

Conference of the Canadian Association of Cultural Studies/  
Association Canadienne des Études Culturelles

Call for Papers : EXTENDED TO AUGUST 15, 2022  
Another University, Now

Toronto, October 27-30, 2022

What if the university was rebuilt with an explicit agenda to center the lives of the oppressed? What kind of university might we have? This conference takes its title from William Haver's "Another University, Now: A Practical Proposal for a New Foundation of the University." In the essay Haver writes of the institution, "Institutions do not, cannot, by virtue of their very institutionality, be equitable, if by equity we mean a certain symmetry, a certain equality, and therefore a certain outside to power" (34). Haver's essay published in *Equity and How To Get It: Rescuing Graduate Studies* edited by Kay Armatage in 1999 is a reminder that the foundations of the university as an institution are radically inequitable and unequal. We might add that those foundations cannot be made equitable if the shape of the university remains as it is presently. What we need is another university, now. We currently inhabit a university that is obsessed with rhetorics of change, transformation, and a claim of accounting for its past while stubbornly remaining unchanged. Cultural Studies has long had a critique of the university through its recognition that disciplinarity is a limited means through which to make knowledge and the necessary politics for remaking the world along more just terms possible. This year's CACS conference casts its net wider than disciplinarity to assess, reassess and gesture towards the reinvention of the university. We take seriously that the neoliberal university is seductive in its rhetorics of change and its exercise of representation while keeping its inequitable foundations firmly in place. The neoliberal university has settled into its routine of assessment, measurement, awards, administrative and managerial strategies and tactics of highlighting diversity as central to its modern mission. The modern university also finds its stated mission in tension if not contradiction with what should be its core mission -- that of knowledge production and creation. Instead, the modern university is more consumed with management, dissemination, and the marketing of an institutional image. CACS invites panels and papers that explore and assert that the contemporary university should be understood and prepared for critical and insurgent intervention meant to give it a new foundation.

**Topics might include:**

The university as a site of struggle

Universities and histories of colonization and slavery

Student, faculty and staff activism

The professional managerial class/VPs, Presidents, Provosts

EDI/DEI

Post-Truth and Reconciliation Commission hiring policies and recruitment of Indigenous faculty

Anti-Black racism "action plans" and recruitment of Black faculty  
Identity/Identity policing  
Awards  
Universities and urban/rural development/Real estate/gentrification  
Branding/Patent Offices  
Endowments/Fundraising campaigns/Development Offices  
Internationalization  
Non-Academic Staff/unions  
Faculty unions/Associations/labour action  
Contract/Adjunct faculty  
Endowed and other research chairs  
Academic Freedom/freedom of expression  
Dismissal  
Tenure  
Funding of universities  
Interdisciplinarity  
Multidisciplinary programs vs. departments  
The politics of ancillary services  
COVID/Mental health/Pandemic  
Jean-François Lyotard/Bill Readings/Fred Moten and Stefano Harney/ reconsidered  
(among others)

We invite those interested to submit proposals for fully formed panels and/or individual papers for this in person conference.

**Panel proposals:** Please submit a panel description (100 words), abstracts of 3-4 papers (250 words each), and short bios for each panelist.

**Paper proposals:** Please submit a paper abstract of 250 words and a short bio. We especially invite graduate student, contract faculty, and junior faculty submissions.

**Submit as an attached word document or PDF to:**

EMAIL: AbstractsCACs@gmail.com

**August 15, 2022.**

Accepted conference papers will be considered for inclusion in an upcoming special issue of TOPIA: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies