

Call for Papers

Canada-Quebec-Caribbean

Trans-American Connections

October 8th-10th, 2015

The Canadian Pole of the Institute of the Americas is proud to announce a symposium on “Canada-Quebec-Caribbean: Trans-American Connections” to be held on October 8-10, 2015 in Montreal in collaboration with the CERIUM (Centre for International Studies and Research, Université de Montréal) and the Université de Montréal’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences. The event benefits of the kind support of the French Université Sorbonne-Nouvelle Paris 3, the Institut des Hautes Etudes d’Amérique latine (IHEAL) and the French CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique)’s Centre de Recherche et de Documentation des Amériques (CREDA).

1°/ Abstract

Links between the Caribbean region, the province of Quebec and wider Canada are old and diverse. Tourism, scientific and technical cooperation, resource extraction and migrations have built bridges across the Americas, from the Caribbean islands to the northern reaches of the continent.

Although largely unknown, these trans-American connections are deeply engraved in history, as evidenced by trade relations, banking, the circulation of Canadian Catholic missions and academics in the Caribbean region, and later the creation in 1967 of a Centre for Research on the Caribbean at the Université de Montréal. More recently, these transcontinental relations

have come to involve multiple areas such as environmental protection, participation in regional development projects, transnational migrations and narratives on shared memories. These are keys essential to understanding “Our America”.

Exploring these plural relations specific to Quebec, Canada and the Caribbean problematizes the too simple assumption of US hegemony in the Caribbean. Focusing on links between the Caribbean and Quebec and English Canada sheds new light on the Americas beyond the too frequent assertion of binary oppositions between North and South. This conference aims to highlight the contemporary implications and ongoing legacies of such connections and to give voice to researchers, creators and smugglers from the Caribbean, from Quebec and Canada and especially people who live, think and work “between” the Caribbean, Quebec and Canada.

This transdisciplinary conference aims to open spaces for exploration and definition of multiple ties, interactions and networks so as to better make sense of the spatial-temporal roots and routes that create and sustain trans-American relationships. The event will use French as the main language of discussion, but we encourage the presentation of papers in English and Spanish as well as French.

“Caribbean” is to be understood in an enlarged geographic sense to including the Caribbean littoral of the Central American isthmus as well as the islands. The Caribbean and the circum-Caribbean will be analyzed as a crossroads at the heart of the Americas whose identity/ies were shaped through a great variety of mobilities over time and space. We seek to understand the particular kinds and meanings of the many relations – economic, political, social, cultural, artistic – that have brought our wide-flung territories into contact with each other in the past and the present, looking toward the future.

The symposium and the proposals will be organized around the six themes that follow:

- Mobility and transnationalism
- Integration and regional cooperation
- Environment and natural resources
- Diplomatic relations
- Histories and memories
- Arts and Literature

2°/ To go further: specific approaches

Mobility and transnationalism

Willingness to think mobility as a new paradigm in the social sciences (Cresswell, 2010, Urry, 2007) should not obscure the temporal dimension, the complexity of circulations and the extraterritoriality in which are founded the experiences that this symposium will address (Abu-Laban & Gabriel, 2002 Chivallon 2004, Gilroy, 1994). Leaving behind a bi-national framework, this track emphasizes the multiple places and territories that, through their connections, give rise to transnational communities and movements. Studying trans-American connections between Canada, Quebec and the Caribbean provides the opportunity to explore the effects of various forms of mobility - tourism, diasporas, temporary migration, expatriation, telecommunications, etc.—on the creation of a relational space between the Americas.

Integration and regional cooperation

This theme focuses on the description and analysis of the diverse operations of continental integration: its benefits (Soomer, 2003), and criticisms and challenges; unresolved obstacles and exciting prospects (MartínezReinosa&Martínez 2007; Gómez Mera 2007; Girvan 2010). Focusing on "connections" between the Caribbean and Canada and Quebec provides a novel perspective on current regional projects in terms of infrastructure, economic exchanges, and the circulation of individuals. Particular attention may be paid to the implementation of international humanitarian aid projects (eg. Haiti), the interests implicated in development projects (eg. Canal Brinto-Punta Gorda, Nicaragua) and economic policies for Caribbean development (Reif, 2010; Matthew Bishop Louis, 2012; Girvan 2012). Study of the growing importance of the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development's "Programs for the Caribbean" may lead to reflection on the actions of civil society, both in Canada and in the Caribbean.

Environment and natural resources

Globalized discourses on the environment and natural resources provide a central point of entry for understanding socio-economic and political relations between the Caribbean territories, Quebec and Canada. The ecological and political economy issues at stake in

the islands and the circum-Caribbean -- places at once vulnerable and coveted -- echo similar challenges faced by their neighbor to the north. The management of energy resources and the neo-liberalization of nature through tourism and extractivism place discussions that concern Canada, Quebec and the Caribbean under the sign of political ecology (Bryant & Bailey 1997, Escobar, 1996, 1999, Gauthier & Benjaminsen 2012, Biersack & Greensberg 2006, Forsyth 2003, Peet *et al.* 2011). This perspective gives impetus to research on environmental justice by addressing the scales of action and the networks through which trans-American relations are woven. Furthermore, it provides a rich and complex focus for reflections on the concerns of transnational environmental organizations, policies that aim to protect nature, and environmental conservation.

Diplomatic relations

This theme examines the scope and dynamics of foreign policies that emerged (or have been slow to emerge) between the Caribbean, Canada and Quebec (Tennyson, 1994; Donaghy & Muirhead, 2008). On the one hand, it is important to explore the bilateral relations built over the long term, the historical ties that have produced these relations (eg. Haiti and Quebec), and also the maintenance of peaceful relations in the context of major geopolitical tensions (eg. Cuba and Canada – Rodríguez, 2004; Palacios Barrera, 2008). On the other hand, it is important to decipher the common involvements and "diplomatic connections" developed within multinational organizations: the United Nations, the Caribbean Community, the Commonwealth (Dosman, 1987), Francophonie (Lechaume & Waddell, 2004), the OAS, etc. These various relations and alliances will be observed through the prism of diplomacy, taking as a transversal axis their inscription in the game of global governance (Smouts, 1998; Jacquet, Pisany-Ferri & Tubiana, 2002; Lachapelle & Paquin 2004).

Histories and memories

This track seeks to uncover historical connections and exchanges – whether economic (Levitt, 1982, 2005), military, intellectual (Mills, 2010; Austin 2013), religious (LeGrand 2013), educational, musical, scientific, medical (Duchesne 2009), social, cultural, political or others – that have existed over time between the Spanish, French, English or Dutch-speaking areas of the Caribbean, on the one hand, and Quebec or Canada, on the other. We are interested, too, in exploring what connotations “memory” takes in this transnational context. The time frame is open, up to and including the 20th century.

6 Arts and Literature

Translation, reception, exchanges, intertextualities / Intermédialités, appropriations, misunderstandings and dead-ends. The Arts and Literature section creates an opportunity to interrogate the domains, of creators and creations, that constituted "passages" (Ollivier) "territories" (Glissant), "ecologies" (Nepveu), "disasters" (Martelly), "confined spaces" (Munro) or imaginary maps of encounter and confrontation between the Americas. Within this literary or aesthetic dimension, we will reflect on the modalities of these exchanges as they appear in works of literature and art, as writing elaborates on them and reading succeeds (or not) in making them legible.

3°/ Practical information

Please send your abstract (title, abstract of 500 words max. and five key-words) before March 31, 2015 to the following electronic mail: caraibecanada@gmail.com. And please indicate the relevant theme/track to which your paper relates.

The authors of abstracts selected for the conference will be notified at the end of May 2015 and must then submit their finished papers, 20 pages in length, before September 1, 2015.

The organising committee encourages artistic proposals (graphic and visual arts, literature, music). The same agenda as for paper proposals is to be followed. Together the scientific and the organizing committees will select the proposals.

Thank you in advance for your interest and for spreading this “call for papers” to interested colleagues, artists and writers outside the university, and acquaintances

Place

Carrefour des Arts et des Sciences of Université de Montréal – Room C-3061
3130, Jean-Brillant Street, Montreal

Agenda

March 31, 2015: deadline for submission of abstracts (500 words – 5 keywords).

End of May 2015: Notification to the authors of accepted or rejected abstract.

September 1, 2015: deadline for paper submission (40 000 signs/20 pages).

October 8, 9 and 10, 2015: symposium « *Canada-Quebec-Caribbean: Trans-American Connections* ».

Organising Committee

Marie-Noëlle Carré, post-doctoral fellow in Geography at Université de Montréal and CRE.

Violaine Jolivet, professor in the Department of Geography at Université de Montréal.

Robin Médard, coordinator of the Canadian Pole for the Institute of the Americas.

Scientific Committee

Fred Constant, French Ambassador and Regional Cooperation delegate in the Antilles-Guyana area; professor, University Antilles-Guyana.

Sabrina Doyon, professor, Anthropology Department, Université Laval.

Catherine LeGrand, professor, History Department, McGill University.

Stéphane Martelly, artist and researcher (research and creation), French Language & Literature Department, Université de Montréal.

Frédéric Mérand,: Director of the CERIU, professor, Political Science, Université de Montréal.

Fred Réno, professor, Political Science, University Antilles-Guyana.

Sébastien Velut, Director of the Institut des Hautes Études sur l'Amérique latine (IHEAL) and of the Centre de recherche et de documentation sur les Amériques (CREDA). Professor, Geography, Université Sorbonne-Nouvelle Paris 3.

Luisa Veronis, professor, Geography, University of Ottawa.

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With the kind support of:

