



## **“Crisis and Response”**

### **Graduate Student Summit**

### **Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies**

**February 22 – March 12, 2021**

The Graduate Student Union of the Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (CERES) at the University of Toronto is pleased to invite submissions for its Graduate Student Summit. Rather than attempting to proceed as normal under the extraordinary circumstances the world is currently facing, we have chosen the themes of crisis and response to guide the adaptation of both our organizational approach and the intellectual theme of this year’s event.. We have thus decided to reimagine the conference as a Graduate Student Summit, which will consist of a variety of panels, workshops, and activities for professional development that better suit participants’ needs in this exceptional year. As part of these efforts, we will spread out events over three weeks: from Monday, February 22 to Friday, March 12, 2021.

Crises are natural topics of study for scholars of virtually all disciplines; they are moments of intense change and uncertainty that are often key in understanding what has shaped a society or culture. The capacity to adapt to crises and other difficult situations is virtually always central in explaining the the rise and fall of people, governments, institutions, and states. The vast Eurasian continent studied by CERES students has seen innumerable examples of these transformations. Particularly in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, situations of political, social, and economic instability born on this vast continent would ultimately prove transformational for the entire world. The twenty-first century has to date been shaped by unprecedented challenges, including a global migration crisis, worsening climate change, and of course, the COVID-19 pandemic. These crises have led to, or been caused by, transformations provoked through social activism, state action or inaction, and have thus presented multiple layers of complexities. As graduate students navigating an unprecedented situation, we are living through a crisis and directly witnessing and experiencing its response; it is a unique moment in which the topics we discuss in our day-to-day news and the big questions we pose in our academic research seem to be have arrived at a similar scale.

The scope of this conference is made intentionally wide in order to encourage students to present on a topic of natural interest to them but must in some way speak to the theme, “Crisis and Response.” We welcome submissions of any methods or approach that examines how crises and responses have shaped Europe, Russia, or Eurasia since 1789. We welcome applications from graduate students in disciplines across the social sciences and humanities, including history, philosophy, sociology, political science, international relations, gender studies, and comparative literature.



This call for applications is open to **U of T graduate students of any discipline** as well as students pursuing one of the **CERES undergraduate** programs. Anyone who is interested in participating who does not meet one of these criteria should e-mail us regarding their interest in the summit.

We welcome both individual proposals and suggestions from multiple participants who wish to suggest a panel of related presentations. Accepted applicants will be notified of the acceptance decision by January 30, and presentation dates and times will be determined based on both the number of papers accepted and participants' availabilities. Each accepted participant will be asked to submit a draft of their paper one week before their respective panel.

There is no fee to participate in the summit. Due to current circumstances, the conference will take place via various Zoom formats. Details concerning the other events, including workshops, and professional development activities, will be released at least two weeks before each respective event.

**Panel Proposals**

Panel title  
250-word abstract for each presenter  
1-page CV for each presenter

**Individual Proposals**

250-word abstract  
1-page CV

**Please submit all proposals to [ceresgsu@gmail.com](mailto:ceresgsu@gmail.com) by January 24, 2021. Please note that we will accept only one submission per person.**