

CATR Conference 2015, Department of theatre, University of Ottawa

(La version française suit la version anglaise.)

The 2015 Canadian Association for Theatre Research (CATR) Conference will take place at the University of Ottawa's Department of Theatre from Saturday May 30th to Tuesday June 2nd, 2015, as part of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS).

The theme of the 2015 CHSS is *Capital Ideas*, an invitation to reflect on the power of ideas. Ideas captivate our hearts and minds; ideas connect people and ignite discussions and debates; ideas create knowledge and spark discoveries; ideas represent an invaluable currency capable of changing our lives and our world. We thus expect the 2015 CHSS to be an exciting intellectual hub where ideas will be expressed, shared, debated and implemented!

The theme also relates to the location of this year's CHSS host in the nation's capital. As the seat of our federal government and of many national agencies and cultural institutions, as the home of embassies and of a large number of international organizations, Ottawa boasts a unique environment rooted in the confluence of peoples and the intersection of ideas from all over the world. This particular context promotes a rich diversity of both perspectives and research activities.

The mandate of the CATR is to support and encourage research in theatre and performance studies, with a special interest in Canadian work. With this in mind, the organizing committee is proud to announce the two internationally renowned key-note speakers who will open the upcoming CATR conference: Dr. Patrice Pavis (Université de Paris VIII and University of Kent, UK) with the talk entitled "*Un étranger peut-il regarder le spectacle des autres?*" in French; and Dr. Susan Bennett (University of Calgary) with "The Financialization of Everything!: Brand Performance, Urban Capital and Global Markets" in English.

The committee encourages the CATR 2015 participants to think about the expression "Capital Ideas" both conceptually and literally, inviting proposals that respond to one or several of the following suggested topics:

Following Pierre Bourdieu's formulation of the three forms of capital that characterize our society today – cultural capital, social capital and economic capital – delegates are invited to reflect on how our collective and individual thinking about theatre and performance as a form of practice allows us to shape, create and profit from these forms of capital. How do funding bodies or educational and cultural institutions serve Canadian theatre artists and scholars? How do they support or promote intellectual, emotional and spiritual capital? What is the role of public policy in the generation of new ideas, both in practice and in research?

Furthermore, the committee invites conference participants to consider, challenge and re-conceptualize Edward W. Said's views on the public role of the intellectual as "outsider, amateur, and disturber of the status quo" (*Representations of the Intellectual: The 1993 Reith Lectures*, xx) in society; a person whose task is to "break down the stereotypes and

reductive categories that are so limiting to human thought and communication” (ibid., xi). We invite participants to reflect on how theatre and performance practice and scholarship in Canada shape the discourse around the position of the intellectual and question his/her place in society. More specific questions to be asked might include:

- How do we define theatre that makes us think?
- What is theatre’s function in today’s society? What is the place of the theatre and performance studies scholar and practitioner in today’s university?
- Is theatre today a cultural product or a place of investment (personal, aesthetic, etc.)?
- How do performances on stage and in life engage ideas (political, philosophical, artistic, cultural etc.)? How do performance and scholarship promote the transfer of ideas across cultures and between individuals?
- How do theatre, performance practices and scholarship help reveal the achievements and the failures of history in our society? Does theatre today serve as a place to rehearse and challenge “nationalism(s)”? What is the function of Canadian theatre as one of the major players on the world theatre scene today? What makes Canadian theatre practices unique? How do we define our work as specifically Canadian?
- Does theatre today serve as a place of ideas and identity affirmation? How do performative practices and scholarship in Canada reflect the increasingly diverse demographics that mark Canadian society?
- How does Canada’s economic environment influence theatre practice and scholarship?
- What roles do Canadian theatre practice and scholarship play in the development of international drama and performance studies? And how do theatre and scholarship in English and French in Canada reflect major world economic, political, cultural and social developments, both historically and today?
- To which extent is “research creation” becoming an autonomous field, free of traditional “theory vs practice” oppositions? What are the particularities of “research creation” as an approach to building knowledge? What is the place or function of ignorance and risk taking in the creation of knowledge and art today?

The 2015 CATR conference will, like previous conferences, offer a variety of participation modes. These include praxis workshops, open paper panels, curated paper panels, seminars and roundtables. Those who wish to submit proposals for more than one format may do so, though a preference of mode(s) of participation should be identified. All session organizers and presenters are invited to speak to the CHSS theme; however, proposals that depart from the official theme will also be considered. Graduate students are encouraged to apply.

The timeline for submission deadlines and acceptances is as follows:

25 September 2014 -- Due date for topic proposals from organizers for curated panels, seminars, roundtables, and praxis workshops. (Please note that workshops differ from the other formats because they include some form of direct audience participation.)

15 October 2014 --- Curated panels, seminars, roundtables, and praxis workshops announced.

5 December 2014 --- Due date for applications for participation in open paper panels and curated paper panels (the CFP for these will be released in October).

15 January 2015 --- Applications due for participation in seminars and roundtables.

Call for Praxis Workshops / Demonstrations: due 25 September 2014

Praxis workshops / demonstrations offer a forum for practitioners in the association to share information from their applied research. They also offer an opportunity for practitioners from the region local to the conference to share their work with CATR members.

Potential workshop / demonstration facilitators are asked to submit proposals for a 90-minute workshop / demonstration that would be of interest to other practitioners and scholar / practitioners. This research should either be new and/or unique practical research or new applications of existing techniques or methodologies.

Proposals should be 250-500 words and clearly indicate the experimental nature of the material and the proceedings of the workshop or workshop / demonstration. Please indicate the space and/or equipment needs, the maximum number of participants, and whether auditors (non-participant observers) are welcome.

Call for Curated Paper Panels: due 25 September 2014

Proposals are invited from prospective organizers for curated paper panels on any topic related to theatre and performance, including praxis: subjects associated with Canadian theatre and research are especially welcome. Prospective organizers are asked to submit a 300-word proposal along with a 300-word call for participants. Proposals should include the title and focus of the panel, the scholarly rationale, and a brief description of how the panel will be structured. The call for participants should specify the title and focus of the panel along with a short list of potential topics or perspectives, a brief description of what will be required of panelists, and contact information.

Call for Seminars and Roundtables: due 25 September 2014

Proposals are invited from prospective organizers for seminars and roundtables on any topic, including praxis, related to the mandate of the CATR. Prospective organizers are asked to submit a 500-word proposal along with a 300-word call for participants. Proposals should include a scholarly rationale (approx. 300 words) along with a description and rationale for the structure and length of the session (approx. 200 words). The call for participants should include the title and focus of the session, a list of issues and goals, a description of work required of participants, due dates, and contact information.

Please note that seminars will be scheduled for three hours and roundtables ninety minutes.

Please send all proposals to Yana Meerzon and Louise Frappier, Program Planning Committee Co-Chairs, at catr2015@gmail.com

CATR Seminar and Roundtable Guidelines

Ways of engaging seminar and roundtable participants might include:

- Exchange of papers prior to the session.
- Respondents to papers in preparation for online discussion or conference session.
- Editing of pre- or post-conference papers among session participants.
- A reading list related to the topic and participants' work in preparation for discussion at the conference.
- Email discussion of the general issues related to the topic and an arrangement of procedures for the session.
- Grouping of participants and designation of discussion topics for breakout groups during the session.

Participants are not to read or provide lengthy oral summaries of their papers during the session. All seminars and roundtables are open to auditors.

Organizers are responsible for informing participants of the conditions of their participation and for arranging communication between them prior to the conference. Strong leadership, timely guidelines, and prompt feedback encourage greater participant engagement.

Organizers should also provide participants with a clear agenda for the conference session and explain this to participants and auditors at the beginning of the session. During the session, organizers should keep discussion on topic and focused. They should also be prepared to step in to ensure equitable group dynamics.

Organizers may wish to prepare handouts for auditors and should include 15-20 minutes at the end of the session for auditors' questions and comments. After the conference, organizers are asked to provide the conference planning committee with a report on the session and to indicate what worked particularly well.

Guidelines for Participants in Curated Panels, Seminars and Roundtables:

- Participants are required to meet the requirements and deadlines of the session for which they are applying, and may be asked to withdraw if they do not do so.
- Participants are expected to attend and participate in the conference session.

NB: All accepted presenters and participants are required to join CATR. For more information on CATR and to join or renew your membership please visit <http://www.catractr.ca>