



Graduate Conference in  
Cultural, Social and  
Political Thought



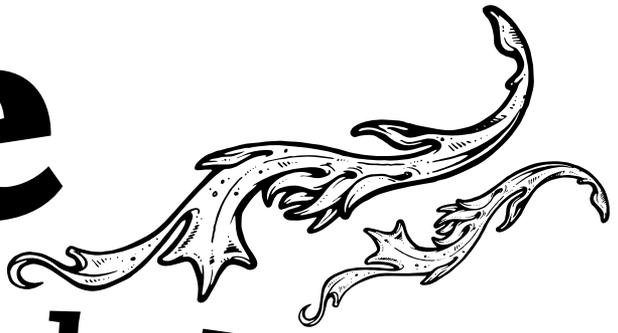
# Welcome

The University of Victoria is located on the occupied territory of the Lekwungen and WSÁNEC peoples. We recognize that colonization of these lands was not a historical event that ended some time ago, but is an ongoing process very much with us today. While territorial acknowledgements are becoming increasingly fashionable, we want this statement to do more than mere lip service, yet we grapple with what this could mean. For instance, to what extent does the political problem of settler-colonialism also pose a challenge to those of us who think and work “in” the university? And how do we take up the call to decolonize without deflating the momentum and inspiration of new social formations that challenge capitalism by reclaiming public space?

Recognizing this particular, as well as the general settler-colonial context in which this conference takes place, we encourage that we all, as presenters, as participant-audience members, and as uninvited guests in these territories be open to challenging ourselves around these issues. One of the objectives of this conference is to reflect on how we engage and relate to our sites of study, including its geo-socio-historical context and its form of expression.

Over the course of this conference, we hope to foster a multi-disciplinary environment within which academics, artists, and members of the community can seriously deliberate on the political landscape within which thinking takes place, and thereby explicitly politicize modalities of thought. To this effect, we invite you to keep in mind throughout this three-day event that the occupation of the Lekwungen and WSÁNEC peoples’ territory (and the ongoing violence occurring within and across its ‘boundaries’) are part of the conditions of possibility for our collective conversation about what it means to think as a way of life.

# me schedule



**Day 1 – Friday April 25th**

**5PM – 7:30PM**

Interdisciplinary Life and Beyond: 25 Years of the Cultural, Social, and Political Thought Program

This roundtable gathers some of the founding members, newest faculty, and students of the Cultural, Social and Political Thought Program (CSPT) to debate the different ways in which CSPT thinks the social, the political, and the cultural together into the larger field of contemporary knowledge production and practices of living. In the spirit of the program's 25th anniversary, we would like to relate this general question to a discussion of the political and institutional context in which this interdisciplinary and theoretical program was formed, and furthermore, how such a program, and more broadly, the university, can continue to be a site for critical thought in the context of the 21st century.

**Speakers:** Dr. R.B.J. Walker (Political Science), Dr. Gregory Blue (History), Dr. Peyman Vahabzadeh (Sociology), Dr. Lincoln Shlensky (English), Dr. James Rowe (Environmental Studies), Regan Burles (MA., Political Science)

**Facilitation:** Dr. Liam Mitchell (Trent University)

After the roundtable, we invite all participants to join our friends at **Open Space** for an art performance (8pm), as part of their symposium **Reclaim the Streets**. Open Space is at 510 Fort St, Second Floor, and more info can be found at [openspace.ca](http://openspace.ca).

# Day 2 - Saturday April 26th

**8:30AM** Coffee, Breakfast, Registration

**9:30AM** Welcome & Introduction

**9:45AM** Keynote – Dr. Dalie Giroux  
(University of Ottawa)

**Dalie Giroux** teaches at the University of Ottawa's School of Political Studies since 2003. Her research, influenced by Nietzschean philosophies, the anthropology of Western societies, and Indigenous political thought, explores the many ways in which power and language interact. She is a member of the editorial board for *les CAHIERS DE L'IDIOTIE*, and part of the organizing committee of the *Observatoire des nouvelles pratiques symboliques – ONOUPS*.

**10:45AM** Break

**11:00AM** Rewriting the University:  
Interdisciplinary Approaches to Writing

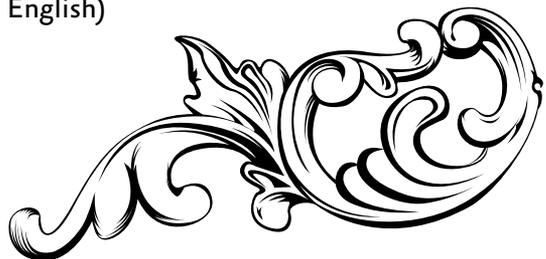
Written Off : Academic Discourses and the Fate of the Student Writer  
**Jarrold Dunham (Portland State University)**

"I Would Prefer Not To" (Fill in the Blank) : Ethical Action Inhumanities  
**Ezekiel Fry (Portland State University)**

Preaching the Perverted : Why I Chose to Teach Texts on  
Queers, AIDS, Drug Addiction, and Anonymous Sex  
**Cooper Lee Bombardier (Portland State University)**

Haptic Thought  
**Chelsea R.G. Kachman (Portland State University)**

**Facilitator:** Tim Personn (PhD English)



**12:30PM** Lunch

**1:30PM** Hybridity, Science and the Politics of Identity

Prosthetics of Identity and Resistance (Part 1)  
**Morgan Peniuta (Concordia University)**

Prosthetics of Identity and Resistance (Part 2)  
**Daria Semionova (Concordia University)**

The Quantum in the Quotidian  
**Jessica Neasbitt (University of California, Santa Cruz)**

**Facilitator:** Dr. Arthur Kroker (Political Science, University of Victoria)

**3:00PM** Break

**3:15PM** Thinking the Limits of the Human:  
Ontology, Ecology, Animality

The Resistance of Nature : Finitude, Ecophenomenology  
and the Disruptive Event  
**Carol Linnitt (University of Victoria)**

All the World Within : Individuality and Relational Ontology  
**Dustin Zielke (University of Victoria)**

Oikos in Exile: Ecology and the Modern Quest to Mend  
the Rift Between Self and World  
**Jordan Dessertine (University of Victoria),**

**Facilitator:** Michael Lukas (PhD English, University of Victoria)

**7PM** Reception and conference after party at Cenote  
Restaurant, 768 Yates St., downtown Victoria.



# Day 3 - Sunday April 27th

**9:00AM** Coffee & Breakfast

**9:30AM** Settler Colonialism, Decolonization & Allyship

Problematizing the Allyship Paradigm:

Re-thinking Decolonial Engagement for Non-Indigenous Agents

**Kim Hayward (University of Victoria)**

The Vanishing Settler: Destroying Settler Futures  
as the Precondition of and for Co-existence

**Cory Snelgrove (University of Victoria)**

Troubled Radicals: A Transcontinental Look at

Indigeneity, Nationhood and Cosmopolitan Experience

**Albrecht Berg (University of Victoria),**

**Facilitator:** Dr. Rob Hancock (Anthropology, University of Victoria)

**11:00AM** Break

**11:15AM** Roundtable: Counter-Institutional Thinking  
and Alternative Communities of Knowledge

Joining us will be Daniela Aiello, Heather Cosidetto, Sara Fruchtmann,  
Nick Montgomery, and Marc Pinkoski. Description and short bios of the  
presenters are found after the schedule.

**Facilitator:** Kim Smith (MA Sociology, University of Victoria)

**12:45PM** Lunch

**1:30PM** Aesthetic and Narrative Interventions in  
Theories of Space and Community

I Come from Saint-Georges : Exploration of a Speculative Condition  
Through Geographical Epistemes

**Amélie-Anne Mailhot (University of Ottawa)**

Writing Change: Urban Vernacular Paths and  
the Aesthetics of Emplaced Knowledge

**Benjamin Prus (McMaster University)**

Cannibalizing Street Art: OFFmuralES and  
Reconceptualizing Radical Public Space

**Kelly Marie O'Brien (Concordia University)**

Detournement and the Subversion of the Society of the Spectacle

**Lindsay Weinberg (University of California, Santa Cruz)**

**Facilitator: Dr. Simon Springer (Geography, University of Victoria)**

**3:15PM** Break

**3:30PM** Sovereignty & Dissent: Borders, Bodies, Protests

Determinations of Dissent: Protest and the Politics of Classification

**Marta Bashovski (University of Victoria)**

Playing with Fun: Creating Counter-Hegemonic Spaces  
and Radical Openness in Social Movement Theory

**Laurel Collins (University of Victoria)**

Information Subjects in Canadian Citizenship and Border Practices: From  
Hobbesian State to Administrative Surveillance State

**Tyler Chartrand (York University)**

Trauma, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity in Canadian Refugee  
Claims Processes

**Tribesty Nguyen & Justin Ryder (York University)**

Abu Ghraib, Ideology, and Hyper-Masculinity: A Critique of Puar

**David M. Reese (University of Oregon)**

**Facilitator: Dr. Simon Glezos (Political Science, University of Victoria)**

**5:15PM** Conference Closing Remarks by

Dr. Peyman Vahabzadeh, CSPT Director

(Sociology, University of Victoria)

## Sunday Roundtable:

This roundtable brings together five engaged intellectuals who take seriously the challenge of creating spaces for thinking both within and beyond the academy. Reflecting on counter-institutional thinking as a way of life, our panelists will draw on their experiences organizing alternative-to-school and free-school projects, producing community radio shows and news publications, and coordinating community resource centres, as well as their work in academia. Join us in considering intellectual spaces outside of academe, and in thinking through what such spaces offer that universities cannot. This conversation will take place with folks who straddle both the academic and non-academic world.

**Daniela Aiello** lives on the east side of Vancouver, on Musqueam, Tseil-watuth and Squamish traditional territory, where she has done community organizing at The Purple Thistle through the Purple Thistle Institute: A radical alternative to university. She is on the board of the Downtown Eastside Neighborhood House, and an editor for The Mainlander. Currently completing her MA in Human & Urban Geography at SFU, she is interested food security, political economy, and the relationship between colonialism and gentrification. She plans to both learn and mentor across (counter)institutions for always.

**Heather Cosidetto** is co-founder of The Wayward School, a series of thematically curated skill and knowledge sharing events based here in Victoria, BC. Heather is an artist, writer and educator who has worked with a number of arts and education institutions and initiatives locally, nationally, and internationally. She holds a BFA in Integrated Media from Emily Carr Institute and an MA in Culture, Science and Technology from Goldsmiths University. Be it through images, words, or actions, Heather's work is concerned with activating "in-between things, in and between places."

**Sara Fruchtman** is an assistant curator at Open Space, a non-profit artist-run centre in Victoria, B.C. Founded in 1972, Open Space supports professional artists who utilize hybrid and experimental approaches to media, art, music, and performance. Working with artists in all contemporary arts disciplines, Open Space acts as an experimental laboratory for engaging art, artists, and diverse audiences. Sara is currently working with artist-in-residence, Cameron Kidd, to facilitate a community-based public art project that explores the aesthetic, economic, and regulatory conditions of public space and public life.

**Nick Montgomery** is learning about permaculture, decolonization, anarchism and feminism, with a focus on creating autonomous alternatives to the dominant order. Over the past few years, he co-founded the Camas Freeskool and the People's Apothecary, and helped out with lots of other events and happenings. Current obsessions include grafting fruit trees, facilitation skills, perennial vegetables, and the art of hospitality. He's currently a PhD student at Queen's University, living on Lekwungen and WSANEC territories, in Victoria.

**Marc Pinkoski** completed an interdisciplinary PhD (anthropology, history, law) from the University of Victoria in 2006, and was lucky to work as a SSHRC post-doctoral fellow under the University of Montreal's Faculty of Common Law's research project Indigenous Peoples and Governance from 2007-10. From 2001-12, Marc taught courses at UVic in anthropology, Indigenous studies, and political science, but now works to better implement the Free Knowledge Project as a way of life in occupied Lekwungen territory.

# local information

We are very excited to welcome you to our city, and in order to support your stay in Victoria, we have compiled a list of resources and amenities.

## Campus orientation

When you arrive, please check in at the registration table in the breakout room in the David Strong Building (DSB C114). This table will be staffed in the half hour prior to each panel. All panels will take place in the larger seminar room next door DSB C116).

Throughout the conference, we will have breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snacks set up in our lounge, located in the new David Turpin (DTB) building right across from the David Strong Building. Both of these locations have been indicated on our campus map. If participants are needing a break from the conference, there are nice escapes at Mystic Vale and Finnerty Gardens on campus, which can be found on the map. The beach at Cadborro Bay is also only a 15 minute walk away, and is an excellent place to take a break. It can be accessed by turning right onto Sinclair Road, past the bus loop and the Student Union Building.

## Exploring Victoria

For those who would like to move on from our reception on Saturday night to another location, here are some suggested locations within a 15 minute walk.

For dinner:

**Ulla:** 509 Fisgard St. (\$\$\$ local, organic simple classics and seasonal concoctions; reservations recommended)

**Zambri's:** 820 Yates St. (\$\$\$ fine Italian cuisine)

**The Mint:** 1414 Douglas Street (\$\$ fusion West Coast South Asian menu)

**The Reef:** 533 Yates St. (\$\$ casual Caribbean cuisine)

**Rebar:** 50 Bastion Square (\$\$ West Coast vegetarian meals, fresh juices, and desserts)

**Ferris':** 536 Yates St. (\$\$ oyster bar & grill)

**Pig:** 1325 Blanshard St (\$ BBQ joint)

**Brickyard:** 784 Yates St (\$ slices of pizza)

**Hernandez:** 735 Yates St. (\$ excellent tacos and burritos, very affordable)

For drinks and nibbles:

**The Tapas Bar:** 620 Trounce Alley

**Smith's Pub:** 777 Courtney St.

# accessibility

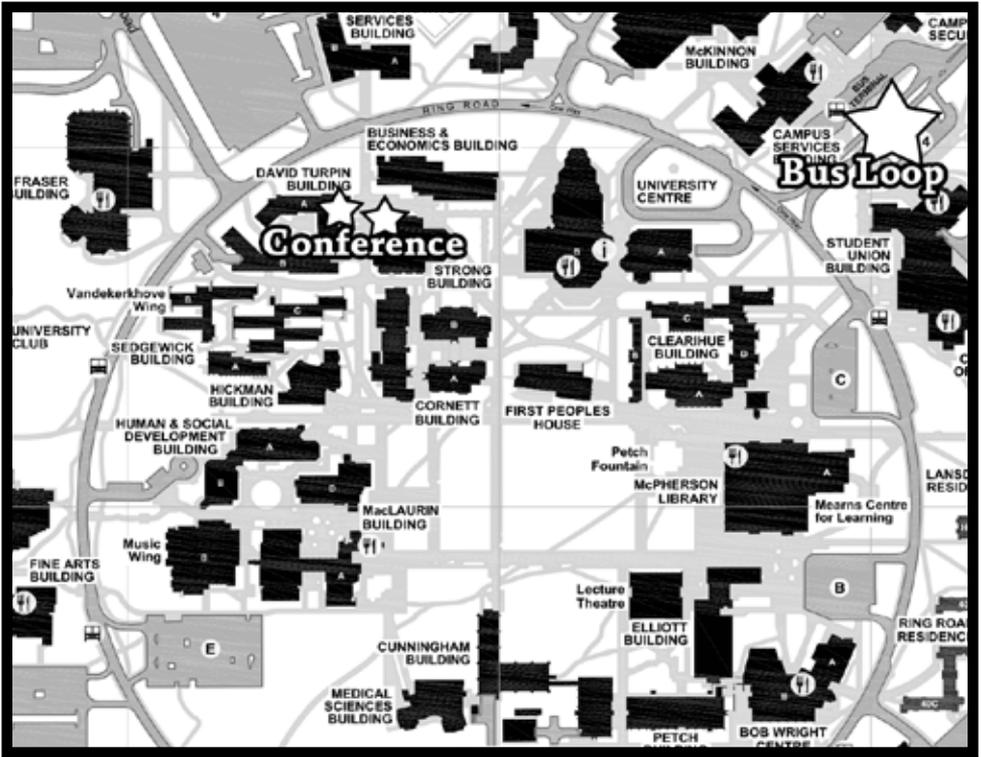
We have tried to make the conference accessible to participants based on needs identified upon registration; these services include childcare and live transcription. The conference location on the University of Victoria Campus is wheelchair accessible, however the night time event at Cenote Lounge is down a flight of stairs. If there are ways that we can make the conference more accessible for you, or if you have suggestions for next year's conference organizers, please let us know.

# organizer contact

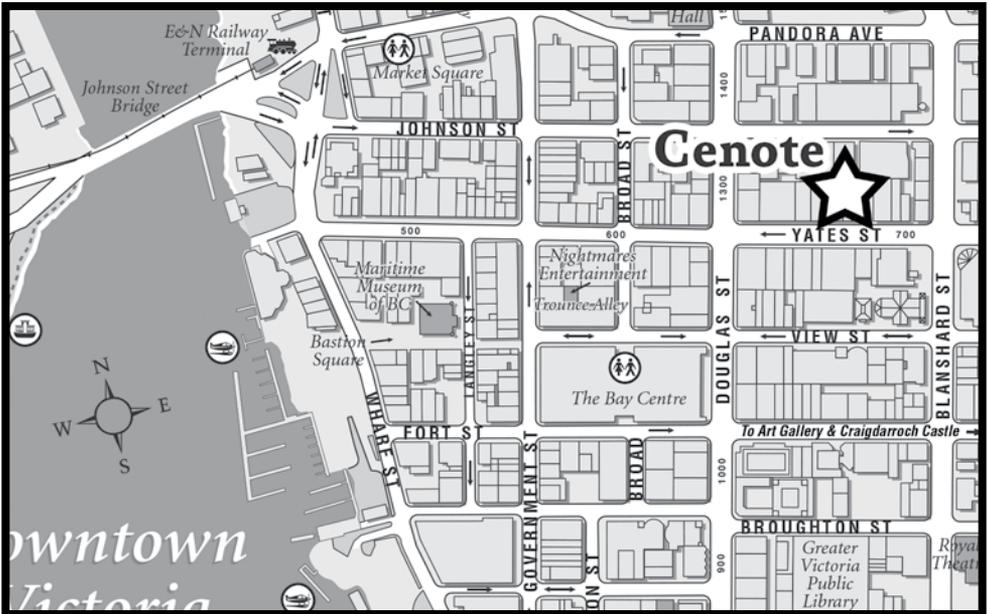
For any concerns during the conference, feel free to get in touch with one of the organizers by phone.

**Julian:** 250.480.9397 • **Kim:** 250.580.8905 • **Jasmine:** 647.980.5635

# CAMPUS MAP



# DOWNTOWN



**notes**

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**notes**

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**SPECIAL THANKS TO KAREN ERWIN,  
INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS ASSISTANT.**

**CONFERENCE FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED BY:**



**University  
of Victoria**

Graduate Student  
Society

Cultural, Social and  
Political Thought

Graduate Politics  
Students

Faculty of Graduate  
Studies

Equity and Human  
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