

2010 CHA ANNUAL MEETING (May 30–June 1)

Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association
Concordia University 2010

Please note that in the preliminary schedule of the Congress 2010, the CHA has been scheduled to meet from Sunday, 30 May to Tuesday, 1st June. The final conference dates will be posted on the CHA website by early October.

"Telling Stories/Storytelling"

Storytelling is one of the oldest forms of communication. In telling stories about the past, historians, novelists, playwrights, teachers, museum curators, film makers, artists, illustrators, musicians, and public historians (to name just a few) engage in the task of making sense of "histories" that are often violent, always contradictory, and endlessly fascinating. These stories matter; for what is being told, how it is being told, and what is being left unsaid shapes our sense of place, community and nation, indeed our very sense of self.

What was the place of stories and storytelling in the past? To whom were these stories told, and why? Whose stories were they? How do people construct stories about themselves and others? In what voice are these stories being told? How are stories passed through the generations? Which narrative conventions govern the process of storytelling? How does storytelling draw lines of inclusion and exclusion? What is the relationship between storytelling and collective memory? How does audience shape what is said and not said? How do we as historians tell stories about the past and to whom? In which ways can stories of the past be told in art, documentary media and practice, performance, museum exhibition, classroom pedagogy, and other digital environments? When, and how, can the act of "telling stories" become a catalyst for political action and social change?

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association invites proposals in French and English from a broad range of disciplines and projects. In keeping with the Congress theme for 2010 "Connected Understanding/Le savoir branché", we are interested in connecting scholars working in different fields and in exploring the ties between university researchers and public audiences beyond the academic world. Panel proposals for sessions that forge connections between disciplines are particularly welcome, as are proposals that embrace unconventional ways of "telling stories" about the past (such as historical displays, performances, storytelling circles, audioscapes, and memoryscapes) or bring together scholars at different stages of their careers.

You are invited to submit a 250-350 word proposal and a one-page curriculum vitae. In your submission, please indicate if you are proposing an individual presentation or a panel session, or intend to communicate your research findings in another way. We welcome session proposals, but do reserve the right to break up panels. Prospective presenters are encouraged to become members of the CHA. Please submit your proposal to shc_cha@alcor.concordia.ca. The deadline for submissions is Friday, 30 October 2009. For further information, please contact Barbara Lorenzkowski, Co-Programme Chair, 2010 Annual Meeting of the CHA at shc_cha@alcor.concordia.ca