

CEACS/AECEC Executive Committee and Advisory Board Joint Meeting
(24th EC and 14th AB Meeting)
Maribor
14 September 2024

Minutes

Present

Executive Committee

Katalin Kürtösi, President (outgoing) – KK
Octavian-Paul More, President – OM
Michelle Gadpaille, Vice-President (outgoing) – MG
Victor Kennedy, Vice-President – VK
Don Sparling, Treasurer – DS
Andrea Szabó, Secretary – AS

Jason Blake, *CEJCS* Editor-in-Chief – JB

Advisory Board

Andrei Andreev (Bulgaria) – AA
Nikola Tutek (Croatia) – NT
Tomáš Pospíšil (Czech Republic) – TP
Attila Takacs (Hungary) – AT
Krisztina Kodó (Hungary) – KKo
Sergej Macura (Serbia) – SM
Marija Panić (Serbia) – MP
Tjaša Mohar (Slovenia) – TM

1. Opening

OM declared the meeting open at 13.55.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting agenda was unanimously adopted.

3. Report on recent activities

Each country representative was asked to offer an overview of CEACS activities within their country.

Before the individual country representatives spoke about their countries, DS and KK outlined the rationale for the annual reports on activities from each country. Each year the CEACS President collates the individual country reports to produce a report on Canadian Studies activities in our region that is sent to the ICCS. These individual country surveys are

presented at the annual ICCS AGM, where the fullness of the CEACS report contributes greatly to the CEACS's standing among international Canadianists.

Ideally members should fill in the on-line activities form continually (i.e. immediately after an event/publication, etc.), but in fact few do. It was suggested that the country representatives should encourage them to do so. Even so, however, reminders will undoubtedly be necessary, and the question arose as to when such reminders should be sent out. After some discussion, an agreement was reached: The first report reminder should be sent at the end of January; the second and final reminder should be sent February 15.

MG mentioned two volumes published in Maribor – *Words, Music and Propaganda* and *Living and Learning in Dissimilitude Without Dissonance: Wording Otherness* – both of which had some Canadian content; this served as a reminder that not all Canadian content appears in the context of Canada-focused fora, so this is an additional benefit of preparing the individual country reports and posting them on the CEACS website.

3.1 Country reports

Bulgaria – AA stated that at this point he was not entirely aware of all CS events and activities in Bulgaria, but that he would certainly like to mention Diana Yankova's recent book dealing with cultural diversity and cultural identity in Canada as viewed through an examination of sociolinguistic and sociocultural practices of first-generation Bulgarian Immigrants to the country.

Croatia – NT mentioned an interdisciplinary conference on new discourses on crisis, a joint effort by Croatian-Canadian Academic Society, University of Rijeka, Wirth Alumni Network and Wirth Institute from the University of Alberta in Canada. DS mentioned that this institute offers scholarships for students from countries of the old Austria-Hungary, and that we should inform our students of this.

Czech Republic – TP noted Petr Kylvoušek's book *Centers and Peripheries in Romance Language Literatures in the Americas and Africa*, in which of course Québec was prominent, and also a book edited by Klara Kolinská and Jana Marešová (along with Sanja Runtić from Croatia) dealing with representations of North American Indigeneity in Central Europe. Other news: a number of active emerging Canadianists (i.e. new PhDs) and a revitalization of the Canadian Studies Centre at Masaryk University, with a new website "on the way". All present were invited to the 12th Brno International Conference of English, American and Canadian Studies, which will take place from 5-7 February 2025; a doctoral students' conference will precede this on 4 February.

Hungary – KKo highlighted the "Current and Future Challenges" conference held in Budapest in November 2023; she also mentioned the upcoming symposium in Debrecen on "Looking Back and Ahead: Exploring Uniquely Canadian Cultural Narratives", which will take place on 24 and 25 October.

Romania – OM – the country representative, Carmen Andrei, was unable to be present – gave an overview of recent events at his own university in Cluj-Napoca: in November this year there will be a lecture by the Canadian writer Eric Chacour, winner of Le Prix des 5 continents de la Francophonie 2023; a workshop on Canadian jazz (in English) is planned for spring 2025. Next year an English/French conference is being proposed at the "Dunărea de

Jos” University of Galați. DS commented that when conferences are held, people might think of at least part of them being offered on-line.

Serbia – MP highlighted a membership problem, namely, that all members are from the area of language and literature. However, the Serbians have been active. Last year in May the Serbian Association for Canadian Studies held its biennial conference and the proceedings were now being prepared. A round table was held on “Canada in the Contemporary World”, a second one on the recently deceased Serbian-Canadian author David Albahari, and a third one on Margaret Atwood. She also commented on the lack of support from the Canadian government; the Association internationale des études québécoises (largely financed by the government of Québec) is more generous.

Slovenia – TM mentioned that the membership has been steady for the past few years (13 members). However, more will have to be done to attract MA and PhD students, as well as colleagues from the French Department at the University of Ljubljana. In the past year, most of the work was focused on organizing the CEACS conference, and thus there were no other Canadian Studies events. However, papers on Canadian topics have appeared in the aforementioned publications (*Words, Music and Propaganda* and *Living and Learning in Dissimilitude Without Dissonance: Wording Otherness*), which were edited or co-edited by Slovenian CEACS members.

3.2 Report from the CEACS Secretariat

DS said that he had little to add to what he had reported to the CEACS General Meeting the day before. He had hoped to introduce the new student assistant at the Secretariat in Brno, Lucie Altmannová, to the meeting, but the danger of floods had led to her early departure from the conference. As this was her first year as a doctoral student, he expected there would be stability at the Secretariat for several years to come.

4. Further publications

4.1 Open Access negotiations

DS explained that the printed publication members had received at the conference, *Canadian Landscapes / Paysages canadiens*, was also appearing in a digital Open Access form on a website of L’Harmattan, a French publisher that has a cooperation agreement with Károli Gáspár University. The CEACS has also been offered a long-term contract with L’Harmattan concerning previous future publications of this type. He studied it, and consulted with experts at Masaryk University, and as a conclusion realized that there were several aspects of the agreement that require further examination and discussion. He would get back to the CEACS Executive Committee with a report. It was agreed that the Advisory Committee would also be part of the discussion.

4.2 Publication following from the Maribor conference

At this point no decision could be made as to how, or whether, a publication would ensue based on papers presented at the Maribor conference. One possibility might be an issue of the *CEJCS*. Another might be a special issue of *ELOPE*, published at the University of Ljubljana.

And a third would be in cooperation with L'Harmattan. Each has advantages and disadvantages; the Executive Committee will explore all options.

5. 11th Int. conference of CEACS (Belgrade, 2027)

MP said the Serbian members were looking forward very much to hosting the next CEACS triennial conference in Belgrade. At this point the exact date was still unspecified: this would be decided closer to the actual event in consultation with the CEACS Executive Committee. The CEACS Executive Committee had previously discussed and accepted the proposal of the Serbian Association for Canadian Studies regarding the theme of the next triennial — “Canada and Contemporaneity” / “Le Canada et la Contemporanéité”.

6. CEACS external relations

It was suggested that the Executive Committee might explore ways of extending cooperation with other European Canadian Studies associations; the Polish association was mentioned specifically in this connection.

7. AOB

JB said he hopes to bring Tamas Dobozy over and would like to make him available to other universities that might be happy to host him. He also wonders whether some embassy might be able to offer some kind of funding.

JB also wanted to mention a new book by Mavis Gallant entitled *Montreal Standard Time: The Early Journalism of Mavis Gallant*. See <https://vehiculepress.com/shop/montreal-standard-time-edited-by-neil-besner-et-al/>.

A slightly confused discussion took place concerning the CEACS Facebook that centred on the question whether it is public or private. DS said he thought it was private, but wasn't sure – he would ask Lucia Grauzl'ová, who is the other administrator. OM did an instant check and it seems the site is a public one, which explains the occasional commercial and non-Canadian text that appears. DS said he had always removed them and blocked further access, but sometimes the texts had been there some time before he noticed, or was informed, of them. However, despite the inconveniences involved, it was decided to keep the site public.

In response to comments about the current state of the CEACS website, DS said he would ensure that it was brought up to date, including removing links that were no longer functional. In this, he had been promised help by OM.

DS suggested country reps could encourage members to come to Brno to do research, reminding them that the association would pay for up to six nights' accommodation.

AT said that the Hungarian Canadianists, at their annual meeting this year in Budapest, had brought up the idea offering cultural training to Canadian companies as a way of generating some income (needed, for example, to maintain their website). He added that this might also be a way of raising the profile of Canadian Studies, and suggests Canadianists in other countries might consider this possibility as well.

In connection with raising an awareness of Canadian Studies, DS brought up a point that had been discussed in earlier years – drawing up a list of Canadianists who are experts in various fields, and giving this to the local Canadian Embassy. The idea, based on the Czech experience, is that from time to time, when something newsworthy has happened in Canada – elections, for example, First Nations issues, more recently the truckers’ convoy protest and occupation of Ottawa, etc – the media want to interview someone who has background knowledge on the story, and they often turn to the local Canadian Embassy for contacts.

8. Closing

The meeting was declared closed at 16:10.