



ICRML
Institut canadien
de recherche
sur les minorités
linguistiques

CIRLM
Canadian Institute
for Research
on Linguistic
Minorities



CALL FOR PAPERS FOR A DIGITAL CONFERENCE

ACFAS 2022 (CIRLM-QUESCREEN)

For a Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities (CIRLM) and Quebec English-speaking Communities Research Network (QUESCREEN) conference entitled ***Digital Culture and Linguistic Minority Communities: Roles, Impacts and Issues*** – May 11-12, 2022 – 89th annual Acfas congress, Université Laval, Québec, Québec, Canada

Deadline for submissions: February 10, 2022

DESCRIPTION

This conference proposes to examine digital issues affecting Official Language Minority Communities (Canadian Francophonie and English-speaking communities in Quebec) as well as other linguistic minorities in Canada (e.g. Indigenous communities) or abroad. Today, digital usage cuts across a number of information practices (i.e. ways of getting information) and the application of Information and Communications Technology (ICT). It makes it essential for the public to hone their digital literacy skills and raises broad questions such as the need to combat the spreading of online misinformation as well as questions more specifically associated with linguistic minorities. These issues call for measures related to, for instance, access to services in a minority language (in areas such as health, education and justice), the revitalization and maintenance of communities' languages and cultures and the discoverability of cultural and other content, including online content (both contemporary and heritage content). Digital usage can also play a role in strengthening the sense of belonging to communities and making it possible to create virtual communities that can go far beyond physical borders. Increased digital usage also raises questions related to social inequalities, social divides as well as the varying levels of digital literacy skills that can exist in communities across demographic lines (e.g. age, geographic location, gender, revenue, level of education). It can have an impact on the media available in communities, the means required for communities to adapt as well as economic development in these communities. Finally, digital usage also requires a transformation with respect to research methods (notably in social sciences) to allow a better grasp of the complexity of digital usages and their impacts.

To better understand the extent of digital changes, issues and innovations in the context of linguistic minority communities, this conference invites researchers to make proposals based on this theme.

The following questions could be explored.

What do we know about information-seeking behaviours of linguistic minority communities in Canada or elsewhere? What do we know about digital skills in those communities? Do information-seeking behaviours and the way the Internet is used vary in these communities among different groups (e.g. youth, seniors, women)?

What public policies guide and facilitate access to online services provided in minority languages? What strategies do minority communities have to engage in the debate on the web's framework and governance?

What are some of the digital impacts on different social and cultural groups and their ecosystems (e.g. education, health, access to justice, media, arts and culture) with respect to a minority language? What are the digital impacts on the economic development of these communities or even their political, social and cultural connections and the representation of communities? How have these communities been impacted by the pandemic, notably with the heightened digital reliance it has brought along?

Are there certain digital practices in these communities that stand out for their innovation potential? For example: language alternation such as code-switching; institutional practices; social practices and citizen-driven movement trends; cultural practices (associated with cultural groups and the dissemination of culture) or artistic practices (associated with creation); digital literacy or online education, especially during the pandemic, etc.

How are research methods in the field of social sciences and humanities adapting to ensure we can enrich our knowledge on the place that digital usage occupies in linguistic minority communities and the role it plays?

References

Bahary-Dionne, Alexandra (2018). “L'accès à la justice en contexte numérique: l'information juridique par et pour les justiciables sur les médias sociaux”, 35 Windsor Year Book of Access to Justice, p. 337-362.

Cotnam-Kappel, Megan and Heather Woods (2020). “La participation en ligne en Ontario français: pistes de réflexion et d'action pour redéfinir la francophonie avec et pour les jeunes”, Éducation et francophonie, vol. XLVIII, #1, p. 145-163.

Proulx, Serge (2020). “La participation numérique: une injonction paradoxale”, Paris, Presses des Mines, Collection Sciences sociales.

Proulx, Serge and Julien Rueff (2018). “Actualité des méthodes de recherche en sciences sociales sur les pratiques informationnelles”. Québec, Centre d'études sur les médias.

Tchéhouali, Destiny and Josée Plamondon (2018). “Données d'usage et usage des données à l'ère des plateformes: de la nécessité d'un encadrement réglementaire pour une meilleure affirmation de notre souveraineté numérique”, Montréal, ISOC Québec, Coalition pour la culture et les médias, 30 p.

ORGANIZERS

The organizing committee is comprised of:

- **Anne Robineau**, CIRLM;
- **Lina Shoumarova**, QUESCEN;
- **Patrick Donovan**, QUESCEN; and
- **Michel Bourque**, CIRLM

The proposals will be evaluated by a scientific committee comprised of the organizing committee and the following people:

- **Megan Cotnam-Kappel**, Ph.D., University of Ottawa;
- **Sylvain St-Onge**, Ph.D., CIRLM; and
- **Destiny Tchéhouali**, Ph.D., UQÀM, Université du Québec à Montréal.

The evaluation criteria will be based on the scientific quality of the proposal and its relevance to the theme of the conference.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE CIRML AND QUESCREN CONFERENCE

Researchers, professors, students and community organizers are cordially invited to submit an individual paper proposal in electronic format.

The submission must include the following information:

- 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. 180 characters, including spaces);
- an outline in French (max. 1,500 characters, including spaces) or English (max. 1,250 characters, including spaces); and
- short bibliography supporting the proposal.

Please note that there are procedures in place to obtain funding for fees related to conference participation (registration, transportation, accommodation). Please state whether you require funding for these fees.

Please send your proposal in electronic format no later than February 10, 2022 at midnight by completing this form: [click here](#)

EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

The proposals will be evaluated by the scientific committee. Authors of proposals retained by the committee will be informed by email by February 28, 2022.

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION

At the Acfas congress, French is the main working and presentation language. However, presentations can be made in English if support in French is made available. Conference organizers will be pleased to help English-speaking presenters with congress registration and the translation into French of written documents.

PUBLICATION

A call will be issued shortly for papers on the conference's theme, for publication in the bilingual scientific journal *Minorités linguistiques et société / Linguistic Minorities and Society* (more details to come at www.icrml.ca).

CONGRESS REGISTRATION AND OTHER EXPENSES

Please note that Acfas requires all participants, with no exceptions, to pay congress registration fees. These give access to all the congress activities, including our conference.

PROOF OF VACCINATION FOR TRAVELLERS

Following the instructions of the Canadian and Quebec governments, **a proof of vaccination will be requested** from all delegates who wish to participate in the on-site activities during the Acfas Congress (conferences, social activities, Espace relève and Science-moi!).