

CASWE-ACFTS 2021 Virtual Conference
June 1 to 3, 2021

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

***Decolonial Dreaming in Social Work Education, Theory,
Research and Practice: Reimagining for Today and the Seven
Generations to Come***

“To the Ancestors who survived colonial violence and to those whose lives were stolen, we lovingly dream of decolonial futurities that honour you, all our relations and the little faces yet to come...” (Allan, Hackett and Jeffery, 2019)¹

In 2021, we are forced to witness, reckon with, and step into this hard truth: existing intersecting inequities have been magnified and worsened with this global pandemic. Their effects can be felt intimately. As differently positioned social workers, we are urged to individually, institutionally, communally, collectively, and *pedagogically* shift in how we live, teach, research, practice, and relate to one another. We are encouraged to listen, in relation to the other, particularly those who are directly impacted by the multiple local issues challenging us today.

Technology has offered some assistance as well as some challenges for this relational work. In this time of remote learning, initial classroom and field education uncertainty turned towards creativity, adaptability, and accessibility for social work education. Our urgent interventions offer new and renewed critical innovations in social work teaching and learning, research and practice. It is in this context that we are encouraged to move towards CASWE-ACFTS’ first virtual conference.

Our 2021 Conference theme, *Decolonial Dreaming in Social Work Education, Theory, Research and Practice: Reimagining for Today and the Seven Generations to Come*, seeks to honour the Congress theme for 2020, *Bridging Divides: Confronting Colonialism and Anti-Black Racism* and the theme for 2021, *Northern Relations*, by centering the work of decolonization through relationality, reconciliation, revitalization, resurgence, and resistance. Turning towards Allan, Hackett, and Jeffery’s (2019) invitation to ground our pedagogical efforts towards imagining and facilitating a decolonial future, we invite Association members, new and returning, to come together to hold ourselves accountable, in relation to each other, to the Indigenous Peoples and

¹ Allan, B., Hackett, V. R., & Jeffery, D. (2019). Decolonial Futurities in Social Work Education: Epistemological, Relational, and Institutional Pathways. *Intersectionalities: A Global Journal of Social Work Analysis, Research, Polity, and Practice*, 7(1), 1-8.

traditional teachings of the spaces and lands we occupy, to dream and work towards a social work profession and discipline for the seven generations to come.

The conference aligns with critical mobilizations ongoing within our Association. We invite you to return to our 2017 *Statement of Complicity and Commitment to Change*² and imagine your current position and state of action about this change. Indeed, we are reminded that transforming our colonial reality must be a responsibility shared by all Canadians; social work education has much work to do.

Our first virtual conference gathering offers some creative constraints to our presentation options, but we are embracing this as an opportunity. In addition to pre-recorded paper presentations, we encourage you to consider submitting digital media submissions in the form of podcasts³, short films, and/or mini-documentaries. In particular, podcasting, or the dissemination of oral knowledge, is one of the many ways we can decolonize education and honour Indigenous ways, which include knowledge transmission via oral storytelling.

This year's conference will be held in conjunction with the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences' *Congress 2021* and its host institution, the University of Alberta. As this university does not have a social work program, the Conference Planning Committee has invited a representative from the School of Social Work at MacEwan University as well as Indigenous colleagues and relatives from the North to help develop this conference in a good way. We are also actively exploring how we can work with the Federation to offer supports and resources to make the conference platform as accessible as possible.

We look forward to honest, courageous dialogues to walk side by side towards solidarity within our social work community - to decolonially dream, together.

SUBTHEMES:

1. Decolonial Dreaming: Centering Indigeneity, Decolonization, Reconciliation and our Commitment to Change

- Sharing stories of emerging and ongoing visions, efforts and successes in classrooms, communities, and institutions
- Reimagining Indigenous / Settler relations
- Learnings from Indigenous wholistic worldviews; Indigenous land and water sovereignty
- Challenging the neoliberal, colonial social welfare state
- Where are we now? Addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, and the Calls for Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
- Decolonizing social work in/outside Turtle Island: Unsettling and abolishing borders

² <https://caswe-acfts.ca/about-us/our-commitment-to-change/>

³ For one example, we encourage you to listen to 2 Crees in a Pod, co-hosted by Indigenous social work professors, Terri Sunjens and Amber Dion.

2. **Critical Dialogues and Interventions to Address Systemic Racism**
 - Stories of success and struggle in the face of insurmountable odds
 - Mobilizing across difference to support Black communities, colleagues, and students
 - Honouring Joyce Echaquan: Urgent efforts to combat anti-Indigenous Racism in healthcare and social services
 - Addressing Anti-Asian racism in the time of COVID-19
 - Sharing anti-racist pedagogies and praxes
 - Decentering whiteness

3. **Centering Northern Relations**
 - Stories of social work in Northern rural and remote communities
 - Connecting climate change, people, communities, cultures, and knowledges
 - Working with, not for: unpacking community-based research in the North
 - Eco-justice and Environmentalism from a Northern perspective

4. **Critical Reflections in Field Education**
 - Challenges and success stories in the age of COVID-19
 - Addressing systemic racism in the field
 - Putting our learning to work: Decolonizing practice (student and educator perspectives)
 - Reimagining accessibility through disability justice
 - Using technology as an accessible and decolonial tool
 - Reimagining social relations and belonging

5. **Decolonizing Equity in Social Work Education: Efforts to Intervene Across and Work Through Difference**
 - Decolonizing the body/mind
 - Queering social work: local, transnational, and international perspectives
 - Intersectionality and Canadian Francophone Realities
 - Resistance from women's movements: intimate spaces to the streets
 - Environmental racism
 - People of African descent: Recognition, justice and development (theme for UN's International Decade for Peoples of African Descent)

PRESENTATION OPTIONS

We will accept abstracts for research presented in any of the following formats:

1. **Pre-recorded Paper Presentation**

Paper presentations should consist of summaries and highlights of original work, focusing on innovations in theory or practice, research findings or policies. Each paper will be allocated 15 minutes and will involve a live Q&A session during the conference program. Paper presentations will be pre-recorded by you and uploaded to the virtual event platform.

2. Podcast

The podcast must be a maximum of 15 minutes in length. The presenter(s) will pre-record their podcast in an MP4 format, which will then be uploaded to the Conference/Conference platform. Presenters are responsible for the logistical elements surrounding their podcast, including editing, and must ensure they have permission to broadcast the podcast via our Conference/Congress platform from any podcast participant who is not directly associated with the presentation as a presenter/author/creator.

3. Short Film / Video / Documentary

The short film/video/documentary must be a maximum of 15 minutes in length. Presenters will upload their MP4 digital file to the Conference/Congress platform. The presenters are responsible for all logistical elements surrounding the creation and editing of the short film/video/documentary and must ensure they have permission to broadcast the piece via our Conference/Congress platform from participants featured in the film/video/documentary who are not directly associated with the presentation as a presenter/author/creator.

If there are multiple presenters of a presentation, the Lead Presenter will be responsible for corresponding with the Association regarding their presentation and will communicate any details regarding the presentation to their co-presenters.

GUIDELINES

Submit Your Abstract Online

As of January 22, 2021, you will be able to submit your abstract via the online submission system at <https://conference.caswe-acfts.ca/>.

Deadline for submissions is February 19, 2021

Abstracts must:

- Address the conference theme or one of its subthemes
- Include a title and an abstract (250 to 500 words)
- Include the Lead Presenter's full name, title, organization or affiliation, phone number, and email address. (Please be sure to also list the names of each co-presenter.)

Abstract Publication

All accepted abstracts and presenter/author information will be published in the conference program.

Abstract Submission Acknowledgement

Once your abstract is submitted via the online abstract submission system, you will receive an automated email confirming the receipt of your submission. *(Please note that for this call, a presenter may be Lead Presenter on one abstract only.)*

Abstract Evaluations

Abstracts are peer-reviewed by two reviewers, and assessed based on the following:

- Relevance of topic to the overall conference themes
- Clarity of writing
- Clarity of research method(s) and/or conceptual approach
- Clear articulation of theoretical framework

Indigenous-themed content will be reviewed by the Thunderbird Circle-Indigenous Social Work Educators Network.

Number of Presentation Spots

Please be advised there are 180 presentation spots available. Should the number of reviewed abstracts exceed this number, the Conference Planning Committee will make the final selection based on the peer-reviewed abstracts that received the highest marks.

Abstract Status Notification

Emails regarding the status of submissions will be sent to all Lead Presenters in **mid-March 2021**. If the abstract is accepted for presentation, no changes to the original submission may be made.

PRESENTER REQUIREMENTS

Persons submitting an abstract agree to do so with the understanding they will abide by the Conference Guidelines, as well as the decisions of the 2021 Conference Planning Committee and the abstract reviewers. The Lead Presenter is responsible for ensuring all presenters are in compliance with this agreement.

1. Please note that for this call, a presenter may be Lead Presenter on one abstract only. Multiple submissions made by a Lead Presenter will be deleted from the system. Due to scheduling restrictions, presenters may take part in a maximum of two presentations (one main presentation and one in a non-lead or adjunct role).
2. Additional presenters may not be added following the submission of the abstract.
3. All presenters must be members in good standing of CASWE-ACFTS for the 2021/22 membership year. In addition to being a CASWE-ACFTS member in good standing, all accepted presenters must register for 1) the CASWE-ACFTS Conference and 2) the 2021 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. **Failure to comply with the membership and registration requirements by April 30, 2021, may result in the presenter being removed from the Conference program.**
4. All presenters must be available to present at any time during the conference. Presenters must be available to present as scheduled by the Conference Planning Committee.