



CASWE-ACFTS
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR LA FORMATION EN TRAVAIL SOCIAL



Conference 2023 Call for Proposals

Reckonings and Re-Imaginings: Indigenous and Black Offerings to Social Work and Beyond

The School of Social Work at York University was founded by renowned race scholar, peace activist, and community organizer: Dr. Wilson A. Head. An African American sociologist who received his PhD from Ohio State University in 1958, Dr. Head migrated to Canada soon afterwards where he spoke out against and led research into systemic racism, poverty, and war. Wilson A. Head founded and joined many organizations committed to social welfare and racial justice, including the Canadian Civil Liberties Association of Toronto, National Welfare Council, National Black Coalition of Canada, Social Planning Council and Urban Alliance on Race Relations. Dr. Head drew attention to racial profiling in the police force and advocated for the abolition of prisons. We draw attention to and pay tribute to his legacy, as we frame this Call for Papers: Reckonings and Re-Imaginings: Indigenous and Black Offerings to Social Work and Beyond

The colonial modernist profession of social work continues to harm Black, Indigenous, and racialized communities across multiple interrelated sites where colonialism is alive, well-entrenched, and continually re-configuring. While reckoning with the gravity of the profession's past and present, we must actively reimagine and rescript social work and beyond for our future ancestors. We invite scholars, students, practitioners, activists, and abolitionists to gather this spring on the land known as Tkaronto to build on the gifts and knowledges held out to us by those who came before. This conference will centre Indigenous and Black offerings, while also welcoming other intersectional discussions (addressing, for example, disability justice, mad and cripp epistemologies, neurodiversity, Two-Spirit, queer and trans communities, migration and transnational solidarities, anti-patriarchal and feminist struggles, reproductive and sexual justice, linguistic diversity, ageism and adultism, environmental justice, anti-poverty and anti-capitalist mobilizing – recognizing that any such list is inevitably partial and inviting

other conversations that we haven't even dreamed of), whether in contexts that are majority anglophone or francophone. We seek engagements that aim to dismantle how white supremacy, colonialism, and innumerable interlocking social and political violences shape the life possibilities of our communities as well as the field of social work. We welcome submissions on the theme of *Reckoning and Re-Imagining: Indigenous and Black Offerings to Social Work and Beyond*. Students, artists, activists, and critical thinkers are invited to the conversation, whether connected to university or not. We are particularly excited and hopeful about hosting intergenerational dialogues among Black and Indigenous thinkers and practitioners working to build possible futures and just worlds.

Invited Themes

- **Black and Indigenous Perspectives on Space, Place and Belonging**
 - Bridging communities and supporting community-based practice
 - Health and wellbeing in Indigenous, Black, and racialized communities
 - Northern and rural critical praxis
 - Indigenization and decolonization in postsecondary institutions
 - Black intellectual legacies and the transformation of higher education
- **Abolition and Alternative Ways of Addressing Harm and Distress**
 - Transformative and/or restorative justice and community building
 - Mutual aid, collective care, and alternative economies
 - Sex worker community organizing for safety and wellbeing
 - Abolitionist futurities and deprofessionalization
- **Decolonizing Therapy and Direct Practice**
 - Anti-Black violence in the helping professions
 - Anti-racist, anti-colonial approaches to child welfare
 - Collective responses to grief, loss and mourning
 - Indigenous and Black spiritualities and holistic approaches to healing
- **Intersectional Social Movements for Radical Political Transformation**
 - Trans and queer lives, bodies, communities in anti-colonial, anti-racist, anti-carceral contexts
 - Anti-sanist approaches to mad community organizing, mad studies, mental health and wellbeing in anti-colonial, anti-racist, anti-carceral contexts
 - Feminist community organizing in anti-colonial, anti-racist, anti-carceral contexts
 - Disability justice as an anti-colonial, anti-racist, and anti-carceral political project
 - Race, migration, cross-national and transnational solidarities
 - Art as resistance, protest, struggle
- **Francophone Intersectional Realities in Social Work Praxis**

- Language Revival and Decolonization
- Minoritized languages and intersecting identities
- Francophone intersections with Indigenous and Black lives
- Indigenous, Black, and anti-racist struggles within majority and minority French speaking contexts
- Critical realities for Black francophones
- **Critical Pedagogies and Preparing Students for Social Justice Work**
 - Critical perspectives in field education
 - Critical pedagogies and preparing students for social justice work
 - Ongoing impact of COVID 19
 - Reimagining and deconstructing resilience
 - Nature in praxis and pedagogy
 - Knowledges from all life stages: Intergenerational knowledges, learning from children, learning from elders
 - Humanizing Indigeneity & Blackness, confronting anti-Black, anti-Indigenous racism
- **Environmental Justice, Anti-Speciesism, Ecocidal Capitalism**
 - Relationships and responsibilities to the Land and to all species and relations
 - Climate change and its impacts on Indigenous and Black people

Presentation Options

Papers

Each paper is allocated 15 minutes and for many people this is approximately 7.5 pages of double-spaced text (font 12). Three or four papers will be grouped together by theme. A discussion period will follow after all papers are presented. For papers with more than one author, the lead author takes responsibility for coordinating the presentation.

Panels

A lead presenter will organize approximately four presentations on a theme, coordinating the proposal submission and if invited to present, also coordinating the presenters and facilitating the post-presentation discussion.

Posters

Poster submissions will display research findings or practice learnings in a visual poster format (with text). A one hour poster presentation period will take place during which presenters will be present to discuss their work with interested attendees, and posters will otherwise be on display throughout the conference days.

Workshops

Workshops will be 1.5 hour sessions that combine some presentations together with engaging the audience in small or large groups and/or hands-on learning activities. Submissions will be required to explain how the audience will be engaged beyond lecture style presentation.

Conversation Circles

Conversation circles are 1.5 hour planned but less formally structured discussions on a key theme, to take place between a small number of identified discussants, and if desired, including a small audience. Conversation Circles are a good fit for emerging and urgent topics that would benefit from a number of voices in dialogue but may lack a formal body of research or literature to draw on. Submissions will identify the discussants by name and explain the questions that will be taken up, as well as a plan for engaging the audience in the conversation. These submissions will be sent directly to the conference planning committee.

***Arts-based submissions are welcome in all presentation categories**

Submission Requirements

The CASWE 2023 Planning Committee invites proposals that meet the following guidelines. Submissions must include this information to be considered:

- **Presenters:** Full name, title, organization or affiliation, mailing address, phone, e-mail address. Please ensure you include correct spelling of each name. If relevant, identify the lead presenter/discussion leader or artist.
- **For Papers and Posters:** Title and Abstract (250-word limit, not including title) and a 150 word bio for each presenter.
- **For Panels:** Title and Abstract (500-word limit, not including title) and a 150 word bio for each presenter. Please include an abstract for each presentation and abstract for the panel as a whole.
- **For Workshops:** Title and Abstract (500-word limit, not including title) and a 150 word bio for each presenter. The abstract must include a description of how the audience will be engaged in hands-on learning.
- **For Conversation Circles:** Title and Abstract (500-word limit, not including title) and a 150 word bio for each discussant. Include in the abstract the questions that will be taken up, the identified discussants, the rationale for approaching this topic as a conversation circle, and a plan for engaging the audience.

***If submitting an arts-based proposal in one of the above presentation categories, please be sure to explain the artwork in question in your abstract.**

Audio/Visual Equipment

A basic data projector, projection screen, internet access, and sound system will be available at each session. Each room will be equipped with a computer, but you are welcome to bring your own device and cables to hook up to podiums.

Proposal Evaluations

Submitted proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Relevance to conference theme and invited topic(s);
- Clarity of research methods and theoretical framework;
- Overall contribution to critical social work thought, education, research, policy, theory and practice.

Deadline

Proposals must be submitted by the deadline: **February 19th, 2023**

Proposal Status Notification

E-mails regarding the status of proposals will be sent to all primary presenters in April 2023.