

Call for Papers: CGC 2027, *Friction in an Increasingly Frictionless World*
March 4 and 5, 2027
Carleton University

In a world with endless productivity tools and AI assistants, those with access to technology have found a way to make their lives frictionless. But that effort doesn't disappear; it just moves. Friction, in this case, is a class issue; it is both physical and digital, it is the framework of our society and an obstruction. While some of us have access to lives that feel devoid of friction, others bear the weight of that friction in the form of the environmental effects of data centres, the grueling and traumatizing work of content moderation, and the growing effects of climate change.

And yet, friction also makes fire! Within our activist spaces, intellectual discussions, communities, and innovations we see the value of conflict, struggle, and tension. Resistance campaigns against rising anti-intellectualism and devaluation of the arts center friction as vital to humanity and creativity. In her 2025 Substack essay, author Kyla Scanlon argues that friction is "the most valuable commodity in the world."

2027 marks the 22nd anniversary of Carleton's Communication Graduate Caucus (CGC) annual conference. This event has provided a space for over two decades where graduate students can engage in conversation, share their work, and develop presentation skills. The CGC conference welcomes students across disciplines and institutions with an interest in communication and media.

This year's theme, *Friction in an Increasingly Frictionless World*, contends with the complex space that friction holds in our digitized and mediated world. We ask: how can we contend with friction as both a productive and oppressive force? We welcome submissions of individual papers, pre-constituted panels, roundtables, and other presentations which address and grapple with questions about friction. We particularly welcome abstracts from those located outside of Ottawa and Ontario.

We encourage contributions drawing on, but not limited to, the following ideas and issues:

- How AI and other technological systems are used to eliminate friction in everyday life
- Friction as a positive, generative, and productive force
- Friction and frictionlessness as a classed experience
- Material conditions of the cloud, AI, and other invisibilized digital infrastructures
- Friction between and within academic fields, disciplines, and scholarly debates
- Media's role in facilitating and resisting conflict, war, and political tensions

Delivery:

The 22nd CGC Conference will take place fully in person at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario on **March 4 and 5, 2027**.

We are unable to accommodate remote presentations, but a Zoom stream will be available for family, friends, and colleagues to view presentations (pre-registration will be required).

Richcraft Hall is a wheelchair accessible building equipped with automatic doors and an elevator. Universal washrooms are available on-site. Other campus buildings (including food and drink locations) can be accessed via the wheelchair accessible underground tunnels. If you have further questions about the accessibility of the conference, please contact the conference organizers at cgcconference@outlook.com.

Submission Guidelines:

We welcome proposals for 15-minute individual presentations (these may be co-authored). All submissions should include a 200-500 word abstract with a title and brief description of the topic's relevance to the conference theme, the author's full name(s), and current academic affiliations (those who have recently completed graduate programs are welcome). We also ask for a short biography of 50-100 words and contact information for the presenter(s).

We encourage both traditional and non-traditional works (i.e. essays, photographs, videos, audio clips, etc.). If submitting a research-creation or non-paper proposal, please include a description of how you would like to showcase your work and an outline of the technical requirements needed for the presentation.

If you wish to submit a proposal for a pre-constituted panel or roundtable discussion, please include a proposal of approximately 600 words detailing the panel description, a title, the panel's connection to the conference theme, each participants' contribution to the discussion, and any technical requirements. Please also include a short biography of 50-100 words and the contact information for each panel presenter. Please note that panel presentations are scheduled to be no longer than 60 minutes to allow for a concluding 15-minute Q&A session.

Please submit your proposals to: cgcconference@outlook.com.

Please address email with the following subject line: CGC Conference 2026 - Applicant Submission. Within your email please provide: Name, pronouns, biography (50-100 words), and abstract (200-500 words, PDF document).

The submission deadline is **Friday, November 20, 2026**.

The 22nd annual CGC Conference provides graduate students with the opportunity to present their work to an audience, receive valuable feedback from a range of research communities, and foster their own professional development. Our goal is to foster an environment where emerging and established scholars and professionals may engage in meaningful discussions related to the interdisciplinary field of communication and media studies.

Upon acceptance to the conference, all presenters are invited to submit a full paper to be considered for a Student Paper Prize if they wish. More details will be sent to accepted speakers.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the organizers at the email below.

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