

Call for Proposals - ASA Conference 2019

Mind the Gap: Digital Evanescence, Cultural Diversity and the Archival Challenge of Social Memory

Date: May 23 - 25, 2019

Location: Banff, Alberta

Keynote Speaker: Raymond Frogner, Director of Archives, National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

Archives and archivists play a privileged role in terms of presenting a complete vision of “what has happened.” In the minds of many researchers and users, archivists occupy a unique role as guardians, gate-keepers, or generators of the truth; however, we need to become aware that the archival record in our holdings is often incomplete, and these gaps especially exist when we reflect on Indigenous and other cultural communities, which have been largely ignored by many archives. It can be challenging to identify the gaps in archival holdings and more challenging to fill those gaps.

Our conference wishes to explore the space of the “gaps”, by examining (in part) what motivates archives and communities to connect, and how to form successful relationships of trust which can serve communities, and allow archives to provide a richer story.

We are interested in how archives and communities come together to make knowledge previously unknown to others known. Questions we will address include: How are relationships of trust formed? What are our ethical responsibilities? How can synergies between archives and communities be realized?

We welcome proposals that could include but are not limited to topics such as:

- Efforts by archives to fill gaps of knowledge about Indigenous and cultural communities in their holdings
- Reconciliation in Canada
- Hidden histories and inherent bias
- Outreach and relationship building of archives to communities (Indigenous and other cultural communities)
- Archival research currently being done by Indigenous and cultural communities
- Community engagement with archives and how archives better serve and reflect community stories
- The emotional impact of discovering previously unknown information in the archives

The deadline for submitting conference proposals is Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Please send your abstracts, 250 words or less, to reneg@archivesalberta.org. Include your contact information, the format you'd like to present in (ex. Individual presentation, roundtable discussion, or panel discussion) as well as a bio of 50 words or less.