

CALL FOR PAPERS



Co-edited by Janelle Joseph and Stephanie Latty

***Nah!* On The Possibilities of Ongoing Refusals: Black Canadian Studies in 2023**

This special issue of the *Journal of Canadian Studies* calls for contributions that critically engage with the 2023 Black Canadian Studies Association Conference theme of '**Nah!**' As an exclamation, we consider '**Nah!**' to be an expression, response, and exhortation of Black refusals. As a colloquial use of language, this special issue aims to push the boundaries of how we contend with reckonings and re-imaginings in a cultural context where Blackness remains ignored, challenged, and in some cases, diminished by pervasive anti-Blackness, both in formal and informal settings. The experience of Blackness related to (body)language – as a form of expression, political action, and meaning-making – is invoked in our call. Refusal is broadly understood to encapsulate refusals of form (language/artistic expression/media), of disciplinary boundaries, and of neoliberal diversity and inclusion frameworks. Through imaginative articulations of '**Nah!**' we aim to delve into and depart from past/ongoing practices that precipitate the need for reparations, reckonings, and reimaginings. The possibility of ongoing refusals acknowledged by a nod, an intentional and explicit or subtle rejection, a calling '*deixa pra lá,*' or a pleading '*non mais,*' all create space for counter-narratives and Black re-existence.

Examples of topics that contributors may wish to engage with include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Reflections on the non-happenings of 2020 and social change
2. Indigenous and Black solidarities and co-resistance
3. Performative allyship, slacktivism
4. Environmental racism, geographies of race and space
5. Black invisibilities
6. The POC, BIPOC erasure/dilution/avoidance of Blackness
7. Disrupting intersectionality-as-diversity narratives
8. Black visibility, visual/aesthetic culture, and image-making as refusal
9. Performing Blackness through sport, dance, and/or movement
10. Problematizing the singular narrative approach to Black histories
11. Demands for exceptionalism and the problem of Black Excellence rhetoric
12. Neoliberal erosions of collective work and collective gains
13. Disrupting "comfortability" and a refusal to settle for status quo

14. Critiques of Black conservative movements in Canada and/or beyond
15. Reflection on the consequences of assimilation and semi-integration
16. Redefining Black Canadian Studies
17. Blackness in the academy/post-secondary education
18. Black Canadian media studies and the politics of refusal
19. Black politics and protests
20. Celebratory acts of resistance and Black joy

Submission Guidelines

Contributors are invited to submit original manuscripts that have not been published and are not currently under review by other journals. We invite contributions of full papers between 7500 -12500 words, excluding notes and bibliography, in the Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edition. Research papers will undergo an anonymized peer review process beginning September 15, 2023. See details here. <https://www.utpjournals.press/journals/jcs/submissions>
It is strongly advised for contributors to recommend reviewers who are suitable for their particular scholarship upon submission.