HIGHLIGHTS
May 24 to 30, 2014
About Congress

The Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences is proud to have brought you our 83rd Congress, the largest multidisciplinary academic gathering in Canada—indeed, one of the largest such gatherings in the world. Congress 2014 will be remembered for its interdisciplinarity, for the 75 scholarly association meetings and the 5,000+ research papers presented. It took place in an outstanding setting at the beautiful Brock University campus in St. Catharines, Ontario in the heart of the Niagara region. Congress is not only a unique opportunity for the 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. This annual event forges essential links between academia and the world beyond, offering:

- Unparalleled opportunity for cross-disciplinary scholarly discussions
- Professional development workshops for scholars at all stages of their careers
- Canada’s largest academic book fair
- Forward-looking programming on topics such as the future of the PhD and copyright issues
- Sessions on funding opportunities with federal granting agencies
- Information on international research collaboration opportunities

Congress truly has something for everyone, spanning seven days and bringing the community more than 2,500 events—meetings, panel presentations, keynote speeches, films, theatre, musical performances and art exhibits—many free and open to the public.

Congress impact on the community

- 350 local volunteers
- 125 local hires
- 70+ on-campus receptions
- 10,200 accommodation room nights
- 60 beer kegs, 120 cases of local wine and 900 catering orders served
- $10 million estimated economic impact to the Niagara region

Congress in the news

Creating meaningful connections between researchers and the broader community is a key goal for Congress organizers, both at the Federation and at the host university. Through proactive outreach to media, government and other stakeholders, the Federation leverages each Congress to promote and convey the value of social sciences and humanities research to Canadians.

Congress 2014 garnered extensive media coverage from regional and national outlets, with over 180 stories running in 85+ different online, print, radio and television outlets.

- The National Post ran an eight-part series “Oh, the Humanities,” highlighting some of the fascinating research showcased at Congress 2014, and also published an op-ed by Big Thinking speaker David Plotz of Slate.
- The Globe and Mail published op-eds from Antonia Maioni, President of the Federation, and Kevin Kee, Associate Vice-President of Research, Brock University, on the first weekday of Congress, followed by two stories later in the week.
- Other highlights included two stories in Maclean’s, four stories in the Toronto Star, a live interview on CBC Studio Q with Jian Ghomeshi and a television interview on CTV News.
- On the local front, 24 Congress stories hit the regional outlets in the Niagara area.
In keeping with the Congress 2014 theme of Borders without Boundaries, this year’s Congress had an impressive array of international and interdisciplinary programming, open to all attendees. From Big Thinking speakers, to a diverse mix of Federation-supported international keynote speakers, interdisciplinary sessions and equity sessions, it was an exciting line-up. Career Corner provided opportunities for attendees at all stages of their careers to interact with research funders and explore career-related topics. Highlights of this year’s Congress included the opportunity to get directly involved in an urgent policy issue through the Feeding the Future event hosted by Genome Canada, exploring Life after Graduation hosted by Mitacs, and the National Film Board’s Film Night at Congress.

Big Thinking

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

Borders without boundaries: Whose stories are ours?
Lyse Doucet
Chief International Correspondent for the BBC

Children’s voices have power: Ending inequalities affecting First Nations children and families
Cindy Blackstock
Executive Director, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, Associate Professor, University of Alberta, and Director, First Nations Children’s Action Research and Education Service

The borders between life and death: Stories of the supernatural and uncanny among Canada’s Great War soldiers
Tim Cook
First World War Historian at the Canadian War Museum, and Adjunct Research Professor at Carleton University

“Servitude and Grandeur” of the university
Lise Bissonnette
Writer, journalist, editor, analyst and administrator

Fast, cheap, and out of control: How the Internet has made journalism better than it’s ever been
David Plotz
Editor of Slate

The end of settler societies and the new politics of immigration
Catherine Dauvergne
Professor at the University of British Columbia Faculty of Law, and Trudeau Fellow

If mayors ruled the world: Is the city democracy’s best hope?
Benjamin Barber
Senior Research Scholar at The Graduate Center, City University of New York

Blood: The Stuff of Life
Lawrence Hill
The author of nine books, including The Book of Negroes

Congress by the numbers

8,000+ attendees
5,000+ papers
200 interdisciplinary sessions
75 scholarly associations
180+ media stories
70 exhibitors at Expo
11 book launches at Expo
8 Big Thinking lectures
9,000+ tweets using #congreSSH hashtag

All Big Thinking lecture videos from Congress 2014 can be viewed at congress2014.ca/bigthinking
CONGRESS 2014 SPONSORS

The Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences gratefully acknowledges the support of the following partners:

CONGRESS PARTNER

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

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FUTURE CONGRESSES

2015
University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Ontario
May 30 - June 5, 2015

2016
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta
May 28 - June 3, 2016

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