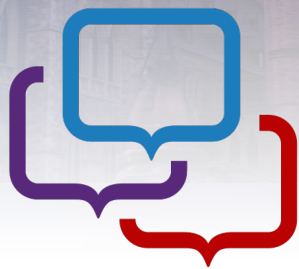


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# YEAR IN REVIEW: 2021



FEDERATION FOR THE  
**HUMANITIES AND  
SOCIAL SCIENCES**

*“As we continue to emerge from a devastating pandemic, the value of the humanities and social sciences cannot be understated.*

*In times of uncertainty, these disciplines inform and guide our responses — raising awareness of the issues, analyzing options, and helping shape public policy. Over the last year, the HSS community has shown its innovation and resilience – whether through the publication of timely research in response to COVID-19 or through the exchange of ideas at the first virtual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.*

*The Federation has been there through it all, harnessing digital technology to create new spaces for dialogue; taking important steps to bolster Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization; amplifying the voices of Canadian scholars; and advocating for the humanities and social sciences community — a community that is critical to writing the next chapter of Canada’s history and building a stronger and more just future.”*

**–Mike DeGagné**  
**Chair, Board of Directors,**  
**Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences**



## **About the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences**

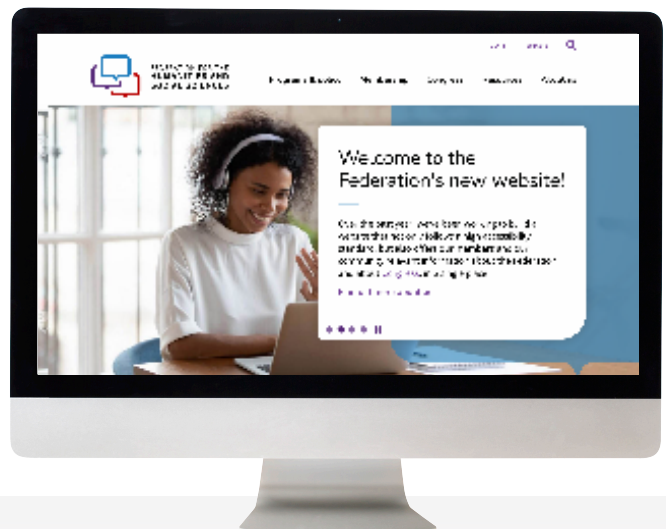
The Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences promotes research and teaching for the advancement of an inclusive, democratic and prosperous society. With a membership now comprising over 160 universities, colleges and scholarly associations, the Federation represents a diverse community of 91,000 researchers and graduate students across Canada. The Federation organizes Canada’s largest academic gathering, the annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Federation office is located on unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinabe Nation. We extend our respect to all First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples for their valuable contributions, past and present.





# Harnessing digital tools to create new spaces for dialogue



## New brand, new website

In September 2021, the Federation proudly launched its new website at [www.federationhss.ca](http://www.federationhss.ca).

We built this site to better serve our community by providing resources for scholars, promoting dialogue through the Federation blog, achieving a higher accessibility standard, and creating a single home for information about both the Federation and Congress.

Along with our new website, the Federation also unveiled a fresh new look and feel, including an improved logo and brand-new colour palette.

## The first virtual Congress

Despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Federation successfully pivoted the annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences to a virtual format, attended by **6,200 participants** joining from **72 countries**. Congress 2021 reached 1 million people across social and traditional media, hosted **1,750 Zoom sessions**, and led to over **350 media stories** featuring leading Canadian research in the humanities and social sciences. As the Federation's flagship event for over 90 years, Congress plays a crucial role in creating spaces for scholars to share findings, refine ideas, and build partnerships to help shape the Canada of tomorrow — whether in-person, or online.

**congress 2021**  
OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
Northern Relations



## Big Thinking speakers reach an online audience

*Disability will (re)make the arts*  
[Alice Sheppard](#)

*Everything is connected: Environment, economy, foreign policy, sustainability, human rights and leadership in the 21st century*  
[Sheila Watt-Cloutier](#)

*How to be an antiracist*  
[Ibram X. Kendi](#)

*Ní'wahkomakanak: All my relations*  
[Maria Campbell](#)

*Racism's touch: 'I can't quite put my finger on it'*  
[Shirley Anne Tate](#)

*Yááq̓ Kéorat'i (We see the daylight)*  
[The Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew](#)



# Supporting Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization

## “Igniting Change”

The release of the “[Igniting Change](#)” report by the Congress Advisory Committee on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization (AC-EDID) in April 2021 provided a valuable new resource for the Federation, scholarly associations, universities, and the entire social science and humanities community. Inspired by the committee’s recommendations, the Federation developed and began to implement its five-point [Action Plan](#).

## Support the Charter on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization in the HSS

As recommended by the report, the Federation endorsed the [Charter on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization \(EDID\) in the Social Science and Humanities](#) – and we urge each of our member associations, institutions, and affiliates to read, discuss, and support the Charter.

Our goal in supporting the Charter is to address obstacles that negatively affect the career trajectories and lived experiences of individuals from diverse communities, including women; First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples; members of racialized communities; persons with disabilities; members of LGBTQ2S+ communities; and linguistic, religious, and cultural communities.

## Reviewing and improving the Canada Prizes

The Canada Prizes are awarded annually to authors whose books have made an exceptional contribution to scholarship, and enrich the social, cultural and intellectual life of Canada. The Federation completed a full review of the prizes this year and will introduce changes in 2022 to address anti-Black racism, support reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, and more fully imbed the principles of equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization.

The Federation opposes discrimination, bigotry, prejudice, and injustice in all their forms. In 2021, the Federation took important new steps to support equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization. While this work is far from finished, we are proud of the steps we have taken so far.



Meet **Barrington Walker, Chair of the standing Committee on EDID**. The appointment of this new committee was a key point in the Federation’s 2021-22 EDID [Action Plan](#). Barrington Walker is Associate Vice-President, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and Professor of History at Wilfrid Laurier University.



In line with these commitments, the Federation is also pleased to announce that **Dhanela Sivaparan, Ph.D.** has been hired as Senior Advisor, EDID.



# Amplifying the voices of Canadian researchers

## Disseminating quality research

Each year, the Federation administers the [Awards to Scholarly Publications Program \(ASPP\)](#) funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The ASPP has helped thousands of Canadian scholars share their research with the world. In 2021, the program helped publish 176 books and provided 7 translation grants – contributing about \$1.5 million to the dissemination of Canadian research.

## Demonstrating the role of the humanities and social sciences during COVID-19

Responding to a global pandemic is much more than a technical challenge. It depends on the contributions of sociologists, economists, political scientists, and historians, among others. The same is true of other complex challenges, from climate change to economic inequality: if it involves people, it involves the humanities and social sciences.

That's why we put a spotlight on our community's COVID-related research in 2021, and featured their stories on the Federation's website and other communication channels, in our ongoing efforts to provide opportunities for HSS scholars to communicate research findings within and beyond academia and maximize the impacts of their work.

## COVID-19 and the humanities and social sciences

***We're not all in this together: What we can learn from the pandemic response, disability, and social stratification***

Dr. Michelle Maroto,  
University of Alberta

***Unpacking the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on food insecurity and health inequalities in the City of Toronto***

Dr. Sara Edge and Jenelle Regnier-Davies, Ryerson University

***How do people assess the credibility of COVID-19 related information? Personal beliefs a strong influence***

Dr. Jaigris Hodson, Royal Roads University; Christiani Thompson-Wagner, University of Saskatchewan; Darren Reid, University College London

***Exposure risks and mounting anxieties: researchers examine COVID-19's impacts on workers***

Featuring Dr. Xavier St-Denis, Institut national de la recherche scientifique

***Canadian researchers examine impacts of remote learning and rapid changes to education***

Featuring Dr. Emma Duerden, University of Western Ontario



# Advocating for the humanities and social sciences

# 55%

of the world's professional leaders are social sciences and humanities grads.



## Think Big: How the social sciences and humanities are building a better Canada

*The disciplines of the social sciences and humanities are essential to strengthening our democracy and solving the most complex challenges facing Canada and the world. In November, the Federation released its latest report, highlighting the value of the social sciences and humanities for all citizens, employers, and society. [Read it here.](#)*

## Open Access

In its 2021 pre-budget submission, the Federation called on the federal government to develop and fund an Open Science strategy. Lowering barriers to research can benefit students, fuel innovation and economic growth, and put knowledge in the hands of more people to solve global challenges. However, the Federation is advocating for the federal government to increase funding for scholarly journals and books. By making a modest investment, the federal government will make open science policies more effective and sustainable, while helping Canada to build a dynamic and innovative publishing sector for the digital age.





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