

The following is the feedback received from some of the participants at the ENCS seminar at University College Dublin on October 23-25, 2008.

Not all of the participants sent feedback.

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1. The 17th European Seminar for Graduate Students in Canadian Studies was a great experience. The organizers achieved a very good atmosphere which encouraged stimulating discussions with all participants. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet young academics working in Canadian Studies from all over Europe. Moreover, it was very inspiring for me to learn about different perspectives on my own research topic and I hope to pursue these ideas in the future.

2. As my first conference it was a very interesting experience. I had the opportunity to meet a large group of fellow researchers interested in my field of study. It was an excellent chance to discuss Canadian Studies and establish links with other students and to discuss our various areas of interest. It was fascinating to hear what others were studying and how these related to my specific field of interest, linguistic. Many thanks to all the organisers involved.

3. J'ai retrouvé dans ce séminaire européen une qualité que j'ai appréciée en allant au Canada: une diversité incroyable. Diversité des thèmes abordés, des façons de penser, des participants venant des quatre coins de la planète. J'ai ainsi pu appréhender des points de vue différents d'autres jeunes gens sur un sujet qui me passionne, le Canada, dans un cadre extrêmement agréable qu'est la ville de Dublin.

4. Usually, there are not many occasions to speak about such specialised issues as ours, and this is why I was especially pleased to find out about the possibility of partaking in the 17th European Seminar for Graduate Students in Canadian Studies. This (really fantastically organised) conference gave me great opportunity to deal with other young scholars at the same stage of academic career, who cope with similar problems in completing their doctoral dissertation. All presentations (as well as our more "private" talks) were extremely interesting, and I found them very inspiring. Thank You all, and see You next time!

5. I thought the conference provided a wonderful opportunity for postgraduate students to present their work in a friendly and encouraging atmosphere. It was fantastic to meet so many students from across Europe who are engaged in Canadian studies. The weekend was rewarding and really good fun! Thanks very much for all your help over the few days in Dublin.

6. With regard to the conference, I appreciated the wide range of presented papers, the fact that it encouraged young scholars from different European contexts to interact in a renowned academic environment and the feed-back given on the papers. Plus, I believe that the publication of the presented papers would encourage further collaboration among the participants. It represents a good opportunity to disseminate our research projects and also advances a critical dialogue between 'Western' and 'Eastern' European researchers in the field of Canadian Studies. Some of us have been keeping in touch via e-mails, sending and receiving other CFPs, so a new network

might be created due to the conference in Dublin. I also met people I only virtually knew. Not in the least, it was a very well organized conference and we all enjoyed our evening tour of Trinity College Dublin.

7. Once again, thank you for inviting me to Ireland. I am so happy that I had the chance to participate at the seminar and Ireland has simply remained stuck to my heart. I had a lovely time in Dublin and now that I am back to XXX, I realized that actually I managed to learn a lot from almost all the other presentations. Of course, some of them were more interesting for me (the ones dealing with language and literature) than the others (mainly the statistical ones). Overall, I am very satisfied with all the useful information; I brought back to my university. In the course of the presentation I also managed to make some great friends - Isabella from Italy, Valya from Bulgaria, Petr from Czech Republic all seemed very nice and I am still in contact with some of them. The quality of the presentations was excellent and the premises were fantastic, so it was no big trouble for me to be present at all of the panels.

As for the bad sides of the seminar, if there were any, I would like to direct your attention that a couple of participants attended only 1-2 panels and never returned to the seminar again - I consider this kind of behaviour very rude! They were present in the hotel, stayed in their rooms, had meals with us, but did not go to the seminar panels. These people certainly did not deserve to be there, no matter how good their presentations were. I believe it is all right to miss one or two panels, but to miss five of them is just outrageous. Thank you for trusting me and inviting me to the seminar. I hope to see you again.

8. The seminar has been a unique experience, which I look forward to repeating as soon as it will be possible. The journey home was fine, although I arrived in XXX (my hometown, in the southern part of XXX) quite late at night (1.30 a.m.). Work has been overwhelming in these days, while I was continuously blaming myself for not having the time to write to you a proper email in which to thank for the warmest welcome I have ever had at a seminar. Moreover, the organization was absolutely perfect, with nothing left to hazard, as we always do in Italy. Prof. Regan was delightful towards us, as well as you and your colleagues: you have given me a new start, truly, considered the precariousness of XXX situation (which does not prompt student to actually believe that what they are doing is going to have a specific purpose in the future).

9. You and the other organizers, Catriona, Isabelle and Vera, did a fantastic job putting together a fabulous conference! The conference location, hotel, food, guided tour etc. were great, and that made it very easy from the participants' part to organise our trip to and stay in Dublin. The selection of speakers and topics was wonderful, and I could get a lot out of each individual paper. It was nice, too, to have a few established Canadianists listening in the audience. The whole atmosphere was very friendly and relaxed which made it really easy to network, to ask questions and exchange ideas. It also helped that most speakers were at a similar stage in their research. Moreover, being accommodated at the same hotel and sharing meals was another good way to build rapport among the participants. My only point of critique concerns the arrangement of panels on Friday. It was a bit of a shame that some participants who had been scheduled for Friday afternoon had dropped out at the last

minute so that the program for Friday ended up being a little uneven: the panel in the morning seemed almost too crowded and rushed, while the two panels in the afternoon provided much more room for reflection and discussion. The only thing you could have done to change that was to move the last speaker from the morning panel to the next panel. Other than that, I am really full of praise!

10. I really enjoyed it and I think it was interesting and well organised.

11. I would like to show my appreciation towards all the organizers, for they always have been eager to keep in touch before and after the conference, ensuring a detailed, kind and quick answer to each participant's request. The accommodation was very comfortable and the most luxury that I have ever been granted: the staff of the Montrose was very helpful throughout the duration of my stay, and the meals were unexpectedly sumptuous, always excellent. As for the conference, I would like to express my personal enthusiasm, for I was given the possibility to listen to so many different approaches to research activities on Canadian Studies, all of which carefully chosen, interesting and deeply stimulating.