Confronting Atrocity Conference 2019

THEME:
TRUTH COMMISSIONS AND TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE PROCESSES IN AFRICA: ASSESSING IMPACTS AND LEGACIES

AUGUST 26-27, 2019

@ The University of Ghana
Legon, Accra, Ghana

[Note: Arrival August 25; Conference August 26 and 27; Departure August 28]

PROGRAM OF EVENTS
AGENDA

Welcome to the 2019 Confronting Atrocity International Conference. This 2-day meeting will feature presentations and discussions by expert scholars on national truth commissions established in Africa in the past three decades with in-depth comparative assessment of their mandates, investigations, public hearings, reporting and recommendations, implementation, outcomes, and legacies. Dialogue among panelists will seek to develop theories, methodologies, and parameters for multi-sectorial evaluation of truth commissions' impacts and legacies for individuals, communities and the state. Participants will have an opportunity for free-flowing discussions on the successes and limitations of truth commission in terms of human rights accountability; political, social and economic justice; and national reconciliation. Selected moderators will oversee each panel and facilitate discussion.

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Baba Galleh Jallow, PhD
Executive Secretary
Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC)

CONVENERS / CONTACT PERSONS

Dr. Sylvia Bawa  
Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology  
York University  
Toronto, Canada

Dr. Jasper Ayleazuno  
Senior Lecturer/HoD  
Dept. of Communication, Innovation, & Technology  
University for Development Studies  
Box TL 1882, Tamale, Ghana

Dr. Bonny Ibawoh  
Professor and Director, Centre for Peace Studies  
McMaster University  
Hamilton, Canada

Email Address  
confrontingatrocity@gmail.com

Website  
https://truthcommissions.humanities.mcmaster.ca/
# Conference Program at a glance

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<tr>
<th>DATE / TIME</th>
<th>EVENT/ACTIVITY</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 25 August, 2019:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Arrival</td>
<td>University of Ghana Guest Centre; Oscarpark Royale Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.00 pm - 7.00 pm</td>
<td>Informal reception for conference participants</td>
<td>University Guest House Restaurant</td>
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<td><strong>Monday 26 August, 2019:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8.00 am - 9.00 am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Department of Economics Seminar Room 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 am - 9.15 am</td>
<td>Plenary Session: Opening Remarks - Dr. Bonny Ibhayoh Keynote Lecture - Dr. Baba G. Jallow</td>
<td>Department of Economics Seminar Room 1</td>
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<td>9.15 am - 9.45 am</td>
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<td>9.45 am - 10.00 am</td>
<td>Tea/Coffee Break</td>
<td>Department of Economics Seminar Room 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00 am - 1.00 pm</td>
<td>Parallel Session A: Panels 1 – 4</td>
<td>Department of Economics Seminar Room 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td>1.00 pm – 2.00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch Break (On Own)</td>
<td>University Guest House Restaurant</td>
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<td>2.00 pm – 5.00 pm</td>
<td>Parallel Session B: Panels 5 – 8</td>
<td>Department of Economics Seminar Room 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 27 August, 2019:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8.15 am - 8.30 am</td>
<td>Introductory Remarks – Dr. Jasper Ayelazuno</td>
<td>Department of Economics Seminar Room 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.30 am – 9.00 am</td>
<td>Tea/Coffee Break</td>
<td>Department of Economics Seminar Room 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td>9.00 am – 12.00 pm</td>
<td>Parallel Session C Panels 9 – 12</td>
<td>Department of Economics Seminar Room 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td>12.00 pm – 1.00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch Break (On Own)</td>
<td>University Guest House Restaurant</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.00 pm – 4.00 pm</td>
<td>Parallel Session D Panels 13 – 16</td>
<td>Department of Economics Seminar Room 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.00pm – 6.00 pm</td>
<td>Farewell Dinner for all participants Closing Remarks – Dr. Sylvia Bawa</td>
<td>University Guest House Restaurant</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday 28 August, 2019:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7.00 am – 11.59 am</td>
<td>Conference closes</td>
<td>Check-out from the University Guest Centre</td>
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### Monday, August 26, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Sessions and Panels</th>
<th>Seminar Room</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>8.00 am - 9.00 am</strong></td>
<td><strong>Participant Arrival and Registration</strong>&lt;br&gt;Drop by our table at the Department of Economics Seminar Room 1 for your Name Tag, notepad, and pen.</td>
<td>Room 1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9.00 - 9.45 am</strong></td>
<td><strong>Plenary Session</strong></td>
<td>Room 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 - 9.15 am</td>
<td>Opening Remarks and Introduction of Keynote Speaker - Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh</td>
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<td>9.15 – 9.45 am</td>
<td>Keynote Lecture - Dr. Baba G. Jallow</td>
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<td><strong>Parallel Session A</strong></td>
<td>Room 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 - 11:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Panel 1:</strong> <em>Theorizing Transitional Justice in Africa</em>&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Panel Chair:</strong> T. Debey Sayndee, <em>Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation, Liberia</em>&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<em>Bonaventure Chizea, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma</em>&lt;br&gt;Re-Examining the Concept of Transitional Justice in the Search for Peace in Africa&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<em>Amy Niang, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg</em>&lt;br&gt;Theorising Transitional Justice in African Contexts&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<em>Modupe Silifat Kasumu, Covenant University, Ota</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>Oyenike O. Fayomi, Covenant University, Ota</em>&lt;br&gt;Theorising Truth Commissions and Transitional Justice in Africa: The Issues and Tissues</td>
<td>Room 1</td>
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</table>
10:00 - 11:30 am  
**Panel 2:** National Reconciliation and Post-Conflict Development in Africa  
**Panel Chair:** Jasper A. Ayelazuno, University for Development Studies, Tamale

**Peter A. Betiang,** *University of Calabar, Calabar*  
Post-Conflict Development: Assessing Adjustment Patterns in Post-Conflict Communities in South East Nigeria

**Teddy Foday-Musa,** *University of Sierra Leone, Freetown*  
Truth and Reconciliation Commission: The Case for a National Infrastructure for Peace in Sierra Leone

**John Mary Kanyamurwa,** *Kyambogo University, Kampala*  
Understanding Land Contradictions during the Post-Conflict Peace Building Phase in Northern Uganda

11.30 - 1.00 pm  
**Panel 3:** Truth-Seeking and Nation-Building in Modern Africa  
**Panel Chair:** Sylvia Bawa, *York University, Toronto*

**Isaac Olawale Albert,** *University of Ibadan, Ibadan*  
The Fidelity and Futility of Official Truth Seeking Initiatives in Nigeria’s Fourth Republic

**Frank Afari,** *Graduate Inst. of Intl. & Development Studies, Geneva*  
The Truth-for-Amnesty Conundrum and Ghana’s National Reconciliation Commission (NRC)

**Seidu Alidu,** *University of Ghana, Accra*  
Whose Truth Matters, If there is Any?
### Panel 4: Theorizing the Politics of National Reconciliation in African States

**Panel Chair:** Hakeem Yusuf, *University of Derby, Derby*

- **Franklin Oduro**, *Ghana Center for Democratic Development, Accra*
  - Establishing Truth Commissions in ‘Conflicted Democracies’:
    - Lessons from Ghana

- **Roger Southall**, *University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg*
  - Whites and the Past: The Legacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in South Africa

- **Melissa Levin**, *University of Toronto, Toronto*
  - Decolonization and the legacy of South Africa’s TRC

### Lunch Break (On Own)

**1.00 - 2.00 pm**

**University Guest House Restaurant**

### Parallel Session B

**Panel 5: Data-Mining Truth Commissions across Borders**

**Panel Chair:** Oyenike O. Fayomi, *Covenant University, Ota*

- **Reconciliation in Africa**

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**Pacifique Manirakiza**, *University of Ottawa, Ottawa*

The Effectiveness and Legitimacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Burundi
**Natalie W. Romeri-Lewis**, *Brigham Young University, Utah*

**Hannah Coons**, *Brigham Young University, Utah*
Innovation v. Standardization in Knowledge Transmission and the Institutional Design of Seven Truth Commissions in Countries in Transition

**Janine Lespérance**, *Lawyers Without Borders, Québec*
**Érick Sullivan**, *Université Laval, Québec*
Mali’s Truth Commission: Mandate, Challenges, and Strategies for Achieving Its Mission

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**Panel 6: Memory, State-led Truth Commissions, and Statebuilding in Africa**

**Panel Chair**: Gearoid Millar, *University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen*

**Christopher M. Till**, *Apartheid Museum, Johannesburg*
Can’t Remember, Can’t Forget

**Bonny Ibhawoh**, *McMaster University, Hamilton*
Truth Commissions, Transitional Justice and Participatory Governance

**Iwebunor Okwechime**, *Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife*
Beyond Transitional Justice: Power, Politics and Contestation at Nigeria’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission
3.30 - 5.00 pm  
**Panel 7:** *Truth Commissions and National Historiography in Africa*  
Room 1

**Panel Chair:** Oluwatoyin Oduntan, *Towson University, Towson*

**Abena Asare,** *Stoney Brooke University, New York*  
True Histories of Irreconciliation

**Jessica Cammaert Raval,** *University of Toronto, Toronto*  
Peacebuilding on the Margins: Borderlands in West African Truth Commissions

**Aluko Opeyemi Idowu,** *Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo*  
Theorising Truth and Justice in Governance: A Study on Truth Commissions

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3.30 - 5.00 pm  
**Panel 8:** *African Writers and Truth Commissions in Africa*  
Room 2

**Panel Chair:** Amin Alhassan, *University for Development Studies, Tamale*

**Paul Ugor,** *Illinois State University, Illinois*  
Creative Imaginaries of Forgiveness and Truth in South Africa: Antjie Krog and Alex Boraine

**Melike Yilmaz,** *McMaster University, Hamilton*

**Fatima Momodu,** *Nile University of Nigeria, Abuja*  
A Review of Desmond Mpilo Tutu’s No Future without Forgiveness

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5.00 pm  
Adjourn
### Tuesday, August 27, 2019

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Sessions and Panels</th>
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<tr>
<td>8.15 am - 8.30 am</td>
<td><strong>Welcome Remarks – Dr. Jasper Ayelazuno</strong></td>
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<td>Brief remarks and announcements</td>
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<td>8.30 - 9.00 am</td>
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<td>9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Panel 9: Courts and Transitional Justice Processes in Africa</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Panel Chair:</strong> Pacifique Manirakiza, <em>University of Ottawa, Ottawa</em></td>
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<td><strong>Adikalie S. Kamara,</strong> <em>University of Bradford, Bradford</em></td>
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<td>The Special Court for Sierra Leone: Retributive Versus</td>
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<td>Restorative Justice</td>
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<td><strong>Enoch Appiagyei,</strong> <em>University of Calgary, Calgary</em></td>
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<td><strong>Ireoluwatomi Oloke,</strong> <em>University of Manitoba, Winnipeg</em></td>
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<td>Transitional Justice and Post-conflict Peacebuilding in</td>
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<td>Africa: Examining the Role of the African Court of</td>
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<td>Justice and Human Rights</td>
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<td><strong>Hakeem Yusuf,</strong> <em>University of Derby, Derby</em></td>
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<td>Post-Authoritarianism, Truth-Seeking and the Judicial</td>
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<td>Accountability-Gap: Lessons from Nigeria</td>
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9.00 – 10.30 am  **Panel 10:** *Justice and Peacebuilding Mechanism in Africa*  
**Room 2**

**Panel Chair:** Amanda Coffie, *University of Ghana, Accra*

**Koat Aleer, Centre for the Study of Violence & Reconciliation, Johannesburg**  

**Abubakarr Koroma, Sierra Leone Peace Museum, Freetown**  
Transitional Justice Mechanisms in Africa with Reference to Sierra Leone Conflict  

**Tendaishe Tlou, Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, Zimbabwe**  
Revisiting Peace and Reconciliation in Africa: Taking Stock of African Truth Commissions’ Progress and Challenges thus Far  

**Victoria Omolara Akinyemi, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife**  
“The use of Threat and Force” in Crisis Management in ECOWAS: The Gambian’s Post-Election Crisis

10:30 – 12:00 pm  **Panel 11:** *Legacies of Truth Commissions in Democratizing Africa*  
**Room 1**

**Panel Chair:** Paul Ugor, *Illinois State University, Illinois*  

**Gearoid Millar, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen**  
The Local Legacies of Transitional Justice: Understanding Impact on the Ground in Sierra Leone  

**Denise Bentrovato, University of Pretoria, Pretoria**  
Beyond Transitional Justice: Assessing the Legacy of South Africa’s TRC through the Lens of Formal Education
Olakunle Michael Folami, Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko
Human Rights Abuses and Impacts of Human Rights Violations Investigations Commission in Nigeria

Robert K. Ame, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo

Seidu Alidu, University of Ghana, Accra
Ghana’s National Reconciliation Commission (NRC): 15 Years Later

10.30 - 12.00 pm  **Panel 12: Truth Commissions and Strategies of National Reconciliation**  Room 2

**Panel Chair: Abena Asare, Stoney Brooke University, New York**

Debey Sayndee, Kofi Annan Inst. for Conflict Transformation, Monrovia
Post-Conflict Communities

Adebisi Alade, McMaster University, Hamilton
Right to Truth, Public Hearings, and the Politics of National Reconciliation in Nigeria

Oluwatoyin B. Oduntan, Towson University, Towson
Between the Ethics and the Politics: Evaluating the Conferencing Model of Conflict Resolution

Adiat A. Abiodun, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife
Truth Commissions and Post Conflict Peace Building in Africa: A Recipe for Restoration or Retributive Justice

12.00 - 1.00 pm  **Lunch Break (On Own)**  University Guest House Restaurant
1.00 - 4.00 pm  **Parallel Session D**  Room 1 & 2

1.00 - 2.30 pm  **Panel 13: Local Knowledge and Participatory Governance in Africa**  Room 1

**Panel Chair:** Seidu Alidu, *University of Ghana, Accra*

**Seun Bamidele, Chrisland University, Abeokuta**
Transitional Justice and Reconciliation in Southern Kaduna, Nigeria: A Case Study on Tradition-Based Approached in Local Communities

**Lexington Izuagie, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma**
South Africa Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the Context of Afro-Pessimism

**Tunde Abioro, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife**
Persistent Conflict and Perceived Post-conflict Peacebuilding in Southern Kaduna Region of Nigeria

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1.00 - 2.30 pm  **Panel 14: Violence and Gendered Reconciliation in Transitioning African States**  Room 2

**Panel Chair:** Franklin Oduro, *Center for Democratic Development, Accra*

**Oluwayemisi Ajoke Adepoju, Covenant University, Ota**
Culture, Gender and Peacebuilding: A Study of the Sierra Leone Truth Commissions’ Investigations and Public Hearings

**Nontsasa Nako, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg**
Besides the Truth: Mourning Winnie Madikizela-Mandela 20 years after the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission
Jean de Dieu Sikulibo, Diakonia's Intl. Humanitarian Law Resource Center

Rape and Other Acts of Sexual Violence in Conflict Situations: A Transformative Approach to Addressing the Victims’ Needs in Post-Conflict Situations

2.30 - 4.00 pm  **Panel 15:** State Power and Human Rights in Democratizing African States  
Room 1

*Panel Chair:* Melike Yilmaz, McMaster University, Hamilton

Amin Alhassan, University for Development Studies, Tamale  
Felix Odartey Wellington, University of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia

Ghana’s Political Militia as Vigilante Groups: A National Discourse of Plausible Deniability

Lanre Ikuteyijo, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife

Nigeria Police and Regime Representation: Fallouts from the Nigerian Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission

Noble Kwabla Gati, Ghana Inst. of Management & Public Admin., Accra  
Jasper Abembia Ayelazuno, University for Development Studies, Tamale

Did We Go or Did We Come? Elections Violence and Human Rights Violations in Ghana (2004-2019)

2.30 - 4.00 pm  **Panel 16:** Socio-Economic Justice, Truth Commissions, and Statebuilding in Africa  
Room 2

*Panel Chair:* Isaac Olawale Albert, University of Ibadan, Ibadan

Felix T. Y. Longi, University for Development Studies, Tamale

Ethnic Stereotypes and Chieftaincy Conflicts in Ghana’s North: A Case Study of the Mamprusi-Kusasi Conflict
**Mesut Yilmaz, McMaster University, Hamilton**
Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commissions for Structural Transformation of Africa

**Nathaniel Umukoro, Edo University Iyamho, Edo**
Memory of Human Rights Violations during the Nigeria-Biafra War and the Imperative for Transitional Justice in Nigeria

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>4.00 - 5.00 pm</th>
<th>Break</th>
<th>On Own</th>
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<tr>
<td>5.00 - 6.00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Farewell Dinner</strong></td>
<td><strong>University Guest House Restaurant</strong></td>
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<td>Get-together for all conference participants and Closing Remarks - Dr. Sylvia Bawa</td>
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<th>6.00 pm</th>
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<td>Safe Travels!</td>
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**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**
Throughout the conference, photograph of panels and individual presentations will be taken and posted on the Confronting Atrocity Project website: https://truthcommissions.humanities.mcmaster.ca/. Please, kindly notify any of the Contact Persons or Conference Support Staff if you **DO NOT** want your photographs taken/posted on our website. Thank you!