ABOUT US

The Centre for Studies in Religion and Society is an interdisciplinary research centre located at the University of Victoria in Victoria, British Columbia. Its mission is to foster the scholarly study of religion in relation to any and all aspects of society and culture, both contemporary and historical.

The CSRS hosts several national public policy research networks, sponsors graduate student, faculty and sabbatical fellowships, and produces a dynamic annual program of public lectures and seminars. The CSRS is committed to pluralism and dialogue, attracting participants whose backgrounds and perspectives reflect a wide variety of religious and secular points of view.

The CSRS Annual Report is published by the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at the University of Victoria.

Edit & Design: Robbyn Lanning
Administrative Support: Bonnie Sawyer

DIRECTOR'S NOTES  Paul Bramadat

In October we underwent a full external review, conducted by Pamela Klassen (Dept. for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto), Robert Gibbs (Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto), and Margaret Cameron (Dept. of Philosophy, UVic). These regular reviews (my second since 2008) require us to produce a comprehensive report on our activities, and much depends on receiving a positive assessment. Consequently, these events often provoke dread in the hearts of centre directors and employees. However, they also create opportunities to pause and reflect on the arc of one’s individual and collaborative work. I was quite gratified the committee wholeheartedly endorsed the centre's renewal and expressed its appreciation of our accomplishments over the last five years.

As I look at the sorts research fellows and visiting lecturers we have hosted since 2011, and even just those who joined us in the most recent year (from Victoria, Melbourne, Boston, Altona, Delhi, Montreal, Vancouver, Edinburgh, South Bend, Toronto, Waterloo, Copenhagen, Edmonton, Charlottesville, Lahore, and Kent), it is clear that the centre has facilitated (and often initiated) research and debates on some of the key issues facing scholars and laypeople interested in the relationship between religion and society in the present and past, in texts and cultures, and in the east and west.

Given the range of topics and approaches here, it's not an exaggeration to say that there really is something for everyone. As such, each person will have his or her own highlight for the previous year. However, there are a few 2015-16 activities that I found especially stimulating. First, it was a great pleasure to spend time with this year’s Harold Coward India Research Fellow, Dr. Bindu Menon from the University of Delhi (co-sponsored by the Centre for Pacific Initiatives and the Centre for Global Studies). Bindu's intellectual enthusiasm was infectious, and spread beyond her research project (on the South Asian “home film movement”) and into conversations about virtually every other issue that arose at the centre.

Second, our IdeaFest event in March 2016 brought Indigenous activists and academics together with Christian leaders from the United Church, Roman Catholic, and Anglican communities, for a broad and honest conversation about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report on Canada's Indian Residential School system. I believe this massive event was the first of its kind on the island, and perhaps in the province, and I was proud that the centre was able to model a conversation that was critical, collegial, and open-ended.

Third, we submitted *Public Health in the Age of Anxiety: Religious and Cultural Roots of Vaccine Hesitancy in Canada* to the University of Toronto Press in the fall, and hope to see the book released in the summer.

Finally, what really enlivened the centre over the last year – indeed, since its inception – were the daily interactions among the fellows (and employees). It is in these conversations that one sees academic and personal relationships emerge, boundaries crossed, and assumptions challenged. This annual report will provide a snapshot of life at the centre in the past year.
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)

Abby Day (University of Kent)
Researching the Religious Lives of Generation A: Older Laywomen in the Church

Chandima Gangodawila (University of Sri Jayewardenepura)
Neutralizing Bad Karma within the Ethics of Theravāda Buddhism

Nick Herriman (La Trobe University)
Sorcery, Law, and State: Indonesia’s Proposed Anti-Witchcraft Legislation

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

Anne Williams (University of Virginia)
Satirizing the Sacred: St. Joseph and Humor in Northern European Art, ca. 1300-1530

CSRS ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Annabel Howard (Writer)
The Scarlet Ox and the Black Madonna

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

Celia Rabinovich (Visual Artist)
Working the Coast: From Matter to Metaphor

COMMUNITY SABBATICAL FELLOWS

Dvora Levin
Ragged Light: The Study of the Connects/Disconnects between Physics/Cosmology and Religion to be Expressed in Poetry and Performance

Bob MacDonald
Hearing the Hebrew Bible

Hellen Ngatho
Women in Leadership in Religion

Joachim Ostermann
Secular and Religious Interpretations of Philosophy of Nature

Ulla Thorbjørn Hansen
The Theology of Pastoral Care in War, Crises and Disasters

Adela D. Torchia
Re-engaging the Ecology, World Religions and Gandhi Dialogue

HAROLD COWARD INDIA RESEARCH FELLOW

Bindu Menon Mannil (University of Delhi, India)
Transnational Religious Publics: Migration, Visual Culture and Jama’at-e-islami in South Asia and the Middle East
UVIC FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

Christopher Douglas (English)
Theodicy’s 19th Century Troubles

Lynne Marks (History)

VANDEKERKHOVE FAMILY TRUST GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

Tim Personn (PhD Cand., UVic English)
“Morally Passionate, Passionately Moral”: Philosophy and Affect in the Contemporary Fiction of David Foster Wallace, Richard Powers, Bret Easton Ellis, Dave Eggers, & Zadie Smith

Zsofia Surjan (PhD Cand., UVic History)
The Anxiety of Faith: Gendered Perspectives on Religious Conversion. Language Strategies in Correspondence of Central European Protestant Noble Women in the First Half of the 17th Century

IAN H. STEWART GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

Munazzah Akhtar (PhD Cand., UVic Art History & Visual Studies)
Cultural & Religious Identities at the Necropolis of Makli in the City of Thatta: Re-assessing the Architecture and Ornament of the Monuments Built between the late 14th & mid 16th Centuries

Emily Arvay (PhD Cand., UVic English)
Renewal without Revelation: Author Chris Adrian Reinvents Grace

Katrina Kosyk (MA Cand., UVic Anthropology)
Notes from the Past: Examining the Practice of Sound in Greater Nicoya Shamanism

RELIGIOUS STUDIES TA GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

Justine Semmens (PhD Cand., UVic History)
A Thin Line between Love and a Crime: Marriage, Moral Delinquency, and the Courts in Counter Reformation France

WINNIFRED LONSDALE GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

Kamran Bashir (PhD Cand., UVic History)
Reading the Qur’an in British India: A Study of Ashraf ‘Ali Thānawī’s Qur’an Commentary, Bayān al-Qur’ān

ASSOCIATE FELLOWS

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

Harold Coward
Word, Chant, and Song in Islamic Spiritual Transformation

Erica Cruikshank Dodd
Treasures of the Early Church

Scott Dolf
Practicing Place: Theology and the Local

Robert Florida
Ethical Issues in Modern Buddhism

Mona Goode
Muslim Taxation: The Evolution of Zakat as a “Sacred Tax”

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

Victor Hori
Little Jade: Language and Experience in Zen

Lesley Jessop
A Literary Monograph on the Book of Isaiah

Graham McDonough
The Catholic School as Public Ecclesial Space

Jordan Paper
The Chinese Jews of Kaifeng: Past and Present

Jarrad Reddekop
Rethinking Human-Nonhuman Relations: Between Western and Amazonian Thinking

Carolyn Whitney-Brown
Reflecting on Past, Present and Future Connections between the United Church of Canada and L’Arche in Canada and L’Arche International Founder’s Project

Adam Yahgi
On Tamil Religion, Caste, and Politics: Non-Brahmin Srivaisnavas Speak Out

Katherine Young
On Tamil Religion, Caste, and Politics: Non-Brahmin Srivaisnavas Speak Out
**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>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 19, 2015</td>
<td>Abby Day, Visiting Research Fellow, University of Kent</td>
<td>Losing our Religion: Farewell to the Last Active Anglican Generation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 17, 2015*</td>
<td>Chris Douglas, Faculty Fellow, UVic English</td>
<td>Carl Sagan's Good News: God and Aliens in Religious Science Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 24, 2015*</td>
<td>Patrick Grant, UVic English</td>
<td>Vincent van Gogh Writes about Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 1, 2015</td>
<td>Nick Herriman, Visiting Research Fellow, La Trobe University</td>
<td>An Anthropology of Religious Persecution: Trigger, Stereotype, and Special Procedure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 8, 2015</td>
<td>Kamran Bashir, Winnifred Lonsdale Graduate Student Fellow, UVic History</td>
<td>Reading the Qur'an as a Coherent Text: Muslim Understanding of the Qur'an in British India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 15, 2015</td>
<td>Bindu Menon Mannil, Harold Coward India Research Fellow, University of Delhi</td>
<td>“One Tea Spoon, Thrice a Day”: Middle Eastern Migration, Social Reform and Modernity in the Islamic Home Film Movement of South India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 22, 2015</td>
<td>Tim Personn, Vandekerkhove Family Trust Graduate Student Fellow, UVic English</td>
<td>Irony and Sincerity in Contemporary American Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 29, 2015</td>
<td>Zsofia Surjan, Vandekerkhove Family Trust Graduate Student Fellow, UVic History</td>
<td>Faith Reconsidered: Personal Accounts on War and Religious Conversion in Women’s Correspondences from Early Seventeenth-Century Central Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 5, 2015*</td>
<td>Jarrad Reddekop, Associate Fellow, Western University</td>
<td>Relating to the Forest in Amazonian Quichua Religious Traditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 12, 2015</td>
<td>Munnazzah Akhatar, Ian H. Stewart Graduate Student Fellow, UVic Art History &amp; Visual Studies</td>
<td>Identity in Death: The Makli Graveyard and its Relationship to the Culture of Thatta, Pakistan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**SUPPORTED BY THE CSRS**

The CSRS proudly co-sponsored the following events:

**JULY 10 - 12, 2015 – CULTURAL, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL THOUGHT PROGRAM CONFERENCE – SOCIAL JUSTICE IN IRAN**
Keynote: Hamid Dabashi, Professor, Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature, Columbia University

**JANUARY 30, 2016 – 29TH ANNUAL MEDIEVAL WORKSHOP – AL ANDALUS: JEWS, CHRISTIANS & MUSLIMS IN MEDIEVAL SPAIN**
Keynote: Dwight Reynolds, Professor of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara

**FEBRUARY 19 & 20, 2016 – GLOBAL MAGIC STUDENT CONFERENCE**
Keynote: Andrew Gow, Professor, Department of History and Classics, University of Alberta

**FEBRUARY 25, 2016 – LANSDOWNE LECTURE: SECULARISM: A ‘WORK IN PROGRESS’ OR AN IDEOLOGICAL OBFUSCATION?**
Andrew Gow, Professor, Department of History and Classics, University of Alberta

**MARCH 12, 2016 – LANSDOWNE LECTURE: VIRTUES, VICES & THE ENVIRONMENT: ETHICS & ECOLOGY IN EARLY BUDDHISM**
Damien Keown, Professor of Buddhist Ethics, Goldsmiths College, University of London

**APRIL 22 - 24, 2016 – CULTURAL, SOCIAL & POLITICAL THOUGHT CONFERENCE – NIHILISM. HOPE**
Keynote: Michael Truscello, Professor, Department of English, Mount Royal University
CSRS THURSDAY PUBLIC LECTURES ...CONTINUED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker, Institution</th>
<th>Lecture Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 19, 2015</td>
<td>Neilesh Bose, UVic History</td>
<td>Beyond “Minorities”: The Many Histories of Islam in Modern India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 26, 2015</td>
<td>Emily Arvay, Ian H. Stewart Graduate Student Fellow, UVic English</td>
<td>No End in Sight, Only More of the Same: A Cynical Reading of Will Self’s The Book of Dave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 14, 2016</td>
<td>Annabel Howard, Artist in Residence</td>
<td>The Scarlet Ox and the Black Madonna: Exploring Italy’s Modern Festivals and their Creative Histories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 21, 2016</td>
<td>Anne Williams, Visiting Research Fellow, University of Virginia</td>
<td>Satirizing the Sacred in Early Modern Art: The Power of Humor in the Cult of Saint Joseph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 28, 2016</td>
<td>Katrina Kosyk, Ian H. Stewart Graduate Student Fellow, UVic Anthropology</td>
<td>An Examination of Ancient Costa Rican Musical Instruments and Shamanistic Practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 4, 2016*</td>
<td>Tom Saunders, UVic History</td>
<td>History, Faith &amp; Preferred Futures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 18, 2016*</td>
<td>David Seljak, St. Jerome’s University</td>
<td>The Pope, the Poor and the Planet: Francis on the Tyranny of Money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 25, 2016</td>
<td>Andrew Gow, University of Alberta</td>
<td>Secularism: A ‘Work in Progress’ or an Ideological Obfuscation?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 12, 2016*</td>
<td>Damien Keown, Goldsmiths College, University of London</td>
<td>Virtues, Vices &amp; the Environment: Ethics &amp; Ecology in Early Buddhism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 17, 2016*</td>
<td>Susie Fisher, Visiting Graduate Research Fellow, University of Manitoba</td>
<td>Russian Watermelons and Red River Plums: Mennonite Migrants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 24, 2016*</td>
<td>Melia Belli Bose, University of Texas at Arlington</td>
<td>Settling Nostalgic Landscapes in Rural Manitoba, 1876-1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 7, 2016*</td>
<td>Lynne Marks, Faculty Fellow, UVic History</td>
<td>Buddhism, Caste, and Art in an Egalitarian India</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

CENTRE CINE
SEASON 1: SEPTEMBER 2015– APRIL 2016

Centre Cine films are carefully curated by CSRS artist in residence, Terry Marner. These films explore questions of morality, culture, the search for meaning, and other themes arising from the human spiritual journey.

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 second season in September 2016. Visit our website to find out more.
LECTURES & EVENTS

CSRS SUMMER LECTURE SERIES
PUBLIC PROGRAMMING FEATURING CSRS VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWS

June 4, 2015
Oriana Walker, CSRS Visiting Research Fellow (Harvard University), Breathing Out of Body

June 11, 2015
Roshan Danesh, Community Sabbatical Fellow (Education for Peace Canada), Iranian Traditions of Democracy and Progressive Social Change – The Case of the Baha’is

June 25, 2015
Nicola Hayward, Visiting Graduate Research Fellow (McGill University), The Use of Funerary Art for Commemorating Social Identity: The Case of the Via Latina’s Samaritan Woman

MEICON-BC Student Conference
MARCH 19, 2016

Hosted by the Middle East and Islamic Consortium of British Columbia, the 8th annual MEICON-BC Student Conference on the Middle East and Islamic World took place at the University of Victoria over a full day on March 19, 2016.

Renowned Middle East studies expert Khaled Fahmy (American University in Cairo and visiting professor at Harvard University) joined two dozen disciplinarily diverse student presenters in describing, questioning, and interpreting various aspects of the Middle East’s rich cultural heritage and contemporary society.

The day opened with a welcome from Susan Lewis, Dean of Fine Arts, followed by several concurrent sessions of student panels engaging with topics related to democracy, nationalism, foreign policy, extremism and imperialism in the Middle East. A musical performance by UVic alumni Fahimeh Ghorbani was followed by Khaled Fahmy’s keynote lecture, How can we think about the Middle East? The event concluded with panel discussions of multiculturalism, identity, and feminism and gender in the Middle East. Key to the conference's success was its demonstration of the disciplinary diversity of student research supported by MEICON.

IDEAFEST 2016
MARCH 10, 2016
TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION IN CANADA: COMING TO TERMS

The CSRS was pleased to continue its participation in UVic’s annual research festival. The 2016 event saw a record number of participants attend the standing-room only Truth and Reconciliation in Canada: Coming to Terms event described below:

Given the part churches played in residential schools, what is their role in answering the call to action in Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission? For the commission to have any lasting effect, it is crucial that we engage in open discussions about the role of churches in the assimilation policies of our government.

In this session, Indigenous scholars and activists and leaders from the United Church and Roman Catholic and Anglican communities responded to aspects of the Truth and Reconciliation report most connected with issues of religion and discussed the future of Canadian society.

CSRS Director Paul Bramadat moderated a compelling discussion and question and answer period which included guest panelists:

- Dr. Martin Brokenleg (Lakota and Haida First Nations), co-founder of the Circle of Courage and Prior of the Benedictine Community of St. Aidan;
- Deb George, the Cultural Protocol Liaison at the Office of Indigenous Affairs, UVic;
- Bishop Gary Michael Gordon from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria;
- Dr. Christine O’Bonsawin, Associate Professor in History and Indigenous Studies, UVic;
- Reverend Keith Simmonds from Duncan United Church and President of BC Conference of the United Church of Canada;
- The Very Reverend Ansley Tucker, Dean of Columbia, and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral.
COMMUNITY & PUBLICATIONS

SELECTED NEW PUBLICATIONS*


*For a complete list of publications from CSRS fellows, check out the publications page of our newly renovated website.

CSRS LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

After much hard work, we are pleased to announce the new CSRS website has officially launched! Completely restructured and re-branded, visitors to the CSRS website will find it both easy to navigate and intuitive to use. The site contains information about how to apply for fellowships and awards, the latest CSRS research and publications, as well as profiles of each of the centre's fellows.

CSRS events are now featured together on an easy to find single page. The new site also hosts a community bulletin board featuring a variety of non-CSRS events taking place in and around Victoria. If you are interested in having your event advertised on our board, contact us at csrs@uvic.ca.

The CSRS sends a special note of appreciation to all of the fellows who generously contributed photographs to help make the new website visually dynamic. Thank you for sharing your research with the CSRS community in this meaningful way!

CSRS 5-YEAR REVIEW NOW COMPLETE

On October 22 and 23, 2015 the CSRS hosted three special guests. Bob Gibbs (Jackman Humanities Institute), Pamela Klassen (Dept. for Study of Religion) from the University of Toronto, and Margaret Cameron of UVic Philosophy, joined us as review panelists in the centre’s 5 year review. Centre employees and fellows alike contributed to conversations about the centre – discussing practices and initiatives that make the centre unique, successful, and an engaging place to be, as well as making suggestions for possible improvements. The report generated by the review panelists was completed in December 2015, and was successfully vetted by both the University Senate and Board of Governors over the first months of 2016.

The centre’s next review is set to take place in 2021.

Sourcebook in the History of Philosophy of Language
Primary source texts from the Pre-Socratic to Mill

• Margaret Cameron
• Benjamin Hill
• National Spiritual Ethics
OPERATIONS

Expenses
Salaries & Benefits $194,833
Programming, Fellowship, Library Resource, Communications, and Infrastructure Expenses $69,857
Total Expenses $264,690

Revenue
Combined Endowment, Library and Fellowship Funds $214,068
Province of BC $8,245
Grants, Gifts, Recoveries, Royalties, and Misc. Income $42,460
Total Revenue $264,773

1For the period April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016. Figures reflect costs associated with core staff and student employees.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

THE CSRS THANKS ITS GENEROUS DONORS:


2015/2016 DONORS

THE CSRS THANKS ITS GENEROUS DONORS:

CONTACT US

Centre for Studies in Religion and Society
University of Victoria
PO Box 1700, STN CSC
Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2
Canada
Phone: 250-721-6325
Email: csrs@uvic.ca
Web: www.csrs.uvic.ca
Twitter: @UVicReligioNews
Facebook: facebook.com/uvic.csrs