



Carleton
University

School of Journalism
and Communication



CGC 2025 Conference Call for Proposals (In)Tensions: Navigating the In-Between

20th Annual Communication Graduate Caucus Conference

Conference Date: February 27-28, 2025

Deadline for Submissions: December 13, 2024

2025 marks the 20th Anniversary of Carleton's Communication Graduate Caucus annual conference. For two decades, this student-run event has fostered a vibrant, collegial environment where graduate students across disciplines and regions can connect, collaborate, and showcase their research. This milestone year honours the legacy of this conference as a vital platform for academic exchange and community building.

This year's theme focuses on the in-between as a critical point of change. It is a space rife with complexity where key societal stakeholders (including corporate and public actors, marginalized groups, etc.), and their respective audiences use tension with intent to negotiate new social contracts.

For example, how do mediators and major media corporations/networks (Meta, Alphabet/Google/YouTube, X/Twitter, etc.) create tension through their policies and decision-making? How do heads of state get caught within societal tensions when it comes to key issues such as the unhoused, the opioid crisis, inflation, etc.? What about the role of notable figures, influencers, and celebrities (i.e., Greta Thunberg, Bisan Owda, Macklemore, Candace Owens, Charlie Kirk, Joe Rogan, etc.)? How do they demonstrate tensions as mediators between their audiences and the information they communicate?

We invite scholars to act as our guides to help navigate a world full of strife and countless intricacies. We aim to understand the stresses endured by various communities, and how contrast and division situate our understandings of societal inequalities and inequities along the lines of race, gender & sexual identity, class, (dis)ability, capital, location, language and more. Scholars inherently observe from a middle ground as researchers and informed citizens, putting space between what we see and what we report on. How do we navigate these tensions? What are the tensions or stressors that exist at large and at the local scale? What does it mean to reconcile

one tension with another, and how do we do it with precise intent? What theories and methodologies help us break down complicated topics, or approach and rebuild them entirely?

We particularly welcome abstracts from out of province or international participants, as well as those who identify as part of marginalized communities, whether attending virtually or in-person.

We encourage contributions relating but not limited to the following topics and issues:

- Media (non)representations and the tensions between what is portrayed vs the lived realities of various communities
- Tensions between capitalism, media and imagined economies that are emerging from the in-between in economic discourse (techno-capitalism, Elon Musk and the commodification of free speech, the deregulated free market, subscription service models and rising prices, etc.)
- Themes of inequalities, inequities, discrimination, voice, and violence in media and art
- The in-between of the political mainstream and extremes, and how it influences our understanding of contemporary conflicts
- Reflections on the struggles for change and the activism that brings it to light
- Tensions between grand narratives (tech solutionism, biocentrism, great man theory, etc.) and counternarratives (critical race, postcolonialism) are reshaping our world
- Governance, media and culture: tensions between public policy, change and cultural hegemony
- Feminist, queer, critical race, Indigenous, and intersectional perspectives that examine the landscapes of the shifting status quo
- The role of media, data, platforms, systems, and infrastructures, and their various tensions in relation to the needs and wants of various stakeholders/groups

Delivery:

The 20th Anniversary of the CGC Conference seeks to set the tone for the next 20 years of research, comradery, and transformation in our field. As such, we will facilitate a hybrid experience while grounding the event at Carleton – where it all began! Our event will combine in-person and online connection, enabling a diverse audience of people from different locations, to create more robust participation and exchange of ideas.

The conference will take place at Carleton University in Ottawa on February 27th-28th, blending in-person and virtual events. In-person panels and keynotes will be livestreamed.

Please also stay tuned for upcoming 20th anniversary special events and merchandise which will be available for purchase in-person at Carleton during the conference.

Submission Guidelines

We welcome proposals for 15-minute individual presentations (these may be co-authored). All submissions should include a 200-250 word abstract with a title and brief description of the topic's relevance to the conference theme, the author's full name(s), and current academic affiliations. We also ask for a short biography of 50-100 words, and contact information of the presenter(s).

We encourage both traditional and non-traditional works (i.e. essays, photographs, videos, audio clips, etc.). If submitting a research-creation or non-paper proposal, do also include a description of how you would like to showcase your work and an outline of the technical requirements needed for the presentation.

If you wish to submit an entire panel, please include a proposal of approximately 600 words detailing the panel description, a title, the panel's connection to the conference theme, each participants' contribution to the discussion, and any technical requirements. Please also include a short biography of 50-100 words and the contact information for each panel presenter. Please note that panel presentations are scheduled to be no longer than 45 minutes to allow for a concluding 15-minute Q&A session.

Please make your submissions here:

<https://forms.gle/e3ex4yP8wW9ioeCx7>

The submission deadline is December 13, 2024.

The 20th annual CGC Conference provides graduate students with the opportunity to present their work to an audience, receive valuable feedback from a range of research communities, and foster their own professional development. Our goal is to foster an environment where emerging and established scholars and professionals may engage in meaningful discussions related to the widely interdisciplinary communication and media studies field.

Upon acceptance to the conference, all presenters are invited to submit a full paper to be considered for a Communication and Media Student Paper Prize if they wish, more details will be sent to accepted speakers.

If you have any questions, please reach out at the below email. We look forward to reading your submissions!

Andrea Leduc, Abigail Ruta, Ada Semenova
2025 CGC Conference Committee, Carleton University
cgc2025.carleton.coms@gmail.com