

The Canadian Applied Literature Association (CALA) in conjunction with the 2014 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences invites your participation in our annual conference:

BORDERS WITHOUT BOUNDARIES?: MOBILIZATIONS, IMPASSES, TRAVERSALS

May 27 and 28, 2014

Brock University, St Catharines, ON

This year's Congress theme, "Borders without Boundaries," invites delegates to reflect upon "the links between the academy and the community, the mediation of boundaries in a virtual world, the development of the new conceptions of rural and urban spaces, and the place and definition of friends, citizens and peoples in our social, academic and politically defined communities." It foregrounds "the need to think, work and create beyond traditional disciplinary, historical, cultural and social boundaries;" and "showcases the potential of the academy to challenge, redefine and reconfigure borders and boundaries through transdisciplinary research, engagement, imagination and service."

In considering the theme's interest in traversing social, institutional, geopolitical, epistemological forms of boundedness, in fostering new forms of interdisciplinarity, intersubjectivity and interaction, as well as knowledge-making about them, CALA asks:

- What role can the production and reception of creative cultural texts play in contesting or complicating boundedness, containment, circumscription and its representation, and in theorizing how, when, and under what conditions new forms of interrelation might be realized?
- What obstacles must be circumvented as we read, write and share stories in order to mobilize such traversals? How might these challenges best be addressed? What is at stake in effecting such mobilizations?
- How can we account for differences in the capacity of subjects to cross borders or redraw boundaries through their encounters with artistic texts or creative endeavour?
- What forms of policing and regulation persist in reinscribing boundaries?
- How can the proximity of historically hostile or adversarial communities be addressed through work with story, literature or performance?
- How can the articulation or reframing of story enable boundary crossing?

This CALA conference seeks to explore the problematics of boundaries and boundary-crossing by inviting critical conversations about the production and representation of systemic marginalization and domination. As an academic association committed to exploring the critical, activist, pedagogical, and therapeutic applications of literature and story, CALA seeks proposals for papers, panels, or workshops that address literary and cultural representations that include but are not limited to the following possibilities:

- the treatment of boundaries and boundary crossings between and within subjects

- boundaries as sites of ethical engagement
- affect as “threshold crossing”
- re-imagining boundaries between health and illness, well-being and disease
- processes of deterritorialization and reterritorialization
- the politics of land claims
- walled states and inscription of physical boundaries
- ideas of “vertical sovereignty” (Mbembe)
- inscriptions and contestations of internal colonies and spaces of exception (the space of “extraordinary rendition,” the concentration camp, Guantanamo, the Bantustan or “homeland,” the refugee camp, the inner city, “sacrifice zones”)
- storytelling as spatial practice (de Certeau)
- border-crossing as a narrative/discursive act
- boundaries and intersectionality
- the regulation of disciplinary boundaries and the work of inter/cross/transdisciplinarity
- establishing interpersonal boundaries as a therapeutic agenda
- the body/flesh/skin as boundary
- “drawing the line” as legal/judicial imperative
- virtual mediations and contestations of boundaries; the circulation and contestation of stories in cyberspace
- (re)mapping notions of home
- collective memory as site of boundedness
- stagings and performance spaces: breaking the “fourth wall”
- rethinking the species boundary
- digital humanities as space of interdisciplinary encounter
- globalization and expansion, compression, inscription and/or dissolution of borders

CALA invites 300-word proposals. Please include with your submission a cover-page containing a 50-word bio and the following information: your name, the title of your paper, your e-mail address, and your phone number. On your cover-page, please also outline any specific audio-visual and space needs. The deadline for proposals is 10 January, 2014.

Please submit proposals electronically (in Word or RTF) to:

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DEADLINE: 10 January, 2014

All presenters must be members of CALA. Please visit the website for access to the membership form and additional information: <http://www.stmu.ca/CALA>

Questions about CALA or the annual CALA conference can be addressed to Sue Spearey (CALA President) at sspearey@brocku.ca or Kelly Hewson (CALA Vice-President) at khewson@mtroyal.ca