Congratulations to Carole Rains, our wonderful Department Secretary, on receiving the Meritorious Staff Contribution Award at the recent Faculty of Social Sciences' 2016 Excellence Awards. Numerous department members and her proud family were present at the ceremony. Carole has been the friendly face of the department since 1994. The depth and breadth of her knowledge is remarkable and her desire to go above and beyond in her efforts to help faculty, staff, students and visitors with their various queries and requests is evident on a daily basis. We are all very pleased that she received this well-deserved recognition!

In this Edition

Welcome to the latest edition of the newsletter, which has been given a fresh look using the new Uvic Edge logo and colours. We are also adding more hyperlinks that provide direct links to related websites. There is much to celebrate and be proud of within the department, as evidenced by this edition being the largest to date. I am pleased to be able to highlight the numerous accomplishments and activities that have taken place this past academic year.

~ Ruth Kampen, Editor

Sociology Department Embraces Social Media

In mid-February, the Sociology department launched two new social media sites: Facebook and Twitter! Garry Gray proposed that the department engage with these popular social media venues and took on the task of creating the sites as well as updating them.

Since the launch, the Facebook site has over 140 likes and there are 35+ followers on Twitter. The audience reach though is much greater than those numbers suggest. For example, one of the recent FB posts (celebrating Carole Rains’ award) reached over a 1,000 people! This celebratory post contributed to a heartfelt online experience for both current and past members of the department who wanted to say thanks to Carole.

Some posts are also “shared”, sending out our news well beyond the Sociology department. For instance, a post on a public lecture by Bill Carroll was shared widely resulting in an audience reach of over 2,000 people! And with Twitter our announcements are not only tweeted but can then be retweeted, sending out updates far and wide.

The hope of these sites is that they are a place to showcase the department to potential students and future faculty, link department members and alumni closer together, and keep the general public informed of all the research and various activities that are taking place in our department.

If you have not done so already, please consider clicking ‘Like’ on our main Facebook page and ‘Follow’ on the Twitter page. That way you won’t miss receiving all the news, updates, talks, and research that we will share on these pages.

Links to the Department’s Facebook and Twitter pages.
Congratulations to Bill Carroll for receiving a $2.5 Million SSHRC grant for a six-year research and public engagement initiative, Mapping the Power of the Carbon-Extractive Corporate Resource Sector. Shannon Daub, with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), co-directs this initiative, which is hosted at UVic and jointly led by the University, the CCPA (BC and Saskatchewan Offices) and the Parkland Institute at the University of Alberta.

The project brings together researchers, civil society organizations and Indigenous participants to shine a bright light on the fossil fuel industry in Western Canada by investigating how corporate power is organized and exercised. The researchers share a commitment to advancing reliable knowledge that supports citizen action and transparent public policy. In addition to the original grant funds, it is being supported by $2 million in matching contributions.

The study will employ network analysis to map the ways oil and gas companies are connected: to each other, to think tanks, to lobby groups. It will look at who owns and runs the companies, who sits on their boards of directors, and who funds their lobby groups. Researchers will also detail the steps along the “commodity chain,” from how resources are extracted at the wellsite or oil sands mine, to how they are transported, and finally to how they reach and are used by consumers.

More specifically, the partnership’s work will focus on four key areas:

A systematic mapping of how the carbon-extractive industry is organized—which companies are involved, who runs them, who owns them and how they connect to broader international corporate networks.

Analysis of the sector’s influence on public debates and policy making—such as efforts to secure social license, and corporate links to governments, political parties, lobby groups and private foundations.

Case studies of contentious “flashpoints”—such as the expansion or development of new mines, pipelines, oil fields or export facilities.

Development of an open source, publicly accessible corporate database—along with a training program for citizens and civil society groups, many of whom will contribute and update data.

“Our research will help Canadians gain a clearer picture of who’s who in this important sector of Canada’s economy,” says Shannon Daub, who co-directs the partnership on behalf of CCPA-BC.

This project will provide opportunity for numerous grad students to gain skills while assisting in the study. Sociology grad students who have served as RAs include: Mike Lang, Nick Graham, Sara Naderi, Ryan Butler, Robert Hlatky and Zoe Yunker (a recent Sociology, Honours grad who is joining the department’s grad program in Sept). In addition, this past September to January the department hosted a grad student intern from University of Amsterdam, Jouke Huijzer, who made major research contributions and is continuing with the project, but now back in Amsterdam.

Bill Carroll delivered the 2016 Sorokin Seminar and lecture at the University of Saskatchewan in February. His seminar was titled “Modalities of Corporate Power in Carboniferous Capitalism: A Provisional Framework”. The evening before, his lecture presentation was, “Expose, Oppose, Propose: Cognitive Praxis in the Struggle for Global Justice”.

"We’ve seen a rapid acceleration of fossil fuel extraction in recent years, yet our knowledge of the companies involved and how they influence decision-making about our publicly owned carbon resources is remarkably sparse.” (Bill Carroll)
World’s First Chair in Transgender Studies

On January 15, Dr. Aaron Devor became the first ever Chair in Transgender Studies at UVic.

A donation of $1 million USD by the Tawani Foundation, founded and led by Lieutenant Colonel Jennifer N. Pritzker, US Army (Retired), will install the inaugural chair in UVic’s Faculty of Social Sciences for five years. In addition, the foundation has also pledged up to another $1 million USD to match contributions from other donors toward the Chair in Transgender Studies at UVic.

"Far too many trans and gender nonconforming people still live in poverty and fear," says Devor. "As the inaugural chair, I will act as a resource locally and internationally for those needing information for their own research or for policy development, as well as building linkages between community-based and academic scholars working in transgender studies."

Dr. Devor has worked tirelessly to gather materials and resources as the founder and academic director of the Transgender Archives at UVic, which was unveiled in September 2011.

There has been tremendous press coverage since the Chair announcement with 150+ stories (radio, tv, print and online media) throughout North America, in the UK, Germany, Italy, EU, Israel, and Australia in numerous languages. Congratulations!!

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Moving Trans History Forward Conference

A very successful second Moving Trans History Forward Conference took place March 17-20, bringing together activists, academics, artists and allies from around the globe. More than 150 participants took part in this four day conference which included two keynote addresses (Jamison Green and Martine Rothblatt), numerous concurrent sessions, art performances, art exhibit, poetry reading, poster sessions, artists discussion, a movie night, open house at the Transgender Archives and much more. For a lengthier description see The Ring’s article.

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New Grants/Awards

Congratulations to faculty members who received research grants recently:


Council to Reduce Elder Abuse (CREA) Elder Abuse Prevention Capacity-Building Grant for “Addressing the Issue of Elder Abuse in Ethno-cultural Minority Communities in the Lower Mainland and Greater Victoria.” KM Kobayashi, Principal Investigator ($42,487).
Manda Roddick was one of seven finalists in UVic’s 3 Minute Thesis competition. This competition challenges graduate students to describe their research in a clear, engaging and jargon-free presentation using just one slide – in 180 seconds. Master’s and PhD students from across campus participated in the final round in front of a panel of esteemed judges, including Jamie Cassels (UVic President), Bob McDonald (host of CBC’s Quirks and Quarks), Dave Obee (editor-in-chief of the Times Colonist) and Shelagh Rogers (UVic Chancellor).

Risk in Birthing Choices: Is it Worth the Labour?
Helga Hallgrimsdottir, Cecilia Benoit and Catherine Althaus (School of Public Administration) hosted a full day workshop on March 11. The forum was a two-part mini conference, whose purpose was to address the high caesarean section (CS) rates in BC and Canada, by bringing together multiple stakeholders to examine the complex decision making process birthing women and health practitioners go through when choosing to deliver by CS. The keynote address was given by Professor Jane Sandall, Kings College London.

The day included a networking dinner, followed by an IdeaFest event entitled “Risk, Fear, and Childbirth: Let’s talk about how to reduce the number of C-sections in BC”. Canadian and international experts led a discussion on how risk and fear influence birthing decisions. Those involved in making these decisions (mothers, fathers, nurses, doctors, doulas and midwives etc.) were invited to share their insights and contribute to emerging research on this important issue.

Rebeccah Nelems was one of the presenters at Getting personal: Social scientists share true stories from their research. Social scientists-turned-storytellers delivered an insider’s perspective on research successes, failures and breakthroughs. Participants from various departments shared short, uniquely personal stories about their work in the lab, in the field and in the community. Victoria City Councillor and spoken-word poet Jeremy Loveday hosted the evening.

For my upcoming sabbatical, I am happy to report that I have been granted a very nice 6-month Visiting Scholar’s Fellowship to go to, and conduct research at, the International Institute for Social History, in Amsterdam. This is one of the world’s leading international archives of the labour movement, where I will be conducting research on the Social history of Iran in the 1970s.
~ Peyman Vahabzadeh

Teaching Innovation: Student/Teacher Chapter Collaboration

In the fall section of the Sociology of Religion (Soci 310), the students and I collaborated on an interesting project to collectively write an introductory chapter on religion for a new edition of the free, open educational resource textbook, Introduction to Sociology: 2nd Canadian Edition. The resulting chapter, (still awaiting final editorial review by the publisher), can be viewed here: https://opentextbc.ca/introductionsociologyreligion/.

For credit in the course, students were asked to write individual sections of the chapter, which they would submit to me for revisions, and then rewrite and revise until the sections were up to the standard expected for a first year introductory textbook. For me, this was an experiment to see whether a modified form of crowdsourcing could provide a non-commercial model for updating open source, open educational resources. For the students, it was an opportunity to see their writing in print and to pass on their knowledge to new students instead of seeing their hard work consigned to the dustbin of forgotten term papers. Although the project was not without its unanticipated difficulties, I think the results were excellent.
~William Little
Graduate Student Colloquiums and Professional Development Series

Since the early fall the department has been host to two sociology graduate student colloquiums, which were coordinated in conjunction with an ‘in house’ professional development series, organized by Steve Garlick, graduate adviser.

Fall events:
In our first professional development session of the year, in mid-October, we were joined by Joy Andrews (from the UVic Office of Co-operative Education Program and Career Services), along with Andre Smith, who discussed non-academic career paths for graduate students. In late October, students enjoyed a panel discussion with Bill Carroll, Cecilia Benoit and Peyman Vahabzadeh, which took up the theme of ‘making the most of academic conferences.’ Two weeks following (and in keeping with the theme of academic conferences), we had our second colloquium of the semester, where graduate students Robert Hlatky and Lycia Rodrigues brought the house down in presenting their recent conference papers and sharing their experiences in conference settings.

Spring events:
Kicking off the spring semester, on January 29, Garry Gray, Karen Kobayashi and visiting scholar Camilla Nordberg, shared insights, strategies and experiences on the theme of ‘delivering good conference presentations.’ Following the February reading break, we had our third graduate student colloquium, this time on the theme of proposals. There were two presentations: Ashley Berard presented her successfully defended MA thesis proposal, and Nick Graham presented his PhD dissertation proposal. In our final professional development seminar of the semester, on March 11, we enjoyed a panel discussion with Sean Hier, Min Zhou and Rebeccah Nelems on ‘writing for academic publication.’

Looking ahead:
Both the student colloquiums and the professional seminars were well attended and contributed greatly to the vibrancy of the department. We look forward to their continuation in the fall and hope that the new cohort of students will embrace them as enthusiastically as last year’s incoming group did! As co-organizer Wrenna Robertson is currently in the final stages of completing her MA, we will be looking for new committee members to join Nick Graham in helping to organize the events.

Graduate Program News

We are excited to report that we have a very strong incoming cohort of students starting in September, with 12 MA and three PhD students having accepted our offers of admission. The other major news for the graduate program is that we have a new candidacy examination process, which will be in effect for all students beginning in September 2016. The new process is more streamlined, flexible, and oriented towards students’ research interests, and it will allow students to have more input into the process. More details to follow in the fall.

Congratulations to current MA student, Brigette Benning for receiving a Canada Graduate Scholarships from SSHRC! Another two incoming MA students have also received the same scholarship.

Recent Graduates

Domenico Cerisano (MA) – December 2015
“Husserl and Intersubjectivity: The Bridge between the Cartesian and Ontological Way”
Supervisor: Peyman Vahabzadeh

Heather Cooke (INTD, PhD) – December 2015
“Dementia Care Provision: Residential Care Aides’ Experiences”
Co-supervisors: Neena Chappell and Kelli Stajduhar (Nursing)
My five month journey to Natural Resources Canada

In early November 2015, Zoe Lu sent out an email regarding the Policy Analyst Recruitment and Development Program (PARDP) with Natural Resources Canada. PARDP is NRCan’s signature accelerated development program, consisting of a network of recent MA and PhD graduates with specializations in Economics, Sociology or Statistics. The two-year program involves two 12-month assignments in different sectors of NRCan, during which participants gain diverse career experience and knowledge of NRCan, receive official language training, professional development and mentoring opportunities, and build strong professional and social networks.

I was very excited by the job description as it seemed that decades of my seemingly random wandering through academic disciplines might actually be put to good use! I decided to apply - though not without the invaluable help of UVic Career Services and Rebeccah Nelems. The application included a resume as well as answers to six questions that evaluated essential qualifications.

I waited for more than a month before receiving a message that I had been selected for an interview. The interview would take place via SKYPE two weeks later, and I was informed of what qualifications the interview would assess. I spent the next two weeks studying for the interview as though it were a final exam. I filled an entire notebook with information regarding public policy issues in Canada and the role of natural resources. I joined a website called Big Interview (the first month is free and I found it extremely helpful), and practiced answering questions using the STAR format. I also had three mock interviews at Career Services (Jeremy Pearce was amazing!).

I was emailed the four interview questions 15 minutes before the scheduled call, and made brief notes in preparation. The interview was conducted by two NRCan employees, one a recent graduate of the program, and I felt like I nailed it. Just two weeks after the interview, I was invited to participate in a full day assessment in Ottawa to take place three weeks later. I was ecstatic. All of the candidates were also invited to a dinner the evening prior to the assessment, which was an invaluable opportunity to become comfortable with each other so that the following day was slightly less intimidating.

The day was very intense. From 8am to 4pm, every moment was filled with meetings and assessments. I went through two additional interviews in the morning - one with the Canadian Forestry Service and the other with the Innovation and Energy Technology Sector. In the afternoon I had a written exam, which entailed reviewing data on a specific resource sector (I chose Forestry), and writing a policy brief describing how to improve access to emerging markets. I had 90 minutes to complete this task. By 4pm is was utterly exhausted and quite unsure about how I had done.

Out of 1300 applicants, there were only 20 spots in the program and 48 of us were undergoing the final assessment. After anxiously waiting and wondering, on April 11, I received an early morning call from the Assistant Deputy Minister, congratulating me on my success - I was offered a position with Natural Resources Canada!

This next week, I will inform NRCan of the sectors I hope to be placed with. I’d like to work in the energy sector, where the confluence of environmental, economic, and Indigenous issues guarantee that it will be a challenging and stimulating environment. Within a month I will hear from my manager, and we will discuss my moving arrangements (I’m off to Ottawa!), my start date (I can begin at any time until the end of the year, once I have completed my degree), and what my job will entail! I’m pretty excited about entering this new phase of life after decades of degree-collecting.

I’m thrilled that my MA in Sociology has been so instrumental in allowing me to pursue such an opportunity. I’m so thankful to the professors in the department who offered me valuable research experience, and to those who ensured I was competent in both qualitative and quantitative methods. I’m deeply appreciative of Steve Garlick and Bruce Ravelli for providing such positive references, and to Zoe and Carole for continuing to email us these life-changing opportunities.

~Wrenna Robertson
Graduate Student Updates

This was another eventful school year for me and I am glad that I have a well-established yoga and mindfulness practice that supported me through such a tremendously heavy workload. I thoroughly enjoyed auditing Bill Carroll’s Political Sociology course in the Fall term, and also taught two courses in the department this year, which included SOC 305B - Sociology of the Family and Social Change and SOC 281 - Sociology of Gender. I have successfully completed all phases of my qualitative fieldwork at the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) in British Columbia for the case study research component of my PhD Dissertation. I am now working in the Research Data Centre to complete my quantitative analysis of Indigenous health and wellness outcomes using the 2012 Aboriginal People’s Survey. I hope to submit the completed dissertation this August with an intended oral defense date later into the Fall.


This May I am very excited to be visiting Indigenous micro-entrepreneurs in the Brong-Ahafo Region of Ghana, to have conversations with women about their social interaction/relationship experiences and expectations with microfinance that shape their stories of successes and challenges. Information from these conversations will inform the conference paper that has been accepted for presentation at the Canadian Sociology Association in June 2016 in Calgary that focuses on gender inequality, social justice and microfinance entitled, Transforming the Microfinance Paradox: A Gender Deconstruction Approach to Increasing the Volume of Voices of Grassroots Indigenous Women Micro Entrepreneurs in Ghana and British Columbia.

~Jacqueline Quinless

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Summer is going to be a busy time for me. I’m very happy to be teaching two courses: Soci 281: Gender in Society and Soci 331: Political Sociology: Extremism in North America. The second course should be a lot of fun, because it’s a chance for me to teach a topic that I’ve done a significant amount of research on. We are going to examine various issues in this course, but generally we’re going to look at the history of extremism in the North American context, as well as take a closer look at some of the theories that try to explain the roots of extremism and extremist violence. We’re also going to look at three distinct forms of extremism: white supremacy/white nationalism, religious extremism (with an emphasis on “home-grown” Christian-based religious extremism), and the contemporary militia and sovereign citizens movements. In addition to teaching this summer I am getting ready to defend my dissertation proposal.

I have also had the opportunity to organize a conference through the Centre for Global Studies and the European Centre for Excellence. The conference takes place May 24-25, 2016 and is called Crisis and (re)


The conference will be examining the ways in which the global financial collapse of 2008 resulted in radical shifts in rhetoric and strategy by political and social actors; in Canada for example, how is it that an historically leftist political party like the NDP came to adopt the language of “balanced budgets”, tax-cuts, and fiscal conservatism – traditionally the ideological territory occupied by the political Right? We have delegates coming in from all over North America and Europe, including our keynote Speaker, Dr. Stefan Olafsson from the University of Iceland. It should be a fascinating gathering!

Click here for more information on the upcoming conference.

~Edwin Hodge
Graduate Student News

Andrew Ivsins continues to work on his PhD dissertation. He has also been working with a research team at CARBC, evaluating managed alcohol programs in Canada. An article was recently run (March 16) by Vice on this issue and the study.

Former Graduate Students

I have been working as a research assistant to Dan Reist at the Centre for Addictions Research of BC (CARBC) since October 2015. Before that I worked as a RA for Cecilia Benoit and Mikael Jansson. Currently, as part of the knowledge mobilization team, I assist in developing educational resources to help educators and other adults in the school community stimulate students to think differently about drugs and to explore the meaning of drugs in human experience. My work at CARBC also allows me to use my bilingual skills, as I help translate educational resources from English into French.

I am so happy to be able to do something that I find interesting, meaningful and challenging (in a good way!) and to be able to work with such a supportive team of people.

~Gaelle Nicolussi (MA, 2014)

Time flies! It’s hard to believe that I am finishing the first year of my PhD program at University of Alberta. In the past year, besides taking classes from my own department, I also have taken classes from the Department of Human Ecology and the School of Public Health to enhance my theoretical underpinning of family studies and statistical skills. In addition, I have been working as a research assistant for my supervisor, Dr. Lisa Strohschein, and we will be presenting a paper and a poster at the Canadian Population Society Annual Meeting to be held in Calgary, June 1-3, 2016.

Currently, I am exploring how different types of relationship status are associated with self-reported health between same-sex and different-sex individuals by using Canadian Community Health Survey. More importantly, I want to look at whether the legalization of same-sex marriage in Canada is associated with any differences regarding self-reported health before and after 2005. Finally, I hope my mentor Dr. Zheng Wu and my old colleagues and friends Ashley, Edward, Grace, Gaelle, Hanning, Katie, Marlee, Nicola, Ruth and Zoe are well. I miss you guys all.

~Lei Chai (MA, 2015)

I started the PhD program at SFU’s School of Criminology this past Fall. In addition to taking classes, I have been working as a research assistant at the International CyberCrime Research Centre (ICCRC), conducting research on terrorist online media and recruitment campaigns. I just completed my coursework and will begin preparing for comprehensive exams over the summer. I enjoyed my TA work for the criminology statistics course and a cybercrime course. This September I am hoping to teach my first course, quantitative methods. I miss UVIC and having discussions about social theory with my colleagues there.

~Logan Macnair (MA, 2015)

Al Whitney (MA, 2013) has just completed her third year in the PhD program at the Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism at Western University. This interdisciplinary program has had fascinating courses with her comps ranging from Ancient philosophy to contemporary social theory. Her dissertation focuses on the theory of dying through the work of Catherine Malabou. Al is very pleased to have just been awarded a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship. She is excited to be back in Victoria this week to present at the Nihilism.Hope CSPT conference, April 22-24, 2016.
The annual Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards (JCURA) poster presentations took place March 9, 2016. This year, five of the Honours students were awarded a JCURA. Below are their research abstracts.

**Maria Finnsdottir: Contraceptive Use in Canada, 2001-2011: A National Portrait**

This research uses data from the 2001 and 2011 Statistics Canada General Social Surveys to examine trends and patterns of contraceptive use in Canada over the last decade, as well as on determinants of that contraceptive use. As a key proximate determinant of fertility, and major reproductive health issue, contraceptive use is an important research question. Using mostly descriptive statistics, including cross-tabulations, tables, and graphs, a significant relationship was found between contraceptive use and class, cultural background, age, and sex. Interestingly, the data revealed a decline in contraceptive use across all groups included. Notably, 18 to 24 year olds experienced the sharpest decline in contraceptive use: in 2011, more than two-thirds of that age group were found to not use contraceptives at all. These findings have important implications for public health in Canada, specifically in regards to the risk of STIs and unwanted pregnancy.

~Supervised by **Zheng Wu**

**Heather Harukioja: Exploring the Nature of Elder Abuse in Ethno-Cultural Minority Groups: A Community-Based Research Study**

Elder abuse is a significant public health, social justice, and human rights issue in today’s society. Despite the recognition that elder abuse affects older adults across all racial, ethnic, and cultural groups, very little is known about the experiences of elder abuse among people from diverse ethno-cultural backgrounds in Canada. The primary objective of this study was to explore the nature of elder abuse within the two largest ethno-cultural minority groups in British Columbia (BC), the Chinese and South Asians. Branching off from a larger project currently funded by the Council to Reduce Elder Abuse (CREA) in BC, this study focused specifically on the issue of elder abuse as it is experienced by Chinese and South Asian older adults residing in the Greater Victoria area. Implementing a community-based participatory research approach, this study represented a collaboration between academics and not-for-profit multicultural frontline workers at the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria (ICA). The findings from this study reveal that cultural contexts, immigration status, and ethnicity are significant factors influencing experiences of elder abuse. In addition, this research provides insights into what resources need to be developed in order to address appropriate prevention and response to the issue of elder abuse in these ethno-cultural minority communities.

~Supervised by **Karen Kobayashi**

**Brett Koenig: (Non) Straight-Involved Youth: Exploring Pathways to Street-Involvement Among Non-Heterosexual Youth**

Overwhelmingly we see that non-heterosexual youth are over represented in the street-involved population. Little is known about why this is the case. My research examines which distinct factors lead these youth to street-involvement and how these factors differ from heterosexual youth. It incorporates a life-course perspective to understand how earlier experiences and events in one’s life can have lasting developmental impacts. The main implication of this research is to better guide supportive programs that work with non-heterosexual street-involved youth and to guide intervention strategies.

~ Supervised by **Cecilia Benoit**
Jason Miller: *The Ideology of Inspiration: Sports Discourse and Capitalist Legitimation*

In this project, the terrain of mainstream sports discourse is considered as a meeting place between core capitalist values and everyday human experience. Using a Marxist understanding of ideology and hegemony, it is argued that sports discourse provides ideological legitimation for capitalism, and as such contributes to the maintenance of the status quo. It is shown to do so by privileging certain modes of behavior and ways of understanding the world, as well as distorting and obscuring tensions and contradictions integral to the capitalist system. These conclusions are arrived at through a semiotic-oriented, critical discourse case study of three inspirational sports-based advertisements. The analysis reveals an established association between capitalism and freedom, equality and unity, working through the idealized and dramatized life-world that professional sports provide. It is contended that this portrait is incongruent with the reality of capitalism’s inner relations, and that as such it is functional in the cultivation of a stable and benign image of capitalism in the consciousness of its subjects.

~Supervised by Bill Carroll

Patrick Teichreb: *Ageing, Bodies, & Technology: A Sociological Analysis of Testosterone Treatment and Brain Training*

In the past standards of fitness, normativity, health, and pathology circulating around ageing bodies gained certainty from drawing upon ideas of ‘naturalness’—that “which could not be changed, manufactured or reversed” (Katz & Marshal, 2004:54). However, biomedical research, advancements, and technology have altered the relationship between what is considered natural and what is considered cultural. A new functional/dysfunctional axis has become a mode to assess bodies and “has absorbed earlier notions of ‘normal’ and ‘pathological’ to foist upon human health, ageing and sexuality a sweeping assemblage of instruments, knowledges and practices” (Katz & Marshall, 2004:68). For my research I explored the implantation and utilization of this functional/dysfunctional axis in two technologies related to ageing: testosterone replacement therapy (TRT) and brain training games. In regards to TRT, the work of actors, the influence of technology, and governmental discourse has created a picture of old age as a time where sexual performance, masculinity, and economic life are to flourish, while at the same time presenting bodies as incapable of doing ‘naturally’. TRT is presented as a technology which will facilitate these new levels of functioning. Brain training games promote a notion of brain health that is only achievable through being active: one must ‘use it or lose it’ (Millington, 2012:443). Having a healthy brain means being functional in all aspects of life. As a result, these games assist in creating an individual who is forward thinking, is prone to investing in themselves, planning, and is condition to accept responsibility and thus blame for unpredictable risk located in their brain.

~Supervised by Steve Garlick

**Honours Student Presentations**

On March 22, this year’s Honours students presented their research projects to an audience of peers, family and faculty. The feature above provides information on the five JCURA recipients’ work; two additional Honours students also presented their work:

**Andrew Elliott: Ethnic and Racial Differences in Sense of Belonging to Canada: The impact of Sense of Belonging to an Ethnic or Racial Group**

~Supervised by Zheng Wu

**Emily Penner: The Children of Mentally Ill Parents: A Targeted Review of Literature**

~Supervised by André Smith
Undergraduate Rising Stars

Third and fourth year social sciences students who have been awarded scholarships in 2015/16 were celebrated at the Annual Rising Stars event in January, hosted by the Faculty of Social Sciences. Sociology student scholarship recipients included: Mikaiya Austin, Kenda Chang-Swanson, Rochelle Esterhuizen, Maria Finnsdottir, Heather Haukioja, Brett Koenig, Jason Miller, Erin Moen, Michaela Smith, Patrick Teichreb, Bethany Truman and Qwisun Yoon-Potkins.

Congratulations to all!

BOSS Update

Over the 2015/2016 academic year the sociology undergrad course union, has worked to expand connections with students, faculty and the community. Through these effort, BOSS experienced another large jump in membership, and has increased connections all around.

We organized multiple events this year which were inclusive to students, faculty and community. First, we hosted two faculty “meet and eats” - one in September and another in January - both were highly attended and received positive feedback.

These meets served to create conversation between sociology students and their professors which helped break barriers and create a friendly environment. Second, Edward White, TA Coordinator hosted weekly office hours in the BOSS Office (Cornett A369) to help create a friendly space for undergrads. Third, we expanded our community outreach and held multiple fundraisers to raise money for Our Place and Out of the Rain, including a bake sale and a clothing drive. With the money raised, we provided monthly meals for Out of the Rain Youth Shelter.

Academic Events we hosted this year included a Movie Night where we screened Gattaca, followed by a lecture and discussion on inequality and diversity from Professor Steve Garlick. We also hosted a discussion called “Isis Phenomenon” a multi disciplinary approach lecture from Assistant Teacher Professor Andrew Wender. Over 100 people attended, including students and community members.

For social events we held our annual collaborative scavenger hunt with psychology (Psychos) and we hosted a skating event to celebrate completion of final exams in December.

This year was a huge success thanks to Katrina Kelly, BOSS president, who facilitated meetings and inspired events. Thank you to the rest of the course union and exec for all of your hard work!

Announcing our New Executive:

President: Katrina Kelly
Vice President: Taisto Witt
Treasurer: Curtis Lockhart
Faculty Liaison: Hannah Furness
Social Media Director: Elise Patricelli
Community Outreach Worker: Taisto Witt

We still have multiple positions available and encourage sociology students to consider joining BOSS in September. We will be organizing new meeting dates at that time.

Finally, congratulations to our many grads who have worked so hard – you will be missed!

A big thank you to Edward White for his many contributions as a TA Coordinator. He provided guidance, answered numerous questions, offered coffee and a listening ear to new and experienced TAs, entered endless grades and helped countless undergraduate students find their academic way (starting with their way to the correct 100 tutorial room)! Moreover, Edward’s baked goods were always a treat for departmental members and will be missed. All the best in your future endeavors!
Alumni Feature: Sociology and my Career Trajectory

I was asked to write how my BA (Hons) in Sociology helped my career trajectory, and in particular, assisted me in attaining my current position, as a Research Analyst, in the (Applied Practice Research and Learning Branch of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)).

The hiring process to get screened in for a government position is an onerous one. As part of the intake I was asked to read several documents, expected to research related materials and use critical thinking to be able to analyze and synthesize what I learned and then summarize that knowledge into a concise briefing note. During my interview I was scored on my responses to complex questions that required me to demonstrate a clear grasp of sociological concepts and research methods (such as interviewing techniques, intersectional analysis and statistical software). After I was hired my supervisor said I was chosen based on the following three things:

- My sociology degree was one of four that qualified me to apply
- My Honours thesis and core courses had given me first-hand experience with research methods and knowledge mobilization
- My ability to bring a sociological lens to the situation, and incorporate statistical and qualitative data into my analysis

More and more social research and methods are finding their way into the scope of work that both private and public organizations are doing. Everything from design research, to quantitative surveys and focus groups are increasingly commonplace in the workplace. What is even more salient to UVic sociology students is that mixed methods approaches are generally valued above all when it comes to understanding the issues and mobilizing the findings to a broad demographic of stakeholders.

In my capacity as a government research officer I am often called upon to utilize the skills and competencies I gained in my core Sociology courses: 201, 211, 271, 374, and 376. I am asked to complete literature reviews, jurisdictional scans, environmental scans, as well as conduct interviews, analyze data, write abstracts and proposals, and review policy documents using an evidence-based lens. Having the ability to do such work was also bolstered by what I learned designing and conducting my own research in the Honours program (SOCI 490) with Dr. André Smith. While I would never devalue or discount the incredible wealth of knowledge gained from my theory-based courses, not to mention my Women’s Studies major and Creative Writing minor, in terms of my current job, the research competencies I developed in my SOCI courses are at the crux of why I am working in my field, doing social research.

I am excelling in my new position, and loving the work I do. The pay is good, the benefits are great, and I feel as though what I am doing has a greater social purpose. I hope my story demonstrates the tangible value of a BA in Sociology and inspires others to make it their major or apply to the Honours program.

Recently, the Director of our branch wrote me a stunning reference letter recommending me for Grad school. This fall I am excited to be returning to UVic’s Department of Sociology to pursue my MA.

~Renay Maurice, BA (Hons, 2015)

Honours Program

The Sociology honours program offers dedicated undergraduate students the opportunity to engage in original, innovative, cutting-edge research under the supervision of a full-time faculty member. The program provides a high level of training in critical reading, writing, and thinking.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact André Smith, Honours Advisor, at apsmith@uvic.ca or 250 721 7583.
Undergraduate Rising Stars Awards

BOSS Update

BOSS has started organizing study groups for first year courses to encourage first year students to getting involved and to ease life into their studies.

International Exchange Program at Uvic

If you love to travel but are also keen to continue your studies, an international exchange may be just the thing for you! UVic has agreements with over 50 partner universities in more than 20 countries around the world. Students pay UVic tuition fees (not the host institution ones) as well as all travel costs, accommodation, food and books/supplies. For additional information and specific details about exchanges opportunities click here. Rachel Hirst, a Sociology undergraduate student currently in New Zealand submitted the following about her experience.

Travelling to Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand to study sociology has been a life changing and enriching experience. The opportunity to travel on exchange to the islands of New Zealand was granted to me by the UVic, where I am a full-time student. Studying sociology in Wellington is a unique experience in that there are many cultural differences between both past and modern-day societies in New Zealand and Canada.

In the exchange program, students mainly take elective courses. I tried to choose some that would provide me with a sociological perspective. I am taking a Popular Media Culture course which links up completely with sociology. We have learned a lot about different sociologists and it has overlapped with my sociology theory, crime, and sexuality courses. I am also taking a Maori Course about the New Zealand indigenous people. The approach to this course is also very sociological in the lenses it uses to examine this society. Finally, I’m taking a Tourism course which links up with my business minor.

The schooling reflects the very laid back kiwi lifestyle - a lot of people don’t wear shoes to class and the professors can be very mellow about things. We also have several term breaks, that split the term up quite nicely and allow for travel.

By being immersed in this culture, I have been able to recognize and study the social behaviours and lifestyles in Aotearoa, New Zealand. Not only have I had the opportunity to experience my field of study in a new place, but I have also been able to achieve a new level of independence by travelling within the country as much as possible. From hiking (or “tramping” as they call it here) to kayaking, I have been able to explore and enjoy the unique landscapes of New Zealand in many ways. In doing so I have met incredible people from around the world that share my passion for travel.

Moving abroad has also allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and try new things such as camping on beaches and bungee jumping off of a 43 metre high bridge. Overall, this experience of studying in such a dynamic country has introduced me to many new aspects of both travelling and sociological thought. I am so grateful for this opportunity and would highly recommend the UVic exchange program to any students who is willing to embrace this challenging and remarkable experience.

Summer undergraduate courses being offered in the department:

100A: Introduction to Sociology: Culture and Socialization, Don Fetherston
100B: Introduction to Sociology: Institutions and Social Change, Don Fetherston
103: Canadian Society, Simon Carroll
204: Self, Identity and Society, Simon Carroll
206: Crime and Deviance, Blair Wilkinson
215: Class and Social Inequality, Sebastian Bonet
281: Sociology of Gender, Edwin Hodge
310: Religion in Society, William Little
331: Political Sociology, Edwin Hodge
345: Sociology of Mental Health, Singh Bolaria
389: Death, Dying and the Body, Singh Bolaria

Summer Courses

Rachel Hirst, a Sociology undergraduate student currently in New Zealand submitted the following about her experience.
Faculty in the Media

Bill Carroll—SSHRC grant:
http://www.policynote.ca/were-putting-fossil-fuel-industry-influence-under-the-microscope/

Aaron Devor:

Announcement of Transgender Chair:
http://chronicle.com/article/Sociologist-Becomes-Inaugural/235303

Transgender Conference:

Garry Gray:
Media article: “Why Did Thalidomide’s Makers Ignore Warnings about Their Drugs?” published as part of a thalidomide series by The Conversation (The Conversation is an international collaboration between editors and academics that provides informed news analysis and commentary that’s free to read and republish). December 7, 2015. https://theconversation.com/why-did-thalidomides-makers-ignore-warnings-about-their-drug-47092


CUVIC 2016: Reconciliation, Innovation and Transformation through Engagement will take place April 27–29 at the University of Victoria. The CUVIC (Community-University-Victoria) Conference will demonstrate how UVic and the broader community are responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada’s Calls to Action. The conference will explore the specific TRC topic areas of child welfare, education, health, justice, and language and culture, with a focus on how community-university engagement can lead to more sustainable, just, and healthy communities. Conference highlights:

- Exciting sessions and workshops led by local thought leaders
- Gala reception at the Royal BC Museum’s First Peoples Galleries and Living Languages Exhibit
- Sessions hosted in UVic’s First Peoples House—a social, cultural and academic centre for Indigenous students

UVic Chancellor Shelagh Rogers will be the keynote speaker at CUVIC’s opening night reception (April 27). Rogers is a veteran broadcast journalist who was inducted as an Honorary Witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in June 2011. She has committed herself to working toward a new relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people from coast to coast to coast.

Visit uvic.ca/cuvic2016/program, or follow CUVIC 2016 on Twitter or Facebook for program announcements!
Recent Publications

Faculty, adjunct professor, sessional instructor and (former) graduate student names are highlighted

Books:


Book Chapters:


Articles:


BOSS has started organizing study groups for first year courses to encourage first year students to getting involved and to ease life into their studies.


Other:


Presentations (Conference Papers/Invited/Guest Speaker/Posters)

Benoit, C., Reist, D. Key findings: Contexts of vulnerabilities, resiliencies & care among people in the sex industry. CIHR Research Teams: Advancing Boys’ and Men’s Health Research Annual Meeting Institute for Gender & Health, Ottawa, Ontario, October 20, 2015.


Devor, A. Keynote Address Fantasia Fair. Provincetown, MA. October, 2015


Canadian Association on Gerontology, Calgary, Alberta, October 23-25, 2015.


Nuernberger, K., Penning, M.J., Cloutier, D., MacDonald, S., Hainstock, T., & Taylor, D. Differences in long-term care service utilization over time: Using administrative data to understand within and between person variability in the intensity of service use. Presented at the Annual Meetings of the Canadian Association on Gerontology, Calgary, Alberta, October 23-25, 2015.


Have you Registered?
Congress fee as of April 1: Regular: $210. Students, retired & unwaged: $85 CSA Meetings: May 31—June 3

Big Thinking lectures
The full Big Thinking line-up is online, including the recent addition of Naomi Klein! Almost every day of Congress at lunch time, discover a different high profile speaker and listen to groundbreaking research.

Reconciliation events
Congress 2016 is proud to feature a number of reconciliation-themed events, in line with the Federation’s commitment to contribute to reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. Browse our calendar of events: in the advanced search feature, choose ‘Reconciliation event’ in the ‘Series’ drop-down menu and let us take you on this journey.