

### **Call for Contributions: *Intersections* 9.3**

#### **“Pastimes”**

In an era marked by the climate crisis and resurgent fascism, there is much we may wish to distract ourselves from. Work often fills the void. So do social media platforms, designed as they are to be addictive and always available. Indeed, many people lose themselves in these platforms’ “infinite scroll,” with its “endlessly unfurling ribbon of glossy images and videos starring people you’ll never meet doing things you’ll never do,” as Michèle Mendelssohn and Charlie Tyson put it. At the same time, mental health professionals stress that this might not be the healthiest approach and suggest instead being “present” in the embodied moment (if not the world-historical one). Yet it is difficult to do *nothing*, even if there is no work needing to be done. How then do we pass away the time?

This issue of *Intersections* is devoted to the concept of pastimes. For pastimes – both as a contested concept and a body of varied practices – have a history. “[T]hose virtues whose object is rest, and those also whose object is labour, are necessary for a liberal life and rest,” Aristotle declared in the 4th century BCE, and he was far from alone in theorizing (and perhaps moralizing) about rest, distinguishing it from labour, and insisting on its importance. Yet the diversity of humanity and its history means that pastimes have been conceptualized and practiced in many different ways. Contributors are therefore invited to submit articles that address any aspect of the history of pastimes, from any historical period, including but not limited to pastimes and

- age
- agriculture
- art
- avocations
- class
- community
- culture
- gender
- health and/or wellness
- festivals and/or holidays
- hobbies
- identity
- industrialization
- leisure
- national identity
- religion
- sexuality
- sports
- time and timekeeping
- tourism
- travel
- vacation

The submitted work should include a short text (600-1,000 words) and a two-line biography; a bibliography of 4-5 references and/or a copyright free image are optional. Submissions should not have footnotes. Light copy editing may be done by the editors, but all *Intersections* submissions are expected to arrive in print-ready condition. The deadline for submissions is **1 October 2026**. Please send your text to [cha-shc@cha-shc.ca](mailto:cha-shc@cha-shc.ca).