

# Department of Political Science Newsletter 2010



FOR ALUMNI, CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS, AND OTHERS

## POLITICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE IN 2010

The past year was an eventful one in the political sphere. The global financial crisis resulted in the governments of the world's rich countries pouring between seven and fourteen trillion dollars (the amount varies depending on the definitions used) into banks, other financial institutions and companies.

The efforts by governments to stabilize their economies also highlighted how political and economic power is shifting among nations. Regardless of the specific outcomes, the financial crisis has

again demonstrated the centrality of politics in shaping our lives. The on-going negotiations relating to global climate change further reinforce the import of politics.

This Newsletter provides a snap shot of some of the activities of the Department of Political Science to understand, and in some cases, shape our world. The Newsletter is designed for students, graduates and others who have an interest in the Department and more generally the study of politics.

## FROM THE CHAIR

The Department of Political Science strives to cultivate a vigorous intellectual community based on the critical analysis of political life and institutions. Believing that a democratic education is education for democracy, we are committed to encouraging democratic participation and social justice. We seek to promote dialogue in which students and teachers alike critically come to terms with their assumptions and beliefs about politics and society.

We are proud that this commitment to critical dialogue has brought an enviable record of success. This includes not only our faculty members with international reputations for research, and numerous awards for excellence in teaching, but also students who find new and constructive ways – both as individuals and collectively – to engage with politics and society. Political Science students take part in workshops, seminars, and confer-

ences at both the departmental and university levels, and also are active in a wide range of movements, groups and institutions.

In this, our first year within the new Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, the Department of Political Science is undertaking new approaches to teaching, and beginning to explore new dimensions of our identity, while preserving our commitment to activism, democracy and social justice. Challenged – at home and abroad – by deepening crises in the economy and environment, in personal and communal security, and in the form and practice of government, we have never had a greater need for critical perspective and new means of engagement. We have the opportunity to work together in understanding these challenges and to raise for ourselves the question of how we best may confront them.

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George Comninel  
Department Chair

### IN MEMORIAM: ANN DENHOLM CROSBY



Ann Denholm Crosby

On July 1, 2009 the department lost a colleague, teacher, scholar and friend when Ann Denholm Crosby passed away after a brief battle with cancer. Ann joined the department in 1992 after earning degrees in Sociology, English Literature and Anthropology. She was an active teacher, an engaged supervisor of graduate students and an effective administrator, having served as the Graduate Program Director from 2001-2004.

Before coming to York, Professor Crosby had long been active with the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, the Group of 78 and Canadian Pugwash. She had also been a Book Review columnist for the St. John's Evening Telegram and had written and produced radio drama for the CBC.

Given this background, it is not surprising that Professor Crosby resisted disciplinary conformity in all its guises and drew on literature for her classes as well as her research that reflected the breadth of both her academic training and professional experience. Her work provides insights on the ways modern state and economic practices have evolved and are sustained by scientific, artistic, religious, economic and political practices and knowledge.

The Department held a memorial to celebrate Professor Crosby's life in September 2009 and also established an award in her honour to support an incoming MA student whose work re-

flects Professor Crosby's interests in critical security studies. For information about how to make a donation to this award, you can contact Professor Sandra Whitworth at [sandraw@yorku.ca](mailto:sandraw@yorku.ca).

Professor Elizabeth Dauphinee shares the impact of Professor Crosby on her life:

*In 1999, I was one of many keen MA students in Ann's Advanced Topics in Security Studies seminar. I was 25 years old, over-confident, and naive (to name just a few qualities). We were discussing global inequality, social justice, and the need for change. Each of us spoke as if we knew what these things meant, and each of us had very grandiose ideas on what we should do.*

*One day, Ann quietly said to us: 'You know, it might not be us that will be the agents of change. It might be instead that change will be visited upon us by others, in ways that we never intended, and in ways that we cannot control. It might be the sort of change that will strip us of our privilege entirely. And this is perhaps how it should be.'*

*For a young, naive, self-confident, privileged creature such as myself, brand-new to the MA program at York, this was a sobering and shocking moment. It changed the way I thought about the world in a profound and stunning way. I will never forget it. I will never forget Ann. I hope she is looking on us fondly.*

### IN MEMORIAM: NORMAN PENNER



Norman Penner

Professor Emeritus Norman Penner, who taught for many years at Glendon College, passed away in Toronto at age 88 on April 16, April 2009. Prof. George Comninel recalls: "My first teaching experience was as a Unit 1 course director (on a 'ticket') at

Glendon in the early 1980s, and then I taught there again between 1985 and 1987. Norm was as warm and generous as you could ask from a senior colleague, and well respected by students, staff and faculty."

## GRADUATE STUDIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Graduate Program in Political Science continues to be internationally renowned for its critical approaches to the study of politics. Our students are involved in a range of activities – both in the classroom and beyond – which include the organization of conferences and workshops, teaching-development seminars, and a student-run scholarly journal.

Students are also involved in local political activism through various community organizations, as well as their union, CUPE 3903, and other Political Science related organizations such as the Graduate Political Sci-

ence Student Association and the Trans-Border Feminist Collective.

As new Graduate Program Director, I am committed to the continued excellence of Political Science research at York and to supporting the graduate students – both MA and Ph.D. – who undertake this research. I am very honoured to occupy an administrative role that places me in proximity to such a diversity and wealth of intellectual expertise and innovation as exists in the Graduate Program in Political Science. I look forward to the next three years.



Elizabeth Dauphinee  
Graduate Program Director

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Undergraduate Program in Political Science at York is one of the best in the country.

It offers a unique perspective on politics inasmuch as it seeks to deepen the democratic experience through the development of critical citizenship and autonomous thinking. From the first year onwards, undergraduates in the Department benefit from the knowledge and passion of our full-time and part-time Faculty members.

Because special emphasis is put on the sharpening of reading, writing, and thinking skills, our students are well equipped to distinguish themselves in the many venues open to political scientists. Indeed, the success of our alumni speaks volumes about the excellence of our program: our graduates can aspire to – and attain – greatness in the field of their choice.



Martin Breagh  
Undergraduate Program Director

## PROFESSOR ISABELLA BAKKER AWARDED TRUDEAU FELLOWSHIP

Professor Isabella Bakker received a \$225,000 Trudeau Fellowship Prize in 2009 for her cutting-edge work in feminist political economy. Trudeau Fellowships are awarded annually through a rigorous nomination process to highly accomplished Canadians who question society's world views and teach the importance of responsible and engaged citizenship.

Professor Bakker is a leading authority in the fields of political economy, public finance, gender and development. Throughout her career, her policy and advocacy work has been committed to the enhancement of democratic dialogue, equitable global social change and gender equality.



Isabella Bakker

# Department of Political Science Newsletter 2010

## HOW I SPENT MY 2009 SUMMER VACATION

by Professor John Saul



Professor Emeritus  
John Saul

Being retired, my summer vacation started early (in any case, south of the equator it's mid-summer at New Year's!) and included two trips back to my old research and work haunts, Tanzania and South Africa.

First to Dar es Salaam in February where I was invited to be a participant on the South African Development Community (SADC) research team that is evaluating, in scholarly fashion, the liberation struggle for Southern Africa from 1960-1994. My brief: to examine liberation support in Canada and the United States during those years.

There was some relatively friendly scuffling in Dar over the meaning of "liberation" itself, my position being that it must involve not merely the triumph of anti-colonial/anti-racist nationalism over white domination but also "liberation" defined in terms of class, gender and democratic voice – areas in which it is still far from being realized. Ultimately it was agreed, somewhat grudgingly, that I could write whatever I felt had motivated the struggle's participants in North America (though, of course, we in Canada had actually learned

our wider definition of liberation and liberation struggle from progressive movement's in southern Africa itself!) while the overall project would be expected to stick only to what was, rather questionably, termed the "first phase" of liberation: "national freedom."

My second trip was to Cape Town in May as guest of the South African Association of Canadian Studies. There I gave, among other talks, a well attended public lecture on "Canada and South Africa: Two Fronts of Anti-Apartheid Struggle."

I noted, among other things, both the signal degree to which South Africans had, quite concretely, taken their lead from Canada's reservation system and other policies for control of our own "native people" in crafting its brutal segregation and apartheid systems. And, also the extent to which Canada, up until then tacitly supportive, economically and politically, of white South Africa, had begun, under Brian Mulroney, to switch away from the apartheid regime towards a policy of cooptation of the African National Congress leadership and acceptance of a "recolonization" of South Africa by western capital after their country's ostensible "liberation."

## NEW EDITION OF *AMERICAN EMPIRE*

Leo Panitch reports that a new, expanded paperback edition of *American Empire and the Political Economy of Global Finance* (Palgrave Macmillan) edited by Panitch and Martijn Konings was published in 2009.

The chapters are based on papers given by graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in the Department of Political Science. As the new chapter 'The Political Economy of the Subprime Crisis' written for this new edition demonstrates, the evolution of the financial crisis has confirmed the perspective on the relationship between global finance and American empire presented in this book. The

crisis began in the US, rapidly spread to other parts of the world and continues to be shaped by American political and economic developments.

The extensive state intervention that the crisis has induced also confirms the book's approach to understanding the relationship between states and globalization. This especially applies to the American state, which was the most central to launching a globalized capitalism and whose interventions today are once again most central to attempts to contain global capitalism's most severe crisis.

International Political Economy Series

### American Empire and the Political Economy of Global Finance

Edited by  
Leo Panitch and Martijn Konings

Updated and  
expanded edition  
with a new chapter on  
The Political Economy of  
the Subprime Crisis



## GRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2009, the following Ph.D. students successfully defended their dissertations and earned their doctorates:

**Marc-Andre Gagnon:** *The Nature of Capital in the Knowledge-Based Economy: The Case of the Global Pharmaceutical Industry*

**Charles Smith:** *"Fairness and Balance?": The Politics of Ontario's Labour Relations*

**Adam Hanieh:** *Khaleeji Capital: Class Formation and the Gulf Cooperation Council*

**Deepa Rajkumar:** *Moving Sudanese Stories: Voices that Contest the Dominant Refugee Discourse(s)*

**Maya Eichler:** *Militarized Masculinity in Post-Soviet Russia: A Gendered Analysis of State and Society in the Context of the Chechen Wars*

**Emilia Castorina:** *The Contradictions of Democratic Neo-Liberalism in Argentina and the Limits of the "New Politics from Below"*

**Ryerson Christie:** *Peacebuilding and Cambodian State-Civil Society Interaction: An Immanent Critique of the Promotion of NGOs as a Means of Resolving Conflict*

**Mary Young:** *The Political Economy of Agro-Food Restructuring in Indonesia in the 1990s*

**Kimberly Earles:** *The Gendered Effects of the Reregulation of the Swedish Welfare State: Beyond the "Death of a Model" Debate*

**John Simoulidis:** *Marx After Uno: Crisis Theory and the Post-War Boom and Crisis Reconsidered*

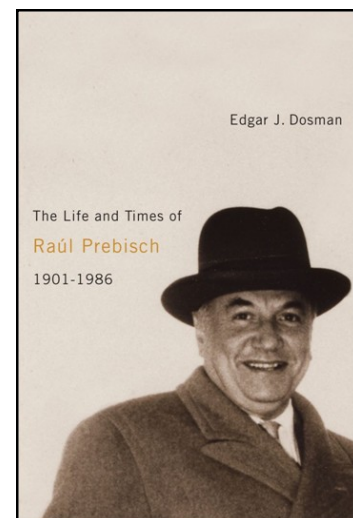
## RECOMMENDED READING

Professor Emeritus Edgar J. Dosman's latest book, *The Life and Times of Raúl Prebisch, 1901-1986* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2009) has received rave reviews. The book chronicles the life of Argentine Raúl Prebisch, a towering figure in the international debates on economic development from the 1940s to the 1970s.

*The Economist* in its review of the book wrote: "In rescuing Prebisch for a new generation, and above all in allowing the reader to separate the man from the myth, [Professor Dosman] has performed a valuable service for all those interested in eco-

nomic thinking in Latin America and in the field of international development in general" (March 17, 2009, p. 90). The book was named one of *The Economist's* best books of 2009 in the biography and memoir category.

Professor Dosman reports that when Mr. Prebisch was invited to open the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean at York University in 1978 he was a great hit with students and faculty alike. Mr. Prebisch was also awarded an honorary degree from York University in the same year.



THE 19

Department of Political Science  
**POLITICS**  
Faculty of Arts • York University

You are cordially invited to  
The York Lecture  
in  
Political Science  
1989

**Revolution  
Constitution  
&  
Modern Power  
1789-1989**

SHELDON WOLIN  
Professor Emeritus,  
Princeton University  
and  
The University of California,  
Berkeley

Thursday, 26 October, 7:45 p.m.  
Moot Court, Osgoode Hall,  
York University, North York



**smiley**

**Excalibur:** Do you feel the distinct society clause, with its provisions to preserve and promote the identity of Quebec, may become a long-term prescription for Quebec's movement towards independence?

**Smiley:** No. I see no way Quebec could move towards independence under the distinct society clause. My guess would be that if we refuse Meech Lake we are in more danger of a resurgence of independence than if we accept the Accord.

**Excalibur:** A lot of people feel there will be a 'balkanization' or deunification of national objectives because of the opting out clause. Do you view this as a serious problem?

**Smiley:** Not a very serious problem. It seems to me that on a lot of these social programmes we need experimentation and recognition of diversity. The one we're thinking about the next national social programme, I suppose, is daycare, and it would seem to me that this lends itself to a rather decentralized kind of programme in which various kinds of arrangements will qualify. In other words I would think that what we don't need is a national daycare programme with very rigid standards prescribed by Ottawa which don't take into account the needs of local communities and provinces.



**YORK UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF**

**POLITICAL  
SCIENCE**

*a historical time*

**York and U of T  
attracts internat**

By SHELLEY WEISFELD

A student-organized mock United Nations session will be held in Toronto for the first time next week.

# 1980'S

- 1980 ..Feb 18: Liberals return to majority power led by Trudeau once again
- ..Apr 12: Terry Fox begins his Marathon of Hope for cancer research at St John's, Newfoundland
- ..Jun 27: "O Canada" becomes official national anthem

- 1981 ..Women's Caucus of Graduate Political Science Students is formed<sup>YU</sup>

- ..Nov 5: Trudeau and all the premiers except René Lévesque reach an agreement on patriation of Constitution

- 1982 ..Public Policy and Administration Program launched<sup>YU</sup>

- ..Canada charges that air pollution originating in the US has killed all the fish in 147 Ontario lakes, raising world consciousness about acid rain

- ..Apr 17: The Charter of Rights and Freedoms comes into effect

- 1983 ..Donald Smiley appointed as Distinguished Research Professor<sup>YU</sup>

- ..Mar 30: Bertha Wilson is sworn in as Canada's first female Supreme Court Justice

- 1984 ..May 14: Jeanne Sauv  becomes the first Canadian woman Governor General

- ..Sep 4: The Conservatives led by Brian Mulroney win the second-largest majority government in Canadian history

- 1985 ..Bill C-31 restores Indian Status to over 100,000 Aboriginal Women and their children

- 1987 ..First Edition of GPSSA Handbook<sup>YU</sup>

- ..Reform Party of Canada established
- ..Apr 30: Meech Lake Accord proposed

- ..Jun 30: The new \$1 coin, the "loonie" goes into circulation

- 1988 ..Federal government signs Japanese Redress Agreement to acknowledge the past injustices suffered by Canadians of Japanese ancestry

- 1989 ..Jan 1: Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement goes into effect

- ..Dec 6: 14 female Engineering students are shot and killed at  cole Polytechnique in Montreal

T combine to host mock UN,  
tional gathering of students

purpose of the event is stated as two-  
fold. First, it is to "encourage vigor-  
ous debate on issues that are of vital  
importance in the arena of interna-  
tional relations and on issues that

sity of Toronto to join them in  
organizing this year's NAMUN, which  
is one of the few collaborations  
found amongst the two universities.  
In order to allow participants



# Department of Political Science Newsletter 2010

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## PROFESSOR DAVID SHUGARMAN RETIRES



David Shugarman

by Professor Stephen Newman

Professor David Shugarman retired on December 31, 2009, formally ending a career at York University that began in 1971. In those thirty-eight years he has been an esteemed colleague in the Department of Political Science, served multiple terms as Master of McLaughlin College (1992-2004), was Director of the Graduate Program in Social and Political Thought (1979-1981), and played a leading role in the development of the York University Centre for Practical Ethics, serving as its Director from 2000 to 2008.

He has been a beloved teacher who introduced generations of second year students to the study of political theory and brought fourth year and graduate students face to face with the ethical dilemmas inherent to politics. He has also been an estimable scholar whose publications include the monograph *Honest Politics: Seeking Integrity in Canadian Public Life* (co-authored with Ian Greene) and three edited volumes as well as dozens of scholarly articles, review essays and book reviews, and journalistic contributions, notably to *Canadian Forum*.

David's scholarly interests have been wide-ranging. He has written and deliv-

ered papers on, among other things, the thought of Edmund Burke, democratic accountability, the problem of "dirty hands" in politics, Canadian nationalism, ideology and the Canadian constitution, and -- most recently -- the ethics and practice of humanitarian intervention. In support of his research he has held grants from the Australian Research Council, the Social Science and Humanities Research Council, and York University.

Unstinting in the generosity of his service to the university, not a year went by that did not see him on one or more committees at the Department, Faculty, or Senate level.

He also contributed to York's intellectual life by organizing numerous conferences and workshops on such topics as humanitarian intervention, ethical politics, Canadian federalism, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the politics of health.

His has been an exemplary career that we in the Department of Political Science are pleased to celebrate. Happily for us, his retirement will not mean his disappearance from campus. We expect him to be back next year to teach his popular seminar on ethical politics.

## GRADUATE STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Graduate students in the Department win far too many honours each year to all be listed in this Newsletter.

There is only room to note that the 2009 Fraser Taylor prize for the best graduate student paper at the Annual

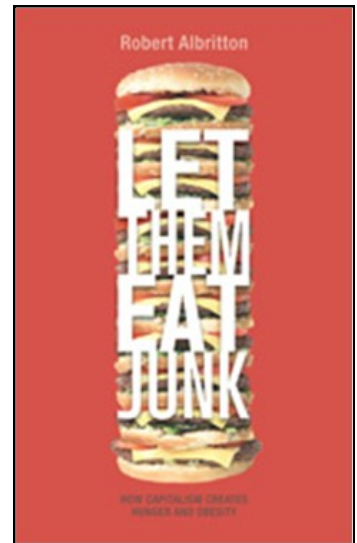
Conference of the Canadian Association of African Studies was awarded to Jesse Ovadia, Ph.D. candidate, for "Stepping Back from the Brink: A Review of the 2008 Ghanaian Election from the Capital of the Northern region."



## FACULTY MEMBER PROFILES

Professor Emeritus **Rob Albritton** continues his study of the global capitalist food system. In particular: How can a food system be considered rational in a world where over half of all people are suffering from either hunger or obesity? The consumption of food strongly impacts our very identity, and it is towards this broader issue, the construction of subjectivity, that his analysis will next turn. His new book is *Let Them Eat Junk: How Capitalism Creates Hunger and Obesity* (Arbeiter Ring Press and Pluto Press, 2009).

2009 at York University and also prepared the proceedings of the conference. Lastly, he is preparing a book on relations between Canada and China, 1970-2010, focusing on six case studies that highlight the main issues in the bilateral relationship (creating a Canadian China strategy, trade, human rights, development assistance, Taiwan, Tiananmen). Based on extensive use of Foreign Affairs files and interviews with Canadian and Chinese policymakers and officials, the book will be completed in early 2010.



**Sabah Alnasseri**, Associate Chair, teaches Politics and Economy of the Middle East. His research revolves around the following three complex topics: internationalization of the State, left-wing social movements and basic democratic alternatives. Currently he is working on two book projects titled: *The Middle East: Capital, State, and Societies*; and *Previous Accumulation: A Reader*. He used to teach at the J. W. Goethe University in Frankfurt before joining our department in 2006 and many of his publications are in German. He is currently organizing the translation of some of his work on the Middle East into English.

**Stephen Gill** was named in 2009, along with Professor Emeritus Robert W. Cox, one of the world's fifty leading past and present thinkers in International Relations, See M. Griffiths et al, *Fifty Key Thinkers in International Relations*, 2nd ed. (New York: Routledge Key Guides, 2009), pp. 178-186. During 2009-2010 he is the inaugural Jane and Aatos Erkkö Visiting Professor in Studies on Contemporary Society at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, University of Helsinki, Finland. His inaugural lecture "Organic Crisis & Global Capitalism" drew a large audience. His most recent books include: *American Hegemony and the Trilateral Commission* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009. Digital paperback reprint edition) and *Power and Resistance in the New World Order* (London and New York: Macmillan-Palgrave, 2008. Second updated edition). His website has news, current postings, publications and photos: [www.stephengill.com](http://www.stephengill.com)

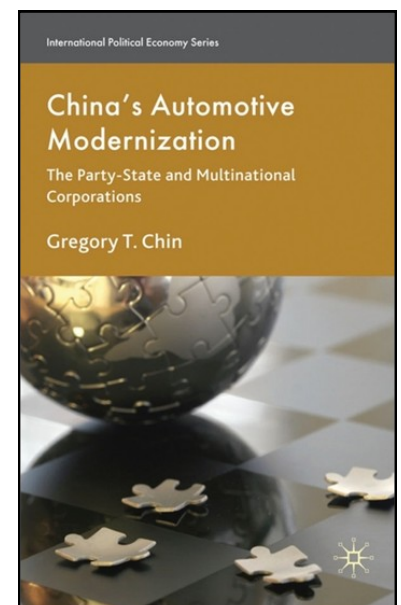


Sabah Alnasseri

**Gregory Chin's** book, *China's Automotive Modernization: The Party-State and Multinational Corporations* will be published in 2010 by Palgrave Macmillan.

Professor Emeritus **Bernie Frolic** was appointed Visiting Professor at the Beijing Foreign Studies University graduate program in Canadian Studies, to lecture on Canadian politics, foreign policy and Canada China relations, and to co-supervise graduate students from 2008 to 2012. He was the conference organizer for the "Political Change in China" Conference in March

**Susan Hender's** new book *Territoriality, Asymmetry, and Autonomy: Catalonia, Corsica, Hong Kong, and Tibet* will be published by Palgrave Macmillan, New York, in April 2010.



# Department of Political Science Newsletter 2010

## FACULTY MEMBER PROFILES (continued)



Janice Newton

**Robert Latham** is currently working on two projects. One is focused on ecological knowledge. He is especially interested in the construction of large scale monitoring systems and how these reproduce structures of domination and exclusion. His current research is focused on the Arctic as a site of monitoring and surveillance. Robert's other research is about border security, mobile subjectivity, and the politics of presence.

does this have for our teaching practices? Her research in this area is integrated into her teaching practices in her current POLS courses, POLS 1000, Introduction to Politics and POLS 4903, Capstone in Canadian Democracy.



Liisa L. North

**Janice Newton** received a National 3M Teaching Fellowship in 2005 and has been invited to present teaching workshops in Canada and the United States. She is currently engaged in two research projects. The first project studies issues of representation in the Canadian Political Science Association since its inception in 1913, and how the gatekeeping role of the organization has shaped the development of the discipline of Political Science in Canada. Another project focuses on the question: If we want students from a broad range of disciplines to graduate with the democratic skills needed for a democracy, what implications

Professor Emerita **Liisa L. North** co-authored with Martínez Valle a short work on rural development "*Vamos dando la vuelta.*" *Iniciativas endógenas de desarrollo local en la Sierra ecuatoriana* (Quito: Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales [FLACSO], 2009). She was a member of the organizing team of a conference held March 5-7, 2009 on "Rethinking Extractive Industry: Regulation, dispossession, and emerging claims". It was sponsored by the Center for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean and the Extractive Industries Research Group, both at York. A film on a mining conflict in Ecuador, which she produced in 2008 with a former York graduate student, has now been screened at festivals in Mexico, Germany, Brazil, and the United States in addition to Ecuador. It is "Under Rich Earth"/"Bajo Tieras Ricas" (it was made in English and Spanish versions from the beginning).

## SUMMER SCHOOL

by Professor Richard Saunders

Each summer the Department of Political Science, with the support of other academic units, hosts a summer school for graduate students and others. The 2009 International Political Economy and Ecology summer school, "Social Injustice is Killing People: The Political Economy of Global Health", explored globalization's influences on health from a multidisciplinary perspective, drawing mainly on political economy but also on research in such related subfields as radical geography

and health anthropology, with a particular focus on Africa.

The theme of the two-week course drew on the 2008 final report of the World Health Organization's groundbreaking Commission on Social Determinants of Health which argued that social injustice is killing people on a grand scale and emphasized the need for changes in the operation of the global economy if the health gap between rich and poor is to be closed. A few weeks after the report's release, a financial crisis exploded to engulf the

## SUMMER SCHOOL (continued)

world, threatening to reverse much of the modest progress in health development over the past two decades.

To lead the course, Professor Richard Saunders, the 2009 Director of the School, assembled a team of three prominent scholar activists – Ron Labonté, Canada Research Chair in Globalization and Health Equity at the University of Ottawa, Rene Loewenson of Zimbabwe's Training and Research Support Centre and Ted Schrecker from the University of Ottawa's Institute of Population Health and Department of Epidemiology and Community Medicine. Equally impressive was the range and depth of students, including

political economists, epidemiologists, health sector policymakers and practitioners, and researchers working on HIV/AIDS, housing, agriculture and health system modeling. Eighteen students from literally one side of the country to the other, including scholars from UBC, Dalhousie, Carleton, Queen's and the University of Toronto, joined a contingent from York.

This unusual mixture of experience and skills made for an extremely lively, highly productive and engaging two weeks, culminating in a one-day workshop that included a spirited teleconference session linking York with activists in Africa.

## REFLECTIONS

*by Professor Robert Drummond*

In the fifty years of its existence, the Faculty of Arts (and Science, as it once was) has had a number of historians and one economist as Dean. However, with a cavalier disregard for the adage "The cobbler's children have no shoes," it has often entrusted this governance role to political scientists – Harold Kaplan, who hired me when he was Chair of the Department of Political Science; Michael Stevenson, with whom I roomed in graduate school; and Ross Rudolph (as Acting Dean), with whom I now share an office.

What was it like for me to be a political scientist in the Dean's Office as Associate Dean, Acting Dean and Dean for fourteen of the last twenty-two years? First of all it has meant that I did not commit as much of my energy to the *study* of politics as I had intended to do when I became an academic. Some who have read what little I have written may think that is not a great loss.

Second, however, it has led me to an interest in the *conduct* of politics, admittedly small and rarified venue. (You will recall the common observation that the intensity of the struggle is often inversely related to the scale and importance of the stakes.) We purport in this department to study and promote "democratic administration" as one aspect of political life, and the direction of an academic community surely gives ample scope for assessing the practices and the challenges of that ideal.

Thankfully I have been asked to provide only three hundred words for this piece, so there is no danger of my elaborating on issues of power, influence and authority, let alone ethics or justice. However I am back in the department now, and the freedom afforded by being on leave means I will be around from time to time to make a nuisance of myself. I invite your frank opinions but hope they may be leavened with compassionate indulgence.



Robert Drummond



# DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, YORK UNIVERSITY, CANADA

## PURPOSE AND GOALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

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The Department of Political Science in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies has a reputation for research excellence and is noted for its commitment to teaching. Our object is to expand critical awareness of political problems and to help overcome the barriers that separate politics from social life.

In today's challenging times, it often seems as if the institutions developed to improve our lives have escaped from our control. Problems such as poverty, war, inequality, oppression and a deteriorating environment press on us from all sides.

We cannot understand how these problems arose, nor how to deal with them, without discussing their political implications. The study of politics is concerned with how power and authority permeate almost every aspect of our lives - from the state to the courtroom, board room, workplace and the family.

Politics is concerned not only with how power and authority are exercised, but with how these relationships get transformed. We are interested in the forces that sustain consensus as well as in the forces that bring about change.

## THE EDITOR WRITES

There are two types of scientists. My four-year old son belongs to the first. He will spend an hour spinning the left-front wheel of his favourite car. First, while lying down, then under the water tap, then in the sunshine streaming through the window, then in the basement and in every other location and position. In other words, he is a specialist.

His twin sister, on the other hand, is a generalist. In the same hour she will throw balls down the stairs, draw, play piano, study her books, step outside to look at the birds, and do an almost endless other number of "experiments."

Fortunately, university studies cater to both types of individuals. In selecting programs of study, courses and indeed class assignments, there is considerable scope to follow one's own interests – be these focused on one particular notion or policy problem, or be these wide-ranging and ever-changing.

Even better, the scope for exploration does not stop at graduation. Indeed, it only expands once handed a degree. Then, the whole world is open, and there are no longer constraints of classes, academic timetables, exams and professors.



At that point you have the skills and knowledge with which to tackle just about any topic – from fitting into a new culture (or family) to contributing to the community to which you belong.

The skills learned in university – including analysis, objectivity, creativity, and research – are fundamental to any personal or public enterprise.

May your own studies after university be exciting and rewarding.

Comments about this Newsletter can be directed to me at [tklassen@yorku.ca](mailto:tklassen@yorku.ca) or 416-736-2100 ext. 88828.

*Thomas R. Klassen*  
Thomas R. Klassen