CSA
Canadian Sociological Association
Société canadienne de sociologie

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OVERVIEW

In an effort to foster collaboration and networking opportunities among our membership, the Canadian Sociological Association / Societe Canadienne de Sociologie (CSA-SCS)* will facilitate the operation of approved Research Clusters (RC).

Cluster formation must be initiated by members of the Association and is subject to the approval of the Association's Executive Committee. In order to receive services from the Association, RCs must agree to abide by the Association's terms and comply with the policies outlined below. This agreement is required to be renewed annually.

In the event that the RC is unable or unwilling to abide by these terms or comply with these policies, the Association reserves the right to withdraw support and services provided. Every effort will be made to resolve issues before this action is taken.

*'Association' refers to the CSA-SCS in this document.

SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE ASSOCIATION

1. General
    a. Annual teleconference call or online feedback surveys to allow RCs to share thoughts and propose ideas
2. Financial
    a. Additional membership fees are not required for those participating in RCs
    b. Award certificate(s) will be provided by the Association upon request
    c. The Association will coordinate registration fee collection and expense payments for RC initiatives (pending Association approval of the initiative)
    d. Catering for RC network meetings may be ordered through the Association (the RC will be responsible for the cost of catering and may collect funds internally through the RC)
3. Website hosting
    a. RC are responsible for providing and maintaining content
    b. Association will offer support and instructional guide
4. Promotion
    a. Association website
    b. Featured in E-bulletins
    c. Conference website (with respect to sessions, network meetings, and awards)
5. Conference
    a. RC network meeting time during the Conference
    b. Space to display RC information at the Association booth
    c. Ability to submit session proposals as a group and provide input on final session scheduling
    d. Optional pre-Conference workshop with registration support (to be requested during the Call for Sessions and pending approval of the Program Committee)
    e. Facilitation of interdisciplinary sessions between RCs or other Associations participating in the Congress

RESEARCH CLUSTER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Submit annual statute update (Appendix I)
   a. Online form to be sent in August and completed by the deadline indicated
   b. Submission of this document will be considered acknowledgement and acceptance of the Agreement of Understanding
2. Comply with the Association's policies, by-laws and code of ethics
   a. https://www.csa-scs.ca/bylaws
   b. https://www.csa-scs.ca/code-of-ethics
3. Hold network meeting at the Conference and submit or advise on session proposals
   a. Meetings must be open to anyone interested in learning more about the RC
4. Maintain website posted on the Association site
   a. Minimum update scheduling; September and April
   b. RCs are encouraged to provide bilingual translations of their objective and other content
5. Ensure communication strategies will be available to anyone with an interest in the RC
   a. Includes listserv and social media
6. Provide the Association with a list of RC members and email addresses to be updated annually
   a. As noted below, the Association will not communicate with RC members nor sell or share their contact information
7. Maintain regular contact with, and provide information to, the Association as requested
8. Ensure that RC members are aware of the support provided by the Association and communicate Association membership, journal, and Conference information to RC members

ASSOCIATION POLICIES & GOVERNANCE

Association Advocacy Policy:

The Canadian Sociological Association (CSA) is a professional association that promotes research, publication and teaching in Sociology. Our membership is diverse and united by our commitment to sociological thought and practice.

The Canadian Sociological Association upholds the right to academic freedom for sociologists in Canada and abroad. We support our members' right to advocate about a national, social, or political topic. However, given the diverse political views of our membership, the ideas expressed do not necessarily reflect the position of the Canadian Sociological Association.

The Canadian Sociological Association may occasionally adopt an advocacy role on issues that directly impact the working conditions of Sociologists in Canada in relation to their teaching, research and other scholarly activities. Such advocacy and/or official statements must be approved by the Executive Committee of the Canadian Sociological Association.

Association Affiliation Polices:

Journal Affiliation Policy

From time to time, the CSA Executive may be approached about affiliating with journals other than the *Canadian Review of Sociology.* Recognizing that such affiliations may be beneficial for the CSA and its membership, the following three-stage process will be used to ensure consistency and transparency in making decisions about whether or not to affiliate with a particular journal. Contact us for more information.

Other Third-Party Affiliation Policy

From time to time, the CSA Executive may be approached about affiliating with a third party other than academic journals. The CSA should not be in the business of providing free advertising for online educational services to the CSA membership, even if the advertised services are free/open source. Contact us for more information.

Equity Statement:

The Canadian Sociological Association (CSA) is committed to the values and principles of equity, diversity and inclusion. We recognize that we owe, in part, the richness and vibrancy of our Association to the diversity of our membership. We aim to reflect this diversity in the leadership of our Association. To this end, in seeking candidates for the CSA Executive Committee, sub- committees, other leadership roles, and consideration for awards, the CSA invites and encourages the nomination (including self-nomination) of members of marginalized groups, including Indigenous peoples, racialized persons, persons with disabilities, persons who identify as women and/or LGBTQ2+, and all candidates who would contribute to the diversity of the Association. We recognize and honour the intersectionality of equity-based identities.

Conference Participation:

The Call for Sessions and Call for Abstracts will be open. RC members should not be given priority during the session proposal or abstract review processes.

Association membership is not required to participate in a RC but everyone participating in the annual Conference must be a) a registered member of the Association and b) a registered Association Congress delegate.

See the Conference website (http://www.csa-scs.ca/conference) for details.

Financial Gain:

The RC shall be carried on without the purpose of gain for any of its members, and any profits or other accretions to the RC shall be used in furtherance with its purposes. RC designated leaders or liaisons shall serve without remuneration, and no RC member shall directly or indirectly receive any profit from his or her position as such, provided that an RC member may be reimbursed for pre-approved expenses incurred in performing his or her duties. An RC member shall not be prohibited from receiving compensation for services provided to the cluster in another capacity.

Object of the Association:

The objective of the Association is to promote the advancement of the discipline of sociology in Canada and abroad, and to expand the opportunities for sociological research, teaching, and learning in compliance with the highest ethical and academic standards. It seeks to increase public knowledge, interest and critical awareness of social structures, in particular, in Canadian society, within a global system.

Representation:

RCs and their members shall not identify themselves as representatives of the Association or as speaking on behalf of the Association. This includes public statements on the internet or made to the media, as well as statements to government or other such organizations.

Research Cluster Membership:

The RC shall be open to anyone with an interest in the cluster's focus. Membership in the Association is not required of RC members unless they are participating in the Association's annual Conference. However, at least 25% of the RC membership must also be members of the Association in recognition of the administrative cost involved in supporting the cluster's activities. For one to be identified as a member of a RC, they must be included on the listserv or submit contact information to the RC organizers for communications. The Association will not contact RC members (if not already included in the Association's mailing list) nor will they solicit membership registration. The contact lists will not be shared, rented, or sold.

Website Content Policy:

RC website content must abide by the Association policies. Sexist or racist language will not be tolerated. The Association reserves the right to make, without consultation, minor corrections and deletions but will contact the RC concerning major alterations. The Association reserves the right to ask for revisions or to withdraw content, messages and advertisements that do not comply with the Association's code of ethics, advocacy, or affiliation policies.

APPENDIX I: RESEARCH CLUSTER STATUTES

Designated RC representatives will complete an online form to provide and annually update the following information.

- Objective of the research cluster (see the Association's Objective on page 5 as example)
- Form of governance
  - Elected, appointed, or volunteer leadership
  - Allocation of duties
    - Position suggestions; Chair, Association liaison, webmaster, list-serv manager, Conference session manager, membership recruitment
  - Description of voting or decisions by consensus procedure
- Membership
  - List of members and email addresses
- Outline of activities
  - Participation in Association conference
  - Website content summary
    - Examples may include; job postings, member profiles, conference session information, and resources
  - Other communication strategies
    - Examples may include; listserv, social media, or newsletter
  - Awards
    - Criteria and nomination procedure
  - Other initiatives
  - Feedback for Association as requested