

## Call for Papers

For a conference to be held by QUESCREN and the CIRLM entitled

## Women in Official Language Minority Communities



Manifestation « La nuit des femmes », Gatineau/Ottawa, 21 septembre 1984. Photographie de Gilles Benoit. Université d'Ottawa, CRCCF, Fonds Le Droit (C71), Ph92-7-21091984-15.

May 14-15, 2024

Conference number 623 of the 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Acfas Congress  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

**Deadline for abstracts: February 11, 2024**

**SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL USING [THIS FORM.](#)**

## **DESCRIPTION**

For women in Canada's official language minority communities (OLMCs), language issues "intersect" (Crenshaw 2022) with those linked to other social and identity markers besides language. Belonging to a racialized group, an Indigenous community, or a sexual or gender minority, and living in poverty or with a disability, being young or older, or being an immigrant are just some of these markers (Canton 2023; Jack-Monroe 2021; Chavez 2021; Roman 2022; Madibbo 2021).

To better understand the effects of these factors, cross-disciplinary, comparative, and intersectional approaches can account for inequalities and even discrimination against women in sectors including health, education and employment. Indeed, OLMC women face unique experiences and challenges. Depending on the region, they can experience issues accessing healthcare in their own language (Auger et al., 2023). They are more often found in the role of caregiver and, in our reading, are over-represented in the charitable and community sectors (Williams 2023; Donovan 2016; Hampton & Rochat 2019). They are under-represented in political and decision-making bodies (De Geus et al., 2021; Andrew et al, 2009; Gingras & Maillé, 2018). They are treated differently in the media (Rouillard & Lalancette, 2023) and continue to be largely invisible in their contribution to community history and heritage (Lapointe-Gagnon, 2021; LeBlanc, 2022; Volpé, 2021; Bienvenue & Dorais, 2023; Thibault, 2020), while playing an important role in the transmission of their mother tongue (Vézina & Houle, 2014, Robineau & Guignard Noël, 202; Bouchard-Coulombe, 2011).

Furthermore, wider debates about definitions of "woman" according to the evolution of sexual and gender minority identities (Swamy and Mackenzie, 2022) question the inclusivity of "women-only" spaces (Chanady 2023, Cardinal and Donatien, 2022), including in OLMCs.

In the face of these challenges, a better understanding of the issues affecting women in these communities is needed. There are some community group and public policy strategies already in place, but others need to be implemented or improved.

The aim of this symposium is to bring together the expertise needed to better document and update research on women in OLMCs.

To our knowledge, our conference is the first to focus on this complex theme. Depending on proposed presentations, topics addressed may include:

- The role of women in history, the economy and labour market, public policy and institutions
- Women's movements, including in education and healthcare
- Women's role in the transmission of language and culture
- Leadership
- Women and sexual and gender minorities invisibilized in society: minoritization of particular groups, intersectionality

## **BACKGROUND: QUESCREN AND CIRLM AT ACFAS**

This QUESCREN-CIRLM conference will be held as part of the annual Acfas congress.

The Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network ([QUESCREN](#)) at Concordia University is a collaborative network of researchers, practitioners, educational institutions and other organizations working to enhance the understanding and vitality of Quebec's English-speaking communities.

The Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities ([CIRLM](#)) at the Université de Moncton acts as a leader, convener and partner with research centers, researchers, community organizations and government bodies, to promote greater knowledge of the situation of Canada's official language minorities and a better understanding of the priority issues that concern them.

The annual Acfas annual congress, the largest multidisciplinary gathering of knowledge and research in the French-speaking world, welcomes thousands of researchers and research users from some thirty countries. These congresses bring together dozens of conferences on specific topics. QUESCREN and CIRLM have co-organized conferences at Acfas for several years now.

The [2024 Acfas congress](#) will be held from May 13 to 17 at the University of Ottawa, in Ontario, Canada. As part of the congress, our conference will take place May 14-15, 2024.

## **ORGANIZERS**

[QUESCREN](#) and [CIRLM](#) are co-organizing this conference.

A program committee will review paper proposals. Its members are:

- **Kim Dubé**, Ph.D., Professor, Département de sociologie et de criminologie, Université de Moncton
- **Lorraine O'Donnell**, Ph.D., Affiliate Professor and Senior Research Associate and Advisor, QUESCREN, Concordia University
- **Anne Robineau**, Ph.D., Assistant Director and Researcher, CIRLM, Université de Moncton

Anna Hunt, M.A. is Logistics Coordinator. You can reach her at [anna.hunt@concordia.ca](mailto:anna.hunt@concordia.ca).

## **YOUR PARTICIPATION IN OUR CONFERENCE**

Researchers, professors, students, and community organizers are invited to submit an individual paper (presentation) proposal in electronic format. Please provide the following information by

**11 February, 2024** for each proposal [using this form](#):

- Name, job title, organization and email address of the paper presenter, as well as the presenter's co-authors, if applicable
- Title of the paper (max. 160 characters, including spaces)
- An abstract (summary of the paper) in French or English (max. 1,250 characters, including spaces)
- Short biography of presenter(s) (max. 750 characters, including spaces)

- Short bibliography supporting the abstract, if applicable

## EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

The program committee will evaluate proposals based on their scientific quality and relevance to the conference theme. Authors of proposals retained by the committee will be informed by email by February 19, 2024.

## LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION

Proposals and presentations may be sent to us in either French or English. If your written proposal is in English, we will translate it into French for the Acfas website. You may present at the conference itself in English. However, if you have a PowerPoint, it must be in French. We can assist you with the translation. We also hope to provide subtitles translating presentations to English or French.

Acfas itself is a French-language scholarly association and its annual congress operates in French. Given this, conference organizers will be pleased to help with registration on the French-language Acfas website.

You can read more about the Acfas language policy [here](#).

## CONGRESS FEES

**PLEASE NOTE: The Acfas congress organizers require all presenters, with no exceptions, to pay congress registration fees.** These give participants access to the entire Acfas congress, including our conference. The registration fees are listed [here](#).

---

## THANKS TO OUR CONFERENCE FUNDERS:

Canada 

*Secrétariat aux relations  
avec les Québécois  
d'expression anglaise*

Québec 

