

47. Jahrestagung der GKS

47^{ème} Congrès annuel de la GKS

47th Annual Conference of the GKS

20.–22. Februar 2026

**Climate Change, Climate Crisis: Canadian
Perspectives**

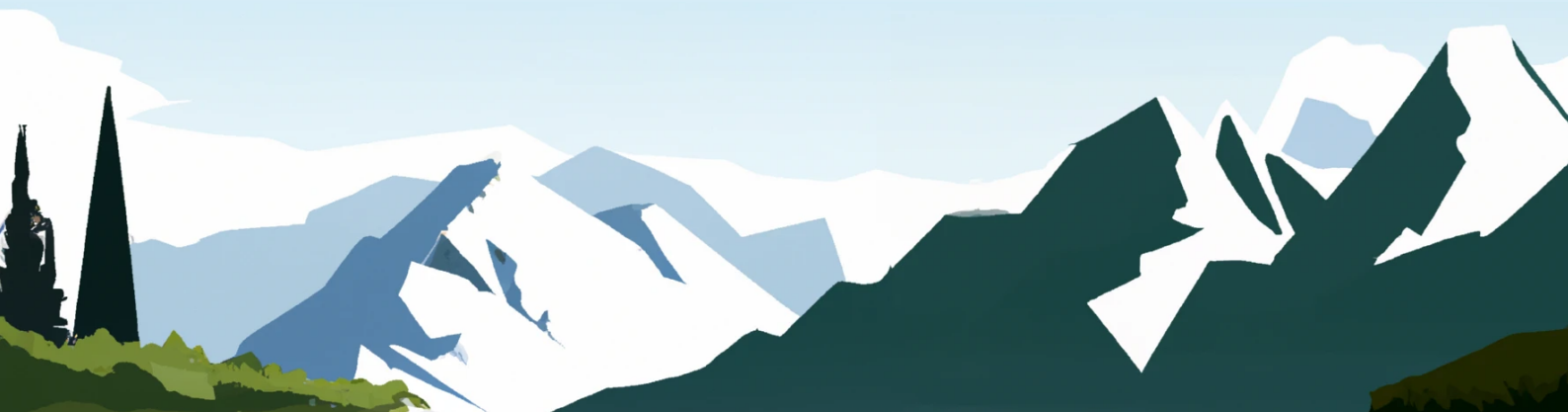
**Changement climatique, crise climatique :
Perspectives canadiennes**

Book of Abstracts

Résumés



Gesellschaft für
Kanada-Studien e.V.





Gesellschaft für
Kanada-Studien e.V.

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Welcome from the President of the GKS

Cher·ères participant·es au 47^e colloque annuel de la GKS,
Dear participants of the 47th annual conference of the GKS,

En tant que président de l'Association d'études canadiennes dans les pays de langue allemande (GKS), et au nom de l'équipe d'organisation, j'ai le plaisir de vous accueillir au 47^e colloque annuel de notre association. Herzlich Willkommen! *Welcome!*

Or should we say: welcome back? After all, we're back in beautiful Bavaria, right next to a charming lake, and even within sight of the Zugspitze. Nevertheless, Tutzing is not Grainau: the logistical demands of a new venue, even one as welcoming and enchanting as Schloss Tutzing, have kept the spirit of adventure and innovation alive and well in the GKS offices. But of course, Tutzing is not Berlin either: we have taken your feedback to heart and therefore offer you a tight program that combines all-time favourites such as keynotes, individual presentations, and an exhibit of recent publications in Canadian Studies with innovative formats such as a hybrid roundtable as well as an Indigenous short film night and a poster exhibit.

Dans cette phase d'innovation, d'expérimentation et d'aventure, nous continuons à compter sur vos commentaires, vos idées créatives et pragmatiques, et votre enthousiasme. C'est pourquoi nous vous invitons, comme l'année dernière, à partager vos commentaires avec nous sur notre [padlet](#).

On behalf of the GKS, I would like to express my most sincere thanks

- à la DFG, l'Ambassade du Canada en Allemagne à Berlin, le Conseil international d'études canadiennes et l'Association internationale des études québécoises pour leur généreux soutien;
- an Ludger Basten und das Organisationsteam für die harte Arbeit und ihre Kreativität;
- *and last, but certainly not least, to all participants, members and non-members of the Association, for their contributions, curiosity, and belief in the GKS and Canadian Studies.*

Nous vous souhaitons un colloque inspirant et agréable !
We wish you pleasant and productive days here in Tutzing!

Cordialement,



Florian Freitag

Information

Registration and Wi-Fi access

All conference participants—including day guests—are requested to register at the reception desk upon their initial arrival at Schloss Tutzing. To access the Wi-Fi, you will need a **personal access code**, which you will receive at the reception desk.

Participation and meals

All conference participants will have **lunch and dinner** at Schloss Tutzing, regardless of where they are staying. The cost of these meals during the conference is included in your conference fee. However, drinks are not included and must be paid for separately in cash. The meal times stated in the program are binding.

Breakfast at Schloss Tutzing (8:00–9:00 a.m.) is only available to participants who are also staying there.

Payment

Please note that **only cash payments are accepted at the bar and restaurant at Schloss Tutzing**. There are several ATMs within walking distance. The Tutzing branch of Münchner Bank eG (Hauptstraße 33), which has a 24-hour self-service area with ATMs, is only a three-minute walk from Schloss Tutzing. The Tutzing branch of VR Bank Starnberg-Zugspitze eG (Hauptstraße 54) is also about a four-minute walk away, and its self-service area with ATMs is open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Consideration and quiet hours

Schloss Tutzing asks you to be considerate of the surroundings and to keep noise to a minimum, especially when windows are open and during quiet hours from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Map of Schloss Tutzing:



Description of the Conference Topic

Climate Change, Climate Crisis: Canadian Perspectives

While climate change is a planetary phenomenon affecting everyone, Canadians experience its impacts in particular ways, not least due to their country's sheer size and geographical location. Canada's terrestrial and maritime territory is vast, home to diverse ecosystems and many environments, which are all affected by a changing climate. At the same time, Canada remains an oil producer with continental ties to the United States, contravening its tenuous reputation as a nation of environmentalists and the birthplace of Greenpeace. Hence, the various critical and creative ways in which climate change is represented, narrated, and imagined by those who call Canada their home or homeland contribute to a specific Canadian perspective which deserves more attention. Canadian Studies scholarship is particularly well positioned to address the many meanings, impacts and challenges of climate change in Canada and allows us to understand what is Canadian about (experiencing, addressing, mitigating, writing, legislating, denying, and coping with) climate change.

The effects of climate change continue to make headlines. Earlier this year, Torontonians woke up to the unwelcome news that their city had seen an increase in rats as milder winters allow the rodents to thrive. Other breaking stories expose how eroding shorelines both reveal and destroy archaeological evidence of past communities and Indigenous histories on Turtle Island. Canada, the land of forests and lakes, is facing increasingly devastating droughts and wildfire seasons which endanger the lives and livelihoods of the country's human and non-human population. There is scientific consensus that their frequency and intensity have increased due to climate change. Last year's wildfire season—which destroyed vast parts of Jasper, a tourist favourite in the Rocky Mountains, and blanketed much of the country and continent with smoke—contributed to Canada's second-highest annual carbon emissions since 2003. This came close to the country's record-breaking year 2023, which produced 23% of the world's entire wildfire carbon emissions. Up north, the Canadian Arctic warms nearly four times as quickly as the globe. This so-called Arctic or polar amplification also leads to landslides, floods, and thawing permafrost, thereby releasing methane, an extremely potent greenhouse gas. Processes induced by climate change endanger the natural habitat of Arctic wildlife, including the iconic polar bear, and detrimentally affect the livelihoods of northern and Indigenous communities. These residents warn that the changes, which they have observed in their homeland for a long time, amount to a climate crisis jeopardizing their fundamental right to life. Most famously, Inuk activist and author Sheila Watt-Cloutier argued in her book *The Right to be Cold* (2015) that environmental rights were human rights.

Like other countries, Canada faces the political, economic, social, and cultural challenges of planetary climate change. While much less populated than its southern neighbour or its European cousins, Canada's per capita fossil energy use has historically been high, contributing to current and so-called legacy emissions of greenhouse gases. Canada is not only a high-energy society, which some Canadian scholars have described as a *petroculture*, but it is also one of the world's largest energy producers and a major emitter of greenhouse gases. As a signatory to the 2016 Paris Agreement, the Canadian government is committed to addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and has introduced a carbon pricing

system. It has pledged to decarbonize its economy and espoused ambitious net-zero emissions goals by 2050, partly built upon existing electrification agendas which are in turn facilitated by the historically significant role of hydropower in some of its provinces, especially in Quebec and British Columbia. However, in a changing world, in which geopolitics have returned oil and gas to the forefront of diplomacy, whether in Canada's dealing with a Trump-led United States or due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, these policies come increasingly under attack. Until recently, and before US-Canadian relations soured and seized all political attention, it looked like the 2025 federal election would be mainly fought over the carbon tax. While many Canadians agree that climate change is real, climate disinformation and so-called climate delay narratives gain more traction. Canada's climate crisis is thus not only a story of the many and diverse impacts of climate change on its natural and built environments and on its vulnerable communities, it is also a political crisis and includes phenomena such as climate grabbing, i.e., the appropriation of land and resources for the purposes of climate change mitigation. As Canadians continue to fight for climate change action and demand climate justice for those who suffer most from the impacts of climate change, it is time to focus on the Canadian story of climate change.

Three themes will structure our conference. These themes are aimed to be open and they welcome contributions from all disciplines. They cover, but are not limited to, the following topics:

1 Impacts of climate change

- on territory (terrestrial and maritime, urban and rural)
- on the atmosphere, weather patterns
- on wildlife, habitats, and (water) ecosystems
- coastal erosion, wildfire, droughts, atmospheric rivers
- on environments (natural, built, political, economic, business, social, cultural, etc.)
- on economics and economies (local/regional, national...)
- climate refugees and climate migration (domestic and international)
- climate change and inequality
- land/climate grabbing

2 Communicating and narrating climate change

- climate histories
- the Anthropocene / the Great Acceleration
- Indigenous knowledge and oral histories
- stories of climate change
- cli-fi / climate fiction
- ecocriticism and climate change
- political narratives and framing of climate change (including climate denialism, climate delay narratives, climate adaptation and resilience)
- media coverage
- global warming or climate change?
- climatic turn

- climate ethics
- climate change and (higher) education

3 Addressing and confronting climate change

- climate activism, climate action, civil society
- human rights and climate change
- climate justice / Indigenous climate justice
- saving archaeological and heritage sites
- adaptation vs. mitigation of climate change
- climate research / innovation and technologies / decarbonization and net zero technologies / renewable energy / green tech / green revolution / hydrogen
- carbon politics / carbon pricing / carbon taxes / carbon trade
- federal, provincial, and municipal climate policies / Canadian federalism and climate change / multilevel governance of climate change
- climate diplomacy, climate security, foreign policy and climate change / international cooperation (from Kyoto to Paris)
- US-Canada relations and climate change
- climate governance
- climate crisis and Canadian extraction / petroleum economy
- oil / tar sands and global climate action
- Petrocultures / climate humanities / energy humanities
- economic transformation / green economy

Conference Program

Friday, 20 February 2026

15:00–16:30 Schlossstube	Registrierung / Inscription / Registration
15:30–16:00	Begrüßungskaffee / Goûter de bienvenue / Welcome Coffee
16:30–18:00 Musiksaal	<p>Eröffnung / Ouverture / Opening</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Florian Freitag Präsident der Gesellschaft für Kanada-Studien / Présidente / President</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H.E. Jean-Paul Lemieux Kanadische Botschaft in der Schweiz und Liechtenstein / Ambassade du Canada en Suisse et Liechtenstein/ Embassy of Canada in Switzerland and Liechtenstein</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Geneviève Rolland Vertretung der Regierung von Québec in München / Délégation générale du Québec à Munich / Québec Government Office in Munich</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jane Koustas Altpräsidentin des ICCS-CIEC / Présidente sortante du CIEC / Past president of the ICCS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Petra Dolata Sektionsleiterin Geschichtswissenschaften / Directrice de la section Sciences historiques / Head of section History</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Preisverleihungen / Remise des prix / Awards Ceremony</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Verleihung der ICCS/CIEC-Preise überreicht von Florian Freitag</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Verleihung des Prix d'excellence du Gouvernement du Quebec überreicht von Geneviève Rolland</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Verleihung der Preise der Stiftung für Kanada-Studien überreicht von Doris Eibl, Stellvertretende Kuratoriumsvorsitzende der Stiftung für Kanada-Studien</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vorstellung der von der Stiftung für Kanada-Studien geförderten Projekte</p>
18:00–19:00	Abendessen / Souper / Dinner
Ab 19:30	Vin d'honneur (Käse / Dessert / Empfang mit Wein)
Ab 19:30 Salon	Stammtisch des Nachwuchsforum / Meeting of the Emerging Scholars Forum / Réunion Forum de la Relève Académique

Saturday, 21 February 2026

09:00–10:30 Auditorium	Keynote lecture / Conférence plénière Chair / Modération: Ludger Basten Shawn Marshall (Environment and Climate Change Canada/University of Calgary): Climate Change Threats and Responses in Canada: Wildfires, Extreme Weather, and a Melting Arctic
10:30–11:00	Kaffeepause / Pause café / Coffee Break
11:00–12:30	Parallele Workshops / Ateliers parallèles / Parallel Sessions
Seminarraum	(1) Addressing and Confronting Climate Change: Climate Policies in Canada / Aborder et affronter le changement climatique : les politiques climatiques au Canada Chair / Modération: Martin Thunert David Bosold (FU Berlin): From “Green Shift” to “Axe the Tax”: A Comparative Study of Issue Salience and Climate Change Policies in Canadian Federal Elections (2008–2025) Magdalena Firtova (Charles University Prague): Strains of Climate Solidarity: The Discursive Reframing of Federal Cohesion in Alberta (2015–2025)
Auditorium	(2) Impacts of Climate Change: View from the Arctic / Impacts du changement climatique : point de vue de l'Arctique Chair / Modération: Geneviève Susemihl Susanna Gartler (Universität Wien): “It’s our lifeline” – Inuvialuit and Gwich’in First Nation Knowledge Holders’ Perceptions of Permafrost Emily Gilbert (University of Toronto): The Militarization of Climate Change and Canada’s Arctic
Konferenzraum	(3) Communicating and Narrating Climate Change: Quebecois Narratives of Climate Change / Communiquer et raconter le changement climatique : récits québécois sur le changement climatique Chair / Modération: Doris Eibl Eva Voldřichová Beránková (Charles University Prague): Fictions climatiques québécoises : pour une fin du monde en douceur? Nils-Christian Terp (Friedrich Schiller Universität Jena): « Paysages lunaires et chaleur suffocante » : Écocritique musicale et changement climatique dans la musique populaire au Québec Jane Koustas (Brock University): Climate Change on the Quebec Stage: <i>Hydro plus Pétrole</i>
12:30–14:00	Mittagessen / Dîner / Lunch

14:00–15:30	Parallele Workshops / Ateliers parallèles / Parallel Sessions
Konferenz- raum	<p>(4) DKG Panel: Climate Change Solutions? / DKG Panel : Solutions au changement climatique ?</p> <p>Chair / Modération: Hannes Weiland</p> <p>Tina Jurkat-Witschas (DLR): Contrails and How to Mitigate Them: How the German DLR and Canadian NRC Research Institutions Investigate Ways of Reducing the Climate Impact of Aviation</p> <p>Glenn Schmidt (BMW Group): The Electric Vehicle in a German, Canadian and Global Context: Where Sustainability, Geopolitics, Industrial Policy and Strategic Cooperation Converge</p>
Auditorium	<p>(5) Emerging Scholars Colloquium: Non-normative Subjectivities in Canadian Film and Television / Colloque de la relève académique : Subjectivités non normatives dans le cinéma et la télévision canadiens</p> <p>Chair / Modération: Nicole Königsnecht</p> <p>Jacqueline Koshorst (Universität Kassel): “Wula Na Nikamaq.” Nature, Kinship, and Indigenous Knowledge in <i>Anne with an E</i> (CBC/Netflix)</p> <p>Marie Krebs (Universität Wien): Listening for Invisible Femininity: David Cronenberg’s <i>Crimes of the Future</i> (1970) and <i>Videodrome</i> (1983)</p>
Seminarraum	<p>(6) Teachers’ Forum / Forum des enseignant·es</p> <p>Chair / Modération: Albert Rau</p> <p>Sophie Dubois (Collège Lionel-Groulx): Le Québec, connais-tu?</p> <p>Albert Rau (Cologne): “The Beaver is a Truly Proud and Noble Animal”: Images and Symbols of Canada in the EFL-Classroom</p>
15:30–16:00	Kaffeepause / Pause café / Coffee Break
16:00–18:00	Parallele Workshops / Ateliers parallèles / Parallel Sessions
Konferenz- raum	<p>(7) Communicating and Narrating Climate Change: Climate Technologies, Climate Denialism, Situating Canada / Communiquer et raconter le changement climatique : technologies climatiques, déni climatique, situer le Canada</p> <p>Chair / Modération: Nele Sawallisch</p> <p>Emiliano Castillo Jara (Universität Trier): Contested Discourses around Canada’s Net-Zero Imaginary</p> <p>Mack Penner (University of Calgary): The Imperial Oil Company and Mitigative Technology as Climate Denialism</p> <p>Raphaela Nickel (TU Braunschweig): Canada: The Place to Be in Times of the Climate Crisis?</p>

Seminarraum	<p>(8) Emerging Scholars Colloquium: Planetary, National, and Regional Ecologies in Canadian Literatures and Cultures / Colloque de la relève académique : Écologies planétaires, nationales et régionales dans les littératures et cultures canadiennes</p> <p>Chair / Modération: Jody Danard</p> <p>Charles Berthelet (Université du Québec): « Prendre racine » : le développement culturel et politique d'un éconationalisme au Québec en perspective canadienne comparé</p> <p>Sabrina Schettino (University of Eastern Piedmont): Labor, Territory, and Marine Animals: Nuuchahnulth in the Pelagic Sealing Industry</p> <p>Florian Wagner (Friedrich Schiller Universität Jena): "A Pulmonary Commons Called Planet": Foraging for a Planetary Multispecies Commons in Rita Wong's <i>forage</i></p>
Auditorium	<p>(9) Roundtable: Restoring Balance in a Modified Environment – Perspectives on Climate Change / Table ronde : Rétablir l'équilibre dans un environnement modifié – perspectives sur le changement climatique</p> <p>Chair / Modération: Petra Dolata und Nina Reuther</p> <p>Organisiert von / Organisé par / organized by: Nina Reuther</p> <p>Darrel Draney, Tribal Chief, Shuswap Nation Tribal Council, Skeetchestn/Tk'emlúps, Secwepemcúl'ecw</p> <p>Billy Cohen (cniłc), Dr., Syilx Okanagan Artist and Educator, UBC Okanagan School of Education, Kelowna, B.C.</p> <p>Virginie Magnat, Ph.D. UBC Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies, Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies Coordinator: "Community Engagement, Social Change, and Equity" (CESCE), Kelowna, B.C.</p>
18:00–19:00	Abendessen / Souper / Dinner
19:30–22:00 Auditorium	<p>Kulturprogramm / Programme culturel / Cultural Event</p> <p>Soirée cinéma autochtone / Indigenous Short Films: Wapikoni mobile</p> <p>Einführung / Introduction: Dagmar Schmelzer (Regensburg)</p> <p>Chair / Modération: Doris Eibl (Universität Innsbruck) und Christoph Vatter (Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena)</p> <p>Mit einem Publikumsgespräch mit / Avec une discussion publique avec Gardienne du territoire et cinéaste / With a discussion with Guardian of the Territory and filmmaker Yasmine Fontaine (Université Laval)</p>
Ab 20:30	Schlossbar

Sunday, 22 February 2026

09:00–11:00 Auditorium	Mitgliederversammlung
10:30–11:15	Kaffeepause / Pause café / Coffee Break
11:15–12:30 Auditorium	Keynote lecture / Conférence plénière Chair / Modération: David Bosold Shelley Boulianne (Mount Royal University): Climate Denialism vs. Climate Activism: Canadian Public Opinion Data on the Climate Crisis
12:30	Abschluss der Konferenz / Clôture du congrès / Conference Closing
12:30–14:00	Mittagessen / Dîner / Lunch

Exhibitions

Fr, 16:00–18:00 Musiksaal	A Tapestry of Voices: Celebrating Canada's Languages / Une tapisserie de voix : célébrons les langues du Canada
Sa, 09:00–18:00 So, 09:00–12:00 Foyer des Auditoriums	In Kooperation mit dem Canadian Language Museum und der Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena / En coopération avec le Musée canadien des langues et l'Université Friedrich Schiller d'Iéna / In cooperation with the Canadian Language Museum and Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena
Sa, 09:00–18:00 So, 09:00–12:00 Schlossstube	Neue Publikationen / Publications récentes / Recent publications Organisiert vom Zentrum für Kanadastudien der Universität Wien (Alexandra Ganzer-Blumenau, Barbara Gföllner und Marie Krebs) mit Unterstützung des Teams von Astrid Fellner an der Universität des Saarlandes / Organisé par le Centre d'études canadiennes de l'Université de Vienne (Alexandra Ganzer-Blumenau, Barbara Gföllner et Marie Krebs) et l'équipe d'Astrid Fellner à l'Université de la Sarre / Organized by the Centre for Canadian Studies at the University of Vienna (Alexandra Ganzer-Blumenau, Barbara Gföllner and Marie Krebs) and supported by the team of Astrid Fellner at Saarland University
Sa, 09:00–18:00 Schlossstube	Tombola Tombola mit Verlosung einer Inuit-Skulptur zugunsten des Jürgen-und-Freia-Saße-Preises / Tombola avec tirage au sort d'une sculpture Inuit au profit du Prix Jürgen-und-Freia-Saße / Tombola with the draw of one Inuit sculpture for the benefit of the Jürgen-und-Freia-Saße-Prize

Cultural Program

Wapikoni Mobile: Indigenous Short Film Night with Yasmine Fontaine

Wapikoni is a mobile film and music studio that gives Indigenous youth in remote communities across Canada the opportunity to express themselves artistically. Wapikoni's mission is to make Indigenous perspectives heard and seen in Canada and internationally through film and music. At this year's annual conference, a selection of Indigenous short films on the topics of land, ecology, and climate from the Wapikoni mobile program will be shown.

After an introduction by Dagmar Schmelzer (University of Regensburg), we will show a selection of films. This will be followed by a public discussion moderated by Doris Eibl (University of Innsbruck) and Christoph Vatter (Friedrich Schiller University Jena) with filmmaker and activist Yasmine Fontaine.

Yasmine Fontaine, Innushkueu of the Mishta-Shipu of the Uashat mak Mani-Utenam community and Egyptian from the Nile, Guardian of the Territory and filmmaker, currently pursuing a master's degree in geography at Laval University. Her career path is rooted in cultural reappropriation, protection of the territory, and promotion of Indigenous knowledge.



Poster Exhibit: A Tapestry of Voices: Celebrating Canada's Languages

This exhibit surveys Canada's rich linguistic landscape, including over 60 aboriginal languages, Canada's two official languages (English and French), and more than 100 languages that immigrants have brought to our shores. The exhibition explores themes that touch the lives of speakers of every language in Canada, such as: How have the languages of Canada changed over time? What happens when languages come in contact? How can our languages be maintained for future generations?

The exhibit was curated by the Canadian Language Museum (Toronto) and has been shown across Canada. In July 2025, it was first brought to Germany by Christoph Vatter (University of Jena) in cooperation with the GKS.

For more information, visit the homepage of the [Canadian Language Museum](#).

Keynotes

Shelley Boulianne (Mount Royal University)

Climate Denialism vs. Climate Activism: Canadian Public Opinion Data on the Climate Crisis

Climate denial has taken on a new form. Instead of rejecting the idea that the climate is changing, people question its source or cause. Based on a 2019 survey, 12% of Canadians claimed that climate change was natural, 48% claimed it was human-caused, 31% said both equally, and 2% refused to answer the question because “climate change doesn’t exist.” Those who claim climate change is natural are less supportive of climate action, such as a carbon tax, renewable energy subsidies, stricter limits on carbon emissions, and other policy interventions. Indeed, this distinct form of denial is a stronger predictor of (the lack of) policy support than political ideology. Yet, the scholarship and discourse focus on ideological or partisan differences.

In this presentation, I will map this contemporary form of climate denial to existing measures of climate opinions and environmental concern. These deniers express lower concern about climate change, specifically, and the environment, more generally. However, they do not completely reject all forms of environmental concern. Some of these deniers acknowledge that there is an ecological crisis and humans are severely abusing the environment. While these views could be interpreted as inconsistent or unsophisticated, I argue that they reflect a sincere concern about the environment, but a rejection of the polarizing narrative surrounding climate change. Most Canadians, including deniers, are not exposed to scientific knowledge about climate change and thus would not know its causes or trajectories. They do, however, have experience with the natural environment and can observe environmental degradation. I argue, therefore, that we should focus on the “environment” rather than “climate change” as the path forward for climate action.

Environmental concerns have been consistent in Canada since 2019. These concerns predict patterns of engagement in a variety of civic and political activities. However, environmental concerns are increasingly important motives for marching/demonstrating and boycotting. Environmental concerns increase the likelihood of participating in marches/demonstrations and the frequency of boycotting; these relationships are stronger in 2025 than in 2019. These same patterns do not occur for contacting government officials or signing petitions; the relationships between environmental concern and these types of activities are consistent over time. The presentation concludes with a discussion of the implications of choosing these tactics for social change over more conventional forms of political participation.

Dr. Shelley Boulianne is the R. Klein Chair (Full Professor) in Communication Studies at Mount Royal University (Canada). She earned her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has held professor positions in sociology at MacEwan University (Canada), in politics at the Université Catholique de Lille (France), and in politics and international relations at the University of Southampton (UK). She studies political attitudes, digital media use, and citizen engagement in civic and political life. From 2010 to 2015, she worked with the Alberta Climate Dialogue network to organize intense (deliberative) forms of public consultation about

climate change. More recently, her work has considered the climate strike and environmentally motivated activism in Canada, France, the UK, and the US.



Shawn Marshall
(Environment and Climate Change Canada/University of Calgary)

**Climate Change Threats and Responses in Canada:
Wildfires, Extreme Weather, and a Melting Arctic**

Climate change is having myriad local, regional, and global effects, with many of these impacts ahead of what has been projected by climate models. This is well documented in northern high latitudes, where Arctic amplification of global warming is transforming ecosystems, permafrost, Arctic ice caps and the Greenland Ice Sheet, and sea, lake and river ice. This has large implications for food and water security and the traditional livelihoods of northern and Arctic communities, where social, economic, and cultural practices are intrinsically tied to the environment. The immediacy of climate change has spread to lower latitudes in recent years, with increasingly disruptive wildfire seasons and extreme weather events, amongst other effects such as accelerating sea level rise. This presentation will provide examples of many of these growing climate change stresses in Canada, their interconnections, and illustrations of some of the climate change feedbacks and processes that are contributing to the severity of many of these impacts. I will discuss this in the context of Canada's national climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and directions, which are ambitious but will be difficult to achieve in light of emerging economic uncertainties and priorities.

Shawn Marshall is a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Geography at the University of Calgary, where he held a Professorship from 2000–2023 as a glaciologist and Canada Research Chair in climate change. He integrates field and modelling studies of glacier-climate processes and glacier response to climate change, including field studies in western and Arctic Canada, Iceland, and Greenland, and is the author of the textbook *The Cryosphere*, published by Princeton University Press as part of their series *Primers in Climate Science*. He has held numerous international leadership roles in cryosphere and climate science, including terms on the Scientific Leadership Council of the Mountain Research Initiative, on the Science Steering Committee of the U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Community Earth System Model initiative, and as Chair of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) Cryosphere Working Group and WMO's Global Cryosphere Watch program. Marshall was seconded to the Government of Canada in 2019, serving as the Departmental Science Advisor at Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), and in 2023, he migrated to ECCC full-time as a research scientist and Chief Science Officer. This includes a leadership role for the strategic directions, priorities, and partnerships within ECCC's national programs in weather, climate, hydrological, and ecosystem science.

Panelists

Charles Berthelet (Université du Québec)

Taking Root: The Cultural and Political Development of Econationalism in Québec in a Comparative Canadian Perspective

Since the 1995 referendum on sovereignty, Québec nationalism has undergone significant transformations. In the 2000s, new nationalist discourses emerged—both federalist and sovereigntist—that linked environmental issues with the identity-based questions specific to Quebec society. These discourses contributed to the construction of a “green identity” attributed to Quebec, often in supposedly favorable comparison with the “rest of Canada.” Indeed, the development of “econationalism” in Quebec directly reflects the evolution of regional dynamics within the federation: the defence of the oil and gas industry by Western Canada; the political relations between the Quebec government and successive federal governments; as well as the symbolic relations cultivated between Quebec civil society and different facets of anglophone North America, including the United States. To understand the emergence of an econationalism in Quebec is therefore also to better understand Canada’s broader trajectory, the political polarization shaping it, and the country’s positioning in the world.

This research therefore asks the following question: how did an identity-based and political reorientation toward environmental issues come about within Quebec society and its minority nationalism? It also seeks to understand how environmental ideas and identities—initially produced or promoted internationally—were gradually appropriated and incorporated into the collective representations of Quebec’s political elites and civil society, ultimately leading to a corresponding reorientation of Quebec identity as well as of the political projects that claim to embody it. This case study would be incomplete without also highlighting the aporias, contradictions, and contestations that accompany such a discursive and practical shift, as well as the potential exclusions that may result from it.

The contribution therefore examines how collective identities and representations—far from being fixed, let alone immutable—are (trans)formed, expressed, disseminated, and ultimately come to be shared by a plurality of members within a given society. Collective identities are understood here as social representations (Moscovici, 2000) that possess sociocultural or sociohistorical grounding and that emerge through gradual, successive, and cumulative processes of objectification of social meanings. A society’s external relations must also be taken into account when studying its self-representation, as identity remains a fundamentally dynamic and profoundly relational object (Abdelal et al., 2006; Béland, 2017; Brubaker, 2004; Jenkins, 2008a, b; Neumann, 2016; Wimmer, 2012, 2013).

This research will employ a dual inductive and qualitative methodology consisting, on the one hand, of an interpretive and thematic analysis of verbal and visual discourse (Dunn & Neumann, 2016; Hansen, 2006; Millar, 2022; Zubrzycki, 2020) and, on the other hand, of an ethnographic study of its present (or recent) manifestations. This second strategy draws in particular on methods from event ethnography (Hughes & Vadrot, 2023; Smith & Howe, 2015; Zubrzycki, 2022) and makes it possible to follow “in real time” the expression of Québécois

econationalism by Quebec's official representatives during both domestic and international events, including three UN climate COPs (28, 29, and 30). To date, approximately fifty interviews conducted with key civil and political actors further complement the ethnographic data collected.

Charles Berthelet is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)—where he previously completed a Bachelor's degree in Literary Studies with a specialization in Quebec Studies (B.A.) and a Master's degree in Political Science (M.A.)—and in Political Studies at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) in Paris, where he is affiliated with the Laboratoire de recherches ethnographiques sur le Québec (LABREQ) and the Centre d'étude des mouvements sociaux (CEMS), respectively. Charles is also a Visiting Scholar at the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada (MISC) for the 2025–2026 academic year.

His doctoral research focuses primarily on the phenomenon of econationalism in Quebec from both cultural and political perspectives, paying equal attention to its domestic expression and its international manifestations. This work has been funded by the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture (FRQSC) and is currently supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).



David Bosold (Freie Universität Berlin)

From “Green Shift” to “Axe the Tax”: A Comparative Study of Issue Salience and Climate Change Policies in Canadian Federal Elections (2008–2025)

This paper analyzes issue salience of climate change policies with regard to recent Canadian federal elections and the importance climate policies (or their reversal) were given in the party platforms of the Liberal and Conservative Party, respectively. The analysis encompasses three elections in particular: the 2008 electoral campaign in which Liberal candidate Stéphane Dion proposed a “green shift” to make Canada more climate friendly, the 2015 campaign in which Justin Trudeau's Liberals focused on the middle class and the 2024/25 campaign of Pierre Poilievre calling for an end to Canada's carbon pricing system (“axe the tax”). Issue salience pertains to issues that are considered important by voters (mostly via polls on the “most important problem facing Canadians today”). It has been researched in-depth when it comes to voters' decisions in elections (Ansolabehere & Socorro Puy 2018, Dennison 2019), assessments of Canadian parties' expertise in specific policy fields (St-Jean 2023) and the role in parliamentary practices such as question period (Alvarez & Morrier 2023). In addition, there have been single case studies of federal elections and climate change (MacNeil & Paterson 2016, Boulianne et al. 2021). Yet, there have been no *comparative* studies of Canadian federal elections scrutinizing the relationship between voter preferences (understood as issue salience) and the deliberate choices of party executives in elevating or downgrading policy

issues such as climate change. By analyzing (i) polling data in the run-up to the election, (ii) party platforms, and (iii) climate change legislation tabled in the House of Commons in the 24 months after the elections, I intend to find evidence for my two hypotheses that (H1) the likelihood of successful climate change legislation is reduced if climate change policy has high salience and is simultaneously made a key theme in a party platform whereas (H2) the likelihood of successful climate change legislation increases in cases where climate change policies are less salient and also not prominently addressed in party platforms. My (perhaps counter-intuitive) argument is that the successful implementation of climate change policies is actually more likely if climate change is de-politicized in electoral campaigns and party platforms.

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David Bosold teaches political science at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at Freie Universität Berlin and is the managing director of the Graduate School of North American Studies. He holds a doctorate from the University of Marburg. His research focuses on Canadian foreign policy, Canadian federalism and immigration. He has published in *International Affairs Review*, *International Politics and Society* and *International Journal* and is the co-editor of *Canada's Foreign and Security Policy: Soft and Hard Strategies of a Middle Power* (Oxford UP, 2010). His latest publication (with David Hagund), "Die Übernahme Grönlands, zweiter Akt," will appear in the next issue of *Internationale Politik*.



Emiliano Castillo Jara (Universität Trier)

Contested Discourses around Canada's Net-Zero Imaginary

This paper aims to explore the discursive production and contestation of the net-zero imaginary in the Canadian oil sector. Net-zero, understood as the balance between emitted and avoided greenhouse emissions (GHG), has recently emerged as a central concept in national and international climate policies. The Government of Canada, for instance, approved

the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act (CNZEAA) in 2021 to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030, framing it as a necessary and desirable energy transition pathway. Yet, as one of the world's largest crude oil producers and CO₂ per capita polluters, Canada faces significant challenges to decarbonize its economy, especially given the expansion of carbon-intensive tar sands operations over the past two decades. Net-zero mainstream academic and policy debates have predominantly focused on the future development of negative-emissions technologies, mainly Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS), while overlooking their sociopolitical and ecological implications. Environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS), Indigenous groups/First Nations and critical scholars have already raised concerns about the lack of transparency and accountability of net-zero emissions targets, arguing these are a form of greenwashing. Yet, some First Nations see net-zero as an opportunity to invest in community-led energy projects and exercise self-determination. Conversely, the Alberta government, a fossil-fuel-dependent province, has resisted net-zero efforts, claiming these affect its economy and advocating for continued fossil-fuel expansion. By contrast, Canada's largest oil corporations have embraced net-zero and promoted its incorporation into its activities. Given that net-zero largely remains a future vision, more attention is needed to the ways in which it is discursively constructed and disputed, as these power dynamics are key to enabling certain energy futures while foreclosing others. Connecting research on socio-technical imaginaries and fossil capitalism, this paper examines how different actors coalesce or diverge around key discursive storylines of the net-zero imaginary: 1) tar sands governance and 2) land requirements for net-zero infrastructures. Through Hajer's argumentative discourse analysis, this work examines how both issues are portrayed or remain hidden in policy documents, speeches, legislation, newspaper articles, and energy future scenarios. Findings show that several materials, despite climate mitigation rhetoric, actively prefigure fossil fuel futures by legitimizing government and corporate control over decision-making processes concerning tar sands development, including net-zero projects. In contrast to climate obstruction and delay attempts, documents from ENGOS and First Nations make visible how these actors seek to navigate the complex and contradictory dynamics of net-zero to materialize their own energy future visions. A focus on Canada's net-zero imaginary illustrates the tensions, contradictions, and limitations of pursuing a reduction of GHG emissions while encouraging fossil fuel operations. In this way, this paper speaks to the conference subtheme "communicating and narrating climate change."

Emiliano Castillo is a PhD candidate at the Governance & Sustainability Lab at the University of Trier. His research interests lie at the intersection of climate justice, energy governance, and conflicts over energy projects. Drawing on political ecology and energy geographies, his doctoral project explores how socio-material spaces for tar sands extraction, distribution, and consumption in Canada are configured, governed, and contested. Specifically, it focuses on how tar sands spaces are (re)shaped by multi-scalar competing and overlapping discourses, knowledge systems, sociospatial identities, and worldviews.



Sophie Dubois (Collège Lionel-Groulx)

Le Québec, connais-tu? Discovering Quebec while Learning French

Produced by the International Association for Quebec Studies (AIEQ), the digital tool *Le Québec, connais-tu ? Son histoire, sa langue, sa culture, ses régions* (Quebec, do you know it? Its history, language, culture, regions) is aimed at anyone curious to discover Quebec, but more specifically at teachers of French as a second and foreign language who wish to integrate Quebec content into their courses. The workshop will present the general tool (content, format, teaching principles, etc.) to participants but will also include a practical component where each person will be able to try out the tool through selected exercises, particularly those related to the theme of the climate crisis.

Sophie Dubois is a professor of literature at Collège Lionel-Groulx and a lecturer at the University of Montreal. A member of the Centre de recherche interuniversitaire sur la littérature et la culture au Québec (CRILCQ) and scientific co-director of the Laboratoire intercollégial de recherche en enseignement de la littérature (LIREL), she is interested in the didactics of literature and critical reception. The book based on her doctoral thesis, *Refus global. Histoire d'une réception partielle* (PUM, 2017), won the Michel-Brunet and Gabrielle-Roy awards. During her postdoctoral studies at the University of Saarland from 2014 to 2016, she studied school textbooks on Quebec published in Germany, which led her, a few years later, to coordinate the overhaul of *Québec, connais-tu ?* within the International Association of Quebec Studies (AIEQ).



Magdalena Firtova (Charles University Prague)

Strains of Climate Solidarity:

The Discursive Reframing of Federal Cohesion in Alberta (2015–2025)

Climate policy now puts federal cohesion to the test in many federations (Harrison 2023; Rabe 2011). In Canada, provinces control much of the country's natural resources, so decarbonization calls for close cooperation among governments and a fair sharing of its economic burdens. These negotiations bring different levels of government into open debate over what climate solidarity should mean. Studying how Alberta's leaders invoke solidarity offers insight into how provincial narratives shape the broader legitimacy of the Canadian federation in the face of climate transition.

The study combines the theoretical framework of the discursive construction of climate solidarity (Wallaschek, 2020) with Banting and Kymlicka's (2017) typology of solidarity sources. Rather than treating "strains" as moral dilemmas of commitment, the analysis conceptualizes

them as discursive tensions among distinct sources of solidarity—institutional, redistributive, procedural, normative-identitarian, and symbolic. By tracing how these sources are contested in political discourse, the study identifies how Alberta’s premiers reframe the federal climate compact.

Through a critical discourse analysis of forty-five speeches of three Alberta premiers—Rachel Notley (NDP, 2015–2019), Jason Kenney (UCP, 2019–2022), and Danielle Smith (UCP, 2022–present), the study examines how political language mobilizes and transforms the meaning and scale of solidarity. Preliminary results suggest a shift from institutional and redistributive frameworks toward increasingly normative-identitarian and sovereign frameworks of climate solidarity.

Magdalena Firtova is an Assistant Professor and Researcher at the Institute of International Studies, Charles University in Prague. Her research focuses on Canadian Studies, particularly on the political economy of North America and discourse framing in public policy. In 2023, she received a grant to support the integration of climate-related courses into the curricula of the Institute’s study programs. In 2024, she served as a Visiting Professor at the Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies, York University, Toronto. She is the co-author of *The History of Canada* (NLN, 2024, in Czech), and her academic articles have appeared in the *Journal of International Migration and Integration* and the *Journal of Canadian Studies*.



Susanna Gartler (Universität Wien)

“It’s our lifeline”

Inuvialuit and Gwich’in First Nation Knowledge Holders’ Perceptions of Permafrost

This paper explores Indigenous land users’ perceptions of permafrost in Northwestern Turtle Island (North America) through twenty-four life history/land use interviews with Inuvialuit and Gwich’in citizens in Northwestern Canada. While climate change and its effects, including permafrost thaw, have been widely studied, this research examines the personal connections and significance attributed to permafrost by these communities. Permafrost is not merely a foundational element of life in permafrost regions; it was often overlooked and taken for granted until its cycles were disrupted by global warming. It now poses risks such as unstable ground, making traditional hunting and navigation more perilous, and complicating berry picking due to increased moisture and softness. However, some consider permafrost a lifeline that enables life in the otherwise arid Arctic and believe that its changes can be managed through effective adaptation. Additionally, some participants stress the urgent need for effective assistance in dealing with thawing permafrost, which can lead to sudden coastal collapse into rivers or seas due to escalating coastal erosion, endangering infrastructure and equipment. The region’s rivers, sea ice, Arctic Ocean, lakes, roads, trails, and tundra, all sensitive to temperature changes, are essential to the historically mobile Inuit and First Nation

lifestyles in the broader Mackenzie Delta area. Through ethnographic interviews, this study explores the connection between permafrost thaw as critical infrastructure and the sustainability of Inuit and First Nation life, highlighting its importance in the maintenance and vitality of these communities.

Susanna Gartler is a member of the GKS section of Indigenous Studies as well as a member of the Austrian Polar Research Institute (APRI) research groups on socio-cultural systems. She graduated from the University of Vienna in social and cultural anthropology. Her PhD project focuses on Extractivism and First Nation Cultural Revitalization in the Yukon Territory, Canada.

From 2014 to 2019 she was a project collaborator with “[LACE – Labour mobility and community participation in the extractive industries – Yukon](#)” (project lead: Gertrude Saxinger, U Vienna) funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Canada and the Yukon Territorial Government through the research program ReSDA (Resources and Sustainable Communities in the Arctic).

From 2017 to 2023 Susanna worked on [Nunataryuk](#), examining permafrost thaw and socio-economic adaptation in Arctic coastal regions. She was the PI of its [social science components in the Beaufort Sea Area in Canada](#). Currently, Susanna is a researcher with [ILLUQ](#) (2024–2027), a transdisciplinary EU H2020 project examining permafrost thaw, health and pollution, and successor of Nunataryuk.

Susanna is a passionate practitioner and advocate of transdisciplinary, decolonizing and indigenizing research practices and co-creation with Indigenous rights holders. She is equally inspired by conducting interdisciplinary research bridging customary boundaries and serves as an editorial board member of the Journal [Environmental Research: Ecology](#). Her research interests include: Critical Indigenous Studies, narrative theory, the built environment, oral history, environmental anthropology, climate change, sustainability and Arctic and Canadian studies.



Emily Gilbert (University of Toronto)

The Militarization of Climate Change and Canada's Arctic

In 2024, Canada released a new defence policy, *Our North, Strong and Free: A Renewed Vision for Canada's Defence*. Almost \$40 billion dollars will be invested in the modernization of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), including the purchase of weapons, new infrastructural developments, and more boots on the ground. At the same time, NATO is also boosting its presence across the Arctic, with the Secretary General visiting Canada's North for the first time in 2022. Other security pacts are also emergent, including a trilateral maritime partnership between Germany, Canada, and Norway, with the aim to shore up mutual interests against adversaries such as Russia and China.

The renewed interest in Arctic security is prompted by geopolitical rivalries but also by the effects of climate change. Whereas frigid temperatures and sea ice used to be a first line of defence, the warming and more volatile climate is creating more security vulnerabilities as activities in the Arctic region increase. This includes the opening up of transit corridors for cargo and tourist ships and more opportunities for oil and mineral prospecting and research exploration. Meanwhile, ice thaw and eroding permafrost are reshaping coastlines and leading to new maritime and territorial sovereignty claims, while Indigenous peoples are being forced to relocate away from their communities.

This paper examines the impact of climate change in Canada's Arctic with a particular focus on how it is propelling the increasing militarization of the region. My approach knits together theoretical insights from political ecology and climate justice to foreground the worrying impact that climate change is having on the ecosystem but also security and sovereignty in the Canadian North. I also draw from and expand upon my previous work on the militarization of climate change, which looks at how climate change has been framed as a "threat multiplier," which is then used to legitimize military expansion. The casualty is any attempt to address climate change's root causes or to support vulnerable communities.

The focus of this paper is on recent events, but these cannot be understood without some historical context, so I trace back current initiatives to Prime Minister Stephen Harper's "use it or lose it" Northern Strategy, which emphasized Canadian territorial sovereignty. Since then, the issues have become even more pressing as a result of geopolitical tensions in the region. These arise not only from Russia and China, but as a result of Canada's fraught political relationship with the United States, with the President's dangerous and alarming statements about territorial annexation, not only of Canada but also of Greenland. While my main focus will be to critique politics and policy, I also attend to the ways the militarization of climate change is being challenged and resisted by social movements in Canada and beyond.

Emily Gilbert is a Professor of Canadian Studies at the University of Toronto (Canada) with a cross-appointment in the Department of Geography and Planning. Her research and writing examine how North American geopolitical relations are being reshaped through new security formations, with particular attention to the implications for Canada. Key topics that are addressed in her research include citizenship, borders, and sovereignty. She has also written about the militarization of climate change in both academic and public-facing publications. While much of her work critically examines politics and policy, she continues to be fascinated by visual and literary representations and has written about how Canadian national identity and belonging are both reproduced and contested in urban and wilderness narratives.



Tina Jurkat-Witschas (DLR, Wessling)

Contrails and How to Mitigate Them: How the German DLR and Canadian NRC Research Institutions Investigate Ways of Reducing the Climate Impact of Aviation

Aviation transformed the world into a more connected and accessible place. It's a clear ambition of the EU to reduce its impact on the atmosphere. CO₂ and Non-CO₂ effects, such as contrails and nitrogen oxides, need to be considered to reduce the climate impact from aviation.

Contrails—short for condensation trails—form behind aircrafts in cold and humid regions of the atmosphere at altitudes above 9 km. Contrails can live long enough to locally change the radiation budget, and air traffic globally affects the climate. Researchers at DLR found that the contrails from the current fleet and the cirrus that evolve from them have a similar or even larger impact on climate than the CO₂ emissions from aviation since the beginning of aviation.

To mitigate these man-made clouds, their formation and evolution need to be understood, from the very first seconds till the end of their lifetime. In particular, new aircraft technologies and new fuels provide an effective way not only to reduce the impact from CO₂ but also from contrails.

DLR, NASA, and NRC have a long history to investigate the effects of aircraft emissions on the atmosphere. All three aeronautic organizations operate impressive, instrumented aircraft that have the ability to fly behind large airliners at a distance of only 50 m. These research aircraft joined forces above the desert of California to investigate the effect of sustainable aviation fuels on the emissions of aircraft. For the first time, it was shown that so-called HEFA (hydrotreated esters and fatty acids) biofuels derived from the Camelina plant can reduce the emissions of soot and thus reduce the climate impact from contrails and aviation. These first measurements led to several national and international missions that aimed at understanding the formation and thus the mitigation options of contrails using different fuels.

In recent years, hydrogen has become a focus in Europe but also internationally as the fuel for future aircraft technologies. Green hydrogen promises to avoid all CO₂ emissions but up to date it is unclear in how far contrails from hydrogen combustion and fuel cells change the formation of contrails. To this end, new research is directed towards contrails from hydrogen combustion—again unifying European and Canadian researchers to work for a future aviation sector with a reduced climate impact.

Tina Jurkat-Witschas completed her Diploma in physics, studying in Heidelberg, Germany, and Concepcion, Chile. She joined DLR (German Aerospace Center) in 2007, receiving her PhD in Physics at the University of Heidelberg in 2010. Since then, she has been involved in many national and international research projects involving, e.g., NASA, NRC, Airbus, ATR, Deutsche Aircraft with airborne measurement campaigns on contrails, icing, and climate science all over the world. She has published in high-impact scientific journals and won awards with activities of NASA and DLR. Within DLR, she investigates the climate impact from aviation by performing airborne contrail and emission measurements, leading national and international aircraft campaigns with the DLR research fleet.

Since 2020, she leads the research team H2CONTRAIL with a focus on contrail formation from hydrogen propulsion systems. As part of the Blue Condor team, she won the SAE International Sustainable Aviation Award in 2025.



Jacqueline Koshorst (Universität Kassel)

“Wula Na Nikamaq.”

Nature, Kinship, and Indigenous Knowledge in *Anne with an E* (CBC/Netflix)

This paper examines non-normative approaches to kinship with more-than-human nature in the third series of the CBC/Netflix television series *Anne with an E*. This highly successful adaptation of Lucy Maud Montgomery’s classic *Anne of Green Gables* skilfully explores numerous important social and ecological issues through and beyond Montgomery’s text over the course of its three seasons, including the oppression and ethnic cleansing of Indigenous people in Canada by European settlers. In this paper, I aim to explore what lessons can be drawn from the series on how and when to adapt stories to engage in current societal conversations, such as climate change and human relationships to nature.

The series, set in the fictional community of Avonlea on Prince Edward Island, manages to adapt a beloved staple of children’s literature, simultaneously maintaining the spirit of the original and encouraging further critical engagement with the text, its geographical and temporal setting, and the context of its creation from a post-colonial perspective. In addition, the love and compassion Montgomery’s protagonist holds for nature carries over smoothly into the adaptation, exposing new layers of meaning and inviting ecocritical readings in a call for solidarity with nature. In the third series of *Anne with an E*, Anne’s own close relationship with nature and her open-minded curiosity allow her to befriend Ka’kwet, a girl from a nearby Mi’kmaq village, who shares her people’s traditions, crafts, and medical knowledge with her. The series also deals with the abuse and ethnocide that occurred in Canadian residential schools meant to assimilate Indigenous children when Ka’kwet, encouraged by Anne, convinces her parents to allow her to go to school. Anne’s unconventional understanding of kinship—human, animal, or, more generally, natural—stands out from the beginning of the series, a trait she inherits from the original character. Accelerated by the friendship between her and Ka’kwet, both girls’ curiosity and compassion for the natural world and each other’s lived experiences are in stark contrast to the attitudes and behaviours of the majority of Avonlea’s population.

This paper will explore the incorporation of aspects of Indigenous culture(s) in the series both as an effective and important deviation from and adaptation of Montgomery’s original and as a basis for constructing compassionate, post-colonial nature narratives. I will draw largely on Indigenous and Indigenous media studies, as well as concepts of more-than-human kinship from Donna Haraway’s *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene*, and some pivotal works from adaptation studies, particularly Thomas Leitch’s *Oxford Handbook of*

Adaptation Studies and Bode et al.'s *Children and Childhoods in L. M. Montgomery* for reference to *Anne of Green Gables*. The paper will speak to the second conference theme of "communicating and narrating climate change" as it combines reflections on Indigenous knowledge in a nature conservation context with a kinship-centred, ecocritical reading of the series.

Jacqueline Koshorst (she/they) is a PhD researcher at the University of Kassel, where she obtained her M.A. in English and American Studies in 2024. Their dissertation project focusses on queer ecology readings of contemporary anglophone literature with an emphasis on the emerging field of the blue humanities. Other research interests include the medical humanities, pop culture, and television studies. Jacqueline is an active member of Arbeiterkind.de, an organisation that supports and connects first-generation students and raises awareness for class and education inequality.



Jane Koustas (Brock University)

Climate Change on the Quebec Stage: *Hydro plus Pétrole*

Underlining the strong connection between theatre and the society that inspires, produces, and promotes it, Quebec theatre scholar Laurent Mailhot states:

Des trois genres littéraires traditionnels, c'est peut-être le théâtre qui, (...) est le plus lié au milieu. Non seulement parce qu'il le reflète, s'en nourrit, l'attaque, mais parce que son succès, son existence, dépend directement de la réception que lui donnera ce milieu. Le théâtre est placé entre deux miroirs aux écrans très rapprochés (Laurent et Mailhot, 12).¹

Theatre's role and capacity to both reflect the audience to which it is addressed and to bounce this image back to it places theatre, as Laurent notes, in a privileged position to critique and attack the society of which it is a product and on which its success depends. Climate change, or perhaps more accurately climate damage, is thus a cogent subject to be positioned between these two mirrors.

First performed in 2016 at the Festival Transamériques, Christine Beaulieu's four hour play *J'aime Hydro* stages Quebec's, and its population's, complex relationship with the mighty Hydro-Québec which now boasts 62 power hydroelectric facilities, 226,474 transmission and distribution lines, and 4.4 million customers; its motto is "Accelerating our energy independence; that's us." Founded in 1944, Hydro-Québec was heralded as a milestone in the province's "national" project to become "maître chez nous"; the only shareholder is the

¹ Of the three traditional literary genres, it is perhaps theatre [...] that is most closely linked to the milieu. Not only because it **draws its inspiration from it and reflects and attacks it**, but because its very existence depends directly on its reception in this milieu. Theatre is placed between two closely placed mirrors which reflect one and other—plays are written to be performed (my translation).

Province of Quebec. Like other economic boom projects such as mining and logging, the consequences beyond economic enrichment were never considered. After three years of research, including interviews with executives of Hydro-Québec, Beaulieu stages, somewhat in documentary style, the perils, both short and long term, of mega hydroelectric projects including the building of massive dams, such as that at James Bay and La Romaine, the installation of transmission and distribution lines and the sale of this power to the highest bidder; First Nations' communities and their fishing and hunting sources were permanently displaced or destroyed, worker safety was frequently ignored and Quebec's resources, and hence its identity, were up for sale.

In his visually spectacular *Pétrole*, François Archambault, also considers the damage incurred over four decades of decision making, risk taking, and denial. Inspired by Nathaniel Rich's essay "The Decade We almost Stopped Climate Change," Archambault first asks who is at fault, the government, the corporate machine or the population and, secondly how and when the combined effort of the three could have altered the course. In this play, two environmentalists confront both the seemingly impenetrable government blockade and the powerful petroleum industry.

Both plays place Quebec drama in the network of global theatre as defined, for example, by Patrick Lonergan.² While firmly anchored in Quebec, these plays, both through the crises addressed and the spectacular multimedia staging, place the audience in the arena of globally wired and inspired theatre.

Jane Koustas is Professor of French Emerita at Brock University, where she also directed Canadian Studies. She served as the Craig Dobbin Professor of Canadian Studies at University College Dublin. Koustas was the President of the Canadian Studies Network from 2014-2016 and the President of the International Council for Canadian Studies. Koustas also served as the Editor of the *Journal of Canadian Studies*. In 2022, she was awarded the Governor General's Award for International Canadian Studies.

She is the co-editor of: *Landscapes and Landmarks of Canada: Real, Imagined, (Re)viewed; Plurilinguisme et pluriculturalisme: Des modèles officiels dans le monde; Canadian Studies: Past, Present, Praxis* with Christl Verduyn; *Translating from the Margins: Traduire depuis les marges; Robert Lepage: Théâtre sans frontières: essays on the dramatic universe of Robert Lepage*; and *Vision/Division: l'oeuvre de Nancy Huston*. Professor Koustas published *Les belles étrangères: Canadians in Paris*, 2008, and *Robert Lepage on the Toronto Stage: Language, Identity, Nation*, 2016.

In 2017, she was awarded the James A. Flaherty Visiting Professorship by the Ireland-Canada University Foundation to pursue a comparative study of Quebec and Irish theatre.



² Lonergan, Patrick. (2010). *Theatre and Globalization: Irish Drama in the Celtic Tiger Era*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Marie Krebs (Universität Wien)

Listening for Invisible Femininity:

David Cronenberg's *Crimes of the Future* (1970) and *Videodrome* (1983)

Before his breakthrough in the US-American film studio system with *The Fly* (1986), David Cronenberg was a, if not the, key figure of 20th century Canadian film: Often credited with spearheading the genre of body horror, his science-fiction-adjacent works have explicitly or implicitly inspired critically lauded contemporary productions like Coralie Fargeat's *The Substance* (2024) or Julia Ducournau's *Titane* (2021). While particularly in feminist circles, body horror is known for its potential to articulate the anxious relationship between women and their bodies, i.e., to narrativize the struggles of existing in a gendered body instead of reiterating the well-trodden trope of the feminine-as-monstrous (Pisters 3–4), Cronenberg's genre-defining works remain marked by a noticeable visual absence of femininity.

His films are almost exclusively told through the perspectives of men (Riepe 99) and often feature some psychoanalytic recourse to traumatic perceptions of female sexuality. The Freudian dimensions of David Cronenberg's work are certainly not under-researched; in general, the films' preoccupation with mechanics of penetration, enclosing, and encompassing (cf. *Videodrome* (1983), where video cassettes are inserted into a slit in the main character's stomach) suggests a thematic concern with (hetero)sexualities that is frequently analyzed through frameworks of feminine monstrosity (Humm 59) and absent non-male subjectivities. Particularly in his early short film *Crimes of the Future* (1970), which is overtly concerned with a crisis of sexual reproduction, non-male perspectives appear to be omitted fully.

This ultimately begs the question of whether feminine subjectivities are really as thoroughly absent in Cronenberg's work as the character configurations would suggest, and how it is possible to reconcile such absences with Cronenberg-inspired feminist body horror's recent proliferation. My presentation, then, attempts to retrace the fractured presence of femininities and other non-masculine features in *Crimes of the Future* and *Videodrome* to recentre discussions of Cronenberg's work against the grains of heteropatriarchal reading mechanisms. I theorize, through Kaja Silverman's *Acoustic Mirror* (1998), that an overly zealous emphasis on visibility may support a reading of non-male invisibility and that the underrepresented role of acoustics in film analysis exacerbates this analytical disequilibrium.

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Marie Krebs (she/her) is a doctoral candidate and university assistant at the University of Vienna, Austria. She specializes in North American film, literary and media studies with a current focus on Anglophone horror cinema, theories of temporalities, and genre poetics and

politics. Her PhD thesis “Fearing Time, Timing Fear,” on which she began working in the spring of 2025, engages with 21st-century horror in various media formats based on theories, aesthetics, and politics of temporalities.

She also works as an administrative and research assistant for the ERC/FWF-funded project “Poetry Off the Page,” which investigates the history of UK and Irish spoken word poetry and poetry performance from 1965 to the present day.



Raphaela Nickel (Universität Kassel)

Canada: The Place to Be in Times of the Climate Crisis?

The climate crisis and its global impacts represent one of the greatest challenges humanity is facing. One of these impacts is climate migration, which is no longer a concept referring to the future but is already happening. While many countries face the direct consequences of natural disasters, resource wars, and social unrest, Canada acts as a seemingly safe haven in several contemporary dystopian and speculative novels. This paper examines how Canada is portrayed in climate fiction novels as a “safe space” in a future shaped by the climate crisis. The novels *The Water Knife* by Paolo Bacigalupi, *Camp Zero* by Michelle Min Sterling and *American War* by Omar El Akkad offer different perspectives on climate crisis induced migration, portraying Canada as a possible place of refuge. The three works shed light on different geographical and political aspects of climate migration and its effects on the affected populations.

The main story in Paolo Bacigalupi’s *The Water Knife* focuses on the US: people from southern states, which have been devastated by extreme drought, try to reach areas with more water. The refugees flee northward, hoping to reach Canada—a symbol of safety, stability, abundance. The novel depicts a dystopian future in which migration is characterised by violence and a scarcity of resources induced by climatic conditions. Water in particular plays an important role in this future, as the south of the US is affected by desertification and water rights have been privatised. Meanwhile, rain is still falling from the sky in Canada.

Camp Zero by Michelle Min Sterling is set in a climate-ravaged future where much of the world has become uninhabitable. Canada, especially its Arctic regions, serves as a rare refuge and a site of new opportunity. Refugees, scientists, and corporations converge there, seeking survival or dominance, making Canada both a haven and a contested frontier.

American War by Omar El Akkad depicts a second American Civil War triggered by climate change and political unrest. As the U.S. descends into chaos, many Americans seek refuge in the North. Canada becomes a crucial destination for those fleeing violence and environmental collapse, offering relative safety and humanitarian aid, though tensions and strict border controls reflect the strain of mass displacement.

This paper examines and compares the qualities that the novels use to characterise Canada as a place of safety from the consequences and effects of the climate crisis. Furthermore, the

paper questions the novels' picture of Canada as a green haven and contrasts it with the real and anticipated environmental impacts and its potential to become the "place to be" in times of the climate crisis. The paper will speak to the first conference theme of "impacts of climate change" as it focuses on an important but still so far highly underestimated impact of the climate crisis: climate-induced migration.

Raphaela Nickel (she/her) studied English, History and Catholic Theology at the University of Kassel to become a secondary school teacher. She is now research assistant and a doctoral candidate in the interdisciplinary project ReSpace! at TU Braunschweig, which aims to rethink space and spatial reconfigurations in response to climate change, resource shortages, societal and environmental transformations. In her research project, she is concerned with imaginaries of climate mobility in English fiction with a focus on climate-induced migration. Her other research interests include the Environmental Humanities, Climate (In)justice and Inter- and Transdisciplinarity.



Mack Penner (University of Calgary)

Removal and Denial:

The Imperial Oil Company and Mitigative Technology as Climate Denialism

In the early 1990s, the Imperial Oil Company, a preeminent Canadian producer with particularly extensive operations in the province of Alberta, took an interest in the "underground disposal of carbon dioxide" as a way to limit what it studiously referred to as "potential global warming." To address what was, of course, actual global warming, Imperial indicated seven commitments that would define its corporate response, one of which was "to determine the technical and economic potential for carbon dioxide 'sinks,' or mechanisms to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere." However, even if this endeavour was undertaken in good faith, it was at every turn subordinated to the ongoing conduct of business as usual. In its broad response to climate change, and particularly in its appeal to carbon removal technologies, Imperial's foremost commitment was always, not surprisingly, to the making of maximal profits from the production and sale of fossil fuels and their byproducts. The prospect of mitigative technology was held out not so much as a good all on its own, but as a method by which Imperial could strike a climate conscious pose without troubling its very profitable and carbon-heavy business model.

The Imperial Oil archives, held in the Glenbow Library and Archives at the University of Calgary, provide a unique glimpse at the history of mitigative climate technology and its use by fossil fuel companies as a kind of cover for more of the fossil-fueled same. In other words, these archives can help to substantiate what is perhaps the most common non-technical criticism levelled at carbon dioxide removal, carbon capture and storage, and related net zero emissions technologies: that they can act as tools for defending the status quo with regard to oil, gas,

and coal. This behaviour represents a subtle but nefarious form of climate denial, in which techno-optimism becomes a difficult-to-justify optimism on the issue of climate change writ large. In the era of “overshoot,” in which established commitments to limit global warming at no more than 1.5 degrees of pre-industrial levels are blown by on the premise that future technological development will make it possible to reverse global warming and stabilize it at a manageable level, the history of this corporate behaviour is of particular concern and interest alike.

By presenting the history of Imperial’s Janus-faced approach to climate technology, this paper addresses both the second and third themes of 47th Annual Conference of the GKS. Indeed, this paper speaks to the relation between these themes by showing how the ways in which industrial actors communicate their approach to climate change influences our collective ability to address the climate crisis.

Mack Penner is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of History at the University of Calgary and “highly qualified personnel” on the Canadian Carbon Dioxide Removal Research Initiative (CanCO2Re). Broadly, he studies the linked histories of capitalism and liberalism in 20th century Canada, and presently he is working especially closely on the history of the Canadian fossil economy and the political behaviour of oil and gas companies with regard to climate change and technology.



Albert Rau (Cologne)

“The Beaver is a Truly Proud and Noble Animal”: Images and Symbols of Canada in the EFL-Classroom

Canadian texts and topics started to enter the classroom and the school curricula of English as a second language from the 1980s on and since then, classroom activities have dealt with a broad range of topics, such as Canada’s history, culture and society as well as geographical and ecological aspects. And yet, even today, when students are asked what they think of when they hear the word Canada, their answers mainly reflect stereotypical and clichéd ideas and images of this country north of the 49th parallel. As a matter of fact, Canada still often lingers in their minds only as a tourist destination, promising adventure and nature in a vast and seemingly endless part of the world, a country that is covered with forests, roamed by bears, caribou and moose, inhabited by Inuit in the North and First Nations in the South and by people who speak either English or French. It is famous for its loggers in their Mackinaw jackets and, last but not least, a country which is considered the birthplace of (ice) hockey. Classroom activities have often focused on Canada as a land of many nations and what it means to be (a) Canadian, particularly in relation to its southern neighbour, the United States. The presentation looks at images and symbols that have played a role in the teaching of and about Canada.

Albert Rau taught English-Canadian Drama and literature at the University of Cologne and English at a Catholic high school in Brühl, Germany. He is a founding member of the Association for Canadian Studies in the German-speaking Countries and has coordinated its *Teachers Forum* for more than thirty years. His articles and publications focus on English-Canadian drama and on the didactics of Canadian themes and texts for the EFL classroom. In 2011, he received the *Teacher Education Program Award* by the German Association for Canadian Studies in the German-speaking countries (GKS) and also in Ottawa the *Certificate of Merit* by the International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS). In 2023, he received the *Honorary Award* by the German-Canadian Society (DKG).



Nina Reuther (Berlingen)

Roundtable: Restoring Balance in a Modified Environment Perspectives on Climate Change

This roundtable will explore Indigenous perspectives on dealing with the consequences of climate change on their respective environments and how they might resonate in non-Indigenous perceptions. Secwépemc and Syilx peoples, located in what today is called Southern Central British Columbia, have never given up any responsibility to their territories and continue these as *Stewards of the lands*. The complex concept of stewardship involves care-taking, economical, and legal aspects amongst others, as well as the central question of food sovereignty as many community-members still rely on hunting, fishing, and gathering. It is based on ancestral knowledge about environmental interrelationships between them and their *tmícw* (*Secwepemtsín*) and *tmíxw* (*Nsyilxcin*), their land, that continues to be handed down from generation to generation in spite of assimilatory politics. Climate change involves new challenges and local Indigenous communities are implementing strategies on various levels, aiming at restoring balance between humans and their respective environments by developing practical procedures to manage the consequences.

The panelists are:

Darrel Draney, Tribal Chief, Shuswap Nation Tribal Council, Skeetchestn/Tk'emlúps, Secwepemcúl'ecw

Billy Cohen (cniłc), Dr., Syilx Okanagan Artist and Educator, UBC Okanagan School of Education, Kelowna, B.C.

Virginie Magnat, Ph.D., UBC Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies, Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies Coordinator: "Community Engagement, Social Change, and Equity" (CESCE), Kelowna, B.C.

Dr. Nina Reuther is an independent researcher in Inter-Cultural Studies, Musical Ethnology, and Legal Anthropology, who has been dealing with and working on Indigenous issues since the late 1980s. Having grown up in various lingual and cultural contexts, her research methodology is based on fundamental peer knowledge exchange between colonial and Indigenous ways of thinking. Over the past 35 years she spent some 10 years within Secwepemcúl'ecw and was honored to learn there from various generations about their particular ancestral ways. She also works as a cultural mediator and as an interpreter/translator for different organizations in Europe.



Sabrina Schettino (University of Eastern Piedmont)

Labor, Territory, and Marine Animals: Nuuchahnulth in the Pelagic Sealing Industry

The paper is part of ongoing research I am conducting at the University of Eastern Piedmont on Nuuchahnulth workers in the pelagic sealing industry (the hunting in sea of fur seals) from the mid-19th to the early 20th century, with a focus on re-centering Indigenous perspectives and the role of non-human actors, particularly fur seals. While earlier studies, notably Cairn Crockford's 1991 thesis, emphasized economic motivations and treated Indigenous involvement as relatively homogenous, the paper challenges those assumptions by employing recent interdisciplinary approaches. Drawing on Indigenous labour history, environmental history, and marine ethnography, it examines how sealing practices were shaped by diverse cultural, spiritual, and environmental relationships among Nuuchahnulth communities.

It has four key objectives: (1) analyzing the varied reasons behind Nuuchahnulth participation in pelagic sealing, considering social status, cultural practices, and community-specific needs; (2) exploring the spatial and social transformations brought by sealing, including shifts in settlement patterns and kinship structures; (3) documenting Indigenous ownership of sealing fleets and their complex interactions with colonial authorities; and (4) reconstructing the multifaceted decline of pelagic sealing, highlighting ecological, technological, and socio-political factors.

Methodologically, the research draws on archival materials (e.g., DIA and Department of Marine and Fisheries records), anthropological accounts, Indigenous oral histories, and recent historiography. It applies the concept of "organism-in-its-environment" to frame the fur seal as an active co-participant in historical processes, revealing how marine mammals influenced Indigenous decisions both to join and later abandon the sealing industry.

By centering the Nuuchahnulth and their relationship with fur seals, the paper contributes to a more nuanced understanding of Indigenous-settler relations, marine economies, and environmental history in the North Pacific. It aims to revive a largely forgotten chapter of Indigenous marine life while offering new pathways in Indigenous and environmental historiography.

Sabrina Schetino is a PhD student at the University of Eastern Piedmont, in Italy. Her research, *Fur Seals, Nuu-chah-nulth and Pelagic Sealing in British Columbia (1860s-1910s)*, focuses on environmental history, Indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest, and colonial labour regimes. In 2025, she has been fellow visiting at the University of Victoria where she has conducted archival research and field research on invitation of Nuu-chah-nulth First Nation. In the same year, she has won the International Council of Canadian Studies Graduate Student Scholarship.



Glenn Schmidt (BMW Group, München)

The Electric Vehicle in a German, Canadian, and Global Context: Where Sustainability, Geopolitics, Industrial Policy, and Strategic Cooperation Converge

This presentation examines the electric vehicle (EV) as a nexus of sustainability imperatives, geopolitical dynamics, and industrial policy choices that increasingly shapes German-Canadian relations. In a global environment marked by growing regionalization and political fragmentation, the EV constitutes a technologically and economically integrated product with the capacity to reinforce transatlantic collaboration. Contemporary automotive value chains remain profoundly internationalized, and the EV—characterized by high technological sophistication and cross-regional innovation—exemplifies this interdependence.

Germany and Canada share longstanding commitments to climate policy frameworks, including the Paris Climate Agreement, and both view transport decarbonization as central to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Yet the transition to electric mobility requires a systemic perspective that spans resource extraction, materials processing, manufacturing, and end-of-life cycles. In this context, the complementarities between both countries are increasingly salient: Germany contributes globally recognized systems-integration capabilities, advanced manufacturing know-how, and strong industrial ecosystems, while Canada offers substantial natural resource endowments, cleantech innovation, and significant renewable-energy potential. Together, these assets create opportunities for resilient and competitive EV value chains.

The rise of Asian battery cell capabilities illustrates the strategic impact of long-term industrial planning and coordinated innovation ecosystems. For Europe, a dual strategy is emerging—combining cooperation with established players and the development of regionalized “local-for-local” production architectures tailored to geopolitical and market realities.

This presentation argues that electric mobility constitutes a strategically advantageous domain for deepened German-Canadian cooperation. Effective industrial policy should incentivize decarbonization in a technology-agnostic manner, strengthen industrial competitiveness, and support the structural conditions required for widespread EV adoption. Beyond outlining the

BMW Group's strategic orientation, the presentation will survey recent EV developments in both markets and highlight concrete cases where German and Canadian capabilities intersect to produce complementary, future-oriented business models.

As Vice President of Global Sustainability, **Glenn Schmidt** leads the BMW Group's holistic sustainability strategy across all regions and divisions, defining targets and initiatives aligned with the Paris Climate Agreement. He previously headed global government and external relations, overseeing the company's worldwide advocacy network. Since joining BMW in 2004, Glenn has held international roles in communications, media relations, and was part of project i, the think tank that paved the way for BMW i and broad electrification. Before BMW, he worked as an automotive consultant. He holds an MBA from Purdue University, a BA from Simon Fraser University and is originally from Vancouver, Canada.



Nils-Christian Terp (Friedrich Schiller Universität Jena)

« Paysages lunaires et chaleur suffocante » :

Musical Ecocriticism and Climate Change in Popular Music in Quebec

Ecocriticism is a well-established field of study concerning the relationship between literature and the environment. Until now, this approach has been less commonly used to analyze popular music, despite its long history of protest songs. Almost 50 years after singer Diane Dufresne cried out, "Ne tuons pas la beauté du monde," the issue of human influence on the climate and the environment is more relevant than ever. In 1986, the Canadian Artists for the Environment Foundation released the song "No More Wasting Away, La Pure Vérité," a sort of bilingual "We Are the World" featuring musicians such as Carole Pope, Claude Dubois, Ginette Reno, and Mark Holmes. The song accompanied an environmental awareness campaign launched by the Minister of the Environment, marking a growing awareness but still offering a weak and somewhat naive critique: "Nous voulons vivre d'eau et d'air et de pure vérité."

While this political initiative may seem like a curiosity, many artists—particularly in Quebec—such as Diane Dufresne, Richard Desjardins, and Les Cowboy Fringants have committed themselves to raising awareness about human influence on the climate. The latter did not only decry climate change in 2004's "Plus rien" (a dystopian vision of a planet ravaged by humanity: "Mais moi, je n'ai vu qu'une planète désolante / Paysages lunaires et chaleur suffocante"), but also have a history of activism, such as against the Énergie Saguenay project in 2019. How can popular music combat global warming and how can its impact be assessed? Are there differences in this regard between a song commissioned by the government and a song that expresses the convictions of an individual artist or musical group? The study will draw on a corpus of Quebec songs from 1980 to the present day and will analyze the content of lyrics, music videos, and artist interviews, supplemented by a review of press articles. These specific case studies will be explored in depth using the typology of resistance developed by

sociologists Hollander and Einwohner (2004) to assess the political content of the songs analyzed and the positioning of their authors in order to estimate their impact on their audience.

In doing so, the study aims to add a musical dimension to ecocriticism on Quebec and shed light on the evolution of the discourse on climate change through the prism of popular music, offering some ideas on the role of music in developing climate awareness and as a spokesperson for nature, as practiced by singer Émile Bilodeau in his 2021 song “Petite Nature”: “Les animaux, les végétaux, pis les cours d’eau nous ont écrit un mot / Sur nos réseaux sociaux, pis en gros ça dit : F*** you, esti.”

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Nils-Christian Terp is a research associate at the University of Jena in Germany. He has a degree in Romance languages and Philosophy and studied at the universities of Münster and Lyon. His teaching career has taken him to several countries: he was an assistant in German as a foreign language at the University of Quebec in Montreal, then taught German language, culture, literature, and translation for five years at the Sorbonne University in Paris, as part of a language teaching position appointed by the DAAD. He currently teaches in the field of intercultural studies while pursuing a joint doctoral thesis on popular culture and translation, with a particular focus on the cultural transfer of pop music from the anglophone sphere to France, Quebec and West Germany in the 1960s. His research focuses on cultural transfer, the interaction between literature, music, and cinema, as well as broader themes of pop culture and musical subcultures in Germany, France, and Quebec. He recently published an article in *Schnittstelle Germanistik* on the adaptation of Beatles songs in Germany during the 1960s.



Eva Voldřichová Beránková (Charles University Prague)

Quebec Climate Fiction: For a Gentle End of the World?

“I have very little faith in humanity. [...] Our history is recent, and I think we’re going to destroy ourselves soon. We’ll be just a blink of an eye in the grand cycles of our solar system. [...] I don’t worry too much about the fate of humanity. Too bad for us,” says young Innu writer Julie D. Kurtness, summing up her nonchalant approach to climate change.

While Western tradition, from the Apocalypse of St. John to Hollywood productions, has accustomed us to spectacular ends of the world—fireballs, nuclear disasters, alien invasions, collisions with a rogue star—French-language Canadian literature today seems to be overflowing with texts that describe a more “discreet” end of the world, often tinged with humor or self-mockery. It may even be that the end of the world (or at least the end of one world) has already happened without us noticing.

The reasons for the apocalypse are also becoming less epic and sensational: global warming or, conversely, a new ice age that will force us into hibernation, an epidemic spreading quietly, mutations that will end humanity as we know it in favor of new beings that are as hybrid as they are mysterious. It is as if Quebecers, who are rather skeptical of Western heroic imagery but concerned about the signs that nature and the climate are sending us, have begun to imagine a very slow and gradual end, or even a metamorphosis of humanity into something “other” than what their books predict.

Among the best authors of climate fiction, we find many women and representatives of First Nations. The question therefore arises as to whether there is a connection between, on the one hand, the gender and ethnic identity of writers and, on the other, the eco-critical or even apocalyptic themes of their works.

Finally, the principle of “ensauvagement” deserves to be examined from this angle. Indeed, since the 2000s, we have seen a tendency to “think about America, nature, landscape, climate, and interculturalism in a new way, enriched by the experience of indigenous peoples” (Jean-François Létourneau). The fact that an increasing number of First Nations writers are imagining the end of the world (the Western world?) in order to reconnect with nature, decimated by centuries of technological civilization, is an important dimension of reading climate fiction.

In my contribution, I would like to examine a corpus of twelve Quebec novels (listed below) in order to propose some preliminary answers to these fundamental questions. My methodological foundations will be ecocriticism, sociocriticism, and postcolonial theories linked to a more traditional analysis of texts. Ideally, my contribution should propose a certain typology of texts relating to climate fiction in the contemporary French-Canadian space.

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Eva Voldřichov   Ber  nkov   is Vice-Rector for International Affairs at Charles University (Prague) and full professor of Francophone literature: <https://cuni.cz/UKEN-1721.html>. After completing a joint thesis with Sorbonne University, she specialized in a) contemporary Quebec novels, b) the relationship between literature and philosophy, and c) the history of French cinema. In March 2025, she was named Knight of the Order of Merit by President Macron.



Florian Wagner (Friedrich Schiller Universität Jena)

“A Pulmonary Commons Called Planet”

Foraging for a Planetary Multispecies Commons in Rita Wong's *forage*

Recent years have seen increasing attention to the notion of the planetary as a mode of thought that comprises various suggestions of rethinking and reconceiving how the human and the more-than-human interact in relation to the larger entity of the planet. The poetic imagination, I hold, can participate productively in this renegotiation. Looking at the experimental poetics of Rita Wong's *forage* (2007), I outline a planetary poetics as a speculative act, an ethico-aesthetic mode to simultaneously think across the multiple spatial and temporal scales of the Anthropocene, and as a movement in collective thinking. Wong's *forage* is a rich assemblage of various materials that, on the one hand, delves into the ethical challenges of living in a globalized world and, on the other hand, taps into the ebb and flow of life and matter on the planet. At the heart of Wong's collection lies the practice of foraging. Foraging is presented as a tangible way of connecting with the planet on a material level as a pericapitalist practice (cf. Tsing 2015). At the same time, the practice of foraging structures the collection on a formal level due to its ruptured lyric, found text, handwritten quotes that coil around the poems, the frequent appearance of Chinese and Korean characters, and photographs, which disrupt a linear reading experience, thereby appearing as foraged in and of itself, and simultaneously calls upon the reader to participate in an act of foraging as a reading practice. The reader is encouraged to read in different directions and participate in the creation of numerous, often ephemeral, associations and networks of multispecies solidarity. Ultimately, I argue that the poems highlight the vitality of the more-than-human world, open up toward multiple temporalities and pluriversal epistemologies, which encourages a sense of planetary futurity and possibility.

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