

Politics of Existential Threats in an Uncertain World

British Columbia Political Studies Association (BCPSA) AGM, May 7-8, 2026

Hosted by Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, British Columbia

We are honoured to gather on the ancestral lands of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, within Secwepemcúl'ecw, the traditional and unceded territory of the Secwépemc people.

Theme

The global order is increasingly uncertain. From climate change and pandemics to disinformation, cyberwarfare, and renewed geopolitical rivalry, our world is shaped by existential threats that jeopardize not only the stability of states and institutions but also the security, trust, and well-being of communities. Traditional and non-traditional security threats now overlap in complex ways. The erosion of democratic norms, environmental degradation, forced migration, artificial intelligence, and nuclear brinkmanship all reveal the interconnectedness of political, social, and ecological systems. As the boundaries between local and global, human and environmental, state and non-state actors blur, scholars and policymakers must reconsider what it means to lead, govern, and survive in an era of compounded crises.

This year's BCPSA conference invites reflection on the politics of existential threats in an uncertain world. How do political leaders, institutions, and citizens respond when multiple crises converge? What forms of leadership, trust, and cooperation emerge in moments of existential risk? How do societies negotiate between fear and resilience, crisis and adaptation?

We welcome proposals for papers, panels, posters, and roundtables that address these questions through theoretical, empirical, and case study and comparative approaches, encompassing both traditional (military, strategic, geopolitical) and nontraditional (climate, health, digital, human security) perspectives. We also invite submissions from related fields, including public policy, Indigenous scholarship and decolonization, political theory, international relations, Canadian comparative politics. The BCPSA AGM also welcomes proposal about teaching and learning, and experiential education.

Submission Guidelines

Please submit proposals for papers and posters (panel and roundtable ideas are also welcome; if proposing one, briefly outline the theme and potential participants). Each submission should include a title, an abstract of up to 250 words, and the author name(s) with institutional affiliation(s). Send proposals to sbano@tru.ca with the subject line "BCPSA 2026 Proposal – [Your Last Name]" by March 20, 2026.

Marjorie Cohen Prize: Papers presented at the conference will be eligible to apply for this award. See [BCPSA.CA](https://bcpsa.ca) for details.

For inquiries about the conference or submissions, please contact **Saira Bano** at sbano@tru.ca.