In the early nineteenth century, the Shawnee Trail conveyed cattle from Texas pasture-lands to Missouri railheads and thence the nation. Over the past four years, the Shawnee Trail Regional Seminar has provided a serious but convivial setting for scholars working on any topic related to American politics or constitutionalism to exchange ideas with colleagues. The fifth annual conference aims to foster intellectual connections between institutions in this region and beyond. This year’s conference will feature a keynote lecture by Josh Chafetz, Professor of Law at Cornell Law School. Scholars interested in American constitutional and political development and/or American political thought are particularly encouraged to participate. Meetings take place annually, rotating between Columbia, MO and other locations. A roundtable format is utilized, with presenters circulating papers in advance of the meeting.
Call for Submissions – December 15 Deadline

We are currently accepting paper submissions to fill presentation slots at the seminar. The seminar is open to faculty and graduate students in departments of political science, history, philosophy and related disciplines. We welcome papers on all aspects of politics and American constitutionalism, broadly defined to encompass political and constitutional development, political thought, and public law. To apply, please send a 250-word abstract of your proposed paper to Dr. Connor Ewing (connor.ewing@utoronto.ca), using “Shawnee V” in the subject line, by December 15, 2018. Acceptances will be announced in January, with a full schedule and working papers to follow in late February.

Costs

The Kinder Institute will provide lunch and dinner on March 8. There will also be an informal dinner on the evening of March 7 for those whose travel schedule permits them to attend. Participants are responsible for the cost of travel to Columbia, MO and lodging at the Tiger Hotel.

A limited number of travel grants are available for participants who are unable to secure funding from their home institutions. Please direct inquiries about and requests for travel grants to Dr. Connor Ewing (connor.ewing@utoronto.ca). Please include your name, institution, rank, and need in an email with “Financial Assistance” as the subject.

Hotel Information

Accommodations have been blocked out for reservations at the Tiger Hotel (thetigerhotel.com; 573.875.8888), which is conveniently located near the University of Missouri campus. Please notify the hotel that you are with the Shawnee Trail Conference to receive a discounted rate. All guests will be required to secure their rooms with a credit card.

Contact

Dr. Connor Ewing, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Associate of Trinity College, University of Toronto: connor.ewing@utoronto.ca

Dr. Curt Nichols, Associate Professor of Political Science, Baylor University: Curt_Nichols@baylor.edu