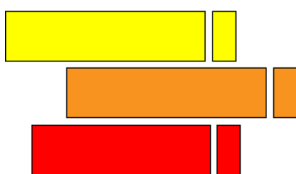


CASC/ACÉC

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2021

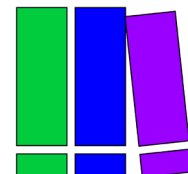
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CASC | ACÉC

Canadian Association for
Studies in Co-operation
Since 1982

L'Association Canadienne pour
les Études sur la Coopération
Depuis 1982



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Judith Harris

As is the case each year at this time, CASC / ACÉC is preparing for the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS). The theme for the Congress this year is Northern Relations and this will be the first virtual conference for CASC/ ACÉC and many other scholarly associations in the Federation. The meetings will also be a time for presentation and discussion on what has been revealed across the disciplines during this past year as we reflect on the impact of the pandemic. Spring has brought with it clear evidence of the implications for small and medium enterprises and of the costs to individuals and families, particularly within minoritized communities.

Two themes have been especially central to our work as academics and practitioners: “equity, diversity, inclusion and decolonization” and “economic responses to the pandemic”.

In February, the Black Canadian Studies Association withdrew from the 2021 Congress, explaining critical concerns related to racial profiling in 2019 and the need to reflect on and address long-standing barriers faced by people of colour in academia. The BCSA called on the Federation to waive fees for their student and community members and requested “a formal commitment be made to a Black Studies theme for Congress in the near future.” The Federation’s Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, & Decolonization Advisory Committee responded with a report available [online](#). CASC/ ACÉC, and other associations have agreed to the fee waiver as has the Federation. The Federation has held discussions with BCSA regarding a conference theme focused on black studies.

In February, CASC released a statement in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and committed “to listen, to speak up and to act in support of a more just world.” In line with this commitment, CASC’s keynote speaker Jessica Gordon-Nembhard will be speaking on June 3 at 11:00 MT on the topic of *Racial Justice and Co-operatives*, drawing on years of research and engagement in the African American co-operative movement. Carolyn Shenaz Hossein (Associate Professor, York University) presented on Rotating Savings and Credit Associations (ROSCAs) on March 9 as part of the Big Thinking Series. Traditional co-operatives have historically been marginalized within the co-op movement. A panel of prominent Indigenous co-operators from Manitoba —Mary Nirlungayuk, Wanda Wuttunee and Louise Champagne—and Saskatchewan (Priscilla Settee) will dig deep into the topic of the *co-operative movement’s contribution to economic reconciliation*.

Co-op alternatives are a central component of the Democracy Collaborative's vision of economic recovery. Co-founder Ted Howard will present his CASC keynote on *The Making of a Democratic Economy* on June 2 at 11:00 MT. During the past year, the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives series *Co-operatives in a Time of Crisis* offered a series of interviews on the co-operative community's experience during the pandemic. The Canadian Worker Co-op Federation (CWCF) has proposed that the Federal Government support worker co-operatives as a strategy for economic recovery. In her interview Hazel Corcoran calls for a pan-Canadian approach based on a framework that would promote recognition of co-operatives in Canada and a national co-operative development strategy established by Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED). Co-op infrastructure and networks already exist to deliver a program to *Build Back Better*.

In its month-to-month activities, CASC/ ACÉC, aside from hosting its annual conference, continues to publish special collections of research papers and has lately established a Communications Committee to ensure timely distribution of information on events and publications from Canada's academic and practitioner community. Keep informed by checking the *Digest* and the *CASC/ ACÉC Newsletter*.

We invite you to register for the Conference June 2 – 4 (membership is included in the CASC fee) and to take in our “BYO” Reception on June 1 from 2:30 – 3:30 MT. Chat with members and renew relationships over co-op beverages and snacks. When you first access the Congress conference site, you will see the conference hall and then you will select CASC, which will bring you to our Greeting Table and our conference assistant. During the conference, you can take your breaks in the Networking Lounge where you can continue chatting with individuals or groups. You will also be able to choose from a list of four wellness options. Check out the Big Thinking presentations at 12:00 Mountain Time. See you in June.



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*L'Assemblée Annuelle 2021 Annual Meeting
Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation
L'Association canadienne pour les études sur la coopération*

***Northern Alternatives: Democratizing and
Decolonizing Co-operative Theory and Practice***

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

JUNE 2 - JUNE 4, 2021

ONLINE CONFERENCE AS PART OF



congress 2021 | **congrès 2021**
OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES | DES SCIENCES HUMAINES
Northern Relations | Relations nordiques



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CASC/ACÉC 2021: PROGRAM AT A GLANCE/ VUE D’ENSEMBLE DU PROGRAMME

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL TIMES ARE MOUNTAIN TIME (MT)

THURSDAY, MAY 27th

PLEASE NOTE: BELOW IS A SESSION THAT IS PART OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR NONPROFIT AND SOCIAL ECONOMY RESEARCH (ANSER) CONFERENCE THAT CASC IS CO-HOSTING

4:30- 5:30 **Transforming Workplaces and Community Spaces to Co-operatives in Argentina and Beyond: Lessons for Facing the Pandemic and Economic Crisis and Creating Social and Solidarity Economies**
Vieta; Gordon-Nembhard; Heras

TUESDAY, JUNE 1st

2:30-3:30 **Virtual Reception: Bring Your Own Co-op Beverage and Snacks**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2nd

9:30-10:30	A1: Creating Space for Economic Reconciliation Settee; Wuttunee; Nirlungayuk; Champagne <i>CASC/ANSER Joint Session</i>
10:30-11:00	BREAK
11:00-12:00	B1: Keynote Address: The Making of a Democratic Economy: Prosperity for the Many, Not just the Few Ted Howard <i>CASC/ANSER Joint Session</i>
12:00-1:00	BREAK / CONGRESS BIG THINKING SERIES
1:00-2:00	C1: Co-operatives and Social Justice in Theory & Practice Findlay; Diamantopoulos; Tarhan
2:00-2:30	BREAK
2:30-4:00	D1: CASC Annual General Meeting

THURSDAY, JUNE 3rd

9:30-10:30	E1: The CoopConvert Project, Year 3: Mapping the Potential of Converting Workplaces and Community Spaces to Co-operatives in Canada (1/2) Vieta; Duguid; Castro	E2: Literature and Co-operative Language of Identity Rajendran; Grey; Spitzberg
10:30-11:00	BREAK	
11:00-12:00	F1: Keynote Address: Racial Justice and Co-operatives Jessica Gordon-Nembhard <i>CASC/ANSER Joint Session</i>	
12:00-1:00	BREAK / CONGRESS BIG THINKING SERIES	
1:00-2:00	G1: The CoopConvert Project, Year 3: Mapping the Potential of Converting Workplaces and Community Spaces to Co-operatives in Canada (2/2) Vieta, Gosselin; Guillotte, Charbonneau; Silver	G2: Versatility of Co-op Responses: COVID-19, Senior Care, and Fair Trade Reed; Pigeon, Rixon; Harris, Christianson
2:00-2:30	BREAK	
2:30-3:30	H1: Human Books Library Leviten-Reid; Donkervoort; Nirlungayuk; Howard; Hern, Open City Events	

FRIDAY, JUNE 4th

9:30-10:30	I1: Roundtable: Made for co-ops, by co-ops: The development of co-operative-designed indicators for the SDGs Duguid; Rixon	I2: Co-operatives and Values-Based Governance I Payler, Geobey, Piscitelli; Wright, Campbell, Piscitelli; McNamara
10:30-11:00	BREAK	
11:00-12:00	J1: Conversions of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises into Co-operatives Geobey, Camacho, Campbell; Pitchford	J2: Co-operatives and Values-Based Governance II De Pasquale, Dordi, Payler, Piscitelli; Senkl, Rixon
12:00-1:00	BREAK / CONGRESS BIG THINKING SERIES	
1:00-2:00	K1: Roundtable: Experiential Education and Co-operation Reed; Sumner; Simoulidis	K2: Roundtable: Developing culturally appropriate learning opportunities related to co-op development with marginalized and racialized communities Cook; TBC

TED HOWARD

Democracy Collaborative

The Making of a Democratic Economy: Prosperity for the Many, Not Just the Few

Wednesday, June 2
11-12 Mountain Time

CASC/ACÉC KEYNOTE SPEAKER

www.coopresearch.coop/conferences

Congress of the Humanities
and Social Sciences

TED HOWARD is the Co-founder and President of The Democracy Collaborative, an action-oriented progressive think tank established 20 years ago in the United States. He has been named one of “25 visionaries who are changing your world” and identified by the Guardian newspaper as “the de facto spokesperson for community wealth building” internationally. In 2008, he led a team that developed the comprehensive job creation and wealth building strategy that resulted in the Evergreen Cooperative initiative in Cleveland, OH. The Evergreen Cooperatives, in turn, were an important inspiration for the community wealth building strategy now underway in Preston, Lancashire (widely reported as “The Preston Model”) and other cities in England and Scotland. He is co-author of “The Making of a Democratic Economy: Building Prosperity for the Many, Not Just the Few.” (July 2019, Berrett-Koehler), and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in Great Britain.

JESSICA GORDON- NEMBHARD

CUNY

*Racial Justice
and Co-operatives*

Thursday, June 3
11-12 Mountain Time

CASC/ACÉC KEYNOTE SPEAKER
www.coopresearch.coop/conferences

Congress of the Humanities
and Social Sciences

JESSICA GORDON-NEMBHARD is Professor of Community Justice and Social Economic Development in the Department of Africana Studies at John Jay College, of the City University of New York (CUNY) in New York City, USA, where she is also Director of the McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. Dr. Gordon Nembhard is a political economist specializing in community economics, Black Political Economy and popular economic literacy. Her research and publications explore problematics and alternative solutions in cooperative economic development and worker ownership, community economic development, wealth inequality and community-based asset building, and community-based approaches to justice. She has recently completed a book on Black cooperatives: *Collective Courage: A History of African American Cooperative Economic Thought and Practice* (2014 The Pennsylvania State University Press). *Collective Courage* was a finalist for the University of Memphis Benjamin L. Hicks National Book Award for 2014.

RESEARCH PROFILE



Dr. Sonja Novkovic
 Full professor
 Economics
 Academic Director
 International Centre for Co-operative Management
 Sobey School of Business
 Saint Mary's University
 CASC/ACÉC 2010 Award of Merit winner

As she approaches the end of her eight-year tenure as the CASC/ACÉC representative and Chair, International Co-operative Alliance Committee on Co-operative Research ([The Committee on Co-operative Research \(CCR\) | ICA CCR](#)), Sonja Novkovic reflects on that ICA CCR experience in an interview with Isobel M. Findlay, editor of *CASC/ACÉC Newsletter*.

Why is the ICA CCR important? What are its roles and responsibilities?

The ICA CCR is one of the thematic committees and networks or think tanks of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA); the others are Gender Equality, Cooperative Law, Youth Network, and the International Cooperative Development Forum. Established in 1957 as the Research Officers

Group, the ICA CCR has changed its name as its mandate broadened over the years in bridging academic research and the practical co-operative movement world. The committee importantly connects all regions globally—Asia-Pacific, Europe, Africa, and the Americas—in the project of teaching, education, and practice, drawing on different fields and multidisciplinary approaches to the promotion of the co-operative model as a solution to social and economic issues.

Through its biennial global research and other conferences, website, and the *ICA Review of International Co-operation*, the committee connects regional and global players and interests, sharing the latest research for application to current co-operative issues.

Why is it important for CASC/ACÉC to be represented?

CASC/ACÉC is important because it is almost the CCR in the Canadian context! What is important is the multidisciplinary representation of research in Canada and the Americas more broadly (themselves very diverse, as we can appreciate). Since around 2012 when Lou Hammond Ketilson was chair, there was an effort to democratize the process of selection of researcher representation on the CCR Executive which is when CASC/ACÉC became one of those organizations that could delegate someone to the CCR. In the US, ACE has this delegating role and in Latin America, it is the Latin American Co-operative Research Network.

Still, it is important to have multidisciplinary representation and this is what CASC does. But we of course know that we are missing large bodies of researchers. Not all researchers are necessarily affiliated with either CASC or ACE although CASC does attempt at least to be inclusive of the broader community of researchers throughout

the Americas and not only in Canada. I feel we are not capturing well enough the francophone community although we do have some on CCR. So some work remains to be done. But CASC is all encompassing and a broadbased research community connecting academics with practitioners and students and it is also connected to the global community of researchers. So CASC has all the elements of what CCR should be about. And CASC is the only research association that is a member of Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada. Research associations are not typically members of movement federations, but it adds credibility that CASC is part of the movement and researchers are part and parcel of that.

What have been the challenges in fulfilling the roles and responsibilities of the CCR?

Well, always resources and money. There is no money and it is difficult without resources. The staff we do have from the ICA are busy so don't have a lot of time to devote to the CCR. There is no permanent secretariat like some associations have. So resourcing is a challenge. And of course all representatives are volunteers and academics, so we have less opportunity to collaborate with the sector as such in a more meaningful way (outside grants etc in our home institutions).

Regional diversity is also a challenge—including different understandings of what co-op research is or should be and what it is about. And then we are also functioning only in English and not doing justice to the global community. So this is a serious limitation related to Africa and Latin America. As to German researchers, only a few have been able to be part of CCR. Spanish speaking has been a challenge as well. Latin America faces serious challenges to be part of this network even though they want and have their representation. And we have no resources to function in multiple

languages and this is also part of the problem with the francophone community. So regional and cultural diversity of the movement and research community—and how co-ops are perceived and understood—but there are opportunities in that diversity but we don't meet enough. That is a challenge. Because we are connected to practice and the movement, there are diverse expectations of what research is and does. Some view research as consulting or gathering of regional statistics in a knowledge-driven or data-driven enterprise. So there is that misunderstanding that is a challenge.

How often does the committee meet?

We meet at least once a year which is mandatory by the constitution, but we usually meet twice. Most of our activities are associated with conferences where we mingle and meet face-to-face. The European conference meets annually and typically attracts a global audience, the biennial global conference also attracts a global audience, and the Latin America conference meets every two years, and Asia-Pacific annually. So each offers opportunity to meet more often.

As much as CCR has faced challenges of travel, diversity of understanding, and linguistic differences, do you find the CCR and broader movement has nevertheless found opportunity to innovate? What have been important innovations over the last eight years or in the longer term? Innovations within CCR and research? How CCR might have done things differently impacting research?

Since 2014, we have been engaging young scholars much more deliberately. Every conference now begins with a day for the young scholars and then they are of course part of the main conference too. They meet, mingle, debate issues, and discuss jobs in the sector. So there is lots of potential and we

haven't had the resources or done enough with it. But a representative of the young scholars is on the Executive now. There have been some new things with the Alliance and some new relevant research topics: for example, the platform co-operative arena and challenges of governance within platforms, what they mean and how they shape what they are. A couple of years ago ICA passed a resolution that they would support these new forms of cooperativism. ICA has also just introduced [ICETT](#), the think tank of large co-operatives who want to promote co-op thinking and practice. What we want to do is bridge the gap between the think tank and the research community that should be involved in promoting the co-op model and thought and critiquing where appropriate. At the moment the [World Co-op Monitor](#) is its outlet and researchers in Italy at EURICSE who produce the Monitor are helping craft current issues, including the SDGs of importance to the ICA.

There are other things happening because the co-op model is becoming more prevalent and more young researchers becoming involved in co-operative enterprise and social enterprise. The Institute for New Economic Thinking or INET in New York (<https://www.ineteconomics.org/>) also has a Young Scholars Institute on co-ops that we are trying to connect with the CCR Young Scholars Program (YSP). The New York group are self-organizing around particular issues. One group has started a co-op of young scholar institutes so multiple interests but there is not enough talking among the different groups, so we are trying to make the connections. Communications are not always what they should be and a coordinating role is needed.

What are highlights for you over your eight years? Particular initiative, conference, people?

The particular highlight is the Young Scholars Program I deeply care about and want to continue to promote in any way I can and link to academics. Co-op researchers—at CASC too—are really collegial and that supportive, mentorship role is so important. And I am very happy that the program is shaping up but we need more resources for it to function as well as it could. The highlight for me is the connection to co-op networks and the people on the ground—very important to be close to the co-op identity, its opportunities and challenges. I am a theorist but always based on reality and this connection is important. And at my university we do a lot of identity training.

On two fronts from an education and a research perspective it is so important to be close to the sector. I am now closer to the sector and ideas come from practice and that is the highlight and keeps me going.

You have already addressed something from my last question. What impact has the ICACCR had on your thinking and shaped or reshaped your career/intellectual itinerary?

I have never been a narrow economist. I have always been a social economist but this work has allowed me to pay more attention than I would have otherwise to other fields and approaches—history, management, for example—understanding the differences of where people are coming from in their different interdisciplinary perspectives. That has broadened my horizons. It's been quite informative and exciting actually.

PROFILING CASC/ACÉC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



*Lisa Mychajluk
PhD Candidate, Adult Education and Community Development
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE)
University of Toronto*

Winner of the 2018 Amy and Tim Dauphinee Scholarship

You could say that my journey as a co-op researcher began around 2010. This is when I returned to academia to explore my interest in sustainability education and focus my Master’s thesis on ecovillages—grassroots communities designing and living out alternative, co-operative, and regenerative systems of everyday life. While I was initially impressed with the ecological achievements of these low-impact communities, I soon realized that what underpinned this lifestyle was a commitment to building a co-operative culture, including co-operative social and economic organization as an alternative to a competitive, capitalist structure. Consequently, my Master’s thesis became an exploration of how ecovillagers build capacity and competencies for living and working together co-operatively, in support of their common sustainable community objective. This thesis was a hook for me! I wanted to know more—a desire I fulfilled by moving to an ecovillage in Caledon, Ontario, where I lived for three years, putting into practice and deepening my thesis learning, and by starting a PhD program at OISE.

My PhD research is a multiple case study of four ecovillages in Canada and the United States, designed to better understand ‘learning sustainability’ as a transformative social process in co-operative, low-impact communities. I hope to illuminate how learning in these contexts can help us learn our way out of unsustainable ways and into a more sustainable (“one planet”) way of life.

The 2018 Amy and Tim Dauphinee Scholarship greatly advanced my research, enabling my field research from November 2018 to September 2019 in four host ecovillages, where I participated in learning opportunities, engaged in the daily life of the community, observed, took field notes, recorded my own learning and reflections, and conducted interviews with key informants, ecovillage residents, and visitor/students. Also, I reviewed abundant community documents, and conducted post-visit interviews. I wrapped up data collection in January 2020, and prepared for data analysis and dissertation writing. And then came the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 has certainly thrown a wrench in my dissertation process. For some, being confined mostly to home could be an ideal time to complete a big writing project. But, with two kids at home, primary caregiving responsibilities, and the constant disruptions of lockdowns and online learning, I haven’t been able to focus on writing. While the dissertation is on something of a pause, I do sneak time with my research, reflect on what I have learned, and generally attempt to keep the project alive in my mind. In that spirit, I’ll share a few highlights of my findings. But, first, let me briefly introduce the communities.



Dancing Rabbit Vehicle Co-op: 4 vehicles, 60 people

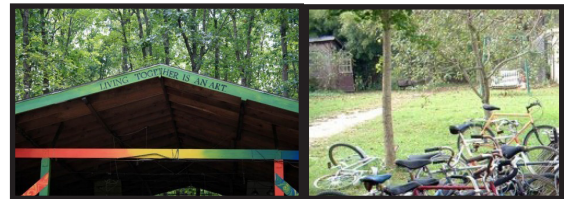
Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage: Established in 1997, in rural north-east Missouri, the Rabbits (as they like to be called) have a clear vision and agreements for ecological and sustainable living that influence the lifestyle choices and community practice. In line with their vision, and mission as an educational institute, Dancing Rabbit has measured the impact of their collective ecological lifestyle, with impressive results. Co-operative structure is a fundamental element of Dancing Rabbit, with co-operatives established to manage many aspects of community life including food consumption, energy, vehicles, common space, and waste management. In addition, a cornerstone enterprise-- the Milkweed Mercantile, an eco-inn, café and community hub--was recently converted to a worker-owned cooperative. My time at Dancing Rabbit was organized around a two-week Visitor Program-- an immersive experience intended to acquaint the visitor with life in the ecovillage.



Twin Oaks tofu worker co-op

Twin Oaks community: Established in 1967 in rural Virginia, Twin Oaks precedes the ecovillage concept,

but lays claim to significantly reduced per capita resource consumption through ‘radical sharing’ and collective production and consumption. At Twin Oaks, all resources and land are collectively owned and a social contract guides residents providing 42 hours of labour weekly (including all income-generating and domestic work), in exchange for life’s necessities-- food, housing, vehicles, medical and job security. The community’s collective income is generated through a handful of community-owned co-operative businesses-- currently the largest is a multi-million dollar tofu manufacturing business. My research trip to Twin Oaks also coincided with a two-week Visitor Program.



Twin Oaks Conference Centre, Twin Oaks bicycle fleet

Sirius Community: Established in Massachusetts in 1978 by former members of Findhorn Community in Scotland (a spiritual community often recognized as the birthplace of the modern ecovillage movement). Sirius is a residential community and educational centre where ecology and spirituality are fundamentally intertwined in the community’s ways of gardening, building, and consuming done consciously, with a reverence for all life, and the community practices of meditative decision-making and attunement to nature. Organized as an educational non-profit, Sirius members are financially independent but fulfil expectations of service to the community. Immersive learning opportunities are available to visitors. During my research trip several visitors engaged in months-long natural building and organic gardening internships, as well as a more structured four-week Immersion Program.

Morninglory Farm: An off-grid, homesteading community and land trust in Renfrew County, Ontario, whose residents are dedicated to learning and practising living in harmony with one another and Mother Earth. Morninglory was first settled in 1969 during a wave of back-to-landers who came to the Killaloe area. Today, the community's shared value of 'cooperation for mutual benefit' is evident in shared community responsibilities and expenses (e.g. for land management), some shared resources, such as apple press equipment and an outdoor cob oven and kitchen, and a fledgling cow co-operative. Morninglory's commitment to continuous learning to live lightly on the land is enacted through resident skill and knowledge sharing and visitor live-work opportunities.

Researching these varied communities has been fascinating— but perhaps most interesting has been the process of analysis, and reflecting upon how to distill what these cases can tell us about my overarching research question: how to learn sustainability through participation in ecovillages? Although the uniqueness of each community challenges generalizations, I do see some commonalities:

- Through sharing and open access to resources, and through adoption of low-impact techno-ecological structures and practices related to buildings, food, energy and water use, and waste management, each ecovillage drastically reduces per capita resource usage while maintaining a high quality of life.
- While exact economic structures and approaches vary, the case communities are each a form of communality, and they prefer social and cooperative work / enterprise to meet life needs.
- Socially, they all value intentional community rather than individual self-sufficiency as an essential expression of a sustainable way of life. They practice democratic governance, conflict resolution,

and a flattening of power structures. Personal growth / inner sustainability work is necessary and complementary to socio/economic/ political, and interpersonal engagement.

- While the culture of each community is heavily influenced by its history, people, and physical environment, each ecovillage is committed to living in connection / co-operation with nature and each other, and in a way that holds some higher purpose— achieved mainly through living by example, and sharing knowledge and know-how with a broad audience.

In studying the learning process of participation in ecovillages, these factors rise to the top:

- For residents, a sustainable and resilient way of life is not 'learned' but crafted – through a process of deepening internalization, immersion, on-going interactions with environment and community, reflection, practice, mentorship, skill-sharing, and co-creation.
- And visitors learn from an immersive experience in the everyday life of the ecovillage, coupled with organized opportunities for demonstration, discussion, and applied knowledge and skill development. What knowledge and skill a visitor leaves with depends on their specific experience and subjectivities, but what is invariable is that they leave with inspiration of how an alternative life is possible. And their experience in the ecovillage is impactful. They are changed in minor and in major ways and they continue to reflect on and integrate what they learned as they build the lives that they desire.

Stay tuned for a dissertation that puts more 'meat on the bones' of these findings.

PROFILING CASC/ACÉC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



*Adam Trott
Master of Management: Co-operatives and Credit Unions
(MMCCU), 2019
International Centre for Co-operative Management
Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University
Halifax, NS.*

Winner of a 2019 Lemaire Co-operative Studies Award

Adam Trott is the Director of Member Relations for Shared Capital Cooperative, a national CDFI loan fund that connects co-ops and capital to build economic democracy. He is also the Executive Director, Valley Alliance of Worker Co-operatives, a co-op of worker co-ops that supports, develops, and educates about and for worker co-operatives. Adam spent 13 years as a worker-member of Collective Copies, a worker collective and union shop in western Massachusetts and served on his union's Regional Executive Board.

My graduate school experience at the International Centre for Co-operative Management (ICCM) at Saint Mary's University was filled with highlights; working with the incredible staff and faculty at ICCM, I also had the opportunity to learn from my fellow students from co-ops of all kinds and more. One highlight like no other was the opportunity

to present my capstone research at the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC) conference in 2019, made possible with the support of the Lemaire Scholarship. Lemaire, open to both undergraduate and graduate students who further co-op development in Canada, was a perfect fit for me to refine my materials and share my research goals with veteran researchers, as well as experienced educators and practitioners.

The presentation demanded that I understand my own data, substantiate my findings, and clarify my arguments. Here again, Lemaire was important since one of the issues I was addressing was the lack of attention to and study of co-operative associations. We often hear of Mondragón Cooperative Corporation and the cross-sector, clustered economic juggernaut of the Italian cooperative movement, especially in Emilia Romagna. The successes and advantages to members of our own domestic associations in Canada and the U.S., however, don't often make headlines. Additionally, while we hear of these associations that are democratically controlled and funded by co-ops themselves, North America rarely replicated the characteristic of co-op-led and funded development and more non-profit activity.

By funding research about the movement as a whole, Lemaire provided support and resources for this research regardless if it was delivering on something that would get attention outside of our movement, like impact investing or worker ownership without control.

Findings were exciting. Yes, co-ops were uniting to further the model and, yes, co-op leadership was in control but also developing from the grassroots of our movement. Co-ops have to draw on all assets and resources to serve membership amidst competitors equipped with well-marketed, sugar-

coated solutions driven by profit. The co-operative missions to empower transformational change showed a significant impact on how co-ops are run and how co-ops engage race and gender inequities, climate change, widening wealth gaps, homophobia and other systemic issues in North America.

This model can save lives, can save communities. It has saved lives, has saved communities.—Cornelius Blanding, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund

Through interviews and data from ten associations in North America, I explored how associations served their members in a variety of ways. Fifteen interviewees were candid about what barriers (such as lack of awareness of their impact) they faced and what successes they had such as providing a suite of services to members and amplifying their voices. Associations in North America have a list of potential “social innovations” to replicate based on these successes using shared programming for membership, on-going educational work, and surplus distribution strategies. Individual co-ops are critical to the survival and health of their members; however, one co-op alone cannot address these larger, systemic issues. This research showed an incredible awareness of the challenges and successes of co-ops, their members, our movement and associations’ surprising impact on legislation, education, interco-operation, and leadership development (for details, see the Cooperative Business Journal article listed below).

It was a thrillride to speak to the leaders of so many great associations: the National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA and Co-operatives and Mutuels Canada, the Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation and the U.S. Federation of Worker Cooperatives, Neighboring Food Co-op

Association and Valley Alliance of Worker Co-operatives, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund and more. After sharing my research at CASC in 2019, I was better prepared to show that co-operative associations were critical to advancing co-operatives and our values, especially when led and funded by members themselves. The added experience of CASC and input from others prepared me to publish my findings in both the Working Paper Series at ICCM and National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA’s Winter 2021 Cooperative Business Journal.

Thank you to all involved with Lemaire and to CASC for partnering so effectively to make my research more supported and more accessible to so many co-operators. #GoCoop!

This article is a summary of a research paper written at the International Centre of Co-operative Management, Saint Mary’s University, Halifax, Nova Scotia (ICCM). Adam would like to thank the participants for their generosity, expertise, and dedication to the co-operative model, the ICCM and Suzette Snow-Cobb for their tremendous support of this research.

UPDATE FROM THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF CO-OPERATIVES



*Stan Yu
Research and Communications Coordinator
Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives
Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy
University of Saskatchewan*

1. The CCSC and the University of Saskatchewan receives \$300K from FCL to renew the Co-operative Retailing System (CRS) Chair in Co-operative Governance

The CCSC is excited to announce that the Co-operative Retailing System (CRS) Chair in Co-operative Governance has been renewed and will receive \$300,000 over five years from Federated Co-operatives Limited. Based in the CCSC and at the University of Saskatchewan, the CRS Chair supports ambitious research and educational programming aimed at creating new ways of thinking about the unique governance model shared by co-operatives. The CRS Chair will be announced this summer. Read more about the announcement [here](#).

2. Top Co-op Issues 2020 Report Released

Results from the CCSC's 2020 Top Co-op Issues have just been published in a new report. 2020 marked the 5th annual Top Co-op Issues Survey, which asks Canadian co-operative leader—including Chief Executive Officers/Executive Directors, managers, board members, and researchers—what they view as the most pressing concerns facing co-operatives today. This year, 56 Canadian co-operative leaders participated. Read the full report [here](#).

Top Co-op Issues 2020

3. New paper on board diversity amongst Canadian Co-operatives and Credit Unions Released

Many co-operatives are seeking to diversify their boards, but many have encountered more challenges than successes. This new paper by Jen Budney, Professional Research Associate at the CCSC, provides a “rough guide” to how co-op and credit unions can begin to diversify their board, and why genuine diversity matters to all co-ops. Read the full paper [here](#).



4. New paper that focuses on decision-making considerations during credit union mergers

Efficiency and Autonomy? Recasting the Credit Union Merger Debate is a new paper by CCSC Director and Strategic Research Fellow, Marc-André Pigeon, that analyzes the considerations when two or more credit unions attempt to join forces. In a merger or some other formal arrangement, where might decision points be placed to preserve some local autonomy while increasing efficiency? Read the full paper [here](#).



5. Recent CCSC lectures and panels available on our Youtube channel

The past few months have been lively at the CCSC with multiple lectures and panels on topics ranging from renewable energy to capacity building. All of the recordings from those recent events are now available to watch on our Youtube channel. They include:

- The 2020 MacPherson Talk - [Beyond Co-operation: the Power of Business as a Force for Good](#) featuring Brendan Reimer from Assiniboine Credit Union
- [Creating a Supportive Policy Environment and Network for Renewable Energy Co-operatives in Canada Panel](#) featuring Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-operative, SES Solar Co-operative, Solar Power Investment Co-operative of Edmonton, and Wascana Solar Co-operative
 - Renewable energy co-operatives provide opportunities for local investment, advance sustainability, and enhance community connection, yet there is often little policy support for their activities. This panel will discuss the policy landscape for renewable energy co-operatives in Canada and opportunities for social innovation hubs and other approaches that can serve as a network of support for renewable energy co-ops.

• [Coordinated Co-operative Development and Capacity Building in British Columbia](#) featuring Elvy Del Bianco from Vancity

- The co-operative development process can be long and challenging. With too many communities lacking a good understanding of the model and expending too much time and energy figuring it out, too few initiatives get to market. Working with community partners, Vancity supports a co-op development “infrastructure,” including educational programming, a coordinated professional services referral process, and access to start-up financing. In this presentation, Elvy Del Bianco looks at the origins of this system, the positive results produced to date, and its ongoing evolution.

6. Enroll in the Graduate Certificate in the Social Economy and Co-operatives today!

Applications are currently being accepted for the Graduate Certificate in the Social Economy and Co-operatives. This Certificate is designed for working professionals and graduate students who are looking to deepen and refine their understanding of the vital roles played by co-operatives, non-profits, and social enterprises in today’s economy. The program can currently be completed entirely online. Learn more about the certificate [here](#).

SOCIAL ECONOMY ORGANIZATIONS & CO-OPERATIVES: POLICY SOLUTIONS WORTH EXPLORING

Alongside the public and private sectors, there is a rich diversity of social economy organizations, including co-operatives, credit unions, non-profits organizations, charities, community associations, social enterprises, and more, working to provide goods and services to individuals and communities around the world.

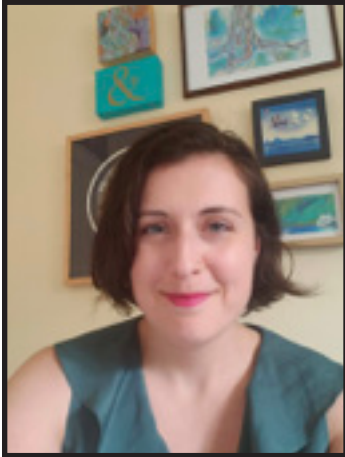
The Graduate Certificate in the Social Economy and Co-operatives is designed for working professionals and graduate students who want to learn about, deepen, or refine their understanding of the social economy and its interaction with public policy.

PROGRAM FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Three, graduate-level classes + one non-credit class
- An option to complete it entirely online or as a mix of in-person and online courses
- A laddering option for you to transfer into the Master of Public Administration program, and have your coursework count towards a graduate degree
- A focus on policy, governance, and leadership issues
- Courses use a series of readings and case studies to develop your core competencies and skills, while you learn how to bridge theory and practice

This graduate certificate is offered in partnership with the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives.

UPDATE FROM ST. MARY'S INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CO-OPERATIVE MANAGEMENT



Erin Hancock
 Program Manager, Co-operative Management Education
 International Centre for Co-operative Management
 Sobey School of Business
 Saint Mary's University
 Managementstudies.coop
 @CoopMgmt
 Cme@smu.ca

With Rosa Poirier-McKiggan, Program Assistant

Hello from the International Centre for Co-operative Management!

We engage in co-operative business education, applied research and knowledge dissemination that elevates the co-operative economy and community. We are pleased to share what we have been working on recently and how you can get involved.

Program Deadlines Coming Up

It's application season for our **Master's, Graduate Diploma and Certificate in Co-operative Management** programs designed for working professionals in co-operatives, credit unions and mutuals. Our **online, part-time** programs range from 3 years, 16 and 10 months in duration. Our students join a global network

of leading co-operative practitioners, educators and academics and experience education in a co-operative learning environment. Students deepen their understanding of the co-operative business model and develop tools to maximize its impact and their leadership performance.

Applications must be initiated by **May 31**.

Check out our [exciting new curriculum](#) for the Certificate in Co-operative Management!

Courses comprising the program:

- History of the Movement
- Enterprise Model
- Strategic Advantage
- Governance and Participation
- Innovation (Co-operative Management Innovation)

Symposium:

From June 17-19, the Centre will convene its second **International Co-operative Governance Symposium** (virtual). This participatory gathering of governance professionals, experts, and researchers will explore and discuss a plurality of governance models that maximize the benefit of the democratic, people-centred and jointly-owned nature of the co-operative model. [Learn more.](#)

Executive Education:

September 15 & 16: Virtual 2-day course **Excellence in Member-centric Governance and Management**. Discuss and debate the many facets of the membership aspect of co-operatives, including: people-centred management, ownership and control, and network governance. Grapple with the unique challenges inherent in leading and managing co-operatives while including voice, representation, participation, and engagement of people at the core. Special

registration packages are offered for organizations registering five+ individuals. For more information and to register, visit our [website](#).

October 20 & 21: NEW* Virtual 2-day course **Operationalizing the Co-operative Identity – Strategy to Practice**, in collaboration with [NCBA-CLUSA](#)'s Co-operative IMPACT Conference. Dig deep into co-operative identity including how purpose, values, and principles translate into enterprise strategy and effective practice. Finish the course with a rich set of concepts, tools, and examples. Course registration is available through the Cooperative IMPACT Conference system. Until registration launches, we welcome expressions of interest to erin.hancock@smu.ca. For more information, please visit our [website](#).

Must Read

The Centre is excited to share our **Working Paper and Case Studies Series**. We publish open source research papers and reports in the field of co-operative management, economics and governance. We invite submissions including think pieces and work-in-progress pieces from our faculty and sector partners and the broader community of co-operative academics and practitioners. [Learn more](#) and read up. Contact s.novkovic@smu.ca.

Call for speakers: Fall Special Topics Webinar Series

We host free webinars offered by researchers, educators and sector leaders on special topics in co-operative business, management, governance, economics and social movements. Do you have a presentation in mind? Contact s.novkovic@smu.ca to explore! Check out our previous webinar recordings [here](#).

Visit us at our [website](#), follow us on social media at @CoopMgmt or reach out directly at cme@smu.ca



DES NOUVELLES DE L'IRECUS / NEWS FROM IRECUS



*Josée Charbonneau
Doctoral Researcher, IRECUS
L'Université de Sherbrooke*

La pandémie de la COVID-19 a engendré bon nombre de changements dans les habitudes de chacun. Les coopératives et les mutuelles ont, elles aussi, été confrontées à cette nouvelle « normalité ». Depuis le début de l'année 2021, l'IRECUS, en collaboration avec des collègues de Saint Mary's University et de Cape Breton University, s'intéresse à l'impact de la COVID-19 sur les coopératives et mutuelles canadiennes et leurs réponses face à cette crise sanitaire hors du commun. Sous la direction de Coopératives et Mutuelles Canada, cette recherche s'effectuera en plusieurs phases au cours des deux prochaines années. Gardez l'œil ouvert pour la suite!

Les premiers résultats de la recherche CoopConvert sur la conversion d'entreprises en coopératives au Canada, menée en partenariat avec des collègues de l'Université de Toronto et Coopératives et Mutuelles Canada, seront également disponibles sous peu. Entretemps, il vous est possible de lire

notre dernier article « [Exploring the links between the practices of forestry co-operatives and the SDGs](#) » publié dans le *International Journal of Co-operative Accounting and Management* (IJCAM).

News from IRECUS

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about many changes in everyone's habits.

Co-operatives and mutuals have also been confronted with this new "normal". Since the beginning of 2021, IRECUS, in collaboration with colleagues from Saint Mary's University and Cape Breton University, has been investigating the impact of COVID-19 on Canadian co-operatives and mutuals and their responses to this extraordinary health crisis. Led by Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada, this research will be conducted in several phases over the next two years. Stay tuned for more!

The first results of the CoopConvert research on the conversion of businesses to co-operatives in Canada, conducted in partnership with colleagues at the University of Toronto and Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada, will also be available shortly. In the meantime, you can read our latest article "[Exploring the links between the practices of forestry co-operatives and the SDG's](#)" published in the *International Journal of Co-operative Accounting and Management* (IJCAM).



CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

ICA CCR EUROPE 2021 RESEARCH CONFERENCE * CALL FOR ABSTRACTS EXTENDED *

The International Cooperative Alliance Committee on Cooperative Research (ICA CCR) EUROPE Research Conference will be held online on 7-8-9 July 2021. The conference will deepen the understanding of the resilience of cooperatives facing crisis.

Deadline for abstracts extended to May 7.
More information, submission, and registration at the Conference [website](#).

CALL FOR PAPERS ON NEW COOPERATIVISM

The UK Society for Co-operative Studies (UKSCS), the EMES International Research Network (EMES), and the European Research Institute for Co-operative and Social Enterprise (EURICSE) invite you to submit a paper to the Journal of Co-operative Studies as part of a new joint call. We welcome short think pieces (approx. 1000 words), short articles (4000 words), or full articles (7000 words).

Deadline for abstracts May 31, 2021.
See submission guidelines [here](#).
Submit to: r.ridley-duff@shu.ac.uk
and mary.oshaughnessy@ucc.ie

JCOM CALL FOR PROPOSALS

We would like to inform you that the deadline of the Call for Papers - Special issue of the Journal of Co-operative Organization and Management (JCOM) on The Co-operative Identity is extended. The newly scheduled deadline for submission of papers is May 28 2021.

For more information, please see the [webpage](#).

JOURNAL OF CO-OPERATIVE STUDIES CALL FOR PAPERS

Co-operative News, the venerable UK – and now international – journalistic voice of the co-operative movement, turns 150 years old this year. To mark the occasion the Journal of Co-operative Studies will be producing a special issue, focusing on the relationship between journalism and co-operation. The Journal's editorial board is now actively appealing for contributions for this issue. Shorter contributions are welcome, for example from co-operators and practitioners.

Deadline for submissions: July 5, 2021.
For more information, please visit our [website](#).
All contributions should be emailed to:
editor@ukscs.coop

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

CMC VIRTUAL NATIONAL CONGRESS

For over a year now, we have been living through an unprecedented global health crisis. We have seen our daily habits and lives changed, not to say, even turned upside down.

Through this crisis, co-operatives and mutuals have shown their resilience and strength. With this year's congress theme, Towards a more co-operative economy, we aim to discuss how the co-operative and mutualist model could contribute to the rebuilding of the Canadian economy.

From June 14 to 17, 2021, you are invited to participate in our Virtual National Congress.

More information [here](#).

2021 ACE INSTITUTE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Association of Cooperative Educators Presents the 2021 ACE Institute Risk and Rebuilding in Co-operation Online Event, June 22-24

More information will be available soon at our [website](#).

EMNET CALL FOR PAPERS

We have now organized the publication possibilities for the EMNet 2021. See our [call for papers](#).

Deadline for the abstract submission is May 30.

ANSER CONFERENCE

The Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research (ANSER) is a dynamic growing association that is organizing its fourteenth annual conference as part of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. ANSER brings together leading academic researchers, students, practitioners, consultants, policymakers and community organizations from Canada and across the world to discuss current and emergent issues, debates and challenges in the fields of civil society, social economy, and nonprofit research and practice. Please consider submitting a proposal for what we believe will be an engaging and provocative conference convened virtually on May 27-29, 2021

More information [here](#).

Marcelo Vieta and the Co-op Convert Project Featured on fiftybyfifty

Canada looks to social enterprises, including cooperatives, to build a better future

Researchers examine what is needed for successful business to cooperative conversions

By Karen Kahn

As part of this effort, the government has committed \$750 million over 10 years to build a stronger social enterprise system. Among the projects that have been launched is the Legacy Leadership Lab (L3) at the [Waterloo Institute for Social Innovation and Resilience](#) at the University of Waterloo. L3 is leading a process to strengthen the ecosystem for social conversions. Over the last year, L3 has convened business advisors, cooperative developers, municipal and nonprofit leaders, and academics to look at the strengths and weaknesses of the current environment, and to identify and build the products and services needed to speed social acquisitions, says Project Manager Meg Ronson.

Among those participating in the Legacy Leadership Lab are the leaders of another government-funded project: [The Conversions to Co-operatives Project](#), known as Co-opConvert. Co-opConvert is a three-year project led by researchers from three Canadian universities, University of Toronto, Université de Sherbrooke, and Cape Breton University; and cooperative sector and community partners, including [Cooperatives and Mutuals Canada](#) (CMC), the Canadian cooperative trade association, the [Canadian Worker Cooperative Federation](#), and [Cooperatives First](#), a non-profit promoting the cooperative model in rural and Indigenous communities across western Canada. See also on their [main page](#).

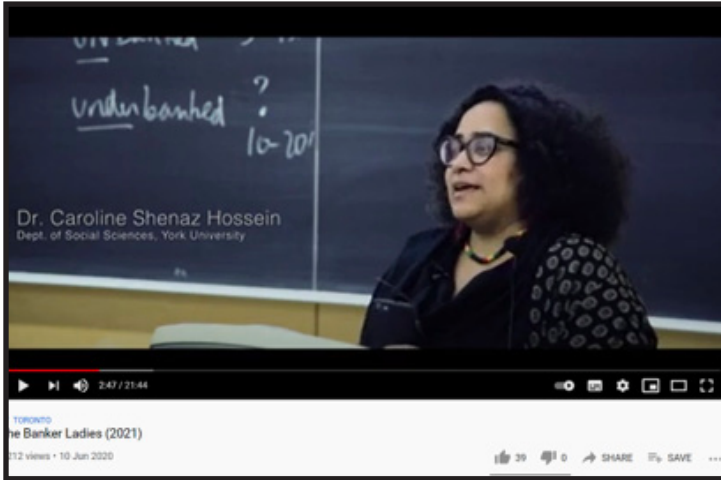
THE SOCIAL ECONOMY
AS A PARADIGM
FOR THE PRESENT AND FUTURE
OF EUROPE: ELEMENTS
FOR AN ACTION PLAN

Position Paper

March 2021

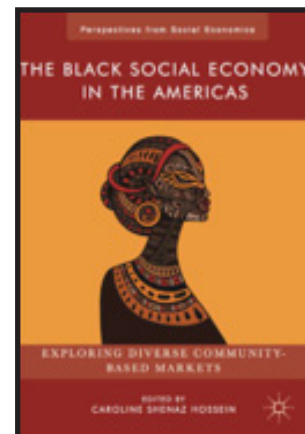
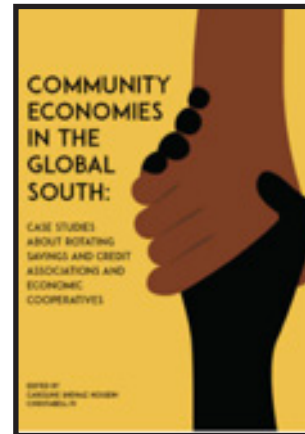
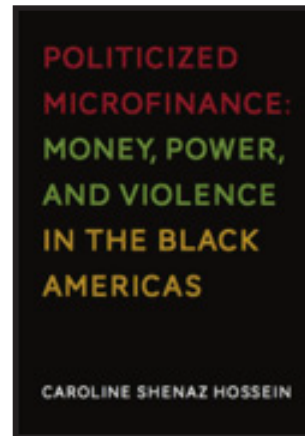
The Social Economy as a Paradigm for the Present and Future of Europe: Elements for an Action Plan

For well over a decade now, Diesis Network and Euricse have been working on, with and for the European social economy. As the European Commission prepares to launch a new Action Plan for the Social Economy, it seemed important to share some observations that we have drawn from our experience as practitioners and researchers. Rather than offering a detailed list of policy recommendations, which will no doubt be provided by other organisations, this document tries to outline the key elements of a vision that sees the social economy as a key link between the European Union's roots and its future.



THE BANKER LADIES

Check out the 2021 [documentary film](#) about The Banker Ladies based on research by Dr. Caroline Shenaz Hossein of York University’s Department of Social Sciences, made in Toronto by the [Diverse Solidarity Economies Collective](#) (DiSE Collective), and directed by Esery Mondesir.



Check out these books by Caroline Shenaz Hossein:



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership rates for the 2021/22 CASC year are regular members \$175 and students, retired individuals, and the underwaged \$55. Benefits include the following:

- *CASC / ACÉC Newsletter* twice yearly
- Regular *CASC / ACÉC Digest* announcements of interest (about conferences, new co-operative resources or initiatives, scholarships etc.) through the CASC / ACÉC listserv and Digest
- *Journal of Co-operative Studies* (3 issues per year)

Contact Information (*Please let us know if your contact information changes during the year*)

Name: _____

Institutional Affiliation (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

_____ (postal code) _____ (country)

Email: _____

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Select one of the following:

___ Regular (\$175)

___ Student/Retired/Underwaged (\$55)

Optional donation

_____ In support of Ian MacPherson Fund

_____ In support of student/practitioner travel to CASC annual conference

Total:

Payment Information

Pay online with PayPal at <http://www.coopresearch.coop/how-to-join/>

Or mail the completed membership form, along with a cheque or money order made out to CASC in CDN or US dollars (at par) to:

Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation
c/o Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives
University of Saskatchewan
101 Diefenbaker Place

Saskatoon, SK S7N 5B8 Contact us at casc.acec@usask.ca if you have any questions.



Formulaire de membre

Les frais d'adhésion à l'ACÉC en 2021-2022 sont de 55 \$ pour les étudiantes, les personnes retraitées, et les personnes sous-payées; 175 \$ pour les autres personnes. Au nombre des avantages, les membres reçoivent :

- Une copie de notre journal interne (deux numéros par an)
- Des nouvelles récentes (congrès, nouveaux outils et initiatives de coopération, bourses, etc.) par courriel ou digest
- *Journal of Co-operative Studies* (trois numéros par an)

Coordonnées (*Veillez nous informer de tout changement au cours de l'année*)

Nom _____

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Régulier (175 \$)

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Don en option

-----Bourse Ian MacPherson

_____ Subventions pour les voyages étudiants ou praticiens aux conférences annuelles ACÉC

Le Total :

Paiement (Si vous avez des questions, n'hésitez pas à communiquer avec nous à casc.acec@usask.ca)

Utilisez PayPal à <http://www.coopresearch.coop/how-to-join/> Ou veuillez poster le formulaire dûment rempli, accompagné d'un chèque ou d'un mandat-poste poste à l'ordre de l'ACÉC en dollars canadiens ou américains (au pair) à l'adresse suivante :

Association canadienne pour les études sur la coopération
a/s Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives
University of Saskatchewan
101 Diefenbaker Place Saskatoon, SK S7N 5B8

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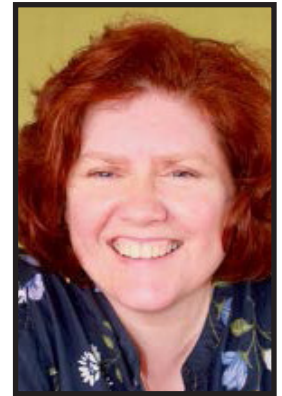
BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION



Judith Harris
President
j.harris@uwinnipeg.ca



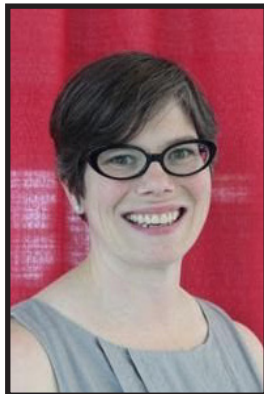
Isobel Findlay
Secretary/Treasurer
findlay@edwards.usask.ca



Laurie Cook
chutzpah@access.wave.ca



Mitch Diamantopoulos
Mitch.Diamantopoulos
@uregina.ca



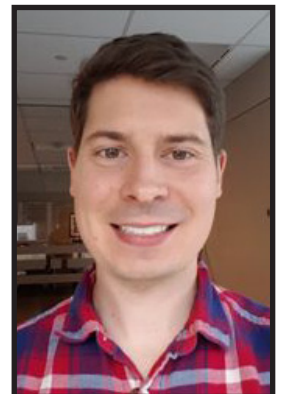
Fiona Duguid
fduguid@gmail.com



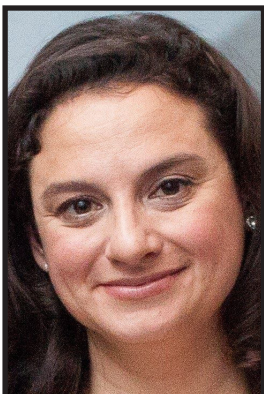
Sara Elder
elder.sara@gmail.com



**Claude-André
Guillotte**
clauandre.guillotte
@usherbrooke.ca



Kevin Morris
kevinmorris42@gmail.com



Lisa Mychajluk
lisa.mychajluk
@mail.utoronto.ca



Darryl Reed
dreed@yorku.ca



M. Derya Tarhan
mdtarhan@gmail.com



Marcelo Vieta
marcelo.vieta@utoronto.ca



Esther Awotwe
esa803@usask.ca