

ARAS Weekly Newsletter

Association of Retired Academic Staff



December 03rd, 2025

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH! 🎄 🧑🏻

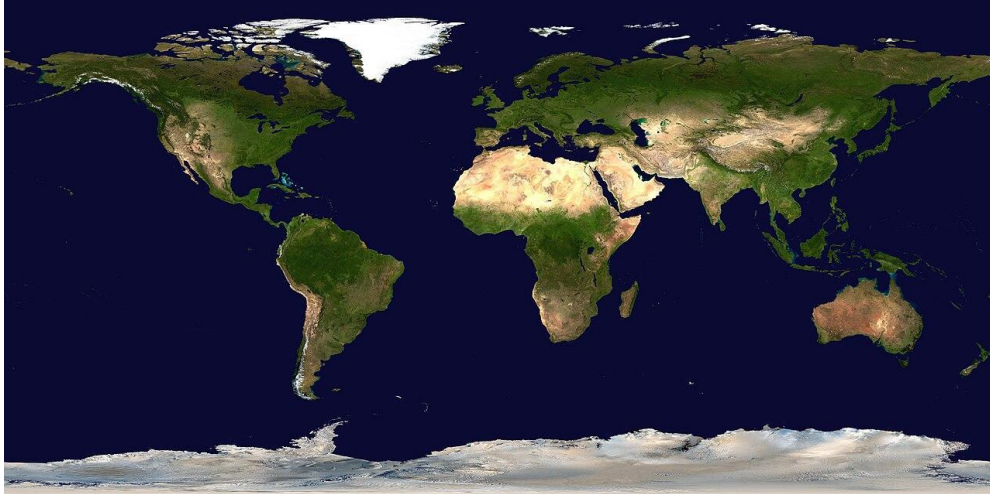


The annual Christmas Brunch will be held on **Monday, December 15th** at 11:00am in the Papaschase Room of the University Club. The cost of the brunch is \$35 and the lucky winners of the wine

bottles in the draw following the brunch will find the cost easy to bear. Don't miss this opportunity to socialize with old friends and make new ones. You are welcome to bring guests.

As has been the modus operandi in the past, we ask you to indicate via email at emirhse@ualberta.ca if you intend to come. In the past, and today, we also request that you pay in advance either by cheque sent to our office (address at the bottom of this Newsletter) or by INTERAC transfer to emirhse@ualberta.ca. If you are unable to come and provide us 2 days notice by email, your money will be refunded.

CURRENT AFFAIRS SALON



The next meeting of the Current Affairs Salon will take place at 2.00pm on **Thursday, December 4th** via zoom. As we come to the end of 2025, armed conflicts are breaking out all over the world, complemented by a number of unstable governments which could fall at any time. Will 2026 simply be a repeat of 2025 in terms of the status of those countries or will the world heat up some more (both in global temperature and armed conflicts). Will the migrations of large numbers of people continue or will steps taken by “wealthy

countries” to force potential migrants to stay in their own countries?

The Zoom coordinates for this meeting are

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83008835534?pwd=aKONPxDaAeyyCLw9KTUnzqlRf365Z.1#success>

Meeting ID: 830 0883 5534

Passcode: qn35hU4h

BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Book Club takes place on Wednesday,

December 10th at 2:30 pm in Room 1-46 of University Terrace

(8303 112 Street). The discussion of *Death at the Sign of the Rook*

by *Kate Atkinson*, will be led by David Cooper. Members may

participate either in-person or online. Beverley O'Brien

(bo1@ualberta.ca) will send a Zoom link beforehand for those

wishing to join virtually. If you wish to join the group, please contact

Vivien Bosley at vbosley@ualberta.ca . Please note that University Terrace is locked but there will be someone to meet you at the door when you arrive.

CURAC

Academics Without Borders (AWB) Volunteer Opportunity for Facilitators for Online Teaching in Higher Education Program

Note that UofA is a member of AWS-USF so ARAS members would be eligible to take up this offer of volunteer work

[See further details about the opportunity and apply](#)

One of CURAC'S Affinity Partners, HearingLife is offering a special deal on hearing aids. You can find information on this at:

<https://curac.ca/en/member-benefits/health-hearinglife>

McMaster University Online Session

Topic: Is dementia a vaccine-preventable condition?

Speaker: Dr. Dawn Bowdish, a professor with the Department of Medicine and Executive Director of the Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health, will share research showing that vaccines for

shingles, influenza, pneumonia, and more not only protect against infection but also reduce the risk of dementia and other conditions.

Wednesday, December 10

7.00 PM ET

[Register Here](#)

CURAC Zoom meeting recording

Watch Emeriti Network Zoom Meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, 17:00-19:00 CET: Central European time

Topic: How Retired Professors are Organized and How they E-collaborate

[Watch the recording here](#)

Humanities and Social Sciences

Big Thinking Summit 2026: Inflection Point

June 9 to 11, Edmonton Convention Centre, Edmonton, Alberta

The Federation's Big Thinking Summit: Inflection Point will bring the humanities and social sciences (HSS) to the forefront. Together, we must draw on historical, linguistic, cultural, and practice-based perspectives to open new possibilities for a Canada at the crossroads. Questions of legitimacy — who produces knowledge, whose voices are amplified, and how authority is recognized — are pressing to the fore. As public trust in postsecondary institutions is

tested, shifts in cross-sector partnerships must reshape how research connects with policy and community priorities. Innovations in teaching, inquiry, and knowledge sharing must redefine scholarship and how it circulates across all of society.

Calling on academics, community partners, and policymakers from across Canada to forge new collaborations and tackle these critical questions at the Big Thinking Summit: Inflection Point.

[Register](#)

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Damdini will be in the office Wednesday from 2-5 pm.

If you wish to unsubscribe from our mailing list, please reply to emirhse@ualberta.ca with "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. Thank you!