

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING / REUNION DU CONSEIL
VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA
OCTOBER 28, 2022 (15:00–17:00 EST)**

Minutes Submitted by Chris Miller, Recording Secretary, March 29, 2023

Present: Diana Dimitrova, Chris Miller, Paul Gareau, Zabeen Khamisa, Jacqueline Giesbrecht, Samiksa Love, Ted Malcolmson, Kalpesh Bhatt, Michael Gillingham, Rachel Brown

Regrets: Rubina Ramji, Qamer Hameed, and Michelle Folk

1. Welcome/ Bienvenue

Start time : 15.00 EST

2. Accept Agenda/ Accepter l'ordre du jour

MOTION : *Accept the agenda*

Moved: Rachel

Seconded: Paul

Motion carried unanimously

3. Minutes/ Procès verbal – April 23rd, 2022

MOTION: *Accept the minutes.*

Moved: Samiksa

Seconded: Chris

Motion carried unanimously

4. Reports/ Rapports

Digital Coordinator/ Coordinatrice numérique (Zabeen Khamisa)

Zabeen has taken on the new role of Digital Coordinator, and has a strong background in Communications. Has been working with Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme to facilitate/promote the CSSR Webinar Series. Next Webinar is happening November 4, and Zabeen plans to share the event information on Twitter. Goals for future webinars include highlighting voices not often represented in the CSSR. Has also created a Instagram account for the CSSR to help connect with students and other prospective members. Minor notes are that Zabeen needs the login info for CSSR Twitter and Zoom accounts, and it is decided that she will get this from Paul. An ongoing task is also to create a master list of passwords for all CSSR accounts, offering security and a smooth transition to future persons in this role

Membership Secretary/ Secrétaire des membres (Rachel Brown)

New membership details

- Total Number of Paid Members - 97
 - o 1 new since Sarah's report in May
- 3 pending – all students

2023 Membership Drive

- Will send out poster – based on Sarah's to Canadian RS departments next week and in January 2023
- Social media posts, website, Newsletter
- Can use connections with CSRS to promote as well

Other ways to increase membership

- Goal to get back up to 130ish members
- Are there other benefits to highlight? – are webinars restricted to members?
- In person meeting should help boost numbers a bit
- Can we do more programming? More Networking? More mentoring?

SIR

- The CCSR only updates its access list once a year (end of April), so be sure to pay for your 2023 CSSR membership before the 15th of April 2023 next year if you wish to access an e-copy of SIR via the CCSR website in 2023.

Discussion: Rachel will be starting our membership drive soon. Goal for the upcoming year is to get back to 130 members.

Michael asks if we have a breakdown of student versus regular members. Rachel shares that the breakdown across all membership types is:

51% - regular members

30% - student members

18% - associate members

Qamer and Michelle will need our membership numbers in order to register for Congress, and Rachel has already taken care of passing this along

Rachel echoes that the CSSR needs to pursue incorporation, as this will allow us to use Paypal and other options for accepting membership dues, and generally streamline the process

Concerning ways to add value to membership, Rachel discussed a mentorship program. Modeled loosely on the AAR's 'Cup of Coffee with a Mentor' Program, allowing for 1-2 meetings throughout the year between a mentor and a mentee, as well as an in-person meeting during Congress. We have also done 'speed-networking' when Congress met in Ryerson, and can build off of this idea for upcoming in-person programming.

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

Congress 2023 is hosted by York University. Congress dates are May 27- June 2, 2023 making the start of our annual meeting Saturday, May 28. We are scheduled for the Federation's May 28 President's Reception.

The theme of Congress 2023 is *Reckonings and Re-imaginings* and is summarized as, "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. 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 the most pressing issues facing our world (<https://www.federationhss.ca/en/congress/congress-2023/2023-theme-and-logo#logo>).” The logo “Seed for Tomorrow” reflects the theme. Arts@Congress is York University’s programming.

In terms of registration deadlines for Congress 2023, the early bird deadline is March 21, regular registration is April 1, and on-site as of May 26. There is a new underemployed attendee registration category defined as someone who is “employed part-time, seasonal or temporary and attending or presenting at an association conference.”

We are still in the process of finding a local area coordinator at York or someone nearby who might be interested in serving as LAC.

To date, the association signing authority, fees for Congress, and membership list have been submitted to the Federation through the Congress portal.

Upcoming deadlines: conference details form (due November 18) and room requests (November 28).

Congress asks that associations follow its daily programming schedule to accommodate for other programming and suggests the following daily schedule:

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 next steps are to ready the call for papers. We suggest returning to the December deadline for submissions to meet Congress deadlines for programs, etc. We will need to edit the CFP to reflect the annual meeting format. As with previous years, we may need to extend the deadline as we move closer. Submissions for the annual meeting are made through Sunflower.

We cannot anticipate participation at this time due to a number of factors including (but not limited to): people's ability and willingness to travel, members' increasing and evolving workloads, and the financial impact on members.

Historical data in the Federation's organizers portal shows:

	Congress 2018 (University of Regina)	Congress 2019 (UBC)
Registration	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 and York University held their first planning meeting on September 21 in person and Zoom. One thing to note was discussion of the new cancellation/withdrawal fee for associations.

Given that Congress is a hybrid format, we need to consider:

1. editing the call for papers, due December 15, for a hybrid conference;
2. adjusting Sunflower for a hybrid model;
3. re-evaluating our annual meeting budget given anticipated increased costs for a hybrid model (e.g., technology);
5. how programming will be affected or changed by moving to a hybrid model; and
6. re-thinking our traditional programming at Congress pre-pandemic (e.g., president's reception; graduate student luncheon).

The Federation is again providing funding for graduate students through the Congress Graduate Merit Award (CGMA). Students must be an MA or PhD student in good standing at a Canadian university, a member of the association, and submit a 250-word abstract of their Congress presentation to the CSSR (not the Federation). The CSSR executive must then nominate a set number of candidates to the Federation. The Federation decides the number of nominees based on association size. It appears that we have 1 CGMA. We can submit our list of nominees until April 14, 2023. The Federation will notify the CSSR executive of accepted nominees no later than May 2, 2023. Payments will be mailed to students' bank accounts by June 30, 2023.

It appears that we have 1 child/dependent care subsidy as well. The number is based on membership size. Eligibility: presenter, moderator, chair, or respondent at Congress, member in good standing with the association, registered for Congress, and submission of a 250-word application to the association. We are required to endorse someone by April 14. It is a reimbursement up to \$200. The Federation will notify the association of the acceptance/rejection of our nominee by May 2. The recipient has to submit financial forms to the Federation by May 9 and will be reimbursed through their bank accounts by June 30, 2023.

We would like to consult with members for feedback on our existing programming but also for suggestions on additional programming such as careers inside and outside of academia, nonacademic programming, pedagogy, community-engaged research/researchers, and so forth.

We look forward to having a successful conference this year and would like to thank everybody for your help and ongoing support.

Discussion: It was decided that the CSSR will host an in-person conference in 2023, in association with Congress. Since Congress is still unclear concerning what hybrid options may be available, we discussed possibilities to make components of our programming virtual or more accessible.

MOTION: Paul put forward the motion to meet in-person at Congress, from May 27-30, 2023, and then host a one-day virtual event after.

Moved: Paul

Seconded: Zabeen

Motion carried unanimously

Discussion: Further details about the above motion include that our CFP will note that while our conference will be happening in-person, recognizing the constraints that some members face, we will hold a one-day virtual event, and that you can indicate your intent to apply for this when you submit your CFP. It was also decided that our Annual General Meeting will also be held virtually.

The Federation offers some additional funding opportunities to member societies, including a Student Merit Award and a Daycare Subsidy. We accept applications for these opportunities, then forward our nominations to the Federation, which may or may not grant the funds to the CSSR. Rachel offered to adjudicate the Daycare Subsidy applications, and Chris offered to adjudicate applications for the Student Merit Award.

MOTION: Increase CSSR Travel Funds to \$6500

Moved: Chris

Seconded: Rachel

Motion carried unanimously

Treasurer/ Trésorier (Ted Malcolmson)

Ted will send out Book and Essay Prize winner cheques. Just waiting to confirm addresses with Paul.

After summarizing our accounts, Ted advises to be prepared for our investment numbers to go down over the next year, largely related to fears of a recession.

Ted advises that we need to incorporate, and suggests that we should make this a top priority.

Diana asks Ted to send out honoraria to outgoing Executive members.

Chris will re-send contact information to Diana for a lawyer to speak about incorporation (Noah Singer).

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: Ted Malcolmson [2018–2024]
- 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: Qamer Hameed [2020–2023]

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

Nominations for 2024

Keep in mind that there are 3 positions up for renewal or nomination in 2024:

1. President
2. Treasurer
3. Programme Co-Chair

Kaawaapamatin miina pi

Maarsii,

Paul L. Gareau (li | he/him)
Past-President for
CSSR/SCÉR

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

2022 Essay Winners:

The Call for Student Essay Submissions commenced in April 2022, with August 1st as the deadline. The winners were selected by Alyshea Cummins and Jacqueline Giesbrecht in September 2022.

This year we received a total of 12 student essay submissions, 9 of which were graduate submissions and 3 that were undergraduate submissions.

Graduate Essay Winners

This year we received a total of 9 Graduate Submissions:

- MA Prize (\$300) – Ian Greer, The American University in Cairo
- PhD Prize (\$650) – Catherine van Reenen, University of Manitoba

With only 3 undergraduate submissions, it was decided to invite those students to resubmit for the 2023 Prize.

Student Essay Prize winners have been announced on the website, in the newsletter, and on Twitter (thanks, Samiksa!). The winners will be invited to discuss their papers at an event later this year (details TBD).

Discussion: The members-at-large discuss possibly increasing the upper word limit for the undergrad student paper award

MOTION: Increase word limit for ~~Graduate Student Paper Award to 3,000-5,000 words, and increase Undergraduate Student Paper Award to 2,500-5,000 words~~

Moved: Paul

Seconded: Kalpesh

Motion carries. Diana, Chris, Paul, Jacqueline, Samiksa, Michael, and Kalpesh vote in support. Ted abstains.

President/ Président (Diana Dimitrova)

I would like to thank very warmly our outgoing executive members Heather Shipley, Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme, Alyshea Cummins and Jeanine LeBlanc for their leadership, amazing work, dedicated service and great contribution to the CSSR!

I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to our new executive members Rachel Brown, Jacqueline Giesbrecht, Kalpesh Bhatt, Michael Gillingham, and our digital coordinator Zabeen Khamisa! We are all looking forward to seeing you and working with you!

It is a great honour and privilege for me to serve the CSSR as President, and I hope that I will serve in this role the way Paul, Heather and Ruby did.

Congress 2023

I am happy to say that we shall have our next conference with Congress (at York University, Toronto) and in person! Michelle, Qamer and Paul are already working on this. Should you have any suggestions about colleagues who may be willing to volunteer and serve as our local area coordinators (LAC), please do let us know. Thank you!

CSSR webinars 2022-2023

Additionally, Sarah and Zabeen have been preparing our new CSSR webinar series – this will be another amazing and exciting year. Thank you! I am co-chairing a CSSR webinar on a book published in the collection “Matière à pensée”, PUM, which I am co-editing with Marc Dumas.

Student Essay winners : PhD and MA 2022

NAME:	TITLE:	PSEUDONYM:	DEGREE:
Catherine van Reenen	On the Limits of Auto-Critique in the Study of Religion	Essay 3	PhD vanreenc@myumanitoba.ca
Ian Greer	Angrezi Shariat: Islamic Law in 20th Century Britain and its Colonial Antecedents	Essay 6	MA ian.greer@aucegypt.edu

Thank you, Alyshea and Jeanine for your excellent work! Ted will be sending 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.

CSSR book prize 2022 and President’s Reception

We need to decide whether we should go back to the old model of holding the President’s reception at Congress in May/June or online in January-February, as we did over the past 2 years.

CCSR executive meeting January 2023

The next CCSR meeting will take place in January 2023. I plan to attend it and will report on it in my next report. There are CCSR student travel grants available. The information is in our bulletin. Please forward the information to your colleagues and fellow students. Thank you, Samiksa for posting everything!

Housekeeping items - royalties and incorporation

We need to send the checks in a timely manner. We need to send the checks (\$400) to the outgoing executive. We need to take steps in the direction of incorporation.

Thank you all for your contribution to the CSSR. I look forward to meeting you in person soon!
Thank you!!

Discussion: After her report, Diana also announced that she was recently elected to be a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Congratulations were extended to Diana for this exciting (and well-deserved) honour!

Recording Secretary/ Secrétaire archiviste (Chris Miller)

Meeting Poll

Thank you to everyone for submitting your responses to my meeting polls, not just once, but twice! My apologies for any confusion that this created, but thank you for helping us to find a time that works for the greatest number of members.

Emails

Whatever email you received my Doodle Poll invite is the address that I have on file for the CSSR Executive Mailing list. If there is an alternative email that you check more frequently, or that you want all CSSR info to go through, please let me know and I will update my list

Thank You!
Chris Miller

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

Update on Activities

Student Ambassador Program

Now in its seventh year, the Student Ambassador program is continuing to run. We currently have 11 Student Ambassadors, listed below. The Ambassadors are looking forward to serving in their role as they help to forward such announcements as call for papers, funding opportunities, and webinars. I've been working on recruitment for this year and there are still schools needing ambassadors (University of Calgary, Memorial University, St. Mary's University Halifax, Laurentian University, University of Ottawa, University of Toronto, University of Waterloo, University of Lethbridge, University of British Columbia, Dalhousie University, Carleton University, University of Regina) I've hosted one Zoom call for the ambassadors and have sent out one set of announcements. I also had the chance to meet in person with Tulika Singh from the University of Alberta. I hope to send out updates at least once a month.

Student Ambassadors for the 2022-2023 Academic Year

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

Graduate Student Programming at the Annual Meeting

I will be checking in with the current Student Ambassadors for suggestions for the Graduate Student Programming at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Virtual Writing Groups

I've asked some of the Student Ambassadors about their sense of the level of interest in the Virtual Writing Groups. So far, some have expressed concern about online burnout.

Thank You

I am very thankful to Chris, Samiksa, Rachel, and Diana for the help they've provided me at various points this summer and fall. I am looking forward to seeing the Call for Papers for 2023's event and sharing that with the Student Ambassadors. I am also looking forward to hearing more from the Executive Committee and the Student Ambassadors about possible new directions to take this program and position.

Sincerely,
Michael Gillingham
CSSR Graduate Student Member-at-Large

Communications Officer/ Agente des communications (Samiksa Love)




WEBSITE AND SERVER

- Website running smoothly at this time. No DDOS attacks again since May 15th.
- Hostpapa: is where our domain name is hosted since it offers .ca domains. Bluehost site nameservers are pointing to the Hostpapa domain name. We still have some credit on our account through Hostpapa so we will use the remaining amount to continue renewing our domain there every year. The most recent renewal was in December 2021, and next one will be in December 2022. The total amount for renewal is \$22.59 per year, and we still have around \$100.66 left in our account.
- Bluehost: Bluehost continues to be our web hosting provider, and the website is regularly maintained and backed up. Through Bluehost, basic web hosting was renewed until February 2025, and the SiteLock Security Essential feature renewed until February 2023. Both of these products were paid for in February 2022 (\$518.35 CAD) and I was reimbursed by our CSSR Treasurer shortly afterward.
- A reminder that if the website ever goes down, it is very likely due to the index.php file needing to be re-uploaded properly, so please let me know if you ever notice the website is

down (in case I don't notice it).

WEBSITE CHANGES WE MADE SINCE LAST MEETING

- Updated 2022 Book Prize Winners, 2022 Essay Contest Winners, Current Executive, Student Ambassador sections of the website.
- Created 2023 Annual Meeting page.
- Posted 2021 Executive Meeting minutes
- Membership Secretary Admin privileges assigned to Rachel Brown, removed from Sarah Wilkins-LaFlamme  **WEBSITE TO DO AFTER OUR MEETING TODAY**
- The AGM Minutes are publicly available on the website. In contrast, the past Executive Minutes have also been posted onto the website but are only accessible by the website administrator and are mainly there for archival and a resource of institutional memory for the CSSR Executive. Executive Meeting minutes for 2005, 2011 are missing.
- Change due dates for Book Prize for 2023.
- Change due dates for Essay Contest for 2023.
- Post 2023 Membership poster.
- 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 2021. It is ready to be used again for the 2022-2023 year.

NO CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT SYSTEM

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

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

- There are roughly 804 members within our website's database as of October 26, 2022 (minus a few duplicates), up from 770 in October 2021.
- 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 CCSR (formerly we sent this to SAGE).
- We started to more vigorously promote membership renewal during autumn 2019 with a poster and included it all over the website and in our weekly newsletter consistently. We have continued this habit into 2022 and will continue moving forward (2023 poster to be created by Membership Secretary)
- I continue to be vigilant about bots/hackers trying to create accounts on our website.

CSSR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

- Our Mailchimp newsletter service is still running smoothly. As of October 26, 2022, we have

555 subscribers to our Mailchimp mailing list (it fluctuates as people subscribe and unsubscribe. In June 2022 it was 546).

- “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 STILL A SUCCESS

- Each webinar in the CSSR Zoom Webinar Series so far have been 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

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. Welcome to the new executive members.

Discussion: To clarify timelines on when certain documents need to be submitted, Samiksa tells Chris that Executive Meeting minutes are submitted several weeks before the *next* Executive Meeting.

5. Additional items/ Des articles supplémentaires

Most of the additional and upcoming action items were discussed during the Program Co-Chair reports. To recall, we approved a motion to meet in-person at Congress. For now, we will table details about the virtual meeting, such as who will be the Zoom hosts, and when major deadlines will be determined.

6. Next Meeting/ Prochaine réunion

Our next meeting will happen in March or April. Chris will send out a poll shortly before this to coordinate a time.

7. Adjournment/ Adjournement

MOTION: *Adjourn the meeting.*

Moved: Paul

Seconded: Jacqueline

The meeting adjourned at 17:05 EST.