The annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences is Canada’s largest gathering of academics, and one of the largest in the world. It’s a place to hold critical conversations of our time, hear from a diverse set of voices, share findings, refine ideas, and build partnerships to help shape the Canada of tomorrow.

Congress 2023 took place at York’s Keele and Glendon Campuses in Toronto from May 27 to June 2. Sixty-seven scholarly associations and over 10,000 scholars, graduate students, and practitioners in the humanities and social sciences (HSS) gathered together and shared their research.

Under the theme Reckonings and Re-Imaginings, Congress honoured Black and Indigenous knowledges and cultures, and centred the diverse voices and ideas of scholars, graduate students, policymakers and community members in vital conversations about the most pressing issues facing our world.

The annual Big Thinking lecture series featured leading scholars and public figures in two thought-provoking and moving keynotes, and two panels where diverse perspectives joined together for inspiring discussions.

Seeds of the future: Climate justice, racial justice, and Indigenous resurgence
Alanis Obomsawin
Moderated by Eve Tuck & Susan Blight

Thinking across differences: Queer, Two-Spirit, and critical disability perspectives
Theri Pickens
SA Smythe
Alex Wilson
Moderated by Sean Hillier

Re-imagining Black Futures
The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, 27th Governor General, Commander-In-Chief of Canada
Respondent Adelle Blackett

Thinking across differences: Decolonial, anti-racism, and feminist perspectives
Joyce Green
Gina Starblanket
Rinaldo Walcott
Moderated by Christina Sharp

Congress 2023 was one of the largest scholarly events in Canadian history.

10,300 attendees
300 events over 7 days
67 scholarly associations
48 exhibitors
800 media stories
484 team members behind the scenes making Congress incredible
Today, our Congress 2023 attendees community reached 10,000! We’re so glad you’re here on the @YorkUniversity campus. Celebrate with us by sharing your #Congressh stories!

“The profound crisis of our moment, it’s a crisis of meaning. If you leave here hearing me say one thing today, please let it be this: even inside the university, the crisis of meaning is most acute.” @blacklikewho #congressh #bigthinking

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Featured social media

"My dear sisters and brothers, you must know that your life is sacred...Take time to breathe, to breathe nice and long. Breath brings a feeling of love in your heart. Once you feel that share it with others. You eyes will fill with kindness..." - Alanis Obomsawin #congressh