

Call for Papers

For a conference to be held by QUESCREN and the CIRLM entitled

Heritage, memory and vitality of linguistic minorities: Research advances, best practices and critical approaches



Making hay around 1910, Frelighsburg, Quebec
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May 5-6, 2020

A conference held at the 88th annual Acfas congress
Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada

Deadline for abstracts: February 16, 2020

DESCRIPTION

The conference will explore links between heritage, memory and vitality of linguistic minorities in Canada and the world.

One of our objectives is to assess the role of minority community memory through case studies of practices highlighting different aspects of communities' pasts. How do we remember today? What histories do minority communities construct? How do they do so? What is the influence of social relationships, both within communities and with majorities, on this construction of the past? How do minority communities relate to their pasts, and how do these relationships contribute to present-day community development? The conference will focus on practices and places that transmit community memory and history at the local, regional, national, and international levels.

We will also reflect on how groups and individuals from these communities use ideas about heritage and history. How do their discourses and practices contribute to minority language community vitality (Giles, Bourhis and Taylor)? How do they navigate the tensions between heritage and history? Lowenthal differentiates the historical discipline, which is meant to be objective and disinterested, and heritage, which aims to inform the present: "We use heritage to improve the past, making it better (or worse) by modern lights."

We are likewise interested in commodification of minority community heritage and memory activities. How does the past translate into a tourism industry and tourism products (museums, exhibitions, guided tours)? What is the economic impact of these activities and to what extent, if any, is "scientific credibility" (Goulding) sacrificed? What is the "heritage industry" in a minority language environment, and what opportunities and risks does it present? Given such cultural and economic issues, how can an open dialogue about the strengths and weaknesses of these constructed histories take place?

The conference will be interdisciplinary and we encourage critical approaches to the concepts of heritage, memory and vitality as applied to linguistic minorities, as well as empirical research on this theme. For example, the protection of tangible and intangible heritage (supported by successive UNESCO conventions) has considerably expanded possibilities for setting up heritage inventories and diversifying actions to protect it. Although the 2003 Convention has not been ratified by Canada, its definition of intangible heritage has been widely used and interpreted by groups, associations and individuals working to protect the heritage of linguistic minorities, especially because it strengthens and reaffirms existing practices. The notion of heritage links to that of collective memory, which refers to the process through which social representations and symbols are constructed around key people and events from a community's history. Ashworth et al. (2007) consider heritage to be the use of the past as cultural, political and economic resources for the present. These processes can impact community vitality, because they generate discourse in the public space and mobilize stakeholders to select components of a community's heritage (tangible or intangible) to be conserved. In the context of cultural plurality and cosmopolitanism, which has an effect on minority language communities, it is worthwhile to examine the evolution of heritage practices and discourses that integrate new perspectives and new groups contributing to community vitality.

Themes that could be explored include

- Heritage practices, construction of memory, and minority community vitality (eg., building identities, communities, and promoting economic development)
- Best practices in Official language minority community (OLMC) and other minority language heritage initiatives
- The integration of minority histories in the school curriculum; how linguistic minority groups link their histories to majority group history narratives
- “Amateur” vs. “professional” (academic) history
- Heritage activities (eg., tourism, festivals, exhibits, etc.) and economic development
- Networking of linguistic minority/OLMC heritage, history centre, and archives organizations
- Community group archives and organizational memory
- Cosmopolitanism and the turn from collective history narratives to individualist ones
- “Folklorization,” “cultural performance,” and “cultural commodification:” what do these critical concepts reveal about linguistic minority/OLMC heritage and memory practices?

References:

- Ashworth, Gregory, Brian Graham and John Tunbridge, *Pluralising Pasts: Heritage, Identity and Place in Multicultural Societies*. London: Pluto Press, 2007.
- Charbonneau, André and Laurier Turgeon, eds. *Patrimoines et identités en Amérique française*. Québec: Presses de l'Université Laval, 2010.
- Giles, Howard, Richard Y. Bourhis and Donald Taylor. “Towards a theory of language in ethnic group relations.” In H. Giles (ed.), *Language, ethnicity and inter-group relations*, pp. 307-348. London: Academic Press, 1977.
- Goulding, Christina. “The commodification of the past, postmodern pastiche, and the search for authentic experiences at contemporary heritage attractions.” *European Journal of Marketing*, Vol. 34 No. 7 (2000), pp. 835-853.
- Heinich, Nathalie. *La Fabrique du patrimoine: De la cathédrale à la petite cuillère*. Paris: Les Editions de la MSH, 2009.
- Landry, Michelle, Martin Pâquet, et Anne Gilbert, eds. *Mémoires et mobilisations*. CEFAN. Québec: Presses de l'Université Laval, 2015.
- Lowenthal, David. *The Heritage Crusade and the Spoils of History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.
- Nora, Pierre. *Les Lieux de mémoire*. Bibliothèque illustrée des histoires. Paris: Gallimard, 1984.
- Pâquet, Martin, and Stéphane Savard. *Balises et références: Culture française d'Amérique*. Québec: Presses de l'Université Laval, 2007.
- Roberge, Martine, ed. *Valoriser la culture francophone: des stratégies communautaires et identitaires Informations*. Québec: Presses de l'Université Laval, 2016.

BACKGROUND: QUESCREN AND CIRLM AT ACFAS

The Quebec English-speaking Communities Research Network ([QUESCREN](#)) is a collaborative network of researchers, stakeholders, educational and other institutions that improves understanding of Quebec's English-speaking communities and promotes their vitality.

The Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities ([CIRLM](#)) is a centre of excellence whose role is to lead, bring together and partner with research centres, researchers, community agencies and government bodies in order to promote a greater knowledge of the status of Canada's official language minorities and a better understanding of the priority issues that concern them.

Acfas (Association francophone pour le savoir) annual congresses are important events bringing together dozens of subject-specific conferences. Both QUESCREN and CIRLM have held many conferences at previous Acfas congresses.

The [2020 Acfas congress](#) will be held from May 4-8 at Université de Sherbrooke and Bishop's University in Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada. Our conference will be part of this Acfas congress.

ORGANIZERS

QUESCREN and CIRLM are co-organizing this conference.

The scientific committee members for our conference are:

- **Patrick Donovan**, Ph.D., Associate Coordinator, QUESCREN, Concordia University
- **Éric Forgues**, Ph.D., Executive Director, CIRML, Université de Moncton
- **Lorraine O'Donnell**, Ph.D., Affiliate Assistant Professor and Coordinator-researcher, QUESCREN, Concordia University
- **Srilata Ravi**, Ph.D., Professor, Campus Saint-Jean, Université de l'Alberta
- **Anne Robineau**, Ph.D., Assistant Director and Researcher, CIRLM, Université de Moncton

YOUR PARTICIPATION IN OUR CONFERENCE

Researchers, professors, students, heritage professionals, and community organizers are invited to submit an individual paper (presentation) proposal in electronic format.

Please provide the following information for each proposal [using this form](#):

- Name, job title, organization and email address of the paper presenter, as well as the presenter's co-authors, if applicable
- Title of the paper (max. 160 characters, including spaces)
- An abstract (summary of the paper) in French or English (max. 1,250 characters, including spaces)
- Short biography of presenter(s) (max. 750 characters, including spaces)
- Short bibliography supporting the abstract, if applicable
- An indication of whether you require funding for 1) registration and/or 2) travel

EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

The program committee will evaluate the proposals based on the scientific quality of the proposal and its relevance to the theme of the conference. Authors of proposals retained by the committee will be informed by email by February 28, 2020.

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION

Proposals and presentations may be in either French or English. Although our conference within the Acfas congress will be bilingual, please note that Acfas itself is a French-language scholarly association and its annual congress operates in French. Given this, conference organizers will be pleased to help with registration on the French-language Acfas website, and with translation into French of key research findings for those presenting in English at our conference.

CONGRESS REGISTRATION AND OTHER EXPENSES

PLEASE NOTE: The Acfas conference organizers require all presenters, with no exceptions, to pay congress registration fees. These give participants access to the entire Acfas congress, including our conference. The registration fees are listed [here](#).

CONFERENCE PARTNERS

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