



# CANSEE

**Call for Conference Abstracts**

**#CANSEE2023**

**BY DESIGN NOT DISASTER:  
Grounding Economies during Uncertain Times**

October 11, 12, & 13, 2023  
Toronto, ON

By design or by disaster, the global economy must be fundamentally transformed, as we come to terms with the biophysical limits of our finite planet, as well as the inequalities and instabilities that are being reinforced in the name of growth. To carry on with business-as-usual is to become complacent and complicit to the cascading consequences that are already undermining global food security, safety, and human welfare. The limitations and rigidity of our current political-economic systems could not have been more apparent than during the current COVID-19 pandemic. As societies continue to debate how to protect public health interests while also keeping public and private institutions operating, losses of both life and livelihood ensue, with vulnerable populations being most affected. Just as critical as the pandemic, a climate uncertain future necessitates rapid transition to low-carbon economies, while bracing for the potential of widespread, and largely unjust, environmental change. This conference aims to deepen awareness and strengthen the agency of diverse stakeholders, to explore and mobilize alternative economic futures.

**Submit now**

Submit online at: <https://forms.gle/KDevG7Sp5DQkynrW6>

**Deadline: February 3, 2023**

Acceptance Criteria:

- Relevance to ecological economics
- Significance and originality
- Capability of the proposal to directly enhance the discourse within one or more of the thematic areas, either theoretically or practically
- Clarity, concision, and focus

Submissions will be accepted in three formats (research presentations, problem labs, workshops), which incorporate one or more of the six values-based themes listed below.

**Values-Based Themes**

Conference discussions will be oriented around six emerging values-based themes, to be reviewed and co-created throughout, as follows:

- **Caring Economies:** Empathetic strategies for economic development that prioritize the wellbeing of all people, including systemically marginalized groups (e.g. BIPOC, women), and acknowledge the value of non-market relationships.
- **Indigenous Truth and Occupation:** Genuine approaches to research and action that strengthen traditional Indigenous knowledge, ideas, cultures, and sovereignty.
- **Localised Resilience and Recovery:** Creative responses to global change (such as health pandemics and climate warming), which connect communities, neighbourhoods, and municipalities, drawing upon local assets, resources, expertise, and enthusiasm.
- **Pathways to Net-Zero:** Compelling proposals for policies, programs, and technologies that could reduce both GHG emissions and embodied carbon, inclusive of sustainable finance, renewable energy, and regenerative industrial design.
- **Planetary Accounting:** Rigorous models, indicators, programs, and lifestyle measures by which to reduce the global ecological footprint of top consuming nations, including their direct and indirect impacts on fragile ecosystems.
- **Systemic Development:** Thoughtful review of local, national, and international approaches to achieving critical targets for sustainable, equitable, just, and prosperous transitions (for example, as framed by the UN Sustainable Development Goals).

## Presentation Formats

### Research Presentations

We want to hear all of the ways in which the CANSEE community is contributing to knowledge creation and innovation for a resilient and prosperous future. The format for these research presentations is intended to maximize opportunities for both exposure to and conversation around the full range of conference themes. This will be the primary presentation type. Presentations will take place in two stages:

1. Presenters will provide a **3-5 minute** lecture on their work to the main conference audience, using **1 slide**.
2. Following the series of presentations, speakers will proceed to concurrent breakout rooms, to participate in a CANSEE facilitated, **55 minute follow-up panel** with other presenters who work in complementary areas.

To Submit: Prepare a 300-word summary detailing your research or work, and a 100-word summary for the program. Please indicate which one of the conference themes relates most to your work.

### Problem Lab

CANSEE seeks to build strong links between research, practice, and policy through its conference programs. Interactive problem labs are designed to enable creative brainstorming and shared learning between the CANSEE audience and those with firsthand, on-the-ground experience grappling with complex social, environmental, and economic challenges. We invite leaders and organizations from the public, private, non-profit, and community sectors to share their current work in progress for discussion in an interactive problem-solving session. Sessions will take place in two stages:

1. Presenters will provide a **10 minute** synopsis of a **project, case study, or scenario** from their current and ongoing work, to the main conference audience.
2. Following the series of presentations, speakers will proceed to concurrent breakout rooms, where they will facilitate **60 minute**, interactive problem-solving sessions.

To Submit: Prepare a 400-word summary detailing your project/case/scenario, along with a 100-word summary for the conference program. Extended summaries should highlight (i) the central challenge/opportunity; (ii) different stakeholder groups involved or affected; (iii) related work completed; (iv) successes and obstacles; and, (v) core questions around which you would like ideas and feedback from session participants. Please indicate which one of the conference themes relates most to your work.

*Hint: In addition to your 10-min overview of the problem lab, you can invite collaborators to act as representatives in the breakout sessions, to facilitate conversations and provide additional context.*

### Workshops

CANSEE encourages creative, novel, interactive, and collaborative approaches to knowledge generation and sharing. We welcome ideas for special sessions, facilitated discussions, networking events, social activities, provocations, reading groups, artistic interventions, or mentorship/training. These sessions will typically last no longer than 90-minutes.

To Submit: Prepare a 300-word summary detailing the concept and format for your workshop, along with a 100-word summary for the conference program. Please indicate which one of the conference themes relates most to your work.

### Skill Share

Do you have a DIY, off-grid living, or homesteading skill you could share with others? Felting, survival skills, wildcrafting, cooking, crochet, knitting, beeswax candle making, gaming, anything! Apply to teach others during our skill-sharing event, on Day 3. CANSEE will support facilitators by reimbursing material costs.

To Submit: Prepare a maximum 200-word description of your skill, a teaching plan for beginners, and an approximate cost of materials for 15 participants.