

Call for Papers/Request for Presentations

Joint Conference of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC)
and the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE)

Energizing Communities: Co-operatives Nurturing Democratic Practice!

University of Calgary, June 1-3, 2016

About Us

The Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC) is a multidisciplinary network of researchers and educators dedicated to the generation, dissemination and application of research on co-operatives and co-operation. The Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE) is a North America-wide organization of cooperative researchers, educators, practitioners and developers, with members predominantly from the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean. As the mandates, memberships and geographic boundaries of our two organizations overlap, we regularly co-operate, including in the periodic organization of joint conferences. This year we are delighted to co-organize a joint conference as part of the 2016 Congress of The Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Conference Theme

The theme of the 2016 Congress, *Energizing Communities*, encapsulates in a sense what co-operatives do. Co-operatives have historically arisen from communities, channelling their energy to meet collective needs. As organizations, co-operatives build community among their own members, as well as engaging with larger communities in relations of mutual support. What has been distinctive about the relationship within co-operatives and between co-operatives and communities is the co-operative principles which underlie these relationships, especially the commitment to democratic practice. The commitment of co-operatives to democracy – across economic, political, social, and cultural practices and institutions – is essential in creating and sustaining vibrant communities in which all members can actively and fully (equally) participate.

Energizing communities through democratic practice, however, is challenging. Co-operatives engage in a wide range of activities in a variety of institutional arrangements. How (and even whether) democracy should be practiced in this diversity of contexts is not always immediately evident. A variety of questions are involved, including the recurring issues of whether there are trade-offs and/or tensions between the practice of democracy and other co-operative values and the promotion of desired outcomes. During this joint conference we hope to examine these broader questions in a variety of specific contexts and gain deeper insights into the practice of democracy by cooperatives and how it might more effectively promote the communities in which we want to live.



Sub-themes - Specific sessions within the conference will be organized around themes. Below is a list of conference themes and some of the topics that might be addressed under these themes. The committee will also consider proposals on other topics.

Co-operatives, Democracy and Education

- Co-operatives as sites of democratic education
- The relationship between co-operative participation and member political engagement
- The role of co-operative education within the formal education system

Democracy within Co-operative Enterprises

- Democracy and co-operative boards
- Injecting democracy into management structures and practices
- Collective entrepreneurship as democratic practice
- Financial accountability as democratic practice
- Intergenerational cooperation
- Democratic practice within co-operative associations
- Democratic practice with co-operative networks
- Co-operatives, democracy and business relations

Co-operative Development

- Co-operative development for community and economic development
- Developing co-operatives in increasingly diverse communities
- Curriculum for co-operative start-ups

Co-operatives, Democracy and Engaged Communities

- Co-operative and the promotion of civic engagement
- Co-operatives as social actors
- Co-operatives, culture and democracy

Co-operatives, Government and Policy

- Co-operatives and public policy
- Co-operative involvement in political alliances and coalitions
- Co-operatives as counter-weight to corporate political influence

Submission Guidelines

We invite researchers, educators, developers, industry professionals and students (located in academia, cooperatives, development organizations, apex cooperative bodies, research institutes, and elsewhere) to submit any of the following types of proposals:

(1) **Individual Research Papers, Lecture, and Case Studies** provides the presenter(s) with the opportunity to present on a topic for approximately 20 minutes. They will join 1-2 other presenters of a similar theme. There will be time for a Q and A. Lecture presentations may include a variety of topics and formats, including educating about co-operatives; education for co-ops, such as financial, governance, etc.; pedagogical tools and strategies; program development and delivery, etc. Individual proposals should include: 1) your name, title, affiliation and email address; 2) a short (two-line) biographical note; 3) title of the paper; and 4) a 150-word



abstract (to be printed in the program) that includes the argument, which should include the relationship of the paper to the literature, the research question, methods and, where applicable, findings. Proposals for both empirical and theoretical papers are invited.

(2) **Workshops** provide an opportunity for education and training to be delivered in a dynamic and engaging manner. The workshop should involve audience participation. Workshops will be allocated 90 minutes. Proposals should include 1) the title of the workshop; 2) a 150-word description (to be printed in the program) of the workshop topic, and a short description of what methods will be used to make it a workshop ; 3) the name(s), affiliations and contact information for all workshop presenters

(3) **Research Panels** creates a space for a group of presenters (generally 3) who have a common theme in their research to self-select to present together. Presenters will have approximately 20 minutes each to present. There will time for a Q and A. Panel proposals should include: 1) the title of the panel; 2) a 150-word description of the issue or theme that the panel investigates; 3) 150 work abstracts of all the presentations to be included in the panel; 4) the names, affiliations and contact information for all panel participants.

(4) **Poster Proposals** may describe work related to conference themes. Posters are intended to be interactive, with the opportunity to exchange ideas one-on-one with attendees. Posters will be displayed in a designated conference space. The abstract for a poster should include: 1) title; 2) a 150 word overview of the topic to be discussed. 3) the names, affiliations and contact information for poster creator.

All proposals are due on **January 15th**. [Proposals must be submitted on-line at this link](#). Please make sure to follow all submission instructions (e.g.; length of abstracts) and provide all requested information. Individuals will be limited to presenting in no more than 2 sessions. All proposals are subject to peer review. Applicants will be informed of acceptance by Friday, February 26, 2016.

CASC regularly organizes joint sessions with Association for Non-Profit and Social Economy Research (ANSER) and the Canadian Association for Studies in Development (CASID). If you want your proposal to be considered for a joint session, you must submit it to both organizations (and register with both organizations).

Conference Information

Location: University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Dates: June 1-3, 2016

Registration: As the conference is being held as part of the Annual Congress of Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS) 2016, registration will occur the CFHSS website: <http://congress2016.ca/register> . Registration will open in January. More details on registration will be provided later.

All presenters are expected to pay the registration fee. Scholarships and bursaries can be applied for separately. More information will be available regarding funding resources in January.



Accommodations: The Congress website will include information on accommodations, discounts for travel, and local information. <http://congress2016.ca/>

Program Committee: Sarah Pike (Program Chair), Margaret Bau, Cathy Chamberlain, Emily Lippold Cheney, Steve Dubb, Fiona Duguid, Justin Ellerby, Alicia Lake, Colette Lebel, Natalie Locke, Jessica Gordon Nembhard, Bill Patrie, Darryl Reed, Cathy Statz, Mümtaz Derya Tarhan,

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