



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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ANNUAL NEWSLETTER FROM THE UBC DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Note from Department Head Barbara Arneil

Dear Alumni:

I am delighted to be sending this newsletter to you as the Head of the Political Science department at UBC. We have been working on trying to create more connections with our alumni community, beginning with a dinner organized by a group of alumni on March 1 this year. This newsletter, providing a summary of the past year in our department as well as future planned alumni events, will come to you annually and we hope you enjoy the news from your alma mater and that you can join us if you are in town for our Pit pub quiz night on September 21st and the inaugural annual alumni lecture in spring of next year.

It has been a busy two years since I became the first female head of the Political Science department on July 1, 2016. Our undergraduate enrolment numbers continue to grow year after year up to over 7000 students annually, we have the second largest number of majors in the Faculty of Arts. Our graduate program currently has 58 PhD students and 31 MA students. After 36 years on the job, Dory Urbano, our long serving administrator, retired with Rhea Ravanera taking up that job about 18 months ago. The Dean has given us the go ahead to hire 3 new faculty members in the areas of the comparative politics of the global south, political behavior and Canadian politics this year so we are in a period of expansion.

I hope this newsletter will provide you a connection to UBC Political Science and that you will be able to join us at our alumni events this year and into the future.

Yours, Barbara



Upcoming Alumni Events Save the Date

September 21, 2018 - Trivia Night

We are excited to announce a new Alumni event: [UBC Political Science & International Relations Program Trivia Night](#). It will be a lively evening of trivia with alumni, students, faculty and emeriti. Prizes and bragging rights for the winning team. Please Join Us!

Trivia Night
Friday, September 21, 2018
UBC Pit Pub at the NEST
6133 University Blvd, Vancouver
6-8pm

April 2019 - Dr. Kathryn Sikkink, 2019 Zacher Lecture

Alumni are invited to join us for the 2019 Zacher Lecture, with Harvard's [Kathryn Sikkink](#). Sikkink is perhaps the world's top scholarly authority on international human rights. The talk will be held in the department in April 2019, date and time TBD.

[Mark Zacher](#) (1938 – 2014) was a beloved Professor in our department for almost 40 years. The [Mark Zacher Distinguished Visitor Program](#) was created to honour his contribution to the teaching, understanding and scholarship of international affairs.

Annually, we invite one prominent scholar, leader, or senior elected official who has made significant contributions to the field of international affairs to give a series of lectures, and to meet with students, faculty, and community members.

Special Guest Susan Rice, Former US National Security Advisor



On February 15th, 2018 [Susan Rice](#) visited our department for an hour-long question and answer period with faculty and graduate students. Rice is the [former US National Security Advisor to President Obama and UN Ambassador](#). This unique opportunity was in conjunction with Rice's appearance at the [Lind Initiative talks](#). Rice is currently a [Contributing Opinion Writer with the New York Times](#).



New Research Portal

Research Excellence in Political Science



A new addition to our website, the [Research Portal](#), features research projects undertaken by Political Science faculty, and highlights how innovative research in our department cuts across Political Science's major subfields, and other academic disciplines.

Recent Research Portal Features:

[Participedia](#), a novel and collaborative project, under the direction of [Mark Warren](#) aims to develop a large, crowd-sourced database that will support evidence-based answers to the question: What kinds of participatory processes work best, for what purposes, and under what conditions? Participedia provides free and open source resources to those involved in participatory political processes, while also deepening our knowledge of democratic innovations. Watch this [video](#) to learn more.

[Arjun Chowdhury](#) provides insight into his research and writing process, and explains the central argument of his new book, [The Myth of International Order](#), which takes on some of the biggest thinkers in the discipline. His book demands that we rethink foundational concepts of international politics like political stability and state failure.

The UBC [Research Excellence Cluster](#) on Global Challenges to Democracy: Rights, Freedoms, and Human Development, created by [Max Cameron](#), [Sheryl Lightfoot](#), and [Lisa Sundstrom](#), seeks to explore the global challenges to democracy. Watch a [video](#) about their ground-breaking, collaborative workshops held at the Liu Institute in 2017.

Up Next:

Stay tuned for an upcoming post about the new UBC Migration Cluster, lead by Antje Ellermann.



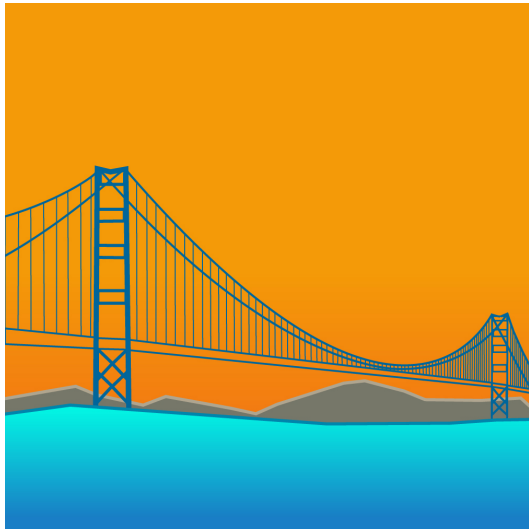
Department News



Welcome Anna Jurkevics Assistant Professor

Our department is pleased to introduce Assistant Professor [Anna Jurkevics](#) (PhD Yale, 2017). Her research is in the fields of critical theory, democratic theory, and the history of German political thought, and she specializes in the political thought of Hannah Arendt.

Jurkevics investigates themes related to territory, land, and migration, and her upcoming projects include writing a book manuscript, Territory without Sovereignty, and a project about the phenomenon of land grabbing. Read more about Jurkevics [here](#).



APSA Winners Five Faculty Members

The 113th Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association was held in San Francisco from August 31 - September 3, 2017.

Five of our Faculty were recipients of 2017 APSA awards (click [here](#) for full details):

[Cesi Cruz](#), Assistant Professor
APSA Best Conference Paper Award - Political Networks Section
Co-authored paper, "Village Social Network Structures and Electoral Competition"

[Peter Dauvergne](#), Professor
APSA Michael Harrington Book Award - New Political Science Organized Section
Book: Environmentalism of the Rich (2016, MIT Press)

[Alan M. Jacobs](#), Associate Professor
APSA David Collier Mid-Career Achievement Award - Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Section

[Richard Johnston](#), Professor
APSA Mildred A. Schwartz Lifetime Achievement Award - Canadian Politics Section

[Kai Ostwald](#), Assistant Professor
APSA Best Paper Award - Southeast Asia Politics Group
Co-authored paper, "Explaining Elections in Singapore: Party Credibility and Valence Politics"



Antje Ellermann New IES Director

Associate Professor [Antje Ellermann](#) is the new Director of the Institute for European Studies (IES), and the lead for the newly established UBC Migration Research Excellence Cluster.

Through its speaker series, research colloquia, and conferences, the Institute provides a collegial and stimulating space for discussions of European current affairs and scholarship.

The Institute is housed in the C.K. Choi building, and brings together scholars from a range of disciplines. Learn more about the Institute [here](#).



Faculty Publications New Books

2017:

[Domestic Colonies: The Colonial Turn Inward](#)
Barbara Arneil
Oxford University Press

[The Myth of International Order: Why Weak States Persist and Alternatives to the State Fade Away](#)
Arjun Chowdhury
Oxford University Press

[The Canadian Party System: An Analytic History](#)
Richard Johnston
UBC Press

2016:

[Global Indigenous Politics: a Subtle Revolution](#)
Sheryl Lightfoot
Routledge

[Environmentalism of the Rich](#)
Peter Dauvergne
MIT Press

[Disability and Political Theory](#)
Edited by Barbara Arneil and Nancy J. Hirschmann
Cambridge University Press



Jean Laponce Prize
Top BA Honours Thesis

On November 28, 2016, our friend and colleague, Professor Emeritus [Jean Laponce](#), passed away. Jean joined our department in 1956, as the first Full-Time political scientist, and taught here until 1991. Jean left an indelible mark not only within our own community, but on the broader Political Science community, particularly the International Political Science Association (IPSA).

To honour his legacy, the [Jean Laponce memorial prize](#) was created, which recognizes a senior honours student for the best thesis in the Department of Political Science, 4th year program.

The first recipients of the prize are:

Alberto Alcaraz Escárcega, for his honours thesis, “Realest Negus Alive:” Hip-Hop and its Interrelated and (Potentially) Emancipatory Politics of Language and Identity”

Rachel Garrett, for her honours thesis, "The Language of Sexism: The Impact of Gendered Terms in Media on Candidate Trait Assessments"



Emeriti Update
By Professor Emeritus Don Blake

On most Wednesday mornings, if you walk along Spanish Banks west of Locarno Beach, you will encounter as many as eight Political Science [emeriti](#) chatting amiably about all kinds of topics. Our walking group, consisting of all emeriti living in the city of Vancouver, has been operating for years, rain (usually) or shine. The same bunch, plus a couple of younger colleagues still in harness, get together to play low stakes poker roughly once a month, except July and August. This May we will celebrate the 10th Annual Denman Island Poker Fest when we indulge in two days of poker, feasting and hiking, hosted by one of our number with a home on the island.

We keep busy in other ways. [Phil Resnick](#) has just published another book of poetry, entitled [Passageways](#), and comments regularly on public affairs. [Ken Carty](#) serves as a Board-appointed trustee of the UBC Pension Plan and as Chair of the Vancouver School of Theology Foundation, as well as Editor of the Irish Journal of Political Studies.



Alumni Dinner
March 1, 2018

In recognition of [alumni UBC's 100th year](#), the Department of Political Science and the International Relations Program recently invited alumni who graduated from these two programs to join in an evening of food, drink, conversation, and memories.

Our Alumni Dinner was held on March 1, 2018 at the Meekison Art Student Space, in Buchanan D. Click [here](#) to see photos from the event.

Thank you to all who attended the event, and a special thank you to the Political Science and International Relations Alumni Dinner Committee for organizing the event:

- Ernest Yee, BA'83 (Poli Sci Hons), MA'87;
- Eva Busza, BA'86, MA'87 (Poli Sci);
- Lisa Niemetscheck, BA'04 (IR);
- Jerome Gessaroli, BA'83 (Poli Sci), MBA'86;
- Krista Gerty, BA'02 (IR);
- Simon Read, BA'85 (Poli Sci Hons), LLB'90;
- Tanya Jorgenson, BA'84 (Poli Sci Hons).



Since his retirement, [Kal Holsti](#) has published several books, articles and book chapters while continuing to rack up swimming medals in the annual BC Seniors Games. Two of us, [Don Blake](#) and [Paul Marantz](#), have been active in UBC Association of Professors Emeriti. Don is Association Secretary and edits its Newsletter. Paul has served the Association in many ways (President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and was instrumental in negotiating attractive medical and travel insurance programs for its members. Post-retirement, Paul has also indulged a life-long interest in astronomy and has even given a couple of lectures to small groups on "What We Do and Don't Know about the Origins of Our Universe." Don also sings in EnChor Choir, along with [Pete Chamberlain](#). Both serve on the EnChor Board and Don produces all the choir's publicity material (see [www.ensor.ca](#)). Pete is also President of the Board of the Vancouver Youth Choir, a recent winner in Canada's National Choral Competition.

Visiting Speakers
2017-2018



Michael Doyle
Mark Zacher
Distinguished Visitor

November 29 & 30, 2017
Columbia University
Professor, [Michael Doyle](#) (PhD



Margaret (Peggy) Kohn
Distinguished Visitor

March 2, 2018
Our department was pleased to welcome University of Toronto Professor [Margaret \(Peggy\)](#)

Faculty & Alumni Awards

Harvard) was this year's Mark Zacher Distinguished Visitor.

He gave two talks to our community: The Question of Intervention: John Stuart Mill and the Responsibility to Protect, and a IES/Political Science department co-hosted talk, titled Model International Mobility Treaty.



Kathleen Thelen
Distinguished Visitor

April 18, 2018
Our department welcomed Ford Professor of Political Science at MIT and President of the American Political Science Association, [Kathleen Thelen](#) (PhD Berkeley), as a Distinguished Visitor. Her talk was titled, The New Precariat: American Capitalism in Comparative Perspective.

Thelen studies the origins, development, and effects of institutional arrangements that define distinctive “varieties of capitalism” across the developed democracies.

[Kohn](#) (PhD Cornell) as a Distinguished Visitor.

Kohn is a political theorist, and her research interests include the history of political thought, critical theory, social justice, colonialism, and urbanism.



Christopher S. Parker
Departmental Speaker

January 29th, 2018
We were excited to welcome University of Washington Professor [Christopher Parker](#) (PhD, University of Chicago) to our department for his talk titled, It's NOT the economy, dumbass; It's all about race.

Much of Parker's research takes a behavioral approach to historical events, bringing survey data to bear on questions of historical import.



Jean-François Godbout
Departmental Speaker

March 14, 2018
Université de Montréal Associate Professor and Director of the Observatory of Federations (CERIUM), [Jean-François Godbout](#) (PhD Northwestern) was welcomed as a Departmental Speaker.

Godbout's research is focused on democratic processes and political institutions in Canada, the United States and Europe, and he is currently studying the legislative behaviour of Canadian parliamentarians in the House of Commons and the Senate.



Joyce Murray
Member of Parliament
POLI 360 Visitor

March 13, 2018 - POLI 360 Visitor
[Member of Parliament, Joyce Murray \(Vancouver-Quadra\)](#), visited Assistant Professor [Arjun Chowdhury](#)'s POLI360 Security Studies class on Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

MP Murray fielded student questions on a range of government policies, including national intelligence, environment, and privacy. She also spoke about her experience in public service and how younger generations can get involved locally/ globally in a non-partisan way.

Mark Warren
Killam Research Prize

Professor [Mark Warren](#) was awarded the UBC [Killam Research Prize](#) for his work on democratic theory.

The UBC Killam Research Prize recognizes outstanding research and scholarly contributions. Winners are selected by UBC's Faculty Research Awards Committee, which spans arts and humanities, business, applied science, science, and medicine.

Each spring, the Office of the Vice-President Research & Innovation hosts an awards reception to recognize outstanding UBC researchers. This year the

Yves Tiberghien
Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite

Associate Professor [Yves Tiberghien](#) was awarded [Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite](#), France's National Order of Merit, following a nomination by France's Foreign Ministry and a decree by French President, Emmanuel Macron.

The award was founded on December 3, 1963 by President Charles de Gaulle to recognize the “distinguished civil or military achievement” of French citizens with at least 10 years of service.

Currently, there are 187,000 recipients, and 4,600 new members are inducted into the order each year.

reception was held on April 17, 2018 in the Glass Lobby of the Chan Centre. To view photos of the event, click [here](#).

Gyung-Ho Jeong
Duncan Black Prize

Assistant Professor [Gyung-Ho Jeong](#) won the Duncan Black Prize for the Best Paper published in [Public Choice](#) (2017) by a senior scholar for his article ,“The Supermajority Core of the US Senate and the Failure to Join the League of Nations”.

Kristi Kenyon
UBC Alumni

[Kristi Kenyon](#) is an Assistant Professor at Global College at the University of Winnipeg, where she teaches in the human rights program. She earned both her BA and PhD in our department, and was one of 15 early career scholars to receive the [2017 CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar](#) appointment.

Welcome & Farewell

Welcome Adam Jelley, Farewell to Amy Becir

[Adam Jelley](#) is our new Undergraduate Program Advisor.

Adam is replacing [Amy Becir](#), who will be on parental leave until 2019.

Welcome Rhea Ravanera, Farewell to Dory Urbano

[Rhea Ravanera](#) is our department's new Administrative Manager.

Rhea replaces [Dory Urbano](#) who retired after 36.5 years in our department.

Dory was the recipient of the Dean's Award for Staff Excellence, and worked with eight Department Heads during her tenure in Political Science.

Click [here](#) see photos from Dory's retirement party.