

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

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / ASSEMBLÉE ANNUELLE
VIA ZOOM
JUNE 19, 2023 (12:00–14:00 EDT)**

AGENDA/ORDRE DU JOUR

Minutes Submitted by Chris Miller, Recording Secretary, June 12, 2024

Present: Diana Dimitrova, Chris Miller, Paul Gareau, Zabeen Khamisa, Jacqueline Giesbrecht, Michelle Folk, Michael Gillingham, Rachel Brown, Qamer Hameed, Rubina Ramji, Christopher Austin, Jennifer Selby, Alyshea Cummins, Denise Nadeau, David Seljak, Lisa Gasson-Gardner, Susan Rajendran, Florence Pasche Guignard, Thomas Seibel, Paige Thombs, Jocelyn Hendrickson, Rebekka King, Bertha Yetman, Abraham Khan

Regrets: Kalpesh Bhatt and Samiksa Love

1. Welcome/ Bienvenue

Start time : 12.03 EST

2. Accept Agenda/ Accepter l'ordre du jour

MOTION : *Accept the agenda*

Moved: Jacqueline

Seconded: Paul

Motion carried unanimously

3. Minutes/ Procès verbal – June 15, 2022

MOTION: *Accept the minutes.*

Moved: Alyshea

Seconded: Abraham

Motion carried unanimously

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

None

5. Creation of a new executive position – Digital Coordinator/Création d'un nouveau poste exécutif – coordinaireur numérique

6. Creation of a third student prize – “Publicly Engaged Research in Religion” – that evaluates non-traditional scholarly work/ Création d'un troisième prix

étudiant "Recherche publique engagée en religion" qui évalue les travaux savants non traditionnels

Open to all undergraduate and graduate students

Discussion:

- Alyshea asks how we determined the prize amount of \$300, since this is more than the current Undergraduate paper award. Ruby notes that this is intended as a pilot. Hoping to see how many submissions we get and from which student cohorts.
- Jacqueline suggests bringing the undergraduate first prize to \$300. Alyshea suggests bringing this new one down to \$250

MOTION: Creation of a third student prize – “Publicly Engaged Research in Religion” – that evaluates non-traditional scholarly work, with a prize amount of \$250

Moved: Rubina

Seconded: Alyshea

Motion carried unanimously

7. Reports/Rapports

Membership Secretary/ Secrétaire des membres (Rachel Brown)

CSSR Membership Totals for 2022: 97

CSSR Membership Details for 2022: Renewed: 78%, new: 22%

Associate member: 17% - 17 people

Regular member: 53% - 51 people

Student member: 30% - 29 people

-Receiving Studies in Religion to CSSR: 80%

78 people

- 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 |
| 2023 | 100 |

CSSR Membership Details for 2023 so far: Renewed: 74%, new: 26%

Associate member: 20% - 20 people

Regular member: 47% - 47 people

Student member: 33% - 33 people

-Receiving Studies in Religion to CSSR: 71%

71 people

Other measures taken to encourage CSSR membership

- The continued CSSR webinar series
- 2023 CSSR conference in person for the first time in years
- 2024 in Montreal will bring in new members I am sure

■ Anyone who presented at the conference needed to be a 2023 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.

■ Mentorship program? Interest?

■ Other ideas?

Other CSSR Membership Business

■ *Studies in Religion* is e-access only for our members

■ Accessed via the CSSR's new website

■ I'm sent the CSSR our updated list of 2023 members to grant them e-access to the journal for those who do not have it already

■ Instructions for e-access can be found at:
<http://www.cssrscer.ca/?q=node/64>

Membership

How CSSR Membership Works: Plan for the future

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.

This is clunky and makes it difficult to track for the membership secretary.

Looking at trying to automate the process more with the new website updates. Stay tuned.

Discussion :

- Alyshea supports the idea of a student mentorship program
- Denise suggests that we give more attention on our website to Book Prize winners. Announce who won, the criteria on which the decision was made, give a brief write-up on why they won, post a link to the book prize webinar
- Lisa shares that it is difficult to sign up for membership. There was also little clarity on the need to pay extra to attend our conference
- Florence would like the possibility of attending CSSR events at Congress at a discounted rate, for those who are already attending through SQER or another similar society. This could also extend to our membership, where if someone is a member of one society, there is only a nominal fee to join another one.
- Ruby clarifies that you do not need to be a member to attend the CSSR conference. You need to pay the Congress fee, but CSSR membership is not required
- Ruby also encourages people to spread awareness about the CSSR at the department level. Paige similarly shares that although Religious Studies is declining, we can encourage participation from scholars in other, adjacent fields.

Treasurer/ Trésorier (Paul Gareau [Interim])

Interim Status:

I had to step in and take over as treasurer from Ted winter 2023. We are hoping to secure a new treasurer at the AGM in June 2023.

Income and Account Status:

Accounts as of June 7, 2023:

- Community Account: \$ 18,167.18
- Membership Fees: \$7,625.00
- BMO Mutual Funds Total Investment: \$67,079.63

Outgoing Expenses: \$20,714.74

- Current Executive Expenses: \$7,400
 - Pay out to nine members only of 12 total (as of June 8, 2023): \$5,400.00
 - Communications Liaison & Website Administrator: \$2,000
- Writing Prize Expenses: \$ 1,800.00
 - Book Prize Winner: \$500.00
 - Student Essay Prize PhD: \$650.00
 - Student Essay Prize MA: \$300.00
 - Student Essay Prize Undergraduate 1st place: \$250.00
 - Student Essay Prize Undergraduate 2nd place: \$100.00
- Congress Expenses: \$
 - I was not able to get the breakdown of expenses in time for the AGM
- Travel Budget: \$485.09

- Total budget available to students: \$6,500.00
- Used as of June 8, 2023: \$485.09
- SR Subscriptions: \$2,460
 - SR subscriptions were paid out to the CSSR for 2022 and 2023: \$920 + \$1,540.
- IAHR dues: \$489.09
 - IAHR dues was sent out in April. Fees are 2.40 Euro per member, after the exchange and wire transfer fee.
- Zoom account: \$265.65
 - Is now paid directly from the BMO account.
 - Annual Fee (March 8th): \$200.00 + \$10.00 tax = \$210.00
 - Monthly Cloud Storage (8th of every month): \$53.00 + \$2.65 tax = \$55.65
- New Costs Moving Forward: \$2,900.00
 - Executive Annual Funding Raised (from \$400.00): \$600.00
 - CSSR Website Update: \$2,000
 - New Essay Prize in “Alternative Dissemination in Religion” (2023–2024): \$300.00

E-transfer:

E-transfer is working out well. We had international members who couldn't access the BMO e-transfer. We sent them a way to wire the money. But this is an overly laborious approach to processing membership.

Clear Up BMO Account:

Once we have elected a new treasurer for the CSSR, we need to clear up the BMO account for who has signing power. I will bring in the minutes from our next AGM to make sure our account is up-to-date.

Incorporation:

Ted had maintained that we should incorporate as the best long-term strategy for the CSSR. In an executive meeting that took place April 12th, 2023, we suggested looking into not-for-profit incorporation to support updating our membership process on our website and getting protection against liability. Michelle Folk and Zabeen Khamisa stated they would look into this lower cost option.

Discussion :

- Chris Austin asks if CSSR draws out from our investment accounts as revenue. Paul not sure, but will look into it.
- Also asks about the budget line for Executive costs. Paul explains that this is for the executive honorarium, and then the Communications Liason fee
- Also asks about the benefits of incorporation. Paul explains that it is for liability purposes, as well as to allow us to process credit cards for membership.

- Alyshea asks if we need to maintain a separate Zoom account, instead of us just using our department accounts. Zabeen explains that this is intended to ease transition over time

MOTION: Approve the budget as presented by the Treasurer

Moved: Paige

Seconded: Rachel

Motion carried

Abstentions: Chris Austin, Alyshea, Rubina

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

Program Co-Chairs Report Annual General Meeting

Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Monday, June 19, 2023

After a three-year hiatus, we returned to Congress in 2023, which was hosted by the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences in partnership with York University from May 27-June 2, 2023. The theme for this year's Congress was *Reckonings and Re-Imaginings*.

Drawing on the lessons of Black Lives Matter, Idle No More, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Congress 2023 will focus on new reckonings for how to live in non-hierarchical relationships that respect our human differences, while protecting the environment we depend on.

This theme also reflects the vision of Associate Professor Andrea Davis, Academic Convenor for Congress 2023, and her collaboration with members of the York University community, and York University's commitment to elevating the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Under the theme *Reckonings and Re-Imaginings*, Congress will honour Black and Indigenous knowledges and cultures, and centre the diverse voices and ideas of scholars, graduate students, policymakers and community members in vital conversations about racial and climate justice and other pressing issues facing our world. A full description is available at www.federationhss.ca/congress2023.

Thank you to Chris Miller for serving as our local area coordinator this year and Michael Gillingham for planning graduate student programming at the annual meeting.

The call for papers was circulated on December 16, 2022 (via special newsletter and website) and closed on January 31, 2023.

Submissions for the annual meeting were made through Sunflower.

It may be time to re-think Sunflower given its limitations and look for an alternative given changing programming needs (e.g., possible virtual submissions).

Thank you to Samiksa Love for the newsletter, website, and Sunflower and Zabeen Khamisa for working with social media to promote the annual meeting.

Having returned to a fully in-person annual meeting at Congress, we re-instated the annual meeting fee, which we had suspended when virtual in 2021 and 2022.

All attendees and participants had to be current members of the CSSR for 2023 in addition to paying the annual meeting fee when registering for Congress.

Thank you to Rachel Brown, our membership secretary, for working with members to become/renew their membership.

In keeping with previous Congresses, we held our annual meeting from Saturday, May 27-Monday, May 29.

Pre-pandemic, we held the executive meeting, AGM, and CSSR president's reception on Saturday and sessions Sunday through Tuesday.

Considering people's ability and willingness to travel, members' increasing and evolving workloads, and the financial impact on members in planning, it was decided that the executive meeting and AGM could be held virtually this year. We also shortened the meeting by one day and held sessions Saturday to Monday.

The Federation expects associations to use the following timetable to accommodate for other programming (e.g., Big Thinking Series):

8:30–10:00 Session 1
10:00–10:30 Break 1
10:30–12:00 Session 2
12:00–13:30 Lunch
13:30–15:00 Session 3
15:00–15:30 Break 2
15:30–17:00 Session 4
18:00 + Special events, AGMs, joint sessions, receptions, open events, etc.

The program was posted on the website and updated to reflect changes as needed. The final program included the following:

- 31 individual papers by 32 presenters grouped into 11 panels.
- Three roundtables: Author Meets Critics on *Religion, Spirituality and Secularity among Millennials* (Routledge 2022), *From Their Mouths to Our Ears: Listening to a Generation on Living out an Ecological Spirituality*, and Author Reflections on the *Handbook of Religion and Migration* (Bloomsbury 2022).
- One workshop: thank you to Richard Ascough, Diana Dimitrova, and Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme for organizing and offering the workshop on publishing in religious studies, which was open to all CSSR member associations (including CSSR, ACJS, CASIM, CSBS, CSPS, CTS, ACÉBAC, SCT, and SQÉR).

- Graduate student luncheon titled *Brace Yourself: Navigating a Declining Academic Job Market*, which was presented by Rachel Brown (CSSR membership secretary) and explored strategies for navigating the ever-changing, declining and often confusing academic job market. Thank you again to Michael Gillingham for organizing this.
- Our 2023 plenary was on Monday, May 29 and consisted of two 90-minute roundtables examining the *Possible Roles, if Any, of a Scholar of Religion Regarding Promotion of Public Knowledge and Understanding of Religion*. We received funding of \$250.00 from the Federation's open events fund to support the plenary. As an open event, the plenary was open to all Congress attendees and posted in Congress' events calendar. Thank you to Ivan Khan for organizing and to our roundtable participants.
- Our CSSR president's reception was on Saturday, May 27.

The Federation had two funding initiatives for our members - the child and dependent care subsidy (CCDCS) and the graduate student merit award (CGMA).

Both were funded and administered by the Federation and it was the Federation that determined eligibility, adjudication, and funding.

The CCDCS was meant to help offset the cost of child and dependent care for participants in Congress 2023 and consisted of a reimbursement of up to \$200 for eligible expenses. Priority for the subsidy was to be given to graduate students, early career researchers, and Congress participants who meet the Federation's registration category criteria of underemployed or unemployed attendee. Anyone who was participating in our annual meeting as a presenter, chair, moderator, or respondent was eligible. The Federation allocated one subsidy to the CSSR for Congress 2023.

The CGMA provided funding of \$500 to offset the cost of graduate students presenting at their association's annual meeting during Congress 2023. The Federation allocated one CGMA to the CSSR for this year's Congress. The Federation required applicants to submit an abstract proposing what they would present at their association's annual meeting. The CSSR selected its endorsement for the CGMA from this year's call for papers. All MA and PhD student members of the CSSR who submitted a proposal through Sunflower by the January 31, 2023 deadline and met the eligibility requirements were considered for nomination.

Thank you to Chris Miller for adjudicating the CCDCS and CGMA and congratulations to the recipients.

There have been some significant changes to Congress since we last attended that impacted this year's planning and programming.

- The Federation has added to associations' - and thereby program chairs' and local area coordinators' - responsibilities (e.g., adjudication of awards) since we last attended Congress.
- Associations had the option of going virtual though with (in certain cases) increased costs. We could accommodate hybrid presentations for example. Would this be something we

should consider?The expenses for Congress are increasing annually and exponentially. We have not received the final numbers from the Federation for this year (e.g., expenses, registration) but historical data show the following:

| | Congress 2018 (University of Regina) | Congress 2019 (UBC) |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Registration for Annual Meeting | 83 (74 pre-registrations, 0 regular registrations, and 9 on-site registrations) | 112 (91 pre-registrations, 17 regular registrations, and 6 on-site registrations) |
| Revenues | \$2335.00 | \$3705.00 |
| Expenses | \$2114.63 | \$4147.22 |

The Federation announced on May 26 that Congress 2024 will be in Montreal in partnership with McGill University. We would like feedback from members about this year and what we should consider for next year.

Discussion:

- Florence asks if we keep track of no shows during the conference. Michelle has kept track of this, and shares that we had 3 with absolutely no notice, as well as 3 people who dropped out ahead of time
- Michelle suggests that Open Programming at Congress can be useful to help us potentially attract new members. Also brings some extra funding (though Congress)
- Alyshea notes that she likes the old set-up of CSSR conferences, in which the Executive Meeting happens in-person, on Saturday morning, followed by the AGM Saturday afternoon, and the Presidential reception Saturday evening. Panels typically start Sunday morning. CSSR Executive members note that we are likely going back to this set-up. However, in Montreal in 2024, the dates of Congress have been shifted to slightly earlier. While we will still ask for Saturday to Tuesday, it may look slightly different in 2024.

Communications Liaison/Liaison de la Communication (Samiksa Love)



WEBSITE AND SERVER

- The website went down suddenly around the weekend of Congress but it was due to the index.php file needing to be restored and the site was back up and stable within a few hours. Thank you to everyone on the Executive for your teamwork in notifying me about the site and for your brainstorming and cooperation regarding communicating with members during Congress using other methods.
- Otherwise the website is generally running smoothly at this time. I continue to be vigilant about bots/hackers trying to create accounts on our website.
- 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 December 2022, and next one will be in December 2023. The total amount for renewal was \$23.72 (paid in December 2023), and we still have \$76.94 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. SiteLock Security Essential was paid for in February 2023 (\$131.52 CAD) and I was reimbursed by our CSSR Treasurer shortly afterward.



SOME WEBSITE CHANGES WE MADE SINCE LAST MEETING

- Posted 2023 Membership poster throughout website and in weekly newsletter.
- Updated Student Ambassadors for 2022-2023.
- Changed due dates for Book Prize for 2023. Changed due dates for Essay Contest for 2023. Poster needs to be updated every year with new deadlines so it would be helpful if Members-At-Large kept a template to reuse each year for use in posting to website and on Twitter.



WEBSITE TO DO AFTER OUR MEETING TODAY

- Link to new instagram account posted on our website under “Connect” menu?
- Does website FAQ section need revision?



SUNFLOWER

- SUNFLOWER (our automated paper submission system) ran smoothly during autumn 2022.



MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

- There are roughly 844 members within our website’s database as of June 4, 2023 (minus a few duplicates), up from 804 in October 2022.
- Thank you to our Membership Secretary Rachel Brown 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 CSSR (formerly we sent this to SAGE).



CSSR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

- Our Mailchimp newsletter service is still running smoothly. As of June 4, 2023, we have 556 subscribers to our Mailchimp mailing list (it fluctuates as people subscribe and unsubscribe. In October 2022 it was 555).
- “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.



CSSR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

- CSSR Zoom Webinar Series sessions recorded and uploaded to the CSSR youtube channel for members. The CSSR Youtube channel is listed on our website under the “Connect” menu (<http://cssrscer.ca/?q=node/1515>). New videos are announced in the CSSR newsletter.

CSSR FACEBOOK PAGE

- Facebook page is unofficial and not regularly maintained by anyone on our Executive. It has been abandoned and references to it have been removed from our website and newsletter.

CSSR TWITTER ACCOUNT

- Access given to Graduate Student Member-At-Large, Communications Liaison, and new Digital Coordinator for posting.

CSSR INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT

- New account created and maintained by Digital Coordinator. Information to be sent to Samiksa to post to website.

THANK YOU

- Thank you to all the executive members for all your individual and team work throughout the year. It continues to be a pleasure to work alongside you to help the CSSR thrive.

Discussion:

- Alyshea asks if the website upgrade means that we are switching domains/servers. Zabeen responds that all of this will stay the same, the fee is mostly for labour.

Recording Secretary/ Secrétaire archiviste (Chris Miller)

Meeting Polls

Thank you to everyone for submitting your responses to our meeting polls throughout the year! I appreciate the prompt responses and flexibility in helping us to meet across time zones

Reports

Thanks also to everyone on the Executive for submitting your meeting reports in a timely manner, making my job to compile the meeting minutes much easier!

Congress – Local Area Coordinator

I had the pleasure of working as the Local Area Coordinator for our 2023 meeting at Congress. I want to thank Michelle and Qamer for their work as Programme Chairs, and to everyone else who helped our meeting run so smoothly!

President/ Président (Diana Dimitrova)

Congress 2023

I am happy to say that our conference at Congress 2023 (York University, Toronto), May 27th to May 30th, was a tremendous success! Our program was amazing – we had many interesting and engaging panels and papers, and a very important and well-attended plenary round-table on the public role, if any, of scholars of religion! Our reception was, as usual, a lot of fun. Thank you all for coming!

I would like to thank very warmly our Programme Chairs Michelle Folk and Qamer Hameed, our LAC Chris Miller and our Past President and Federation Representative Paul Gareau for organizing the conference. Thank you!

I would also like to thank Michael Gillingham and Rachel Brown for hosting the graduate student luncheon, and Chris Miller and Michelle Folk for taking care of the catering!

Website and newsletter

Thank you, Samiksa Love for all your help with the website and the newsletter, which function beautifully! We plan to upgrade our website this year, and Samiksa's insights would be very helpful and valuable.

Membership

Our membership numbers are steady and growing! Thank you so much, Rachel Brown for your wonderful work!

CSSR webinars 2022-2023

Zabeen Khamisa has been preparing our new CSSR webinar series – this was another amazing and exciting year. Marc Dumas and I co-chaired a CSSR webinar on a book published in the collection “Matière à pensée”, PUM, which I am co-editing with Marc Dumas, the other 5 webinars were chaired and moderated by Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme and Zabeen Khamisa. Thank you, Zabeen!

New Executive Position – Digital Coordinator and New Interim Treasurer

We plan to have a new executive position “Digital Coordinator”, but this will be decided at the AGM.

Treasurer-situation

We have also replaced our Treasurer Ted Malcolmson. Paul Gareau has kindly agreed to take on the duties of Interim Treasurer until the next AGM. Thank you so much, Paul!

Student Essay Winners : PhD and MA 2022

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Catherine van Reenen | On the Limits of Auto-Critique in the Study of Religion |
| Ian Greer | Angrezi Shariat: Islamic Law in 20th Century Britain and its Colonial Antecedents |

I

would like to thank Alyshea Cummins and Jacqueline Giesbrecht for their excellent work. Paul sent a check in the amount of \$300 to Ian Greer and a check in the amount of \$650 to Catherine van Reenen – this is the monetary value for the awards. The deadline for the next competition will be August 1st, 2023. Thank you, Jacqueline Giesbrecht and Kalpesh Bhatt!

New Student Prize

We plan to create a third student prize on Publicly Engaged Project on the Study of Religion, monetary value 300 \$, open to graduate and undergraduate students, and we'll discuss this at the AGM.

CSSR book prize 2022 and President's Reception

The winner of the CSSR 2023 book prize was announced at the CSSR President reception at Congress 2023. This year's winner is

Nadeau, Denise Marie. *Unsettling Spirit: A Journey into Decolonization*. McGill Queen's University Press, 2020.

Thank you, Ruby and all committee members for your hard work on selecting the winner!

CCSR Meeting

I attended the CCSR AGM on May 24th. Lori Beaman is now the Past President of the Corporation, and David Keussens of the Université de Sherbrooke will serve as President from 2023 to 2026. Jennifer Selby was elected a Vice-president of the CCSR. Congratulations to all!

I would like to thank all CSSR executive members and all CSSR members for their amazing work!! THANK YOU!!!!

Past President/ Anciennes présidente (Paul Gareau)

Current Executive:

- President and Representative to the Corporation: Diana Dimitrova [2022–2024]
- Past-President and Academic Freedom & Tenure Committee: Paul Gareau [2022–2024]
- Appointed Executive Member: Rubina Ramji [2020–indefinite]
- Recording Secretary: Chris Miller [2022–2025]
- Treasurer: Paul Gareau [interim 2023]
- Membership Secretary: Rachel Brown, University of Victoria [2022–2025]
- Communications Liaison & Website Administrator: Samiksa Love [2010–indefinite]

- Members-At-Large: Kalpesh Bhatt, University of Toronto [2022–2025] & Jacqueline Giesbrecht, Queen's University [2022–2025]
- Programme Co-Chair: Qamer Hameed [2020–2023] & Michelle Folk, PhD [2018– 2024]
- Graduate Student Member-at-Large: Michael Gillingham [2022–2024]
- SQÉR Representative: Stéphanie Tremblay
- Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS) Representatives: Paul L. Gareau [2022–2024]

Nominations for 2023

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

- Programme Co-Chair: 2023–2026 — Alison Marshall
- Treasurer: 2023–2026 — Christopher Austin
- Digital Coordinator Position: 2023–2026 — Zabeen Khamisa As always, we will also accept nominations from the floor at the AGM.

Nominations for 2024

Keep in mind that there are three positions up for renewal or nomination in 2024:

1. President
2. Programme Co-Chair
3. Graduate Student Member-at-Large

Elections:

1. Program Co-Chair

- **Nominees:**

1. Alison Marshall
2. Paige Thombs (nominated from the floor)

- Vote conducted through Zoom Chat function by direct message to Paul

1. Alison Marshall elected by majority

2. Treasurer

- **Nominees:**

1. Christopher Austin

- **Elected by Acclamation**

3. Digital Coordinator

- **Nominees:**

1. Zabeen Khamisa

- **Elected by Acclamation**

Graduate Student Member-at-Large/ Étudiants des études supérieures (Michael Gillingham)

Update on Activities

Graduate Student Programming at the Annual Meeting

I am glad to report that our Graduate Student Luncheon went off with only one or two hitches. Our food order did not show up at the designated room so we moved the presentation to another room while Chris Miller sorted out food options for us. Rachel Brown rolled with the changes and did a great job presenting her session titled “Brace yourself: Navigating a declining academic job market.” The graduate students in attendance appreciated the food (thanks, Chris!) and Rachel’s presentation (thank, Rachel!) Some of our CSSR Student Ambassadors were in attendance so it was good to meet them in person. I reminded the students in attendance that my term expires in 2024 in case there are other students who would like to serve.

Morad Bkhait, Université du Québec à Montréal
Jacqueline Giesbrecht, Queen’s University (Cultural Studies)
Marie-Eve Larivière, Université d’Ottawa, Sociology
Louie-Joseph Gagnon, Concordia University
Forough Passyar, McMaster University
Rutika Gandhi, UBC Okanagan
Dawn Matthew, Wilfrid Laurier University
Paige Thombs, University of Victoria
Catherine van Reenen, University of Manitoba
Tulika Singh, University of Alberta
Pascale Frémond, University of Montreal
Ankita Choudhary, University of Toronto
Faezeh Izadi, University of Calgary

Thank You

I am very thankful to Chris, Samiksa, Rachel, Michelle, and Diana for the help they’ve provided me at various points this winter and spring. Being at York University and getting to hear some of the sessions was great...I am looking forward to attending Congress at McGill in 2024. Till then, I hope everyone has a good rest this summer (or a productive time this summer...or both.)

Sincerely,

Michael

Allied Associations/Associations alliées

Rebekka King, President of NAASR

Rebekka wishes to thank the CSSR for the recent conference, and enjoyed speaking at the plenary at the 2023 Conference. Announces NAASR’s upcoming 2023 conference being hosted in San Antonio in November. Encourages more cross-participation between the CSSR and NAASR moving forward

Members-at-Large (Jacqueline Giesbrecht and Kalpesh Bhatt)

2022 Essay Winners:

This year we received a total of 12 student essay submissions, 9 of which were graduate submissions and 3 that were undergraduate submissions. The winners were selected by Alyshea Cummins and Jacqueline Giesbrecht in September 2022. With only 3 undergraduate submissions, it was decided to invite those students to resubmit for the 2023 Prize.

Graduate Essay Winners

This year we received a total of 9 Graduate Submissions:

- MA Prize (\$300) – Ian Greer, The American University in Cairo
 - “Angrezi Shariat: Islamic Law in 20th Century Britain and its Colonial Antecedents”
- PhD Prize (\$650) – Catherine van Reenen, University of Manitoba
 - “On the Limits of Auto-Critique in the Study of Religion”

2023 Essay Contest

The Call for Student Essay Submissions commenced in April 2022, with the deadline again being August 1st. The student winners will be invited to share their papers during the 2023-2024 CSSR Webinar series. The undergrad word limit was increased to 2500-5000 words, with the hope of drawing students taking upper-year courses or doing independent studies.

Publicly Engaged Research in Religion

Work has begun on developing the third student prize! (The motion was to “create a third student prize that evaluates non-traditional scholarly work, open to all undergraduate and graduate students.”) A huge thanks to Ruby for starting us off with such a strong first draft! The CSSR exec will continue to provide feedback throughout the summer (via email or Google doc) and a final draft will be presented at the Fall Exec meeting for further discussion and approval.

Report by Jacqueline Giesbrecht

CSSR Book Prize (Rubina Ramji)

Last year, ten books were submitted to the CSSR book prize committee. The committee was comprised of myself, Alyshea Cummins and Qamer Hameed. The committee unanimously chose the following book as the 2021 Book Prize winner:

Nadeau, Denise Marie. *Unsettling Spirit: A Journey into Decolonization*. McGill-Queen's University Press, 2020.

The submitted books were assessed according to the following criteria:

- Relevance to Religious Studies as a discipline
- Currency of subject matter to debates/developments in the field
- Quality of style, presentation, research and methodology
- Originality

The committee provided the following statement for choosing this book as the winner:

Unsettling Spirit is a very relevant to the study of religion and quite timely. This book is a thought-provoking exploration into the settler experience and working towards being an ally of decolonization. It is a reminder of the importance of situating oneself and fostering self-awareness when studying communities and ways of life.

Throughout the book, Nadeau highlights Indigenous knowledge systems and worldviews, helping the reader understand how settler knowledge constructions and their practical manifestations are real barriers to Indigenous progress and self-determination. The author turns a spiritual quest into a dialogue deconstructing settler identities. It is a study looking inward to meaningfully engage with decolonization.

The winner of the 2021 CSSR Book Prize was announced at the CSSR Annual General Meeting and through the CSSR Newsletter: the winner was notified of their award and was invited to receive the award at the CSSR President's Reception. Unfortunately, Denise Nadeau was unable to attend the President's Reception. The CSSR Treasurer sent the winner the \$500 prize and certificate by mail.

As we did for the 2020 winner, in order to recognize the author's work in a more scholarly way, we will hold a formal webinar session in the late Fall (2023), where the author will have the opportunity to present her book to our members. I recommend we do this again this year, for the 2021 Book Prize Winner. This process will provide members with a larger forum to engage with new scholarship in the field of Religious Studies.

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

Ruby Ramji, Appointed Executive Member, CSSR

8. Additional items/ Des articles supplémentaires

- **Congress at McGill**

The CCSR looks forward to our annual conference next year, being hosted in Montreal in conjunction with Congress

9. Adjournment/ Adjournement

MOTION: *Adjourn the meeting.*

Moved: Alyshea

Seconded: Rubina

The meeting adjourned at 14:20 EDT.