



Centre for Literatures in Canada
Centre de littératures au Canada



Cross-Pollinations **Conference**

June 16-20, 2026

Law Centre, University of Alberta
amiskwaci-y-wâskahikan / Edmonton, Alberta

Acknowledgements

As we open this Cross-Pollinations Conference – a collaboration between the CLC (Centre for Literatures in Canada/Centre de littératures au Canada) and ALECC (Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada) – we recognize what a privilege it is to be able to meet together in this place.

The University of Alberta is located on Treaty 6 territory and Districts 9 and 10 of the Métis Nation of Alberta. These lands around the kisiskâciwani-sîpiy (North Saskatchewan River) have long been a gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the nêhiyawak (Cree), Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Nakoda (Stoney), Dene, Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) and Anishinaabe (Ojibway/Saulteaux), and this side of campus sits on what was once the River Lot of Métis “farmer, community organizer and musician” Laurent Garneau. We are deeply grateful to Professor Dwayne Donald for opening the conference with a guided visit to the river valley, which has been significant to Indigenous people since time immemorial.

These lands are also home to countless more-than-human kin, with whom the Indigenous people of this place made the original treaties. You may meet magpies, pileated woodpeckers, chickadees, migrating warblers, snowshoe hares, jackrabbits, coyotes, trembling aspen, paper birch, high bush cranberries, and not-yet-ripe saskatoons; if you are out at night, you might be lucky enough to meet a porcupine or a flying squirrel. We’ve had a lot of rain this spring, so you are certainly going to meet a mosquito or two.

Our indoor spaces were generously provided by the Faculty of Law. The David Percy Lounge and Steve’s Hello My Friend Café are open to us for the duration of the conference.

BOOK ROOM

The conference Book Room (191) will be open during all 3 conference days, with UAlberta Press staff selling select titles each day, and Audreys Books selling other select titles on Friday from 2:45-5:20 PM.

Day One

Tuesday, June 16



AFTERNOON

1:15 PM ————— *Conference Check-in Begins*

2:00 PM ————— *Welcome Remarks
with Sarah Krotz (CLC)*

LOCATION

David Percy Lounge, Law Centre (LC)

Conference-Opening River Walk

Walk led by Dwayne Donald,
with readings by poet
Mackenzie Ground

*(Event open only to presenting
conference attendees)*

LOCATION

Kinsmen / Emily Murphy Park

Day Two

Wednesday, June 17



MORNING

8:45 AM ————— *Conference Check-in Opens*
Coffee, tea, baked goods, etc. provided

9:15 AM ————— *Welcome Remarks*
LOCATION
LC 231/237

9:30 - 11:00 AM ————— *Plenary Roundtable of CLC
Director and ALECC Presidents:
Looking Back and Forward in
Canadian Ecocriticism*

Chair: Jenny Kerber (ALECC/Wilfrid Laurier U)
Discussants: Sarah Krotz (CLC / UAlberta),
Pamela Banting (ALECC / UCalgary),
Catriona Sandilands (ALECC / YorkU)

LOCATION
LC 231/237

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM

Session 1

1A

Cross-Pollinations in Art and Science

Chair: Sarah Krotz

Gavin Bradley (UAlberta), "Two Sides of the Same Coin: Balancing Careers in Science and Literature"

Justine Karst (UAlberta), "Walking Disciplinary Lines: Where Does Science End and Art Begin?"

Ariel Gordon (Winnipeg) and **Amanda Schutz** (Edmonton), "Fungal Folktales: A collaborative Folktale Week WiP"

LOCATION

LC 105

1B

Workshop: Teaching in Times of Crisis

Adam Carlson (AUArts) and **Brent Ryan Bellamy** (TrentU)

LOCATION

LC 231

1C

Poetics of Gathering

Chair: Anita Girvan (UVictoria)

Matthew Cormier (UMoncton), "Dialect of Cross-Pollination: Chiac as Queer Poetics in the Work of Acadian Xénia Gould"

Michael Barnholden (Edmonton), "Louis Riel's Political Poetry: Tracing Falcon, Frechette and Hugo"

Molly Pearce (McGill), "Watershed Poetics: Gary Snyder and the *Planet/Drum Bundles*"

LOCATION

LC 101

Day Two *(cont'd)*

AFTERNOON

12:30 -
1:30 PM

Lunch

Film Screening: Michał Krawczyk, *The Forms of Landscape*

LOCATION

LC 101

1:30 - 3:00 PM

Session 2

2A

Workshop: Pedagogies of Visiting: Ecological Thinking with Habitat Studies, Research-Creation, and the Sun

Deborah Schamuhn Kirk (UAlberta), Charis St. Pierre (UAlberta), Emily Hoven (UAlberta), and Jason Purcell (UAlberta)

LOCATION

LC main entrance. *Workshop will take place outside*

2B

Decolonial Ecologies: Literature & Practice

Chair: Susie O'Brien (McMaster)

Tania Aguila-Way (UToronto), "Seed-Saving as Decolonial Allyship: Reflections from a Diasporic Mexican Scholar Living in Haudenosaunee Territory"

Anita Girvan (UVictoria), "Cassava Coalitions: Reading Racialized Ecologies With/Against Anthropocentric Colonial Conquest"

Anna Butler-Koo (UToronto), "'to return here': Larissa Lai's *Tiger Flu* and Rita Wong and Fred Wah's *beholden*"

LOCATION

LC 101

2C

Burning Questions

Chair: Adam Carlson (AUArts)

Mark Simpson (UAlberta), "Wildfire Aesthesis"

Neil Surkan (Vancouver Island U), "*Empties*: Poems on the Brink(s)"

Jolene Armstrong (Athabasca U) & **Monique Tschofen** (Toronto Metropolitan U), "Sounding the Crisis: Reframing Listening as an Act of Accountability and Ecological Care"

LOCATION

LC 105

----- *Coffee Break (15 Min)* -----

3:15 - 4:30 PM

Session 3

3A

Literary Walk I

Hosted by Ariel Gordon, featuring Angela Waldie, Ken Wilson, and Jason Purcell

LOCATION

This walk will focus on trails in Kinsmen Park, toward 109 Street NW bridge (High Level Bridge)

3B

Reading for Change

Chair: Mark Simpson (UAlberta)

Kennedy Dragt (UCLouvain), "Reading Religiously Beyond the Anthropocene"

Jennifer McDougall (UCalgary), "Below the Surface: Research Creation, Petrofiction and the Struggle to Move Alberta Energy's Corporate Mindset"

Mohadeseh Mousazadeh Miandehi (Arizona State U), "Cross-Pollinating Futures: Speculative Fiction, Feminist Ecologies, and Transnational Environmental Justice"

LOCATION

LC 101

3C

Sounding it Out

Chair: Kit Dobson (UCalgary)

Meaghan Sych (UAlberta), "Walk Out and Listen:
A Sonic Habitat Study"

Shirley Roburn (YorkU), "Resonant Readings:
The Sonic Stories of Delgamuukw v. the Queen"

LOCATION

LC 105

EVENING

6:30 -
8:50 PM

Film Screening at Metro Cinema: Singing Back the Buffalo

Q&A with filmmaker Tasha Hubbard
and producer Jason Ryle, hosted by
Jordan Kinder

LOCATION

Metro Cinema
8712 109 St NW

NEAR THE METRO CINEMA

Restaurant Recommendations

Sugarbowl (10922 88 Ave; known for its craft beer selection)

Highbowl Diner (10912 88 Ave; comfort food)

Rosso Pizzeria (8738 109 St; salads & pizzas)

La Poutine (8720 109 St; limited indoor seating)

Remedy Cafe (8631 109 St; Indian- and Pakistani-inspired food)

Farrow (8422 109 St; feature sandwiches, vegan option; to-go only)

Cafe Mosaics (10844 82 Ave; vegan/vegetarian menu)

Day Three



Thursday, June 18

MORNING

9:00 -
10:30 AM

*Plenary Roundtable:
Racialized Ecologies:
Methods and Approaches*

Chair: Susie O'Brien (McMaster)

Discussants: Tania Aguila-Way (UToronto),
Susie O'Brien, and Anita Girvan (UVictoria)

LOCATION

LC 231/237

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

Session 4

4A

Literary Walk II

Hosted by Tanis Macdonald, featuring Elee Kraljii Gardiner,
Lisa Martin, and SaraSwoti Lamichhane

LOCATION

This walk will take place in River Valley clearing
below the Humanities Centre

4B

Indigenous-Settler Relations

Chair: Susie O'Brien (McMaster)

Jordyn Sheldon (YorkU), "Harm Reduction as Ecological
Method: Cross-Pollinating Climate Justice and Drug Policy"

Kalina Wolska-Chaney (UCalgary), "Indigi-Present Ecocritical
Writing: A Cross-Pollinatory Approach for Crafting Non-
Indigenous Anthropocene Literatures in Canada"

Day Three *(cont'd)*

Paul Huebener (Athabasca U), ““Oh my Geaaaaaaaaaaaaaawwwd!":
A Canada Day Tug of War Between Stephen Leacock and
Richard Van Camp”

Rebeca Ávila García (UAlberta), “Climate Fiction in the
Anthropocene: an Environmental Ethics of Indigenous Storytelling”

LOCATION

LC 105

4C

More-than-Human Natures

Chair: **Tathagata Som** (UCalgary)

Raquel Mendes (York U), “Cross-Pollinations and Cross-
Contaminations: Exploring Urban More-than-Human Reciprocity
Through Research-Creation”

Tathagata Som, “Learning from Animal Intelligences in the
Age of GenAI”

Shashikumar Jayaramappa (UAlberta), “The Shattered Ladder:
Literary Ecology, Anthropocentrism, and the Poetics of
Interconnection in Adam Dickinson’s ‘Great Chain of Being’”

Lu Yu (Nanjing Normal U/UAlberta), “From Fukushima to Cortes Island:
Nuclear Writing and Ecological Entanglements in
A Tale for the Time Being”

LOCATION

LC 101

12:15 -
1:15 PM

Mentor Lunch

Keighlagh Donovan (UAlberta) and
Kaitlyn Purcell (UCalgary), “Birds of
a Feather: On Mentorship, Mothering,
and Becoming Teachers in Academia”

LOCATION

LC 101

1:15 - 2:45 PM

Session 5

5A

On Ice

Chair: Dianne Chisholm (UAlberta)

Yvonne Blomer (Victoria) and contributing poets: Launch of *Sublime: Poems for Vanishing Ice* (selected poems from this collection will be read in between the following talks)

Emma Rath (Laurentian U), "We Build to Break: Architectural and Archival Ways of Knowing Sea Ice"

Jessica Turner (Queen's U), "Art and Affect: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of Climate Communication in *Contemplating Glaciers*"

Brennan McCracken (Concordia U), "Ice as form: A Speculative Genealogy"

LOCATION

LC 105

5B

Becomings

Chair: Meaghan Sych (UAlberta)

Emma Ferrett (Queen's U), "What took you so long?": Plant-Becoming in John Elizabeth Stintzi's *My Volcano*"

Jason Wiens (UCalgary) & **Annie Murray** (UCalgary), "Nature Runs Its Course: Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* in Controlled and Uncontrolled Climates"

Ken Wilson (URegina), "'Dirty Nature Writing' in Recent Canadian Creative Nonfiction"

L. Camille van der Marel (MacEwan U), "'there may be stories left near the shore': The Early Career Work of Re-Placing Ourselves"

LOCATION

LC 101

----- *Coffee Break (15 Min)* -----

Day Three *(cont'd)*

3:00 - 4:30 PM

Session 6

6A

Ecological Metaphors in Poetry, Fiction, and Literary Studies

Chair: Nicholas Bradley (UVictoria)

Jenny Kerber (Wilfrid Laurier U), "Writing the Botanical in Contemporary African American Sports Poetry"

Nicholas Bradley, "Ecological Metaphors for Literary Studies (Especially in Canada)"

Robert McGill (UToronto), "Speculative Fiction, Metaphor, and Integrated Systems Thinking"

LOCATION

LC 237

6B

Water II

Chair: Pamela Banting (UCalgary)

Allison Hargreaves (UBC-Okanagan), "'alone & small, you look & listen for others': water, relationality, and world-building in *perpetual*"

Shannon Stunden Bower (UAlberta), "Forestalling Failure: The Multipurpose Concept within Water Resources Management in mid-20th Century Saskatchewan"

Brandon Kerfoot (UAlberta), "Dancing in Water: Building Inter-worldly Relationships through Pollen, Water, and Vision"

LOCATION

LC 101

6C

Creating Change: Book Talks

Chair: Neil Surkan (Vancouver Island U)

Angela Waldie (Mount Royal U), "*A Single Syllable of Wild: Poetry as Research*"

Elee Kraljii Gardiner (Vancouver), "*sometimes, forest*"
(book reading and discussion)

LOCATION

LC 105

EVENING

4:45 -
6:00 PM

Prairie Pollinations: New Prose and Poetry on the Ecological and Built Environment from Prairie Publishers

Join prairie publishers UAlberta Press, AU Press, UCalgary Press, and URegina Press in celebrating new literary titles.

Featured readings by Dianne Chisholm, Kyle Flemmer, Lisa Martin, Alice Major, Kim Trainor, Ken Wilson, and Ken Carriere.

Light snacks and soft drinks to be served.

LOCATION

Henderson Hall,
Rutherford Library South 1-17

Day Four



Friday, June 19

MORNING

9:00 AM

Conference Check-in Opens

Coffee, tea, baked goods, etc. provided

9:30 -
10:30 AM

Keynote: Sonnet L'Abbé (Vancouver Island U)

'I sound brown where breath most
breathes, and intervene in the green
mouths of men': ecocritical stakes of
understanding voice as embodied sense'

LOCATION

LC 231/237

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

Session 7

7A

Cross-Pollinating Visual and Textual Collaborations

Chair: Laura Moss (UBC)

Erin Wunker (Dalhousie U), "*Future Howl: On Sue Goyette's
Feminist Ars Poetica*"

Laura Moss, "Haida Manga: Cross-Pollinating
Comic Traditions"

Lily Cho (YorkU), "Chinatown: Cross-Pollinations of Literature
and Photography"

Veronica Austen (St. Jerome's U), "'More than a Scape':
Roy Kiyooka, Image-making, and Belonging"

LOCATION

LC 101

7B

Speculative Pasts, Presents, and Futures

Chair: Terri Tomsy (UAlberta)

Babak Ashrafkhani Limoudehi (UVictoria), "The Anthropocene and Post-Pastoral Landscapes in J.G. Ballard's *The Day of Creation*"

Alex Blais (UCalgary), "Yardsticks of Collapse: The Skyscraper as Hauntological Motif in Contemporary Climate Fiction"

Ben Berman Ghan (UCalgary), "Beckett on Bodies, Ecologies, and Time"

Karen McFayden (UAlberta), "'Bees who Pollinate Cut Flowers': Contamination Ecology in Douglas Coupland's *Girlfriend in a Coma*"

LOCATION

LC 237

7C

Indigenous Creative Ecological Engagement and Relationality

Chair: Erin Sutherland (UAlberta)

Avelina Rathbone (UAlberta), "Examining Post-Consumer Waste in Indigenous Art"

Becca Taylor (MacEwan U), "Gathering in the Garden: Land-Based Creative Action in kamâmak nihtâwihcikan"

Erin Sutherland, "Indigenous Women's Land-Based Performance Art"

Stephanie Oliver (UAlberta-Augustana), "'There is...the scent of roses': Deixis as Literary Landsensing in Jordan Abel's *Empty Spaces*"

LOCATION

LC 105

12:15 -
1:15 PM

— *Lunch*

LOCATION

David Percy Lounge

Day Four *(cont'd)*

1:15 - 2:45 PM

Session 8

8B

More-than-Human Intelligences

Chair: Deborah Schamuhn Kirk (UAlberta)

Emily Zepick (USaskatchewan), "Teaching Youth to Listen to the Stars: Land-Based Educational and Bibliographic Approaches to the Poetry of Jane Johnston Schoolcraft (Bamewawagezhikaquay)"

Peri Dworatzek (York U), "Socio-economic change from a single person's witness statement? Assessing the impactfulness of the documentary film, *David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet*"

Margaryta Golovchenko (AUArts), "The Captive Speaks: Bear Tales from Within the Zoo"

Richard Costa (UAlberta), "Communing with Corvids: Literary Ecology, Habitat Studies, and Corvid Omnivory"

LOCATION

LC 101

8C

Re-Storying the Prairies

Chair: Sarah Krotz (UAlberta)

Tanis MacDonald (Wilfrid Laurier), "Bisoning: Biopower, Tallgrass Prairie, and Resurgence"

Leilei Chen (UAlberta), "Carrying Meaning Across Languages: Translating *A Bird in the House*"

Nora Foster Stovel (UAlberta), "Celebrating the Centenary of Margaret Laurence's Manawaka Saga through Cross-Pollinations"

Rachel Burlock (UAlberta), "Dry prairie stereotypes and wet prairie stories"

LOCATION

LC 105

3:00 - 4:30 PM

Session 9

9A

Literary Walk III

Hosted by Yvonne Blomer, featuring Kelly Shepherd, Kaitlyn Purcell, and Tanis MacDonald

LOCATION

This walk will focus on trails in Kinsmen Park, from the Edmonton Forest School toward the Dudley B. Menzies Bridge

9B

Methods of Saving the Earth: Writing for Wider Audiences

Chair and Discussant: Ariel Gordon (Winnipeg)

Trish Audette-Longo (Carleton U), "Embodied Climate Journalism and the Environmental Humanities: Interrogating Methodological Approaches"

Erna Buffie (Winnipeg), "*Out on A Limb: Saving the Urban Forest*"

LOCATION

LC 105

4:45 -
5:45 PM

ALECC Annual General Meeting

LOCATION

LC 101

EVENING

6:00 PM

Closing Dinner & Bondar Prize

Dinner served at 6:30

LOCATION

Room at the Top (RATT)
Student Union Building, 7th floor

Day Five

Saturday, June 20



FIELD TRIPS

Sign-up Required

Muttart Conservatory Tour

(Graduate students only)

Public Art Walking Tours

Tawatinâ Bridge (limited to 8 spaces)

SELF-ORGANIZED

Old Strathcona Farmers' Market &
Downtown Farmers' Market

Fort Edmonton Park

Art Gallery of Alberta

Elk Island National Park

Thank you!

ALECC

Killam Research Fund

Faculty of Arts, UAlberta

Faculty of Law, UAlberta

Steve / Hello My Friend Café

Calgary Institute for the Humanities, UCalgary

Department of English, UCalgary

Metro Cinema, Edmonton

University of Alberta Press

Audreys Books

Professor Dwayne Donald

VOLUNTEERS

Francina Cousins, AJ Jia, Navreet Gill

CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

Sarah Krotz, Nicole Brandsma, Cassidy Hogg,

Kit Dobson, Jordan Kinder, Lisa Szabo-Jones, Ariel Gordon

Thanks to all of you for visiting and sharing your work!



Call for Papers: Research and Teaching Cluster

Editors: Stephen Ross (Victoria) and Deanna Reder (Simon Fraser)

“Reconciliation in Action”

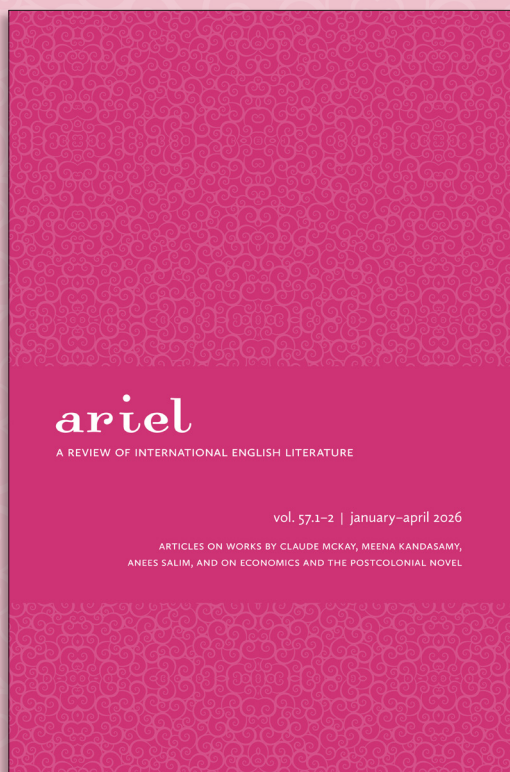
It has now been over a decade since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission wrapped up. How have English (or cognate) departments across Canada responded to the TRC’s Calls to Action? What concrete actions have been taken to advance decolonization and Indigenization? Has your department made curricular changes to transform your programs? Has your department changed its hiring practices? Where are the resistance points? Are there stall tactics you have seen employed? What emotional resiliencies are needed to do this work? Are there any anti-racist initiatives that you or your colleagues have undertaken? Does your department or university have ongoing relationships with local Indigenous nations and if so, how is that reflected? If your department or administration has been unwilling, what are the strategies you personally have undertaken? Even if we are teaching more Indigenous works than we were a decade ago, have we seriously thought about what’s at stake in deciding who teaches those works and how?

This cluster in *ESC* invites contributions that address the challenges and successes English departments have had in the last decade. What are the success stories? Where have there been failures? What resistance has been encountered and how (or has) it been overcome? What work remains to be done? What models can we adapt and adopt, and how can we share strategies for doing better?

Please direct questions and inquiries to the co-editors. 200-word abstracts due to [Deanna Reder](#) and [Stephen Ross](#) by 30 June 2026.

ariel

A REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LITERATURE



Editors:
Michael T. Clarke and **Kit
Dobson,**
University of Calgary

ariel is a journal focused on the critical and scholarly study of literatures in English around the world. The journal publishes original articles in postcolonial studies exploring colonial power and resistance as well as innovative scholarship on globalization, new forms and sites of exploitation, colonization, and decolonization in an age of transnational capitalism, displacement and diaspora studies, global ecocriticism, cultural and cross-cultural translation, and related areas.

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ALECC

ALECC is a Canadian association for the study of environment and culture that brings together artistic, activist, and academic communities. We welcome the participation of individuals from any related scholarly, activist, or artistic communities, and aim to facilitate collaboration across life experiences and career stages.

Memberships support our biennial conference and book award, student scholarships, and our official journal *The Goose*.



Scan the QR code for more information on how to become an ALECC member

CLC

The Centre for Literatures in Canada/Centre de littératures au Canada is a research centre at UAlberta. We hold literary readings and conversations with Canadian authors and scholars throughout the academic year that are free and open to the public. We are also a resource for researchers.

With your help, the CLC can continue to foster communities of readers, writers, teachers, students, and scholars of Canadian literature and its diverse literary landscapes.



Scan the QR code to donate to the CLC. Find more information about the centre at uab.ca/clc

CALL FOR PAPERS

From One Solitude to Another: Dialogues around Québécois Literature, Indigenous Literatures, and CanLit

DEADLINE

December 15, 2026

From the CLC's "From One Solitude to Another" bilingual speaker series comes a special edition of *Canadian Literature* with guest editors Marie-Andrée Bergeron (University of Calgary) and Sarah Krotz (University of Alberta, CLC Director). This issue invites essays, creative interventions, and dialogues that speak across traditions, identities, and sovereignties. Bilingual and co-authored submissions welcome. 7,000–8,000 words, in English or French.



Scan the QR Code (or go to <https://canlit.ca/call-for-papers-from-one-solitude-to-another-dialogues-around-quebecois-literature-indigenous-literatures-and-canlit/>) for full submission details.

