

UVIC HUMANITIES

Annual Report
2024-2025



The Faculty of Humanities, University of Victoria

Open your mind, transform our world

The Faculty of Humanities asks complex questions about what it means to be human, what our relationships with each other and our environments require of us, and what responsibilities we hold to the world and its future. We study products of human thought and creativity: languages, literatures, media, material cultures, histories and beliefs across peoples, places and times. We uphold justice and diversity. We promote global knowledges and cultivate intercultural acumen. We confront how humanity engages with natural and constructed environments, both real and imagined.

Our research and teaching aim to:

Enrich human dignity

by addressing what it means—and has meant—to be human, as well as humanity's relationship with the more-than-human;

Provoke critical inquiry

by exploring the meanings and methods of reason and critique, including how they vary across time and culture and how they impact our understandings of the world and its survival;

Engage myriad voices

by valuing multilingualism as well as differences of language, culture and ways of being in a global world;

Inspire innovative expression

by addressing the breadth of human expression, including the full plurality of media.



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@UVicHumanities.bsky.social



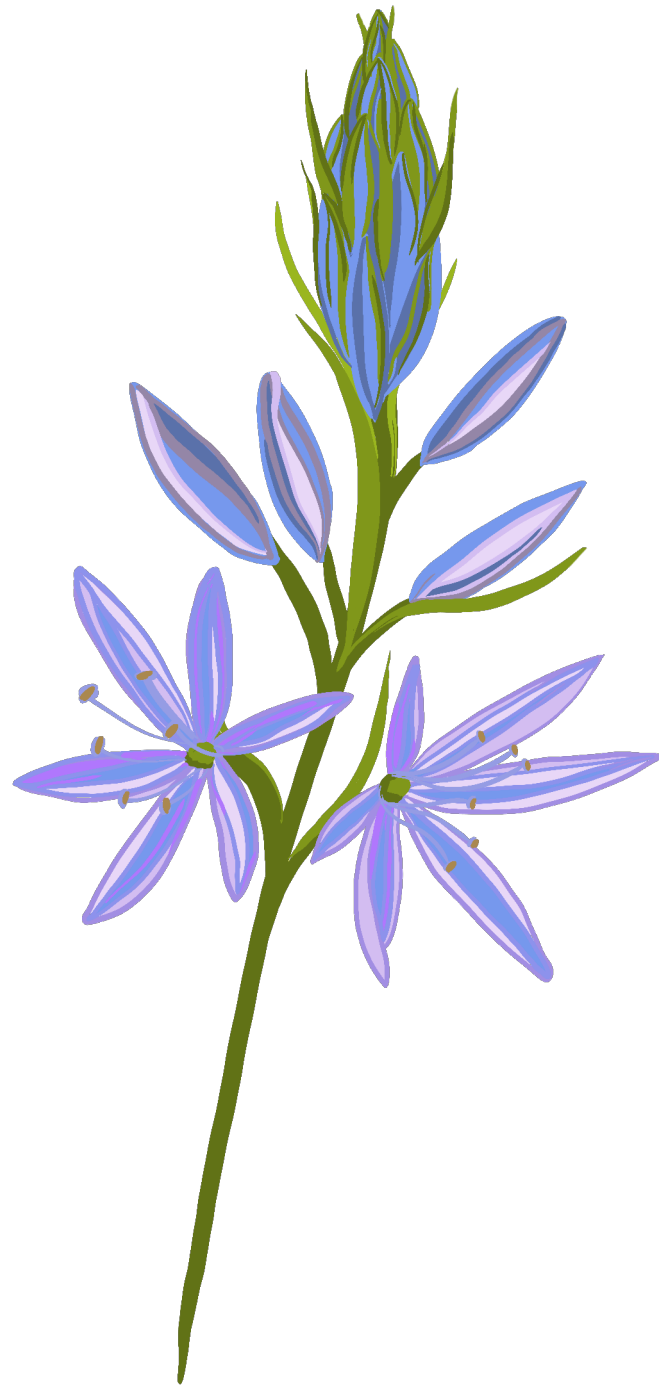
uvic.ca/humanities



**University
of Victoria**

| Humanities

We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Xʷsepsəm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SANEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.



About the illustrator

Theresa Olson is a multidisciplinary artist and designer who received their MA in English from the University of Victoria in 2022. Their cover illustration for the 2024-2025 Annual Report draws inspiration from the diverse media through which our students and faculty engage in research and expression.

Faculty of Humanities 2024-25 Features

Dean

Annalee Lepp

Associate Dean Academic

Lisa Surridge

Associate Dean Research

Adrienne Williams Boyarin

Director of Administration

Theresa Gallant

Assistant to the Dean

Bennett Issel

Communications Officer

Katy DeCoste

Research Coordinator

Taylor Brook

Administrative Assistant

Lindsay Mair

Engage

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Annual report production team

Editor & designer

Katy DeCoste

Illustrator

Theresa Olson

Contributors

Hannah Rose

Stephanie Erickson

Joy Poliquin

Student photographer

Ziming Dong





Introducing the Critical Humanities Commons

The Critical Humanities Commons is a space where interdisciplinary scholarship unfolds through creativity, conversation and commitment to social justice. Located at the heart of the Faculty of Humanities, the Commons brings people together to think, learn and teach across disciplines to create new approaches for public dialogue. Connect with us to learn about upcoming programming and join us for Critical Encounters, an upcoming free monthly speaker series.

Our four pillars:

Expertise: We deepen scholarly inquiry and challenge the boundaries of disciplinary knowledge.

Collaboration: We work across fields to build sustained, transdisciplinary research and relationships.

Exchange: We foster reciprocal learning and critical dialogue with diverse stakeholders.

Dissemination: We ensure scholarship and dialogue have a tangible impact on wider publics.

Meet the inaugural Director

We are also excited to welcome inaugural Director Jaipreet Virdi. Jaipreet Virdi (she/her/hers) is a historian of science, technology and medicine who specializes in disability. As a scholar activist, she uses research as a tool for influencing public discourse and policy and has produced numerous interdisciplinary works in public humanities. As a deaf person with chronic pain, she relies on her service dog Lizzie, who loves to meet new people.

Our guiding principles:

Equity: Reject extractive research practices and centre marginalized epistemologies. Integrate undergraduate and graduate students as co-organizers, researchers and decision-makers, rather than as passive learners.

Accessibility: Uphold disability justice as a core dimension of social integrity and to foster inclusive participation, particularly for community members whose knowledge contributions are undervalued.

Community: Include non-academic collaborators as co-creators and partners in knowledge production.

Get in touch:

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commons.uvic.ca

Welcoming our new faculty and staff



Rowan Salverda

School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures

Administrative and Communications Assistant Rowan Salverda graduated from UVic with a Bachelor of Arts in French and Francophone Studies and a Certificate in Spanish Language and Culture in 2024. Her responsibilities in the SLLC include managing the newly launched website, course and program promotion, social media, event assistance and more.

At UVic, Rowan has also worked for the Centre for Global Studies (CFGS), the Borders in Globalization (BIG) project and the UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education (CBRSRHE)'s DECODE Knowledge Project.



Kaye Miller

English

Undergraduate Administrative Assistant Kaye Miller recently completed their MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Guelph, and now returns to UVic, where they earned their BA in 2022. A writer of fiction, they are currently working on a novel with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.

In their role with the Department of English, Kaye provides administrative support to students, faculty, staff and the Chair.



Davina Bhandar

Gender Studies

Welcomed as Chair of Gender Studies in 2024, Davina Bhandar holds a PhD in Political Science and MA in History/Political Studies from York University. Her research interests fall in the intersecting fields of critical race theory, anti-colonialism, abolition, feminist studies, contemporary theories of democracy, freedom, citizenship, sovereignty and borders. Dr. Bhandar's ongoing research focus is on the migration and relocation of diaspora communities from Punjab India in the territories of the *ləkʷəŋən* (Lekwungen), Songhees and Coast Salish peoples, within the structures of the settler colonial state of Canada. She designed and taught GNDR480: Abolition is a Feminist Issue in 2024-2025.



Presenters at a Teaching the Holocaust professional development event hosted at UVic in March 2025 as an extension of the new Teaching the Holocaust Micro-certificate. Left to right: Tessa Coutu, Kristin Semmens, Giorgia Ricciardi, Julius Maslovat. Photo provided.

New micro-certificates in the Humanities

Offered through the Division of Continuing Studies, these online credentials are flexible, accessible and manageable, designed for working professionals.

Teaching the Holocaust

School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures; History

In this specialized pathway for in-service and pre-service teachers preparing to integrate Holocaust education into the BC secondary school curriculum, learners examine the origins, profession, central characters, key sites and enduring legacies of the Holocaust.

Given the alarming rise in antisemitism, both nationally and internationally, Holocaust education plays a vital role in countering hatred and historical misinformation. This program presents a critical pathway to contextualize traumatic histories and promote a more peaceful and equitable future. By exposing the dangers of dehumanization and discrimination, it provides an important platform for combating these threats and safeguarding democracies worldwide.

Professional Communication in the Workplace

English

In a busy world, effective communication is the foundation on which you will advance professionally, make yourself heard and have an impact in your field.

Emerging and mid-career professionals can upskill and reskill with clear communication, writing and editing skills for a wide range of professional contexts in this online program. Focusing on copy editing, writing for business and the private sector, and writing for government and the public sector, this program equips learners with communication skills across diverse media formats.

Courses completed in the Professional Communication in the Workplace program can be applied towards other credit programs.



From But I Live: Three Stories of Child Survivors of the Holocaust (2022), edited by Charlotte Schallié, illustrated by Barbara Yelin, Gilad Seliktar and Miriam Libicki.



Professional Communications students.



Emma Fanning. Photo provided.

Green by design

Fully edible, backyard-compostable, plastic-free cutlery; alternative seafood made from fungi; and bioidentical, animal-free milk—these are just a few of the innovative, sustainable products with eco-conscious brand design by UVic alumna Emma Fanning (BA 2017).

Little Fox Design, a full-service green design firm co-founded by Emma Fanning and Sastun Phillips, began when Fanning started freelancing as a designer while still pursuing her degree in English and Professional Writing. Attending university in the years before worldwide climate marches and student protests for climate, Fanning’s anxiety over climate crisis propelled her to dive deep into research on sustainability.

Today, the award-winning company partners with clients who share its values—transparency, science-backed sustainable practices and working collaboratively for a better future for people and the planet. “For Little Fox, green design means that we consider the types of clients we work with, the impact of materials we specify for our clients (prioritizing recycled paper, safer inks and reduced consumption) and keeping our own carbon footprint as minimal as possible,” says Fanning. brands like

This article originally appeared in The Torch (Fall 2024).

They’ve taken on projects for brands like Opalia, a Canadian biotech company creating bioidentical milk without the use of animals, and Aqua Cultured Foods, an alternative-protein startup that has created an alternative-seafood made out of fungi that looks, tastes and feels identical to traditional seafood.

Usually working with brands as they go into their first major round of funding, Little Fox tackles branding strategy, brand development from logo design to colour palettes and typography and developing assets like websites, pitch decks and marketing materials.

Throughout this process, Little Fox’s recommendations are based in research into forestry and paper production practices, material lifecycles, and consideration of monoculture production and overseas deforestation practices. This research leads their design choices away from materials like compostable plastics, which require industrial composting facilities to break down, or bioplastics, which are created from monoculture crops that can contribute to deforestation. The result is a holistic view of sustainability that considers the wellbeing of both people and planet on a global scale, equipping brands to continue centring sustainability even after they finish their work with Little Fox. As Fanning explains, “Even if a client cannot make the most sustainable choice due to material constraints or budget, they can at least be aware of what the sustainable upgrade options are in the future and can build it into their business plans.”

Beyond educating clients on sustainable design choices, Little Fox offers resources to other designers looking to make ethical choices on sustainability through a Substack newsletter and an online Green Graphic Design Course. The course, developed in 2020 to share three years of intensive research, is priced below industry standard to increase accessibility, and is also offered free to those who are unable to afford the course. Because research is always evolving, so is Fanning’s field—her educational materials are regularly updated. “I wanted other designers to be able to find well-sourced information and frameworks in one easy place. The primary goals were to provide a comprehensive, accessible guide.”



“I would feel it’s unethical for me to be a sustainable designer but lock a lot of the research and learning I’ve done behind extremely expensive paywalls. We think that sharing this information is crucial in order to pave the way towards a better future—one where green design is just ‘design’ because these considerations are innate and not a specialty niche of certain designers.”

- Emma Fanning (BA English, 2017)



Natasha Thompson. Photo provided.

Latin inspired this grad to think politically

Natasha Thompson is from Tanzania, Africa, but has spent most of her life in Canada and considers herself an Afro-Canadian. She began her post-secondary education at Camosun College, before transferring to UVic and switching to a double major in Greek and Roman Studies and Political Science. While helping her family financially and covering her tuition personally, Natasha took 5 years to complete her Bachelor of Arts degree.

What moment stands out most from your time at UVic?

My favourite memory at UVic is when I received a scholarship in my final year of study. It was the first time I felt my efforts were recognized, and curiously, it was during a period when I was enjoying my GRS course material the most. One of my favourite projects was creating an interactive online marketplace that served as an online tool. Users could learn about the Roman Empire during Emperor Diocletian's time using his price cap list of 301 CE. By that point, I was one class away from completing my GRS requirements, and it propelled me to finish university as a double major.

Where did you love to study, hang out or unwind on campus?

My favourite spot on campus was MacLaurin Commons in the D-Wing of the building. The skylights were so nice in the early morning or the middle of the day. I did some of my best work there. It was my go-to meeting spot for group projects, talking through my study notes, or a place to relax on a beanbag chair and do my readings. It felt withdrawn from the chaos of the library foyer.

Was there a course or instructor who had an impact on you? Any special memories to share?

The most impactful professor I had was Dr. Mark Nugent of the Greek and Roman Studies department. From Dr. Nugent, I learned the valuable practice of applying critical analysis into my daily life. He was also wildly engaging and had a wonderful sense of humor that really added charm to each class.

What activity or experience outside the classroom meant the most to you?

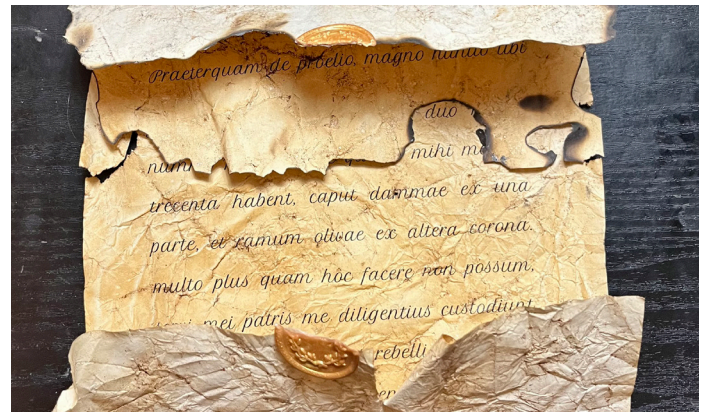
Attending the seminars, department events and Latin For All after hours were my most meaningful extracurricular activities. The engaging and motivational seminars shared, discussed and critiqued internal and external research. Department events were always fun opportunities to familiarize myself with peers and faculty staff. Latin For All after hours was an incredible supplementary opportunity in the evening where we sight-read Latin texts, sang hymns and even played games in Latin. I was able to hang out with a few of my closest friends there while improving my Latin.

Is your current path what you envisioned for yourself growing up? What are your plans after graduation?

I am looking for work with the government at the local level. My Greek and Roman Studies degree gave me critical thinking, written and verbal communication skills I would like to apply in my career. I have always wanted a future in public service based on my interests in governmental policy. Studying the ancient world and how Western ideologies and politics evolved over time made me see its importance even more. The knowledge I gained in my degree is foundational for my future aspirations.

How would you describe your time at UVic in one word?

Experimental.





Stephanie Erickson. Photo provided.

Trudeau scholar demonstrates social & political importance of Indigenous futurism

How do stories help us understand our pasts, act for change in our present and build more reconciled futures?

Stephanie Erickson, a UVic PhD student in English with a concentration in Cultural, Social and Political Thought, will explore this question in a podcast featuring Indigenous authors, as part of a three-year scholarship announced this month by the Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation. She is one of just 16 Canadian doctoral students receiving the award of up to \$210,000.

Erickson is of mixed Red River Métis and German Mennonite ancestry, born on Treaty 1 territory in Winnipeg, Manitoba and raised on Syilx Okanagan territory.

After beginning post-secondary education in the Okanagan College system, Erickson found a passion for talking about storytelling—especially the ways that storytelling can mobilize larger social justice issues.

The discovery led her to earn a BA in Creative Writing with a minor in Gender Studies at UBC-Okanagan, before focusing on reproductive justice in McMaster University's Gender and Social Justice MA program.

"All of my research has always been about where storytelling meets social justice issues," says Erickson of her academic journey. "They're ways to talk about complicated conversations through a narrative that makes it more accessible and engaging. During my Master's, I realized, 'I have so much more research I want to do. I'm not done.'"

Erickson's doctoral research takes the same approach—using stories to understand crucial real-world problems—to Indigenous justice. An existing interest in science fiction led her to Indigenous Futurism. First coined by Grace Dillon in 2003, the term describes a movement of media which express Indigenous perspectives on the future, present, and past.

"I want to understand the ways that we think about temporality," says Erickson. "If we're thinking about our future, how is that informed by our present and our past?"

In researching her own family history and Métis ancestry, Erickson has seen just how strongly the past informs her present and her future as an Indigenous person. "When I talk about Indigenous Futurism, there is a throughline from past, present, and future of our experiences, about where we are leading ourselves as communities and individuals to a less colonial future. Especially as a person of mixed ancestry, my research is really all about what the future of 'Canada' is going to look like."

Specifically, she's focusing on the ten principles of reconciliation laid out by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and how stories can exemplify pathways to reconciliation in their imaginings of our collective futures.

In addition to funding for tuition and living expenses, Scholars receive \$20,000 per year for research, networking and travel expenses related to doctoral research. The funding will allow Erickson to develop her podcast, where authors will discuss how they see their work speaking to reconciliation.

Reflecting on the importance of this funding to her research, Erickson says, "I want to be able to travel so I can do this work in community. I want to do what is important to my participants, to be with the people that are important to them. I want to develop relationships. I want to do this big, and I want to do this well. Now I can do that."



Recognizing research excellence at the 2024 REACH Awards

Christine O'Bonsawin (History and Indigenous Studies)

ʔəy̓ nəwəl ʔist | ÍY,NEUELIST | Moving forward together for the good of all Indigenous Scholar Award for Excellence in Research

The REACH Awards recognize outstanding achievement at the University of Victoria, honouring teachers and researchers who lead the way in dynamic learning and meaningful impact. This year, Dr. Christine O'Bonsawin, Associate Professor in History and Indigenous Studies, received the ʔəy̓ nəwəl ʔist | ÍY,NEUELIST | Moving forward together for the good of all | Indigenous Scholar Award for Excellence in Research.

An Abenaki scholar and member of the Odanak Nation, Dr. O'Bonsawin is an interdisciplinary scholar trained in history and sociocultural studies in kinesiology, who has taught in History, Indigenous Studies and Social Justice Studies.

Her research interests include Indigenous histories, colonialism and decolonization, with a particular focus on the phenomenon of sport and the importance of physical activity in the lives of Indigenous people. Her recent scholarship takes up questions regarding the experiences of Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit people in sport and the legal, political and land rights of Indigenous peoples in sporting spaces such as the hosting of the Olympic Games (and other mega sporting events) on unceded Indigenous territories.

She is the co-editor (with Janice Forsyth, Russell Field and Murray G. Phillips) of *Decolonizing Sport* (Fernwood Publishing, 2023). She has been recognized as a 2022 Distinguished Scholar by the Centre for Sociocultural Sport and Olympic Research at California State University, Fullerton; delivered the John R. Betts Honour Address at the North American Society for Sport History in 2023; and received the Faculty of Humanities 2021 Həuistəŋ Award.



Rebecca Gagan.

UVic prof recognized nationally for transformative teaching

By Hannah Rose

University of Victoria (UVic) English professor Rebecca Gagan has been named Canada's 2025 3M National Teaching Fellow, the country's highest honour for post-secondary educators. She is recognized for her transformative work in post-secondary education and her national impact on creating inclusive learning environments.

Known for her student-first, compassionate approach to teaching, Gagan has tackled student mental health and well-being challenges by amplifying voices, building community and creating connection in educational spaces.

Across her career at UVic, Gagan has championed inclusive, reflective and trauma-informed approaches that help students and their stories flourish. In 2014, she founded UVic Bounce, a multimedia storytelling project that shares real accounts from students, alumni and faculty on topics such as failure, grief, growth and perseverance. The accompanying podcast, *Waving not Drowning*, has recorded 51 episodes over two seasons with worldwide reach.

"Gagan has played an important role within and beyond UVic, helping advance our national dialogue about student mental health and well-being and inclusive pedagogy across the country," says Dawn Schell, counsellor and manager of mental health outreach and training at UVic, in Gagan's nomination package.

Leading with love in the classroom

Gagan's approach to UVic Bounce and education is simple: teach with love. Indigenous culture and traditional wellness leader 'Nāmnasolaga Andrea Cranmer of the 'Nāmgis First Nation, Ałert Bay, BC inspired Gagan's approach by speaking about trauma, residential schools and the privilege of learning with love.

Advocating teaching with love, Gagan embodies a "humanistic, non-judgemental, de-stigmatizing, intersectional approach to conversations about emotions, mental health, and illness, encouraging others to echo these attitudes and approaches in their teaching and learning," says mental-health expert and educator Dr. Catharine Munn.

“It is our collective work to create a more compassionate, supportive, humane and loving campus culture in which students, staff and faculty are able to thrive.”

- Rebecca Gagan, 3M National Teaching Fellow and English professor

Gagan’s teaching stands out in the English department for her grounded commitment to student mental health. She infuses her classrooms with five core principles: teach with love, engage the whole student, practice hospitality and reciprocity, amplify student voices and experiences and build community. Gagan’s leadership models her deeply held belief that student academic success is the responsibility of everyone in the institution: “It is our collective work to create a more compassionate, supportive, humane and loving campus culture in which students, staff and faculty are able to thrive.”

Recognizing teaching excellence

Before being awarded a 2025 3M National Teaching Fellowship, Gagan had already been recognized at UVic for her outstanding teaching: in 2014, she won the Gilian Sherwin Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching. In 2022, she won both the Harry Hickman Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching and Educational Leadership and the Faculty of Humanities’ Engaged Scholar Award. These awards acknowledge her efforts to build bridges between the university and the broader community through inclusive, impact-driven teaching.

Listen to *Waving Not Drowning*



*Top: Rebecca Gagan (right) in conversation with Chad Dickie (left) at the UVic Bounce launch event in 2019. Photo: UVic Bounce.
Bottom: Rebecca Gagan (right) in conversation with poet Ali Blythe (left) at the UVic Bounce launch event in 2019. Photo: UVic Bounce.*

“Gagan has played an important role within and beyond UVic, helping advance our national dialogue about student mental health and well-being and inclusive pedagogy across the country.”

- Dawn Schnell, manager of mental health outreach and training at UVic

The 3M National Teaching Fellowship is presented by the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) and 3M Canada. As one of 10 fellows selected this year, Gagan will be recognized at STLHE’s annual conference in Saskatoon in June and attend a fellows’ retreat at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in November.

Gagan will join a national cohort committed to transforming post-secondary education through collaboration and community-based leadership.



Jeff Ganohalidoh Corntassel (left) and Temoseng Chazz Elliott (right) recording.

On the frontlines of Indigenous internationalisms

What do frontlines look like for you?" This question, posed by professor of Indigenous Studies Jeff Ganohalidoh Corntassel (Cherokee Nation), begins *Frontlines Are Everywhere*, a new podcast from the Indigenous Internationalism Collective and the Borders in Globalization Lab at UVic.

For Corntassel, the answer is this: "When Indigenous peoples are confronted by injustices, we will be there on the frontlines to ensure healthy, self-determined futures. When our lands and waters are threatened, we will stand on the frontlines. As climate shifts occur, we will remain on the frontlines. When ancestors call to us, we will vigilantly meet urgent threats on the frontlines. When colonial borders cross us, we will respond on the frontlines. When future generations need us, we will protect our sacred relationships on the frontlines. The frontlines are everywhere, and we are still here, perpetuating our nationhood and relationships for the health and wellbeing of future generations."

Over the course of twelve episodes, Corntassel illustrates the urgent truth of this statement in interviews with Indigenous scholars, activists, artists and knowledge holders from across Turtle Island and around the world. With these guests, each episode explores what the frontlines look like: from land defense, ecological restoration and food sovereignty; humour, poetry and traditional carving; to comedy and mental health.

The *Frontlines Are Everywhere* podcast takes a critical look at world politics and Indigenous nationhood by discussing Indigenous-led resurgence and activism, trade networks, climate action and the formation of new alliances that transcend colonial state borders.

"When Indigenous peoples are confronted by injustices, we will be there on the frontlines to ensure healthy, self-determined futures."

- Jeff Ganohalidoh Corntassel

"For Indigenous peoples today, the frontlines are everywhere," says Corntassel. "I pose the question, 'what are Indigenous peoples, nations and Indigenous-led movements doing every day to express their self-determining authority and nationhood?'"

The season one finale features a discussion with land defenders Sleydo' Molly Wickham and Jennifer Wickham from Gidimt'en clan of the Wet'suwet'en people.

Frontlines Are Everywhere is one of several Indigenous-led podcasts created by students, staff and faculty at the University of Victoria that mobilize and platform diverse Indigenous knowledges and experiences. As an output of the SSHRC Partnership grant-funded Borders in Globalization, of which Corntassel is co-principal investigator, each episode fosters insight into how Indigenous peoples practice internationalism through connections to land and water, culture and community.

A second season of *Frontlines Are Everywhere* is currently being released.

Listen to *Frontlines Are Everywhere*



Distinguished alumni in the Humanities



Suromitra Sanatani.

Suromitra Sanatani

President's Alumni Award

Suromitra Sanatani (BA French 1985) trained as a lawyer and began her career in litigation before transitioning to senior corporate positions in the non-profit, public and private sectors. As an independent corporate director, she serves on several boards including the Royal Bank Global Asset Management Independent Review Committee, RBC Indigo Independent Review Committee, the Vancouver Airport Authority, the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada and Purolator Holdings. She successfully championed equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives within many of the organizations she has served. While board chair at Canada Post, she received the 2024 Women's Executive Network Canadian Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Chair of the Board Award for her efforts in ushering in a five-year strategy to advance equity, diversity and inclusion in the workplace.



Aaju Peter.

Aaju Peter

Indigenous Community Alumni Award

Aaju Peter (LLB 2005, Certificate in Indigenous Language Revitalization 2022) is an Inuk lawyer, activist, educator and sealskin clothing designer. In the 1980s, she married a Canadian and moved to Frobisher Bay, now Iqaluit, where she raised five children. In 2005, she was part of the inaugural graduating class of the Akitsiraq program—a partnership between UVic Law, the Akitsiraq Law School Society and Nunavut Arctic College. She continues to defend Inuit rights in Canada and Greenland, raise global awareness of the challenges facing Inuit communities and fights to preserve their language and culture, especially the seal hunt. In 2012, she received the Order of Canada and has appeared in the documentaries *Tunniit: Retracing the Lines of Inuit Tattoos* (2011), *Arctic Defenders* (2013), *Angry Inuk* (2016) and *Twice Colonized* (2023).



“I did an arts degree where we were constantly challenged to look at things from different perspectives. It set me up well for my subsequent legal studies. That’s what I’ve enjoyed doing throughout my career—questioning and learning about different points of view. the importance of having a sense of context and exposure to diverse ways of thinking. It’s still relevant in all my work.”

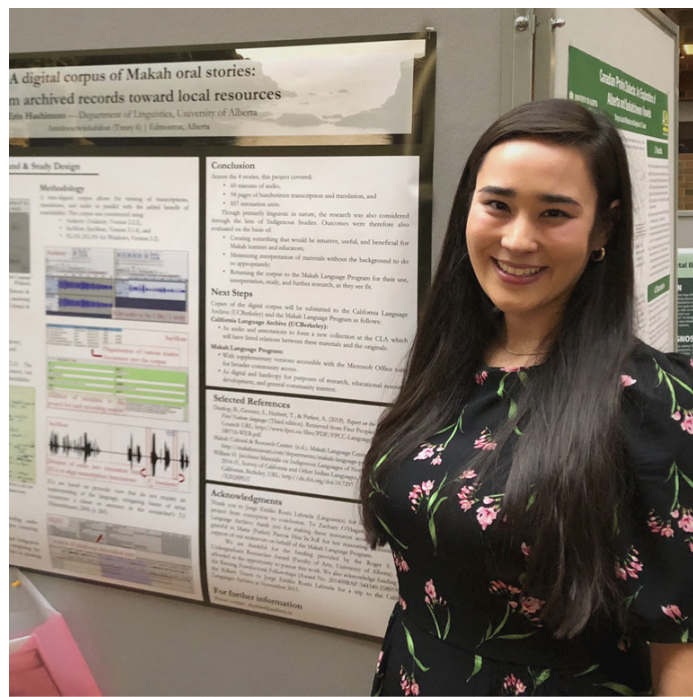
- Suromitra Sanatani

“When I was 11 years old, I was sent off to school in Denmark. Even though it was not residential schooling, it was being sent off to families where you never got to meet any other Greenlander. I forgot my own language. So, my drive came from losing my own language and my own culture and fiercely defending Inuit going through the same thing.”

- Aaju Peter

Outstanding thesis and dissertation awards

We are delighted to celebrate the recipients of the Faculty's Gold Medals for outstanding Master's Thesis or Project and Dissertation for 2024/2025. Each of these projects makes a unique critical contribution to its field and demonstrates the importance of Humanities research and research excellence in our graduate programs.



Erin Hashimoto (Linguistics)

Supervisors: Megan Lukaniec and Ewa Czaykowska-Higgins



Julie Funk (English)

Supervisor: Jentery Sayers

Gold Medal for Outstanding Master's Thesis or Project in the Humanities

Learning from Qʷi-qʷi-diččaq 'Makah' story: Collaborative analysis and emergent linguistic lessons

Archival and legacy materials have become important resources for many language revitalization and reclamation programs. This thesis centers around one such legacy recording in Qʷi-qʷi-diččaq (Makah language) which shares a well-known Makah oral story, "Raven and Crow," as told by first language speaker Ruth Claplanhoo. Working alongside Maria Hita-ʔa-ʔoʔ Pascua in her role with the Makah Language Program and Makah Cultural & Research Center, this research transforms the original story recording into accessible materials that can be adapted for current and future speakers, learners, and teachers while simultaneously addressing the limited availability of analyzed stories and texts in Makah.

Gold Medal for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation in the Humanities

"Dominant Hormone Protocol: Directed Life and the Biopolitics of Chemical Messages."

Funk argues that hormones have emerged as a technology of biopower in scientific and medical practices. Engaging in intersectional theories of biopower, her dissertation bridges conversations across Feminist Science and Technology Studies, Communication and Media Studies and Cultural Studies to address how various industries' representations, organizations and directed flows of hormones produce and manage neoliberal subjects globally. This hormonal management is most starkly felt by those who resist or find alternatives to its many forms, including medical standardizations of gender affirming care, reproductive management, and hormonal pollution. Ultimately, this work demonstrates how stories not only inscribe dominant hormone protocols but can also be speculative sites for imagining counterhegemonic alternatives to the flow of chemical messages.



Thea Cacchioni.

Announcing the 2025 - 2026 Humanities Faculty Fellow

We are delighted to announce that our Faculty Fellow for 2025-2026 will be Dr. Thea Cacchioni (Gender Studies). Since she joined the Department of Gender Studies in 2011, Dr. Cacchioni's research has focused on the medicalization of sex, gender and sexuality broadly, as well as through specific diagnoses. With an interest in how doctors, psychiatrists and drug companies shape understandings of "normalcy" and "deviance across categories of gender, race and class, her work examines the pathologization of some sexual acts and identities, and the "healthicization" of others. Dr. Cacchioni is also a pharmaceutical drug regulation activist and the author of *Big Pharma, Women, and the Labour of Love* (University of Toronto Press, 2015).

Dr. Cacchioni will use the fellowship to complete a monograph based on the findings of her Uvic HREB-approved study, "Understandings and Experiences of Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS)." This work heeds the call for qualitative research grounding experiences of PCOS in intersectional analysis. It fuses autoethnography with critical analysis of in-depth interviews with 30 people with a PCOS diagnosis and lends further credence to the notion that PCOS symptoms—such as infertility, hairiness, acne and fatness—are a difficult combination with idealized norms of feminine heterosexuality. These interviews further highlight the potential for queer relationships, communities and perspectives to disrupt heteronormative pressures and the possibility that PCOS may be gender affirming for some. These accounts also offer insight into how race, ethnicity, culture and class shape understandings and experiences of PCOS and its management.

Taken together, Dr. Cacchioni's project contributes to the burgeoning fields of Critical Fat, Hair and Acne Studies, feminist, queer, and trans theorizations on the technologies of gender and intersectional theories on medicalization and affective labour. Humanities is proud to support her work as a theorist of the medicalization of sex, gender, sexuality and the politics of affective labour.

Congratulations, Dr. Cacchioni!



Richard Van Camp, UVic's inaugural Indigenous Storyteller in Residence (ISIR) at a public celebration and welcoming to the territory in December 2024. Photo: Greg Miller.

Sharing medicine in the classroom through storytelling

By Stephanie Erickson

This past academic year brought award-winning Tłıchǫ Dene author Richard Van Camp to UVic as the inaugural Indigenous Storyteller in Residence (ISIR). Featuring two undergraduate courses on Indigenous literatures, a graduate course on contemporary Canadian Indigenous writing (in collaboration with The Malahat Review) and multiple public community events, the ISIR program is set to continue into another year of learning, community-building, and sharing the gift of storytelling at UVic in 2025-26.

The ISIR 2024-25 undergraduate courses included ENSH 255: Inhale and ENSH 395: Exhale, under the topic "Recovering Family Medicine through Story." Jointly offered between UVic's English Department and the Division of Continuing Studies, these courses invited for-credit and community learners to join together for a unique and multi-faceted exploration of the power of storytelling.

In each course, Richard shared stories about life's miracles and encouraged students to seek the stories they needed to support their families, communities and learning journeys. Course assignments encouraged relational approaches to learning and were designed to reward the learning process rather than product in a continuing effort to decolonize teaching and learning at UVic. The courses enrolled 170 undergraduate students and 56 community learners, many of whom were able to attend through the Department of Continuing Studies at a reduced tuition cost.

"Thank you so much for offering this course. The course and Richard's approach was an incredibly eye-opening experience. The decolonial teaching method and encouragement to apply ideas to our own lives made this course the favourite of my degree. This course is a valuable and necessary reminder of how much we have to learn from Indigenous storytellers and the practice of storytelling."

- Ainslie S., for-credit student

"This class helped me rethink the way learning in a university setting can be. I was able to personally connect with what I was learning, which helped me develop a greater understanding of the content. It allowed me to not only deepen relationships with my family and friends, but also with myself. I gained a new appreciation for storytelling that I didn't know possible before taking this class. I cannot recommend it enough to anybody who has the time!"

- Lindsey M., community student

Nurturing community relationships

Beyond the courses, the ISIR featured numerous public events to engage with the community beyond UVic and build and nurture relationships. The program welcomed students and community members to the First Peoples House in December of 2024 to join in a public celebration and official welcoming of Richard Van Camp to the territory as the inaugural Indigenous Storyteller-in-Residence. In February 2025, Richard Van Camp, Dr. Stephen Ross and program coordinator Stephanie Erickson visited UVic's partner institution, the En'owkin Centre in Okanagan territory, where Richard worked with students and built relationships with emerging artists, and where the ISIR program staff strengthened institutional ties with this important partner in Indigenous education.

Community events celebrated diverse Indigenous storytellers, beginning with a public dialogue in the fall of 2024 between ISIR Richard Van Camp, and illustrator Christopher Shy about their collaboration on the graphic novel series, *The Wheetago War*.

As a special class event in spring 2025, the ISIR program welcomed honoured guests Art Napoleon, Amanda Strong and Tantoo Cardinal to a virtual public event where they shared with students and community members about their work on the film, *Inkwo for When the Starving Return*, an adaptation from Richard's writing, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2024.

As the first summer of the ISIR program approached, the program hosted a public evening of storytelling, featuring wisdom, healing and humour with UVic's ISIR, Richard Van Camp (Tłıchō Dene), and friends Tracy Underwood (Tsartlip), Christopher Teuton (Cherokee), Roger Fernandes (Lower Klamath) and Jess Housty (Hiltsuk). These stories and teachings from across Turtle Island were shared in June 2025 at a public venue raising funds to support bursaries for Indigenous students at UVic, En'owkin, and WSÁNEĆ College.



Richard Van Camp (left) and Stephanie Erickson (centre) record a podcast episode with Ry Moran, Associate University Librarian, Reconciliation. Photo: Stephen Ross.

Other summer events included a recorded discussion on the role of Indigenous literatures in post-secondary institutions between Richard Van Camp and founding director of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, and UVic's inaugural Associate University Librarian – Reconciliation Ry Moran, as well as an Indigenous Short Film Series screening of two films based on Richard Van Camp's work, *Three Feathers* (dir. Carla Ulrich, 2018), and the award-winning *Inkwo for When the Starving Return* (dir. Amanda Strong, 2024), followed by a Q&A with the author.

Looking ahead

The inaugural ISIR year closed with a community-wide celebration of all Richard has accomplished this year in his role, and welcomed students, community members and friends of the ISIR program to gather for a closing ceremony to end the first year of the program in a good way.

As the ISIR program gears up for another year, we are excited to welcome Richard Van Camp back to teach, share and inspire our diverse community of learners once more, with more classes and public events to come in 2025-26. Fall 2025 will feature ENSH395: Sharing Family Medicine Through Storytelling, while spring 2026 will offer ENSH396: Gathering Our Medicine Stories.

The future of the ISIR will grow to feature a variety of storytellers, with a special emphasis on honouring local Indigenous storytellers from Coast Salish communities, launching the ISIR program as an established source of Indigenous knowledge and decolonial action at UVic.



'Cúagilákv Jess Housty reads poetry at an evening of storytelling hosted by the ISIR program. Photo: Stephen Ross.

2024 Humanities Staff & Faculty Awards

The Humanities staff and faculty awards recognize those who make outstanding contributions to the Faculty's mission and community.

Recipients of these awards have distinguished themselves by advancing the Faculty's mission to enrich human dignity, provoke critical inquiry, engage myriad voices and inspire innovative expression. It is with great pleasure that we honour and celebrate this year's recipients!



Early Career Excellence in Research

Loren Gaudet (*Academic and Technical Writing Program*)

Loren Gaudet's publications and grant-funded work reflect her experience designing and teaching ATWP's first Indigenous-exclusive academic writing course, as well as her expertise in the rhetoric of health and medicine and the scholarship of teaching and learning. Her work in support of Indigenous students is a model for the faculty: she has published two articles on the topic (one co-authored with Lydia Toorenburgh).



Early Career Excellence in Research

Tim Personn (*Academic and Technical Writing Program*)

Tim Personn is an expert on the novelist David Foster Wallace. His recent monograph *Fictions of Proximity: Skepticism, Romanticism, and the Wallace Nexus* (2023) breaks new ground by telling the story of contemporary authors and thinkers around Wallace. Beyond this, his list of publications, in both English and German, include public-facing work as well as translations, editing, book chapters, journal articles and the scholarship of teaching and learning.



Engaged Scholar

Li-Shih Huang (*Linguistics, SLLC*)

Li-Shih Huang, who also won the Research Excellence Award in 2023, has fostered deep connections with international students, Indigenous language teachers and learners and, most recently, Syrian refugees arriving in Canada. Since 2015, her SSHRC-funded project, "Syrians Learning English for Employment in Canada" (SLEEC) has supported large numbers of English-language learners and teachers.



Outstanding Graduate Supervision and Mentorship

Pierre-Luc Landry (*French and Francophone Studies, SLLC*)

Since arriving at UVic in 2019, Pierre-Luc Landry has served a full term as a Graduate Advisor, supervised 14 MA theses and is actively supporting 8 others. As his nominator put it, "He has shown himself to be a tirelessly supportive mentor, an innovative instructor, a key contributor to his field, and a creative and indefatigable Graduate Studies director."



Global Engagement Award

Silvia Colàs Cardona (*Hispanic and Italian Studies, SLLC*)

As former Chair of Hispanic and Italian Studies and Chair of the new School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures, Silvia Colàs Cardona's unwavering commitment to fostering international collaborations and global perspectives has included coordinating study abroad programs, developing a course in partnership with the University of Barcelona, establishing UVic as a SIELE and DELE centre and contributing to UVic's Global Engagement Academic Group.



Hōuistəŋ Award

Tracy Underwood (*Indigenous Studies*)

Tracy Underwood's extraordinary contributions to advancing the Indigenous Plan include her teaching excellence in Indigenous Studies 101: Indigenous Foundations and Indigenous Studies 450: Indigenous Studies in the Field, her curriculum development of Indigenous Studies 100, her Indigenization of space, her lived experience and her ability to give clarity and a deeper understanding of difficult issues regarding colonization and reciprocity.



Staff Excellence

Theresa Gallant (*Faculty of Humanities, Dean's Office*)

Theresa Gallant has distinguished herself as an extraordinarily diligent and capable staff member who manifests good-humoured enthusiasm for her work. Her knowledge of policies, procedures and process is unparalleled. She deftly guided the Faculty through the budgetary crisis in 2022 and budget cuts in 2023 and 2024. The caliber of her work in a very demanding position sets a dauntingly high standard of achievement.



Teaching Excellence

Moustapha Fall (*French and Francophone Studies, SLLC*)

Moustapha Fall brings a positive and encouraging energy to the classroom that fosters deep student engagement through student-centred pedagogy. His inclusive classroom practices are supportive of diverse student perspectives and learning styles. Incorporating his global perspective and Senegalese heritage in courses such as French 265: Global French Connections, he creates a learning atmosphere that is stimulating, inclusive and transformative.



Research Excellence

Adrienne Williams Boyarin (*English*)

Over the past five years, Adrienne Williams Boyarin has published a monograph on Jewish women in medieval manuscripts, recognized as a paradigm-shifting study. Her publications also include some of the top journal titles in her field and chapters in the leading presses in the world. Her digital project, *Medieval Anglo-Jewish Women: 1154-1307*, is the only project to offer information on Jewish women in the Middle Ages, introducing 817 women.

Humanities research by the numbers

2024



Total number of new external grants awarded



Application success rate for all external grants



Value of new grants awarded (excluding matching funds, etc.)



External contributions (including matching funds) raised for new grants



Number of new SSHRC grants awarded



Application success rate for new SSHRC grants (compared to 43% national average)



Value of SSHRC funds awarded for new grants

12 new grant recipients

- Corinne Bancroft
- Adrienne Williams Boyarin
- Andrea Grant
- Thiti Jamjajornkeiat
- Janelle Jenstad
- Sara Humphreys
- ann-elise lewallen
- Megan Lukaniec
- Stephen Ross
- Raymond Siemens
- waaseyaa’sin Christine Sy
- Suzanne Urbanczyk

30 new grants awarded

- Insight: 3
- Connection: 4
- Insight Development: 2
- Partnership Engage: 1
- Miscellaneous external grants: 10
- Internal research grants: 6
- Miscellaneous internal grants: 3

Humanities Week 2025 recap

Each year during Humanities Week, we showcase the critical and creative research of our faculty and students while provoking reflection on pressing contemporary topics. This year, we welcomed audiences back to campus for two in-person events complementing our usual online offerings. In 2025, the theme *Diaspora Stories* asked participants to explore ideas of exile and return, home and community, empire and loss, and to participate in global stories of complex identities and imperial legacies.

A Potential History of the Jewish Muslim World: In Conversation with Ariella Aïsha Azoulay

In conversation with Associate Dean Research Adrienne Williams Boyarin, Ariella Aïsha Azoulay discussed her new book, *The Jewelers of the Ummah: A Potential History of The Jewish Muslim World* (Verso Books, 2024), which conducts a deeply personal exploration of family, empire, art and identity. Through a series of letters to her father, her great-grandmothers and her children—and to thinkers such as Frantz Fanon and Hannah Arendt—she examines the disruption of Jewish Muslim life in Algeria and broadly in the Maghreb and the Middle East by two colonial projects: French rule and the Zionist colonization of Palestine, which provoked the departure of Jews from these areas.

Return Stories: Diaspora, Cold War, and Globalization Reconsidered

Andy Chih-ming Wang, Research Fellow at the Institute of European and American Studies, Academia Sinica (Taiwan), delivered a Lansdowne Lecture drawing on selective examples from various literary and cinematic texts produced by Asian/American authors and directors whose representations of return, when put together, show a transnational landscape of geopolitical and affective shifts that connect the market with the military, diaspora with empire and home with loss and guilt.



Andy Chih-ming Wang delivers a Lansdowne Lecture during Humanities Week 2025. Photo: Ziming Dong

The Un-Essay Competition

In the annual Humanities Un-Essay Competition, students express their research with complete freedom of form. Competing for top prizes by presenting their research in any format that is not an essay, students are encouraged to explore the full range of expression for Humanities research.

Presenters:

- Carly Goodman
- Kaila Lee
- Cedar Flynn
- Ruby Harris, Leonie Solomons, Ella Lahey, Jordyn Burton-Profitt and Cat Watt
- Elizabeth Duchesne
- Connell Neill

Judges:

- Matt Pollard (Germanic and Slavic Studies, SLLC)
- Iain Higgins (English)
- Rebecca Halliday (Professional Communication)
- Pierre-Luc Landry (French and Francophone Studies, SLLC)
- Pablo Restrepo Gautier (Hispanic and Italian Studies, SLLC)
- Lisa Kealohapa'aokahaleole Hall (Indigenous Studies)

Prizes:

- Courageous Creativity: Connell Neill
- Excellence in Humanistic Creative Expression: Carly Goodman
- Audience Favourite: Ruby Harris, Leonie Solomons, Ella Lahey, Jordyn Burton-Profitt and Cat Watt

Aisha's Story Film Screening and Q&A

We hosted two free screenings of the award-winning documentary *Aisha's Story* on campus at Cinecenta, followed by Q&A discussion with filmmakers Elizabeth Vibert, Salam Barakat Guenette and Chen Wang. Through audience donations, these events raised over \$2100 for Aisha's family grain mill in Baqa'a refugee camp, Jordan.



Salam Barakat Guenette (left) and Elizabeth Vibert (right) at a Q&A following a screening of *Aisha's Story*. Photo: Ziming Dong



Sky Dragushan reading issues of FTM newsletter in the University of Victoria's Trans Archives. Photo: Ziming Dong.

Finding trans+ community in the archive

Fourth-year English and art history student Sky Dragushan is blending their study of literature and art history to gain archival research experience that they hope will equip them for a graduate program in library and archival studies.

After years visiting Victoria for Passover and falling in love with Vancouver Island, UVic was Dragushan's only choice for post-secondary study. "I knew I wanted to study English, and UVic's English department is phenomenal," they say. At the time, they had no idea that UVic is also home to the world's largest trans archive, but they would eventually find themselves deep in that archive, studying the formation of trans community through newsletters.

Early archival explorations

Reflecting on their interest in archival studies, Dragushan credits a focused course that they took early in their degree: "In my second year, I took ENSH 483: In the Archives with Dr. Adrienne Williams Boyarin. We learned how to read and analyze these archival manuscripts, about ink and parchment. It was so fascinating, and I wanted to know if I could do this as a career. That was the catalyst."

As a recipient of a Valerie Kuehne Undergraduate Research Award (supervised by Dr. Trevor Van Damme), Dragushan had already fostered an interest in public and community-centred history, researching textile tools found at Eleon, Greece on an archaeological field school. A move into the archives was a logical next step.

"We learned how to read and analyze these archival manuscripts, about ink and parchment. It was so fascinating, and I wanted to know if I could do this as a career."

- Sky Dragushan

In the Trans Archives

In their third year, Dragushan's aspirations towards a career in archives were affirmed when they were selected as a Peter and Ana Lowens University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections Student Fellow.

The fellowship provides undergraduate researchers with faculty and librarian support for a research project using materials from UVic Libraries Special Collections and University Archives. In addition to this mentorship, student fellows participate in workshops about book and archival history, tailored to the interests of the cohort.

"We did a paper-making workshop with Frances Hunter, and we went out to West Saanich and were pounding mulch with these wooden mallets to turn into paper," recalls Dragushan.

During the fellowship, Dragushan took a deep dive into the Transgender Archives, focusing on the trans newsletter FTM, inspired by the fact that few scholars have studied the publication.

"FTM focused on news, and there was also a question and answer section called the 'male box,' and that piece was so instrumental in building trans community, because you were able to speak to real trans people about taboo topics. In a lot of the newsletters, there are questions about sex or advertisements for sex toys or pornography," Dragushan explains. "That was huge in establishing that this was a trans space, this is how we do things, from sex to clothes to gender-affirming care."

Dragushan frames their time in the archives as an opportunity for learning and expanding their understanding of transmasculine history and community. Conducting a publication history of FTM by combing through archived issues, they could understand where issues were published and how they were printed and distributed, finally completing a physical exhibit in the Special Collections Reading Room and a project website presenting their research.

Following up on their research on FTM, Dragushan is continuing to explore trans+ history in GNDR 219: Intro to Trans Histories, taught by Vanier scholar and PhD candidate Jamey Jespersen. When the class visited the Transgender Archives, Dragushan was excited to show off the issues of FTM that they got to read and study during their fellowship.

"I want the trans community, especially, to be able to find this research."

- Sky Dragushan

"Because of my experience with the Lowens fellowship, I got to present my research at the Crossing Fonds Digital Archives Symposium in Vancouver," says Dragushan. "It felt really rewarding to get to present my research at a conference as an undergrad."

As they look to a future in libraries and archives, Dragushan continues to pursue hands-on, community-focused research by volunteering with Arizona State University's SolarSPELL Initiative, which provides localized libraries to communities in regions with limited or no internet access, working with

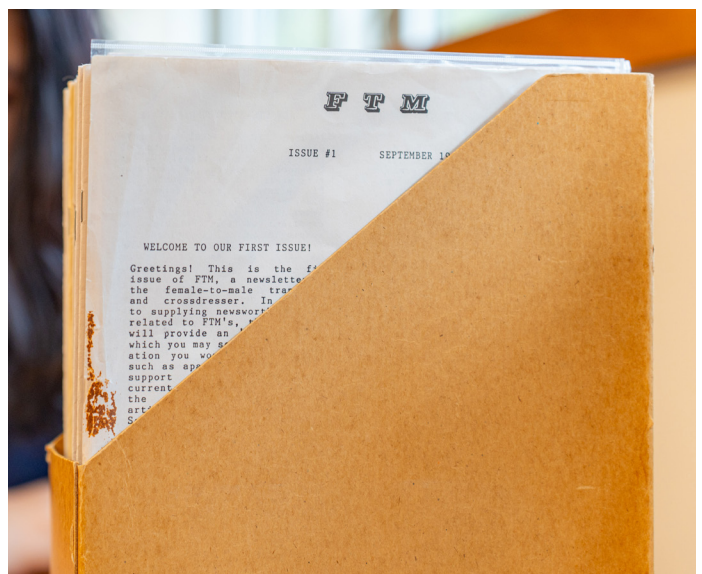


Sky in Greece during the field school at Eleon. Photo provided.

to determine local library needs. Leveraging their experience creating educational arts programming as a camp counsellor and the knowledge they've gained by studying art history, Dragushan is helping curate more arts-focused content for the libraries and reorganizing the existing content to be more user-friendly.

"The dream is to be an art librarian, working in a gallery's library holdings or in archives or special collections with rare books and manuscripts. I can also see myself as a children's or public librarian."

For now, they want to keep using digital tools to make Humanities research more accessible. That goal informed the project website for their Lowens research, and has shaped their approach to archival research more broadly. "I want the trans community, especially, to be able to find this research." After all, if the original materials that Dragushan is studying helped build crucial community spaces, so can researching and understanding them.



FTM newsletter in the University of Victoria's Trans Archives. Photo: Ziming Dong.



Rachel Hope Cleves. Photo: Philip Cox

Pleasure on a plate: a Q&A with UVic historian Rachel Cleves

Historian of sexuality Rachel Hope Cleves sinks her teeth into gastronomic delights from eighteenth-century French dining rooms to online “food porn” videos of the 2020s in her latest book, *Lustful Appetites: An Intimate History of Good Food and Wicked Sex* (Polity 2025).

Why do we connect indulging in food—from chocolate-covered strawberries to oysters on the half shell—with sexual appetites? Where did our narratives around gastronomic and sexual appetites come from, and how do these histories impact us today?

What first prompted you to connect sexual and gastronomical appetites in this research?

Initially, I planned to write a book about Americans learning to cook in Paris. I had finished two books, one on the history of violence and the second on the history of sexuality, so I wanted to write about food history and then I would have addressed the trifecta of human existence: sex, food and death. But as I began researching Americans cooking in Paris, I kept discovering sex and sexuality in the sources. I began wondering about the history of these linked appetites. And ten years later: voilà, a book!

Throughout *Lustful Appetites*, you identify religious leaders developing a link between sinful appetites, gastronomic and sexual. How do these religious connections become mainstreamed to permeate secular cultures?

Moral concerns that indulging in good food would heat up the sexual appetites developed simultaneously in religious and medical literature dating back to ancient Greece and Rome and the classical period. Some early sources combined these two strains of thought. John Wesley, the eighteenth-century founder of Methodism, wrote a diet book advising people not to eat pickled or smoked or highly flavoured foods. Sylvester Graham (of the Graham cracker) was a nineteenth-century minister who promoted a vegetarian diet to stop people from masturbating. John Harvey Kellogg, inventor of the corn flake, also combined religious and medical thought when he recommended an abstemious diet would restrain the perverted appetites.

As Anglo-American culture became more secular, the overt religious content of diet recommendations faded. But I would argue that wellness culture is still steeped in moral ideas today.

You focus on spaces outside the home, like restaurants. What particular anxieties do these public or semi-public spaces provoke around appetite? Does this differ when compared to discussions of food consumed in domestic spaces?

Restaurants stoked anxieties about food and sex because they were highly erotic places in the early years, following their invention in Paris in the 1770s. The word restaurant originated as a word for a restorative broth that was meant to reinvigorate drooping men. Early restaurants were overseen by attractive *dames de comptoirs*, or cashiers, and they often had *cabinets particuliers*, or private rooms, where men could meet women for sex.

Then in the mid-1800s, restaurants started using waitresses to serve food, and waitresses were highly eroticized from the outset. That said, anxieties about food and sex also shaped the domestic setting. Women and girls were discouraged from eating heartily at their own tables because their alimentary appetites were interpreted as a sign of their sexual appetites. There are lots of accounts of women gorging in private, or only around other women, in texts well into the late twentieth century.



Your book brings readers all the way from 18th-century France to modern day “food porn.” What role does the internet and social media play in the eroticization of gastronomic appetite?

Food and sex continue to combine in new ways as culture shifts. I argue in the book that in the twenty-first century our ideas about food and sex have flipped. In previous centuries, ministers and physicians advised eating an abstemious diet to control the lusts. Now, wellness influencers on the internet say that eating an abstemious diet (vegetarian, low fat, etc.) is the key to a robust sex life—good erections, a strong libido, and, critically, a slim body, which is seen as essential for sexual attractiveness. Another interesting shift that’s taking place is toward the eroticization of male cooks on platforms like TikTok. I’m told there are lots of clips of shirtless men making phallic foods like eggplant on that platform.

We tend to think of discourse around illicit appetites as a thing of the past, but stigma around food and sex still exists in different forms, including on the same platforms that popularize food porn content. How do you see this historical research as timely, or able to inform our understanding of today’s narratives of stigma around our appetites?

Absolutely, I think that moral ideas about food and sex continue to stigmatize our appetites. In the twenty-first century, I think we’ve become more restrictive and moralizing about our alimentary appetites. Students in my food history classes often express a high level of anxiety about “clean” food vs. “dirty” food, as well as anxieties about meeting unrealistic body standards, all of which can lead to disordered eating.

What do you hope readers take away from *Lustful Appetites*?

By exposing the long history of moralizing about food and sex, I hope to give readers the tools to take a more critical view of some of the messaging that circulates today, and ultimately defang some of the more harmful messaging out there. I’d like people to take away from the book more license to eat and have sex in the ways that bring them pleasure without suffering from so much guilt.

Lustful Appetites: An Intimate History of Good Food and Wicked Sex is available from Bolen Books.



Local artists present in a session of IS100. Left to right: Mick Scow, Kathy LaFortune, Doug LaFortune, Lou-ann Neel, Tracy Underwood, Carey Newman. Photo: Ziming Dong.

Learning relational responsibility in Indigenous Studies

Since the fall of 2023, students and community members have gathered at the University of Victoria to learn what it means to be a good guest on the territories of the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples, on whose traditional territory the University stands.

Guided by the framing and hosting work of course weavers Mick Scow (Kwakwaka'wakw/Snuneymuxw) and W̱SÁNEĆ Matriarch Tracy Underwood, participants in Indigenous Studies 100: Responsibilities to Coastal Indigenous Peoples & Lands meet weekly to hear from community-based knowledge holders.

Building the foundation

When Dr. Lisa Kealohapa'aokahaleole Hall joined the Indigenous Studies as program director in 2019, she initiated the development of what would become Indigenous Studies 100, securing grant funding and bringing together Indigenous instructors at UVic and local community members for discussions around local Indigenous histories and protocols to visualize and shape the course.

"Many people at UVic need this knowledge of how to be a good visitor on these territories, whether visiting Indigenous students, staff, or faculty, many of whom are from other territories," says Scow, who has been involved in the course since its early stages.

When Underwood joined the Indigenous Studies program, she built momentum to centre W̱SÁNEĆ knowledges by working collaboratively with local knowledge holders.

Hosted once a week in the evenings, Indigenous Studies 100 was designed to be accessible both for participants and for the community members who share their knowledge in the course.

"Many people at UVic need this knowledge of how to be a good visitor on these territories, whether visiting Indigenous students, staff or faculty, many of whom are from other territories."

- Mick Scow, assistant teaching professor in Indigenous Studies

A different way of doing things

From the very beginning, the cultural protocol of the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples is built into Indigenous Studies 100. Students ask for permission to learn on the territory, and every semester begins and ends with a shared meal prepared by a cook from Songhees Nation. For some students, sharing this meal is also part of their learning experience, the first time they've eaten frybread or begun a course in this way.

In Scow's words, "from day one, students are thrown into this different way of doing things, so they learn by being in it, rather than just us telling them about it."

Each week, local knowledge holders in the community share their expertise: reef net fishing, sports, plant medicines, canoeing, music, dance. "We prioritized local knowledge holders who haven't had a place to share knowledge at UVic, which is quite novel," shares Scow. For many of these knowledge holders, the course becomes a platform to share their accomplishments, from international victories in canoe racing to award-winning artwork.

One particularly memorable class session featured a reef net fishing display. Built by Rob Sam, the display demonstrates reef net fishing technology, emphasizing the use of items like stone anchors and glasses.



Lou-Ann Neel (left) and Tracy Underwood (right). Photo: Ziming Dong.

"The students were captivated," says Underwood, reflecting on the first time Rob Sam brought his display to class. "When the class was over, he must have had ten students gathered around him, captivated with every word he said, and he was in his element. He's passionate about reef net fishing. That was just the beginning."

Classes in Indigenous Studies 100 are made up of current UVic students, as well as community members, who can take the course through Continuing Studies. Bennett Issel, a UVic staff member in the Faculty of Humanities, took the course as a community member in 2023. Reflecting on their time in the course, they said, "My experience in IS 100 was both educational and humbling. Tracy Underwood brought in members of the community for many lessons, allowing us to hear histories from multiple perspectives and generations. I left most classes with a deep sense of appreciation and much to reflect on. I feel that this course was incredibly important for me, as a

white settler, to continue decolonizing my practices and to gain a deeper understanding of Indigenous relationships with the land on which the university stands."

Giving back to the community

A crucial pillar of Indigenous Studies 100 is giving back to the community, especially to community members who share their knowledge and experience with course participants. Students are encouraged to reflect critically on their skills and resources when deciding how to contribute. Whether putting together presentations for knowledge holders who regularly teach in schools or at community events; removing invasive species on campus with the A Place of Medicine restoration project, led by čésəlītəšən (Loreisa Lepine); or purchasing art or medicine directly from knowledge holders, students find ways to action the learning happening inside the classroom, giving back to local communities and lands.

Reflecting on the importance of Indigenous Studies 100, Underwood says, "I hope everyone learns the basics to seeing our people as human. Because racism is alive. We still face genocide and harm from dehumanization." The course, particularly its call to give back to communities, offers a place for people to come together in a good way.

For both Underwood and Scow, Indigenous Studies 100 is an ongoing learning and growing process. While there are still challenges, Scow says, "It's been a fun journey, and we're always excited for what's to come, how we can improve the course for the next offering and continue strengthening what's already an amazing course."

**Register for the Spring 2026 session
of IS100: Responsibilities to Coastal
Indigenous Peoples & Lands**



Publications by Humanities faculty in 2024-2025

Lustful Appetites: An Intimate History of Good Food and Wicked Sex

(Polity Press, 2025)

by Rachel Hope Cleves (*History*)

Lustful Appetites explores the long association between good food and illicit sex, from the rise of the Parisian restaurant as a site for sex work in the 18th century, to the leading role queer people played in epicurean culture in Britain and the United States in the 20th century.

Shakespeare and the World of 'Slings & Arrows': Poetic Faith in a Postmodern Age

(McGill-Queens University Press, 2024)

by Gary Kuchar (*English*)

The three-season Canadian television series *Slings & Arrows* was heralded by television critics as one of the best shows ever produced, while Shakespeare scholars have been ambivalent about the series, at times even hostile. Explaining this discrepancy, Kuchar demonstrates how the series convincingly portrays some of the ways Shakespeare continues to provide not just entertainment, but equipment for living. Honourable Mention for the Ann Saddlemyer Award (Canadian Association of Theatre Studies, 2025).

Shakespeare's Exiles

(Routledge, 2025)

by Richard van Oort (*English*)

How did centralized political authority originate? What prompted our foraging ancestors to submit to the authority of big men? The third and final book in Richard van Oort's trilogy on Shakespeare, *Shakespeare's Exiles* addresses these basic ethical and political questions by looking at two of Shakespeare's most eccentric big men: Timon of Athens and Prospero of Milan.

Anne Le Févre Dacier: Of the Causes of the Corruption of Taste

(Oxford University Press, 2025)

edited by James Young (*Philosophy*) and Michel-Antoine Xhignesse

Anne Le Févre Dacier (1645-1720) was the most important woman of letters of her time and *Of the Causes of the Corruption of Taste* is her most significant work. The introduction to this volume argues that she contributed significantly to the development of eighteenth-century philosophy of art.

Yogalands: In Search of Practice on the Mat and in the World

(McGill-Queens University Press, 2025)

by Paul Bramadat (*History/Religion, Culture and Society*)

In *Yogalands*, Paul Bramadat wrestles with his position as a skeptical scholar who is also a devoted yoga practitioner. Drawing from his own experience, and from conversations with hundreds of yoga teachers and students in the United States and Canada, he seeks to understand what yoga means for people in the modern West.

Taunting the Useful

(Punctum Books, 2024)

by Emile Fromet de Rosnay, pen name Loumille Métros (*French and Francophone Studies*)

Taunting the Useful seeks to tease the dimensions of wonder, use and play, through modalities, contingencies and potentialities of the useless-useful. An experimental book, it (un)does what it tells, and is as much an object taunting and taunted as it is a description of taunting the useful.

Virtual Reality, Artificial Intelligence and Language Learning: The Need for Attention

(John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2024)

by Ulf Schuetze (*Germanic and Slavic Studies*)

Taking readers on a journey through the brain, this book explains how VR and AI may foster and sustain connectivity between language faculties, senses/emotions, working and long-term memory and attention.

Nuevos dones del día: Ochenta y cinco sonetos (El Tucán de Virginia, 2025)

by Dan Russek (*Hispanic and Italian Studies*)

Dones del día (noventa y seis sonetos de ocasión) [Gifts of the Day. Ninety Six Circumstantial Sonnets] includes ninety six original compositions inspired by daily life. It explores the communicative possibilities of the traditional form of the sonnet by poeticizing everyday experience. *Nuevos dones del día. Ochenta y cinco sonetos* [New Gifts of the Day. Eighty-Five Sonnets] continues developing this lyrical vein.

Dones del día: Noventa y seis sonetos de ocasión (Bonilla Artigas Editores, 2024)

by Dan Russek (*Hispanic and Italian Studies*)

Dones del día (noventa y seis sonetos de ocasión) [Gifts of the Day. Ninety Six Circumstantial Sonnets] includes ninety six original compositions inspired by daily life. It explores the communicative possibilities of the traditional form of the sonnet by poeticizing everyday experience. The project takes a cue from Chilean Pablo Neruda's *Elemental Odes*, the poetry of classical Spanish Baroque poets, and modern authors such as Nicaraguan Rubén Darío and Argentine Jorge Luis Borges.

Hockey on the Moon: Imagination and Canada's Game
(Athabasca University Press, 2024)

by Jamie Dopp (English)

In recent years, there has been a boom in writing about hockey in Canada. *Hockey on the Moon* explores thirteen key texts from before and during this boom. The analysis connects to such broader topics as the role of imagination in human culture, the significance of play, the evolution of sport in Canada and elsewhere, the history of Canada and the history and social significance of hockey.

The End of the Ottoman Empire and the Forging of the Modern Middle East: A Short History with Documents
(Hackett Publishing Company, 2025)

by Martin Bunton (History) and Andrew Wender (History)

In one hundred and twenty pages, this book provides a compelling account of the shaping of the modern Middle East and the critical part played in that process by the Ottoman Empire, even as it fell apart.

Echoes of Care: Deafness in Modern Britain
(McGill-Queens University Press, 2025)

by Jaipreet Virdi (History)

Echoes of Care describes how British ear specialists sought to reshape deafness as a curable affliction that they were uniquely able to treat. Aurists extended their authority towards key sites of intervention - the census, school medical testing, public health, deaf schools - to argue for the necessity of specialist care. Beneath the surface of these claims lay deeper questions about access to healthcare, cultural perceptions of disability and the rise of eugenics.

Critique of Practical Music: Music and Moral Development

(Routledge, 2025)

by James O. Young (Philosophy)

The belief that the right sort of music promotes moral development is almost ubiquitous. At every stage in the history of philosophical thinking, many philosophers have believed that the right sort of music is conducive to moral improvement and the wrong kind of music can produce moral decay. This book offers a systematic survey of ethos theory: the theory according to which the right sort of music can have a positive or negative effect on moral development.

Maternidades imaginadas. Representaciones y disidencias en el siglo XXI

(Editorial Cuatro Propio, 2025)

by Marina Bettaglio (Hispanic and Italian Studies), Olga Albarrán Caselles

This co-edited volume focuses on what we term "maternal dissidences," foregrounding how artistic creation re-imagines reproduction in Latin America and in Spain in a variety of media. It analyses maternal empowerment as well as the co-option of maternal identities via performative enactments as well as cinematic, visual and literary representations.

Introduction to Indigenous Feminisms
(Routledge, 2025)

by waaseyaa'sin Christine Sy (Gender Studies), Isabel Altamirano-Jiménez, Sarah Nickel, Hōkūlani K. Aikau

This textbook introduces important concepts about and approaches to understanding what Indigenous feminisms are, why we use the term in the plural and why Indigenous feminisms are not just for academics. The first of its kind on this subject, ItIF provides the historical contexts, analytical tools and the practice-driven possibilities for engagement with Indigenous feminist knowledge.

Re-thinking the Literacy Divide in Language Education in Senegal

(Peter Lang, 2025)

by Moustapha Fall (French and Francophone Studies)

This monograph explores the roots and evolution of Senegal's literacy divide, tracing it from French colonial language policies to postcolonial educational reforms. It examines the literacy initiatives of Presidents Senghor, Diouf and Wade; evaluates contemporary challenges; and proposes inclusive, locally grounded language education policies for Senegal and the broader West African region.

Re-thinking Literacy through the Qur'an: Shifting Definitions and Global Realities

(Don Bosco University Press, 2025)

by Moustapha Fall (French and Francophone Studies)

This volume revisits the Qur'anic tradition as a foundational model for multilingual and orally-based learning systems, offering an alternative to Western, print-centric definitions of literacy. It examines the role of religious education in early literacy development and critiques the continued marginalization of mother-tongue instruction in Global South education systems shaped by colonial legacies.

Websites and digital projects

T. S. Eliot's *Animula*: Contexts, Contents and Description

<https://exhibits.library.uvic.ca/spotlight/eliot>

by G. Kim Blank (English)

This digital project provides all you need to know about Eliot's relatively unknown Christmas-card poem. This extensive site archivally, historically, biographically and critically reassesses T. S. Eliot's poem "Animula," based on two signed and numbered "Animula" cards held by the University of Victoria Libraries in Special Collections.

Frontlines Are Everywhere

<https://biglobalization.org/output/frontlines-podcast/>

hosted by Jeff Ganohalidoh Corntassel

The *Frontlines Are Everywhere* podcast takes a critical look at world politics and Indigenous nationhood by discussing Indigenous-led resurgence and activist movements, Indigenous trade networks, Indigenous climate action and the formation of new alliances that transcend colonial state borders among other topics.

Humanities at work: co-op student stories



Humanities co-op students



Humanities co-op employers



Average monthly salary for Humanities co-op students



Learn how to join Humanities co-op

Tia Gilmour (English)

Working with the internal and external global communication team at Arc'teryx as a brand communications assistant, English and professional communications student Tia Gilmour coordinated media visits and contributed to internal storytelling. She continues to work with Arc'teryx as the Global Brand Communications Coordinator.

“My co-op term with Arc'teryx ended my undergrad off with an absolute bang. Do it! Take on the boring jobs to build your resume and learn from the smaller companies. It will get you to where you want. Be patient!”

- Tia Gilmour, co-op student



Tia Gilmour records a podcast with Arc'teryx Chief Talent Officer, Brent Bolling, during her co-op work term. Photo provided.

Celina Lessard
(Professional Communications)

During a work term with Viberg Boot, a 3rd-generation family-owned and operated business in Victoria, professional communications student Celina Lessard coordinated photoshoots for magazine ads, social media and web use. Since completing her studies, she works with BC Pension Corporation as the Municipal Board Services Coordinator.

“Because of this co-op, I have skills and references to refer back to for future job opportunities. It’s a great way to make some money while working in your field, plus have projects to talk about in interviews that aren’t solely academic.”

- Celina Lessard, co-op student



Celina Lessard conducted product photoshoots for marketing use in magazine ads, websites and social media. Photo provided.

Patrick Ferreira
(History)

As a project assistant with the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Patrick Ferreira audited financial documents for the Ministry to ensure the eligibility of costs claimed to a federal cost-sharing program. Since graduating, he has continued his work with the Ministry as a Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements Project Administrator.

“I got to directly apply the skills I built up during my undergraduate degree, and meet students in different disciplines. Co-op is a fantastic experience for applied learning and a way to learn how to network and build a professional circle.”

- Patrick Ferreira, co-op student



Patrick Ferreira worked with the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Photo provided.



Janelle Jenstad.

Janelle Jenstad recognized as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in class of 2024

Internationally recognized digital humanities scholar Janelle Jenstad is one of five University of Victoria researchers recognized by the Royal Society of Canada in its class of 2024. The Society's peer-elected recipients are chosen for their academic excellence and remarkable contributions to the arts, humanities and sciences. A professor in the Department of English and the first Academic Director of the Humanities Computing and Media Centre, Jenstad conducts groundbreaking research in early modern literature.

Janelle Jenstad is a founding member of the *Endings Project* at UVic. She founded and directs *The Map of Early Modern London* (MoEML) and *Linked Early Modern Drama Online* (LEMDO), and co-coordinates *The New Internet Shakespeare Editions* (NISE), *Digital Renaissance Editions* (DRE) and the *MoEML Mayoral Shows* (MoMS) digital anthologies. Jenstad's current research brings together an international team of editors, students, digital humanists, book historians, theatre practitioners and educators who are collaboratively creating *Endings*-compliant, performance- and pedagogy-informed digital, open-access editions of over 500 plays by Shakespeare and his contemporaries.

“Working with scholars and students, my team and I are recovering and editing over 500 plays by Shakespeare’s contemporaries, making them available for performance and advanced study via robust, open-access digital editions. We are mentoring the next generation of editors and establishing new models for digital publishing and global collaboration.”

- Janelle Jenstad, Humanities Computing and Media Centre Director



Joe Diemer (left) with Lisa Surridge (right), who supervised their award-winning Master's Essay project.

English alum. receives Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal

Former UVic English Honours and MA student Joe Diemer has won the Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal (Non-Thesis) for their graduating MA essay, "Dialling in to Eternity: Margaret Gatty and the *Book of Sundials*," as well as their academic excellence and record of prizes, awards and publications. Taking into account Gatty's position as a woman with a disability (she experienced intermittent paralysis and impaired speech that some critics have suggested was caused by multiple sclerosis), as well as her use of collaborators to collect mottoes from places that she could not access, Diemer identifies the *Book of Sundials* as an example of "collaborative temporal reorientation."

Now a first-year PhD student in the department of English and the Book History and Print Culture collaborative specialization at the University of Toronto, Joe Diemer holds an Honours BA and an MA from the University of Victoria, where their research engaged with constructions of time, ability and religious experience in the work of Henry Cole and Margaret Gatty. They are especially interested in short forms, including children's stories, epigrams, emblems and, most recently, sundial mottoes. While at UVic, they also worked on three SSHRC-funded projects: *Victorian Pregnancies* (led by Lisa Surridge and Mary Elizabeth Leighton), *Map of Early Modern London* (led by Janelle Jenstad) and *Crafting Communities: Critical Crafting In and Beyond Humanities Classrooms* (an award-winning collaboration among UVic, the University of Alberta, and the University of Manitoba).

Joe has won all available UVic graduate (and undergraduate) honours, prizes and distinctions, including a CGS-M scholarship and the 2024 Mairi Riddell Memorial Book Prize, which is the graduate program's highest academic distinction awarded to the best graduate seminar paper in English. In addition, they received a 2024 Founders' Circle Award from the Victorian Studies Association of Western Canada, given to the best conference presentation by an emerging scholar (usually the recipient is a doctoral or post-doctoral student, not an MA student in their second term). At the University of Toronto, where Diemer is a first-year PhD student in what is considered Canada's most competitive English program, they won a Faculty of Arts and Sciences Top Doctoral Fellowship (2024-2028) as well as an Ontario Graduate Scholarship.

Campus Kudos recognizes staff and faculty in the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures



Campus Kudos celebrates and acknowledges the achievements and accomplishments of UVic's talented and hard-working faculty, staff and students, who have made a significant or creative contribution to the campus community by going above or beyond their role, are engaged with the wider community and working to make Greater Victoria a great place to live, work and learn, or have received significant external awards for scholarship, learning, teaching, research or community contributions.

We are thrilled to see the important work of our staff and faculty be celebrated in this way!

Myène Dorcé (French & Francophone Studies)

- Raises awareness about the importance of Black culture representation at UVic, building strong connections with the French and Francophone Studies program and UVic's African-Caribbean Students' Association.
- Promotes Sub-Saharan African and Caribbean francophone cultures, inspiring students, faculty and the broader community to explore historically marginalized cultures through writing, music and events.



Laura Smith (School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures)

- Excels in handling complex tasks, such as assisting with international purchases, logistics for the I-witness field school, and so much more.
- Her calm, composed nature and sense of humour bring joy to the workplace, while her empathy and compassion help guide colleagues through stressful moments.



Moustapha Fall (French & Francophone Studies)

- Organizes workshops through his Inclusive Pedagogical Cluster in partnership with LTSI, and panels in his Global Connection Course, fostering meaningful global discussions.
- His ability to connect local teaching with global learning is complemented by his research excellence in Second Language Acquisition and Pedagogy, with numerous publications and accolades, including the Faculty of Humanities Teaching Excellence Award.





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