

**World(s) in the making: which encounters? /  
Le(s) monde(s) en train de se faire : quelles rencontres?**  
**CELAT International Conference**

**June 15 to June 17, 2026  
Quebec City (Quebec, Canada)**

**Submission deadline :  
October 10, 2025**



<https://celat.ca>



Image: © Andrée Bélanger, “You’re Perfect, But I Don’t Understand Anything You’re Saying”, archival felt-tip and handmade inks on Saint-Gilles paper, 48 × 48 cm, 2022. Detail (background removed).

From June 15 to June 17, 2026, the Centre de recherche Cultures – Arts – Sociétés (CELAT) invites you to participate in a major international conference that will celebrate the CELAT’s 50th anniversary at Université Laval (Quebec City, Canada). On the theme “World(s) in the making: which encounters?”, this conference welcomes contributions from research and creation, in a variety of formats, facilitating dialogue between disciplines, practices, and perspectives. The conference is open to all.

**Argument**

The pluralization of our societies currently manifests itself in the form of increasing inequalities, in the proliferation of polarizing discourse, intensification of the destruction of living beings and in the implementation of authoritarian policies. Yet, despite these differences, the fabric of what we have in common and what connects us remains omnipresent and gives rise to action, interdependences, reciprocities, and tensions that inevitably shape the world(s) we inhabit. These worlds, made up of entangled relationships between a plurality of humans and “non-humans” (Uhl and Khalsi, 2021), are constantly made, unmade, and remade.

This conference proposes to turn our attention to *what connects us* by exploring the theme of encounters (within) plural worlds. Via its original format and the events offered in the heart of Quebec City, the conference aims to make tangible what it means to “make worlds.” This concept of “making worlds” involves envisioning a world that is perpetually worked, performed, and inhabited (Ingold, 2021), through possible and multiple places, connections, forms, and gestures. This embodiment of world making is not based on the celebration of differences as such, but on the

way in which differences can relate to each other, produce networks (Morton, 2019), and compose a shifting commonality made up of multiple singularities (Mbembé, 2023). It is in this spirit that this conference, inspired by the epistemological stance of “*in situ*”<sup>1</sup>, proposes encounters between existing entities and their environments. Quebec City is home to the CELAT and serves as a space for comparison, projection, and resonance for research conducted elsewhere.

Those wishing to participate in the conference are invited to reflect on the current conditions and the potential for pluralization through the lens of “world-making” based on the conference’s themes. Multiple questions guide the discussions: What becomes of pluralization in times of crisis, restructuring, and forced interdependence? What encounters remain possible within and between these worlds? In what forms and according to what modalities do they articulate themselves? How can we recognize the reciprocal agency and interdependence of the plurality of beings linked within worlds, without denying the numerous inequalities? How can we think about “world-making” in a context where worlds are made and unmade and transformed according to the places we inhabit, the statuses we have, and the relationships we maintain with humans and non-humans? What actions need to be invented to coexist with these worlds, both to assert them in their history and present state and to imagine them in their future?

To answer these questions, participants can submit proposals that address the conference theme generally or that focus on one of the following three areas:

1. ***Inhabiting worlds***, i.e., exploring encounters through various forms of cohabitation (relationships and tensions) with living beings and the environment, with non-humans, in the city, or with intangible worlds;
2. ***Uniting worlds***, i.e., shedding light on the various strategies implemented to combat different systems of domination and work towards new forms of justice and equity that facilitate encounters;
3. ***(Re)creating worlds***, i.e., deconstructing and recomposing worlds of the past, present, and future in order to open new pathways for encounters, and determining which traces and narratives deserve to be studied, preserved, and transmitted.

Seeking to shift away from dominant—Western, colonial, capitalist—epistemologies by valuing other forms of knowledge (Descola, 2022; Escobar, 2018; Latour, 2015; Rosa, 2022; Stengers, 2009; Tsing, 2022), and recognizing the power of art and creation in the perception, understanding, and transformation of worlds, this conference aspires to offer *a living interface of world-making*, between disciplines, narratives, audiences, temporalities, and places.

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<sup>1</sup> Academic or artistic research conducted directly in and with the field, where researchers/artists immerse themselves in order to observe, analyze, and produce knowledge or works based on the environment itself.

### Conference locations and dates

Marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CELAT, the conference will be held in person in Quebec City from June 15 to June 17, 2026. Discussions will be held in French, but presentations in English will also be accepted. A good understanding of French is required in order to engage in and contribute to the discussions.

### Schedule

The conference will be organized into numerous sessions, including both traditional (panels, round tables, workshops), and experimental formats, in different venues. Two special sessions are already planned, for which proposals may be submitted:

- **an outdoor evening session**, the format of which seeks to create a resonance between research content and the sensory experience of the participants. It also promotes slower, more emotional and immersive forms of transmission, outside of a traditional academic settings;
- **A mobile session in Quebec City**, following a series of stations to be defined. This session will create a multi-sited experience marked by places that tell their own stories or are recounted by multiple voices and perspectives.

### Format of proposals

All forms of research are welcome, particularly those that demonstrate or question forms of co-construction or co-creation of knowledge, as well as those in research-creation. Knowledge mobilization formats may also be diverse: solo/duo/trio communication, performance, ideation workshops, creative workshops, exhibits, posters, etc.

### Proposals must include:

- Title and abstract (300 words maximum);
- Format of the contribution (presentation, performance, workshop, etc.);
- Equipment required;
- If applicable, the session targeted:
  - outdoor evening session
  - mobile
  - other;
- The title, affiliation, and a short biography of each contributor(s) (150 words maximum)
- Suggestions, if applicable (connection to one of the three research areas of the conference, specific date, etc.);
- Any accessibility requests (if necessary).

Please send your submissions, **no later than October 10, 2025**, and any requests for information to [coordination@celat.ulaval.ca](mailto:coordination@celat.ulaval.ca).

A response will be sent to everyone by December 15, 2025.

## Schedule

- September 8, 2025: call for papers
- October 10, 2025: deadline for submission of proposals
- December 15, 2025: selection of proposals
- June 15-17, 2026: CELAT international conference

## CELAT

As a Strategic Cluster funded by the Fonds de recherche du Québec, the **CELAT** seeks, through its program “Faire monde: les devenir de la pluralization” (Making worlds: the future of pluralization), to capture the plurality of modes of existence in a single, common reality, from a resolutely interdisciplinary perspective and through varied and innovative approaches.

## References

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