DIRECTOR’S NOTES  Paul Bramadat

This has been a very good year, both because we have continued the tradition established decades ago of being a home for researchers and research, but also because recent successes have laid the groundwork for a very exciting future.

In November, we hosted a Festrschrift to honour Dr. Andrew Rippin, a world-renowned Islamicist, former Dean at UVic, and a very dear friend of the CSRS. We planned to present the book to him at the event, but nature had its own plans, and he was too ill to attend. He passed away just days after the symposium. His absence meant that for his UVic friends and for others in the local community the event functioned as an impromptu celebration of his life. It was an honour for the CSRS to help the community to bear witness to the passing of this wonderful friend, colleague, and citizen. We were pleased, as well, that Dr. Gerald Hawting from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, was able to provide an excellent keynote lecture.

Scholars associated with the CSRS have often addressed the philosophical, economic, social, theological, and cultural forces associated with the changing place of women both in religious communities and in the broader society. So, it was very stimulating to work with colleagues at the University of Calgary to create and host Women, Rights, and Religion. This international workshop took place here in August and included scholars from the US, Germany, Thailand, Canada, Australia, India, and Malaysia.

In March we hosted an Ideafest event dedicated to religion and spirituality in the “Cascadia bio-region,” the area (generally) encompassing Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. Speakers dealt with the history, geography, and colonial legacy of the region, as well as some of the distinctive spiritual practices and sensibilities for which it is now known. We were delighted to learn that at the end of March that our project has received support from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council. We look forward to engaging you in conversations about the peculiar history and trajectory of religion in this bio-region over the next four or five years.

As well, we recently installed the professional-grade display cabinet we designed to house the Found in Translation collection of contemporary illustrated or illuminated translations of sacred texts. Having all of the items with us at the CSRS will enable us to seek support for a major conference, research initiative, and public engagement activities related to what ancient texts might mean in the modern (or post-modern) world.

This report provides readers with a good sense of the wide range of scholars whom it has been a great pleasure to host this year. I am always humbled to see people at our social gatherings, daily coffee meetings, public lectures, workshops, or in the CSRS hallways stepping across disciplinary and cultural boundaries to learn, and to help others to understand. It is just one of the ways the CSRS serves as a model for intellectual engagement.
CSRS FELLOWS

SCHOLARS-IN-RESIDENCE WHO FORM THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY

VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWS

Jelle Creemers (The Evangelical Theological Faculty, Belgium)
Emancipation, Socialization and/or Economic Calculation: Understanding the Move to & Dynamics of the Structural Institutionalization of Evangelical Free Churches in Belgium in View of Operative Relations with the Civil Authorities (1987-2015)

Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme (University of Waterloo)
Religious-Secular Distinctions in Social Attitudes and Behaviour

UVIC GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWS

Paige Thombs (MA Cand., History)
Social Change in Canada and its Effect on Freedom of Religion and the Legal Duty to Accommodate

VANDEKERKHOVE FAMILY TRUST GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

Brian Pollick (PhD Cand., Art History & Visual Studies)
Money, Merchants and the Visualization of Morality in Late-Medieval Italy

Lauren Thompson (MA Cand., Germanic & Slavic Studies)
The City That Stumbles: Obstacles in Munich’s Memorialization Processes and Gunter Demnig’s Stolpersteine Project

RELIGIOUS STUDIES TA GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

Justine Semmens (PhD Cand., UVic History)

WINNIFRED LONSDALE GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

John Trafford (MA Cand., UVic History)

IAN H. STEWART GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

Bassam Chiblak (PhD Cand., English)
Agnostic Masculinity and the Victorian Bible in the Fiction of Eliza Lynn Linton

Atri Hataf Naiemi (PhD Cand., Art History & Visual Studies)
The Ilkhanid ‘Little Cities of God’

COMMUNITY SABBATICAL FELLOWS

Renee Soulodre-La France (King’s University College)
Fighting for Freedom: Black Auxiliaries in the Spanish and British Empires

Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme (University of Waterloo)
Religious-Secular Distinctions in Social Attitudes and Behaviour

Terry Ann Carter
The Influence of Buddhism on North American English Language Haiku Poets

Hellen Ngatho
Women in Leadership in Religion

Louis Sutker
A personality Assessment Scale Based on the Sephirot

Galina Scolnic (MA Cand., Sociology)
The Pentecostal Movement in Soviet Union

Brandon Taylor (MA Cand., English)
Milton’s God: Deism, Puritanism, and the Religiopolitical Landscape of Early Modern England
CSRS FELLOWS

VISITING GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWS

Rachel Brown (PhD Cand., Wilfrid Laurier University)
Immigration, Integration and Ingestion: The Use of Food and Drink in Religious Identity Negotiations for North African Muslim Immigrants in Paris and Montreal

Susie Fisher (PhD Cand., University of Manitoba)

Gry Hvass Pedersen (PhD Cand., University of Southern Denmark)
Modernity, Islamic Tradition and Higher Education: Visions of Modern Islamic Universities and Students’ Muslim Selfhoods in Asia

Justin Stein (PhD Cand., University of Toronto)
Alternate Currents: the Trans-Pacific Development of Reiki Healing

UVIC FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

Real Roy (Biology)
From Cells to Prayer: Dwelling in a Cosmic Community

Daromir Rudnyckyj (Anthropology)
Anti-Debt: Islam and the Critique of Finance Capitalism

CSRS ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

Dániel Péter Biró (Musician)
Music Composition Based on the Philosophical Text Ethica of Baruch Spinoza

Terence Marner (Photographer)
Searching for Home-Finding Fingerposts in Neuroscience

Janet Munsil (Playwright)
Act of Faith: A New Play about Belief and Disability

ASSOCIATE FELLOWS

Angela Andersen
Cem Evi: An Examination of the Historical Roots and Contemporary Meanings of Alevi Architecture & Iconography

D. Mitra Barua
Buddhism in Two Bengals from 1757 to 1988: Theravada Buddhism as a Minority Religion and its Transnational Connections

Harold Coward
Word, Chant, and Song in the Major Religions: Spiritual Transformation

Erica Cruikshank Dodd
Treasures of the Early Christian Church

Scott Dolff
Merciful Love and the End of Ethics

Robert Florida
Ethical Issues in Modern Buddhism

Mona Goode
The Evolution of the Muslim Zakat Tax as an Obligatory Act

Nicola Hayward
The Use of Funerary Art for Commemorating Social Identity: The Case of the Via Latina’s Samaritan Woman

Victor Hori
The Modernization of Buddhism in Global Perspective

Lesley Jessop
Students or Tailors? A Re-evaluation of the Sculptures on the South Transept of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris

Francis Landy
The Book of Isaiah

Graham McDonough
How Catholic Schools can be Thought of as Sites of Inter-Religious and Ecumenical Dialogue

Joachim Ostermann
Secular and Religious Interpretations of Philosophy of Nature

Jordan Paper
Theology Throughout Most of the Human Past: The Spiritual Life and Understanding of Gathering-Hunting Peoples

Jarrad Reddekop
Relating to the Forest in Amazonian Quichua Philosophy, Relational Ontology, Selfhood, Ethics, and Aesthetics

Anna Tsurkan
Islam and Politics in “Arab Spring” Countries from an International Community Perspective

Carolyn Whitney-Brown
The Meaning of Founding Stories: Jean Vanier and L’Arche Communities Around the World

Katherine Young
The Divyaprabandham, Canonization, and Śrīvaisnava Formation: Musical Tropes and Identity Negotiations
**CSRS THURSDAY PUBLIC LECTURES**

*An eclectic offering of weekly presentations by fellows and associates of the Centre. Audio recordings of most talks are available at www.csrs.uvic.ca.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 15, 2016</td>
<td>Daromir Rudnyckyj, Faculty Fellow, UVic Anthropology</td>
<td>Anti-Debt: Islam and the Critique of Finance Capitalism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 22, 2016</td>
<td>Chandima Gangodawila, Visiting Research Fellow, University of Sri Jayewardene pura</td>
<td>Neutralizing Bad Karma within the Ethics of Theravāda Buddhism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 29, 2016</td>
<td>Harold Coward, Emeritus Fellow</td>
<td>Word, Chant, and Song on the Islamic Spiritual Path</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 6, 2016</td>
<td>Guest Panel Presentation</td>
<td>Conversation with Alan Batten, Margaret Cameron, Christopher Douglas, and Joachim Ostermann: Deities and Destruction: Religious and Non-religious Perspectives on Natural Evil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 13, 2016</td>
<td>Carolyn Whitney-Brown, Associate Fellow, St. Jerome's University</td>
<td>Jean Vanier, L'Arche and the Evolution of a Founding Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 20, 2016</td>
<td>Shokoufeh Sakhi, Visiting Research Fellow, York University</td>
<td>Coercion, Conversions and Resistances: Political Imprisonment at the Onset of the Islamic State of Iran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 27, 2016</td>
<td>Lauren Thompson, Vandekerkhove Graduate Student Fellow, UVic Germanic &amp; Slavic Studies</td>
<td>On the Street Where you Live(d): Remembering Individual Victims of the Holocaust through Stolpersteine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 3, 2016</td>
<td>Erica Dodd, Associate Fellow, American University of Beirut, University of Victoria</td>
<td>Documenting Treasures in the Early Christian Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 17, 2016</td>
<td>Brian Pollick, Vandekerkhove Graduate Student Fellow, UVic Art History &amp; Visual Studies</td>
<td>Open Arms: The Moral and Social Functions of Merchant Family Shields in Late-Medieval Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 24, 2016</td>
<td>Bassam Chiblak, Ian Stewart Graduate Student Fellow, UVic English</td>
<td>Victorian Agnostic Networks</td>
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</table>

**SUPPORTED BY THE CSRS**

*The CSRS proudly co-sponsored the following events:*

**JULY 25, 2016 – GLOBALIZING THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT**
MITCHELLPLITNICK, Vice President, Foundation for Middle East Peace

**NOVEMBER 23, 2016 – WHAT’S RELIGIOUS ABOUT PRIDE?**
HEATHER R. WHITE, Department of Religion, Gender & Queer Studies Program, University of Puget Sound

**JANUARY 25, 2017 – BUILDING A WORLD BEYOND BELIEFS THAT DIVIDE**
GRETTA VOSPER, Minister, West Hill United Church

**FEBRUARY 4, 2017 – 30th ANNUAL MEDIEVAL WORKSHOP – MEDIEVAL MEDICINE**
Keynote: FAITH WALLIS, History of Medicine, McGill University

**MARCH 23, 2017 – LANSDOWNE LECTURE: HISTORY OF JEWISH SCHOLARSHIP ON ISLAM: THE STORY OF A FASCINATION**
SUSANNAH HESCHEL, Eli Black Professor, Chair, Jewish Studies Program, Dartmouth College

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*Image: Detail of 'The Persian doctor Al-Razi as represented in Gerardus Cremonensis' Medical Collection (1250-1260).*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 8, 2016*</td>
<td>William Morrow, Queens University</td>
<td>The Islamic State: A Case Study of Religion and Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 12, 2017</td>
<td>Brandon Taylor, Ian Stewart Graduate Student Fellow, UVic English</td>
<td>The Imagined Individual in John Milton's Paradise Lost (1674)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 19, 2017</td>
<td>Dániel Péter Biró, Artist in Residence</td>
<td>Composing Spinoza's Ethica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 2, 2017</td>
<td>Atri Hatef Naiemi, Ian Stewart Graduate Student Fellow, UVic Art History &amp; Visual Studies</td>
<td>&quot;Little Cities of God&quot;: Examining the Shrine Complexes of Sufi Shaykhs in Medieval Iran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 9, 2017</td>
<td>Réal Roy, Faculty Fellow, UVic Biology</td>
<td>From Cell to Prayer: Dwelling in a Cosmic Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 23, 2017</td>
<td>Renée Soulodre-La France, King's University College</td>
<td>Faithful Ties Make Good Colonists: Africans in Colonial North and South America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 2, 2017</td>
<td>David Seljak, Visiting Research Fellow, St. Jerome's University</td>
<td>The Crisis of the Spirit and the Globalization of Addiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 23, 2017**</td>
<td>Susannah Heschel, Dartmouth College</td>
<td>History of Jewish Scholarship on Islam: The Story of a Fascination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 30, 2017</td>
<td>Janet Munsil, Artist in Residence</td>
<td>Act of Faith: A New Play about Disability and Belief</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* indicates lectures generously supported by the Anglican Diocese of BC through the John Albert Hall Endowment.

** indicates Lansdowne lectures: part of UVic's renowned public lecture series featuring distinguished scholars across an array of academic and research endeavours.

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**CENTRE CINE**

**SEASON 2: SEPTEMBER 2016–APRIL 2017**

Season two of the Centre Cine series featured six films which explored questions of morality, culture, the search for meaning, arising from the human spiritual journey. The selection, curated by CSRS artist in residence, Terry Marner, included titles such as *The Railway Man*, *Sabah*, and *Labyrinth of Lies*.

Centre Cine participants are sent the name of a selected film each month. They then locate and watch the film in their own time in preparation for an upcoming group discussion. Discussions are held at the CSRS and led by Terry Marner who facilitates the conversation about the film. All films in the series were available on Netflix and most are available from the Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL) on DVD.

We hope you will join us for Centre Cine's third season coming up in Autumn, 2017. Visit our website to find out more, or email csrs@uvic.ca to sign up for the Centre Cine e-mailing list.
IDEAFEST 2017
MARCH 9, 2017
WEST COAST ECO-SPIRITUALITY: RELIGION, REVERANCE, AND REASON IN CASCADIA

The CSRS was pleased to continue its participation in UVic’s annual research festival. The 2017 event introduced the audience – including valued members of the CSRS community – to a number of themes that will be explored in the centre’s SSHRC-funded research project, Religion, Spirituality, Secularity and Society in the Pacific Northwest in Canada. The event is described below:

Nearly 50 per cent of British Columbians report they have no religion—that’s more than twice the share of “nones” than any other region in Canada and higher than anywhere else in North America. The religious and spiritual style of the “Cascadia bio-region” is influenced by its distinctive history, politics and environment and is expressed through such activities as hiking, yoga, mindfulness practices, religious creativity and a reverence for nature. Join local scholars, practitioners and critics of West Coast eco-spirituality to debate, debunk and discover the roots and implications of this unique phenomenon. Moderated by CSRS Director, Paul Bramadat, the dynamic event included the following expert guest panelists:

- Siobhan Chandler (Sociologist of Religion, independent scholar),
- Lynne Marks (UVic History),
- Mike Simpson (UVic Environmental Studies),
- Rev. Canon Bruce Bryant-Scott (Parish of St. Matthias Anglican).
FOUND IN TRANSLATION SOFT LAUNCH

In celebration of the arrival of the custom-designed and built Found in Translation (FIT) exhibition display cabinet, the CSRS held a soft-launch of the FIT collection on April 11. The archival case took months to produce from its custom design to fabrication, and weighs in at over 1,100 pounds while still empty.

Members of the CSRS community visited the centre to see the Found in Translation collection of modern re-imagined sacred texts. Works featured in the collection range from graphic novels, comics, videos, to book art, and include such notable works as the St. John’s Bible Heritage Edition, Sita Sings the Blues, Sandow Birk’s American Qur’an, Le Coran: Traduit de l’arabe par Jean Grosjean, Amar Chitra Katha Comics - Ultimate Collection, and the Book of Ruth by artist David Wander.

The FIT collection will be the focus of much upcoming research at the centre, resulting in the production of a manuscript, conference, and exhibition in the upcoming years. Members of the campus community and public are welcome to view the collection by appointment.

SELECTED NEW PUBLICATIONS*


*For a complete list of publications from CSRS fellows, visit the publications page on our website.
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

OPERATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Benefits</td>
<td>$180,096</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programming, Fellowship, Library Resource, Communications, and Infrastructure Expenses</td>
<td>$108,907</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$289,003</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Combined Endowment, Library and Fellowship Funds</td>
<td>$298,838</td>
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<tr>
<td>Province of BC</td>
<td>$8,245</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants, One-time Gifts, Recoveries, Royalties, and Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>$89,411</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>$396,494</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1 For the period April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017. Figures reflect costs associated with core staff and student employees.

REVENUE EXPENDITURES:

In addition to the cost of salaries, the CSRS's revenue provides resources for fellowships, programming (such as lectures, special events, hosting), library materials, outreach, and office amenities.

DONATIONS

| CSRS Endowments                              | $13,037 |
| Saint John's Bible                           | $6,720  |

THE CSRS THANKS ITS GENEROUS DONORS:

Allen and Loreen Vandekerkhove Family Foundation, the Anglican Synod of the Diocese of British Columbia, Maxine Bowen, Paul Bramadat and Karen Palmer, Harold and Rachel Coward, Barbara Frame, Raymond Grigg, Budd Hall, Mary J. Howie, Yvonne Y. Hsieh, Shaukat Husain and Gillian P. Ellis, D.R. and Diana MacDonald, John W. Martens, Mary Louise Meadow, Naz Rayani, W.A. and Darlene Southwell, Telus, TELUS Community Investment, Katherine Young, Anonymous (2).