

Schedule | Nations and Nationalism in Science and Technology

CSTHA Biennial Conference | 7–9 November 2025 | York University, Toronto, Canada

Please note all sessions (save for Friday's graduate student events) will take place in York Places 280N or 280A. Rooms are noted in session titles.

DAY 1 | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025

Graduate Student Artefact Reading Workshop

10h00 – 12h00 | Harriet Tubman Reading Room, York Lanes 314 | Lunch 12h00 – 13h00

Professor Jan Hadlaw, York University, and William Knight, curator at Ingenium (Canada's Museums of Science and Innovation), will lead graduate students through an artefact reading session with objects from York University's xDX Collection. A lunch will follow in the Harriet Tubman Common Area.

13h00 – 14h00 | Registration and Welcome | York Lanes 280N

14h00 – 15h30 | Material Cultures across Canada | York Lanes 280N

Chair: William Knight, Ingenium: Canada's Museums of Science and Innovation

The Subsidiary Company of Canada: Tariffs, Subsidiary Companies, and Canadian Electrical Manufacturing Research and Development

Victoria Fisher, University of Toronto

Precision Instrument Culture in Canada

David Pantalony, Ingenium: Canada's Museums of Science and Innovation

15h30 – 15h45 | Break | York Lanes 280N

15h45 – 17h15 | **Material Cultures of Medical Artifacts: New approaches to resistant objects** | York Lanes 280N

Chair: David Pantalony, Ingenium: Canada's Museums of Science and Innovation

'Every morning the first thing I do': Material Cultures and Practices of Home Blood Glucose Monitoring in the Late Twentieth Century

Elizabeth Neswald, Brock University

[Virtual] Material Culture Perspectives on Life with Cystic Fibrosis in Canada versus the United States
Anna Krentz, Charlotte County Archives, St. Andrews, New Brunswick

The MacIntosh Plateau in the Local Landscape of Medical History

Erich Weidenhammer, University of Toronto



18h00 – 21h00 | **DINNER AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS** | Schulich Hotel and Conference Centre

Duty or Opportunity? Canadian Scientists and Government Research in the Twentieth Century
Matthew Wiseman, University of Waterloo

9h00 – 10h30 | History of Telecommunications | 280N

Chair: Shannon Brown, Queen's University

Poisoned Tendrils: Lead, Creosote, and Logging in Telecommunications Infrastructure, 1840-1940

Michael Feagan, Linda Hall Library

From Telegraphs to Telephones: Tracing the Socio-technical Transition in Canadian Telecommunications from 1846-1980

David Foord, University of New Brunswick; Daniel Rosenbloom, Carleton University; Cameron Roberts Carleton University

From Sea to Sea to Sea: Lessons Learned from Successive Efforts to Extend Communications Infrastructure to the North

David Michelson, The University of British Columbia

9h00 – 10h30 | Medicine through History | 280A

Chair: Matthew Wiseman, University of Waterloo

“The Cut That Makes Men Sane”: Kenneth G. McKenzie’s Lobotomy, 1941-1972

Jonathan Harper, McGill University

From Trout to the Stars: Canadian Contributions to Aviation Medicine During the Second World War

Neea Jacklin, University of Toronto

Intersections Between Medicine and Politics: The Funeral of the Catalan Bartolomé Robert

Lluís Coromina Verdager, National Autonomous University of Mexico

10h30 – 10h45 | BREAK | 280N

10h45 – 12h15 | What are borders? | 280N

Chair: Anne MacLennan, York University

[Virtual] Technological Solidarity under Siege: Cross-Border Manufacturing and Resilience in Gaza’s Healthcare Sector

Dorotea Gucciardo, Western University/Glia

Breath In Common and The Borders We Put Around Air

Lindsay LeBlanc, University of Toronto

Off-worlding Autonomy: Provincial Infrastructure and Orbital Sovereignty in the Failed Ford-Starlink Partnership

Rory Sharp, York University/Toronto Metropolitan University; Aviva Weizman, York University/Toronto Metropolitan University

10h45 – 12h15 | Digital Technologies | 280A

Chair: Scott Campbell, University of Waterloo

Whose Sovereignty? Reconsidering Canada’s Digital Services Tax Through the Lens of Cultural Control

Christine Rose Cooling, York University; Alexander Martin, York University

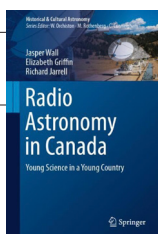
Balancing Act: The Pan-Canadian Strategy on AI in the Context of Techno-Nationalism

Elia Rasky, Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies

Frontiers, Frontier AI, and Artificial Intelligence as a Canadian Techno-National Project

Aaron Tucker, Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador

12h15 – 13h30 | LUNCH AND BOOK LAUNCH | 280N



Dr. Elizabeth Griffin, Herzberg Astronomy & Astrophysics Research Centre, discusses her new co-authored book *Radio Astronomy in Canada* (2024).

DAY 2 | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025

13h30 - 15h00 | National identities and industries | 280N

Chair: David Michelson, The University of British Columbia

“Stand on Guard for Thee”: Regulating National Identity through Radio, Science and Technology

Anne MacLennan, York University

[Virtual] No Great Shakes: Canadian Nationalisms and Aircraft Procurement at Trans-Canada Air Lines

Blair Stein, Grand Valley State University

Shopomatic: Domesticating Technology for the Modern Canadian Consumer

Rosalind Sweeney-McCabe, York University

13h30 - 15h00 | Agriculture/environment | 280A

Chair: Jennifer Hubbard, Toronto Metropolitan University

Mother Trees and Metaphor in Forest Science Communication

Sadie Quinn, York University

Precision Dairy Technologies and the Development of Tacit Knowledge in Ontario Dairy Farmers

Carelle Sarkis, McMaster University

“Environmental appropriate technology” for a Changing Canadian Climate: Lessons from the 1970s

Matthew Tegelberg, York University

15h00 - 15h15 | BREAK | 280N

15h15 - 16h45 | Recent Trends in the History of Science & Technology in West Africa | 280N

Chair: Nnamdi Nnake, McMaster University

The Technopolitics of Exploitation? The Powell Duffryn Technical Services in The Enugu Government Colliery, 1947-1950

Patrick Chukwudike Okpalaeke, York University

From Coal to Hydropower: Development Planning and Economic Progress in Nigeria after 1945

Damilola Adebayo, York University

Forging a Technical Nation: History of Technical and Industrial Training in Post-Independence Ghana, 1957-1966

Ransford Tei, York University

Anyanwa Nka Nya n’Aba: Skilled Vision and Trade Secrets among Awka-Igbo Ironworkers in the Nineteenth Century

Alex Amaechi Ugwuja, York University

15h15 - 16h45 | Power through Power | 280A

Chair: Michael Feagan, Linda Hall Library

“Peaceful Power: CANDU Reactors and the Making of Canada’s Nuclear Nationalism

Fiona Li, The University of British Columbia

[Virtual] Nationalism and Technology in the Imperial Oil Company’s Promotion of Free Trade

Mack Penner, University of Calgary

Too many to count or just too small? Why the Canadian state turned a blind eye to small steam engines in the late 19th and early 20th centuries

V. M. Roberts, York University

END OF SESSIONS: NO EVENING EVENTS PLANNED.

DAY 3 | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025

8h00 – 9h00 | BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION | 280N

9h00 – 11h00 | Computing and Colonialism | 280N

Chair: Ben Bradley, University of Guelph

Non-binary Computation: Atamiri and Indigenous Knowledge

Maria Amuchastegui, York University

The Orbital North: Satellite Communications, Settler Colonialism, and Regional Equality in Canada

Shannon Brown, Queen's University

Myths and Mysteries: A biography of a computing centre

Scott Campbell, University of Waterloo

9h00 – 11h00 | Science in the Media | 280A

Chair: Jan Hadlaw, York University

[Virtual] Memory Machines and Democratic Contradictions: The NFBC's Digital Histories as Public Pedagogy

John Bessai, Independent Scholar

[Virtual] Canadian Dams, the Colombo Plan, and the National Film Board, 1950s and 1960s

Jane Griffith, Toronto Metropolitan University

Bernard Bright and Desmond Dull Work through Ohm's Law; or, Education Today for 1978 in 2025

Corey Orszak, York University

11h00 – 11h15 | Break | 280N

11h15 – 12h45 | Streetcar, Sewing Machine, Sci-Fi: Making Yiddish Canadians | 280N

The Erasures of Nation-Building: Shimen Nepom, the Yiddish Streetcar Poet of Toronto

Jacob Hermant, University of Toronto

Writing the Ethnoscape: Yiddish Poets and the Machinery of Modern Toronto

Miriam Borden, University of Toronto

Sci-Fi and Satire in Montreal's Yiddish Press

Alona Bach, MIT

12h45 – 13h00 | Concluding Remarks and farewell | 280N
