



ICOS
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University of Western Ontario
London, Canada | N6A 5B9

ICOS Founder R.K. Barney Student Essay Competition 2026

Western University's International Center for Olympic Studies (ICOS) is pleased to announce the 2026 edition for the **ICOS Founder R.K. Barney Student Essay Competition!**

Eligibility Criteria: applicants must

1. be enrolled as full-time graduate students at a recognized university at the time of submission
2. be already registered as a student for the symposium (registration opens late Oct 2025).

Submission Guidelines:

- Must be on a Socio-cultural topic relating to the Olympic/Paralympic Games/Movement.
- May include topics on sport history, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, critical studies, etc.
- Must be a single-authored piece and the original work of the applicant.
- Must be written in English following AMA writing style.
- Each participant may only submit one essay.

Essay Format:

- The essay should be no longer than 3000 words, including references.

Prize:

- The winner will receive a prize of USD 500.

Review Process:

- Submissions will undergo blind review (please ensure that your emailed essay has no name).

Submission Process:

- Please send your submission in Word format via email to aoldham2@uwo.ca with the subject line "ICOS Founder R.K. Barney Student Essay Competition."
- Submit two separate documents:
 - *Cover sheet*: Include your name, email address, university affiliation, and essay title
 - *Essay document*: Anonymized to ensure the identity of the participant remains undisclosed.

Deadline (before midnight Toronto/New York time zone)

- Abstract submission 16th November 2025: <https://forms.office.com/r/q6C8HUvUDv>
- Full paper submission 30th November 2025: email to Dr. Alan Oldham aoldham2@uwo.ca

Evaluation Criteria:

- Originality of the essay topic and treatment.
- Analytical rigour of the essay's argument.
- Critical engagement with relevant literature, addressing strong counter arguments.
- The decision of the jury is final.

Accommodations:

- We recommend accommodations to be planned well in advance. Options are listed on the ICOS website: https://uwo.ca/olympic/academic_events/symposia/index.html

Please ensure that your submission adheres to all guidelines to be considered for the **2026 ICOS Founder R.K. Barney Student Essay Competition**. We look forward to receiving your insightful contributions!