

Dear friends:

Just a quick update about the meeting, and a last-minute change or two.

The excursion tour is unfortunately canceled.

Because of several factors—namely the rising cost of gasoline, the closures from the pandemic still in the process of being reopening, group size limitations related to extant health, and security concerns stemming from the Ottawa protests earlier this year—the tour that we had planned is no longer feasible at the price-point we initially set. As such, we will be cancelling the tour and facilitating as best we can a few recommendations for things to do on Wednesday afternoon. Refunds will occur and we will figure out the most cost-effective way of doing so.

Although this is not what we would have desired, as the tour is a great opportunity for sociability, we take solace in the experiences had at other in-person conferences in the “post-“pandemic”; after these years since the last in-person meetings, it is not the specific activity occasioning time spent together that ultimately matters, but simply the time itself. There is much to do in Ottawa and the region, from the Aviation Museum, the Museum of Science and Technology, and the Experimental Farm, to the crafts marketplace in the Bytown Market, to all sorts of cafes and brewpubs. In the heart of Canada’s Capital Region, explore the symbolic sites along Confederation Boulevard, the monuments honouring our history, the public art that colours the pedestrian routes and the temporary exhibits that enliven the streets! Walk or cycle along the Rideau Canal Promenade, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Ottawa is a city of tourism, with busses, canal boats, river boats, and a panoply of excursions to whet your exploratory whistles.

Program adjustments:

We are hoping that we do not have to make too many more adjustments because of airline schedules etc. but we are not, in this instance, totally in command of the scheduling.

Changes to the program:

Monday, 1:30-3:15 Jeannie Thomas will be presenting online instead of in person.

Tuesday, 9-10:45 (entire session will be shifted with the Thursday morning session at the same time)

- Popular Culture chaired by *Gunnella Thorgeirsdottir*
 - *Daniel P. Compora*: Toss a coin...’The Folkloric Origins of *The Witcher*
 - *Aurore Van de Winkel* (*) The Recycling of a Contemporary Legend: the poisoned candy
 - *Mikel J. Koven* Walpurgisnacht: Folklore & Popular Culture

Wednesday, 12:45+ → tour canceled

Thursday, 9-10:45

- Ostension and Ostensive Practices chaired by Daniel P. Compora

- *Jeanmarie Rouhier-Willoughby* In the Middle of Nowhere Kentucky: Satanism and Murder in Somerset
- *Felicity Wood* (*) Sorcery, Spirits, and Deadly Seductions: Oral Accounts of Wealth-Giving Magic in Present Day South Africa
- *Betty Aquino* The New Halloween Sadist: The ISIS Sleeper Cell of Northern Virginia

We are, however, certainly hoping that everyone will have a grand conference and visit with each other and, for those in attendance, with the city itself.

The hotel sent out confirmation reminders this morning for all of you who are registered with them. Please notice that their kitchen is only open for breakfast at this time. The location is surrounded by eateries of all sorts so that should not be a problem for anyone.

See (most of) you on Monday morning for registration, hugs, orientation, hugs, and the beginning of a splendid and creative week. Did we mention hugs?

Gail & Ian