



Association étudiante autochtone



Annual Conference CIÉRA-CPNUQAM-AÉA 14-15 April, 2016

Université du Québec à Montréal

Being an Indigenous student: Postsecondary experiences and journeys

Organised by the Centre interuniversitaire d'études et de recherches autochtones (CIÉRA) and the Cercle des Premières Nations de l'Université du Québec à Montréal (CPNUQAM), in partnership with Association Ok8api de l'Université de Montréal and Association étudiante autochtone de l'Université Laval (AÉA), the 14th Annual Conference of CIÉRA explores postsecondary experiences and journeys of Indigenous students.

Expanding upon a theme already addressed by CIÉRA in 2007 and in keeping with recent research that is developing on this topic in Canada, this conference proposes to address the question of Cégep and university education for Indigenous students. While higher education is an important issue for Indigenous organisations and the number of Inuit and First Nations graduates is constantly rising, members of these nations represent an under-recognised minority in the academic milieu. Collaboration with Indigenous student associations from three francophone universities is an ideal occasion for discussing and elaborating collectively possible avenues for action.

For many years, CIÉRA has encouraged collaboration between researchers and participants from all types of environments. In keeping with this approach, the 14th annual conference will be open

to all and will foster collaboration, while granting a key place to Indigenous students and representatives of their student associations. Representatives of Indigenous organisations and representatives of programs and services for Indigenous students offered by Québec's establishments are also cordially invited. Within the context of the conference, a gathering for Indigenous students will be organised and it will provide a forum for the province's First Nations and Inuit peoples.

The 14th annual conference proposes to explore this year's theme through three interrelated topics:

1. Experiences of Indigenous students: challenges and issues
2. Institutional norms and practices: towards a better involvement of Indigenous cultures?
3. Urban setting: complex cultural dynamics

An important place will be granted to Cégep and university graduates or future graduates who are often very involved in their communities, in the cities or in the academic milieu. What do past and current students, political, cultural, artistic or community leaders, have to say? What are or what were their challenges, their experiences? What influences did higher education have on their choices and their career-paths, regardless of whether they obtained a diploma? Challenges concerning the experience of Indigenous students imply a necessary examination of institutional norms and practices. Within a non-assimilative perspective, borders between the student's adaptation for responding to external norms and the institution's adaptation for acknowledging and respecting the student's origins will be explored. In the light of this, would it be relevant to establish compulsory Indigenous courses within educational institutions, to promote the emergence of an Indigenous university?

Urban dynamics will constitute an important topic of investigation at this year's conference. Pursuing higher education implies an almost inevitable move into an urban setting. Though it is often perceived as a culture shock by the students who have grown within communities, it is important to remember that for some the city is also a familiar place that allows to experience differently Indigenous identities, knowledge and world views. Living within an urban setting can be experienced as an exile and it always produces complex cultural dynamics. This conference will be an occasion to shed light on this question by relying on the experiences of numerous establishments within the province and of Cégep Kiuna, the first Cégep for First Nations people situated within an Indigenous community.

The conference will start on Thursday, April 14 2016 with the session on Current and On-going Research. Presentations on research that is not linked with the theme of the conference are welcome. The cultural evening will allow to (re)discover Indigenous artists active on the Montréal scene. Friday, April 15 will be dedicated to presentations by Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants on this year's conference theme. The conference will end festively with an event organised by Cercle des Premières Nations de l'Université du Québec à Montréal (CPNUQAM), a sign of presence of Indigenous youth in Québec.

Please submit a title and an abstract of 200 words maximum before **February 29, 2016** to the

following address: cieramontreal@gmail.com

Presentations will be 15 to 20 minutes long (depending on the number of participants). A preliminary program will be available at the end of March. Chosen papers will be published in conference proceedings (<https://www.ciera.ulaval.ca/cahiers-du-ciera>).

During the conference, launches of books on Indigenous related topics are encouraged and space will be provided for exhibit booths. Please contact us: cieramontreal@gmail.com.

Information:

Organising committee: Terry Randy Awashish, Séraphin Guy Balla Ndegue, Sébastien Brodeur-Girard, Julie Bruneau, Emanuelle Dufour, Benoît Ethier, Sipi Flamand, Marie-Charlotte Franco, Sophie Guignard, Gustavo Zamora Jimenez, Marilou Maisonneuve, Audry Sanschagrin, Julien Vadeboncoeur, Dagmara Zawadzka.

Coordination: Stéphanie Boulais, Marie-Anne Ladouceur, Léa Lefevre-Radelli

Email : cieramontreal@gmail.com

Location of the conference :

The conference will be held at the UQAM. The location will be provided at a later date.

Registration:

Online : the registration form will be available on the CIÉRA website www.ciera.ulaval.ca.

Information will also be available on the CPNUQAM website <http://www.cpn.uqam.ca/fr>.

Contact information :

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