



Festiwal
Kultury
Kanadyjskiej

Student and Doctoral Scientific Conference

12th Festival of Canadian Cultures

Jagiellonian University – Kraków, Poland

Canada: Safe and Sound?

16-18th November 2026

WSMiP Building, Reymonta 4, Kraków

Conference languages: Polish and English

Format: hybrid

The American Studies Student Association of the Jagiellonian University cordially invites you to **the 12th edition of the Festival of Canadian Cultures** and the student and doctoral scientific conference **entitled Canada: Safe and Sound?** The event will take place on 16-18th November 2026 at the WSMiP Building, Reymonta 4, Kraków.

For decades, Canada has cultivated an image of openness, stability, and safety. On the international stage, it has until recently been seen as a successful multicultural experiment, a model liberal democracy, and a guarantor of human rights. Today, however, that narrative faces increasingly serious challenges. Growing pressure from the United States, great-power competition over the Arctic, and the future of the transatlantic alliance are all urgent concerns. Global challenges that Canada cannot escape are also multiplying: disinformation, climate change, and the crisis of liberal democracy. Within the country itself, rising separatist sentiments, social and economic inequalities, a housing crisis, and tensions around Indigenous peoples' rights all lend new meanings and dimensions to the question of Canada's condition.

The concept of security that we place at the heart of this conference is understood broadly and multidimensionally — not only through the lens of military and geopolitical security. It is also the economic security of citizens: a housing crisis, growing inequality, and the erosion of the middle class undermine the sense of stability that was for so long a Canadian norm. It is health and environmental

security: the pandemic exposed vulnerabilities in the healthcare system, and climate change is hitting Canada with particular force. It is the security of Indigenous peoples, still shaped by the legacy of colonialism. It is the identity security of minorities in the face of a rising tide of intolerance. And it is the security of liberal democracy itself, threatened by disinformation, polarization, and a crisis of trust in institutions.

The conference *Canada: Safe and Sound?* aims to provide a space for interdisciplinary reflection on how different dimensions of security intertwine and condition one another in contemporary Canada. We want to ask what it means to feel secure in this country today, who provides that security, and to whom it continues to be denied. The title *Safe and Sound* is deliberately ambiguous: it is an English idiom meaning "unharmful and well," but also a question of whether Canadian values — multiculturalism, inclusivity, the rule of law — remain sound: durable, solid, and credible in the face of the challenges confronting the country.

Particular attention in the conference programme will be devoted to the Arctic. The region has become one of the most contested points on the map of global rivalry. Melting ice is opening new shipping routes and access to natural resources, drawing the interest of great powers and intensifying disputes over territorial sovereignty. For Canada, the North is not only a geopolitical space, but also the homeland of Indigenous peoples, for whom questions of security and self-determination take on particular significance in this context. We invite reflection on how Canada navigates this unique and increasingly disputed region — and what the future of the Arctic tells us about the future of Canada itself.

We invite submissions on topics including (but not limited to):

- Arctic sovereignty and great-power competition;
- Canada–U.S. relations in the age of Trump 2.0;
- Canada in NATO;
- digital security: disinformation, data sovereignty, cyberattacks, and critical infrastructure;
- border security and immigration policy;
- economic security: the housing crisis and rising inequality;
- food security;
- access to natural resources;
- health security;
- security of Indigenous peoples: rights, self-determination, and the legacy of colonialism;
- security of minorities: racism, Islamophobia, antisemitism;
- climate and environmental security;

- literary, musical, and cinematic representations of threat;
- Canadian popular culture's response to crisis;
- tensions between individual freedom and collective security in Canadian society.

We welcome submissions from students, doctoral candidates, and early-career researchers representing fields such as Canadian Studies, American Studies, History, Sociology, International Relations, Political Science, Economics, Anthropology, Literary Studies, Media Studies, Cultural Studies, Philosophy, and other humanities and social sciences.

The organizers reserve the right to select submitted proposals. Acceptance will be based on the quality of the abstract, its clear relevance to the conference theme, and the originality of the proposed approach.

Abstracts (in Polish or English) of up to 250 words, accompanied by a short biographical note, should be submitted by October 1st via the following form:
<https://forms.gle/nyqBLZw8TJuK9VbC8>

Participation in the conference is free of charge.

Online participation is possible.

Presentation length: up to 20 minutes.

Notification of acceptance or rejection will be sent via email within one week of the submission deadline. If the deadline is extended, notifications will be sent within one week of the close of the extended submission period.

For any inquiries, please contact us at: **amerykanistyka@gmail.com**

We warmly invite you to participate!



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