



Canada and war/Le Canada et les guerres

19 – 21 May 2016

Toruń, Poland

Call for papers

In continuity with the theme of the last PACS conference “The Peaceable Kingdom? Cultural and language communities in Canada and the rule of law,” we would like to invite you to participate in the 7th Congress of Polish Canadianists, devoted to the problem of war. The conference will take place between May 19 and May 21, 2016, at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland.

We are delighted to announce that the following key-note speakers have confirmed their presence at our conference: **Donna Coates** (University of Calgary), **Robert Dion** (Université du Québec à Montréal), **Petr Kyloušek** (Masaryk University in Brno), and **Martin Löschnigg** (University of Graz).

We hope to draw scholars from a variety of disciplines within the Canadian Studies and beyond who want to reflect on war as an abstract concept and in reference to real historical conflicts in various Canadian contexts, in the past and today. Traditionally, Canada has been imagined as a peaceful ideal which offers freedom, equality and tolerance to all, a country involved in international humanitarian missions, ready to sacrifice its soldiers for the sake of global peace. Does the political and cultural history of Canada actually confirm this idyllic image? Starting with the conflicts for land between settlers and the First Nations, through wars between the French and the English on North American territory, through Métis rebellions, to tensions between linguistic, ethnic, and religious groups, separatist tendencies and various demands for autonomy and self-government, Canada might appear a country internally divided, whose history is full of contentions, resentments, and blank spaces. From its early colonial past, through the dominion status, and later as an independent nation-state, Canada has been involved in external conflicts: French and English rivalries, the Boer War, WWI and WWII, the Cold War, tensions between the West and Muslim fundamentalists, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The organizers of the conference invite you to consider how the tension between Canada as *a peacekeeping nation* and Canada as *a warrior nation* is reflected in historiography, politics, literature, film, visual arts, and other cultural discourses. Potential proposals include, but are not limited to, the following:

- war traumas and their consequences on the level of identity and community

- early historical conflicts at the colony and conquest stage
- Canadian participation in external conflicts and geopolitical rivalries, such as the Boer War, the two World Wars, the Cold War, and the rivalry in the Arctic
- the Great War between myth and history
- Canada's involvement in the conflicts in the Middle East and their repercussions on Canadian territory; war against terrorism
- Canada and Russia today
- economic and political tensions at present and in the past
- Canadian military history; Canadian peacekeeping missions
- the reintegration of veterans
- linguistic, ethnic, racial, and religious conflicts in Canada vs. the policy of multiculturalism
- marginalized perspectives on conflict: women's, ethnic minorities', various "outsiders"
- multicultural discourses: wars and conflicts in geographies situated beyond Canadian territory
- parody and fictionalization of historical events
- alternative historical visions
- the politics and poetics of commemoration.

Proposals for 20-minute papers and a brief CV with your title, institutional affiliation, as well as email and mailing address should be sent to pacs2016@umk.pl by 30 October 2015. Submissions will be acknowledged by email by 15 December 2015.

Conference organizers:

Anna Branach-Kallas

Renata Jarzębowska-Sadkowska

Piotr Sadkowski

Nelly Strehlau

Paweł Ufnal

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