

CAS/ACS AGM 2023 – Conference Organizer’s Report

By Kate Holland, U of T, program chair

This year’s CAS conference is the first in-person conference since our 2019 meeting in Vancouver. With 74 participants, it is rather smaller than Vancouver. To that end, we decided to shorten the conference to two days instead of the three originally planned. We received proposals for 9 panels and round tables and were able to put together another 12 panels from the 45 individual paper proposals received for a total of 21 conference sessions. All full sessions were accepted, as were all but three of the proposals. 5 of those with accepted papers pulled out before the conference began. Although the conference is mostly in person, we also have 4 hybrid panels, which allows five colleagues to present virtually through Zoom and the Congress platform who would otherwise be unable to participate in CAS this year. Unfortunately because of Congress organizational constraints and the high cost of the hybrid AV package, we were not able to provide much flexibility and colleagues had to apply to present virtually in January to be able to do so.

As well as the panels and round tables, this year’s conference includes a book presentation panel featuring 16 publications written and edited by colleagues since 2019, the last time we had an in-person conference and the first time we included a book presentation panel. It was important to the CAS executive that the 2023 conference should reflect the debates in and changes to our field since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. To that end, the conference is hosting the second of two decolonization events hosted by CAS. At the conference event, colleagues were asked to respond to a series of pre-circulated questions. We also organized a dinner at Pickle Barrel for the end of the CAS conference on Sunday.

Presenters came to York University from Canada, the United States, Germany, and Australia, and additionally we had virtual presentations from the UK, Germany, the USA and Canada. We had presentations by 13 graduate students, as well as professors, independent scholars, and research affiliates.

Although no colleagues availed themselves this year of the Congress Childcare Subsidy, we were able to take advantage of Congress Graduate Merit Awards. Congress was also able to help our displaced Ukrainians presenting by offering five complimentary passes for conference registration, which were gratefully received. Many thanks to Marko Stech, the Local Events Coordinator, without whom conference organization would have been impossible.