1. **Title:** Avant-garde archival applications and analysis: Approaching the Vietnamese archives.
2. **Convener:** Patrick Slack, PhD Candidate, McGill University ([Patrick.slack@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:Patrick.slack@mail.mcgill.ca))
3. **Brief description and explanation of the chose format:**

Speakers from different disciplines will convene to discuss their research and how they approach archival application and analysis within their specific projects. Three panelists will present their papers for twenty minutes followed by five minutes of questions for each panelist, followed by a 15-minute open discussion on how to use such findings. Exploring each person’s approach to archival research and topic is essential to give the audience a fine-grained understanding of the different ways archival data may be used in innovative ways, in addition to the innovative ways that it is analysed.

1. **Brief description of panel:**

Beyond history as a discipline, scholars have increasingly turned to archives to portray richer portraits of the past. However, how are these records contemporarily framed, how are novel theoretical approaches applied, and how might this data be utilized in contemporary research? This panel aims to explore the ways in which scholars have attempted to wield French Colonial archival data through unconventional theoretical approaches and/or fieldwork in Vietnam.

Using government reports, court reports, medical files, ethnographies, and/or visual media, panelists have exhumed fragments of the past to investigate compelling phenomena, livelihoods, and archival absences. This panel attempts to answer the following questions: How might contemporary theory shed new light on vintage data? May new theoretical frameworks be easily applied from other disciplines, or must it be ‘built upon the shoulders of giants’? Looking beyond history as the sole discipline for archival research, in what ways can scholars from different disciplines challenge one another to use these sources in innovative applications? How might archival data be used to investigate the past within living memory? In what ways can archival data inform the future? How have citizens of Vietnam or officials responded to unearthed archival relics? With increasing accessibility to the Vietnamese archives and new fonds being released around the world, what are novel research inquiries that were previously unachievable?

Acknowledging the complexity and challenges of integrating archival data with contemporary theory and fieldwork, panelists with backgrounds in history, anthropology, and geography will present their respective findings and how they have navigated such precarities while conducting longitudinal research based in Vietnam.

**(5) Single session :**

Presenters:

1. Trang Nguyen, PhD Candidate, University of Wisconsin. Paper: “Archive hallucination: Reading the mad in colonial Vietnam.”
2. Thomas Claré, PhD Candidate, L'Université d'Aix-Marseille. Paper: “Studying marginality in a colonial situation from judicial archives: The case of fraudulent practices and opium consumption in North Vietnam (1870s – 1946).”
3. Patrick Slack, PhD Candidate, McGill University. Paper: “130 years of colonial commodity expansion: A territorial spearhead in a Sino-Vietnamese borderland district.”

Discussant: Jean Michaud, Professor, Université Laval.