3) BCSA Response and Congress

In February 2021, we wrote a letter of support for the Black Canadian Studies Association (BCSA) regarding the inadequate response from the Federation to issues of longstanding structural racism. You can access the letter here: [link](#). This was written on behalf of the CSSR and signed by me and past president Heather Shipley. Our goal is to draw light on structural racism in our disciplines and gather momentum in generating change in terms of EDI-D.

4) CCSR Reflection Piece (50-year anniversary)

For the 50th anniversary of the CCSR, I organized, edited, and wrote a 3,500-word summary of the CSSR history and reflections on the future of Religious Studies in Canada. It was a difficult but rewarding process of gathering 14 respondents to questions on the past, present, and future of the CSSR. I am very grateful for the information, institutional memory, and insight from profs

and students across the country. I hope it will be a good resource in understanding our work in the CSSR for the continued development of Religious Studies in Canada.

5) CSSR Webinar Presentation on Decolonizing Religious Studies with Jeanine LeBlanc
Jeanine LeBlanc (MAL) and I presented at the third and final CSSR Webinar #3 on April 1, 2021. Our presentation was entitled, Decolonizing Religious Studies: Approaches and Insights from Native Studies. Our main goal was to centre forms of indigenization and relationality in how we can decolonize Religious Studies and the academy at large. It was well attended and ran smoothly with engaging questions. I am grateful to Jeanine for doing this work together in good relations and to Sarah for this incredible webinar series. I hope it will continue well into the Fall 2021 and Winter 2022.

6) Graduate and Undergraduate Student Essays:

I gathered graduate and undergraduate student essays for this year's competition. The deadline was pushed from April 20th to May 14th. The delay really helped gather many more essays. We received 9 graduate essays and 5 undergraduate essays. I have forwarded to the MAL review committee the package for blind review.

7) Future Plans

In the flurry of activities, I am still progressing in speaking to a lawyer in Edmonton regarding CSSR incorporation. It is a slow process, but I think this will happen by mid-summer after the CSSR conference. This will help our membership drive into the new year.

Maarsii!

f) Past Presidents/ Anciennes présidentes (Heather Shipley and Ruby Ramji)

▪ Heather: Nominations

This year the following positions are reaching the end of their term

- Treasurer (Ted Malcolmson)
- Programme Co-Chair (Michelle Folk)
- Graduate Student Member-at-Large (Sana Patel)

Ted Malcolmson and Michelle Folk have both agreed to stay on in their positions, which is wonderful news.

Sana is unable to continue in her role this year, so we will seek out a Graduate Student MAL. Thanks so much Sana for all you have contributed to the CSSR and to our students especially.

We have two nominations submitted for the position of Graduate Student MAL:

- Paige Thombs, University of Victoria

- Chris Miller, University of Waterloo

- **Ruby: book prize (dates)**

Last year eighteen books were submitted to the CSSR book prize committee. This year we have received twenty books. The committee was meant to be comprised of myself, the prior book prize winner, Nicholas Shrubsole, and Qamer Hameed.

Unfortunately, due

to extenuating circumstances, there has been a delay receiving books and therefore the winner of the CSSR Book Prize will not be awarded until later in the year.

This delay lead me to contemplate the book prize that the CSSR awards annually. I believe it is a great idea that we present the physical award at the CSSR President's Reception because we get to celebrate the author, but I have always felt we could do more for the winner in terms of recognizing their work in a more scholarly way. This year, the CSSR Executive has agreed to hold a special event at a later time, in early November, where Paul Gareau as CSSR President, will present the book award at that time, and the winner will have the opportunity to present their book for our members. We will organize a webinar session, with the author and respondents. We hope that this new process will be more useful to the membership, as it will provide us with a larger forum to engage with new scholarship in the field of Religious Studies. We hope to see you there!

g) Recording Secretary/ Secrétaire archiviste (Diana Dimitrova)

Documents

We had a great spring meeting on April 17th, 2021, which was very productive and went very smoothly. The minutes were submitted to Paul on June 6th, 2021.

Diana has received from Paul the notes for the executive meeting on May 30th 2020 as well as the notes for the AGM 2020. The minutes of that meeting have been verified and archived.

Executive meeting on June 8th and AGM 2021 on June 10th.

I would like to thank everyone for the quick response to the doodle survey. We set up the dates for both meetings in just a week, this is greatly appreciated!

I have received everyone's reports, many thanks to all!

Other items

I attended almost all panels of our CSSR annual meeting – I think that this has been truly a success! I chaired one panel and presented a paper in another panel. Both panels were very well-attended and the audience had some amazing questions. Special thanks to our programme chairs Michelle and Qamer, and also to our Zoom masters Sarah and Paul!

On May 28th 2021, I participated in the AGM meeting of the CCSR, as I am also a member of the executive committee of the CCSR. As co-editors of the series “Matière à pensé”, Marc Dumas and I presented our report. Our series has published 3 books this year! I would like to emphasize again that our book series welcomes authors and their manuscripts from all member societies of the CCSR. If you have a book manuscript in French, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Paul and I are members of the EDID committee of the CCSR and we plan to continue working on the creation and implementation of important policies on equity, diversity, inclusion and decolonizing. Our next meeting is on June 18th, 2021.

Thank you!

h) Graduate Students/ Étudiants des études supérieures (Sana Patel)

At our annual conference, we had three 30-minute student sessions:

- 1) Jobs after grad school with Alyshea Cummins
- 2) Managing grad school during a pandemic with Cory Steele – Thank you Sarah for hosting this.
- 3) Informal networking session

These sessions replaced the annual luncheon that we would have at an in-person conference.

Thank you

I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to be the Graduate Student Member-at-Large. The past year and a half were not ideal to say the least and difficult for many, but we made it work with our conference this year. I want to thank everyone for their understanding, hard work, and generosity in supporting myself and the student community.

Student Ambassadors

This is the fifth year of the Student Ambassador program, initiated by the CSSR/SCÉR's former graduate student member-at-large Saliha Chattoo. Student Ambassadors act as local liaisons between their home institutions and the CSSR/SCÉR, ensuring that their student body is kept up-to-date on all academic, funding, and professionalization opportunities we offer throughout the year. Student Ambassadors receive emails from the graduate student member-at-large regarding calls for papers, funding opportunities, job postings, paper competitions, etc. and ensure that the

student bodies in their departments receive the information by forwarding these emails via administrative assistants or through appropriate listservs.

Student Ambassadors for the 2019-2020 Academic Year:

Sonia Benchaib	University of Montreal
Morad Bkhait	University of Quebec Montreal
Chris Miller	University of Waterloo
Zaheeda Alibhai	University of Ottawa
Lindsay Mayhew	Laurentian University
Durga Kale	University of Calgary
Prasenjit Debnath	MUN
Heather Patrick	University of Manitoba
Holmes	Queen's University
Paige Thombs	University of Victoria
Christina Pasqua	University of Toronto

i) Student Essays/ Essai étudiant (Alyshea Cummins/Jeanine LeBlanc [MAL])

▪ Student essay awards

The MALs simplified the application for the student Essay prize back in April 2021. Originally the application requested consent to publish the paper on the CSSR website, however, that has not been practiced in the past and confused some applicants. The application now only asks permission to publish the winners' names and paper titles to the website.

The deadline to submit was originally April 20th 2021 but was extended to May 14th 2021 due to few submissions.

Essay Submissions:

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

Undergraduate Essays

This year we received a total of 5 Undergraduate Submissions

Graduate Essays

This year we received a total of 9 Graduate Submissions:

- 3 Papers for the MA Prize
- 6 Papers for the PhD Prize

Essay Prize Winners:

Student prize winners will be announced in the Fall during the President's Reception. Winners will be given the opportunity to present their papers during the 2021-2022 CSSR Webinar Series.

Essay Prize Amounts:

The prize for the best undergraduate paper is \$250, second prize is \$50.

We should increase the second prize to \$100.

The prize for the best PhD paper is \$650 and the prize for MA students is \$250.

We should increase the MA prize to \$300.

5. Additional items/ Des articles supplémentaires

6. Adjournment/ Adjournement

MOTION: Motion to adjourn the meeting

MOVED: Sarah

SECONDED: Heather

Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 19.10 ET.