

Final Report on the CASCA-IUAES Conference: Mo(u)vements & Canada 150

The joint CASCA-IUAES conference was held from May 2 to May 7, 2017, at the Université d'Ottawa/University of Ottawa campus on the unceded traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishnabe Nation that is now Ottawa, the Federal capital of Canada. Situated on the Kitchissippi (Ottawa River), with sacred sites now known as Victoria Island and Chaudière Falls, this region has been a site of gatherings of many nations and peoples for millennia. In recognition of this living heritage, the conference began with an opening ceremony in which Algonquin elder Evelyn Commanda Dewache (Kitigan Zibi) offered prayers and Algonquin elder Barry Sarazin (Pikwakanagan) led drumming and shared the teachings of the Thunderbird drum. Georges Sioui (Huron-Wendat), as well as leaders from the two associations and the University of Ottawa, gave words of welcome.

The entire conference was held at the University of Ottawa campus. The opening reception was held at the nearby All Saints Event Space, a former Anglican church. The concluding banquet was held at the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health in Vanier. The conference ended with a one-day optional excursion to the Algonquin community of Kitigan Zibi.

The conference organizing committee gratefully acknowledges the financial and institutional support of the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Canadian Heritage, the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, the Faculty of Social Sciences (UO), the University of Ottawa, the Human Rights Research and Education Centre (UO), DIALOG (Research and Knowledge Network Relating to Aboriginal Peoples), Weaver-Tremblay (CASCA), and the School of Sociological and Anthropological Studies (UO).

Conference goals

The overall goals of the conference are:

1. To provide encounters between Canadian and international anthropologists, as well as local indigenous people, to reflect together about what anthropology as a discipline can offer the world;
2. To provide anthropologists working on movement(s) and related issues with new theoretical and methodological approaches; as well as new ways of engaging with communities and publics around pressing political, social and ethical issues;
3. To enable anthropologists and non-anthropologists to share knowledge across disciplines and sub-disciplines, as well as between the university and community groups;
4. To provide graduate students with an opportunity to network with established anthropological professionals and with others to learn about current issues and research opportunities within and beyond academia;
5. To provide graduate students with opportunities to disseminate their research findings, to have their work critiqued and mentored by professionals more advanced in their work, and to form connections with both academia and non-

- academic communities;
6. To recognize that we are holding the conference on Algonquin territory; and to contribute to a positive relationship between anthropology and Indigenous communities, making visible the relevance of Indigenous elders' wisdom to academic exploration.
 7. To reflect upon the place of Canadian anthropology in the discipline at the 150th commemoration of Canadian Confederation.

This conference was a historical watermark for the international discipline. At this meeting, the World Anthropological Union (WAU) was formerly established. This new organization is a merger of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) and the WCAA (World Council of Anthropological Associations), each of which is now one of two chambers in the new international organization. The conference also had the ambitions of raising the profile of the IUAES and CASCA in North America; and to promote future collaboration between members of the two organizations.

Nearly 800 people attended this conference, but more registered. The 960 registered delegates from 50 countries included 126 French-speaking Canadians, 287 English-speaking Canadians, and 547 foreign participants. Members of local First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities, as well as University of Ottawa students, were also permitted to audit the conference for free. Some people were unable to attend because they failed to receive funding or had difficulty getting their visas in a timely manner.

Not surprisingly, the largest number of delegates came from Canada (413). Other countries with large numbers of registered delegates were the United States (108), India (57), Japan (57), China (48), the UK (39), France (34), and Brazil (24).

While the finances are still being worked out, it is hoped that the conference will more or less break even, in spite of a heavy AV bill from the venue.

The Academic Program

The academic program was structured around two keynote speeches, CASCA's annual Weaver-Tremblay lecture, and three plenary circles. In accordance with traditions of the University of Ottawa – the largest and oldest bilingual university in the world – these events were offered in both English and French, with simultaneous interpretation.

The opening ceremony, keynote lecture, and plenary circles are available at the conference website: <http://www.nomadit.co.uk/cascaiuaes2017>.

Keynote and invited lectures

The conference began on Tuesday, May 2, with a keynote lecture in French entitled “For a heraclitean anthropology/Pour une anthropologie héraclitienne ”by Marc Abélès (CNRS and ÉHÉSS).

Just after the opening ceremony on Wednesday, May 3, a keynote lecture in English entitled “Moving Knowledge/ Savoir mouvant” was delivered by Lesley Green (University of Capetown).

On Thursday, May 4, as part of CASCA tradition, the recipient of the annual Weaver-Tremblay Award gave a lecture. This year’s recipient Margaret Critchlow (York U) gave a lecture entitled “Self-reliance and Inter-dependence.”

Plenary circles

Thursday, May 4: The theme of “Moving Ecologies” was discussed by Natassja Martin (University of Aberdeen), Fabian Clouette (Paris VIII), Genese Marie Sodikoff (Rutgers U, USA), and Perig Pitrou (CNRS, France). Chair: David Jaclin (University of Ottawa)

Friday, May 5: The theme of “Locating the Political” was discussed by Kregg Hetherington (Concordia), Andrea Muehlebach (U Toronto), and Nandini Sundar (Delhi University). Chairs: Thushara Hewage and Larisa Kurtovic (University of Ottawa)

Saturday, May 6: The theme of “Indigenous Movement” was discussed by Michael Asch (U Victoria), Carolyn Levesque (INRS), Irène Bellier (ÉHÉSS), and Margaret Bruchac (U Pennsylvania). Chair: Rodney Nelson (Carleton University)

Parallel Panel Sessions

770 anthropologists made about 750 presentations in 126 panels, film sessions and poster sessions. These panels were organized into the following thematic streams: 1) Living landscapes; 2) Moving bodies; 3) Relational movement; and 4) Worlds in motion.

The thematic streams were marvelously taken up by panel organizers enabling us to address them all in depth. We were able to plan the conference so that people interested in a specific stream could attend sessions relevant to their interests over the 5 conference days. For instance researchers interested in nomadism, affective ecologies or sounds were able to attend the panels of that stream each day of the conference, as well as intermingle in overlapping sessions. Our general theme highlighted processes of becoming, inviting us to attend to historicity of practices, remaining open to older as well as novel ontologies. Attention to movement has shown to open anthropology up to new arrays of life forms as well as to address imperatives to decolonize our discipline. It has implored us to explore emergent life-making processes that become open to improvisation, composition and hopeful futures. Further, the particular timing of the conference occurring in the midst of historically heavy rainfall which led to floods affecting the whole Eastern part of

Canada made addressing issues of movement and climate change all the more real and necessary.

Roundtables, Films, and Posters

In addition to the more traditional paper panels, we had a CASCA-sponsored stream of 9 Roundtables urgent topics such as how anthropology should deal with the rise of populist politics and xenophobia, environmental issues, and precarious employment in academia.

There were a number of innovative workshops proposed by the member of the two associations. The Inuit Community Radio broadcasters did a hands-on workshop on community radio and researcher engagement. There were also workshops about decolonizing anthropology, a Naxi Shaman dance from China, media technology in multi-species ethnography, public anthropology, the history of Canadian anthropology, publishing and the legacy and Elder William Commanda and the Circle of All Nations.

There was also a dynamic film series with four ethnographic films and a large poster session. The large book exhibit was also well-appreciated by conference participants.

Indigenous Movement

We ended the conference on Saturday with an 80-minute discussion with indigenous elders about what they have heard during the conference and their suggestions of how to move toward better relations between anthropologists and the world.

The main conference program book was made available in downloadable PDF format, as well as on paper for those who attended the conference. The conference logo, used for the website, the program, and the conference bag, was designed by Algonquin artist Professor Simon Brascoupé.

The program remains available to anyone interested in reviewing the conference proceedings. This accurate record of the conference can be found at: at <http://nomadit.co.uk/cascaiaes2017/downloads/programme.pdf>.

Scholars from the Global South: Toward a Non-hegemonic Anthropology

We need our utmost to make the conference accessible to scholars from the Global South. With the grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation For Anthropological Research we were able to fully fund 12 anthropologists from Africa (from Kinshasa, Yaounde, Entebbe, Addis Ababa, Nairobi and Douala), as well as offer partial funding to 6 anthropologists coming from countries such as Cameroun, India, Tunisia and China. It made it possible to facilitate both a Francophone and an Anglophone panel on medical anthropology done respectively by researchers from Cameroun and Kenya, as well as enable an anthropologist from the Yi minority in China to attend a panel on Sound as well as perform during the banquet. One awardee was appointed Senior Representative for the region of Central Africa on the World Anthropological

Congress (WAC) Council, as well as strengthened collaborations with the African research group CERCLECAD based in Ottawa. Another awardee provided an opportunity to establish links between anthropology and the Human Rights Research and Education Centre in the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa. It cannot be overstated how important it was to be able to invite these people to attend our conference. We hope that with efforts like this, anthropology can become a truly global, even non-hegemonic intellectual project. We only wish that we could have funded more of the applicants.

As is increasingly common, several scholars were refused visas, despite significant time input by the conference convenor, organizers, delegates themselves, and special efforts by Global Affairs to facilitate international attendance at the conference. This demonstrates the need to apply as early as possible for visas.

Welcome Home, Homa Hoodfar!

Homa Hoodfar, in a panel co-convened by the WCAA Ethics Taskforce and the WCAA-IUAES Working Group on Anthropological Fieldwork and Risk in a Violent World, reflected on academic freedom and her recent incarceration in Iran. We were all very happy to welcome her back to Canada, especially as both CASCA and the IUAES had lobbied for her release.

Publications

There will be no publication of general conference proceedings, due to the high costs of such an endeavor and the lack of funding to do so. Many delegates, moreover, now prefer to publish in peer-reviewed academic journals, as this type of publication venue is more highly regarded in academic evaluations in the neo-liberal university environment. We hope that everyone who publishes the papers presented at the conference will acknowledge that the work was presented at the 2017 CASCA-IUAES joint conference in Ottawa. Those who received financial support to attend should also acknowledge the source of that funding.

Final reflections

This was the largest conference ever to be held at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ottawa. Despite the new challenges posed by such a large event, everyone at the local organizing committee and all levels of the University of Ottawa worked hard to make the event a success. It was also the largest CASCA conference ever. Many participants from both IUAES and CASCA spontaneously said that the event was a great success as an intellectual encounter. People said that they appreciated the opportunity to network with scholars from all over the world; and to be exposed to the anthropological traditions of so many countries. Others appreciated deeply the collaboration with the Algonquin and other indigenous communities, hoping that this has an influence of future anthropological practice.

I was personally happy that we could honour the memory of Algonquin Elder Grandfather William Commanda, who holds an honorary doctorate from the

University of Ottawa and has a building named after him on campus. At a time when Canada is embarking upon a process of Truth and Reconciliation, and as the world seems mired in war, ethnic conflict, and ecological disaster, we need more than ever his vision of peace, love, and environmental stewardship. Hopefully, anthropology as a discipline can also contribute to making our world a better place!

Scott Simon

Chair, UO Local Organizing Committee

Local Organizing Committee Members

Lorne Holyoak, Donna Patrick, Pauline McKenzie Aucoin, Ari Gandsman, Julie Laplante, David Jaclin, Deborah Sick, Larisa Kurtovic, Meg Stalcup, Nicolas Rasiulis, Mylène Mongeon, Thushara Hewage, Romola Vasantha Thumbadoo, André Tremblay, Corinne Laporte.

Advisory Committee/Comité consultatif

IUAES: Faye Harrison, Junji Koizumi, Thomas Reuter, Heather O'Leary *CASCA:* Donna Patrick, Christine Jourdan, Nicola Mooney, Lorne Holyoak

Scientific Committee/Comité scientifique

Chairs: Mugsy Spiegel (IUAES) and Julie Laplante (CASCA)/*IUAES:* East Asia: Junji Koizumi, Southeast Asia and China: Zhang Jijiao, South Asia: Subhadra Channa, Russia: Viacheslav Rudnev (Commission chair), Europe: Noel Salazar (Commission chair), Africa: Mugsy Spiegel, Latin America: Gustavo Lins Ribeiro, US: Faye Harrison *CASCA:* Michel Bouchard, Ari Gandsman, Julie Laplante, André Tremblay, Ellen Judd, Charles Menzies, Pauline McKenzie Aucoin, Andie Diane Palmer

Conference admin team (NomadIT)/ Equipe d'administration du colloque (NomadIT)

Eli Bugler, Darren Edale, James Howard, Rohan Jackson, Triinu Mets, Elaine Morley, Hugh Swann

We thank our Indigenous Elders for their teachings, guidance and prayers:Nous remercions nos Aïnés autochtones pour leurs enseignements, conseils et prières:

Evelyn Commanda Dewache (Algonquin, Kitigan Zibi) , Larry McDermott (Algonquin, Shabot Obaadjiwan), Dorothy Meness (Algonquin, Kitigan Zibi), Morning Star (Cree, Fort McKay), Barry Sarazin (Algonquin, Pikwakanagan), Georges Sioui (Huron-Wendat, Professor, University of Ottawa)

Chi miigwetch! Merci! Thank you!





Opening Reception at All Saints Community on 2nd May 2017.



The Opening Ceremony presided by Algonquin Elder Evelyn Dewache, with drumming by Algonquin Elder Barry Sarazin.



Marc Abélès (CNRS and ÉHÉSS) and Lesley Green (University of Cape Town), the keynote speakers.



Margaret Critchlow (York University), this year's recipient of the annual Weaver-Tremblay Award of the CASCA.



After the panel with Homa Hoodfar: (Left to right) IUAES Secretary-General Junji Koizumi, current CASCA President Martha Radice, WCAA Chair Chandana Mathur, IUAES President Faye Harrison, Homa Hoodfar and Rosita Henry of the WCAA who co-convended the panel.



The 1st Constituency Meeting of the World Anthropological Union (WAU) on 5th May 2017, integrating the IUAES and the WCAA.



Feedback from elders and Closing Ceremony on 6th May 2017.



Conference dinner at Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health on 6th May 2017.



A tour to Kitigan Zibi, an Algonquin community.