

**fiar Call for Papers: Special Issue****From Margin to Center: Black Canadian Hemispheric Perspectives**

In the current climate of polarizing politics, marked by global wars, resurgent border nationalism, xenophobia, and rising conservatism against race and gender equity, it is crucial to understand the diversity of Black experiences across the continent, particularly how their navigation of social, political and cultural life converges and diverges across time, space and place. This special issue calls for cross-border reflections on the often-underrepresented Black Canadian experiences. Canada shares a history of settler colonialism, slavery, and anti-Black racism with other nations across the Americas and Europe, a legacy that Black Canadian scholars have brought to the fore, challenging the country's self-image as a racially inclusive nation (Austin, 2010; Bakan, 2008; Cooper, 2007; Este, Sato & McKenna, 2017; Maynard, 2017; Walcott, 1997, 2014).

Black Canadian scholars and activists have exposed Canada's participation in the transatlantic slave trade and its aftermath, as well as the proliferation of the Black power movement across Canada and its interconnection with Black liberation efforts across the diaspora, pointedly, the American civil rights movement (Austin, 2007; Waters, 2013). These histories and solidarities are not isolated; they offer unique insight into the ways Black Canadians have contributed to the Black Radical Tradition – defined by Cedric Robinson and expanded by other scholars as a Black diasporic tradition, and transnational movement of resistance using intellectual, creative and grassroots mediums (Austin, 2007).

This special issue on Black Canadian perspectives is a provocation to consider the following questions:

1. How do Black Canadian experiences challenge and reshape ideas of race, nation, and belonging across the hemisphere?
2. How does the Black radical tradition emerge and develop in a Canadian context, and how does it compare with other regions across the Americas, including the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean?
3. What new insights, solidarities, and tensions emerge when Black Canadian voices are centred in hemispheric conversations?

A special issue on hemispheric dialogue around Black Canadian experiences is necessary to nuance dominant narratives on race, nation, and belonging within Black Americas Studies. This special issue invites submissions that spark new conversations and scholarship to engage with the overlooked connections and differences between Black Canadian histories, cultures, and movements and those of the broader Americas, challenging binaries like North/South, margin/center, and local/global. **We invite reflections on the evolution, challenges, and future of hemispheric perspectives on Black Canadians, focusing on their impact in academia, activism, and community.**

As an interdisciplinary space, we seek comparative and interdisciplinary work that highlights the complexity and radical possibilities of Black Canadian perspectives in dialogue with the Caribbean, Latin America, and the United States, in addition to critical engagement with the Black Atlantic.

We encourage submissions that explore, but are not limited to, the following themes:

1. **Histories, Archives, and Memory:** Uncovering Black Canadian lives in past and present contexts, and inviting comparative analyses with the Caribbean, United States, and Latin America, exploring shared, divergent, and intersecting histories, migrations, and forms of remembrance.
2. **Black Canadian Activism, Radical Traditions, and Community Leadership:** Examining activism, resistance strategies, and community building in Canada and across the Americas; comparing movements, mutual aid, and leadership with the Caribbean, Latin America, and the US.
3. **Black Radical Tradition:** Theorizing the Black Radical Tradition in Canadian contexts, and/or considering the intellectual currents, solidarities and tensions between Black radicalism in Canada with other regions across the Americas.
4. **Theoretical and Methodological Reflections:** Engaging new and established theories (diaspora, Black feminism, abolition, intersectionality, decoloniality) and methodological practices for Black Canadian Studies; introducing new hemispheric perspectives and cross-border research approaches.
5. **Intersectionality, Gender, and Lived Realities:** Exploring the intersections of race, ethnicity, class, gender, masculinity, women and girls, gender equality, sexuality, migration, and ability; and comparing advocacy and lived realities with other regions in the Americas.
6. **Imagination, Creativity, and Cultural Expression:** Black Canadian literature, music, visual art, and performance in conversation with artistic and cultural expression from the Caribbean, Latin America, and the US; examining how the arts foster dialogue, resistance, and creative futures.

We welcome papers that focus specifically on Black Canadian experiences, histories, and cultural production. While direct comparisons across the hemisphere are encouraged, submissions may also focus on the Canadian context alone, provided they critically consider what these perspectives contribute to, challenge, or illuminate about Black life, thought, and struggle in the Americas, and consider their implications for understanding Black Diasporic life at large. We invite authors to reflect on how Black Canadian Studies can offer new insights, questions, or frameworks for the wider Black diaspora and the study of Black Americas.

Proposals are welcome from various disciplines. Papers must be original, scholarly, and not previously published or under consideration elsewhere. **Guidelines:** Authors who wish to contribute to the special issue are invited to send an article (maximum 7,500–10,000 words) including the title, authors, institutional affiliation, and an abstract to the editors: Dr. Jamilah Dei-Sharpe [info@jamilahds.com](mailto:info@jamilahds.com), Dr. Wilfred Raussert [wilfried.raussert@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:wilfried.raussert@uni-bielefeld.de), Dr. Afua Cooper [afua.cooper@utoronto.ca](mailto:afua.cooper@utoronto.ca), and [fiar@interamerica.de](mailto:fiar@interamerica.de), by **August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**.

**By September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**, you will receive information on the acceptance of your manuscript. Submissions can be made in English or French. The anticipated publication of the special issue is December 2026.