

CONGRESS 2012 OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Crossroads: Scholarship for an Uncertain World (May 26-June 2nd)

Dear member of the media:

Welcome to the **2012 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences**, the premiere event for Canada's scholarly community.

This year, Congress 2012 runs from **Saturday, May 26 to Saturday, June 2, 2012** and the event is being co-hosted by Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo.

This year's theme, *Crossroads: Scholarship for an Uncertain World*, will underpin thousands of presentations, panels, keynotes and other events taking place over eight days.

The program has been put together by the almost 70 scholarly associations who meet under the umbrella of Congress and the organizers, the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS) and the two host universities, and all of their partners.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Alison Hebbs, Director, Communications, Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences at 613-282-3489 or ahebbs@fedcan.ca.

Sincerely,

Alison Hebbs

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KEY DETAILS

Location:

- Wilfrid Laurier University – Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario
- The University of Waterloo – Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario

Hours:

- 7:45 AM until evening
- Breakfast lectures begin at 7:45 A.M, with events continuing through to the evening each day.
- Dates, locations and times of individual events are in the [online calendar of events](#) and the onsite guide (available at registration or the press room), to enable you to plan your attendance.

Press room:

- Wilfrid Laurier University Athletic Complex
- Hours: May 26 to June 1, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
June 2, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Parking is **free** outside the athletic complex.
- Services offered include: private interview room with phone line, computers, database of researchers and abstracts, and staff and volunteers to assist media each day.

Accreditation: Available via our [online form](#) at www.congress2012.ca.

MEDIA CONTACTS

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LOGISTICS

Internet Access:

- Wi-fi is available throughout the campus.
- The wireless password is **bigthinker**.

Registration and info desks:

- Located at the Wilfrid Laurier University Athletic complex
- Hours:
 - May 25, 10:00 to 18:00
 - May 26, 7:30 to 19:00
 - May 27 to June 1, 7:30 to 18:00
 - June 2, 8:00 to 11:00.

Website: www.congress2012.ca, a one-stop shop for news and information.
A mobile version will automatically load when accessed from a device.

Transportation: Shuttles run between campuses continually.

Program:

For more information on the events and sessions at Congress, including all sessions and up-to-the-minute changes, we recommend that you visit www.congress2012.ca.

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FACTS AND FIGURES

- **About the Congress:** The Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences is the largest multidisciplinary academic gathering in Canada.
- Congress 2012 is organized by the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences
- Theme: *“Crossroads: Scholarship for an Uncertain World”*
- **Participants:** Between 6,000 - 8,500 researchers and graduate students and 70 academic associations from across Canada and around the world.
- **Location:** Congress 2012 is co-hosted by Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo in Kitchener-Waterloo from **May 26 to June 2**.
- This is the first year in its 81-year history that the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences has been held in Kitchener-Waterloo.
- Last year, Congress was held in Fredericton, New Brunswick and co-hosted by the University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University.
- Next year, Congress is being hosted by the University of Victoria.
- **Organization:** The Congress co-chairs are Douglas Peers, Dean of Arts at the University of Waterloo, and Michael Carroll, Dean of Arts at Wilfrid Laurier University.
- The Congress academic co-convenors are Eleanor Ty (Wilfrid Laurier University) and James Skidmore (University of Waterloo).

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND PANELS

Main activities include:

- Lecture series (called Big Thinking)
- Association meetings (during which researchers present papers)
- Keynote addresses
- Panel sessions
- Cultural events

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BIG THINKING SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- **Kim Thúy** - A Long Journey (May 26th)
- **Jane Urquhart** – Intertextuality or Easter Egg Hunt: A Canadian writer’s adventures in the library (May 28th)
- **Margaret Atwood**, (May 29th)
- **Don Tapscott, Chantal Hébert and Dan Gardner** - Panel discussion: Imagining Canada’s Future (May 29th)
- **Janine Brody** – Social literacy and social justice in times of crisis (May 30th)
- **Thomas Homer-Dixon** – News tools for understanding a turbulent world: Complexity theory and social sciences (May 31st)
- **Chris Hedges** – Death of the Liberal Class (May 31st)

KEYNOTES AND PANELS:

- **Leela Gandhi** (great-granddaughter of M. K. Gandhi)
- **Alice Te Punga Somerville** (Maori scholar): *Reach across an ocean to find the right words: Maori-Aboriginal literary connections* with the Canadian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies.
- **Emmanuel Bochud**, Manager of Social Circus Training, Global Citizenship, Cirque du Soleil: *At the heart of Cirque du Soleil – Social Circus: Where circus arts and social development come together* with the Canadian Association for Social Work Education.
- **Nino Ricci**, Canadian Author, *Consilience: How the digital revolution is bridging the divide between the arts and sciences* with the Canadian Society for Italian Studies.
- **John Macfarlane**, Editor and Co-publisher of *The Walrus*, is moderating a session between Canada Research Chairs and their students as they examine future challenge areas for Canada in 5, 10 and 20 years.
- **Ann Dale**, in *Synoikismos: Overcoming the terrorism of the either/or* will discuss how the lack of integration between the natural and social sciences continues to be major barrier to communicating useful knowledge to decision-makers and the public.
- **Imogen Tyler**, in *Revolting subjects*, will discuss the ways that protest is simultaneously used by protestors (with a particular focus on detained migrants and asylum seekers) and by others to censure populations involved in protest with the International Migration Centre, Canadian

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Sociological Association, Canadian Association of Geographers

- **Stephen Brier**, Award-winning researcher, writer, producer and technology expert Stephen Brier, co-director of the New Media Lab at the Graduate Center, City University of New York will present, *History, interactive technology and pedagogy: Past successes and future directions*.
- **Gerri Sinclair**, will discuss successful research collaborations with partners from the digital media industry, as well as those from the public sector, and how these collaborations contribute to an innovative 21st century Canada.

CULTURAL AND SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra
- Aboriginal opening ceremony
- Art exhibits
- Local tours
- The Mobile Crime Lab, which allows visitors to examine and experiment with recent interactive projects completed by the CML collaborators in the field of mobile computing and augmented reality.
- Interactive display technologies from the University of Waterloo's newest high-tech business accelerator REAP (Research Entrepreneurs Accelerating Prosperity).

ABOUT US

CONGRESS OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Organized by the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences is the largest interdisciplinary conference in Canada. It brings together more than 70 scholarly associations in the humanities and social sciences. The University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University are co-hosting the 81st Congress from May 26 to June 2, 2012.

CANADIAN FEDERATION FOR THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Representing more than 85,000 researchers in 81 scholarly associations, 80 universities and colleges, and 6 affiliates, the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences is the national voice for the university research and learning community in these disciplines.

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WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY

Wilfrid Laurier University is known for academic excellence and a culture that inspires lives of leadership and purpose. With more than 16,000 undergraduates and more than 1,000 graduate students, Laurier has a distinct commitment to teaching and research combined with a strong student focus and a deep sense of community. The university is a leader in integrated and engaged learning, connecting the classroom with co-curricular activities. Laurier specializes in arts and social sciences, business and economics, music, science, social work, education and theology. Laurier is home to 32 research centres/institutes and chairs, and is committed to exploring some of the world's most challenging issues, from human security to water science. The university has campuses in Waterloo and Brantford, as well as offices in Toronto and Chongqing, China. Laurier was established as the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary of Canada in 1911 and remains the home of the affiliated Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

In just half a century, the University of Waterloo, located at the heart of Canada's technology hub, has become one of Canada's leading comprehensive universities with 34,000 full- and part-time students in undergraduate and graduate programs. Waterloo, as home to the world's largest post-secondary co-operative education program, embraces its connections to the world and encourages enterprising partnerships in learning, research and discovery. In the next decade, the university is committed to building a better future for Canada and the world by championing innovation and collaboration to create solutions relevant to the needs of today and tomorrow. For more information about Waterloo, visit www.uwaterloo.ca.

WATERLOO REGION

Waterloo Region encompasses the cities of Kitchener and Waterloo and includes a population of 450,000 people. The area is an interesting mix of old tradition and breakthrough technology, known for a heritage of Mennonite farming along with a strong manufacturing sector over the years, and now a high-performance tech sector with 800 high-tech firms in the region, along with the two major universities and Conestoga College plus 150 research institutes. Waterloo Region is home to Canada's largest tech company Research In Motion, Canada's largest software company OpenText, the country's largest satellite company COM DEV, and the world's leading projection technology company Christie Digital Systems Canada Inc. The Region has the second best performing economy among Canadian urban centres, according to a July 2011 report from CIBC. With a barn-raising, innovation culture, Waterloo Region has a spirit of collaboration and cooperation that permeates business, education, and community and makes it a great place to live, study, and work.

In that spirit, Waterloo Region will be welcoming the thousands of Congress 2012 delegates with a seamless approach organized with both the City of Kitchener and the City of Waterloo. A three-evening festival is planned adjacent to the Kitchener Museum on May 28, 29 and 30 to welcome registrants and enable Congress, campuses and the community to socialize in a central space. Congress 2012 is a great opportunity to showcase the warmth and vibrancy of Waterloo Region and is a boon to tourism and business in the Region, as well as being a focal point for arts and humanities scholars.