Highlights
May 30 – June 5, 2015
#congresssh
About Congress

The Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences is proud to have brought you the 84th Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, the largest multidisciplinary academic gathering in Canada, and one of the largest in the world. With over 5,800 papers presented this year at the University of Ottawa, Congress is a unique opportunity for the humanities and social science (HSS) research community to connect with colleagues and peers, but also to network and share research and findings with policy-makers, funding agencies, the media and the public at large. Over seven exciting days, this annual event had something for everyone:

- Unparalleled opportunity for cross-disciplinary scholarly discussions
- Professional development workshops for scholars at all career stages
- Forward-looking programming on issues such as the future of work and advocating for HSS in different countries
- Sessions on funding opportunities with federal granting agencies
- Information on international research collaboration opportunities
- Canada’s largest academic trade show, Expo

Capital Ideas

In keeping with the Congress 2015 theme of “Capital Ideas”, this year’s Congress had an impressive array of international and interdisciplinary programming, open to all attendees. Over and above the 69 participating associations’ own extensive programs, there was a plethora of sessions to attend—including a roster of Big Thinking lectures organized by the Federation, Interdisciplinary Symposia championed by uOttawa and Career Corner workshops on how to write more prolifically, get published more quickly and drive citations through social media. Highlights include:

- the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council’s annual Storytellers Showcase, whose judging panel included Paul Kennedy of CBC Ideas
- a Royal Society of Canada event on the future of libraries and archives, moderated by former Federation President, Antonia Maioni
- an interactive Mitacs session examining how academic discovery leads to tangible outcomes

The Big Thinking series at Congress featured leading scholars and public figures who presented forward-looking research, thought-provoking ideas and solutions to the critical issues of our time.

What do we do about the legacy of Indian residential schools?
Justice Murray Sinclair

Whither francophone cultures in America?
Joseph Yvon Thériault, FRSC

Extremely vast and incredibly near: The inner world of Montreal
Monique Proulx

Innovation in learning
His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada

Humanities and the future of democracies
Azar Nafisi

Integration and citizenship in North America and Europe: Different paths, similar outcomes?
Thomas Faist and Irene Bloemraad

Imagining Canada in a disenchanted world
Jean Leclair

All of these Big Thinking lectures can be viewed at: congress2015.ca/bigtaking

Congress by the numbers

9,000 attendees
5,805 papers
7 Big Thinking events attended by 1,300 people
69 scholarly associations
239 media stories
9,600+ tweets using #congressh hashtag
66 exhibitors at Expo
23 special events and book launches in Expo
77% of attendees that rated Congress as Good or Excellent
Co\ngress in the news

Creating meaningful connections between researchers and the broader community is a key goal for Congress organizers, who proactively reach out to media outlets, to promote and convey the value of social sciences and humanities research to Canadians.

Congress 2015 research garnered extensive media coverage from regional and national outlets, with nearly 240 stories running in over 90 different online, print, radio and television outlets.

- The National Post ran an eight-part series “Oh, the Humanities,” which featured an assortment of research, from discussion on the growth of human rights claims, to fanaticism around food, to political scandals in Canadian history.

- The Globe & Mail published five stories about Congress, including a look at the role of the Academy in Aboriginal Reconciliation, a look at electoral reform and intergenerational knowledge gaps, and publish-or-perish attitudes in post-secondary education.

- Power and Influence magazine ran a spread on Thinking Big in Ottawa about the Big Thinking lectures this year.

- ICI Radio-Canada’s Daniel Mathieu interviewed Ruby Heap, uOttawa’s Congress Academic Convenor, and also hosted the Joseph Yvon Thériault’s Big Thinking event.

- TV Rogers’ show Entre-nous was on campus for three days and interviewed 14 academics, including Federation President Stephen Toope.

Host university programming

uOttawa organized a series of half-day Interdisciplinary Symposia designed to explore novel interdisciplinary research activities being conducted on issues of national and global importance in the social sciences and humanities:

- Making change: Research, policy, practice
- When data meets the soul of culture
- Global shifts and Canada’s international policy
- Technological unemployment and the future of work
- Promoting children’s rights and resilience: An interdisciplinary perspective
- Corporate governance and sustainable development
- Climate change policies for a low carbon economy, with former Premier of Québec Jean Charest as a panelist

Impact on community and campus

Congress had an estimated $10 million economic impact to the National Capital Region

- 7,834 accommodation room nights
- 289 local volunteers
- 101 local hires
- 60 on-campus receptions
- 771 catering orders served
- 36,000 coffee cups served
- 3,250 total attendees at 3 President’s Receptions
- 80 children in onsite child minding

Congress 2016...

Missed Congress 2015? Simply can’t get enough? Congress 2016 will be hosted by the University of Calgary from May 28 to June 3, 2016 in Calgary, Alberta. Guided by the theme “Energizing communities”, the 85th Congress will focus on interdisciplinarity, engagement across communities and with the public, as well as a continued commitment to Reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples. Already, the preliminary keynote speaker lineup features Beverley McLachlin, Wade Davis, Chantal Hébert and Leroy Little Bear. Learn more at congress2016.ca

Future Congresses:

- 2017
  - Ryerson University
  - Toronto, Ontario
  - May 27 – June 2, 2017

- 2018
  - University of Regina
  - Regina, Saskatchewan
  - May 26 to June 1, 2018
Congress 2015 Sponsors:
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