

CAS/ACS AGM 2019 – Conference organizer’s report

by Katherine Bowers (UBC), program chair and local arrangements coordinator for 2019 CAS

This year’s CAS conference is the largest among those held in the past 5 years, with 112 participants. I received proposals for 17 panels, 3 roundtables, and 1 poster session. Additionally, I received 57 individual paper proposals. All full sessions (panels, roundtables, and poster sessions) were accepted as well as 56 of the individual proposals. 2 participants plan to present their papers either via video conferencing or by proxy. 6 of those with accepted papers withdrew before the conference began.

The 2019 CAS conference features four open events:

- A contemporary Ukrainian literature evening organized by Alex Averbuch (U Toronto) on Sat, June 1st
- A screening of the film *The Stone Speakers* (Bosnia-Herzegovina and Canada, 2018) featuring an introduction by and Q&A with director Igor Drljača (UBC) on Sat, June 1st
- A roundtable, organized by Nicole Jackson (Simon Fraser U), about the new *Routledge Handbook of Russian Security* (Routledge, 2018) on Mon, June 3rd. The panel is a joint session with the Canadian Political Science Association and received funding from the Aid for Interdisciplinary Sessions Fund of the Congress/FHSS.
- A panel, organized by Christopher Burton (U Lethbridge), on “New Research on the History of Soviet Science.” The panel is a joint session with the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science.

An additional special event is a celebration of all books published by CAS attendees in the last year (June 2nd). The annual CAS dinner will be held at a local Lebanese restaurant on June 2nd evening following the President’s Reception. About a third of the conference participants plan to attend.

The presentations at this year’s conference include papers by 32 graduate students and 3 undergraduate students. Alex Averbuch (U Toronto) has organized two professional development sessions for graduate students: roundtables on publishing and the academic job market, respectively.

Particular thanks go to the students who volunteered to serve as conference assistants this year: Nikolai Choubine (McGill U), Marina Kadriu (Simon Fraser U), and Hannah Rudderham (U Alberta) who have helped to staff the CAS greeting table throughout the conference and have been helpful in running errands and assisting in a myriad of ways. Each received a free registration donated by an exec board member for their service.