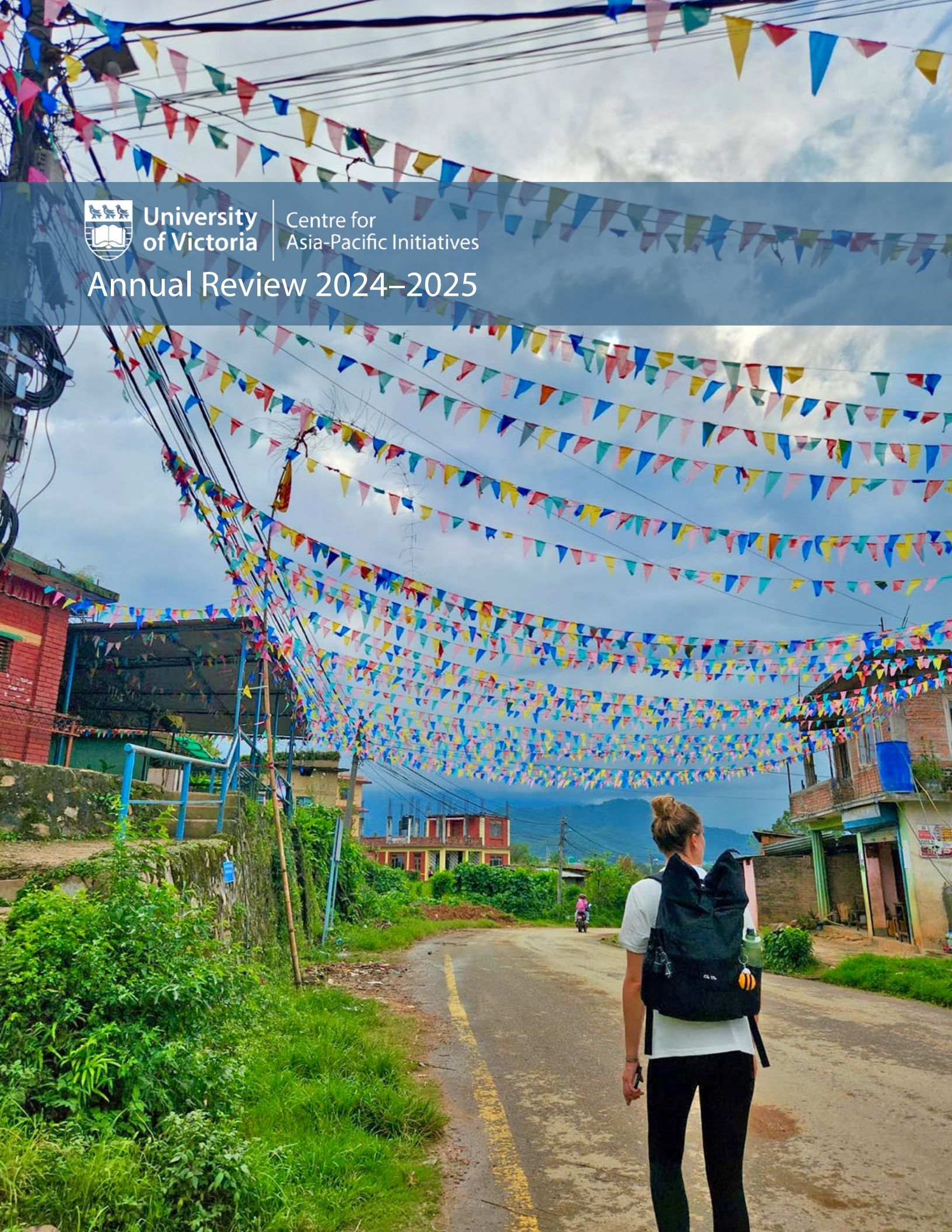




University
of Victoria

Centre for
Asia-Pacific Initiatives

Annual Review 2024–2025



This report covers the period 30 June 2024 to 1 July 2025

Design - **Katie Dey**

All photographs by **Jonathan Woods and Katie Dey** (unless otherwise credited)

Cover photograph provided by 2025 CAPI intern Christy Wittkamp



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Participants in a workshop on *Water Management and Climate Change in Bhutan*, a follow up to the Paro Forum

INTRODUCTION

The **Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives (CAPI)** was established in 1988 at the University of Victoria (UVic) in recognition of the importance of Canada’s relationship with the burgeoning Asia-Pacific region. For over three decades CAPI has served as a bridge for academics, students, policy-makers, and civic leaders to undertake a diverse range of initiatives on both sides of the Pacific, from hosting conferences, supporting original research, and fostering institutional capacity building to administering scholarly exchanges and professional training programs.

Our Vision Statement

Through the continued excellence of its research and programming, CAPI will be recognized as the pre-eminent Asia-Pacific focused academic centre globally. The Centre will engage with institutions, civil society and leading scholars at the University of Victoria and across the world to facilitate meaningful relationships that will make a difference.

Our Mandate

By providing a supportive environment for scholarly excellence and community engagement, CAPI will deepen the connection between the University of Victoria and the Asia-Pacific region. Through the work of CAPI’s researchers and programming, CAPI will be a catalyst for the creation, recognition and dissemination of knowledge concerning issues affecting the region.

Our Values

We are welcoming, engaging, supportive, collaborative, community-oriented, respectful and entrepreneurial.

We value academic freedom and autonomy, creativity, inclusivity, intellectual and ethical integrity, courage, collaboration and diverse perspectives.

Our research is open, interdisciplinary, innovative, co-creative, participatory, ethical, visionary, transformative, and impactful.

Our Goals

- Leadership in research: CAPI inspires creative, innovative research engaging a diverse community on complex issues in Asia.
- Research community: CAPI works with researchers and partners in a spirit of creativity and critical engagement.
- CAPI is the University’s intellectual home for everything Asia-related.
- Inspired people: CAPI attracts a diverse, dynamic, and talented group of faculty, students, and staff.
- Resource sufficiency: CAPI has reliable and sufficient resources that it uses effectively to meet the goals of this plan.

Financial

2024-25 OVERVIEW

REVENUE	
Endowment income	\$153,740
Grants	\$287,734
Program revenue	\$99,147
Base funding	\$394,888
TOTAL REVENUE	\$935,509
EXPENSES	
Faculty Salaries	\$281,501
Staff Salaries	\$358,546
Project costs	\$152,313
Operating costs	\$56,801
Fellowships, Internships	\$161,840
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,011,001
BALANCE	-75,492



CAPI's Asia Forum, October 2024

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This annual report covers a year of disruption, uncertainty, and profound transformation on multiple scales, from local to global, and from CAPI to Asia and the Asia/Indo-Pacific. As governments and political leaders, community leaders, philanthropists, transgender activists, CEOs, and healthcare workers, university leaders, researchers, lecturers, students, filmmakers, poets, journalists, and podcasters, single parents, migrants, fresh graduates, and retirees all grappled with these shifts, CAPI endeavoured to take stock of these changes and help to chart a new path. Our redoubtable chairs, senior research fellows, and associates all, in their own ways, brought to bear the research and tools of business and management, education, engineering, environmental studies, fine arts and humanities, gender studies, health, law, natural sciences, and social sciences, among others, on a rapidly changing world. So too, CAPI's intrepid interns—with Robyn Fila's advice and guidance—ventured into a world where civil society organizations very quickly started to feel the strains of the Trump administration's America First foreign policy and dismantling of USAID. At the same time, the governments of British Columbia and Canada, and many Indigenous leaders, signalled a continued commitment to international cooperation and sustainability, even in the face of severe headwinds.

Amid all these changes, CAPI's chairs, researchers, and visitors—among them, Takahiro Endo, Daniela (Dana) Damian, Neilesh Bose, Phil Calvert, Angie Chau, Thiti Jamkajornkiat, Helen Lansdowne (in her new role), Pooja Parmar, Jordan Stanger-Ross, and visiting scholars organized, led, and contributed to another improbably busy year at the centre. Highlights included Neilesh Bose's [Indian Ocean workshop], Pooja Parmar's [IPETCA conference], Phil Calvert's and my 18th Roundtable on Southeast Asia in Global Context (on the theme Elections in South and Southeast Asia), with Thiti Jamkajornkiat as a guest moderator, and Dana Damian's ongoing INSPIRE project—with a very active branch in Kathmandu, Nepal. With Mike Abe's support, Jordan Stanger-Ross's Past

Wrongs, Future Choices project hit its stride with visiting scholars from around the globe—and activities on four continents. Meanwhile, back at home, CAPI revived its annual, campus-wide Asia Forum, bringing together researcher from across campus with research interests in and ties to Asia and, once again, CAPI's Graduate Symposium showcased cutting-edge interdisciplinary work.

Over the course of the academic year, the importance of CAPI's mission became ever-more poignant as the global implications of the US elections became apparent. The shifting landscape often required CAPI to pivot quickly in response to unexpected developments, including shifting funding priorities, opportunities for deeper partnerships, and new research imperatives. Amid all these changes, CAPI's administrative team remained flexible, adaptable, and resourceful. Instrumental in steadying the ship were the core team of Mike Abe, Katie Dey, Robyn Fila, and Noelle Hinrichs. After many years with CAPI in research and administrative roles, Dulma Karunarathna found work in Esquimalt, putting her training in anthropology to good use. And after a quarter-century at CAPI, Helen Lansdowne retired as CAPI's Associate Director. At a banquet dinner in her honour, celebrating her remarkable legacy for CAPI, I had the great pleasure of announcing that a scholarship in her name, the Helen Lansdowne Award, was officially endowed, supporting graduate or undergraduate UVic students whose area of study focuses on migration, gender studies, or sustainability in Asia—a fitting tribute to Helen's remarkable career (so far) and her immeasurable contribution to CAPI.

Victor V. Ramraj

CAPI Director

STAFF & FACULTY



Victor V. Ramraj
CAPI Director and
Law Chair



Angie Chau
Acting Associate
Director



Endo Takahiro
Jarislowsky Japan
Chair



Daniela Damian
Chair in ISTE



Noelle Hinrichs
Coordinator, Programs
and Events



Robyn Fila
International Internship
Program Manager



Mike Abe
PWFC Program
Manager



Jessica Li
Program Coordinator



Katie Dey
Office Manager +
Communications



Hibah Jaffry
LLM Candidate, Law
Workstudy Student



Faaiza Vakil,
Social Work BSW
Workstudy Student



Yunhui Ye,
PhD Candidate,
Political Science
Workstudy Student



Ryan Zonneveld
Political Science BSc
Workstudy Student



Thiti Jankajornkeiat
Pacific and Asian
Studies,
Visiting UVic Faculty

STEERING COMMITTEE

Victor V. Ramraj (Chair)
Director, CAPI

Freya Kodar
Dean, Faculty of Law

Anita Bhappu
Dean, Faculty of Business

Helen Lansdowne
Associate Director, CAPI

Pooja Parmar
Faculty of Law

Elango Elangovan
Associate Vice-President,
Global Engagement

Lois Harder
Dean, Faculty of Social
Sciences

Annalee Lepp
Dean, Faculty of Humanities

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS

Neilesh Bose
Professor, UVic History and Canada Research Chair in Global and
Comparative History (2020-2025)

Phil Calvert
Former Canadian Ambassador to Thailand,
Cambodia and Laos

Jordan Stanger-Ross
Professor, UVic History, Provost's Engaged Scholar (2020-2025) and
Director, PWFC.

Pooja Parmar
Associate Professor and President's Chair in Law and Indigeneity in a
Global Context at UVic Faculty of Law

Helen Lansdowne
Assistant Dean, Climate Change & Environmental Law Centre, Jigme
Singye Wangchuck School of Law, Bhutan



The CAPI Team - including visiting scholars - at a lunch hosted by Director Victor V. Ramraj. Photo - Sandy Meadow

Meyer Aaron
CEO, 3Pi Capital Advisory Inc.

Melia Belli Bose
UVic Art History and Visual Studies

Susan Breau
UVic Law

Angie Chau
UVic Pacific and Asian Studies

Marlea Clarke
UVic Political Science

Deborah Curran
UVic Law

Donna Greschner
UVic Law

Jingjai Hanchanlash
President of the Thai-Canada Economic Cooperation Foundation

Thiti Jamkajornkeiat
UVic Pacific and Asian Studies

Asad Kiyani
UVic Law

Sujin Lee
UVic Pacific and Asian Studies

ann-elise lewallen
UVic Pacific and Asian Studies

Carol Liao
UBC Sauder School of Business

Qian Liu
University of Calgary, Sociology

Andrew Marton
UVic Pacific and Asian Studies

Kenneth MacKay
Pacific People's Partnership

Nigel Mantou Lou
UVic Psychology

Renée Mulligan
Legal Counsel, BC Attorney General,
Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

Trung Nguyen
UVic Law PhD Candidate

Midori Ogasawara
UVic Sociology

Pooja Parmar
UVic Law

Than Phan
Associate, Fragomen LLP, Toronto

Daromir Rudnyckyj
UVic Anthropology

Reeta Tremblay
UVic Political Science

Jae Woon Lee
Chinese University of Hong Kong

Can Zhao
PhD UVic Political Science

VISITING RESEARCHERS 2024-25



Yukari Takai
York University, Toronto,
(PWFC Visiting Scholar)



Kaichun Lei
Shanghai Academy of
Social Sciences, China



Zhihui Song
Liaoning University
School of Law, China



Risa Jitoshō
Ryukoku University,
Japan



Azra Fanoos
University of Lakki
Marwat, Pakistan



Victor V. Ramraj providing opening remarks at the opening reception of the ILTPT conference (see page 15).

CHAIR IN ASIA-PACIFIC LEGAL RELATIONS

Victor V. Ramraj

In addition to serving as CAPI's Director and my various committee assignments for CAPI and the Faculty of Law (not reported here), I also continued in my role as CAPI's Chair in Asia-Pacific Legal Relations. I am pleased to report on my research activities and my teaching and graduate supervision over the course of the 2024-2025 academic year.

Research Activities, Publications, and Grants

In 2024-2025, I continued working on my book manuscript on complexity and crisis, while working on several other discrete projects. In addition, I presented a paper on "Distrust in Government, Institutions, and Expertise" online at the Asia in Times of Crisis workshop, co-organized by Singapore Management University and the University of Hong Kong on 12 December 2024; and a paper "Public Trust and Crisis Governance in Asia" presented at a Université de Montréal/McGill University colloquium on The State of Rights in Southeast Asia in Montréal Quebec on 29 May 2025. As part of CAPI's ongoing Roundtable series on Southeast Asia, I also co-organized and co-moderated (with Thiti Jamkajornkeiat) a roundtable on "Elections in South and Southeast Asia: Trends and Trajectories" (the 17th

CAPI Roundtable on Southeast Asia in Global Context) at the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, University of Victoria, 21 November 2024. Other activities included serving as a commentator [online] on a presentation by Tshering Pem and Kuenley Lhaden Gyaltsen, "Mandatory Lawyer Pro Bono in a System Built without Lawyers," at Beyond Mandatory Pro Bono: Compulsory Lawyer Mechanisms in Access to Justice conference organized by the National University of Singapore (5/6 December 2024); serving as a moderator at "Inter-Asia Beyond Asia: Reconfiguring Global Humanities" (a roundtable discussion organized by Thiti Jamkajornkeiat, with panelists Neilesh Bose, Chris Goto-Jones, Ann-elise Lewallen, and Annalee Lepp, at the University of Victoria (30 January 2025); and serving as a panel speaker and moderator at the THE Asia Universities Summit 2025: Asia's rise: A transformative journey in science, technology, and innovation in Macau, SAR, People's Republic of China (22-24 April 2025). I also participated in an invitation-only Track 1.5 Dialogue on Canada-Philippine Relations, Towards a Strategic Relationship, convened by the Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada and the Embassy of the Philippines in Canada, Ottawa (11 December 2024). Closer to home, I also delivered a talk, "Canada's New Indo-Pacific Strategy and People to People Connections," at

Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy: A Multi-Actor Dialogue, co-organized by the BC Council on International Cooperation in Vancouver, BC (23 October 2024). During the year, I also reviewed book and article manuscripts respectively for the Thai Book Law Series and the Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs. In partnership with Helen Lansdowne, now at the Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law in Bhutan, I applied for and was awarded two grants from the Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada (together worth \$68,500), which were used to support the Paro Forum in Bhutan in February 2025, on the theme, Water Management and Climate Change: Bridging Knowledge to Action. I was invited to moderate a panel on "Protecting Rivers." In June 2025, we convened a follow-up event in at CAPI, Water Management and Climate Change in Bhutan: Canadian and Bhutanese Perspectives. We are currently finalizing an Insight Report for the APFC.

My main publications during the period of this report included: "**Law, Politics, and the Academy in Asia: Navigating Constraints as Public Law Scholars**" (2025) *Asian Journal of Law and Society* 1–23 [first view] (with Maartje De Visser and Qian Liu); "Constitutions and the Rule of Law in Asia" in Erik Kuhonta, ed., *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics* [online] (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024) (with Maartje De Visser and Arun K. Thiruvengadam); and "Transnational Regulation" in Mathias Siems and Po Jen Yap, eds., *Cambridge Handbook of Comparative Law* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2024), 575–93.

Teaching & Graduate Supervision

In September 2024, I delivered my annual lecture to the first year JD and JD/JID Legal Process class on transnational law and spent the fall term teaching a new course, Law, Complexity, and Crisis in Asia (LAW343). In February–March 2025, I taught my usual (since 2019) 45-hour course on Transnational Law in Theory and Practice at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, as part of the UVic Faculty of Law's contribution to the LLM in Business Law. During this reporting period, one PhD student for whom I served as a committee member, Trung Nguyen completed his thesis, "Non – Recognition of Unlawful Situations as Customary International Law: A Case-based Approach," and was awarded his degree in November 2024. Two of my other PhD supervisees, both of whom came to the University as part of the CAPI-Law QES-AS Advanced Scholars grant in 2017, Nima Dorji and Ratana Ly, defended their dissertations and received their degrees at convocation in June 2025. Having completed his dissertation on "Constitutionalism and Happiness: A Contextual Analysis of the Nature of Bhutanese Constitutionalism," Nima will be able to devote more attention to his role as Vice-Dean at the Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law in Bhutan; Ratana's research on "Human Rights Violations and Demands of Construction Workers in Cambodia" has landed her a postdoc at the University of Ottawa starting September 2025. As for me, I continue to supervise two PhD students and one LLM student. I anticipate supervising one additional LLM student and serving as an external member of a PhD committee for a PhD student at the National Law School of India University.

JARISLOWSKY JAPAN CHAIR

Endo Takahiro

Research Activities & Academic Engagements

Visiting Scholar Program: Professor **Risa Jitsho** from Ryukoku University joined UVic as an academic visitor for a one-year term (Sept 2024–Aug 2025). Her research on Japanese consumer behavior and cultural identity contributed to interdisciplinary dialogues across business and sociology departments.

Research Grants Secured:

JSPS Grant (Endo): Interaction of Institutional Biography – ¥3,400,000 (2024–2027) Focused on how institutional memory shapes organizational behavior in Japan.

JSPS Grant (Tsuboyama): Using Painful Memory – ¥8,970,000 (2024–2027) Investigated how historical trauma influences contemporary identity formation.

UVic GEPRG Grant: Corporate Craft – \$3,000 (2024–2025) Supported fieldwork on artisanal production and corporate storytelling in Japan.

Graduate Supervision:

Continued mentorship of PhD candidates Mac Nguyen and Amit Sharma.

Coordinated Sharma's upcoming fieldwork in Japan (Sept–Nov 2025), including interviews with sake brewers and cultural heritage experts.

Publications & Scholarly Output

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

- Idea Work Beyond Organizational Boundaries – accepted for publication in *Research in the Sociology of Organizations* (2025). Explores how Japanese professionals navigate identity across institutional contexts.
- Sakyu: Tradition and Innovation – forthcoming in *Hitotsubashi Business Review* (2025). Analyzes the evolution of traditional sake-making practices in response to global market pressures.
- Two FT50 journal articles (titles forthcoming) examining professional identity and memory in Japan and the United States.

Seminars, Workshops & Public Engagement

Seminar Series:

Hosted Prof. Hee-Chan Song (Oct 23, 2024) for a talk on Buddhism and organizational ethics in Asia. The seminar drew attendees from across UVic's humanities and business faculties.

Graduate Symposium:

Chaired the CAPI Graduate Students' Symposium (Feb 13, 2025), fostering interdisciplinary research presentations and mentorship.

International Workshop:

Co-organized a workshop with Cardiff University scholars (June 5, 2025) on public value and societal impact in

transnational research. The event featured case studies from Japan, Canada, and the UK, and emphasized collaborative methodologies.

Teaching & Experiential Learning

Course Delivered:

IB 418 "International Work Study (Tokyo)" – Fall 2024 included an 8-day immersive trip to Tokyo, featuring guest lectures from Japanese academics, corporate leaders, and cultural practitioners. Topics covered: Japanese economic history, corporate governance, consumer culture, and cross-cultural communication.

Program Development & Outreach

Japan Internship Program:

Sponsored two Canadian student interns to Japan in 2025 through the CAPI Japan Internship Program. Interns were placed with NGOs and research institutes in Tokyo and Kyoto, focusing on sustainability and cultural preservation.

Partnership Building:

Strengthened institutional ties with Japanese universities offering English-language programs, including Hitotsubashi University and Ryukoku University.

Initiated discussions for future joint research projects and student exchanges.

ECS-CAPI CHAIR IN INCLUSIVE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING

Dana Damian

During this reporting period we continued our INSPIRE activities in Nepal and sought further program funding opportunities. Notable is the securing of a stable, professional working space for the INSPIRE teams in Kathmandu. Our Program Manager, Bachan Ghimire, continued to lead and strengthen our program there, by interacting with two universities, and recruiting industry mentors. In Fall 2024 two teams (8 students) engaged in two community-led software engineering projects to provide solutions for disaster preparedness efforts and hospital information management, both in collaboration with local organizations. The teams successfully presented their projects outcomes (now implemented in their community partner organization) at the 3rd Annual INSPIRE conference held at UVic on Dec 17th, 2024

(via videoconference). Our INSPIRE Nepal activities have been at the centre of Asia-Pacific recognition, with our program as a top finalist at the Triple-E Entrepreneurship and Engagement Excellence Awards in Higher Education. Bachan Ghimire traveled to present and receive the honour in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in September 2024.

Additionally, as a result of our successful Inspire program in Nepal, not only two of the students from its first offering (2022) have become Program mentors in Nepal on 2023 and 2024, but they have decided to pursue grad school at UVic. They both arrived in Canada in January 2025 to start their MSc degrees.

Another major activity on my part has been the preparation and submission of a grant proposal to the Global Affairs' Indo-Pacific Regional Connectivity Envelope competition in November. Although we were not successful in this round, we will be able to revise and resubmit in the next round.

In 2025, I continued to work with the two Nepalese students who joined my research lab as MSc students, and started a study of the effectiveness of the INSPIRE Nepal program; the study involves interviews with current students and alumni and dives deep into their opinions of their experiences, lessons learned and impact in their career following university. This is now being packaged into one of the MSc students' Masters thesis and will be submitted to a journal in community-engaged learning area. I also received several invitations for keynote presentations at the major software engineering conferences on the model of community-engaging experiential learning we developed in INSPIRE. Two other papers describing this model are being prepared for journal submission.

Publications

Journal publications

Devathasan, K., N. Arony, , E. Murphy-Hill, and D. Damian, "Empathy, Self-Determination and Motivation: Moderating Diversity for Enhanced Performance in Software Development Teams", *Journal of Empirical Software Engineering*, <https://dl.acm.org/doi/abs/10.1007/s10664-025-10632-2>

Werner, C., Okpara, L., K-J. Stol, D. Damian, "Maintaining Shared Understanding of Non-Functional Requirements in Small Software Companies using Continuous Software Engineering, accepted with revisions

Alves, G., Dietmar Jannach, Rodrigo Ferrari de Souza, Daniela Damian, Marcelo Garcia Manzano: Digitally nudging users to explore off-profile recommendations: here be dragons. *User Model. User Adapt. Interact.* 34(2): 441-481 (2024)

Books or Book chapters

Damian, D., Blincoe, K., Serebrenik, A., Ford, D. and Z. Masood (Eds.), *Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Software Development*, Springer Apress, 2024

Devathasan, K., Nowshin Nawar Arony, Daniela E. Damian: "Beyond Diversity: Computing for Inclusive Software". In Damian, D., K. Blincoe, A. Serebrenick, D. Ford and Z. Masood (Eds.), *Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Software Engineering 2024*: 151-165

Arony, N., Kezia Devathasan, Ze Shi Li, Daniela E. Damian: *Software Engineering Through Community-Engaged Learning and an Inclusive Network*. In Damian, D., K. Blincoe, A. Serebrenick, D. Ford and Z. Masood (Eds.),

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Software Engineering 2024: 449-465

Conference publications

S.Li, Arony, N., K. Devathasan, M. Sihag, N.Ernst and D. Damian, *Unveiling the life cycle of user feedback: best practices from software practitioners*, Proc. of IEEE International Conf. on Software Engineering (ICSE), 2024

Teaching-related publications

Devathasan, K., M. Craig, D. Damian, C. Berg: "Test Anxiety and Self-Efficacy in a Computer-Based Test Environment". Proc. of 20th Western Canadian Conference on Computing Education. (WCCCE) 1:1-1:7 2024 <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3660650.3660651>

Fellowships

Parnas Fellowship, Lero Research, 2024 (lifetime)

Invited Talks

Keynote Speaker, IEEE International Conference on Requirements Engineering (RE2025), 2025

Keynote Speaker, IEEE International Conference on Computer Science and Software Engineering Education, 2025

Keynote Speaker, 12th ACM/IEEE Int't Workshop on Software Engineering for Systems-of-Systems and Software Ecosystems, at ICSE 2024

Teaching

Requirements Engineering (2024, 2025)

Community-based research and Innovation (CSC103, SENG480B; Fall 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)

Research Grants

\$273,000 MITACS award "Evaluating the Impact of digital tools; Engaging Indigenous Communities through collaborative, interactive storytelling to address climate change" (2023-2025)

Service in the Research Community

3 Conferences Steering Committee (ICSE, FSE, ASE) Member, 2023-25

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS

Pooja Parmar

As part of my Senior Research Fellow role, I organised a virtual event at CAPI featuring Rahul Ranjan, Assistant Professor at the University of Edinburgh, discussing his book *The Political Life of Memory: Birsa Munda in Contemporary India*. He was joined by Dr. Pasang Yangjee Sherpa from the University of Washington. The session focused on themes of Indigenous memory and identity in India.

In October 2024, my project titled 'Indigenous Laws and Transpacific Trade' received \$74,037 in funding from Global Affairs Canada Regional Connectivity Envelope funding. The research team includes Awi Mona (NDHU Taiwan), Sarah Morales and Darcy Lindberg (UVic Law), and anne-elise lewallen (PAAS) with CAPI providing administrative support. The project explores how Indigenous legal systems relate to trade across the Pacific. The first of two workshops took place May 22–23, 2025 with the goals of supporting Indigenous communities and businesses in global trade and identifying challenges in implementing the Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Cooperation Arrangement (IPETCA). The second workshop will take place in Taiwan in May 2026.

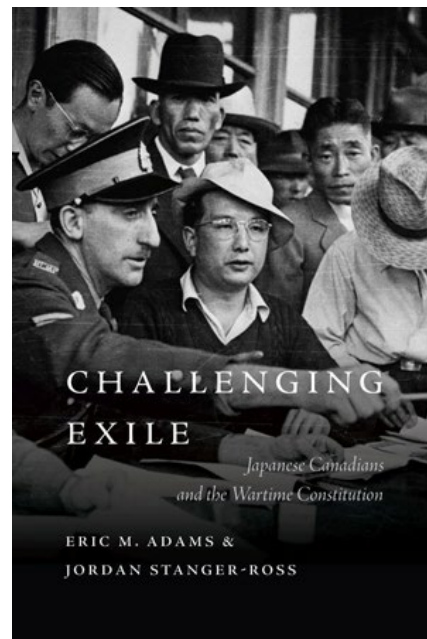
Helen Lansdowne

My role as Senior Research Fellow included helping to design and deliver the CAPI-JSW School of Law Canadian Educational Study Tour in Bhutan that took place October/November. This Study Tour brought ten Canadians to Bhutan for a tour focused on climate change and its impacts in Bhutan. In addition, work was undertaken regarding a joint proposal with CAPI to the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada for their support for Canadian involvement in the biennial Paro Forum. The Paro Forum was organized and included colleagues from CAPI and UVic as well as additional Canadian experts knowledgeable in the area of water challenges through climate change. A White Paper was prepared for the Asia Pacific Foundation and a post Paro Forum workshop was held that involved myself as well as other UVic colleagues who participated in the Paro Forum. This workshop offered an opportunity to explore further avenues of collaboration between CAPI and JSW Law.

Jordan Stanger-Ross

My principal work of the last year was the completion of a book, *Challenging Exile: Japanese Canadians Confront the Wartime Constitution*, with my colleague Eric M. Adams. The book examines the 1946 expulsion to Japan of almost 4,000 Japanese Canadians. The expulsion generated a Supreme

Court of Canada case, in which the litigants, the government, and judges debated the meaning of citizenship in a context of profound racism and attracted widespread media and public attention. We see exile as a landmark case in Canadian law, standing at the threshold of the prewar constitutional order and new legal norms, emphasizing individual rights, just upon the horizon. It was also a pivotal moment in the history of the Japanese Canadian community. I was also pleased, during this time to support an application for funds from the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society for a project led by my former postdoctoral fellow, Andrea Grant, who successfully received funds to complete a joint public art installation project by Japanese Canadian and Indigenous artists in the Gorge Esquimalt Park, the latest in a series of collaborations with the Township of Esquimalt to creatively interpret the history of the park for the public. That project continues over the next year.



Neilesh Bose

During the period under review, I continued work on a variety of research projects, including my monograph on the life and times of Taraknath Das (1884 – 1958), an anticolonial nationalist who devoted much of his life to Indian independence movements while based in the United States of America. I completed a final leg of research in New York City with plans to submit a full manuscript by the end of summer 2025. I delivered lectures on this topic, especially in relation to overseas nationalism in colonial India, at University of Victoria in March 2025 and the University of California Santa Barbara in April 2025. I also delivered the 2025 Kedia-Tayur



Participants at the Paro Forum in Bhutan, an initiative spearheaded by Helen Lansdowne. Photo provided by Nick Sheffield

Distinguished Lecture in South Asian American History as part of the South Asian American Digital Archive's programming, in collaboration with Carnegie Mellon University in May of 2025. I also delivered a lecture for the UVIC Continuing Studies program titled "Punjab in the World: Histories, Migrations, and Politics" in April 2025.

Regarding teaching, I served as a visiting professor at BITS-Pilani in Goa, India, for 2 months in the Fall 2024 semester. I also served on a panel titled "Religion and the Secular in South Asia: Perspectives from the Humanities" in Colombo, Sri Lanka, sponsored by the American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies, in October of 2024.

My programming efforts with the Global South Colloquium continued with two events in 2024-25. One was the second iteration of the Indian Ocean Perspectives workshop, held in late November 2024. This event featured participants from Leiden, Queen's University, Canada, George Mason University, Victoria University Wellington New Zealand, the University of Hawaii-Manoa, the University of Chicago, as well as several respondents from the University of Victoria. The third and final iteration is scheduled for late 2025.

Also, I organized a lecture series titled "Punjab in the World: Histories, Migrations, and Politics," coinciding with my seminar course HSTR 460/519A of the same title. Speakers from the University of Winnipeg, University of the Fraser Valley, Western Washington University, and the University of California Santa-Barbara participated in the series.

Phil Calvert

CAPI/Asia related activities during this period participating in the CAPI Asia Forum (October 4) and continuing to promote *Supervising a Peace that Never Was*—in person in Whitehorse at a talk on the International Control Commissions, and on line for the *Witness to Yesterday* podcast, run by the Champlain society. <https://champlainsociety.utppublishing.com/digital-content/champlain-podcast/supervising-peace-never-recollections-canadian-diplomatic-personnel-indochina-1954-1973>

I had some media interaction, notably comments on CBC morning news out of Toronto, discussing China's tariffs on Canadian canola, and Canada's tariffs on Chinese steel and EVs.

Other activities including meeting Chaturon Chaisang, former Deputy PM of Thailand, to discuss the political situation in Thailand, and promoting Asia-focused career paths at a UVIC Careers night.



Roundtable panelist Yukiko Nishikawa

SOUTHEAST ASIA IN GLOBAL CONTEXT

Victor V. Ramraj and Phil Calvert

Situated between India and China, along the busiest maritime sea routes in the world, Southeast Asia remains today at the crossroads of ideas, commerce, migration, language, religion, and law, as it has for centuries. With a total population greater than that of the European Union, the countries of Southeast Asia have been working through ASEAN—the Association of Southeast Asian Nations—to integrate their economies and cooperate politically and economically on matters of common concern, increasing the region’s influence on global affairs. This roundtable series situates contemporary Southeast Asia in Asia and the wider world, examining the many ways the pressing issues in the region affect us all. This project is co-led by CAPI Senior Research Fellow Phil Calvert and CAPI Director Victor V. Ramraj, who both also serve as discussion Chairs.

CAPI gratefully acknowledges the support of Canada’s Department of National Defence through its Targeted Engagement Grant Fund (Grant title: Canada, Southeast Asia, and the Indo-Pacific: Engaging a Critical Region) and the session was held under a modified version of the Chatham House Rule, such that views and comments of individual participants were not to be attributed.

Elections in South and Southeast Asia: Trends and Trajectories

21 November, 2024 | Fraser 192 | University of Victoria

In this 17th CAPI Roundtable on Southeast Asia in Global Context—which took place alongside the Indian Ocean Perspectives 2024 Conference—we examined socio-political trends and trajectories against the backdrop of a year of elections across the wider region of Southeast and South Asia. What do these elections tell us about the state of democracy in the region relative to authoritarianism, illiberalism, military government, and political dynasties? What has been the fate of incumbent governments? And what human security concerns—economic, food, environmental, physical, digital—have been prominent in these elections? And how do global developments and trends—including environmental issues, geopolitics, and China’s Belt & Road Initiative—affect domestic politics in South and Southeast Asia? The participants addressed these questions to help understand the political dynamics and to identify patterns and trajectories within and beyond the region.

Roundtable Participants: **Neilesh Bose**, Associate Professor & Canada Research Chair, Department of History, UVic, **Akshaya Chandani**, PhD Candidate in Law & Instructor, UVic, **Yukiko Nishikawa**, Professor, Global Studies Cluster, Doshisha University in Kyoto and **Mark Williams**, Professor of Political Studies, Vancouver Island University

Moderated by **Victor V. Ramraj**, CAPI Director and Chair in Asia-Pacific Legal Relations, Professor of Law, UVic, and **Thiti Jamkajornkeiat**, Assistant Professor, Pacific and Asian Studies, UVic.



The 2024 Indian Ocean Perspectives Workshop in session

GLOBAL SOUTH COLLOQUIUM

Neilesh Bose

CAPi's Global South Colloquium series centres the Global South into ongoing conversations about the making of the modern world. The colloquium serves as a forum for faculty, students, and all members of the UVic community to focus on the Global South, traditionally referring to South Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East's histories, cultures, and politics. More than a geographical orientation to the "non-West," the colloquium poses the Global South as a provocation to orient discussions about the world-system, its contours, inequities, and sources of power, including a focus not divided by geography but placement within global histories and practices.

The Global South Colloquium launched a new 3 year initiative in 2023. **Asia in World History: Indian Ocean Perspectives** is a workshop for emerging scholars, designed for a three-year period (2023, 2024, and 2025). The program features a venue for emerging scholars to present aspects of their books in progress to a diverse audience of interlocutors working on Indian Ocean studies. The theme for the 2024 workshop was Geopolitics, broadly defined. Three scholars were chosen to both present facets of their projects in progress as well as engage in larger discussions about the field and the role of Indian Ocean topics inside Asian and global histories. The event featured a range of participants, including sessions with an interdisciplinary collective of scholars across ranks, and advanced PhD students. Law and Migration in the Indian Ocean (Dec 2025).

The Global South Colloquium also hosted a series of lectures about various aspects of Punjabi history, culture and politics in historic and contemporary context:

Punjab in the World: Histories, Migrations, Politics

24 February 2025

Dharitri Bhattacharjee, Western Washington University
The Limits of History: A hopeful future for the discipline of history

3 March 2025

Sharanjit Kaur Sandhra, University of Fraser Valley
Are Museums Still Relevant? Demystifying a Decolonized Vision for Our Space in British Columbia

24 March 2025

Zabeen Khamisa, University of Winnipeg
Woke Jathas: Sikh Solidarities and the Progressive Left in Early Twenty-First Century Canada

31 March 2025

Anshu Malhotra, University of California-Santa Barbara
The Archival Turn, Sedimented Stories, and Covid 19: The Many Possibilities of Gendered Histories

PAST WRONGS, FUTURE CHOICES

Mike Abe, Project Manager

In July 2024, PWFC ran another successful Canada's Internment Era Field School with 14 UVic students, in-service teachers, and international educators participating in the Nikkei National Museum's Internment Era Bus tour. Visiting the sites of internment, engaging with community members, and building connections helped inform and inspire our participants from Canada, US, Brazil, Japan and Australia.

In the summer, in conjunction with UVic Libraries, PWFC hosted an interactive multi-media exhibit, Kintsugi from August 7 to November 7, 2024. Kintsugi tells the personal history of the Japanese Canadian internment of two young Japanese Canadian musicians, Brian Kobayakawa and Annie Sumi through song and animated videos, powered by the foot treadle and projected from Brian's grandmother's sewing machine preserved since the internment

The Archives team was able to meet and give one-on-one demonstrations on how to navigate the Landscapes of Injustice Research Database at ensoku 2024 in August in the former site of Tashme, the largest internment site. Over 100 people made the journey and participated in the first Obon ceremony and Bon Odori dancing in over 80 years. The Archives team also did public outreach in the Yukon in May and at the Connections conference in Toronto in December.

PWFC hosted an online artist presentation in September 2024 by Victoria-based photographer Ken Mizokoshi and Reina Takeuchi. Reina is a Japanese Australian artist-researcher, dance maker and curator.

Project director, Jordan Stanger-Ross and project manager, Michael Abe tag teamed to attend and present at the multi-day, multi-themed National Association of Japanese Canadians' Northern Lights Conference as sponsors in association with CAPI in Edmonton Oct. 4-6, 2024.

On November 7, the Kintsugi interactive art installation on exhibit in the McPherson Library since August 8 came to a close with a live performance by co-creators and musicians Annie Sumi and Brian Kobayakawa followed by a fireside chat with Jordan and questions from the audience of over 130 people.

Brian, and Justin Waddell were artists-in-residence in the fall of 2024 along with scholars-in-residence Midori Ogasawara and Yukari Takai. This residence was supported by the Department of Visual Art and CAPI. In addition, many of our former artists-in-residence including those funded by CFGS and CAPI attended our 2024 Banff Symposium that brought together over 70 members of our research collective to plan, present and network over a beautiful weekend

in November at the Banff Centre for the Arts. There were lively presentations, meetings and discussions related to the project. Annie, Brian and former artist in residence, Rachel Iwaasa performed live during the opening gala evening. We are grateful to CAPI for the support of this event.

In January 2025 Project Director, Jordan Stanger-Ross and Nikkei National Museum's Director/Curator, Sherri Kajiwara attended a global Nikkei Museums Conference in Lima, Peru and presented on Connecting Global Nikkei Communities through the Past Wrongs, Future Choices project. It was also a great opportunity for them to learn more about the experiences of Nikkei communities in other Latin American countries during WWII.

Project Co-director, Audrey Kobayashi, Sherri Kajiwara and Project Manager, Michael Abe travelled to Sao Paulo, Brazil in April to attend the opening ceremonies of the Roots of Perseverance museum exhibit at the Historical Museum of Japanese Immigration in Brazil that opened April 27 and ran until June 30, 2025. This is the first museum output of the Past Wrongs, Future Choices which was opened with great fanfare and garnered wonderful reviews.

Talks and presentations:

July 30, 2024: Names in Nikkei Commemoration Duncan Williams, Michael Abe and Mayu Kanamori

September 26, 2024: Artists' Presentation Research Award Winners Ken Mizokoshi and Reina Takeuchi

Oct. 4-6, 2024: NAJC conference

Nov. 28, 2024: Artists and Scholars in Residence presentations

February 2, 2025: Uvic Café Historique: Exile of Japanese Canadians: A Failure of Law and Citizenship Jordan Stanger-Ross

Mar. 7, 2025: Can We Talk CFGS event Artist Showcase

April 2, 2025: File No. 2034 Alison Kobayashi and Susanne Tabata

May 29, 2025: Adler University presentation Michael Abe

May 6, 2025: Navigating Databases: Landscapes of Injustice Case Files



Pooja Parmar (left) moderates a panel at the Indigenous Laws and Transpacific Trade conference, May 2025

INDIGENOUS LAWS AND TRANS-PACIFIC TRADE

Led by Pooja Parmar, Associate Professor of Law, President's Chair in Law and Indigeneity in a Global Context, and CAPI Senior Research Fellow, and in collaboration with Awi Mona, Professor and Director of the Department of Institute of Financial and Economic Law, National Dong Hwa University (NDHU) in Taiwan, this project will deliver a two-part innovative symposium designed to strengthen capacity of Indigenous communities to further implement the **Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Cooperation Arrangement (IPETCA)**. The first symposium was hosted by UVic from 22-23 May 2025, and the second will be hosted by NDHU's Department of Law in Taiwan in Spring 2026. The May 2025 event gathered 40 participants from Indigenous nations across Canada, Japan, Taiwan, and New Zealand, focusing on Indigenous legal principles, economic empowerment, and ethical trade. It sparked key discussions that will continue at the Taiwan symposium in 2026. The project seeks to strengthen Canada's commitments to working with Indigenous partners in Canada and the Indo-Pacific region, remove barriers for Indigenous economic empowerment, and facilitate trading relationships. The project team was successful in securing funding from Global Affairs Canada (GAC) as part of the Regional Connectivity Envelope (RCE) which supports Canadian non-governmental organizations, Indigenous

organizations representing First Nations, Inuit and Metis, and academics as they pursue initiatives with Indo-Pacific partners in key areas of mutual interest such as security, climate and trade.

Panelists

- Wayne Garnons-Williams**, President, International Inter-tribal Trade and Investment Organization
- Robert Joseph**, Faculty of Law, University of Waikato
- Ming Lin (Wagi Payan)**, Department of Ethnic Relations and Cultures, College of Indigenous Studies, National Dong Hwa University
- Val Napoleon**, Faculty of Law, University of Victoria
- Brandon Montour**, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto
- Andrew Ambers**, Faculty of Law, University of Victoria
- Hirosasa Sashima**, President, Raporo Ainu Nation
- Hiroki Kajikawa**, Raporo Ainu Nation
- Kaito Ichikawa**, Raporo Ainu Nation
- Jack Hua**, Paiwan Indigenous Nation, Chairman, Taiwan Indigenous Peoples Development Association

Principal Collaborators

- Pooja Parmar**, Faculty of Law, UVic
- Awi Mona**, Professor and Director of the Department of Institute of Financial and Economic Law, National Dong Hwa University
- Darcy Lindberg**, Faculty of Law, UVic
- Sarah Morales**, Associate Professor, JD/JID Director, Faculty of Law, UVic
- ann-elise lewallen**, Pacific and Asian Studies, UVic





From top left: Trinity Blacklock, Hanna Solis, Jordan Speakman, Tara Matthews, Jannae Lacasse, Daniela Altamirano, Mirai Molina, Tristan Marquis, Santiago Erding, Amina Turner, Sarah Pollard, Gwen Elmhirst, Malcolm Crocker, Maddy Vanderhooft, Rowan Moore, Christy Wittkamp, Jaiya Chauhan

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Robyn Fila, Program Manager

This year, CAPI's internship program continued to support students to step beyond the classroom and into experiences that change the way they see the world and themselves. By working alongside dedicated community partners across Asia, interns not only contribute to meaningful projects but also cultivate adaptability, resilience, problem-solving skills, empathy, and a deeper awareness of global interconnections. These opportunities leave lasting impacts that extend far beyond the duration of their internship placements.

We were fortunate to be one of six institutions across Canada selected for funding under the QES 2024 project with a focus on Academic Diplomacy. As part of this project we added PACOS Trust as a new partner in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. We also formed a new partnership with Ehime University who welcomed our two Japan interns.

Funding for our 2024/2025 programs was made possible with the generous support of Employment and Social Development Canada, Rideau Hall Foundation, and Universities Canada. With this support, CAPI placed 8 Global Skills Opportunity (GSO) and 2 Queen Elizabeth Scholars (QES) interns with partner organizations in Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia. Additionally, with funding from the Jarislowsky East Asia (Japan) Chair, we placed 2 interns in Japan.

NAME	UVIC DEPARTMENT	ORGANISATION	LOCATION
Rowan Moore	English	Karenni Social Development Center (KSDC)	Nai Soi, Thailand
Jannae Lacasse	English and History		
Santiago Erding	Political Science and Business	Democratic Action Party (DAP)	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
Sarah Pollard	Public Health	PACOS Trust	
Gwen Elmhirst	Sociology	Malaysian Social Research Institute (MSRI)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Maddy Vanderhooft	Psychology		
Jaiya Chauhan	Psychology and Computer Science		
Amina Turner	Geography and Environmental Studies	Foundation for Education and Development (FED)	Khao Lak, Thailand
Jordyn Speakman	Political Science and Social Justice		
Hanna Solis Perusquia	Political Science and Global Development		
Trinity Blacklock	Gender Studies and History	Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW)	Bangkok, Thailand
Tara Matthews	Law	Center for Indonesian Policy Studies (CIPS)	Jakarta, Indonesia
Daniela Altamirano	Political Science		
Christy Wittkamp	Pacific and Asian Studies	Disaster Education Promotion Office (DEPO)	Lalitpur, Nepal
Malcolm Crocker	Philosophy	Chiang Mai University Environmental Law Clinic (CMU ELC)	Chiang Mai, Thailand
Mirai Molina	Pacific and Asian Studies	Ehime University	Matsuyama, Japan
Tristan Marquis	Pacific and Asian Studies and Film Studies		

"As a political science student, being in Penampang feels like a giant step out of the classroom and into something far more real and alive. What I've studied in Victoria, while invaluable, doesn't fully capture how politics takes shape here. It lives in conversations under tin roofs, weekly meetings, and in the slow frustrations that fills the air like the thick humidity.

At the halfway point of this internship, I realize the growth I've found here doesn't live in campaign rallies or political briefings alone. It lives in dismantling my own habits: overthinking, performing productivity, obsessing over the finish line instead of noticing the road beneath me."

Santiago Erding, 2025 CAPI Intern



University
of Victoria

Office of the
President



Sandra Ifunanya Oliver-Mbonu answers questions at the graduate symposium

GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

The 2025 CAPI Graduate Symposium at the University of Victoria showcased cutting-edge graduate research across Asia and the Pacific, exploring themes of cultural identity, resistance, and transformation. Through panels on decolonizing education, gender and fashion, art as activism, transnational soft power, and institutional legitimacy, presenters examined how individuals and organizations navigate complex social, political, and historical landscapes. From dark tourism in Japan to trade union strategies in Cambodia, the symposium offered a vibrant interdisciplinary dialogue on power, creativity, and change in a globalized world. Faculty Chairs were Angie Chau, Daniela Damian, Sujin Lee, Endo Takahiro and Victor V. Ramraj.

Student	Department	Presentation title
Ambreen Shehzad Hussaini	Art History and Visual Studies	Sacred Satire: The Art of Muzzamil Ruheel and the Subversion of Religious and Political Norms
Amin Kouhbor and Sepideh Abbasi		Exploring Happiness and Its Determinants in the Asia-Pacific Region: A Visual Approach
Sandra Ifunanya Oliver-Mbonu	Pacific and Asian Studies	Soft Power in Stitches: Understanding the Nature and Extent of China's Fashion Influence in Nigeria
Ivan Garcimartin Carmona	Pacific and Asian Studies	Hakama, Gangs, and Kabuki: Fashion, Non-Normativity, and the Performance of Gender in Japan
Cynthia Hong	Curriculum Studies	Curriculum Under Siege: Political Ideologies and the Struggle for Decolonizing Education in China and Iran
Tasnova Zerin Haque	Art History and Visual Studies	Play with Traditional Clay (Disappearing Bangladeshi Folk Art)
Kamrun Naher Liza		Changing Social Attitudes Towards Female Athletes through Applied Theatre in Bangladesh
Ratana Ly	Law	Trade Unions' Dynamic Navigation through the Repressive State Laws to Creatively Address Health and Safety Problems for Construction Workers in Cambodia: A Legal Pluralist Approach
Chris Wynn & Lauren Walter	Gustavson School of Business	Join The Dark Side: Creating Meaning at Japanese Dark Tourism Sites
Chanathip (Esther) Suwannanon	Interdisciplinary Studies	The Archival Turn: Thailand's Rise as the Neo-Global Capital for 'Sex-Change' Surgery in the Post-Cold War Era
Nhan Thanh (Mac) Nguyen	Gustavson School of Business	Love of country: Organizational-level patriotism and institutional change in the context of a developing country



From left to right: Jae Kwang Kim, Noelle Hinrichs, Seong-il Kim and Wonjik Seo

SOUTH KOREAN RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Noelle Hinrichs, Program Coordinator

Public Policy Research Program and International Legal Research Programs

The summer and fall of 2024 was a quieter time for our overseas research programs as we transitioned between cohorts. We said a fond farewell to many of our Korean researchers who returned home mid-way through 2024 and prepared for the arrival of others.

In January of 2025, we welcomed the first in our new legal cohort, a prosecutor from Seoul, Korea, who was soon joined by a district court judge, three court officials, and a deputy director from the Central Fire Department in Korea. Their areas of research include adult guardianship, restorative justice, digital evidence and witness testimony in trials, victim compensation and fire and emergency response. Since their arrival, they have visited the BC Legislature and Legislative Library, participated in law classes, and met with law professors at UVic to discuss their research. Research presentations took place each semester, providing the Korean cohort an opportunity to share their research with colleagues, faculty and other visiting researchers, including professors from Japan and China, who were working independently in the fields of law, social policy and business.

Our current cohort of visiting researchers adds to a vibrant community at CAPI. In addition to the policy specialists with us at present, we regularly receive updates from members of our previous cohorts who earlier completed their research terms. We are pleased to learn that several members of our earlier cohorts have received promotions and new projects since their return to Korea. The projects are wide-ranging in impact – from the design of new cities, to new policies and supports for aging populations, the integration of metropolitan areas, to maintenance of rivers and environment. It is clear from their comments that their experience in CAPI's research program was positive and productive and that the comparative research they conducted in Canada has helped them shape policy upon their return. The faculty, graduate students and community specialists that they met with while in Canada have also benefited from the exchange of knowledge and comparison of policy afforded by the program.



Nobel Peace Prize Nominee Dr. Sima Samar receives a standing ovation, February 2025



Zhang Mengqi gave a performance/lecture, Nov 2024. Photo - Angie Chau

DATE	TITLE	PRESENTER / PANELLISTS
23 July 2024	Adventures in Bhutan	Helen Lansdowne - Associate Director of CAPI Uvic, Assistant Dean for the Climate Change & Environmental Law Centre at the Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law, Bhutan
12 September 2024	CAPI Welcome back	CAPI's annual reception for friends and colleagues
07 October 2024	Author Meets Reader: Rahul Ranjan	Rahul Ranjan - Assistant Professor of Environmental Justice, Department of Geography, University of Edinburgh Pasang Yangjee Sherpa - Assistant Professor of Lifeways in Indigenous Asia, Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies / Department of Asian Studies, University of British Columbia
04 October 2024	CAPI Asia Forum	Over 40 faculty, staff and grad students came together for a day of presentations and networking in the upper lounge of the Student Union Building
10 October 2024	Kopitiam - Asia Café	Moderator: Angie Chau - Associate Professor, Pacific and Asian Studies, Uvic"
17 October 2024	How Bhutanese Artists Respond to Societal Changes in Bhutan	Hee Chan Song - Assistant Professor at Sasin Graduate School of Management at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
24 October 2024	Kopitiam - Asia Café	Graduate students working on Asia-related topics
07 November 2024	US Election: Consequences for Asia	Kai Ostwald - Associate Professor, School of Public Policy & Global Affairs and the Department of Political Science and Director of the Institute of Asian Research, University of British Columbia. Reeta Tremblay - Professor Emerita of Comparative Politics in the department of Political Science, Uvic. Jia Wang - Senior Advisor and Senior Fellow of the China Institute at the University of Alberta. Discussant (via Zoom): Vina Nadjibulla - Vice-President of Research & Strategy at the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. Moderator: Victor V. Ramraj - Director and Chair in Asia-Pacific Legal Relations at the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives (CAPI) and a Uvic Faculty of Law Professor.
27 November 2024	HUNG LECTURE In the Name of Memory	The lecture featured visiting filmmaker Zhang Mengqi's presentation on uncovering the hidden history of China's Great Famine (1959–1961). Zhang Mengqi is a resident filmmaker and choreographer at Caochangdi Workstation in Beijing and a founding member of the Folk Memory Project
28 November 2024	Self Portrait: 47 KM 2020 by Zhang Mengqi	Zhang Mengqi - a resident filmmaker and choreographer at Caochangdi Workstation in Beijing and a founding member of the Folk Memory Project
23 January 2025	David Malone - Canada and the Indo-Pacific in a New Political Era	David Malone - Retired Rector of the UN University Tokyo, and former Under-Secretary General of the UN
30 January 2025	Lunar New Year Celebration	Held in the Law Lounge, in collaboration with Pacific and Asian Studies Student Society
06 February 2025	Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan	Dr. Sima Samar - Renowned Nobel Peace Prize nominee (CAPI co-organised with Social Sciences, Global Development Studies, CSRS, CFGS)



(from left to right: Panelists Kai Ostwald, Victor Ramraj, Jia Wang and Reeta Tremblay discuss the US election, Nov 2024)

DATE	TITLE	PRESENTER / PANELLISTS
13 March 2025	Field Schools to China (with Canada China Focus)	Henry Yu - Professor, Department of History, UBC Xiaobei Chen - Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University Robyn Fila - Internship Program Manager, CAPI UVic
20 March 2025	INSPIRE! Technology development for social impact in Canada and Nepal	Dana Damian - Professor, Director & ECS-CAPI Chair in Inclusive Science, Technology and Engineering Bachan Ghimire - Program Manager at INSPIRE Nepal Aarjan Ghimire - INSPIRE Nepal Ambassador UVic MSc Computer Science Candidate Riya Shrestha - Project Mentor Trainee UVic MSc Computer Science Candidate
27 March 2025	Stories from the Field - Student experiences in Asia	CAPI Interns Moderator: Robyn Fila - CAPI internship program manager
05 June 2025	New Approaches to Delivering Public Value Research and Societal Impact: Evidence from Cardiff, Wales	Marcus Gomes - Trustee and Council member for the Society for the Advancement of Management Studies Rick Delbridge - Professor of Organizational Analysis at Cardiff Business School and co-convenor of the Centre for Innovation Policy Research at Cardiff University
13 June 2025	Gelephu Mindfulness City: A Bold Vision for a Mindful Growth	Nima Dorji, Associate Professor & Vice-Dean, JSW School of Law, Bhutan
16 June 2025	Water Management and Climate Change in Bhutan: Canadian and Bhutanese Perspectives	Deborah Curran - Professor at the University of Victoria in the Faculty of Law and School of Environmental Studies Nima Dorji - Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor at Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law, Bhutan Tom Gleeson - Professor in the Faculty of Engineering and President's Donna Greschner - former UVic Dean of Law and Professor Emerita Helen Lansdowne - Assistant Dean at the Climate Change & Environmental Law Centre, JSW School of Law, Bhutan and CAPI Senior Research Fellow Moderator: Victor V. Ramraj, Director, Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives; Professor of Law & CAPI Chair in Asia-Pacific Legal Relations
19 June 2025	Helen Lansdowne retirement celebration and Student Award Launch.	A special event to honour Helen and announce the endowed student award in her name, held at the Gardens at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific

CAPI STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS



Photo provided by Amit Sharma

CAPI Student Fellowships valued at \$2,500 are available on an annual basis to support student research and language study in the Asia-Pacific region. This year CAPI awarded two research fellowships.

The 2025 recipient was Gustavson School of Business PhD candidate **Amit Sharma** (pictured left), for his project “Essence of Craft and the Role of Social Value Judgements in the Craft and Tradition-Based Organizations”

Amit used his CAPI funding towards travel to Japan to conduct research on how craft and tradition-based industries face the challenge of growing businesses without compromising the perceived authenticity of their products. Amit had the opportunity to spend two weeks apprenticing/observing at a Sake brewery, a placement arranged by Amit’s PhD supervisor, CAPI Japan Chair **Endo Takahiro**.

MIGRATION, MOBILITY AND DISPLACEMENT



While the MMD Program has essentially wrapped up, one journal has been in the works and was finally published early in 2025. Guest Editors **Xiaobei Chen**, Carleton University, (Ottawa) and **Jiyoung Lee-An**, Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops brought together a collection of papers focusing on the deeply rooted anti-Asian racism in North America exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Authors explored how racism was particularly visible in hate attacks and the inequalities in the provision of health care, public services, and vaccine access. Importantly, though less noted, even before the pandemic the worsening geopolitical tensions centred around the China-US rivalry have already fueled the Sinophobia mentality since the 2008 financial crisis.



Helen in discussion at a CAPI /JSW conference in Bhutan 2019, Photo - Jon Woods

THE END OF AN ERA

In summer of 2024, in the face of further staffing budget cuts, **Helen Lansdowne** made the decision to retire as Associate Director of CAPI. It would be easy to fill an entire review celebrating Helen's achievements at CAPI. She was a driving force for over 25 years, shaping the Centre's success through her exceptional leadership, scholarship, and dedication. After earning her BA and MA in Pacific and Asian Studies, she joined CAPI in 1998 and served in various roles, including acting director. Known for her meticulous organization and collaborative research, Helen co-edited influential volumes, contributed to academic publications, and helped launch CAPI's open access journal. She also taught courses on China and Southeast Asia at UVic and Camosun, with a focus on gender and environmental issues. Though she retired from CAPI in August 2024, Helen continues her impactful work as Assistant Dean at the Climate Change & Environmental Law Centre in Bhutan. We are delighted that she remains affiliated with CAPI as a Senior Research Fellow and continues to collaborate with the Centre with initiatives like the Paro Forum and the Bhutan Study Tour. In June 2025, after generous donations from the CAPI community and beyond, CAPI announced the

Helen Lansdowne Award, an endowed annual scholarship to support graduate or undergraduate students whose area of study focuses on migration, gender studies, or sustainability in Asia.

Hi Helen,

So good to hear from you!

I was hoping to get in touch with you because I recently took up a position at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia. I am looking back and I'd like to email you to sincerely and immensely thank you for your and CAPI's support during my undergrad and master studies at UVic....Your support has made significant impacts on the pursuit of my research interests and academic career path. It made an enormous difference for the then young student like me...

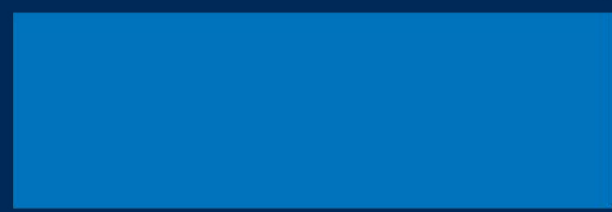
Best wishes,

*Dr Ruji Auethavornpipat
Lecturer in Politics and International Relations
La Trobe University, Melbourne*

PS. I met another former CAPI student, Shane Barter, for the first time in Australia. We both shared the positive differences CAPI has on our lives.



Helen awarding Ruji Auethavornpipat the Anand Scholarship in 2011. Photo - CAPI Archives



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