

ITDS GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

From 2018-2026, the *Internet, Technology, and Digital Sociology (ITDS)* research cluster of the Canadian Sociological Association was informally governed. That is, its founders and Chairs governed the ITDS without a formal structure in place providing guidelines on Chair duties and processes for selecting new Chair(s).

Following consultations with ITDS members in 2025, a membership vote was held to approve the implementation of a new leadership and governance structure. This approval also formalized an election process for leadership positions such as Chair(s). The new governance structure will be formally adopted for AY26-27 with the first election process taking place in the Winter 2026 semester. Aspects of the new governance structure are being piloted during AY25-26 by the current Co-Chairs.

Under the new model, the ITDS cluster is supported by its Chair(s) and an Executive Committee.

ITDS Chair(s)

The Chair is the formal leader of the ITDS cluster. While this role can be held by a single person, we also permit a Co-Chairs model in which 2-3 individuals share the responsibilities of the Chair position. Chair(s) will typically serve for two years. The following general roles and responsibilities are normally expected from CSA research cluster Chair(s):

- Oversee the organization of CSA conference submissions affiliated with the ITDS cluster, including organization of sessions and abstracts, liaising with members to determine things like session topics, virtual vs. in-person sessions, help with disseminating information regarding the conference, etc. Chair(s) also run the business meeting and ITDS social event at the annual CSA conference.
- Facilitate events throughout the year, outside of the regular CSA conference; i.e., workshops, invited speakers, collaborative panels, etc.
- Organize an annual mentorship initiative in the weeks leading up to the CSA conference. Chair(s) will pair interested mentors and mentees who are ITDS members.
- Organize an annual student paper award competition for ITDS members who are presenting at the CSA conference. Chair(s) may serve on the award committee.
- Maintain an up-to-date list of ITDS members on an email list. Periodically send emails to the membership about upcoming ITDS and CSA events and initiatives. Where possible, Chair(s) will help produce regular newsletters for our members, which include updates on CSA conference sessions, news from our members, job postings, new publications, etc.
- Chair(s) will maintain a social media presence (currently BlueSky). This responsibility can be delegated to another interested ITDS member where possible.
- Work closely with CSA administration to maintain and update research cluster policies, web pages, and perform other administrative tasks. This typically requires at least one general meeting with all CSA research cluster Chair(s) each year.
- Serve as an ambassador for the cluster and its mission. Chair(s) should be involved in inviting new members to join based on shared research and teaching interests. Chair(s) should connect with members and Chair(s) of other CSA clusters to foster collaborations and networking opportunities. Chair(s) should connect with members and Chair(s) of other international technology-related scholarly groups (e.g., CITAMS at the ASA, WG10 Digital Sociology at the ISA) to foster collaborations and networking opportunities.

The Chair is a formally elected position. Chair(s) can be expected to be elected and serve for two years. The election will involve the following procedure:

- Notice to members of elections for new Chair(s) will be circulated in late January or early February, with a minimum of two emails sent to our membership.
- ITDS members can be nominated or can self-nominate for the Chair position by mid-March.
 - Nominees must be current ITDS and CSA members at the time of their nomination.
 - Nominees should be researching, teaching, or otherwise working in an area relevant to the ITDS cluster.
 - Nominees do not need to hold a PhD. Graduate students and practitioners with relevant industry experience are eligible for the Chair position.
- Nominees are asked to submit a short, written statement regarding their interest and qualifications (no more than 300 words) to be collected by the current Chair(s) and to be reviewed by all ITDS members.
 - Statements should include: a biography, experience related to ITDS and relevance to the chair position, and a future vision for the ITDS cluster (short- or long-term).
 - Statements should indicate whether the nominee is interested or willing to hold this role as a Co-Chair with someone else.
- Current Chair(s) will send out an online survey for ITDS members to vote for the new Chair.
 - This survey will be made available in April.
 - ITDS members will be given 3 weeks to provide their vote to select one of the nominees.
 - ITDS members are those who are included on the most up-to-date email list at the time that the survey is distributed.
- The results of the vote will be determined by a simple majority and will be confirmed by the current Chair(s). If there are ties or uncertainties, the Chair(s) will meet with ITDS executive members to deliberate further.
 - The newly elected Chair can decide whether they would like to use the Co-Chair model and can select their Co-Chair(s) at this time.
- The new Chair(s) will be announced in May via normal communication channels: email announcements, our social media site(s), and newsletter(s).
 - The newly elected Chair(s) should plan to be present during the annual ITDS business meeting to help solicit feedback and ideas for the upcoming academic year. The outgoing Chair(s) and new Chair(s) will share leading different parts of the business meeting.

ITDS Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (EC) consists of members who support the ITDS cluster's efforts in a variety of ad hoc tasks such as producing newsletters, helping with social media posts and management, setting up our mentorship program, and serving on subcommittees such as our annual student paper award competition. Executive members will not hold specific titled roles, but are expected to be available to help support the ITDS cluster in various ways throughout the year as needed. Executive roles will be served on a volunteer basis, year to year—there is no expectation to serve multiple years on the EC.

Following the business meeting and before the Fall semester, the Chair(s) should confirm the constitution of the EC. The Chair(s) can accept offers from members who have volunteered to participate and can also reach out to members to solicit their participation in the EC. Former Chair(s) and EC members are eligible to be part of the new Executive team. It is good practice for current EC members to speak about their roles, responsibilities, and time commitment at the business meeting to give future volunteers a better sense of what participation entails.