Interuniversity Centre for Quebec Studies (CIEQ)

The CIEQ is an interdisciplinary centre in the social and human sciences that focuses, through a humanist lens, on Quebec society, from its origins to the present day, and its territorial and historical position in today's world.

The centre’s tradition of openness extends through the generations of researchers who have contributed to its work, scales of analysis (spatial, temporal, and social), and methods in a collegial atmosphere conducive to exploration and learning.

CENTRE DESCRIPTION

The CIEQ is one of the largest centres devoted to basic research on Quebec society in all of its historical and spatial dimensions. The interests of the centre's members—both established researchers and students—cover numerous fundamental aspects of Quebec's historical and territorial evolution.

From its origins in European expansion in the New World, Quebec society has grown into a mature society increasingly integrated into regional and global groupings, undergoing profound transformations in the process. The CIEQ is attentive to the pathways of continuity and rupture that have led to sometimes gradual and sometimes dramatic societal change in Quebec.

The CIEQ's team of researchers is multidisciplinary because their integrated analytical approach uses space as a historical category accessible to all disciplines with an interest in the past. This includes not only the social and human sciences but also religious studies and education.

48 regular researchers and 15 associate researchers
6 research professionals
229 students
The Atlas historique du Québec is the CIEQ’s flagship. Nine volumes of this atlas for academic and general readers have been published to date. One of them, La Paroisse, won the Canadian Historical Association’s Clio Quebec prize. The two most recent volumes are Portraits de campagnes (2010), which explores the early history of rural Quebec, and La francophonie nord-américaine (2012), the work of 36 contributors based in Quebec, the rest of Canada, and the United States and Europe.

The centre has extensive expertise in the online publication of large empirical databases relating to temporal, social, and spatial aspects of the Quebec experience. Over 15 of these databases are accessible to researchers and the general public on the CIEQ website. The most recent, a sample of the Canadian population in 1911, is a product of the Canadian Century Research Infrastructure (CCRI), whose primary mission is to produce a sample of microdata from each Canadian census conducted between 1911 and 1951. This database, which is open to researchers and the general public, provides access to most of the non-confidential data collected by the CCRI (http://ircs1911.cieq.ca).

CIEQ is also involved in a number of cooperative endeavours at home and beyond. The CIEQ researchers have been very active in the major INRS-UCS’s "Les régions du Québec" project, authoring a number of volumes in the collection, including the most recent, Histoire du Centre-du-Québec. Since 2008, the centre has partnered with the Institut d’histoire de l’Amérique française to organize its annual conference. It has also worked in close collaboration with a number of community organizations and institutions such as Musée de la civilisation. Its project on cultural diversity with the museum spawned a research workshop, and a followup international conference is planned for 2014. CIEQ also has international cooperation agreements with the Centre d’études nord-américaines in Brussels, and Centre de Recherches Historiques de l’Ouest (CERHIO) in Rennes, France. Cooperation with the CERHIO led to a two-phase joint seminar held in May 2012 in Quebec City and May 2013 in France.

Joint symposiums and internships abroad open international doors for students. Co-supervision programs have expanded these opportunities. The CIEQ actively encourages student involvement in scientific networks by providing travel grants to attend national and international scientific meetings. The CIEQ also offers professional assistance in cartography and database creation, along with access to material resources (especially workstations) that greatly facilitate student research. These resources are complemented by workshops on both technical aspects (databases, cartography or geocoding) and research skills (archival work, oral survey techniques, academic writing).

The CIEQ is at once a stimulating environment for academic interaction and a training ground for a new generation of highly qualified scholars in the human and social sciences. Students and postdoctoral fellows participate actively in the centre’s work. At Université Laval, the CIEQ has student members from 13 Master’s and Ph.D. programs. All CIEQ researchers teach at the graduate level and regularly invite colleagues to make seminar presentations. In this way, students enjoy extensive access to the most qualified researchers in their field, a benefit reflected in their interdisciplinary research efforts.

CIEQ believes in a comprehensive educational experience in which students learn the essentials of academic life by taking ownership of their studies. One example is the major role played by the CIEQ’s student committee. Every year, it organizes an interuniversity student symposium and an interdisciplinary field trip. Students learn to use a full range of contemporary communication tools, backed by technical support from the CIEQ professionals. The CIEQ also invites undergraduates to attend certain activities (including lectures), and provides opportunities to develop research skills within the CIEQ work teams.

Unversité Laval in the heart of Québec City is one of Canada’s top research universities, with nearly 230 graduate programs. A global leader in numerous cutting-edge disciplines, Université Laval educates tomorrow’s leaders and prepares them to face current and future challenges in every field of knowledge.

Learn more about Université Laval programs at ulaval.ca/futurestudents