

L'Association
canadienne des études
sur l'alimentation



Canadian
Association for
Food Studies

Foundations, Evolutions, and Revolutions

George Brown College, Toronto
June 2-5, 2025

PLEASE SHARE WIDELY

Foundations, Evolutions, and Revolutions

The Canadian Association for Food Studies (CAFS) will host its 19th annual assembly, in conjunction with the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, from June 2 to June 5, 2025, at George Brown College, Toronto, Ontario. The conference is currently planned as a predominantly in-person event with the capacity for virtual participation.

Founded in 2005, CAFS promotes critical, multidisciplinary scholarship in the broad area of food systems, food culture, and food justice. CAFS membership is open to academics, activists, students, policymakers, community workers, professionals, practitioners, and others interested in food studies research and practice. CAFS members come from an array of disciplines across the sciences and humanities, as well as food production and activism. The conference is an opportunity to share knowledge in a wide variety of ways and across numerous themes. We encourage (English, French, and bi-lingual) submissions on critical and theoretical work, community-based and on-the-ground practice, research-creation and transdisciplinary initiatives, and creative, thought- and feeling-provoking investigations.

The 2025 CAFS Conference will reflect on the history and development of food studies in Canada to envision and inspire the future. In 2025, the food studies community is celebrating many milestones. The [Canadian Food Studies Journal](#) has just surpassed its tenth anniversary. [Food Secure Canada](#) has worked to help realize an equitable and empowered food movement for over 20 years. And, [the Centre for Studies in Food Security](#), looks back on 30 years of food security research in Canada and beyond. In reflecting on these important

moments, we have much to celebrate. However, we also bear witness to food system injustices within Canada and beyond, including the climate crisis, structural racism, war and genocide, polarization, and intensifying capitalization.

In this moment we ask you to join us as we look back on the achievements and progress made by the food studies community and take stock of where we stand today. For the 2025 conference, we are particularly interested in engaging with the past, present, and future dimensions of food studies, including content that reflects on our foundations and origins and proposes evolution and revolutions for imagining what food and food studies can be.

We welcome a breadth of submission formats that reflect the evolving processes by which CAFS and its larger community interact. To this end, the submission form includes options for not only individual papers, but also panels/round tables, workshops, and culinary arts and cooking demonstrations; we also encourage the incorporation of audio-visual elements into any of these formats. You can indicate on the submission form any space and/or AV needs and preferences you have.

We are particularly interested in hearing from groups structurally excluded from academic spaces, including Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour, LGBTQ2SI+ and first-generation scholars, activists, producers, and other practitioners.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Within the broad theme of **Foundations, Evolutions, and Revolutions**, submissions may include, but are not limited to:

- next-generation scholarship
- food systems and equity
- Indigenous food systems
- climate change
- labour and exploitation
- racism and anti-racism
- food epistemology
- food pedagogy
- media and communications
- arts, culture, and literature
- hybrid practice & transdisciplinary approaches to food
- cross-sector collaboration
- process design and speculation

Submission formats include:

- individual paper presentations
- organized panels/round tables
- lightning talks
- posters
- performance art or alternative mediums
- workshops
- culinary arts/cooking demonstrations*
- also see call for Exploration Gallery works below

* There is limited availability of commercial kitchen space for cooking demonstrations that are selected for programming; if your submission requires use of a kitchen, please note that in your submission and the organizers will follow up with you.

Abstract submissions are accepted via [Google Form](#).

- Sessions will last 90 minutes.
- Paper presentations should run 15–18 minutes, allowing substantial time for questions and discussion.
- Panel/roundtable organizers may allot their time as appropriate to their presentation format.
- Workshop organizers requiring more than 90 minutes should contact the conference co-Chairs at assembly@foodstudies.ca
- Organized panels and roundtable submissions must include a list of participants, and you must instruct each participant to also submit an abstract in which they indicate the name of the organized session/roundtable.
- Individuals may make a maximum of two submissions of any kind.
- For all submission types, please include three to five keywords and social media information in the spaces provided in the Google Form.
- Successful conference candidates will be featured on our website and social media.

Presentation abstracts are due on January 10, 2025. Notifications will be sent out on February 10 and presenters must confirm their participation by February 20.

How to Write an Abstract: webinar for new conferenciers

Is this your first time at the CAFS conference? Are you new to submitting conference abstracts? Do you have questions about the process and content? Curious to know how to write an abstract and prepare for a food studies presentation? Check out our [How to Write an Abstract webinar](#).

EXPLORATION GALLERY

Exploration Gallery submissions are due on January 31, 2025.

The Exploration Gallery is an experimental space at the CAFS Conference, first inaugurated in 2011 with three installations. It has since grown and ebbed, offering conference-goers an opportunity to share knowledge, experience, speculative ideas, emotions, and questions about food, food culture, and food systems. Serving as an informal meeting hub, break room, and contemplation space, the Gallery represents the ways in which food studies transcends and engages with more than the formalities of academic work on food. Submissions to the Gallery can include student posters, interactive installations, books and zines, slideshows and videos, two- or three-dimensional pieces, edible art, and other creative/design works. Notifications will be sent out on February 28 and presenters must confirm their participation by March 17.

Gallery submissions are accepted via [Google Form](#).

- The Gallery will run throughout the conference and will be open to the public.
- Works must be delivered to George Brown College by June 2nd, 2025 and collected from the Gallery on June 5, the last day of the conference.
- Note that space is limited, particularly for screen-based works.
- Download the [2012 Gallery Catalogue](#) or the [2014 Gallery album](#) to view contributions from previous years.
- Watch a short video from the [2023 Gallery](#)
- Included works will be featured on the CAFS website, in social media, and in an eventual catalogue or album.

ONE-DAY STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

Thursday June 5, 2025 | 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Are you new to Food Studies? The 2025 Student Symposium is for you. It's a great opportunity for focused exchange about the issues you care about (and a nice way to make new food friends). The 2025 Student Symposium is open to all students, emerging researchers, or those looking to get more involved in Canadian food studies. This one-day event is a collaborative effort delivered by CAFS DevOur Campus and marks the end of the CAFS Conference and the beginning of the DevOur Campus 2025 conference, from June 5-7.

DevOur, co-created by [Concordia Food Coalition](#) and Communal Lunch Project, is a national research symposium aimed at tackling post-secondary student food crises, such as food security, sustainability, and campus food culture. As part of their research partnership, they launched DevOur as an annual gathering of students, food systems scholars, faculty, staff, and campus food actionists to collaboratively explore how to reshape campus food systems, so they are equitable, sustainable, and rooted in community care. Please see the [Communal Lunch Project](#) website and the [DevOur](#) page for more information as it becomes available.

For more information, watch the CAFS listserv and conference website, or contact the organizers at assembly@foodstudies.ca.

CALL FOR BOOKS

We would like to celebrate new books that were launched between 2023 and 2025 by CAFS members. We are planning to host a collective book launch to highlight these publications as part of a social event during the Assembly. If you have a new book, and would like to participate, please send an email with your expression of interest to Charles Levkoe at clevkoe@lakeheadu.ca.

CAFS AWARD NOMINATIONS

Award for Public Service or Activism in Food Systems

This award recognizes an individual who has made contributions to food systems work that serves the general public or that takes place within the sphere of activism or change-making. Work may have taken place in community or institutional contexts, the arts, ecological, or rights movements, or other spaces. To nominate someone, please submit the following:

- A cover letter from the principal nominator detailing the nominee's contributions and making the case for the award.
- The nominee's current CV or a comprehensive summary of work.
- Two or more letters of support (at least one from a CAFS member).
- Other material including media clips, accreditations, videos, testimonials (optional).
- Submission deadline: February 10, 2025. Notification of awards: April 1, 2025.

Student Paper Awards in Food Studies

These awards recognize scholarly excellence and encourage participation by undergraduate and

and graduate students. One award will be granted in each category. The award includes a \$200 prize, a one-year CAFS membership, and complimentary CAFS conference registration. The guidelines for submission are as follows:

- Papers should be between 4,000 and 6,000 words (excluding bibliography).
- Papers must be student-authored and on any food-related theme.
- Co-authored papers by two students may be submitted if both students agree that they made comparable contributions to the paper.
- Submissions should specify if the paper was written for a course, major research project, thesis, or comprehensive exam, and indicate if it is being submitted to the undergraduate or graduate award category.
- In addition to submitting the finished paper, applicants must also submit an abstract for a conference presentation by the CFP deadline of January 10, 2025.
- Submissions should specify if the paper was written for a course, major research project, thesis, or comprehensive exam, and indicate if it is being submitted to the undergraduate or graduate award category.
- In addition to submitting the finished paper, applicants must also submit an abstract for a conference presentation by the CFP deadline of January 10, 2025.
- Submission deadline: January 10, 2025. Notification of awards: February 15, 2025.

CAFS Award Nominations

Send nominations and papers to cfsadmin@foodstudies.ca. They will then be forwarded to the CAFS prize committee.

CONFERENCE DETAILS

Plenary Programming

In keeping with the CAFS conference theme of Foundations, Evolutions, and Revolutions we are planning a three-day arc of plenary events that brings to life these animating ideas. Our plenary on Day 1 will look back to the foundations and origins of food studies in Canada over the last 30 years. On Day 2, our plenary will look at the present issues, concerns, and priorities characterizing food studies scholarship, practice, and advocacy. On Day 3, the plenary will look towards ongoing evolutions and revolutions in food studies as we move forward in shared yet diverse ways. Watch the listserv and website for updates!

Tours

Details regarding food tours will be announced in early 2025. Please watch the CAFS listserv and the conference page on the [CAFS website](#) for more updates.

Registration & Fees

Conference participants must be [current CAFS members](#). Registration for the CAFS conference will take place on the [Congress 2025 website](#).

Conference Funding

A limited amount of funding to cover Congress registration and CAFS membership fees will be available for students, underwaged individuals, and those who are structurally excluded from academic spaces.

Note that fees for students and community members who self-identify as Black or Indigenous will be waived.

Please contact the conference co-Chairs at assembly@foodstudies.ca for more information and to submit a funding request. Funding award notifications will be made by February 10, 2025.

Masking statement

To make the CAFS Conference and Student Symposium accessible and secure for the greatest number of people, we require all participants to wear a well-fitting mask that covers their nose, mouth, and chin. This includes all conference spaces on the campus, except when eating, drinking, presenting, or asking/answering questions. Masks are available at the CAFS information desk and other designated locations while supplies last. Attendees are nonetheless asked to bring their own masks and are encouraged to change masks daily.

Upstander Intervention Training Webinar

Our intention is to make the conference a safe and welcoming space for all attendees. To that end, we encourage all accepted conferenciers to complete an asynchronous training webinar. The webinar focuses on ways to actively and peacefully intervene in moments of friction, oppression, or injustice that may occur during formal and informal conference events. A link and password to access the training will be provided to all registered participants two weeks in advance of the conference.

Conference Website and Planning Team

For conference updates, go to the [CAFS website](#).

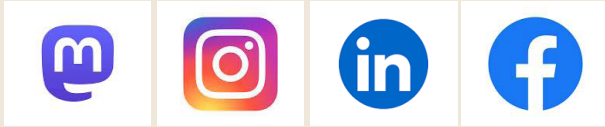
This year's organizers include many people who are helping to make light(er) work of the planning and logistics. We are enormously grateful for their help and will be announcing the complete list of participants on the CAFS website and during the conference.

To contact the co-Chairs, please email assembly@foodstudies.ca.

Follow Us!

Stay current with the latest news and conference updates, including announcements about our keynote speaker, plenaries, social events, and local tours. And use the hashtag #CAFS2025 when posting yourself!

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