



**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
**78e Congrès de l'Acfas**  
**Université de Montréal, 10-14 May 2010**

**Colloquium 643:**  
**Quebec's English-speaking communities: current issues and future trends**

Research on how linguistic minorities maintain vitality within majority settings has focussed on francophones in Anglo-Canada or European groups. The English-speaking communities of Quebec (ESCQ) are a special case as a double status minority and an English-language one. However, they remain seriously understudied. This hinders the communities' capacity to create evidence-based development strategies in a context of declining vitality, and it highlights knowledge gaps that Quebec Francophones have about their most important minority.

The first goal of this colloquium is to share knowledge about ESCQ experiences and their social, political and economic environments. The ESCQ do not yet constitute a recognized academic "field of study." Developing the field is a second goal. Professors and graduate students from several Quebec universities, both English and French, are becoming increasingly interested in the ESCQ. The colloquium will bring the scholars together for the first time in an academic colloquium. It will facilitate networking and help build up "la relève." Third, the colloquium promotes community-university collaboration by presenting some participatory action research projects and through the presence of several community-based researchers. Fourth, in communicating important research findings, the colloquium will provide evidence that community and government decision makers need to develop policies and programs, thus helping enhance ESCQ vitality.

"Quebec's English-speaking communities: current issues and future trends" considers two main themes. The **first theme is English-speaking Quebecers in themselves**: as individuals and in communities. Colloquium sessions from this theme will focus on several areas receiving scholarly attention including education; health; history; identity; language acquisition; and poverty/economic conditions. Cross-disciplinary sub-themes within the sessions may include:

- Ways of identifying "English-speaking communities": as an official language minority community; as grouped by region or interest; as a collection of cultural sub-communities (eg., immigrants, internationally-adopted children, "old-stock" Anglophones of various ethnicities)
- The communities' place in Quebec society, policy, and the education and health systems
- Representations/ attitudes in literature, education practices, historiography and the law
- Sense of belonging, identity, and self-representation
- The situations, experiences and behaviour of English-speaking Quebecers as workers, poor people, immigrants, students, learners of French
- Community actions for development: use of Web 2.0, entrepreneurship, organizing

The **second theme is the state of the research itself**. We will look at:

- Current status: what has been studied and how; people and groups carrying out the research; research gaps
- Future trends. What subjects are understudied? How can we develop a research agenda? Who are key players, and what opportunities and barriers will affect future research?

Researchers, professors and students are invited to propose a paper related to the above themes/subthemes. **Please send your paper proposal (max. 500 words) with your contact information and affiliation by February 1, 2010 at the latest to the following address:** [acfas.quescren@gmail.com](mailto:acfas.quescren@gmail.com). For information, contact Lorraine O'Donnell, coordinator-researcher, QUESCREN, at [lorraine.odonnell@concordia.ca](mailto:lorraine.odonnell@concordia.ca).

Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network is the main organizer of this event. Launched in 2009 by Concordia University and the Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities, QUESCREN develops research capacity on Quebec's English-speaking communities. Information: [www.QUESCREN.concordia.ca](http://www.QUESCREN.concordia.ca). Our co-organizer is the Eastern Townships Research Centre (est. 1982). Information: [www.etc.ca](http://www.etc.ca).

**Organizing committee:** Lorraine O'Donnell (QUESCREN at Concordia University), Cheryl Gosselin (Bishop's University/Eastern Townships Research Centre).

## QUESCREN/RRCQEA



**ICRML**  
Institut canadien  
de recherche  
sur les minorités  
linguistiques

**CIRLM**  
Canadian Institute  
for Research  
on Linguistic  
Minorities

