



UNIVERSITÀ DI NAPOLI
L'ORIENTALE



International Conference

**ITALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF NAPOLI "L'ORIENTALE"**

26-28 November 2025

<http://www.aiscan.net/>

***Bridges and Barriers:
Rethinking Connections and Disconnections in Contemporary Canada***

In an era marked by rapid globalization, digital transformation, and shifting socio-political landscapes, contemporary Canada faces evolving challenges and opportunities in fostering stability and belonging while addressing divisions and conflicts (Simpson 2020; Coulthard 2021).

Canada has long been seen as a bridge between different cultures, identities, and geopolitical forces, yet barriers - both historical and contemporary - persist in shaping its national discourse. The complexities of Indigenous reconciliation efforts, the legacy of residential schools and land rights disputes (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2015); regional disparities between provinces, particularly regarding economic development and resource distribution (Banting & Thompson 2023); linguistic tensions between English and French-speaking communities ((Sioufi & Bourhis 2018); the outbreak and escalation of global conflicts, resulting in further divisions and negotiations; the evolving discourses on ethnicity, cultural diversity and gender equality which resonate in contemporary struggles for resistance and transformation (Abu-Laban 2023); the effects of migration and multiculturalism that shape urban and rural communities, raising questions about integration, identity, and policy responses (Li 2023). Canada's reputation as a welcoming nation for immigrants coexists with growing debates on border security, asylum policies, and systemic discrimination. Moreover, digital and physical infrastructures increasingly impact access to services, exacerbating socio-economic inequalities in an era of rapid technological advancement.

Canada's dual role as a place of connection and disconnection is therefore evident. The Conference seeks to explore the multifaceted ways in which Canada engages with the notions

of connection and separation across cultural, political, linguistic, economic, and social spheres. We invite proposals that critically examine the factors that build bridges and create barriers in contemporary Canadian society, from a range of disciplines in the wider field of the Humanities. We encourage interdisciplinary approaches as well as geographic, historical, sociological, legal, literary, linguistic and cultural perspectives.

Proposals may address (but are not limited to) the following topics:

- Indigenous sovereignty, reconciliation, and self-governance
- Bilingualism and multilingualism: policies, identities, and challenges
- Immigration, multiculturalism, and social integration
- Climate change, environmental justice, and Indigenous perspectives
- Digital and physical infrastructures: access, exclusion, and connectivity
- Cultural production and artistic expressions of belonging and alienation
- Social movements and activism: building solidarities or reinforcing divides
- The role of education in shaping national identity
- Inclusion and accessibility: policies, challenges, and opportunities
- Literature and narratives of connection and disconnection

We encourage both theoretical and empirical approaches. Submissions from graduate students and early-career researchers are also welcome.

The official languages of the conference: Italian, English and French

Submission Guidelines:

Abstracts should be no more than 250 words and be accompanied by a brief biographical note (100 words). Please submit your proposals by **June 30** to aiscnapoli2025@gmail.com. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by **July 15**.

For further inquiries, please contact aiscnapoli2025@gmail.com

Scientific committee

Anna Mongibello
Maria Centrella
Oriana Palusci
Luigi Bruti Liberati
Ylenia De Luca
Alessandra Ferraro
Sabrina Francesconi
Elena Lamberti
Marco Modenesi

Works cited

Abu-Laban, Y. (2023). *Contemporary Canadian Multiculturalism and Racial Justice*. UBC Press.

Banting, K., & Thompson, D. (2023). *Inequality and the Future of the Canadian Federation*. University of British Columbia Press.

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**COLLOQUE INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION ITALIENNE D'ÉTUDES CANADIENNES
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Ponts et barrières :

Repenser les connexions et les déconnexions dans le Canada contemporain

Dans une époque marquée par une mondialisation rapide, la transformation numérique et les mutations des paysages sociopolitiques, le Canada contemporain doit affronter des enjeux importants pour favoriser la stabilité et le sentiment d'appartenance culturelle sans occulter les divisions et les conflits qui peuvent en découler (Simpson 2020; Coulthard 2021).

Le Canada a longtemps été considéré comme un pont entre différentes cultures, identités et forces géopolitiques, mais des barrières - à la fois historiques et contemporaines - continuent de façonner son discours national. La complexité des efforts de réconciliation avec les peuples autochtones, comme la douloureuse question de l'héritage des pensionnats pour autochtones ou les conflits sur les droits fonciers (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2015); les disparités régionales entre les provinces, notamment en ce qui concerne le développement économique et la répartition des ressources; les tensions linguistiques entre les communautés anglophones et francophones (Sioufi & Bourhis 2018); l'émergence et l'escalade des conflits mondiaux, qui engendrent de plus en plus de divisions et de négociations; les discours en évolution sur l'ethnicité, la diversité culturelle et l'égalité des genres qui résonnent dans les luttes contemporaines pour la résistance et la transformation (Abu-Laban 2023); les effets de la migration et du multiculturalisme qui façonnent les communautés urbaines et rurales, soulevant des questions d'intégration, d'identité et de politiques publiques (Li 2023). La réputation du Canada en tant que pays accueillant pour les immigrants coexiste avec des débats croissants sur la sécurité des frontières, les politiques d'asile et la discrimination systémique. De plus, les infrastructures numériques et physiques ont un impact croissant sur l'accès aux services, en exacerbant les inégalités socio-économiques à une époque de transformation technologique rapide.

Le double rôle du Canada en tant qu'espace de connexion et de déconnexion est donc manifeste. Le colloque vise à explorer les diverses manières dont le Canada interagit avec les notions de connexion et de séparation dans les sphères culturelle, politique, linguistique, économique et sociale. Nous invitons les propositions qui examinent de manière critique les facteurs qui construisent des ponts et créent des barrières dans la société canadienne contemporaine, dans un large éventail de disciplines relevant des sciences humaines. Nous encourageons les approches interdisciplinaires ainsi que les perspectives géographiques, historiques, sociologiques, juridiques, littéraires, linguistiques et culturelles.

Les propositions peuvent porter (sans s'y limiter) sur les thèmes suivants :

- Souveraineté, réconciliation et autogouvernance des nations indigènes
- Bilinguisme et multilinguisme : politiques, identités et enjeux
- Immigration, multiculturalisme et intégration sociale
- Changement climatique, justice environnementale et perspectives autochtones
- Infrastructures numériques et physiques : accès, exclusion et connectivité
- Production culturelle et expressions artistiques d'appartenance et d'aliénation
- Mouvements sociaux et activisme : construction de solidarités ou renforcement des divisions
- Le rôle de l'éducation dans la formation de l'identité nationale
- Inclusion et accessibilité : politiques, enjeux et opportunités
- Littérature et récits de connexion et de déconnexion

Nous encourageons les approches théoriques et empiriques. Les soumissions des étudiants de troisième cycle et des chercheurs en début de carrière sont également les bienvenues.

Langues officielles du colloque : italien, anglais et français

Indications de soumission: Les résumés ne doivent pas dépasser 250 mots et doivent être accompagnés d'une courte note biographique (100 mots). Veuillez soumettre vos propositions avant le **30 juin 2025** à l'adresse suivante: aiscnapoli2025@gmail.com Les notifications d'acceptation seront envoyées avant le **15 juillet 2025**.

Pour toute question, veuillez contacter : aiscnapoli2025@gmail.com

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Bibliographie

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***Ponti e barriere:
ripensare le connessioni e le disconnessioni nel Canada contemporaneo***

In un'epoca caratterizzata dalla globalizzazione, dalle trasformazioni digitali e dai mutamenti sociopolitici, il Canada contemporaneo sta affrontando continue sfide per promuovere stabilità e appartenenza, mentre fa fronte a conflitti e divisioni (Simpson 2020; Coulthard 2021).

Il Canada è stato a lungo considerato un ponte tra diverse culture, identità e forze geopolitiche. Persistono, tuttavia, barriere sia storiche che contemporanee che continuano a plasmare il discorso nazionale. La complessità degli sforzi di riconciliazione con le nazioni indigene, la pesante eredità delle *residential schools* e le dispute sui *land rights* (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2015); le disparità interne, in particolare per quanto riguarda lo sviluppo economico e la distribuzione delle risorse (Banting & Thompson 2023); le tensioni linguistiche tra le comunità anglofone e francofone (Sioufi & Bourhis 2018); l'emergere e l'escalation di conflitti globali, che generano ulteriori divisioni e negoziazioni; i discorsi in continua evoluzione sull'etnia, la diversità culturale e l'uguaglianza di genere, che risuonano nelle lotte contemporanee per la resistenza e la trasformazione (Abu-Laban 2023); gli effetti della migrazione e del multiculturalismo che modellano le comunità urbane e rurali, sollevando interrogativi su questioni complesse come l'integrazione, l'identità e le politiche pubbliche (Li 2023). La visione del Canada come nazione accogliente sotto il punto di vista della migrazione coesiste, oggi, con accesi dibattiti interni sulla sicurezza delle frontiere, le politiche di asilo e la discriminazione sistemica. Inoltre, le infrastrutture digitali e fisiche hanno

un impatto crescente sull'accesso ai servizi, esacerbando le disuguaglianze socioeconomiche in un'epoca di rapida evoluzione tecnologica.

Il duplice ruolo del Canada come luogo di connessione e disconnessione è quindi evidente. Il convegno mira a esplorare le molteplici modalità con cui il Canada interagisce, oggi, con le nozioni di connessione e separazione sul piano culturale, politico, linguistico, economico e sociale. Sollecitiamo proposte che esaminino criticamente i fattori che costruiscono ponti e creano barriere nella società canadese contemporanea, da varie prospettive disciplinari nel campo delle *humanities*. Incoraggiamo approcci interdisciplinari, nonché prospettive geografiche, storiche, sociologiche, giuridiche, letterarie, linguistiche e culturali.

Le proposte possono riguardare (ma non si limitano a) i seguenti temi:

- Sovranità, riconciliazione e autogoverno delle nazioni indigene
- Bilinguismo e multilinguismo: politiche, identità e sfide
- Immigrazione, multiculturalismo e integrazione sociale
- Cambiamento climatico, giustizia ambientale e prospettive indigene
- Infrastrutture digitali e fisiche: accesso, esclusione e connettività
- Produzione culturale ed espressioni artistiche di appartenenza e alienazione
- Movimenti sociali e attivismo: costruzione di solidarietà o rafforzamento delle divisioni
- Il ruolo dell'istruzione nella formazione dell'identità nazionale
- Inclusione e accessibilità: politiche, sfide e opportunità
- Letteratura e narrazioni di connessione e disconnessione

Incoraggiamo approcci sia teorici che applicati. Sono benvenute anche le proposte di dottorande e dottorandi, ricercatrici e ricercatori all'inizio della carriera.

Lingue ufficiali della conferenza: italiano, inglese e francese

Linee guida per la presentazione: gli abstract non devono superare le 250 parole e devono essere accompagnati da una breve nota biografica (100 parole). Si prega di inviare le proposte entro il **30 giugno 2025** al seguente indirizzo: aiscnapoli2025@gmail.com
Le notifiche di accettazione saranno inviate entro il **15 luglio 2025**.

Per qualsiasi domanda, si prega di contattare: aiscnapoli2025@gmail.com

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