



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

DUE JAN. 22, 2023

*The Spirit in Social Work:
Toward Ecospirituality and Holistic
Sustainable Social Work Practice*

The 2023 CSSSW conference *The Spirit in Social Work: Towards Ecospirituality, Holistic and Sustainable Social Work Practice* aims to explore social work's role in the emerging climate and associated mental health crisis. Understanding and practicing ecospirituality is perhaps more crucial today than ever. In sounding a clarion call calling climate change "the single biggest health threat facing humanity," the World Health Organization (2021) reported "health professionals worldwide are already responding to the harms caused by this unfolding crisis". But where is social work in these worldwide responses?

The new accreditation 2021 standards, released by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE-ACFTS, 2021), list "environmental sustainability and ecological practice" as one of the eleven core learning goals (p.16), while the professional values and ethics include an understanding of spiritual and cultural contexts in relation to working with people and communities. These standards must be implemented by July 1, 2023. This timely conference will offer critical and creative spaces in which to think about how we might begin to incorporate climate health and environmental justice – not currently part of core social work and allied health and mental health curricula, nor the typical scopes of practice– from an intersectional non-anthropocentric lens to foster and support sustained individual and planetary wellbeing.

Possible topics of interest include but not limited to:

- Social work and global environmental movements (e.g., Paris, COP 260).
- Holistic spiritualities -ceremony, ritual, chant, meditation, prayer, observance, and art as pathways to connection
- Inter-faith worldviews, spirituality, environmental activism & social work
- Nature/land-based therapeutic approaches to mental health and spiritual wellbeing
- Eco-anxiety/climate grief/fury: Body and spirit care
- Earth as central spiritual context

The Tenth North American Conference on Spirituality and Social Work Pre-Conference June 21, 2023 June 22-24, 2023

Hosted at Dalhousie University (Halifax, NS)
Co-sponsored by the Dalhousie School of Social Work, and the Society for Spirituality and Social Work (USA).

With a spotlight on our interconnectedness and dependencies, we encourage you to conceptualize what ecospirituality is (and is not), and to consider how it and related holistic practices might be practiced and sustainably implemented in different contexts, across the lifespan. This conference will bring together researchers, practitioners, educators, students, and advocates from various disciplines, in person and online, for an enriching hybrid exchange and dissemination of scholarship, practice ideas and the arts– exploring ways ecospirituality can inform social work in becoming a more germane profession in the face of the many complex issues affecting the world today, threatening the essential ingredients of good health - clean air, safe drinking water, nutritious food supply, and safe shelter.

Sessions will include the following formats:

- Scholarly paper presentations
- Conceptual talks; Research Findings
- Student-authored paper presentations
- Panel Discussions
- Experiential and interactive workshops
- Creative Contributions (e.g., Storytelling, Poetry, spoken word, song, dance, comedy)

Submissions will undergo double-blind, peer review and must include submission title, format, whether it will be in-person or online, a brief abstract, brief presenter bios and contact information, as well as three learning objectives.

- Traditional experiences of sacred space in nature and re-imagining non-utilitarian practices
- Contemplative/reflective practice for climate resilient social work educators, practitioners, and activists committed to environmental justice
- Environmental racism (how spirituality and social work can guide this work)
- Indigenous worldviews and perspectives
- The spirit and decolonization
- Holistic therapies and practice

[Visit linktr.ee/CSSSW](https://linktr.ee/CSSSW) to upload your submission. Final call for submissions due January 22, 2023, acceptance notification by Feb. 28, 2023. For conference updates check CSSSW website spiritualityandsocialwork.ca. For questions, please contact Dr. Cassandra Hanrahan at info@spiritualityandsocialwork.ca ***Submissions in French are also accepted.***