

Department of Political Science Newsletter 2014



FOR ALUMNI, CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS, AND OTHERS

A RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT

This has been a year of spectacular achievement for our department. Professors Karen Murray and Jacqueline Krikorian received Fulbright fellowships; Elizabeth Dauphinee's book *Politics of Exile* received phenomenal reviews from a variety of scholars. The *Journal Security Dialogue* will publish a special issue on the book titled "Telling Stories: Elizabeth Dauphinee's Politics of Exile".

The Making of Global Capitalism by Leo Panitch (our Canada Research Chair) and Sam Gindin (our former Packer Visiting Chair) has won the prestigious Deutscher Memorial Prize for 2013. The 2012 Deutscher prize was also won by one of our colleagues, David McNally.

Mary Young (our alumna) and Professor Susan Henders have won the *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal's* Maureen Appel Molot Best Paper Prize for 2012. Professor Leah Vosko, our Canada Research Chair in Feminist Political Economy received a major Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council grant for her research on precarious work.

A second enlarged edition of *Globalization, Democratization and Multilateralism* edited by Professor Stephen Gill was published in October 2013 and selected as an International Political Economy Classic by Palgrave Macmillan, as one of the best books they have published in the field of international political economy over the past 30 years. The volume was the product of a seven-year-long research program, *Multilateralism and United Nations System*, funded by the United Nations University and directed by Emeritus Professor of this department Robert Cox.

Our department's signature events, such as the annual meet and greet for undergraduates, the celebration of academic excellence keep on growing. This year we held a special event for prospective law students (Why Political Science is the best path to law school). The Dean of Osgoode Hall Law School, Professor Lorne Sossin, Professor Jacqueline Krikorian and our brilliant alumna and now labour lawyer Parisa Nikfarjam spoke to our students about a career in law. Subsequently, we have mounted a new course on the *Politics of Law*.

Two new events were added to our repertoire by our Undergraduate Program Director Dennis Pilon. The first was a workshop on applying to graduate school and a workshop for our teaching assistants. The feedback on both these events is excellent and we hope to see them grow. In 2014, we are hosting a special event for international students.

The level of achievement and accomplishment of our students matches that of our faculty members. Our undergraduate and graduate students continue to perform wonderfully both in their scholarly pursuits, but also in bringing about change. More details on some of their feats are found in the pages that follow.

Let me end on a note of good bye, as my term as Chair ends in June 2014. I will always look back at the wonderful three years I spent in this capacity and the warmth and support I have received from colleagues, our staff and our students. It has been a privilege to work for this collegium.

INSIDE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES	2
GRADUATE ACHIEVEMENT	4
ENVISION THE FUTURE	6-7
FACULTY PROFILES	8-10
ALUMNA WITH A MISSION	11



Ananya Mukherjee-Reed
Department Chair

Department of Political Science Newsletter 2014

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Professor Dennis Pilon, Undergraduate Program Director



Dennis Pilon

The Department of Political Science offers BA and Honours BA programs in Political Science, as well as a BA Specialized Honours in Global Political Studies.

In addition, the Department also offers an internationally-oriented degree, the iBA Honours. This degree requires some foreign language credits, a period of studying abroad, and the completion of internationally-oriented courses.

The Department has re-emphasized its strong commitment to engaging our undergraduates not just in the classroom but in a host of extra-curricular events. Our annual faculty/student 'meet and greet' in the Fall term attracts hundreds of students and dozens of faculty to meet and chat in an informal setting.

In 2013, the Department sponsored two new activities: an event to help students prepare to apply for grad school, and

another highlighting the many kind of jobs where our grads are using their degrees. Students are invited to the many lectures, symposia, book launches, and other events that the Department organizes and sponsors.

We have strengthened links to the Osgoode Hall Law School on campus, creating new opportunities for our students to explore what law school might be like, and we launched our new first year course on The Politics of Law (POLS 1200). This course introduces students to the relationship between political science and the law, from the rights of sex workers, food safety, patent regimes and the environment.

Additionally, the Undergraduate Political Science Council has been very active, organizing field trips and events, as well as opportunities for students to become more involved in the Department. I look forward to meeting more of our undergrads at these events or just as they drop by my

GRADUATE STUDIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Professor Sabah Alnasseri, Graduate Program Director



Sabah Alnasseri

The Graduate Program in Political Science is one of the largest of its kind in Canada. In 2013, we welcomed nearly 70 new students at the MA and PhD level. This represents an enormous challenge for all parties involved in the programs - faculty, students, and staff.

Fortunately, we have not only more than 100 professors appointed to our program, who teach courses, supervise students and are available for advice and support. These faculty members come from diverse disciplines across the University.

In addition we have an excellent and extremely engaged group of graduate stu-

dents already in the program. Lastly, our indispensable staff, who are in some ways the heart and soul of our expanding community, make everyone feel at home.

Governments across Canada have begun yet another round of restructuring of education, which tends to be at the expense of students and the quality of teaching. However, nowhere can critical thinking, extensive autonomy and fights for the quality and integrity of education be realized and defended as in the graduate program, for nowhere else it is possible to encounter such an organic connectedness among possible non-conformists as here.

Pages four and five of this Newsletter provide details on the 19 PhD students who successfully completed their doctorates in 2013. These individuals have conducted ground-breaking research on an impressive range of topics. Their analyses and conclusions add to the understanding of our world.

One last word: as Director I am pretty superfluous! The people who do the real work and who are absolutely essential, are our fantastic trio of administrative staff: Marlene Quesenberry (assistant for PhD's), Jlenya Sarra-De Meo (for MAs), and the graduate program secretary Judy Matadial.

PROFESSOR STEVE HELLMAN TO RETIRE

Professor Leo Panitch, Canada Research Chair

Steve Hellman is one of the very few professors active in the Department in the second decade of the 21st century who provides a bridge to its headiest years of growth in the 1970s.

It was quite a shock when Steve arrived from New York for his job interview in 1971. The taxi driver headed for the Glendon Campus until Steve showed him the Keele Street address he had been sent.

Steve was one of 20 new faculty who joined the Department in the first three years of the 1970s alone. Indeed, it is difficult today to imagine how the smaller number of faculty members who had been hired in the 1960s sustained an interview process with some 60 shortlisted candidates in these years (let alone suffered through taking each of them of dinner afterwards). Even more admirable was the commitment to developing an intellectual community on the part of the faculty who built this Department in those years, as they gathered together regularly in the Varner College Senior Common Room to hear their new colleagues talk about their research.

Those were the days when there was a baseball field where York Lanes stands today, and where the departmental faculty team would regularly defeat the student team. Indeed, the York Political Science baseball team, on which Steve was a stalwart player, was good enough to defeat the York Grounds and Maintenance team, confounding conventional wisdom about the limited athletic capacities of intellectuals.

Among the nine new faculty members hired in the 1971-72 academic year, Steve Hellman was certainly one of the most illustrious. He not only had the provenance of a Yale PhD but the added lustre of the great Sidney Tarrow as his intellectual mentor in the exciting study of Gramsci's communist party, the

largest and most creative in any liberal democracy. And he was already published in 1973 by the flagship radical publisher of the era, New Left Books in London; indeed, his translation of Maria Antonietta Macciocchi's, *Letters from Inside the Italian Communist Party to Louis Althusser*, won a prestigious translation prize.

By the time Hellman's magnum opus, *Italian Communism in Transition* (Oxford University Press, 1988) was published, he was widely recognized in the discipline as one of the leading political scientists in the field of European politics. His co-authored text *European Politics in Transition*, first published in 1987, would go through six editions, the most recent in 2009.

Steve's contribution to the Graduate Program in Political Science has been second to none, beginning as Director from 1979 to 1983, and continuing as the mainstay professor of the core course in Comparative Politics and indefatigable Comparative Politics field coordinator over the following three decades. And he combined this commitment to making the Department one of the best places in the world to study comparative politics with a no less steadfast commitment to introducing undergraduate students in 2nd and 3rd year lecture courses to the wonders and virtues of studying politics.

No one has done more than Steve Hellman to make this Department what it is, so distinctive among the world's social science departments.



Department of Political Science Newsletter 2014

GRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

During 2013, the following PhD students successfully defended their dissertations earning their doctorates. The list is in chronological order:

Jesse Salah Ovidia

Local Content and the Emergence of the Petro-Developmental State in the Gulf of Guinea

Xavier Lafrance

Citizens and Wage-Labourers: Capitalism and the Formation of a Working Class in France

Ruth Felder

Neoliberal Reforms, Crisis and Recovery in Argentina (1990s-2000s)

Elliott Buckland

Politics as Perishing: Crisis, Contradiction and Non-Identity in Marx and the Frankfurt School

Nand C. Bardouille

Punching Above it's Weight: The Caribbean as an 'Ideational' Actor in Global Politics in the Era of Normative Power Europe

Randall Terada

*Subjective Dispossession and *Objet A*: A Critique of Judith Butler's Relational Ontology from a Lacanian Perspective*

Frederick Peters

Schmutz on the Baltic: The Political Economy of Urban Water Infrastructure in Post-Communist Europe

Hyeng-Joon Park

Dominant Capital and the Transformation of Korean Capitalism: From Cold War to Globalization

Kamila Pietrzyk

Time, Technology and Troublemakers: "Fast-Activism" and the Alter-Globalization Movement in Canada

Angela Joya

Accumulation by Dispossession and the Transformation of Property Relations in Egypt: Housing Policy under Neoliberalism

Sandy Hager

Public Debt, Ownership and Power: The Political Economy of Distribution and Redistribution

Tyler Shipley

Honduras and the New Canadian Imperialism: Re-Assessing Canadian Foreign Policy Matters

Timothy Clark

The State and the Making of Capitalist Modernity in Chile

2014

Rafeef Ziadah

Outside the Multicultural: Solidarity and the Silencing of Palestinian Narratives

Julian Germann

Pivotal Crisis: State Power and Social Forces in the Making of Neoliberal Capitalism

Jeremy Green

The Political Economy of the Special Relationship: British Development and American Power

Sanja Dejanovic

The Paradox of Sense, or On the Event of Thought in Gilles Deleuze's Philosophy

Eric Newstadt

The Value of Quality: Capital, Class, and Quality Assessment in the Remaking of Higher Education in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Ontario



Professor Leo Panitch (left) with three PhD graduates at the October 2013 Convocation: Angela Joya (wearing her robe), Kamilla Pietrzyk and Frederick Peters



2032:

I am the first Prime Minister of Canada born of immigrant parents. I lead a Canada that is loving, fair and just.

Avesta Pira
Political Science
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

2025:

My dream is to live in a world of equal representation among genders and an equal right to access for all

Sarah Rana
Political Science
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies



this is my time



2024:

I am revising the constitutions of liberal nations to make them reflect the reality of the limits and possibilities of humanity

Yasamin Pouragheli
Political Science
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS)

POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS



2020:

I am contributing to the international fight against interracial wars, forceful invasion and political injustice

Buyantsogt Chinbayar
Political Science
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS)



2025:

I am publishing my book on the history of the forgotten women of the Global South

Arazoo Ferozan
History & Political Science
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS)

2020:

I help to inspire the entrenchment of the social and economic rights in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom

Behzad Mohammadi
Political Science and Law & Society
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies



this is my time

2032:

I have inspired a new generation to think critically and love learning

Ruben Meitardjian
B.A Honors Political Science
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies



this is my time.



2031: I am a judge of the International Court of Justice.

this is my time.

—Teshini Harrison, Political Science, Glendon Campus, 2014

STUDENTS ENVISION THEIR FUTURE

2020:

I am working with the government and operating a program of free tuition

Roshana Momen
BA, Specialized Honors
Political Science
Faculty of Liberal Arts &
Professional Studies (LA&PS)



2021:

I am able to make members of my community feel that their personal dreams and visions have the potential to be realized

Christopher Vanden Berg
Political Science
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies



this is my time

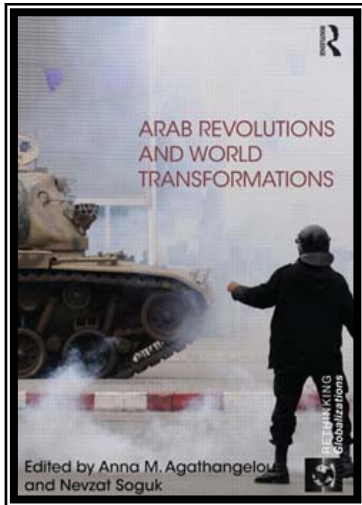
2033: As president of the Canadian Soccer Association, I make our country an international powerhouse.

Sotiri Varlokostas, Soccer Goalkeeper,
Political Science, Faculty of Liberal Arts
& Professional Studies, 2014

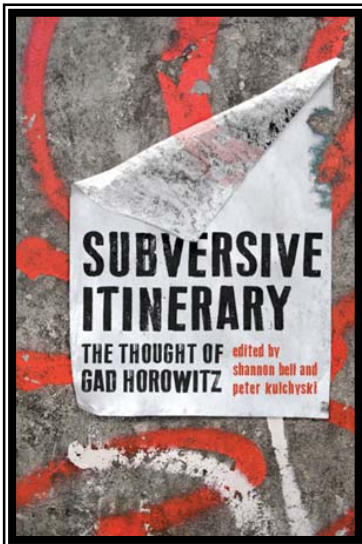


this is my time.

FACULTY MEMBER PROFILES



Anna M. Agathangelou co-edited *Arab Revolutions and World Transformations* (Routledge, 2013) and authored the chapter “Slavery Remains in Reconstruction and Development” in the edited collection *Globalization, Difference, and Human Security* (Routledge, 2013). In September 2013 she co-organized a workshop at the University of Nicosia, Cyprus, as part of the internationalization initiative, *Reconstructions: Pre- And Post-conflict: Emerging Powers and the Future of the World Order*. This project is supported by York University, several universities in the UK and organizations in Cyprus.



Greg Albo co-edited *Empire's Ally: Canada and the Afghanistan War* (University of Toronto Press, 2013); *Registering Class: Socialist Register 2014* (Monthly Review Press, 2013); and *Quelle Stratégie? Résurgence des mouvements sociaux, combativité et politique* (M éditeur, 2013). In the Fall of 2013, Professor Albo gave a visiting lecture at the Universidad Autonoma de Puebla in Mexico. Also in the Fall of 2013, he co-facilitated a York University Centre for Social Justice workshop on “Pension Funds, Unions and Working Class Strategies.”

Shannon Bell co-edited *Subversive Itinerary: The Thought of Gad Horowitz* (University of Toronto Press, 2013). Professor Bell recently produced three films for her imaging theory project: Walter Benjamin—*Flâneuring Ancient Arcade Ruins* filmed in Israel/Palestine; Martin Heidegger—*Flashes of Perception* filmed in the Eastern Arctic; and Samuel Mallin—*The Sinuous Turn*. Ancient Minoan lines, Gournia, Knossos, Malia, Phaestos in Crete. Bell is co-investigator on Canadian Consortium on Performance and Politics in the Americas, a seven year SSHRC Partnership Grant (2013-20).

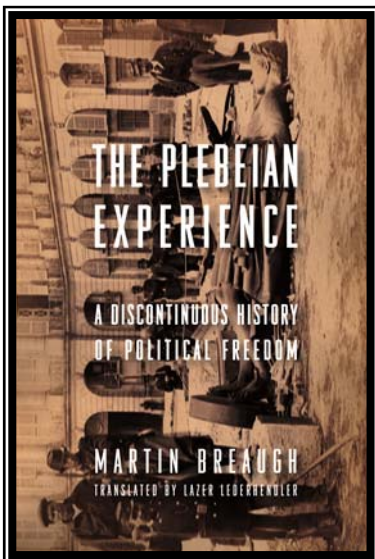
Martin Breugh's book, *The Plebeian Experience: A Discontinuous History of Political Freedom*, has been translated in to English (Columbia University Press, 2013). Professor Breugh gave two keynote addresses in 2013: at a conference on the “Physiognomy of Contemporary Political Philosophy” at the Pontifi-

cal Catholic University of São Paulo, Brazil; and in Montreal at a conference on “Democratic Institutions and the Forms of Social Division” during the Francophone Learned societies. He also published two peer-reviewed articles in European journals based in Paris, *Tumultes* and *Sens Public*.

Gregory Chin gave the keynote address at the 6th Annual Workshop on International Relations (WIRE) in Brussels in September 2013. He had two articles on “IPE in China” in the December 2013 issue of the *Review of International Political Economy*. In November 2013, he was part of panel discussion on “*The Political Economy of East Asian Foreign Aid: Japan, Korea, and China*” at Brown University. Professor Chin has chapters in two edited books: *The Political Economy of Asian Regionalism* (Springer/Asian Development Bank Series, 2014), and *International Development* (Oxford University Press, 2014). He is completing a book manuscript on the political economy of the internationalization of the renminbi (China's currency).

Bernie Frolic continues to be a visiting professor at the Beiwai University Graduate Centre for Canadian Studies in Beijing. He teaches a course titled, “Introduction to Western Political Science.” His recent publications appear in the *Journal of American East Asian Relations*, the *Journal of Parliamentary and Political Law*, and a book, in Chinese: *Jianada Yanjiu* (*Canadian Studies*).

Stephen Gill received a SSHRC Insight Grant in 2013 for “The Question of Europe in an Era of Economic and Political Crisis.” He recently gave lectures and plenaries at the Universities of London and Manchester, and Université Paris. At the latter he was elected a member of the Institut de Recherche Interdisciplinaire en Sciences Sociales His edited collection *Globalization, Democratization and Multilateralism* was published as an “International Political Economy Classic” (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013). During 2012-13 he published 4 journal articles and served on the Foreign Relations Committee of the Royal Society of Canada.



FACULTY MEMBER PROFILES

Laam Hae studies the political economy of, and cultural politics over, urban redevelopment. Her recent book *The Gentrification of Nightlife and the Right to the City: Regulating Spaces of Social Dancing in New York* (Routledge, 2012) analyzes gentrification in New York City and its implications regarding the “right to the city.” Her current research examines struggles over the deregulation of greenbelt areas in South Korea (with SSHRC funding) and shantytown redevelopment under the liberal-leftist Seoul municipal government.

Susan Henders is co-editor of, and contributor to, *Human Rights and the Arts: Essays on Global Asia* (Lexington, 2014). Focused on geographic and diaspora Asia, this interdisciplinary volume explores the potential of creative works to expand understanding of the multiple contexts of human rights experiences and, ultimately, of the human being that is imagined in cultural, political, and legal discourses of human rights.

Thomas Klassen is author of *Retirement in Canada* (Oxford University Press, 2013). He is co-editor of, and contributor to, *Korea's Retirement Predicament: The Ageing Tiger* (Routledge, 2014). During 2014-15 he is conducting research in Seoul, South Korea. Members of the York University community and alumni visiting the East Asia region during this time are encouraged to contact him at: tklassen@yorku.ca

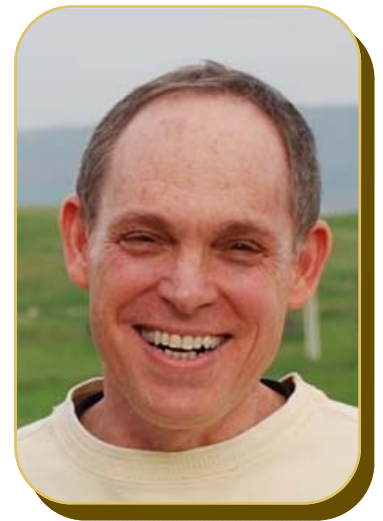
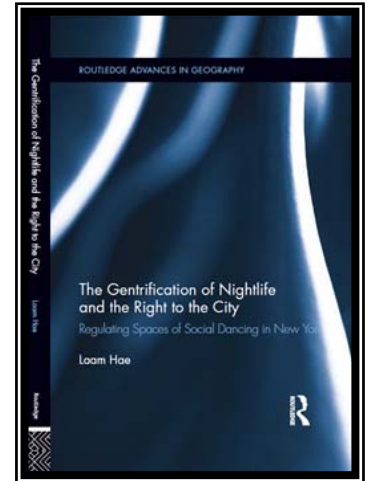
Jacqueline Krikorian is the Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Canada-U.S. Relations at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars for the first half of 2014. She has also been appointed as a Fellow at the Institute of International Economic Law at Georgetown University Law Center. Her research project, “Canada, the U.S. and Trade Remedy Disputes,” builds upon the findings in her recent book, *International Trade Law and Domestic Public Policy: Canada, the United States and the WTO* (University of British Columbia Press, 2012).

Heather MacRae works in the area of gender politics in European integration. In 2013, Professor MacRae edited two special issues of the *Women's Studies International Forum* journal on the “Unintentional gender consequences of policy making in the EU” and the “Persistent invisibility of gender in EU policy making”, to which she also contributed articles. She is editing a book that will add a gender perspective to debates on European Integration theories.

David McNally received the 2012 Deutscher Memorial Award for his book, *Monsters of the Market: Zombies, Vampires and Global Capitalism* (Brill, 2011). In November 2013, he delivered the annual Deutscher Memorial Lecture at the University of London (UK) as part of the celebration associated with the award. Professor McNally's book, *Global Slump: The Economics and Politics of Crisis and Resistance*, (PM Press, 2011) has recently been translated into French, Danish and Korean. He also published three book chapters in 2013.

Karen Murray was invited to speak at the *Race, Space and the Americas Seminar Series* at Rutgers University in May 2013. In the Fall of that year, she held a New England Regional Fellowship to support her fieldwork in Boston, as well as a Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Canadian Studies at Kennesaw State University (near Atlanta, Georgia) for a project entitled “Poverty, the Making of Global Urban Governance, and the Future of Democratic Politics.”

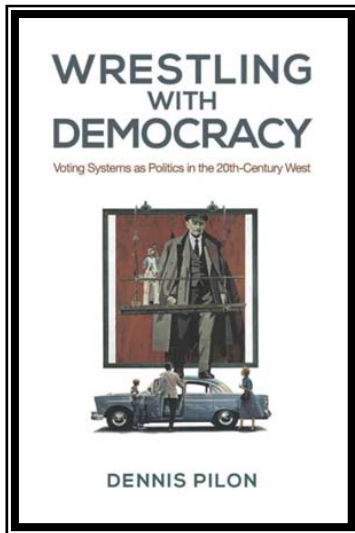
Jonathan Nitzan is the co-author of *Capital as Power* (Routledge, 2009), the thesis of which is the basis for a growing research program on the capitalist mode of power, including the *Annual International Conferences of the Forum on Capital as Power*; the journal, *Review of Capital as Power*; and a vibrant website <http://capitalaspower.com>. Tim DiMuzio's *The Capitalist Mode of Power: Critical Engagements with the Power Theory of Value* (Routledge, 2013) is the first edited collection on the subject, while the *2013 Speakers Series on the Capitalist Mode of Power* showcases recent research.



Jonathan Nitzan

Department of Political Science Newsletter 2014

FACULTY MEMBER PROFILES



Liisa L. North taught doctoral and masters level courses at two regional graduate schools in Quito, Ecuador – the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, and the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar – for five months in 2013. Many of her students were university professors who are upgrading their qualifications and also government employees. Professor North published two articles in 2013, one in the *Canadian Journal of Development Studies* on suits against Canadian mining companies, and the other in *Studies in Political Economy* on the left governments of the Andean region.

Dennis Pilon recently published *Wrestling with Democracy: Voting Systems as Politics in the Twentieth Century West* (University of Toronto Press, 2013). More information can be found at Professor Pilon's website: <http://wrestlingwithdemocracy.blogspot.ca>. Professor Pilon became the Undergraduate Program Director for the Department in mid-2013.

Ann Porter is currently working on issues of austerity, social policy restructuring and gender. She recently published "Neo-conservatism, Neo-liberalism and Canadian Social Policy: Challenges for Feminism" in the journal *Canadian Women's Studies*. Professor Porter presented a paper on "Privatizing social policy in an age of austerity" at the *International Conference on Public Policy* in Grenoble, France, June 2013.

Saeed Rahnema has been appointed to the advisory committee for the establishment of the Palestinian National School of Administration. The new school in Ramallah, partially funded by the government of France, will train senior Palestinian civil servants, and will provide degree and certificate programs with the help of Al-Quds University. Professor Rahnema is also the coordinator of York University/Al-Quds University cooperation and exchange programs.

John S. Saul who retired more than decade ago states that... "I'm still writing after all these years! And so, from deepest retirement, come two new books. One co-authored with Patrick Bond is *South Africa - The Present as History: From Mrs Ples to Mandela and Marikana*

(James Currey Books, 2014). The other is *A Flawed Freedom: Rethinking Southern African Liberation* (Pluto Books in the UK/US, and Between the Lines, 2014). Busy, yes, but missing the Department!"

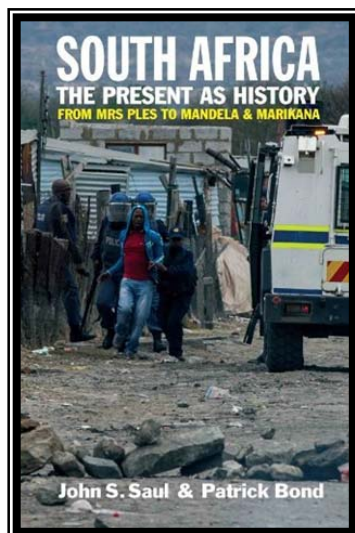
Gabrielle Slowey served as MA Coordinator for the Graduate Program in Political Science in 2013. During that year she gave a number of talks including two at the International Studies Conference in San Francisco on fracking (hydraulic fracturing) in the US and on Arctic sovereignty. For the first half of 2014 Professors Slowey is on research leave when she travels to Australia to conduct research for her project: "Fractured Relations? Indigenous Peoples and Shale Gas Development in Canada and Australia." She also published a chapter in *Environmental and Human Security in the Arctic* (Routledge, 2014).

Bruce Smardon's forthcoming book, *Asleep at the Switch: The Political Economy of Federal Research and Development Policy since 1960* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2014) has been accepted for inclusion in the distinguished Carleton Library Series which publishes "leading new scholarship and classic works in Canadian economics, geography, history, politics, public policy, society and culture." The book combines a novel interpretation of Canadian political economic development with an analysis of the long history of federal promotion of research, development and innovation in Canadian industry.

Leah F. Vosko is leading a major five-year project, *Closing the Employment Standards Enforcement Gap: Improving Protection for People in Precarious Jobs*, which was awarded a Partnership Grant by the SSHRC in 2013. The project examines the role of employment standards enforcement in providing workers access to social minima such as minimum wages, working time, vacations, and leaves. Researchers from seven universities and 16 community-based organizations are partners. One outcome of the project will be models of enforcement that may be applied in Ontario and elsewhere.



Saeed Rahnema



GRADUATE STUDENTS ORGANIZE EVENTS AT MAJOR CONVENTION

The International Studies Association Annual Convention will be meeting in the territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee peoples, in the city of Toronto, from March 26-29, 2014. Representing 80 countries, the Association has over 6,200 members worldwide and is the most respected and widely known scholarly association in this field.

The convention will feature a series of events on the topic of "Settler Colonial Spaces: Thinking Across Indigeneity and International Relations". Included in the events are paper presentations, a panel discussion and a roundtable analyzing intersections between Indigeneity, settler-colonial spaces, and International Relations theory, including the gendered, racialized, classed, aesthetic, cosmological, and political economic dimensions of this under-theorized aspect of international relations.

The panel "#IdleNoMore: Rethinking Indigeneity, Decolonizing Feminisms" features well-known activists Zainab Amadahy, Audrey Huntley and Wanda Nanibush. The roundtable on the politics of knowledge production in International Relations, "Unsettling IR: Indigeneity, Settler Colonialism and Academic Knowledge Production", features Professor Anna Agathangelou and scholars from around the world.

Two PhD students in the Department of Political Science, Konstantin Kilibarda and Emily Merson, have been intimately involved in preparing for this event. As theorists and students of International

Relations, Kilibarda and Merson are facilitating the organization of these events for conference participants who are interested in discussing the interna-



tional underpinnings of settler colonialism and Indigeneity. Kilibarda and Merson see these academic events as a part of many ongoing scholarly, activist and artistic interventions to decolonize relationships between non-Indigenous settlers and Indigenous peoples, such as the #IdleNoMore movement.

For more details on the time and location of these events please contact kole@yorku.ca or merson@yorku.ca.

ALUMNA WITH A DIFFERENCE

Sarah Rana graduated with a BA in Political Science in the Spring of 2013. Since that time she's begun law school and helped change how police in Waterloo, Ontario and beyond record the information. Her story made [headlines](#).

Rana's role was to question why she was identified as "non-white" in the record made by a police officer during a routine traffic infraction in August of 2013. Her complaint caused the Waterloo Regional Police to update its system

to no longer record a person's race as merely "white" or "non-white." This change is likely to be applied throughout Canada.

As Rana observes, "Never doubt a single person's capabilities to make change; voice your concerns and hold those in power accountable, because really, it has never happened the other way around."



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, YORK UNIVERSITY, CANADA

PURPOSE AND GOALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

York University
4700 Keele Street
Ross Building, 6th Floor
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M3J1P3

Phone: 416-736-5265
Fax: 416-736-5686
email: lapspols@yorku.ca
www.yorku.ca/laps/pols/
www.facebook.com/YORKUPOLS

Fall/Winter Office Hours
Monday to Friday: 8:30am - 5:00pm

Undergraduate Evening Service Hours
Monday to Thurs: 4:30pm - 7:00pm

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 objective 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, boardroom, 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

Although the daily lives of York University students and professors appear quite different, this is not so. Both spend hours on campus each week, sometimes in the same classroom or laboratory. Both groups seek to better understand the world through research and analysis. Often they are on a joint mission to bring about change for the better; whether to laws, health care, urban planning or business practices.

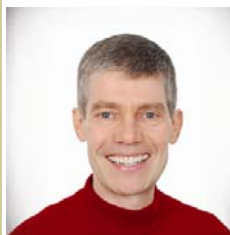
Students grow into alumni who often recall their days at university with much fondness (something that current students struggling to complete assignments cannot imagine). They carry with them the skills and knowledge, which serve as foundation for their contributions to society.

Left behind after the convocation ceremony are professors who will teach the same course in the following year, and the decades so come. Unlike students whose presence of the campus lasts a few years, professors remain essentially for life.

Professor Steve Hellman, who is profiled on page three, has taught at York University for 42 years and will continue to teach part-time after his retirement in 2014. Professor Emeritus Robert Drummond began his university studies at York University in 1963 (more than 50 years ago) continues to teach courses, and advise students and colleagues. Professor Emeritus John Saul, retired at age 65 from the university more than a decade ago, but as noted on page 10, has two recently published two books in addition the half-dozen he published since retirement.

Whether student or professor, whether young or old, there is a deep shared bond: that important aspects of our world can be deciphered and that the future need not be like the past.

May 2014, and beyond, provide you with numerous opportunities to change yourself and the world around you.



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Comments about this newsletter can be directed to me at tklassen@yorku.ca.

Thomas R. Klassen

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