



FOR ALUMNI, CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS, AND OTHERS

## A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AND SERVICE

This year has been another excellent year in the Department of Political Science. It has been marked by the continued recognition of our research excellence as well as advances in our teaching and student support.

Several of our leading research scholars were honoured this year. Professor Leah Vosko, Canada Research Chair in Feminist Political Economy, was elected to the Royal Society of Canada. Professor Sandra Whitworth was chosen as the International Studies Association-Canada 2016 Distinguished Scholar for her contribution to feminist International Relations scholarship. Professor Bruce Smardon was awarded the 2015 Donald Smiley Prize by the Canadian Political Science Association for the best book of the year in Canadian government and politics, *Asleep at the Switch: The Political Economy of Federal Research and Development Policy since 1960*.

Two members of the Department were selected for prestigious visiting fellowships. Professor Karen Murray was awarded a Killam Visiting Professorship in Canadian Studies at Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts and Professor Lesley Jacobs was appointed Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Canada-U.S. Relations at Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington, DC.

In January 2016, Professor Ethel Tungohan joined the Department.

She was recruited for a Tier II Canada Research Chair in the Politics of Socially Engaged Research. Professor Tungohan's work explores the relationship between researcher and political activism among the Filipino diaspora.

In terms of our teaching, Professor Thomas Klassen introduced a new course in which students studied Korean politics, but notably travelled to South Korea for much of the course!

We are also working to foster success on those of our students who stay in Toronto, by opening the Political Science Student Help Centre to provide academic support to any student in any of our courses that may need or want a bit of extra help.

I want to say good luck and congratulations to two of our colleagues. Angie Swartz, the long time Administrative Assistant in the Department, has taken a very well earned retirement.

Professor Ananya Mukherjee-Reed, who was previously Chair of this Department, has become Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies. We wish her all the very best in this demanding job!

Finally, I want to convey my wishes to our graduates as they begin their lives beyond the university. As I hope they know (in adapting the lyrics of a rock and roll song): "You can graduate; but you can never leave!"

### INSIDE

ORDER OF CANADA	3
PHD GRADUATES	4
PRECARIOUS LIFE	6-7
FACULTY PROFILES	8-10
AWARDS	11



David Mutimer

# Department of Political Science Newsletter 2016

---

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE



Dennis Pilon

Professor Dennis Pilon, Undergraduate Program Director

The ongoing renewal of our undergraduate program continues as the Department undergoes its septennial program review. The data collected for this process has given us a unique snapshot of our students, courses, instructors and events. Armed with the feedback from our external reviewers, the Department will be in an excellent position to make key decisions about its future.

The Department has hosted a number of events for students this past year, focusing on law school, graduate school, and the job market. The Undergraduate Political Science Council has been a great help in or-

ganizing these events, while initiating their own special trips and speakers. For instance, its trip to Ottawa to meet with MPs and tour Parliament quickly sold out.

In the fall of 2015, the Department opened a new Political Science Student Help Centre, staffed by TAs who are available to work with students on a drop in or scheduled basis. Student response has been strong and positive! Additionally, after many years of requests, the Department was finally able to secure some undergraduate student space in the Department.

## GRADUATE STUDIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Professor Sabah Alnasseri, Graduate Program Director

This is my third, and last year as the director of one of the largest and expanding graduate programs in this country. In 2015, we welcomed 65 new students at the MA and PhD levels. This represents an enormous challenge for all parties involved in the programs - faculty, students, and staff.

We are going through an exciting review and reform of our programs. Rest assured, nowhere can critical thinking, extensive autonomy and fights for the quality and integrity of education be realized and defended as in our program, for nowhere is it possible to

encounter such an organic connectedness as here.

Fortunately, we have more than 100 faculty appointed to our program, extremely engaged graduate students, and also our indispensable staff. As director, I am pretty superfluous; those who do the real work and whom you absolutely need are our fantastic trio: Marlene Quesenberry (Assistant for PhDs), Jlenya Sarra-De Meo (for MAs), and the Graduate Program Secretary, Judy Matadial.



Sabah Alnasseri

## PROFESSOR ELECTED TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

Professor Leah Vosko is an internationally recognized social scientist who writes on the political economy of work, gender, citizenship, migration and labour markets. An interdisciplinary scholar, Vosko has shaped innovative approaches to conceptualizing and measuring precarious employment, to studying labour standards, and to understanding the condition of temporariness.

Her research and her tools for knowledge creation and knowledge sharing have had a profound impact on matters of equity and social justice.

Election to the Academies of the Royal Society of Canada is the highest honour a scholar can achieve in the Arts, Humanities and Sciences.



Leah Vosko

## TWO PROFESSORS APPOINTED TO THE ORDER OF CANADA

**Robert W. Cox**, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, has been appointed a member of the Order of Canada for his contributions to the field of international relations as one of Canada's foremost scholars in the area of political economy. A graduate of McGill University, Professor Cox is cited as one of the intellectual leaders of the British School of International Political Economy.

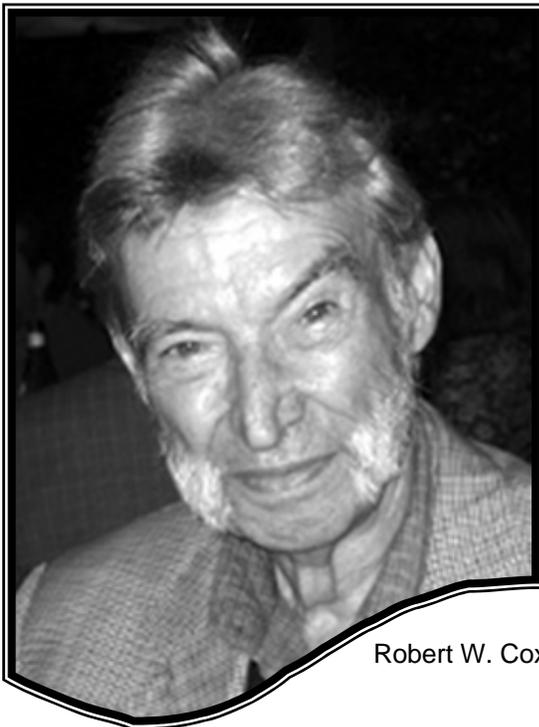
In 1947, Professor Cox worked at the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland. He eventually became director of the ILO's International Institute for Labour Studies and served in this role from 1965 to 1971. He left the ILO and took up a faculty position at Columbia University in 1972. From 1977 to 1992, he was a member of the Department of Political Science at York University.

Professor Cox is the author of *Production, Power and World Order* (1987) and the co-author of *The Anatomy of Influence: Decision Making in International Organization* (1973). He is the co-editor of *Approaches to World Order* (1996) and *The Political Economy of a Plural World: Critical Reflections on Power, Morals, and Civilization* (2002).

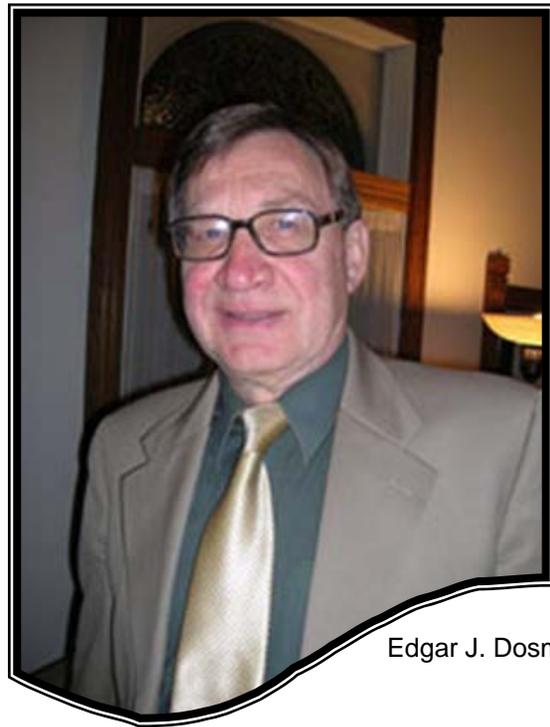
**Edgar J. Dosman**, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, has been appointed a member of the Order of Canada for his studies in Latin American history and politics, and for his role in advancing academic and cultural ties within our hemisphere. Professor Dosman earned his PhD from Harvard University and began his teaching career as a lecturer at the University of Saskatchewan in 1968. He joined the Department of Political Science at York University in 1970 where he remained until his retirement in 2006.

During his academic career, Professor Dosman served on numerous projects and committees, both at York and at other academic institutions. His research interests focused on international development thought, Western hemisphere studies, Canadian foreign and public policy, and regional conflict management (Central America and southern Africa).

Professor Dosman has been internationally recognized for his book *The Life and Times of Raúl Prebisch, 1901-1986* (2008), a biography of the Argentine who was a leading figure in the international debates on economic development from the 1940s to the 1970s.



Robert W. Cox



Edgar J. Dosman

# Department of Political Science Newsletter 2016

## GRADUATE STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During 2015, the following PhD students successfully defended their dissertations earning their doctorates. The list is in chronological order:

**Pamela McKane**

*"No Idle Sightseers": The Ulster Women's Unionist Council and Ulster Unionism (1911-1920s)*

**Frantz Gheller**

*Geo-Politics, State-Formation and Economic Development in Quebec and Ontario*

**Caleb Basnett**

*Politics and the Aesthetic Animal: Aristotle and Adorno*

**Joseph Baines**

*Price and Income Dynamics in the Agri-Food System: A Disaggregate Perspective*

**Bradley Bauerly**

*The Agrarian Seeds of Empire: The Political Economy of Agriculture in the U.S. State Institutional Capacity Building, 1840 - 1980.*

**Curtis Atkins**

*Forging a New Democratic Party: The Politics of the Third Way from Clinton to Obama*

**Christopher Hendershot**

*Corpses, Guns, Penises and Private Military and Security Corporations*

**Simon Tremblay-Pepin**

*Contribution à une économie politique de l'émancipation*

**Matthew Morgan**

*The Provision of Security in an Age of Austerity: The Transformation of NATO, the Production of Trans-scalar Spaces of Intervention, and the Future of the West*

**Alana Cattapan**

*Controlling Conception: Citizenship and the Governance of Assisted Reproductive Technologies in Canada (1989-2004)*

**Anna Ainsworth**

*Constructing Rwandan Identity in the Diaspora: Remembering the Green Hills in Cold Canada*

**Nadia Hasan**

*Unscripting Piety: Muslim Women, Pakistani Nationalism, and Islamic Feminism*

**DID YOU KNOW?** At least two-thirds (227) of the 338 Members of Parliament (MPs) in Ottawa have a bachelor's degree; with at least 97 of these MPs having a master's degree and 14 holding a PhD.

The new federal Cabinet, which has 31 members, includes 14 MPs holding master's degrees and five with PhDs.

Source: <http://www.universityaffairs.ca/news/news-article/academics-elected-to-the-new-parliament-adjust-to-life-as/mps/>

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Each year the Department of Political Science honours its most exceptional undergraduate students - those achieving an A average or above in our programs. A grade of A and above signifies that a student has exceptional or excellent knowledge of concepts and uses these with originality in satisfying course requirements.

On October 14, 2015, a reception for students, their parents and other invited guests was held in the Departmental lounge. Faculty and staff were present to congratulate students, with professors David Mutimer and Dennis Pilon making brief remarks and each student receiving a certificate acknowledging her or his academic achievement.

Those students with the highest Grade Point Average (GPA) in each of years one through four and in the Specialized Honours BA program in Global Political Studies were also presented with a copy of the book *Wrestling with Democracy* written by Professor Pilon.

Warmest congratulations to all!

### 2014-15 POLITICAL SCIENCE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Rawna Abdel-Maguid	Marylin Dobson	Peter Lachowicz	Hananel Razimor
Wardah Behzad	Ravi Gill	Hien Lam	Joseph Robinson
Nabil Bhatia	Danika Goshulak	Celina Lepage	Mark Santa Ana
Joshua Borenstein	Michael Guglielmin	Veronica Lockyer	Andrew Tebbi
Chevanne Brown	Rohina Hashimi	Jessica Marcangelo	Maricela Torres
Gerardo Chavez Cornejo	Azar Jan	Jessa McLean	Sohrab Vatanchi
Samantha Craig	Ahad Khattak	Tanika Mcleod	Darren Zanussi
Chelsea Cybalski	Roshni Khemraj	Goran Milic	
Yasmeen Dhaliwal	Youssef Kodsy	Sachin Persaud	
Michel Di Giovanni	Michael Kwong	Nagin Rahmani	

#### Top student for each year of studies

Yasmeen Dhaliwal - Year 1  
 Gerardo Chavez Cornejo - Year 2  
 Youssef Kodsy - Year 3  
 Darren Zanussi - Year 4  
 Hananel Razimor - Global Political Studies

#### ESSAY WRITING AWARDS

Each year the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies selects the best undergraduate essays from all programs and departments.

**Victor Choi's** essay for Professor Gabrielle Slowey's 4000 level course was selected as the winner for that level. **Darren Zanussi's** essay for Course Director Emily Merson's third-year class was the runner-up in 3000 level courses.



## PRECARIOUS POST-GRADUATE LIFE

Greg Sharzer

There's a great scene in the 1988 film *The Decline of Western Civilization Part II: The Metal Years*, in which the interviewer asks aspiring hair metal musicians what will happen if they don't become rock stars. They all say failure is impossible. They have to succeed because they're not good at anything else. Fast forward to 2016, and none of them became famous.

It's easy to laugh at their outsized aspirations to dominate a genre that would die spectacularly at the hands of grunge a few years later. But in some ways it's not so dissimilar from completing a PhD in political science. The discipline of political science is under attack from an unholy cabal of the neoliberal casualization of labour, declining enrollments, and, in some cases, outright attacks on critical thinking: witness Japan's defunding of the social sciences and Uzbekistan's ban on teaching political science.

Applications for some tenure-track professor positions at universities run into the mid-hundreds; for Ivy League schools it's close to a thousand. York's Political Science students and alumni are justly proud of the critical praxes we espouse, yet this further marginalizes us from the mainstream of the discipline. Despite this, we believe we're going to get those jobs.

If you're a recent PhD graduate on your way to a post-doctoral fellowship, or you're already ensconced in a department, or if you have a wealthy family or partner who can support you while you publish, I congratulate you. But for most graduates the future involves precarious contract teaching on low wages, spending every free moment looking for an opening at the University of the Middle of Nowhere. Faced with these choices, I chose to use my degree to travel and headed to South Korea.

My plan was to teach English-language social science at a South Korean university. When I arrived, I learned these jobs were hard to find: social science is not popular, Korean employer human resources websites are notoriously inaccessible, and the advance of neoliberalism and a pending demographic crunch mean that competition for jobs in Korea is as fierce as anywhere. Part-time contract employment in academia is illegal for non-citizens and only pays \$300 to \$600 a month anyways.

I spent a year as an English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) test-writer to pay the bills; yet, aware of the

dismal circumstances for contract academic staff in Canada, I kept networking. Eventually, with the help of some kind Korean colleagues, I was offered a full-time contract job teaching ESL at a major university.

In my classroom, I infuse my lessons on writing English with as much social science content as possible, to which students react positively. I'm continually, pleasantly surprised by how critical and thoughtful Korean students are, in a country where the Cold War still rages and being labelled 'political' carries a huge stigma. I'm grateful for the work, the salary and the chance to observe close up a society undergoing rapid, unprecedented change.

I'll skip the lifehacker lessons and generalize some political conclusions from my experience. First: university teachers and researchers are workers. We may work odd hours, and what we produce may not always be tangible, but we are selling labour power for a wage, and enable students to earn the piece of paper their parents might not have needed for a decent job.

As political science scholars, if we treat academia like some rarefied task not subject to the same demands as the tired people packing the subway every morning, we won't inspire empathy from other groups in the university and the broader population. York graduate students know this: as their inspiring union struggles in CUPE show, collective action is the only way working conditions will improve.

Second, it's impossible to talk about employment without talking about privilege. As an English-speaking, white male in South Korea I am 'exoticized' in a way that puts me at the top of the racial hierarchy. I receive smiles and waves from strangers, unlike the darker-skinned migrants who are relegated to the unpleasant factory jobs and routinely stigmatized as criminals.

It took me over two years to find a full-time renewable contract job in a university, but I also earn more money than, say, a unionized railworker. This kind of privilege is real, but it's relative, as I still earn about what I made as a hospital secretary 10 years ago, and the cost of living in Seoul is not low. I feel I've grabbed a slightly bigger crumb from the loaf of bread owned almost wholly by the wealthy 1%. I'm grateful that my crumb is bigger than what many others have, but I'm still hungry.

## PRECARIOUS POST-GRADUATE LIFE (CONTINUED)

If permanent teaching and research positions in political science are rare, and most jobs remain poorly-paid, why do it? Because our work is different. I've had over 30 jobs in my life, and academic labour is the only one that has felt deeply fulfilling. Where else can you research important topics you care about and inculcate critical thinking?

As *Quartz* magazine wrote: "If you do want to be a professor, think about what your life might be like if that doesn't happen... What else will make you happy?" In my experience, and in discussions with my friends, the answer is clear: nothing else. This is what cognitive therapists call 'all or nothing' thinking, but I defy a cognitive therapist to work a day as a temporary secretary and not resent the loss of freedom and autonomy. There's plenty to critique in academia, but let's not lose sight of the joys of teaching and research that led us here in the first place.

Completing a PhD is hard enough; joining the cold wasteland of the job market, populated by shell-shocked graduates scrabbling for work, is a unique form of suffering. There are other options; those hair metal musicians got over their teenaged ambitions and went on to be session musicians or salespeople. If you can be happy doing something else that pays the bills, do it. But if you love this vocation so much that the precarity is worth the uncertainty, then fight to value what we do, and try unorthodox op-

tions. Like me, you may even find yourself exploring places a world away from the Verney Room, but close to the heart of our discipline.



*Greg Sharzer graduated with a PhD from the Graduate Program in Political Science in 2012.*

### ASKING FOR A LETTER OF REFERENCE FROM A PROFESSOR

**Details.** Provide details about where you are applying and why. Include a statement of intent or the job description and cover letter that reveal what you are applying to.

**Grades.** Provide a list showing your courses and grades. It helps if you provide a separate note with the name of the course(s) you took with the professor, including the titles of essays you may have written in the course(s) and the grades earned for individual assignments.

**Resume.** Your current or former professor will not know everything you do, and may not remember you well. He or she may not have any knowledge of your activities after the completion of the course he or she taught you. A resume will help her or him to place your academic performance in context. You can also include a separate note that highlights relevant experience such as extra-curricular activities, and unusual obstacles that you had to overcome in school or work.

**Deadlines.** You want your professor to write a letter about how mature, organized, and professional you are. Submit your request for letters of recommendation a month in advance of the due date, and then follow up with a reminder a week before the due date.

**Email.** Asking for a letter of recommendation over email is fine, but also offer to meet face-to-face.

# Department of Political Science Newsletter 2016

## FACULTY PROFILES



**Anna M. Agathangelou** spent 2014-15 at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She completed a co-edited volume titled *Time, Temporality and Violence in International Relations: (De) Fatalizing the Present, Forging Radical Alternatives* (Routledge 2016). Professor Agathangelou co-organized a workshop in Nicosia, Cyprus during July 2015 on “Reconstructions: Emerging Powers and the Future of the World Order” in which colleagues from Canada, the US, the UK and Cyprus participated. She also co-organized a 2015 summer school at Manipal University, India. Her lectures at the summer school included: “Socio-Technical Ontologies and Cosmopolitanism” and “Biotechnologies and Empire”.

**Greg Albo** is the co-editor (with **Leo Panitch**) of the *Socialist Register 2016: The Politics of the Right*. This is the fifty-second edition of the *Register* exploring right-wing political forces and parties around the globe. Contributors to the volume examine mobilizations of the right in a variety of countries by analyzing their social bases, their relationships with state institutions, and the reach of their influence on mainstream parties and opinion.

**Clark Banack** recently completed a forthcoming book, *God's Province: Evangelical Christianity, Political Thought and Conservatism in Alberta* (McGill-Queen's University Press 2016). He is currently working on a collaborative book-length study that explores provincial approaches to religious education across Canada. His most recent analysis on this topic will appear in an article in the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*.

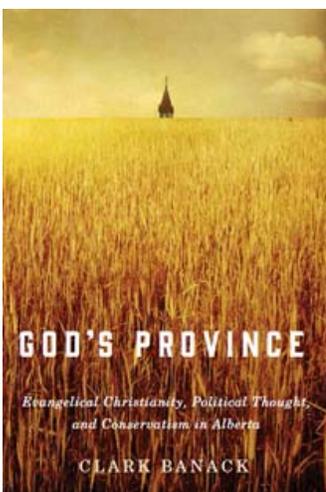
**Shannon Bell** recently produced and presented two works as part of her Shooting Theory project: “Salt Icon of Zero” and “Expenditure – Mount Etna”. The former is published in *Anekaant: A Journal of Polysemic Thought*. Professor Bell's film “Discourse of the Post-Hysteric (Tattoo)” was part of *Just 40, Uma Exposição de Arte Experimental* at “Cultivamos Cultura”

in Portugal; the corresponding paper and film were presented at the Hacking Feminism conference in New York City. Professor Bell also presented her work in Mexico in August 2015. Links to Professor Bell's 2014-15 films are: “Salt Icon of Zero” <https://vimeo.com/115414403> and “Discourse of the Post-Hysteric (Tattoo)” <https://vimeo.com/127044151>



**Martin Breugh** recently published a peer-reviewed article, in the French journal of critical political theory *Tumultes*, analyzing the usage of the concept of oligarchy in current scholarship in Europe and North America. His 2013 book, *The Plebeian Experience* (Columbia University Press), was featured and reviewed in the American Political Science Association's *Perspectives on Politics* and a paperback edition was published in February 2016. Professor Breugh has also been on paternity leave, taking care of his newborn daughter Matilde Marinella Breugh.

**Barbara Cameron** organized a symposium – “Shifting Paradigms, Enduring Legacies: Reflections on the Royal Commission on the Status of Women at 50” – held at York University in the spring of 2015. The symposium brought together researchers from across Canada to analyze the impact of this influential commission that reported in 1970. The symposium found that the recommendations of the commission hastened the elimination of many discriminatory exclusions based on gender or women's marital status, but also left in place complex patterns of inequality in which gender intersects with other dimensions of disadvantage and privilege, including class, race, and citizenship status.



## FACULTY PROFILES

**Stephen Gill** gave a lecture at the University of Paris XI in March 2015 based on his new publications: *New Constitutionalism and World Order* (Cambridge University Press, 2014 hardback, 2015 paperback; with Claire Cutler), and *Critical Perspectives on the Crisis of Global Governance: Reimagining the Future* (Palgrave 2015). His Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Grant funded research on the European crisis and global politics was also the subject of a symposium at Collège d'études mondiales/fondation maison des sciences de l'homme, Université Paris, organized by Professeur Pascal Petit in March of 2015.

**Susan Henders** was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Hong Kong in 2014-15, where she researched the political activities of Canadians living in Hong Kong, including during the Umbrella Movement protests. Her chapter "Internationalized Minority Territorial Autonomy in Early Post-WWI Europe: The Limits and Possibilities of International Ethnic Diversity Governance" was published in *International Approaches to Governing Ethnic Diversity* (Oxford University Press 2015). Professor Henders and Mary M. Young are co-editing and co-contributing to a special issue of the *Hague Journal of Diplomacy* on non-state actor diplomacies in Canadian-Asian relations.

**Thomas Klassen** is the lead editor of *The Routledge Handbook of Global Public Policy and Administration* (Routledge 2016). In 2016 he teaches a York University summer course in Seoul, South Korea, and coordinates a field trip to North Korea.

**Heather MacRae** holds the Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration at York University. In 2015, she was awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Grant (with co-investigator Elaine Weiner at McGill University) to explore "The (In)Visibility of Gender in the European Union." This project investigates how cross-cutting and complex policy issues can marginalize gender in policy making. Professor MacRae is the co-editor of, and a contributor to, *Gendering Euro-*

*pean Integration Theory* (Barbara Budrick 2015) and is currently working on a variety of other projects.

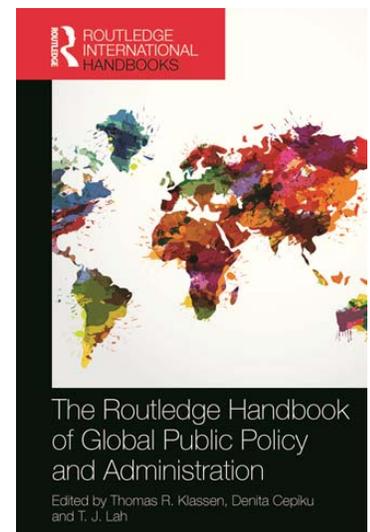
**Karen Murray** published papers in *Urban Geography*, *Canada Watch*, and *ActiveHistory.ca*. "Bio-gentrification: vulnerability bio-value chains in gentrifying neighbourhoods" was quickly placed among the highest ranked outputs from *Urban Geography*. Professor Murray was named a York University Research Leader for 2014-2015. In the first half of 2016, she holds a Killam Visiting Professorship in Canadian Studies at Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts; while in the second half of the year she will hold an Eakin Visiting Fellowship in Canadian Studies at McGill University in Montreal.

**Dennis Pilon** publishes on Canadian provincial politics, voting systems and electoral reform, Canadian and comparative social democracy, critical institutionalism, and class politics. His recent publications include a chapter on British Columbia in *Transforming Provincial Politics: The Political Economy of Canada's Provinces and Territories in the Neoliberal Era* (University of Toronto Press 2015), an article on Canada's voting system in the *Journal of Parliamentary and Political Law*, a policy-oriented piece on majority voting systems for *Inroads* entitled "Electoral Reform: Here's Your Evidence Mr. Trudeau," and an article on the relationship of class to voter turnout in *Studies in Political Economy*.

**John Saul**, professor emeritus, has a new book in press, *On Building a Social Movement: The North American Campaign for Southern African Liberation Revisited*. In addition, after swearing he would not attempt another murderously long trip to South Africa after a working visit in 2015, he has been granted an honorary degree by the University of Johannesburg. As a result, he and his family will set off for another trip to Africa in April of 2016 to receive this honour for his contribution to social science in South Africa and the wider region, and his commitment to academic excellence in pursuit of social justice.



Stephen Gill at the University of Paris in March 2015



# Department of Political Science Newsletter 2016

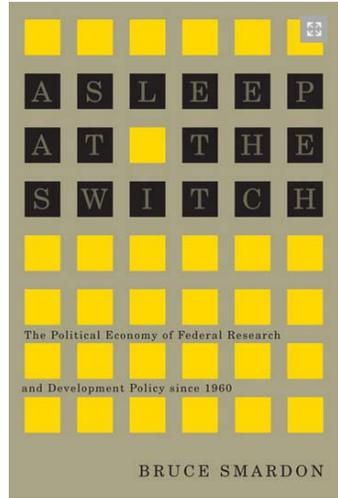
## FACULTY PROFILES

**Gabrielle Slowey** has taken up a position as the Director of the Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies at York University. She continues to teach in the Department on Indigenous and Arctic politics. She has recently published two chapters in *Transforming Provincial Politics: The Political Economy of Canada's Provinces and Territories in a Neoliberal Era* (University of Toronto Press 2015) and a chapter, "Development at What Cost? First Nations, Ecological Integrity, and Democracy," in *Alberta Oil and the Decline of Democracy in Canada* (AU Press 2015). Professor Slowey is currently working with the Elsipogtog First Nation in New Brunswick on a project on fracking.

**Bruce Smardon** won the 2015 Donald Smiley Award given by the Canadian Political Science Association for the best book on Canadian politics and government published in 2014. The book, *Asleep at the Switch: The Political Economy of Federal*

*Research and Development Policy* (McGill-Queen's University Press), delves into why research and innovation in Canada is comparatively limited compared to other nations, and the role of federal government policy in this regard. The award was especially gratifying to Professor Smardon because, as a graduate student in the Department of Political Science at York University, he took a course with Professor Smiley.

**Sandra Whitworth** has received the Canada Distinguished Scholar Award for 2016 from the International Studies Association. The citation for the award notes that Professor Whitworth: has been a leader in feminist approaches to International Relations, especially in relation to security, peacekeeping, and human rights activism.... She has played a major part in promoting work in this area as well as shaping the way in which the key issues are studied and analyzed.



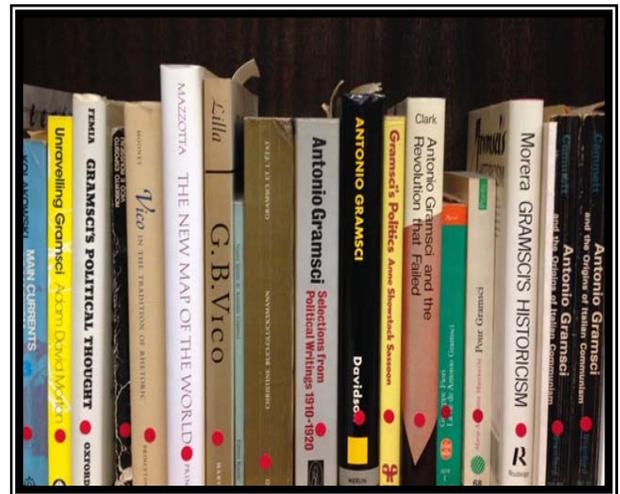
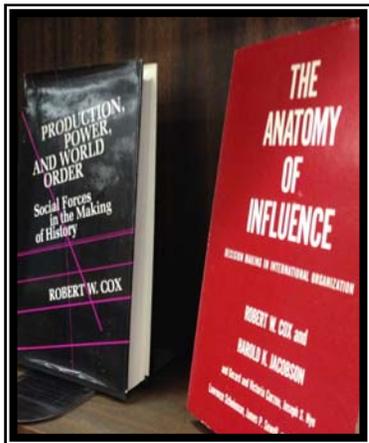
## EXCITING ADDITION TO THE DONALD SMILEY LIBRARY

The Donald Smiley Library is honoured to welcome Professor Emeritus Robert W. Cox's personal collection of books, journals, and essays. With over 1,300 items, the collection provides insight into the groundbreaking career of a scholar whose career spanned more than 50 years.

As noted on page three of this newsletter, Professor Cox was recently awarded the Order of Canada for his contributions to the study of political science.

The books and materials donated to the Smiley Library include Professor Cox's personal collection of Giambattista Vico, Karl Marx, and Antonio Gramsci with margin notes, commentaries, and notes. These help to illuminate Professor Cox's influential and innovative approach to international relations and international political economy.

Be certain to swing by the Smiley Library and check out the new Robert W. Cox Collection!



## STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

### WRITING AWARDS

**Simon Granovsky-Larsen** (PhD 2014) received the Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies 2015 outstanding dissertation prize for his study *Within and Against the Market: The Guatemalan Campesino Movement Under Neoliberal Peace*. The prize was awarded in July at the Universidad de Costa Rica-San José, based on Dr. Granovsky-Larsen's impressive fieldwork as well as the clarity, confidence and maturity with which he engaged with social theory.

**Jerome Klassen** (PhD 2007) was awarded the 2015 Errol Sharpe book prize from the Canadian Political Science Association for his book *Joining Empire: The Political Economy of the New Canadian Foreign Policy* (University of Toronto Press). In the book, Dr. Klassen argues that the increasing integration of Canadian businesses into the global economy has driven Canada's new, increasingly aggressive, foreign policy.

The book is partially based on research conducted by Dr. Klassen for his PhD thesis, supervised by professors Greg Albo, David McNally and Sam Gindin. Dr. Klassen is currently a Research Fellow at the Center for International Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston.

**John Laman** (MA 2014) won the Canadian Studies Network Best MA Thesis or Research Paper Prize for 2015 for his cutting-edge examination of the way in which the understanding of the 'sanctuary city' has shifted under the current neo-liberal economic and political regime.

Mr. Laman was also awarded the 2015 Michael Baptista Essay Prize by the Centre for Research in Latin America and the Caribbean at York University. This prize is given to a graduate student whose work is deemed outstanding and relevant to the area of Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Both prizes came with monetary awards.

In addition, Mr. Laman won a National Student Thought and Leadership Award from the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC). With fund-

ing from York University, he attended IPAC's award ceremony in Halifax. Professor Karen Murray supervised this work, with Professor Ann Porter serving as second reader.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

**Vanesa Tomasino-Rodriguez**, a doctoral student, was awarded a Canada Graduate Scholarship to Honour Nelson Mandela. The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research allocate up to ten of these prestigious awards to doctoral students whose research deals with democracy, human rights and freedom, leadership, national unity, children's participation in society, and children's health.

Ms. Tomasino-Rodriguez's doctoral research, entitled "Youth Street Gangs and Governance: Transnational Circuits of Power from San Salvador to Toronto," examines how gangs intersect in complex ways with mainstream governance institutions at the local, national and transnational levels. The research will generate new empirical data for advancing policy development and democratic theory. Professor Karen Murray is supervising the dissertation with committee members Professor Judith Hellman and Professor Robert Latham.

Undergraduate students **Jessa Lillian McLean** and **Mark Jeffrey Santa Ana** were recipients of the 2014 McLaughlin College Public Policy Scholarship. This \$1,000 scholarship is awarded annually to two McLaughlin College students who meet specific program requirements and have a cumulative grade point average of 8.0 (A) or above.

### BOOK CHAPTERS

Three PhD students contributed chapters to the 2015 Canadian Centre of Policy Alternatives book *The Harper Record 2008-15*. **John Carlaw** wrote about citizenship and immigration policy, **Jennifer Mussell** covered social transfer, and **James Fitzgerald** reported on Aboriginal peoples and the federal government's 'apology'.

# 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: [laspols@yorku.ca](mailto:laspols@yorku.ca)  
[www.yorku.ca/laps/pols/](http://www.yorku.ca/laps/pols/)

Fall/Winter Office Hours  
Monday to Thursday: 8:30am - 4:30pm  
Friday: 9:30am - 4:30pm

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

Should a university degree be a passport to a good job or career? This question, asked in a classroom, bus or party, invariably sparks discussion and debate.

Parents prod their children to attend university to ensure labour market success. However, liberal arts professors give a more nuanced message to their students about the value of a BA.

Very few political science students will become political scientists themselves. As reported in this newsletter, a PhD is no guarantee of a teaching or research position in the discipline. In the classroom, professors stress the non-labour market and non-monetary benefits of learning: building critical skills, learning to make connections, and looking at the world from a variety of perspectives.

Students and recent graduates struggle to make the adjustment from being a student to full-time post-graduation employment. Sometimes they become discouraged believing their education (and the money and time involved) was wasted.

A helpful perspective for students and recent graduates is that a degree, especially in the liberal arts, is an investment. As with any investment, its future value is difficult to judge. Like any investment, there must be active management, including decisions made and some risks taken, for a payoff to arise.

Lastly, like other investments, the return from a degree will take time to accumulate and become visible. Stepping into a great job right after graduation or even two or four or six years later is not likely, and never has been.



A liberal arts degree is not a ticket to a great, or even good, job immediately after graduation. It is however, the best preparation for a rewarding career that will span decades, and a fulfilling life.

Comments about this newsletter can be sent to me at [tklassen@yorku.ca](mailto:tklassen@yorku.ca)

P.S. Thank you to Carolyn Cross for her generous assistance in preparing this newsletter.

*Thomas R. Klassen*

Thomas R. Klassen