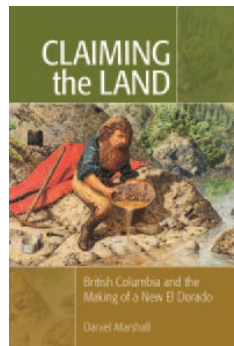


History Department Newsletter

March 2019

Good Tidings

March has brought series of good tidings and causes for celebrations to the Department.



Special congratulations to **Jason Colby** whose promotion to professor and to **Neilesh Bose** whose promotion to Associate Professor with tenure have just been approved by the Board of Governors.

Congratulations to our adjunct professor **Dan Marshall** who has won the Basil Stuart-Stubbs Prize for outstanding Scholarly Book on British Columbia for *Claiming the land: British Columbia and the making of a new El Dorado*. The \$2,500 prize, is given by UBC Library and the Pacific BookWorld News Society.

Jordan Stanger Ross and his SSHRC funded Landscapes of Injustice project have been nominated by UVic as universities' nominee for the SSHRC Impact Award.



Congratulations to **Elizabeth Vibert** who has just heard that she and her team have been awarded a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant for “Four Stories About Food Sovereignty: Transnational Crisis and Local Action”. \$198,902 with matching funds from partners brings the value of the project to \$400,000. The project includes a documentary on food sovereignty projects on four continents, including with the Sooke First Nation and will involve at least one of our graduate students each year for three years.



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Thanks and congratulations to the many colleagues who took part in Ideafest this month. It is doubtful any other department had so many faculty involved in the events of the week, including **Jason Colby**, **Lynne Marks**, **Jordan Stanger Ross**, the **Landscapes** team including post doc **Yasmin Railton** and others, **Sara Beam**, **Beatriz de Alba Koch**, **Oliver Schmidtke**, **Elizabeth Vibert**, **Neilesh Bose**. The same week **David Zimmerman** gave his Café Historique talk in the series organized by **Jill Walshaw**. The Friday prior **Rachel Cleves** gave her Works in Progress talk in the series organized by **Andrea McKenzie**.

You are all invited!

to our Biennial Book and Project Launch April 5th at 4 at the SUB Upper Lounge where we will celebrate a baker's dozen new books and projects

- Globalization Against Democracy: A Political Economy of Capitalism after Its Global Triumph (Guoguang Wu)
- The Encyclopedia of Diplomacy (Gordon Martel)
- Towards a New Ethnohistory: Community Engaged Scholarship among the People of the River (John Lutz (co-edited with Keith Thor Carlson, David M. Schaepe, Naxaxalhts'i – Albert "Sonny" McHalsie)
- Out There Learning: Critical Reflections on Off-Campus Study Programs (Elizabeth Vibert - Co-edited with Deborah Curran, Cameron Owens and Helga Thorson)
- Winston Churchill: At War and Thinking of War before 1939 (Brian McKercher - co-edited with Antoine Capet)
- The Collectors: A History of the Royal British Columbia Museum and Archives (Pat Roy)
- Witness to Loss (plus accompanying website) - Jordan Stanger-Ross (co-edited with Pam Sugiman)
- Environmental Activism on the Ground: Small Green and Indigenous Organizing (Jon Clapperton - co-edited with Liza Piper)
- Orca: How We Came to Know and Love the Ocean's Greatest Predator (Jason Colby)
- The Old Bailey Condemned, 1730-1837 - Database (Simon Devereaux)
- The Last Suffragist Standing: The Life and Times of Laura Marshall Jamieson (Veronica Strong Boag)
- Gender Dynamics, Feminist Activism and Social Transition in China (Guoguang Wu - co-edited with Yuan Feng and Helen Lansdowne)
- Claiming the Land: British Columbia and the Making of a New El Dorado (Dan Marshall)
- Britain, America, and the Special Relationship since 1941 (Brian McKercher)



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History Department News

- Our Administrative Officer, Theresa Gallant's appointment has been increased from .8 to .9 for the rest of the year.
- History Career Fair was sold out ten minutes after sending the email out, over 200 high school students will attend at this even in April.
- Honours thesis defenses are being scheduled, 14 students are expected to attend in April.
- Incoming grad class update: at this point we have fifteen grad students entering our program in September, two PhD students, seven two year thesis students, three one year MRP students, one HSPT student and two public history students.

The Department has just approved a new Strategic Goals document with four high level and thirty incremental goals to guide the department in the coming years. The four high-level goals are:

Goal 1: Research Excellence and Impact

To continue to be recognized for the outstanding quality of our research.

Goal 2: Foster an extraordinary academic and learning environment:

To maintain and foster in new ways a vibrant and collegial departmental environment conducive to innovation, productivity, and quality in teaching and to offer our undergraduate and graduate students a challenging, inspiring, and skills-based grounding in historical and critical thinking in a supportive environment that prepares them for post-degree training/careers and provides the tools for critically-minded citizenship.

Goal 3: Impact Beyond the Academy

To continue to be recognized as a leader in promoting the understanding of the importance of history through our public engagement, institutional and community partnerships, and community-based teaching and learning.

Goal 4: Foster and Reflect Diversity, Respect, Reconciliation, and Critically Engaged Citizenship

To build a sustainable, respectful community that promotes respect for the full range of human diversity and reflects the university's commitment to equity and in particular to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's goals to support the success of Indigenous students and raise awareness of the history of colonialism, locally and globally.

To see the whole Strategic Goals Document [click here](#).



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Tribute to History and Ted Wooley



This week the chair received an email from Brad Simpson, Head of Portfolio Advice and Investment Research, and Chief Wealth Strategist for the Toronto Dominion Bank.

He sent a recently published article in the TD monthly newsletter and drew my attention to this section of his article:

Most of us can recall having a favourite teacher—someone who had an incredible impact on how we think. I have been blessed with many, but one that really stands was a history professor by the name of Dr. Ted Wooley. I took every one of his classes and never missed a lecture. Not one. Dr. Wooley was the prof who let students bring their textbooks to exams. He cared little about the accumulation of facts as an end unto itself. What mattered was what you did with that accumulated knowledge. He wanted his students to think.

Every term, before the first exam, I heard first-time students snickering about how Wooley's class was going to be a cake walk. "Bring your textbooks and notes?! ... Wow, this is going to be a breeze." I will never forget the dejected, long faces of students, devastated by the terrible grades they got on that first exam.

One day, during a visit to his office, we were talking about volatility in equity

markets and Dr. Wooley said something to me I will never forget. He said, "I can't understand how people can listen to market experts who attribute causation to daily happenings for something as dynamic as financial markets." I have wrestled with this observation, I confess, for the past 30 years. At the time, I thought it was pretty spot on. Today, I would argue that those words are even wiser.

Traditional finance people like things nice and tidy. They are comforted by mathematical precision—just memorize the formulas and you have everything you need to succeed. It's a system that works great in the sciences, where you have the laws of physics and universal constants. Financial markets, however, just don't work like that; they are as ever-changing as they are dynamic. And so using traditional measures to make sense of market movements is kind of like trying to gauge the financial mood of a football stadium full of investors with a tape measure.

Mr. Simpson wrote me in his email, "Dr. Wooley has had a great impact on my career and life. I never got to thank him, other than when I graduated. I wished I could have sent this to him and now I am sending this to you as a thank you and to let you know the impact that the department has had."



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Historians in the News

Rachel Cleves had an op-ed published in *The Conversation* called “What will happen to Michael Jackson’s legacy? A famed writer’s fall could offer clues.”

Oliver Schmidtke has many times joined CTV's national news program and their News Network, as well as CFX Radio on the Brexit issue. I hear a rumour he has been offered his own dressing room at CTV.



Jason Colby has been in many news outlets talking about his new book, his Ideafest panel and the plight of the resident orcas, including the *Times Colonist* (with his alter ego James Colby) the *Miami Herald*, *CFOX*, *CBC* and *CTV TV*.

After the resignation of Liberal MP Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould, a group of Canadian scholars write about what this moment in Canadian politics suggests about the PMO's relationship with Indigenous women. **Christine O'Bonsawin**, waaseyaa'sin Christine Sy, Jeff Corntassel and Heidi Kiiwetinepinesiik Stark were among the academics to co-author this opinion piece, which was published by The Tyee and CBC News.

Landscapes of Injustice



Landscapes of Injustice Project Director **Jordan Stanger-Ross** and Project Manager Michael Abe spoke with CBC's "On the Island" about the project and the Victoria Maritime Museum of BC's exhibit, The Lost Fleet, looking at how deep-seated racism on the west coast of North America played a major role in the internment of Japanese-Canadians and in the seizure and sale of property, including fishing vessels.

As part of Ideafest, **Kaitlin Findlay** and the Landscapes of Injustice team shared with CHEK TV News some of the history of a Japanese teahouse and garden in Esquimalt that was vandalized during the Second World War and eventually destroyed.

John Lutz joined CFX Radio to comment on the history of Victoria on the anniversary of the day in 1842 when the Hudson Bay Company arrived to establish Fort Victoria.



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