

## CSSC/SCEBD: CFP Annual Conference at TCAF / TMU 2026

The Canadian Society for the Study of Comics / Société canadienne pour l'étude de la BD (CSSC/SCEBD) invites submissions for its Annual Conference, hosted by the Toronto Comic Arts Festival to be held at the Toronto Metropolitan University on June 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

In celebration of the Society's renewed relationship with TCAF, the theme this year is *Rebirth / Reframe / Reboot*. We are excited to see submissions for papers on this theme and related to comics, including comic strips, comic books, comics albums, adaptations of comics, sequential art and/or imagetexts, comics publishing, or anything else related to comics. Papers on comics from Canada are welcome, as are papers on comics in any language, including English and French, and originating in any cultural space, very much including Indigenous spaces. We also encourage papers on non-Canadian comics as well as global, international, or transnational comics.

Paper topics for this year's conference might include:

- rebooting long-running characters, stories, or storyworlds
- rebooting as comics industry practice
- symbolic or literal renewal
- invention and reinvention of formal tropes
- cycles of life and death
- comics adaptations of literary texts
- film adaptations of comics
- changes in comics technology
- new readerships
- new possibilities in comics studies
- moments of change in specific titles, authors' careers, or in the wider industry

This year's conference will also have a new format. In cooperation with TCAF, our sessions will be open to all attendants of the Festival, which means there will be many more people in our rooms, and we have decided to divide our conference into two days.

Day 1: (Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>), will be for papers that assume comics scholars will comprise the bulk of the audience. This is our "academic" day.

Day 2 (Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>) will be for papers that assume a strong portion of the audience is made up of TCAF attendees. This is our "accessible" day.

The accessible portion of our conference also occurs on the same day as TCAF's scholarly events: Library Education Day and the Thought Balloon Academy. These events are hosted and adjudicated by TCAF, but we encourage CSSC/SCEBD members to apply to them using this form: [TCAF Programming Page](#).

### Roundtables

In addition to paper proposals, we are also breaking with tradition and accepting proposals for roundtable discussions about variations on this year's theme. By default, these invert the structure of a three-paper panel. That is, the majority of the time consists of three or four presenters taking questions from a host as well as the audience with only brief remarks from each guest at the outset. That said, we

encourage proposals that play with this format or propose an alternative format that's in the spirit of a roundtable. The round-tables can be oriented towards either Day 1 (academic) or Day 2 (accessible).

### **Submission Process**

To submit an application to present an individual paper at the CSSC/SCEBD 2026 Conference, please submit a proposal of 300 words in length, maximum, [using this form](#). To submit a proposal for a panel or roundtable session that you would like to organize, please [complete this form](#).

**The deadline for proposals is January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.** All conference participants must be members in good standing of the CSSC/SCEBD. To support Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization, registration fees for Black or Indigenous contributors are waived for the 2026 conference. The CSSC/SCEBD will also be granting a cash award to one graduate-student attendee. Please indicate on your proposal if you would like to be considered for this award.

### **About the CSSC/SCEBD**

The CSSC/SCEBD is a national, bilingual scholarly association that promotes the academic study of comics. Founded in 2010, the CSSC/SCEBD is a venue for Canadian and international scholars to discuss all aspects of comics as an art form and cultural phenomenon. For more information about the CSSC/SCEBD, please see our website: [comics-scholars.com](http://comics-scholars.com).