



Department of Political Science Newsletter 2009



FOR ALUMNI, CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS, AND OTHERS

POLITICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE IN 2009

The current year will be an extraordinarily eventful one in terms of local, national and global politics. The financial and economic conditions, and the political responses, may be the most significant in a generation.

In Ottawa, it appears that minority governments will be common. The emergence of what seems to be a permanent five-party Parliament (assuming the Green Party will ultimately gain seats) is unprecedented.

The United States has its first Black president which is, at least symbolically, a noteworthy development. Globally, political relationships such as the creation of the G20 are evolving.

However, many of the same conflicts, rooted in power relationships, remain.

The Department of Political Science at York University, with more than 100 different undergraduate and graduate courses, and more than 50 full-time tenured and tenure-track professors, provides one means to understand local and global events. The department teaches 1,500 undergraduate students and is home to over 200 MA and PhD students.

This newsletter provides an introduction to the department as well as a means for alumni and others to keep in touch. Given recent developments in political and in the department, some described in the next pages, there is much to share.

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FROM THE CHAIR

The Department of Political Science strives to maintain an intellectual community that nourishes critical analysis of political life and institutions, and a commitment to democratic participation and social justice, locally and globally. We believe fundamentally that a democratic education is education for democracy, involving dialogue through which students and teachers critically assess their own assumptions and beliefs about politics and society.

We are proud of our enviable record – not only that of faculty members with international reputations for research and numerous awards for excellence in teaching, but of students who are committed, individually and collectively, to extend constructively our forms of en-

gagement with politics and society. Our students are active in organizations at departmental and university levels, in workshops, seminars, conferences, movements, groups and institutions of many kinds.

This activism and dedication to the causes of democracy and social justice have never been more important, as we face today crises of the economy, environment, personal and communal security, and forms of government, in Canada and abroad. We have had challenging times recently at York, but are now strongly joining together again, as we must, to confront in thought and deed these deeper challenges to our common future.



George Comninel
Department Chair

Department of Political Science Newsletter 2009

GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK



John Saul

by John S. Saul, Professor Emeritus of Political Science and FRSC

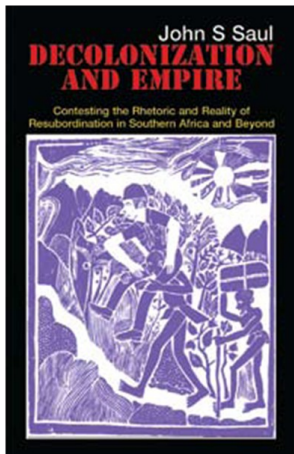
This past year I taught my last class in the Department of Political Science, having now, at 70, retired from my formal retirement (at 65)! Of course, my original loyalty and York appointment, upon returning from Africa in the 1970s, was at Atkinson College. Nonetheless, although it was a great place to teach for many years, the original Atkinson dream died, with the passing into history – or so it was argued – of the special constituency of “mature students” that we had been fortunate to mentor over there.

Then, and having also taught off and on since the 1970s in the graduate programme in the Department of Political Science, I did manage, a decade ago, to find a firmer appointment here. As a result, I could continue happily to pursue my interests in development studies in general and African Studies in particular. It has been a good experience too, with fellow teachers, staff and students and a syllabus that has been to the left of most of what passes,

smugly and pompously, for Political Science elsewhere in North America – ours being the higher and more appropriate “realism”, I have no doubt.

Lucky students, I'd say, but also lucky profs. It has been extremely positive to continue to link up with a student body diverse enough to be recognizably at one with the new Canada that's been in the making for the past decades – a change that has also produced a Toronto so very different from the monochrome banality I remember from my youth here. Smart students too, not just the sharp band of graduate students, much as I've enjoyed the pleasure of their company, but also the undergraduates I've taught.

“Our rulers would have slept more comfortably without us. Such was our hope.” So wrote Bertholt Brecht, speaking for himself and others like him in the 1930s. But this is also a plausible mantra for a real and relevant political science department. So, a final word: keep it up, comrades. Such is *my* hope.



ABOUT PROFESSOR EMERITUS JOHN SAUL

Professor Emeritus and Senior Scholar John Saul is one of the most esteemed and prolific members of the Department of Political Science. He remains the pre-eminent Canadian scholar on the politics of southern Africa, particularly as regards the liberation struggles in that region during the past decades.

His scholarly output is prodigious: 18 academic books, more than 70 book chapters, more than 80 refereed journal articles and more than 180 conference publications. Not surprisingly, he is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Equally noteworthy is the fact that he remains an extraordinarily active researcher and writer. Indeed, since reaching age 65, he has published three important books. Currently an autobiographical volume is in press, while three more books, including one with Cambridge University Press, are under contract.

Although now ‘retired’, he continues to inspire scholars and students, as well as those outside of academia, with his passion for social justice, combined with his rigorous and open-minded analysis.

GRADUATE STUDIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Graduate Program in Political Science remains renowned for its commitment to critical approaches to the study of politics and in 2008 we went through the final stages of our most recent Ontario Council of Graduate Studies review in which that strength was again acknowledged.

Our graduate students lived politics this year through a challenging labour dispute, and were also active scholars presenting work in national and international conferences, and through running their own workshops, conferences, teaching development seminars and a student-organized journal. Interest in our graduate pro-

gram remains strong, with applications even higher this year than in recent years, so we expect to welcome another exceptionally talented cohort of students in 2009.

I am coming to the end of my three-year term as Graduate Program Director and have to say that the opportunity to meet and get to know so many of our students and to see at close hand the range of perspectives and the calibre of the research they are conducting has been the greatest source of pleasure and pride in this position.



Sandra Whitworth

DONALD SMILEY

The Smiley Library is a wonderful resource, and a fitting reminder of Professor Donald V. Smiley (1921-1990). The memory of this internationally renowned scholar, and later Professor Emeritus at York University, is also honoured by The Canadian Political Science Association's Donald Smiley Prize. The prize is awarded annually

to the best book published in French and the best book published in English in a field relating to the study of government and politics in Canada.

Professor Smiley served as President of the Canadian Political Science Association.

UPDATE FROM PROFESSOR LEO PANITCH, CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR

All the chapters in the book *American Empire and the Politics of Global Finance* (2008, Palgrave Macmillan) edited by Leo Panitch and Martijn Konings are based on papers given by our graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

This book is a product of an ongoing major research project on 'Production, Finance, Empire', funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and conducted at the Department of Political Science under the auspices of Canada Research Chair in

Comparative Political Economy held by Professor Leo Panitch.

The chapters all began as research papers for this project and most were presented to the Seminar Series in Comparative Political Economy (affectionately dubbed 'the empire seminar') which has over the past five years also attracted many international scholars as speakers, and faculty and graduate students from various departments at York and other universities.

International Political Economy Series

The American Empire and the Political Economy of Global Finance

Edited by
Leo Panitch and Martijn Konings



GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILES

Marcia Scheffler returned to complete her MA after having left the program for some years. In 2007 she was the winner, in the graduate category, of the York Public Affairs Essay Competition. In 2008, she had elements of her MRP, which was supervised by professors Greg Albo and Daniel Cohn, published in the journal *Transformation* (Volume 25, Number 4).

She studied the role of the African churches in the struggle against HIV/AIDS. In particular, she used political and theological theories and analysis such as participatory development theory, democratic administration and transformational development to analyze the partnership between a Canadian church and a Zimbabwean church.

Simon Black, a PhD student in York's Department of Political Science, received a \$15,000 Fulbright scholarship for a year-long project examining how labour law and employment standards are being shaped from below by organizations of low-wage workers and how this process differs across regions. During 2008-09 he will be at the City University of New York, under the supervision of esteemed political scientist Frances Fox Piven.



Simon Black

"I'm honored to receive a Fulbright," Mr. Black said of the fellowship. "This award will allow me to do much-needed comparative research on urban labour markets in Canada and the US, and the low-wage workers who are organizing to mitigate the labour market insecurity they face."

He believes it's important to study the roots of urban poverty in both countries. "In order to understand some of the problems we have in Toronto – which is starting to mirror the issues that larger, American cities have with gun violence and gangs – we need to understand poverty and the conditions that create it," says Mr. Black.

Black holds a Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada doctoral fellowship in political science. His work has appeared in *The Toronto Star*, *rabble.ca*, *The Independent* (UK), *Relay*, *New Labor Forum*, and *Z-Net*. He writes the "Politics as Usual" column for Canada's number one urban magazine, *POUND*.

He also writes a regular sports column, from a radical's perspective, for *Canadian Dimension*. He graduated from the University of Toronto with a BA (Hons) in sociology and received an MA in labour studies from McMaster University.

Black stood as a candidate in the 2004 Canadian federal election. For more about Mr. Black see: <http://simonjblack.com/>

GRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

During 2008, the following PhD students successfully defended their dissertations:

- Lisa Watanabe:** *Securing Europe: European Security in an American Epoch*
Hepzibah Munoz Martinez: *The State and the Internationalisation of Capital: The Mexican Territoriality of Global Finance, 1982-2006*
Bryan Evans: *From Pragmatism to Neoliberalism: The Politics of the Remaking of the Ontario Administrative State, 1970-2002*
Sarah Macharia: *'A Feminist Postempiricist Study of Approaches to the Governance of Urban 'Informal' Trade: Case Studies of Nairobi and Durban'*
Tammy Findlay: *Femocratic Administration: Gender, Democracy and the State in Ontario*
Cenk Aygul: *The Rise of Micro-Regionalism: The Cases of Germany and Poland*
Alison Howell: *Madness in International Relations: Therapeutic Interventions and the Global Governance of Disorder(s)*
Sebnem Oguz: *Globalization and the Contradictions of State Restructuring in Turkey*
Miguel Gonzalez-Perez: *Governing Multi-Ethnic Societies in Latin America: Regional Autonomy, Democracy and the State in Nicaragua, 1987-2007*
Cristina Masters: *Body Counts: Reading Moments of U.S. Militarism from the Margins of International Politics*
Markus Sharaput: *Searching for the Globalized Village: Industry Canada, Innovation Systems Policy, and the Attempt to Embed Globalization Under the Liberal Mandate, 1993-2003*
Thomas Marois: *The Comparative Political Economy of Post-1990s Bank Privatization in Mexico and Turkey*
Tim Di Muzio: *Towards a Genealogy of Militant Liberalism*
Tina Managhan: *Disturbing the Peace: (M)others, Biopolitics and the Question of Resistance in International Relations*
Kate Ervine: *The Value of Nature: The Global Environment Facility and the Mexico-Mesoamerican Biological Corridor in Chiapas*
Mike Zmolek: *Rethinking the Industrial Revolution: An Inquiry into the Transition from Agrarian to Industrial Capitalism in Britain*

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Jennifer Lee, a double-major undergraduate student in political science and visual arts, is the winner of the 2008 York Public Affairs Essay Competition by the Glendon Research Group in Public and International Affairs. Her prize-winning paper is titled *State of the Arts: A Contextual Analysis of Fine Arts as Policy in Canada*. Ms. Lee is planning to attend law school.

Anastasia Shesterinina graduated on the President's Honour Roll. This distinction is marked by a transcript notation and a letter from the president of York University. It is

awarded to the very select group of continuing or graduating students who have achieved a sessional grade point average of 9.0 on a minimum of 30 credits in the previous fall/winter term. She was also awarded The Dean's Award for Academic Excellence as the student earning the highest grade point average in her fourth year of studies.

Ms. Shesterinina was awarded a Canada Graduate Scholarship for the MA studies at the University of British Columbia on peace-building strategies and human insecurity in post-conflict communities.

Politics and the Department of



EXCALIBUR

Hellman and Saul
York professors boycott conference

By KEITH NICKSON

A conference on Canada and the Third World was abruptly cancelled two weeks ago when many Canadian scholars began a boycott motivated by the immigration department's refusal to allow Andre Gaudet-Frank to enter Canada and participate.

York professors Judy Hellman and John Saul nevertheless went to Queen's University in Kingston and along with other faculty and students organized a press reception and issued a statement which reads in part:

"The Canadian government's refusal to let A.G. Frank into the country... is a blatant violation of freedom of thought which requires the free flow of ideas and intellectuals across international boundaries. All those concerned with freedom and with Canada's role in the Third World must join in resisting."

The symposium was planned by Queen's University's Department of Sociology and intended to focus discussion on a critical assessment of the theories of development and their implications for public policy. Professor Frank, whose theories of global development have run counter to the policies of western governments, was to have been the keynote speaker, but was declared a "security risk" by the immigration department.

Judy Hellman, who helped draft the press release admitted that "At first I thought it would be useful to hold the conference and use the occasion to discuss Frank's views and to highlight what such ex-stimulatory policy means for Canada, for Canadians and more specifically for Canadian-Third World relations. In the weeks before the conference, I discussed the issues with some of the other scheduled participants and eventually I came to feel it would be altogether inappropriate to carry on."

"If we did carry on," she added "we would suggest by our action that the absence of Frank was not all that important, when in fact the exclusion of Frank is a most significant act on the part of the government."

John Saul, "The security risk" is used so often that it's tiresome

Hayden plans funding for FM radio license

By TED MUMFORD

Although he will not take office until May, Paul Hayden has already set himself essay goals for his year-long stint as president of the Council of the York Student Federation.

Two days after his election last week, Excalibur asked Hayden about the projects he will take on once he is behind the president's desk in the central square offices of CYSF.

Hayden mentioned first CKRY-FM, York's student-run and student-funded radio station. "Hopefully, CKRY will soon be getting an FM license. I'm going to get a cover on the Tennis Centre. It could be a great year-round facility for both tennis and concerts."

Off the top of his head, Hayden listed some other areas his energies will be devoted to: the One Canada conference, which will be held at York this summer; the production of a "counter-calendar" including the results of student course evaluations; the CYSF handbook Manus, which will contain "information so vital that students will use it every day"; and the creation of a soccer league for local children. Although he campaigned for with-

Thumbs out!

Those nine red fluorescent signs Winters CYSF rep Carolyn Fowler promised at the last CYSF meeting are now up at the main entrance to the university and reaction to them seems good.

Hitchhikers stand under the signs — marked to show nine major areas in Toronto — and drivers offering rides simply stop by the sign pointing to the general area of their destination.

Hitchhiking is a necessary mode of transportation for many York students, but before the signs were put up there were problems.

"Often, up to five or six cars may stop to offer a hitchhiker a lift," Miss Fowler said last week. "only to find the two were heading in opposite directions."

"This way we feel the signs will be an asset to everyone."

Signs are marked to show nine general areas: 491 East, 401 West, Finch East, Finch West, Lawrence, Steeles East, Downtown, North and Other.

With John Saul

John Saul was behind the lines with the victorious Frelimo guerrilla army in Mozambique. He is York's resident expert on southern Africa and was interviewed this week by Excalibur. Saul is a professor of Social Science at Atkinson college and a member of the Toronto Committee for the Liberation of Southern Africa (TCLSA). He lived for many years in Africa and has devoted numerous writings to the problems facing its people. He spoke about Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), Soweto and Kissinger, among other things.

By PAUL KELLOGG

EXCALIBUR: In dealing with the sudden developments in southern Africa this summer and fall it might be useful to

is still in the game and I think what Kissinger is doing is to keep them now to come to the table. If the war continues, the radical force will be on the Zimbabwean side. So before it was too late, he wanted to bring this other group back into the game. By the same token, I think it was right to turn another Black group into the same role that the colonized Africa is playing in guaranteeing a more stable situation.

The key to this has in the past been the ability to break sanctions and to retain an economic viability by having the Portuguese and the South Africans ignore the sanctions and beyond that having countries like the

1977.. Oct 18: The sitting of the House of Commons is televised for the first time

1979 ..May 22: Conservatives form a minority government led by Joe Clark

...Dec 13: The Clark minority government is defeated on a budget bill

f Political Science in the 1970s



1970 ..Royal Commission on the Status of Women

Report reports

..Jun 26: Voting age lowered from 21 to 18

..October: The October Crisis in Quebec

1971 ..July: First MA Thesis completed, *The Ontario Department of Trade and Development: A Case Study of Capitalist Public Policy in Relation to Industrial Growth* by Glen Sutherland Williams^{YU}

1972 ..May: First PhD Dissertation completed, *United Nations Supranationalism: An Analysis of Roll-Call Voting in the General Assembly* by Brian William Tomlin^{YU}

..Aug 30: Frank Calder, first Native cabinet minister appointed to BC

..Oct 30: Liberals win minority led by Pierre Trudeau

1973 ..6,000 York students take part in province-wide fee strike by refusing to pay second term tuition instalments^{YU}

1974 ..First female recruits to Royal Canadian Mounted Police

..Jul 8: Liberals regain majority led by Pierre Trudeau

1975 ..Mar 4: Television cameras allowed into Parliament for the first time

..Mar 24: Beaver becomes official symbol

1976 ..Jul 17: Summer Olympic Games open in Montreal

..Nov 15: The Parti Québécois under the leadership of René Lévesque win the Québec general election

Department of Political Science Newsletter 2009

CELEBRATION



David McNally

prepared by Carolyn Cross

On June 24, the Department of Political Science hosted 50 faculty, staff and significant others at *Archeo Trattoria*, a restaurant in the Distillery District of Toronto. The patio provided a lovely backdrop to catch up with old colleagues and become better acquainted with new. Passed hors d'oeuvres and selections from food stations made for a very enjoyable taste experience.

It had been a number of years since the department had been together for a social event and David McNally, outgoing Chair, took the opportunity to thank those who had given their service to the department in recent years - Isa Bakker, for her term as Chair from 2001-2004, Ann Denholm Crosby, Graduate Program Director from 2001-2004, and Janice Newton, for her work as Undergraduate Program Director from 2002-2006. Sandra Whitworth was applauded for her ongoing work as Graduate Program Director. George Conninell was acknowledged for his term as Chair for 2004-2005 as well as his commitment to take on the role again for the year leading up to the merger. Rodney Loeppky, now Associate Chair, was also thanked for his commit-

ment. David thanked his direct staff, Angie Swartz and Carolyn Cross, for their support during his term.

David acknowledged the new retirees who were present, namely Fred Fletcher and John Saul.

During his remarks, David noted that the most gratifying accomplishment for him during his term as Chair was the hiring of ten new faculty members who are infusing new life into the department.

Stephen Hellman made a presentation to David on behalf of the faculty members of the department to thank him for his dedication and contribution over the past three years. As David enjoys roasting his own coffee beans, he was presented with a gourmet grinder so that he can enjoy his own retirement from the office of Chair with the perfect cup of coffee.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and is hopeful that the next social event will not be too long off.



Angie Swartz and
Marlene Quesenberry

STAFF

As students, faculty and others know, the Department of Political Science is extraordinarily fortunate to have a team of dedicated staff members.

Congratulations are extended to both Marlene Quesenberry and Angie Swartz, who each celebrated their 20th anniversary in the department in 2008.

Marlene joined the department, and the University, on April 18, 1988, having come from being a buyer in the lumber business in Toronto.

Angie joined the department, changing jobs to move over from Norman Bethune College, on August 30, 1988. She joined York University on November 19, 1975.

2008 Historical Materialism Conference

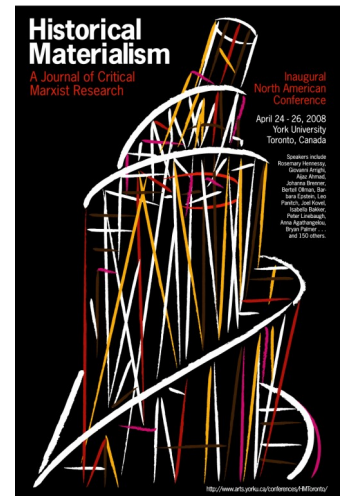
At least 400 people turned out in April 2008 for the first-ever North American conference sponsored by *Historical Materialism: A Journal of Critical Marxist Research*. The conference brought together scholars from Canada, Australia, Brazil, Italy, the United States, India, Cuba, Britain and the Netherlands.

Now a decade old, *Historical Materialism*, whose editorial board is based in London, England, has emerged as the premier English-language journal for research in a range of traditions associated with critical Marxism. York University was the obvious site for the journal's first North American gathering.

From April 24 to 26, participants were

treated to more than 150 papers on a wide range of topics such as the global financial crisis; capitalism and childhood; gender, race and imperialism today; the emergence of China as a global power; and many more. Featured speakers at plenary sessions included Rosemary Hennessy, Giovanni Arrighi, Aijaz Ahmad, Johanna Brenner, Nahla Abdo, Leo Panitch, Riccardo Bellofiore and others.

Particularly encouraging to organizers was the large turnout of graduate and undergraduate students which pushed the number of participants well beyond expectations. Dozens of sessions were standing-room only. More information can be found at www.arts.yorku.ca/conferences/HMToronto/



FACULTY MEMBER PROFILES

Rob Albritton is using a political-economy approach to theorize the production and consumption of food as it is embedded in, and shaped by, our larger capitalist economy. With approximately half the people in the world suffering from hunger or obesity, he argues that the food system has not only failed from the point of view of human health, but also from the points of view of social justice and environmental health.

Sabah Alnasseri's research is on the internationalization of the state in the Middle East. He is not only interested in the multiple shifts within and between state apparatuses and institutions, but also in new/old social movements. In particular, he seeks to identify emancipatory-progressive possibilities that arise from the current crises in the region.

Shannon Bell is a performance philosopher, fast philosopher, who lives and

writes philosophy-in-action. She recently completed researching 'extreme' art for the book *Art and Time*, and is currently working on imagining philosophical concepts through the medium of video. Her books include *Reading, Writing and Rewriting the Prostitute Body* (Indiana University Press 1994, Japanese trans. 2000), *Bad Attitude/s on Trial*, co-author (University of Toronto Press, 1997), and *Fast Feminism* (forthcoming).

Gregory Chin recently participated in a Chatham House roundtable in London on remaking the global economy and was interviewed by BBC World (television) on China's evolving international role. His forthcoming book is *China's Automotive Modernization: The Party-State and Leveraging Multinational Corporations* (Palgrave Macmillan). His highlight from the summer of 2008 was participating in the "Rising States, Rising Institutions" workshop at Princeton University.



Shannon Bell



Gregory Chin
Photo courtesy of Centre for International Governance Innovation

Department of Political Science Newsletter 2009

FACULTY MEMBER PROFILES (continued)



Susan Henders

Susan Henders has recently been appointed Director of the York Centre for Asian Research.

Asher Horowitz recently published a book entitled *Ethics at a Standstill: History and Subjectivity in Levinas and the Frankfurt School* (Duchesne University Press, 2008). The book explores the philosophies of Levinas and the critical theorists of the Frankfurt School, demonstrating the ways in which their works diverge from, and complement, each other. Prof. Horowitz also continues to develop his very interactive version of the introductory class in political theory.

Heather MacRae is conducting research on gender politics in the European Union. She has two main projects on the go: the first looks at the influence of multi-level governance on the activities of the German women's movement and the redefinition of parental leave benefits. Her second area of interest examines the unintentional gender consequences of supposedly "gender neutral" EU policies.

Liisa L. North has spent considerable time in Ecuador over the past few years, including two research and publications coordination trips in 2008. Her work there has focused on rural development issues and conflicts between farmers and foreign mining companies. An updated Spanish version of a book on rural (under)development that she edited with John D. Cameron (who graduated from our PhD program a few years ago) was published in 2008.

Gabrielle Slowey travelled to the Canadian Arctic in the Fall of 2008 to conduct field research. Her book, *Navigating Neoliberalism: Self-Determination*

and the Mikisew Cree First Nation (UBC Press) was recently published. In the fall of 2007, she presented her research findings at the Arctic Energy Summit held in Anchorage Alaska where Governor Sarah Palin was the keynote speaker.

Martin Thomas is a research methodologist with a primary interest in health care delivery, especially pertaining to reproductive issues. He recently worked with the Fetal Alert Network, designing a series of surveys to assess the knowledge and behaviour of health care providers and consumers. Most of his recent research uses surveys to study the values, knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of health care providers and consumers.



Martin Thomas



Gabrielle Slowey



RECENT BOOKS ABOUT YORK UNIVERSITY

In March 2009, York celebrated its 50th anniversary. A new building to house the Archives of Ontario will be nearly completed on campus by that time, and construction of the subway extension might be underway.

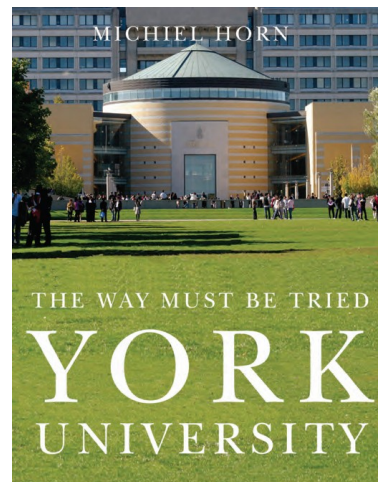
To commemorate the 50th anniversary event, Prof. Michiel Horn has written a history of this important Canadian institution.

The book, titled *York University: The Way Must be Tried* (the motto of the university: *tentanda via*) is a large-format, lively and strikingly illustrated account of York's birth with 76 stu-

dents in 1960 and its subsequent growth. Today, with over 50,000 students in 11 Faculties on two campuses, York is the third largest university in Canada. Faculty and staff have grown from under 20 to nearly 8,000.

Prof. Horn weaves archival research and interviews into a compelling narrative, documenting the development of an institution dedicated to helping professors and students reach across disciplinary boundaries.

The book is published by McGill-Queen's University Press.



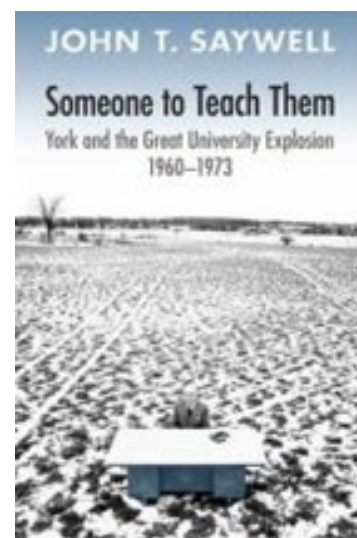
Prof. John T. Saywell has also written about York University in a book published in 2008, *Someone to Teach Them: York and the Great University Explosion 1960-1973* (University of Toronto Press).

The book is an insider's account of the expansion of the University from 500 students in 1963 to 7000 by 1970, and the many changes it took to accommodate such a change. Saywell, dean of arts from 1963 to 1973, analyzes how York University managed to recruit the necessary faculty. He

writes that the large number of American instructors led to a radical attack on the so-called Americanization of the universities.

He elucidates the adverse effect that the reduction of government funding and enrolment had on the administration of the University in the 1970s.

Featuring many of the elements of personal memoir, this is also a thoroughly researched account of a critical decade for the history of education in Ontario.



Both books make fascinating reading for those who were, or are, part of the York University community, as students, alumni, faculty or staff.

Indeed, the books help to explain why some things are the way they are (like the massive-sized brutalist

architecture of the Ross building) and point to what the next 50 years might have in store for the University. The centre pages of this newsletter also provide a snapshot of the 1970s.

Happy reading!

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 Arts 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, work place 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

The Department of Political Science offices are located on the 6th floor of the Ross building encompassing most of the south wing. As one walks towards the north wing, offices belonging to the Department of Mathematics and Statistics begin to populate the hallway. These typically have posters on doors such as "Workshop on Algebraic Aspects of Lie Theory" and outlines for courses such as "The Mathematical Theory of Interest" and "Elementary Probability."

Crossing the glass enclosed bridge between the south and north wings one encounters students sleeping in the warm sunshine, or amorous couples seeking a quiet place. The view from here must have been spectacular across farmers' fields in the first decades after the construction of the Ross building.

Once in the north wing proper, more offices are to be found along with computer labs, meeting rooms and a cozy library which takes up the northern tip of the floor. The library is named for Donald Coxeter – an extraordinary mathematician who donated many of its books and journals – who taught at the University of Toronto from 1936 until his death in 2003 (yes, for 67 years!).

The majority of the offices of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics are one floor below its 6th outpost. On the 5th floor are also the offices of Club Infinity, the undergraduate student association. The Department's real estate reaches to a computing facility on the first floor of the Ross building, named after Johann Gauss who when still a teenager in 1796 began 50 years of revolutionizing many aspects of mathematics.



Having walked down the hall and beyond, and begun to learn a little about our neighbours, I feel enriched. May you, in your own office building, apartment or student residence, or local street, make similar wonderful discoveries "down the hall."

Comments about this letter can be directed to me at tklassen@yorku.ca or 416-736-2100 ext. 88828.

Thomas R. Klassen
Thomas R. Klassen