

# QUESCREN

**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
For a QUESCREN conference entitled

**The ‘English Boss’ and Company Towns:  
Quebec’s English-speakers in the industrial economy,  
then and now**

May 9-10, 2018  
86<sup>th</sup> annual Acfas congress  
Université du Québec à Chicoutimi  
Saguenay, Quebec, Canada

**Deadline for abstracts: January 18, 2018**



Arvida, 1933 (BAnQ, P600 S6 D5 P7)

## **DESCRIPTION**

A prevailing vision of Quebec’s recent past involves a unilingual English-speaking “boss” class ruling above an underpaid Francophone working class.

Aspects of the model do apply historically, especially in some of Quebec’s “company towns.” Indeed, since the mid-1800s, English-speakers planned and established several communities throughout the province: Arvida, Shawinigan Falls, Asbestos, Temiscaming, and others. The elite in these locales often lived in exclusive “quartiers des anglais” (English neighbourhoods) and rarely mixed with their largely Francophone neighbours.

However, a closer look at these and other company towns reveal that the Anglophone-dominance narrative is too simplistic. English-speakers from all classes were present in these communities from early on. Moreover, Francophones ran some important industries such as Chicoutimi's large paper mill. Finally, when we look at former company towns today, we see that some old economic inequalities have been upended. The 1,550 English-speakers currently living in Saguenay, for instance, face higher unemployment rates than Francophones, and have low indicators of community vitality.

Our conference, called "The 'English Boss' and Company Towns: Quebec's English-speakers in the industrial economy, then and now," takes us to Saguenay, which grew in part according to this company town model. Two significant planned industrial communities were established within the current city limits: Kenogami, which the Price Brothers Company set up in 1910, and Arvida, which the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa) built in 1926. The latter had the biggest aluminum smelter in the world and is presently being promoted as a potential UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Papers will examine myths and realities surrounding Quebec's company towns, the present-day legacy of this heritage, how this heritage continues to shape ethno-linguistic relations in Quebec today, and current "on the ground" realities in former company towns. Our plan is to follow the conference with a field trip to Arvida & Kenogami to explore present-day realities, and a panel discussion with local English-speaking community leaders. The field trip will be open to our conference participants.

Our multidisciplinary conference will address demographic, socioeconomic, historical, cultural and other issues related to the topic of Quebec's English-speakers in the industrial economy. Conference themes may include, but are not restricted to:

- The socio-economic status of Quebec's English-speaking communities: (un)employment and poverty, then and now
- Representations of the "English boss" in Quebec's economic history: myths and realities
- Culture, ideology and politics related to the theme of the "English boss" and company towns in Quebec
- History of company towns in Quebec
- Regional and urban development in relation to Quebec company towns
- Architecture and urban planning in company towns, particularly as it relates to linguistic segregation
- Comparisons with company towns outside Quebec
- Arvida, Quebec, as a World Heritage Site

## **ORGANIZERS**

The [Quebec English-speaking Communities Research Network \(QUESCREN\)](#) at [Concordia University](#) is organizing this conference in partnership with the [Quebec Community Groups Network \(QCGN\)](#). The [Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network \(QAHN\)](#) will be our partner to organize the conference's field trip.

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

- **Patrick Donovan**, Associate Coordinator, QUESCREN; PhD candidate, Université Laval
- **Cheryl Gosselin**, Professor, Sociology, Bishop's University
- **Uzma Jamil**, Ph.D., Research Officer, Dawson College
- **Brian Lewis**, Professor, Communications, Concordia University
- **Lorraine O'Donnell**, Coordinator-Researcher, QUESCREN, and Affiliate Assistant Professor, School of Community and Public Affairs, Concordia University
- **Stephen Thompson**, Director of Policy, Research & Public Affairs, Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN)
- **Paul Zanazanian**, Assistant Professor, Integrated Studies in Education, McGill University

## BACKGROUND: QUESCREN AT ACFAS

Established in 2008, the Quebec English-speaking Communities Research Network (QUESCREN) is a collaborative network of researchers, stakeholders, educational and other institutions that improves understanding of Quebec's English-speaking communities and promotes their vitality. Our [seven previous conferences at Acfas](#) were groundbreaking. Many academic, government and community-based researchers presented papers crossing disciplines, but all related to the history and current situation of Quebec's English-speaking communities.

The Acfas (Association francophone pour le savoir) annual congresses are important events bringing together dozens of subject-specific conferences. [The 2018 congress](#) will be held from May 7-11 at Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, Saguenay, Quebec, Canada.

## YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE 2018 QUESCREN CONFERENCE

Researchers, professors, students, community organizers and policy makers are warmly invited to propose for QUESCREN's 2018 conference one or more of the following: an individual paper (presentation); a session grouping together three or four papers around a specific theme; a round-table; or a workshop.

Please follow these **guidelines** for each proposal:

- Name, job title, organisation, email address of paper presenter(s)
- Title of paper (max. 150 characters, including spaces)
- A text outlining the following elements if applicable: 1) subject of research; 2) methodology; 3) brief presentation of results (max. 150 words)
- Short biography explaining your expertise in the field (max. 120 words)
- Short bibliography supporting the proposal
- Please state whether you require funding for a) registration fees and b) travel

Please send your proposal in electronic format **by January 18, 2018** to:

Lorraine O'Donnell: [lorraine.odonnell@concordia.ca](mailto:lorraine.odonnell@concordia.ca)

and Patrick Donovan: [patrick.donovan1@concordia.ca](mailto:patrick.donovan1@concordia.ca).

## EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

The program committee listed above will evaluate proposals. Authors of proposals retained by the committee will be informed by email in late January 2018.

## **LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION**

Acfas is a French-language venue. Presentations in French are strongly encouraged, but not mandatory. In the case of English-language presentations, QUESCREN will be pleased to help provide English-to-French translation of material to make results accessible to the French-language audience.

## **PUBLICATION OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS**

The conference organizers are presently seeking funding to publish conference proceedings.

## **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND TRAVEL EXPENSES**

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

The conference organizers are presently seeking funding to defray travel and registration costs, particularly for student presenters. Please let us know in your proposal if you require funding to cover these costs.

## **SIGN UP FOR QUESCREN NEWSLETTER**

For more information about QUESCREN, please sign up for our newsletter at [this link](#).