

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING / RÉUNION DU CONSEIL
VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA
APRIL 8TH, 2024, 12 TO 2PM ET**

Present: Diana Dimitrova, Chris Miller, Zabeen Khamisa, Kalpesh Bhatt, Jacqueline Giesbrecht, Rachel Brown, Christopher Austin, Paul Gareau, Rubina Ramji and Alison Marshall

Regrets: Michael Gillingham, Michelle Folk

1. Welcome/Bienvenue

Start time: 12:05 Eastern

2. Accept Agenda/ Accepter l'ordre du jour

MOTION : *Accept the agenda*

Moved: Christopher Austin

Seconded: Chris Miller

Motion carried unanimously

3. Accept the minutes of the executive meeting of October 4th, 2023/Accepter le Procès verbal de la réunion du conseil du 4 octobre 2023

MOTION: *Accept the minutes* (Note. Bottom of page 9, update spelling of David Koussens)

Moved: Alison

Seconded: Kalpesh

Motion carried unanimously

4. Reports/ Rapports

Recording Secretary/ Secrétaire archiviste (Chris Miller)

Meeting Poll

Thank you to everyone for submitting your responses to of our meeting poll and for helping us to find times that work for this meeting.

Mailing List

I am using the following mailing list for any communications with the CSSR Executive. Please take a look, and if you would prefer that CSSR messages go to a different account, please let me know!

CSSR Executive - 2023/24		
Position	Name	Email
President	Diana Dimitrova	diana.dimitrova@umontreal.ca
Past President	Paul Gareau	pgareau@ualberta.ca

Appointed Executive Member	Rubina Ramji	ruby_ramji@cbu.ca
Recording Secretary	Chris Miller	chris.miller@uwaterloo.ca
Treasurer	Christopher Austin	christopher.austin@dal.ca
Membership Secretary	Rachel Brown	racheldiane@gmail.com
Member-at-Large	Kalpesh Bhatt	kbhatt@umw.edu
Member-at-Large	Jacqueline Giesbrecht	19jdg@queensu.ca
Graduate Student Member-at-Large	Michael Gillingham	mgilling@ualberta.ca
Programme Co-Chair	Alison Marshall	marshalla@brandonu.ca
Programme Co-Chair	Michelle Folk	michelle.folk@uregina.ca
Digital Coordinator	Zabeen Khamisa	zabeen.khamisa@uwaterloo.ca

Graduate Students/ Étudiants de cycle supérieurs (Michael Gillingham)

Update on Activities

Student Ambassador Program

Now in its seventh year, the Student Ambassador program is continuing to run. We have added three Student Ambassadors to the list since my last report for a total of 12 Student Ambassadors for this year. Our three new ambassadors are Samar Mashadi from McMaster University, Lyn Wattam from Queen's University (Religious Studies) and Morad Algrari from Wilfred Laurier University. We have continued to advertise for new Student Ambassadors on our website and through the newsletter. I sent out an update to the Student Ambassadors in November 2023 asking them to publicize a Non-Academic Job Searching Workshop. In January 2024, I sent out an update regarding the new CSSR website, CSSR membership options and benefits, and the 2024 CSSR conference call for papers. In February, I sent out a reminder about the CSSR conference, a request for input on graduate student programming at the conference, and an advertisement for an online presentation featuring two graduate student CSSR essay prize winners. I also informed the Student Ambassadors that I will be finishing my term this year and I encouraged them to consider applying for the position.

Graduate Student Programming at the Annual Meeting

I checked with the current Student Ambassadors for suggestions for the Graduate Student programming at the 2024 Conference in Montreal. There was a strong interest in having someone present on early career publishing opportunities and strategies for graduate students and early career scholars. Another interesting topic that was suggested was the topic of academic associations for Religious Studies and the value of participating in one or some. Michelle has been in touch and we have booked the Graduate Student luncheon for Sunday of the conference and menu items have been selected. I must say that the options are much better this year...prices are comparable to last year. Here's hoping our food will actually arrive this year (and thanks again to Chris for rescuing us last year when the food did not show).

Thank You

I am very thankful to Diana, Paul, Michelle, Chris, Samiksa, and Rachel for the help they've provided me at various points this winter and spring. I am looking forward to our time at McGill University as we gather to meet and share

our work with each other. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve on the Executive Committee for CSSR in this way. I would be happy to continue to serve in a different role if the opportunity arises in the future. I look forward to offering any help and support that I can for the new Graduate Student Member-at-Large for CSSR.

Sincerely,

Michael

Michael Gillingham
CSSR Graduate Student Member-at-Large

Student Essays/ Essai étudiant (Jacqueline Giesbrecht/Kalpesh Bhatt [MAL])

1. Webinar: Graduate Student Essay Prize Winners

Zabeen Khamisa organized the CSSR Webinar featuring presentations by our Graduate Student Essay Contest Prize winners from 2022-2023 on Zoom on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 3pm EST. The presentations were:

- PhD Prize: Catherine Van Reenen, University Of Manitoba
Topic: "Delicate Instruments And The Challenges Of Empirical Observation In Psychological Research: The Technical Apparatus Of T.G. Hamilton's Teleplasm Experiments"
- MA Prize: Marie-Ève Ouimette, Université Du Québec À Montréal
Topic: La Culture Religieuse À L'école: Un Sacrifice Sur L'autel De La Laïcité?

The webinar was chaired by Jacqueline Giesbrecht, and the recording can be found on the CSSR YouTube channel.

2. Changes to Student Prize

Based on the discussions and decisions taken during the Fall 2023 meeting, the student essay contest (attached) has been revised. The main changes are:

1. Eligibility:

- Students cannot win 2 years in a row in the same category.
- The graduate category no longer includes Canadian students studying internationally. This is due to tax and communication complications with past winners studying internationally.
- Ask grad students to send us proof of CSSR membership as part of submission to streamline the adjudication process.
- More description of registration requirements (academic year details) since this caused confusion in the past.
- **Proposed change:** The earlier requirement of "letter of confirmation/certification" be changed to "letter of support," which can be provided by any member of the department rather than just the chair or grad coordinator. Our sense is that it is for proof of academic integrity rather than a simple confirmation of enrollment (which can be auto-generated), with the former being increasingly important with the use of AI. The change to "support" would indicate this to departments and allow students to get such a letter from the most relevant faculty member (i.e., instructor, supervisor, committee member)

2. Essay contest

- Webinar presentation of essays only for grad students.
- The maximum word count for grad student essays increased to 7000.

3. Addition of the third category: **Publicly Engaged Research in Religion**

- **TBD:**
 - Should we allow group project submissions?
 - Inclusion in webinar series or other possibilities of sharing submissions in this category?
 - Length requirements

Once all changes are reviewed, revised, and approved by the board, the contest description will be revised on the website, the poster will be updated, and the 2023-24 contest will be launched by the end of April. Jacqueline will be the contact person for the new category, and Kalpesh for the essay contests.

Digital Coordinator (Coordinatrice numérique) Zabeen Khamisa

2023-2024: CSSR Webinar Schedule

Webinar 1: September

Organized by Zabeen – cancelled due to COVID.

Webinar 2: October

Organized by Zabeen – cancelled due to COVID.

Webinar 2: November 2, 2023 @3pm EDT

Guest: Aaron Ross

Book: *The Holy Spirit and the Eagle Feather: The Struggle for Indigenous Pentecostalism in Canada*

Host: Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme, *Advancing Studies in Religion*

Webinar 3: End of November/start of December 2023

Organized by Diana – cancelled.

Webinar 4: January 25, 2024 @3pm EDT

Guest: Matthew R. Anderson

Book: "Prophets of Love: The Unlikely Kinship of Leonard Cohen and the Apostle Paul"

Host: Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme, *Advancing Studies in Religion*

Webinar 5: February 29, 2024 @3pm EDT

Guest: CSSR MA Essay Winner - Marie-Ève Ouimette & Catherine van Reenen

Topic: "La culture religieuse à l'école: un sacrifice sur l'autel de la laïcité?"

Host: Jaqueline or Kalpesh

Webinar 6: March 28, 2024 at 2pm EST

Guest: Mireille Estivalezes

Topic: La fin de la culture religieuse

Host: Marc Dumas and Diana Dimitrova

Webinar 7: April 25, 2024 at @2pm EST

Guest: Amarnath Amarasingam

Talk: On Hindu Nationalism

Host: Zabeen Khamisa (or anyone else who is interested!)

CSSR/CONGRESS July

- ❖ The webinars will start again in September. I have already started planning and am waiting for confirmations. If there are any suggestions, please share!
- ❖ Starting in August, I'd like to have a set and integrated schedule for posting on CSSR Twitter – working with the details from the newsletter, but mostly for CSSR membership and conference promotion.
- ❖ Essay Competition Webinar
 - I wasn't made aware of any previous process to organize this. We opted to focus on putting together a graduate student panel of winners. I will be working with the Essay Competition team to create a webinar timeline the next set of recipients, so it's organized in advanced and a part of the regular schedule.
- ❖ I would like to give some attention to the webinar website page so it's more user-friendly and aesthetically engaging.
- ❖ Several conversations were had about cancelling the zoom, and Paul is completing this process.
- ❖ I was able to identify that Ruby's phone number is attached to the Gmail account, so we will be able to access to that again.

- ❖ We need a central place to keep our passcodes and backup account holders. Does CSSR have a secure digital drive? Perhaps the google drive can be used once the password is reset.

Discussion:

- In September, Zabeen will be working towards establishing a more streamlined system for CSSR communication
- For future webinars, would also like to create room for more diverse topics and formats (e.g., not just books, but also essays or works in progress). Also creating space for BIPOC scholars and graduate students to share their work

Membership Secretary and Communication Officer / Secrétaire des membres et agente des communication (Rachel Brown)

Website

- This was one of the biggest tasks of my last year
- Had to switch hosts recently, but all should be in working order now
- Will continue to work with the developer, Kyle (who has been incredibly helpful and supportive), on streamlining the website. Please send me suggestions of additions or edits that you think would help to make the website more user friendly, clean, etc.

Membership Secretary Updates

- Our tracking of memberships will change a bit with the new website and payment process. We are now shifting to a year membership based on the date that someone signs up/pays rather than an annual membership for the calendar year no matter when you sign up.
- 63 paid members since October 2023; 6 unpaid members (who have submitted membership forms but haven't paid yet); For a total of 69 members
 - I anticipate we will get a lot more memberships in the next couple of months leading up to Congress.
 - I will send out an email to all unpaid members who are set to speak at the conference with a reminder to sign up for their membership later this month
- Membership categories: Regular (\$100); Associate with SR (\$60); Associate without SR (\$55); Student with SR (\$50); Student without SR (\$30)
 - Decided to keep these categories for the new website for now. Can discuss if they still serve us well since most folks have access to SR through their institutions. I would propose changing to three categories – Regular (\$100), Associate (\$60) and Student (\$40)
- Payment through e-transfer is still a bit clunky and would love to provide a more streamlined option for folks that would be worked into the website, so it all happens in one step. For tracking, the manual labour is a bit frustrating and requires way more time for the membership secretary than it should. I have to go into the website and manually look up the member, make sure they have an account and verify their payment date/profile details.

Communications Updates

- Newsletter went out weekly over the Fall and into the new year.
- I switched to a bi-weekly (unless there was deadline specific news) in mid-January. It was requiring a ton of time and most things were not new in a given newsletter, so made the choice to go to twice a month rather than every week.
- 45-50% readership with between 5-8% engagement with links

Discussion:

- Rachel propose a shift towards fewer membership categories. Simplify to Regular, Associate, and Student, rather than each tier also having an option for with our without access to *Studies in Religion*. Fewer categories would be easier for handling membership, and also easier for our membership to understand.
 - Ruby raises that proposing this will require 2 consecutive AGM votes

- Christopher Austin also supports this shift to fewer categories. But each category should include access to *SR*, clearly indicating that this is our society's journal
- Alison commends Rachel for her many hours of work. Her and Ruby suggest that the workload needs to be reduced. Christopher also seconds this thanks and recognition.
 - Christopher suggests that he can help with membership confirmation. Also asks whether some of the work to create online profiles for our members may be redundant (are people using these?). Since he already tracks membership through his work as Treasurer, he agrees to take on this work of confirming membership starting now
- Christopher wants all references to the old Treasurer Gmail account removed from the website (specifically highlights information about Conference Travel funding)
- Christopher and Alison will coordinate to confirm whether all Congress presenters are paid CSSR members
- Diana asks if we should move the newsletter to being monthly (it is currently bi-weekly, and down from weekly the year prior)
 - Rachel says that we can think about this, but the bi-weekly format is not overly burdensome
- Ruby suggests that we need to talk about membership categories at the Exec meeting right before AGM. Then talk about a proposed change at the AGM. Then vote on it again at the AGM in 2025.
 - We need to clearly communicate to our membership why we want to move to fewer categories
- Ruby suggests that we should re-visit the jobs that got shifted to Rachel as Membership Secretary when Samiksa stepped down as Communications Liaison

Treasurer/ Trésorier (Christopher Austin)

Treasurer's Report: July 2023 - March 2024 Period

Please note highlighted action items for other executive members or issues flagged for the June 2024 AGM.

I was elected Treasurer at the June 19, 2023 CSSR AGM, replacing outgoing Acting Treasurer Paul Gareau. This report summarizes the society's financial activities over the period July 2023 - March 2024. By the time of my election, the society's financial functions had devolved somewhat, and so I along with others have undertaken several projects of renovation and restoration in past months. These are still ongoing and themselves have been set back by miscommunication and other regrettable, because avoidable, mishaps.

BMO Community Account

Balance at March 28th, 2024: \$9,234.65. See attached, "BMO CA Statements, 07 23 - 03 24". Note that there is no Nov. 2023 Statement -- BMO issued in error a repeat of the Sept. 2023 statement under the title of the November 2023, and I am still waiting for a reply to my request for correction.

Investments (BMO)

When taking over Treasurer's duties from Paul Gareau over the summer of 2023, I secured signing authority on the BMO Community Account. Paul however did not forward to me or appear to have access to any information on how the BMO Investments were accessed or monitored. They appear to have been left to grow passively for some time now, and presumably no one has accessed any online investments account to monitor their status. Here as elsewhere, my work of incoming Treasurer involves building from a kind of zero rather than receiving over a functioning set of operations along with the information I require. In any case, the balance of the BMO Investments reported at the June 19th, 2023 AGM was \$67,389.66, this figure referring to the account at January 1st, 2023. We have certainly not made any withdrawals from these investments, and so can hope they may be in the 67-70K range at present.

Current Operational Budget (July 2023 - June 2024 Period)

The CSSR is presently functioning under the terms of the July 2023 - June 2024 budget, proposed at the June 19 2023 AGM by outgoing Treasurer Paul Gareau and adopted by majority vote (see attached, "June 19 2023 - AGM - Gareau Budget"). This budget – which, I feel compelled to note, I did not support at the time of its adoption at the AGM – has presented me with significant operational problems for two main reasons: (1) it proposed to spend out

the entire balance of the society's chequing account, as well as the entire balance of the society's investments in the 2023-24 year, identifying these accounts as revenue alongside membership fees. Since we will obviously not do this, the current budget effectively presents me with a \$14,000 or so operational deficit. (2) Not all expenses have been anticipated and/or granted budget lines. As such I have been unable to predict what kinds of expenses will be required and when. The actual website expense was more than double its budgeted amount (see below), and a significant registration fee for Congress, which had no budget line and which I had no anticipation of, had to be paid out to ensure our status in the FHSS. I am not certain what else may arise, but I hope that as we approach the one-year mark, I will have learned by experience what the society actually does and does not spend money on over the course of the year.

Coming Changes for June 2024 Budget

The reality is that the society takes in a yearly revenue of around \$8000-\$9000 or so in membership fees. Additionally, we have investments which can be used as a source of revenue if it is decided that small amounts of the generated interest on investments should be cashed out for revenue, so long of course as I discover the means to access them. Our general ball-park operating budget for the 2024-25 year will thus not exceed \$10,000 or so. Note that the 2023-24 budget adopted by the society sets out over \$20,000 in expenses for the current year, although thankfully we have only spent \$8,470.53 over the period July 1, 2023 - March 28, 2024 (see attached, "July 1 2023 - March 28 2024 Revenues and Expenses"). As I will not present a deficit budget for the 2024 AGM, the executive should be prepared to abandon certain expense commitments for the coming year, most likely the honoraria for executive members, which in my view represents an unwarranted extravagance, at least for tenured and tenure-track members. In the weeks in advance of the June AGM, I will propose a draft budget for discussion by the executive before it is finalized for distribution to members as an AGM document.

Paypal and Gmail Account Debacles

I, along with Rachel Brown and others, have devoted a considerable amount of time to the matter of the society's system for processing membership payments. This is a complicated matter of the relationship between the society website, Paypal, the BMO banking account, and two CSSR Treasurer email accounts: an old gmail account and a new hotmail one. The idea here was to embed Paypal into our CSSR Website in order to facilitate membership payments and make receipts more automated and immediate. This initiative was already well underway when I became Treasurer. The endeavor has failed because only a Business Paypal account, not a Personal one, can be embedded into a website. A Business account requires a Business Number; we do not have one. In order to get one, we will have to register the CSSR as a Charity Organization with the Canadian Government (see below).

After investing time and effort in seeking to link our BMO account with Paypal and arriving at these disappointing obstructions, it was discovered in some minutes of an executive meeting before my time that, in fact, the society had already been down this dead end route, and had arrived at the exact same impasse. The impasse, in short, arises from the fact that (a) the CSSR does not have a Business Number, (b) a nasty Catch-22 situation, whereby if one attempts to open a Paypal Business account, only to discover that a BN is needed, one cannot then delete that account without a BN. The aborted attempt remains frozen and the setup cannot be walked back unless one fills in the BN field; (c) whatever email address has been used for this purpose is now locked and so cannot then be used as the basis for a Personal Paypal account (which in any case cannot be embedded in the CSSR website). While the problem that only a Business Paypal account could be embedded in the website appears to have been a new discovery, I was shocked and dismayed to discover that the Paypal mess around Business Numbers was one that in fact others had already been through. I and others thus spent a considerable amount of time re-inventing a wheel which the society already knew to be square.

The second debacle involved the two email accounts: upon becoming Treasurer in June 2023, I was told in no uncertain terms that the old Treasurer email account, cssr.scer.treasurer@gmail.com, was inaccessible: the former CSSR Treasurer Ted Donaldson, who had been effectively fired from the position and whom, it was said, no one was able to contact any longer, was the only person who had access to this email account -- no one had the password. This presented many difficulties with our struggles around the aforementioned Paypal mess, accessing our BMO bank account and processing membership payments by Interac E-Transfer. I thus established a new CSSR Treasurer email account, namely treasurer.cssr@hotmail.com, used this to link to our BMO account for online banking, and members were asked to use this for sending Interac E-Payments. But the old gmail treasurer email address was in fact still linked to the BMO account, and could transfer through payments from a member using the

gmail address for Interac E-Payments. This happened many times, since often enough members save a "CSSR Treasurer" email in their online banking accounts, and several did not update the email address from the old gmail to the new hotmail one. As such the old gmail account still works for getting money through to us, but as we are not able to access that gmail account, we can only see the money arrive in the bank; no sender's email address appears there, and so the member cannot be contacted with a receipt of payment (by contrast, when members use the new and functioning hotmail address to send Interac E-Transfers, such payments appear as emails to which I can reply with a receipt of payment and details regarding the term of membership). This problem of the old, still-active but inaccessible gmail account became a huge headache particularly for Rachel Brown.

All of these problems and frustrations were voiced and shared repeatedly in email conversations with the executive over the fall and early winter. I was therefore shocked and baffled to discover in Feb 2024 that Paul Gareau in fact had, all along, the password for the old gmail account -- he had not only the password, but the SMS security feature, which sends a login code to a cell phone, was linked to his own personal phone. Moreover, I was astonished to learn that other executive members involved in these conversations likewise had access to this password and knew that the gmail account was in fact accessible all along. Let it suffice to say that I have been frustrated with the situation, and that considerable investments of my time in the service of the society have proven fruitless due to miscommunication and a very poor culture of institutional continuity.

As for the still-active gmail account itself, I imagine it must have accumulated a number of unread emails by now. Only Paul Gareau can access these, and he is responsible for the contents of the Inbox and for resolving any issues arising from them. The BMO Investments are likely linked to this gmail account, and there may be important emails in it regarding the society's investments. Again, without having proper access to the information required to manage the society's banking and finances, there is only so much I can do to get things back on track.

Fraud Emails

I and other executive members have received or been forwarded fraudulent emails from web thieves posing as myself and the society president Diana Dimitrova. These typically ask for some vaguely defined invoice or other to be paid out. Please always pay close attention to the actual @XXX email addresses any time you see anything that seems off in any way.

Website Expenses

The currently adopted budget appears to reserve \$2000 for the 2023-24 year for website expenses. In Oct. 2023 I was asked to pay Parsons Design \$4000 for new website construction fees. The chief purpose of this renovation was the Paypal embedding, which again was underway already at the time I joined the executive. Thus far it has failed: it was the work of renovation, which cost \$4000, which discovered the fact that a Personal Paypal account cannot be embedded in a website. However, there is hope for following through on this and making good on the renovation costs if we can secure Charitable Organization status (see below). In any case, the website budget line of \$2000 has already been significantly overspent. Henceforth we will pay \$80 a month for website maintenance fees, but presumably there will be no further large lump-sum amounts under this budget line. As such I would like to think that some \$1200 or so will suffice for the 2024-25 year expense line for the website.

Zoom Account

The Zoom account is a superfluous expense and a waste of money. I raised this point a few times over the year, and it was finally agreed in an email exchange that we should delete it. Only Paul Gareau has the means to do this -- I would ask once again that the account be deleted.

Memberships, July 2023-March 2024

Rachel Brown may have slightly different data, but the following represents my info on new and returning memberships from the time I became treasurer (see attached, " July 2023 - March 2024 Memberships"): Reg. Memb. - rec. SR through CSSR (\$100.00/yr)	34
Assoc. Memb. (ret./pt) - rec. SR through CSSR (\$60.00/yr)	8
Assoc. Memb. (ret./pt) - rec. SR through another soc. (\$55.00/yr)	3
Stud. Memb. - rec. SR through CSSR (\$50.00/yr)	8
Stud. Memb. - - rec. SR through another soc. (\$30.00/yr)	16

total
total revenues for this period:

69
\$4,945

Charity Status and Possible Back-Taxes Owed on Investments

The executive has been discussing the possibility of the CSSR applying for status as a Charitable Organization with the CRA. The principal reason for this is to secure a Business Number, with which we could then open a Business Paypal account, which in turn could be embedded directly into the CSSR web site. This would streamline payments, allow members to use credit cards, and facilitate receipts and membership monitoring. The Canadian Society for Biblical Studies functions this way, and so we are seeking to follow their example. The Charity application would require the following documents:

1. the original CSSR constitution document of 1977 and any amendments thereto to date.

Here is what the CRA requires:

- For registration purposes, a constitution must contain at least the following requirements:
 - The organizations' name
 - The organization's purposes (also referred to as 'objects')
 - A provision stating that the organization will be operated without purpose of gain for its members, and that any profits or other assets of the organization will be used solely to promote its objectives (nonprofit clause)
 - The structure of the organization's governing body (the positions of those in authority, often referred to as directors for example, president, chair, secretary, treasurer, etc.)
 - A provision that explains how the organization will replace its directors (for example, annual election by members, appointment by existing directors, etc.)
 - The effective date of the constitution
 - The signatures of at least three of the organization's directors
2. A description of our purposes and activities. To qualify as a registered charity, we must show that we devote all of our resources (funds, personnel, and property) to charitable activities that directly further its charitable purposes.
 3. agenda and minutes of the past few years' AGMs, say 2020-2024 or so
 4. projection/description of next fiscal year's activities
 5. the budget adopted at the 2024 AGM
 6. BMO account statements
 7. names, SIN, date of birth and contact info of all CSSR executive members

Whether the CSSR should apply for Charitable Organization Status should be presented to members at the June 2024 AGM for a vote. But we should act promptly on this by assembling all the documents required for the application in advance of the AGM, so that as soon as/if the decision to apply for charitable status is adopted along with the 2024-25 budget, we can submit the materials. I can assemble items 4-7 fairly easily and see through the application. However, I would note that in conversations to this point, I have begun to fear that no one in fact has access to or any copy of the actual 1977 constitution document of the CSSR. This would normally be in the possession of the society Secretary. Locating this, along with any amendments, is the first task. Item 2 could then be drafted in reference to the terms of the constitution. The society secretary can then assemble and forward to me the agenda and minutes of the past few years' AGMs, and I can take care of items 3-7 and submit the application. If all goes well, we may have Charitable Status before the end of 2024, a Business Number, and thus may be able to finalize the website embedding project before the next round of membership renewals begins in Nov-Dec. Charitable Organizations file a yearly return. This does not mean necessarily that the CSSR as a Charity would pay taxes, but the form T3010 is required every year (11 pages, much of it would be blank in our case). I would prepare the T3010 return for the 2024 year in around Feb. or so of 2025, and of course prepare notes to pass on to future treasurers on the process. 8 of 8

The CSSR earns interest on its BMO investments. **While I cannot access the BMO investments (i.e. an online web portal for viewing balances or generating statements),** I did have transferred to me from Paul Gareau a digital copy of a BMO-issued 2022 Tax Year T5 (Statement of Investment Income) upon becoming treasurer. I have received as well now in the mail a hard copy of the the 2023 T5 (at least BMO appears to now have my Dalhousie mailing address). For both the 2022 and 2023 years, the Box 25 "Taxable amount of eligible dividends" is \$0. As to date it seems never to have had a Business Number or status as a Charitable Organization, it has presumably never had a CRA account (again, it may be that in the past we actually did, but the society's institutional memory and ability to carry forward important information of this kind has proven to be consistently poor). Without a CRA account, any taxes that may be due on investment interest can't be processed or paid. I confirmed this in a phone conversation with a CRA representative a few days ago. My impression from the Box 25 of the T5 forms is that we don't actually owe any for the 2022-2023 years, but I may be wrong, and there may well be back-taxes owed on investment interest accumulating over the years. Paying down any such balance owing would be a necessary part of the work of establishing the CSSR as a Charitable Organization. I doubt this would amount to a great sum, and in fact a cash-out from the investments themselves could be used to close out any amount owing to the CRA, assuming of course I am ever able to secure access to them. A CRA representative suggested we could consult with an accountant on this matter; it would be worth one visit with a pro to ensure we are entirely above-board and up to date if we are to function properly as a charitable organization.

Discussion:

- Christopher highlights the main action items of his reports. Namely:
 - He needs access to the old Treasurer Gmail account
 - He needs the information about our investment account
 - This is especially important, as we need this money in order to pay out our budget this year
 - We need to prioritize deleting the CSSR Zoom account
- Christopher also asks questions about the travel funds the CSSR offers:
 - Do we cover students, or everyone?
 - Do they get 50% of expenses covered, or 75%?
 - Do they have to be presenting to receive these funds?
- The website needs to be updated for consistency as some of the information is contradictory on different pages. Anyone is eligible to apply, but students will receive up to 75% of travel costs. Rest will be distributed among all other applicants. Any references to the Gmail account needs to be deleted from these web pages. Deadline will also be updated from March 30 to May 1
- Diana asks whether some of our problems with finances/accounts are due to BMO as an organization. Christopher says that these sorts of issues with access are common at every bank

Programme Chair/ Présidence pour le programme (Alison Marshall/Michelle Folk)

Michelle Folk and Alison Marshall are this year's program co-chairs at the McGill University Congress 2024 meetings from June 15-17 with Diana Dimitrova as LAC. Congress continues to have monthly one hour Countdown to Congress meetings which we attend to hear about deadline updates, room allocation, av, furnishings requests, catering and other information to help us with program planning. We submit forms to Congress for rooms, and other requests. Additionally we attend other clinics Congress schedules to provide additional information about specific programming issues and the website. We have had some issues with the new CSSR website which has complicated program planning, though the addition of the program chairs email address has streamlined work and communication with members wishing for clarification of scheduling and other issues. People who submitted individual, panel, roundtable and workshop presentations received an acceptance letter via this email address.

Submissions for individual, panel, roundtable and workshop presentations are now saved in a dual format which we greatly appreciate. We receive a copy of the submission via the program chairs email address, as well as a copy that is entered into fields on a template and downloadable from the new CSSR website. Going forward and in relation to the new website, we would like to tweak the CSSR conference submission template and formatting of select fields, as the fields in exported files have hidden formatting that makes the extraction of information from select fields challenging and sometimes impossible. We are grateful to have a backup system for the submission

process. In cases where field information is missing on the website exported file, we can search the individual emails and locate the information. We wish to thank Rachel Brown for her tremendous work on the newsletter and circulating the program broadly to members, as well as facilitating extensive changes to and the implementation of a new CSSR website.

CSSR meets in person (not online) at Congress between Saturday June 15 and Monday June 17 at McGill University this year, one day less than in previous years given rising travel and conference costs. 22 Sessions with nearly 80 presentations run from 8:30 am-5:00 pm EDT in keeping with the Federation's schedule for Congress and there are scheduled breaks in nearby rooms for rest and socializing as in previous years. Participation in this year's meetings remains fairly healthy with nearly 80 presentations, though we would have expected numbers to be much higher as this year's venue is McGill University. Thus far, we have received a few cancellations that have been balanced by a few late submissions which we have accepted.

As of late March, 40 people have registered on the Congress website to present and attend the CSSR meetings in person at Congress. Four of these people have identified themselves as non-members of the CSSR. New this year, we have also added a link on the Congress registration site to our own CSSR membership renewal page, making it easier for people to navigate to our membership page and pay this year's membership fees after registering for Congress. We note that Congress has asked registrants for information about accessibility needs, though Congress has been clear that it is the responsibility of the associations to follow up with members and determine their accessibility needs beyond wheelchair assistance which Congress provides. Congress is working on an accessibility guide (with details of childcare at Congress and other issues) to be shared by the next meeting on April 11.

The CSSR Congress generated report summarizing the accessibility needs of CSSR attendees has identified that we communicate the needs for specific foods (Halal, Kosher, Vegan, Vegetarian, Gluten-free options) in general on and around the host campus of Congress, and in particular when we make our catering orders for food at the reception and at the Graduate luncheon. When choosing rooms on campus, we have tried to ensure proximity to a variety of food venues on the host campus with these diets in mind. In terms of our own catering and choice of accessible menu options, we are communicating with the McGill catering firm to choose food on the menu that people who follow a Halal, Kosher, Vegan, Vegetarian, and Gluten-free diet may consume.

We had the option of making attendance of our sessions available to anyone who registers as a community member for 30 dollars. The executive remains divided on the subject with some suggesting that entering the program into the open events calendar (deadline passed March 29) would help boost attendance, and raise the profile of our group, and others expressing privacy and room capacity concerns. <https://www.federationhss.ca/en/congress/programming-events/events-calendar>. This might be something we wish to discuss further.

In terms of the Childcare Subsidy (200 dollars) and Graduate Merit Awards (500 dollars), we have been allotted two of each by Congress, with the possibility of bonus candidates in each category. Thus far, we have one confirmed recipient of the Childcare Subsidy at Congress in the amount of 200 dollars. This person was the only one to apply. Blind review to determine the recipients and ranking for the Graduate Merit Awards is forthcoming. Associations may nominate two additional candidates (ranked first and second choice). These additional candidate nominations are not guaranteed an award. Two students applied for and were given complimentary BIPOC registration links in keeping with Congress policy.

This year most of the meetings take place in the Birks Building, with Monday meetings happening in the Trottier Building. As is past practice, presenters may use the laptop, screen and other equipment provided in rooms for which Congress support will be provided. Mac Users should bring their presentations on a USB stick and/or provide their own dongle (adaptors) and laptops. Congress does not provide support for equipment brought by presenters.

Some of the new initiatives and events at Congress this year include Indigenous protocols (eg smudging and land acknowledgments), SSHRC mentoring and networking sessions and a new lounge this year. Congress has also

added theme trivia nights this year and these and other Big thinking events are listed in the open events calendar (see above).

Discussion:

- Alison raises that we need to find ways to reduce the workload for Program Chair. It is currently a very daunting, intensive role
 - Submission system that Rachel and Kyle (website developer) set up was helpful
 - Attending Congress Meetings is a lot of work that falls on the Program Chairs. This could be outsourced to other executive members
 - Formatting of program should be changed for readability
 - Process for evaluating proposals and decision making needs to be streamlined
- Chris will assist with Grad Student Merit Award
- One applicant for Childcare Subsidy will receive it
- Ruby explains more about how the 'Open Sessions' at Congress work. They cost \$30 for Congress members to attend, but can help to attract a wider audience to the topic/society

President/ Présidente (Diana Dimitrova)

Congress 2023

I am happy to say that we had our last conference with Congress (at York University, Toronto) and in person from May 27th to May 29th. It was a great success! We had a very well attended and interesting conference, a wonderful reception and a very dynamic Plenary roundtable session on the Public Role of Scholars of Religion, if any. We are in the process of publishing the papers of the roundtable in the journal *Studies in Religion*.

Congress 2024

Our next conference will take place at McGill University in Montreal from June 15th to June 17th. We shared our call for papers with the SQÉR, as many colleagues, who are based in Quebec may be interested in attending our conference this year, given its location in Montreal. Our Programme Chairs Michelle Folk and Alison Marshall have been working very hard on this. Our preliminary program has just been released – it looks amazing!

Michelle Folk had to step down for health reasons with an immediate effect, so Alison Marshall took over her tasks. Our thoughts and good wishes go out to Michelle. We would like to thank her very warmly for her amazing contribution to the CSSR over the past six years!! Thank you very much, Michelle!

I would like to take this opportunity and extend our gratitude to Alison Marshall, who took over Michelle's tasks as Program Co-Chair, in addition to her responsibilities as Program Co-Chair, and completed the catering order for our reception and the finalizing of the conference program. Alison has announced that she will be stepping down in June 2024. We would like to thank her for her service to the CSSR this past year. Thank you so much for your excellent work, Alison!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Graduate Student Representative Michael Gillingham for his work with our graduate students and for organizing the graduate student luncheon and other activities, which benefit our graduate students. Thank you very much, Michael!

New website and newsletter

We launched a new and modern website last October, which looks very nice. Our newsletter is coming out bi-weekly in order to keep our members informed. I would like to thank Rachel Brown for mastering the new website so quickly and for taking care of the newsletter!

Membership

Our membership numbers are steady and as we know, most members pay their dues before the conference, so I expect the numbers to go up in the coming few weeks. I would like to thank Rachel Brown, who continues serving as Membership Secretary, in addition to her work as Communications Liaison. Thank you so much for your amazing work, Rachel!

New CSSR Books Series “Critical Perspectives on Religion”, published by DeGruyter-Brill

I am very happy to report that our new books Series “Critical Perspectives on Religion” will be launched soon. There will be a roundtable on how to publish your book in the Series at our conference (on Monday June 17th from 1.30 to 3 pm), where representatives of DeGruyter-Brill Press and of the Editorial Board will answer questions. We invite you to attend the round-table and to submit your manuscript to the Series! As soon as we have the book cover design, we’ll advertise the Series in the newsletter. I would like to thank Mr. Aaron Sanborn-Overby from deGruyter-Brill Press, and Ruby Ramji, Paul Gareau and Christopher Austin for their help with creating the Series!

CSSR webinars 2023-2024

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 Mireille Estivalezes book “La fin de la culture religieuse”, published in the collection “Matière à pensée”, PUM, which I am co-editing with Marc Dumas. The other 3 webinars were moderated by our digital coordinator Zabeen Khamisa and other executive members. Thank you so much for your great work, Zabeen!

Student Essay Winners : 2023

I would like to thank Jacqueline Giesbrecht and Kalpesh Bhatt for their work on the selection process of our student essay winners. The winners are listed below. Thank you very much for your excellent work, Jacqueline and Kalpesh!

Undergraduate Essays

1st Place (\$250) – Audrey Miatello, University of Toronto

Title: “Reconnecting to Nature in the 21st Century: Considering *Laudato Si’* as a Guide”

2nd Place (\$100) – Claire Hamilton, Queen’s University

Title: “Gnostic Conceptions of Genesis”

Graduate Essays

M.A. Prize (\$300) – Marie-Ève Ouimette, Université du Québec à Montréal, UQAM

Title : “La Culture Religieuse à L'école: Un Sacrifice sur L'Autel de la Laïcité?”

PhD Prize (\$650) – Catherine van Reenen, University of Manitoba

Title: “Delicate Instruments and the Challenges of Empirical Observation in Psychological Research: The Technical Apparatus of T.G. Hamilton’s Teleplasm Experiments”

Treasurer and CSSR Status

We have been very fortunate to welcome Christopher Austin as Treasurer, and I believe that with his help, we will manage to decide on whether a change of status to registered charity would be a viable option for the CSSR. Thank you very much for all the wonderful work you have been doing, Chris!

CSSR Book Prize 2024 and President’s Reception

The committee is currently evaluating all book submissions. We will honour the winner of the CSSR book prize at the CSSR President reception at Congress 2024. The name of the winner will be revealed at the CSSR President reception. I would like to thank Ruby Ramji and all committee members for all their hard work.

CSSR executive meetings

Our next executive (pre-conference meeting will take place in May) and it will be followed by our first in-person AGM since the pandemic, It takes a lot of effort to organize meetings, take notes and keep us organized. I would like to express my gratitude to our Recording Secretary Christopher Miller for his excellent work and for his help with organizing our 4 annual meetings and for taking the notes. Thank you very much for your amazing work, Chris!

Please join me in thanking our Past President Paul Gareau for his dedicated service and enormous contribution to the CSSR over the past 10 (or more?) years as Recording Secretary, President, Interim Treasurer and Past President. There are no words to express our recognition and gratitude. Thank you so much, Paul, we'll miss you!

As my term as President will end this June, I would like to say that it has been a great honor and privilege serving the CSSR in this capacity. I would like to thank you all for your trust and confidence in me. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Past Presidents Paul Gareau and Ruby Ramji for their support, help and advice throughout the past 2 years! I would also like to express my gratitude to all CSSR executive members and all CSSR members for their amazing work!

I am looking forward to continuing serving the CSSR as Past President and to welcoming our new President, new Program Co-Chairs and new Graduate Student Representative this June. I know that they will be joining an amazing team of executive members! Thank you!

Past President/ Anciens président (Paul Gareau)

Current Executive:

- President and Representative to the Corporation: Diana Dimitrova [2022–2024]
- Past-President: Paul Gareau [2022–2024]
- Appointed Executive Member: Rubina Ramji [2020–indefinite]
- Recording Secretary: Chris Miller [2022–2025]
- Treasurer: Christopher Austin [2023–2026]
- Membership Secretary: Rachel Brown [2022–2025]
- Communications Liaison & Website Administrator: Rachel Brown [intrim]
- Digital Coordinator Position: Zabeen Khamisa [2023–2026]
- Members-At-Large: Kalpesh Bhatt, University of Toronto [2022–2025] & Jacqueline Giesbrecht, Queen's University [2022–2025]
- Programme Co-Chair: Michelle Folk, PhD [2018–2024] & Alison R Marshall, PhD [2023–2024]
- 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 2024

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

1. President: Alison Marshall
2. Programme Co-Chair I: 2024–2027: Michael Gillingham
3. Programme Co-Chair II: 2024–2027: Paige Thombs
4. Graduate Student Member-at-Large: Catherine van Reenen

As always, we will also accept nominations from the floor at the AGM.

Discussion:

- Election (if needed) will happen anonymously at AGM
- Christopher asks if Representative to the Federation is a necessary position
 - Diana says that this is just automatically a role filled by the Pas President

Appointed Executive Member (Rubina Ramji)

CSSR Book Submissions – Book Prize

11 books were submitted for the CSSR Book Prize for 2022. A webinar can be organized for later in the year so the winner can present their book to CSSR members (along with the graduate essay prize winners).

Book Prize Winner:

Abdolmohammad Kazemipur, *Sacred as Secular Secularization under Theocracy in Iran* (MQUP 2022).

In Abdolmohammad Kazemipur's book, *Sacred as Secular: Secularization under Theocracy in Iran*, the author adeptly argues that Iranian society, despite the state's Islamization efforts, has undergone profound secularization. His study not only challenges the notion of Muslim exceptionalism in regards modern secularism but also contests the prevalent idea of Iran's inherently religious history. Through detailed sociological analysis, Kazemipur engages with past and contemporary theories of secularization. Drawing upon various descriptive sources including national survey data spanning four decades, he demonstrates that despite the post-1979 Islamic revolution, both the general populace and state institutions in Iran are increasingly embracing secular values while retaining significant aspects of their Muslim identity.

Among Kazemipur's interesting findings is his examination of Iranian youth, revealing that their relationship with religion is significantly influenced by its social and political implications rather than its theoretical underpinnings. While young Iranians appear to be disengaging from religious dimensions directly influenced by state policies, such as public expressions of faith, their commitment to more personal or abstract aspects of religion—such as belief in God, heaven, and hell—remains steadfast or experiences marginal decline compared to similar studies conducted in other nations, both Muslim and non-Muslim.

This pioneering study addresses a significant gap in research on secularism within Islam and the broader Muslim world. The book's well-structured chapters can be read independently, enhancing its utility as a resource for professors and students interested in secularization studies, particularly within the context of Iran.

MOTION: *Accept Sacred as Secular Secularization under Theocracy in Iran as Winner of 2022 CSSR Book Prize*

Moved: Ruby

Seconded: Diana

Motion carried unanimously

Discussion:

- Would like to award 2 book prizes next year so that we can catch up to the current year (we fell behind a year due to COVID)
- Winner will be informed beforehand, and formally announced at Congress reception
- Rachel asks whether we inform the authors who didn't win. Ruby says we don't, since most nominations come via the Press, rather than from the author. Rachel suggests that we contact the few people who did nominate themselves. Ruby agrees
- Diana suggests that we also announce the Finalists. Ruby says that we can, though only one will be announced, as the number of viable finalists varies from year to year

5. New CSSR Book Series "Critical Perspectives on Religion", published by DeGruyter-Brill Press (Diana Dimitrova)

- Thanks to Diana, Christopher, and Paul for their work in establishing this new series with DeGruyter
- Will offer an alternative to publishing academic books that is different from most Canadian publishers (less time, no cost to publish)

6. Changes to Student Paper Prize descriptions (Jacqueline Giesbrecht and Kalpesh Bhatt)

Jacqueline and Kalpesh have developed several changes to the description for student essay prizes in the interest of clarity. Changes are outlined below

Undergraduate Student Essay Contest

Subject: Any topic in the general field of religious studies

Language: English or French

Length: 2500–5000 words, typed and double-spaced (word count does not include footnotes or bibliography)

Deadline: August 1, 2024, at 11 pm EST

First Prize: \$250

Second Prize: \$100

Eligibility:

- Undergraduate student status at a Canadian university or college for the upcoming or preceding academic year (September–August).
- The student does not need to be a member of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion (CSSR) to submit in the undergraduate category.
- Limit one entry per student. Students cannot win two years in a row in the same category.

Requirements:

- Essays do not need to be written specifically for this contest. They may be assignments from a course. Essays that have been previously published or are forthcoming publications are eligible.
- Essays must be typed and double-spaced (word count does not include footnotes or bibliography) and sent in Word or text format (PDFs will not be accepted).
- Essays must be accompanied by a letter of support from a member of the sponsoring religious studies department or program, certifying the degree and program status of the student and indicating that the student is in good standing in that university or college.
- Students must also attach this **form (as a PDF)** or this **form (as a fillable Word document)** with their application.

Entries which do not meet these criteria will not be eligible for consideration.

Students entering the contest must submit the entire essay application, including all forms and letters of support, **by email** to CSSR Members-At-Large Kalpesh Bhatt (kbhatt@umw.edu) by 11 pm EST on **August 1, 2024**.

Graduate Student Essay Contest

Subject: A theme in the general field of religious studies

Language: English or French

Length: 3000–7000 words

Deadline: August 1, 2024, at 11 pm EST

PhD prize: \$650

MA prize: \$300

Eligibility:

- Master's or PhD student status at a Canadian university or college for the upcoming or preceding academic year (September–August).
- The student must be a member of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion (CSSR) to submit in the graduate category.
- Two awards will be given, one for the MA and one for the PhD. Limit of one entry per student. Students cannot win two years in a row in the same category.

Requirements:

- Essays do not need to be written specifically for this contest. They may be assignments from a course. Essays that have been previously published or are forthcoming publications are eligible.
- Essays must be typed and double-spaced (word count does not include footnotes or bibliography) and sent in Word or text format (PDFs will not be accepted).

- Essays must be accompanied by a letter of support from a member of the sponsoring religious studies department or program, certifying the degree and program status of the candidate and indicating that the student is in good standing in that university or college.
- Students must attach this **form (as a PDF)** or this **form (as a fillable Word document)** with their application.
- Proof of CSSR membership (e.g., confirmation email or e-transfer receipt) must be attached or forwarded.

Entries which do not meet these criteria will not be eligible for consideration.

Graduate student winners will be invited to present their papers during the CSSR Webinar Series 2024-2025 (date to be confirmed). More information will be circulated to members closer to the date.

Students entering the contest must submit the entire essay application, including all forms, letters of support, and proof of CSSR membership, **by email** to CSSR Members-At-Large Kalpesh Bhatt (kbhatt@umw.edu) by 11 pm EST on **August 1, 2024**.

Publicly Engaged Research in Religion

New to 2024, we have an additional category for the CSSR Student Prize: Publicly Engaged Research in Religion. This category will acknowledge student research outputs that go beyond the traditional essay assignments.

As students prepare for the workforce and train to pursue careers inside and outside of the academic job market, they may seek research outputs that are more accessible or relevant to their career goals or skill sets. We want to acknowledge these valuable endeavours and support students as they integrate the same skills required of traditional assignments (critical literacy and thinking skills, knowledge translation and articulation, etc.) into these alternative mediums.

Students are required to go through all the stages of the research process to create a final product. This prize will focus on the process, organization, and development of ideas. These components that will be evaluated include:

- Establishing a thesis
- Developing guiding questions of inquiry
- Gathering, organizing, and synthesizing information
- Conducting original research and evaluating sources for reliability and validity
- Citing sources

Subject: Any topic in the general field of religious studies

Language: English or French

Length: Variable

Deadline: August 1, 2024, at 11 pm EST

First Prize: \$300

Eligibility:

- Undergraduate or graduate student status at a Canadian university or college for the upcoming or preceding academic year (September–August).
- Graduate students only: Must be a member of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion (CSSR) to submit in this category.
- Limit one entry per student. Students cannot win two years in a row in the same category.

Requirements:

- Projects do not need to be made specifically for this contest. They may be assignments from a course. Projects that have been previously published or are forthcoming publications are eligible. Group/co-authored projects will also be accepted, provided each contributor meets the eligibility requirements and completes an application form.
- To account for medium variability, this category has no minimum length requirements for submitted projects. Students may submit up to 4000 words for written-format submissions and up to 30 minutes for

audio/audio-visual formats. Students may choose a segment of a larger project they wish to have evaluated for this prize.

- Submissions must meet relevant accessibility requirements (available transcripts or closed captions, alt text, etc.). Transcripts should be submitted in a Word or text format.
- In addition to the final product, students must submit a write-up (500–700 words) outlining their research process. The write-up should be typed and double-spaced (word count does not include footnotes or bibliography).
- Submissions must be accompanied by a letter of support from a member of the sponsoring religious studies department or program, certifying the degree and program status of the student, and indicating that the student is in good standing in that university or college.
- Students must also attach this **form (as a PDF)** or this **form (as a fillable Word document)** with their application.
- Graduate students only: Proof of CSSR membership (e.g., confirmation email or e-transfer receipt) must be attached or forwarded.

Entries which do not meet these criteria will not be eligible for consideration.

Options of alternative research-based projects that qualify for this prize include, but are not limited to:

1. **Policy Paper** – Follow a particular [foreign, domestic, educational, social] policy situation as it develops. Write about the history of the issue, the organizations involved, the ideological conflicts, key issues, and findings or recommendations. Policy papers may also take the form of a briefing paper, providing an overview of an issue and targeted analysis with actionable recommendations.
2. **Podcast Episode** – *Deliver* information about a particular topic. Create a podcast episode-style recording that creatively explores the research topic and expands upon it.
3. **Blog Post** – Write a (series of) blog post(s) that includes the research process and incorporates valid evidence. Present your perspective on an idea, issue or current event using conversational, informal language.
4. **Editorial Article** – Scrutinize bias and analyze evidence on a controversial issue.
5. **YouTube Video** – Create a lively and informative video that dives into the research topic. The video can be animated or interview-style.
6. **Wikipedia Entry** – Create/edit entries in the online encyclopedia, Wikipedia. Discuss and consider authority, bias, accuracy, etc., and participate in a larger knowledge community.
7. **Photo Essay** – Create a visually appealing representation of research. A graphic essay requires the same process as a research paper, *plus* elements of visual components and design. Use traditional writing *and* pictures, graphics, videos, and/or emphasized text. The final product is a research-supported essay that is both well-developed and visually appealing.

The winner will be invited to present their papers during the CSSR Webinar Series 2024-2025 (date to be confirmed). More information will be circulated to members closer to the date.

Students entering the contest must submit the entire project application, including all forms, letters of certification, and (if applicable) proof of CSSR membership, **by email** to CSSR Members-At-Large Jacqueline Giesbrecht (19jdg@queensu.ca) by 11 pm EST on **August 1, 2024**.

Discussion:

- Getting rid of the letter of confirmation from Faculty. Instead, students just need to arrange to have any faculty member send an email confirming the status of the student

MOTION: *Accept the above changes as written*

Moved: Jacqueline

Seconded: Diana

Motion carried unanimously

- For publicly engaged research project, we will accept group and co-authored projects

MOTION: *Accept the above changes as written*

Moved: Jacqueline

Seconded: Ruby

Motion carried with one abstention (Christopher)

- For this new category, making room for medium variability, length of submissions is a maximum of up to 4000 words or up to 30 minutes. Students may also choose a segment of a larger project for this prize. The segment of a larger project should follow the above requirements of length

MOTION: *Accept the above changes as written*

Moved: Jacqueline

Seconded: Ruby

Motion carried unanimously

7. Next teleconference/ Prochaine téléconférence

Due to time constraints, Rachel asks that we meet again as soon as possible to discuss the remaining items intended for this meeting. This includes the issue of incorporation, Executive presence on-site at Congress, and strengthening CSSR communication

8. Adjournment/ Adjournement

The meeting adjourned at 14:02 Eastern