



## **Call for Papers: History in the Making Conference 2026**

**Theme: “The Web Time Weaves: Technological, Cultural, and Intellectual Responses to Periods of Revolutionary Change”**

**Dates:** Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Location:** Concordia University, Montréal, Canada

The organizing committee for the History in the Making Conference invites scholars to submit proposals that explore the theme of **“The Web Time Weaves: Technological, Cultural, and Intellectual Responses to Periods of Revolutionary Change.”** The conference will be held on April 10th and 11th, 2026 at Concordia University in Montréal, Canada.

Ralph Waldo Emerson’s mid-nineteenth century poem “Ode, Inscribed to William H. Channing,” interrogated the relationship between humanity and rapid technological development:

**Web to weave, and corn to grind;  
Things are in the saddle,  
And ride mankind.**

To Emerson, humanity was faltering under the negative influence of materialistic overconsumption, and the burgeoning industrial revolution was nothing short of a crisis.

Major societal transformations might be hailed as progress by some, while constituting catastrophe for others. What can responses to these transformations reveal about injustices and insecurities overlooked by prevailing historical narratives? What can they teach us about resistance and counter-movements during periods of overwhelming change?

We welcome papers that explore how various reactions to periods of revolutionary change have shaped our understanding of both the historical past and contemporary life. We are particularly interested in works that interrogate how social responses to periods of crisis confirm, transform, or challenge our understandings of historically significant events.

We invite graduate and Honours undergraduate students from any field to apply, with preference given to work that explores or challenges historical narratives of social, cultural, and technological transformations.

## Potential Topics for Submission:

- **Crisis:** When is a transformative period a ‘crisis’? How have constructs of class, race, age, gender, sexuality, or religion shaped individual experiences of collective crisis?
- **Science and Technology:** How have technological transitions inaugurated progress for some while generating catastrophe for others? How can the designation of ‘crisis’ revise narratives of scientific and technological advancement?
- **Labour:** How has labour been threatened and/or valued in times of socioeconomic or political crisis? In what ways does labour history offer a unique framework through which to study periods of revolutionary change?
- **Culture:** What can non-textual primary sources, such as art, music, and food, reveal about cultural reactions to moments of acute social unrest?
- **Contested Spaces:** How have crises impacted cultural, political, religious, or social understandings of space? How have rapid technological transitions or de-transitions facilitated land dispossession?
- **Ecology:** How have human crises resonated across species and landscapes? Can non-human life participate in or contribute to technological, social, or cultural catastrophes?
- **Material Goods and Culture:** How can extant and extinct material goods help us understand survival through periods of rapid transformation?
- **Historical Preservation:** How do modern techniques of historical preservation, promotion, and public education challenge or reinforce narratives established during periods of change?
- **Empire and (De-)Colonialism:** How have colonial subjects interpreted and responded to upheaval in the imperial core? Where/when have crises disrupted or extended imperial control over colonized bodies?

We welcome submissions that explore our theme beyond the topics listed above.

## Submission Guidelines:

- Abstracts should be no more than 250 words.
- Please include a brief biography (100 words) with your submission.
- Submissions should be sent to [hitmconcordia@gmail.com](mailto:hitmconcordia@gmail.com) by 11:59 p.m on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Please include the subject line “2026 HITM Conference” and your name.
- Abstract and biography should be formatted in 12-point Times New Roman in a .doc or .pdf file.
- Successful proposals will be notified by February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

We look forward to receiving your submissions.

For further inquiries, please contact [hitmconcordia@gmail.com](mailto:hitmconcordia@gmail.com).