

CfP
BAAS Annual Conference 2022
Panel Submission

**Canada in the U.S.-American Imagination: Representations of
America's Northern Neighbor in Popular Culture**

Canada holds a special position in cultural imaginaries produced in the United States. For centuries, the neighbor to the north has inspired different kinds of curiosity, comparisons, and conceptualizations – leading to a unique set of cultural productions. While Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King once summarized Canada as a country with “too much geography and not enough history”, U.S.-based writers, travelers, and artists often found in Canada a space defined by possibilities that seemed out of reach within their home of “limitless possibilities”.

Canada thereby served and continues to serve as a projection space for a plethora of escapism(s) and as “a place of refuge” in U.S. cultural productions. This brings up important questions as to what patterns define the construction of these cultural borderlands in relation to affinity, identity, and imagination (Victor Konrad). How is “Canada” and how are Canadians represented? Which ideological, mythical and/or semiotic frameworks furnish constructions of Canada? How is Canada drafted as a space for imagining the “other America”?

In order to address these questions, we would like to invite scholars of North American studies, film, media, music, literature as well as history and politics to submit their papers to shed light on Canada in the U.S. imagination.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Canada as a place of refuge (slave narratives, draft evaders, discontent with political situation in the U.S.)

- Canada as a “more progressive version of the U.S.” (welfare state, race relations, social liberalism, amongst others)
- Imaginations of Territorial Canada (Geography)
- Ecological discourses
- Representations of Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Métis, Inuit)
- Canada as a utopia/ dystopia
- Stereotypes of all things Canada
- Representations of French-speaking Canada
- Canadian border politics
- Canada as a space for Hollywood productions

Paper proposals should be no longer than 250 words (including a working title) and accompanied by a brief biography of max. 200 words. Please include an email address at which you can be reached. Proposals should be sent to both ilias.benmna@gmail.com and andrea.schlosser@rub.de. using the subject line “CfP BAAS 2022”. The deadline for submissions is 15 November 2021.

Please note: We intend to proceed further after the conference with a book project of the same topic. Therefore, we ask applicants to indicate whether they are applying for our conference panel, the book project, or both.