



**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
**79e Congrès de l'Acfas**  
**Bishop's University and Université de Sherbrooke, 9-13 May 2011**

**Colloquium 641:**  
**Quebec's English-speaking communities: a new research agenda**

This conference is being organized by the Eastern Townships Resource Centre and the Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network, in partnership with the Townshippers' Association and the Équipe de recherche interuniversitaire sur la littérature anglo-québécoise.<sup>1</sup>

**Conference rationale:** Research on linguistic minority 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 understudied, with some exceptions such as a recent bibliography (B. O'Donnell, 2009) and volumes on ESCQ vitality (Bourhis, 2008; Stevenson, 1999). This hinders the communities' capacity to create evidence-based development strategies in a context of declining vitality, and highlights knowledge gaps that Quebec Francophones have about their most important minority. The conference aims to build capacity and address the gaps.

**Conference goals:** 1) To share the knowledge we began building at ACFAS 2010; 2) to develop "ESCQ studies" as a research field; 3) to promote community-university collaboration by presenting some participatory action research projects and through the presence of community-based researchers; 4) to provide evidence that community and government decision makers need to develop policies and programs, thus helping enhance ESCQ vitality.

**Main conference themes:**

1) English-speaking Quebecers as individuals and in communities.

Conference sessions may cover a variety of disciplines including education, history, diversity/immigration; the economy; health, literature. Cross-disciplinary 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, "old-stock" Anglophones of various ethnicities)
- The communities' place in Quebec society and history
- Sense of belonging and identity
- Community development and vitality
- Anglophone-Francophone relations

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<sup>1</sup> For information on these organizations, see the following websites: [www.etric.ca](http://www.etric.ca); [www.quescren.concordia.ca](http://www.quescren.concordia.ca); [www.townshippers.qc.ca](http://www.townshippers.qc.ca).

2) The state of the research itself. We will look at:

- Current status: Last year's conference assembled academics, graduate students, community leaders and government policy makers to explore the content of ESCQ research, who were the people and groups carrying out the research, and research gaps. This set the stage for future trends in research on the ESCQ.
- Future trends: we will develop our common research agenda and bring together the current key players to examine opportunities and barriers affecting our future research avenues.

**To present a conference paper proposal:** Researchers, professors and students are warmly invited to propose a paper related to the above or other relevant topics using the following guidelines:

- Name, job title, organisation, email address of each presenter
- Text of approximately 400 words including the following elements if applicable: 1) subject of research; 2) methodology; 3) brief presentation of results; 4) short bibliography (max. 1 page) supporting the proposal; 5) brief biography (5 lines per person)

Please send your proposal in electronic format by **February 3, 2011** to the following address: [etrc@ubishops.ca](mailto:etrc@ubishops.ca). For information, contact Dr. Cheryl Gosselin, Department of Sociology, Bishop's University, at [cgosseli@ubishops.ca](mailto:cgosseli@ubishops.ca) or Dr. Lorraine O'Donnell, Coordinator-researcher, QUESCREN, at [lorraine.odonnell@concordia.ca](mailto:lorraine.odonnell@concordia.ca).

A scientific conference committee headed by Cheryl Gosselin and Lorraine O'Donnell will evaluate all proposals. Authors of proposals retained by the committee will be informed by email in mid-February.

**Language of presentation:** presentations may be in French or English. French is preferable, given that Acfas is a French-language venue. Authors presenting in spoken English will be requested to provide written titles and summaries in French before the conference date, and a written support (eg., PowerPoint presentation or handout) in French on the conference date. The conference organizers will be pleased to help provide English-to-French translation of the conference material.

**Publication of conference proceedings:** The conference organizers intend to publish some of the papers presented at this conference in a special 2012 issue of *The Journal of Eastern Townships Studies*.

**About attending Acfas:** The conference is part of the annual Association francophone pour le savoir (Acfas) congress, which brings together hundreds of academic conferences. Presenters will be required to register and pay entrance fees that give access to the entire congress. For information: [www.acfas.ca](http://www.acfas.ca).



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