



Centre for Studies in Religion & Society

### DIRECTOR'S NOTES: Paul Bramadat

Although this almost goes without saying, I nonetheless do want to say how proud I am of my peers and colleagues at the CSRS for what we have done in the face of the myriad challenges we have all seen this year. Here I do not just mean that we have been stoic in our response to this challenge—though stoicism would have been entirely sufficient—but rather that together we have actually found a way to amplify the impact of our research and of the network we have been building here for three decades.



In 2021 and 2022 we engaged in additional interviews with Noam Chomsky and Linda Woodhead as well as the work required to produce a publication related to the Values for a New World series (Dec. 2020-April 2021). Unless I'm mistaken, Chomsky's lecture broke all previous records at the University of Victoria not just for a single event (with roughly 4500 people tuning in live) but for subsequent downloads of the event (with now over 15,000 views). In the Spring of 2022 we featured speakers addressing structural evil as well as the environmental crisis, with the highlight – for me, at least – being a superbly insightful and urgent conversation between Tzeporah Berman, Deondre Smiles, and Christiana Zenner.

As you will see from this report, our research has continued without interruption, with the conclusion of both the four-year SSHRC Cascadia project (UBC Press, 2022) and the two year ISSR project on urban religious life in societies generally understood to be secular (Bloomsbury 2021), the launching of a project on the oral history of postural yoga, the steady progress in our project on Indigenous spiritualities in the Canadian public arena, and (in October 2021) an international workshop on the relationship between post-religious spiritualities and conventional healthcare settings. I am pleased to announce that in April 2022 I learned that our SSHRC Insight Grant application (submitted October 2021) was successful, so for the next four or five years you will hear a great deal about the ways – and the whys – embodied forms of spirituality may differ depending on whether they are based in the US or Canada.

The publications, projects, and record-breaking lectures are worth celebrating, of course. However, what truly makes it a joy to work here is the sense of solidarity that is created in our interactions. Earlier I noted the strength of the "networks" we have built; but that is a bloodless euphemism for what really animates the CSRS, and that is community. The pandemic has led in some cases to what one might call "the great shrug," with many people deciding they do not wish to continue living the lives they once led. Throughout all of the upheaval we have seen in the last two years, I am pleased that the CSRS has been – for so many, either in person or virtually – a space in which we think together about what it might mean today, to be scholars, critics, and citizens.

### ABOUT US

The Centre for Studies in Religion and Society (CSRS) is an interdisciplinary research centre located at the University of Victoria in Victoria, British Columbia. We acknowledge and respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the CSRS stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Our mission is to foster the scholarly study of religion in relation to any and all aspects of society and culture, both contemporary and historical. The CSRS is regularly and deeply engaged in conversations with policy makers and civil society, in an effort to connect scholarly research on religion and society to the broader world. We sponsor graduate student, faculty, artist in residence, visiting researcher, and sabbatical fellowships, and produce a dynamic annual program of public lectures and seminars. The CSRS is committed to pluralism and dialogue, attracting participants whose backgrounds and perspectives reflect a wide variety of religious, spiritual, and secular points of view.

### 21-2022 Fellows

### A list of the FELLOWS-IN-RESIDENCE who form the heart of our community:

### VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWS



(University of Pretoria) Indigenous Education in Colonial and Post-Colonial Africa

Kolawole Samuel Adevemo



Dustin Benac (Baylor University) Ecclesial Innovation in the Pacific Northwest



Justin Lewis (University of Manitoba) Listening to Hasidic Stories



**Dominique Leydet** (Université du Québec à Montréal) Challenges in Cross-Cultural Dialogue between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Legal Traditions



Alexander Rosenblatt (Zefat Academic College) The Revival of Historical-Style Music in the Modern Canadian Church: Artistic and Social Aspects



Mark Scott (Thorneloe University) The Beauty of Souls: Literary Encounters with Marilynne Robinson



Jennifer Selby (Memorial University) Romance and the Secular Body



Timothy Stacey (Leiden University) Animist Imaginaries and Environmental Activism



John Thatamanil (Union Theological Seminary) Desiring Truth: The Fate of Knowing in a Post-Truth Era



Anna Lee White—Katherine Young Travel Award (McGill University, Asian Religions) The History of Bhakti Literature from Early Modern North India



#### Man Kong Wong (Hong Kong Baptist University) Protestant Christianity and the History of Medical Care in Colonial Hong Kong, 1842-1997



#### Amy Verdun

UVIC FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

Graham McDonough (Department of Education)

(Department of Political Science) Religion in the European Union —Values, Migration and Policv

How Supersessionism Impedes Catholic Reconciliation

### INDIGENOUS ARTS AND RESEARCH FELLOW

with Indigenous Persons and Groups

### Shianna McAllister



(UVic, Political Science, Indigenous Nationhood) The Categorization and Containment of Indigenous Understandings of Land, Spirituality, and Relationality

### WINNIFRED LONSDALE GRADUATE FELLOW



Jerry Flexer

### (UVic, History),



Jiddu Krishnamurti's Invention of Religion Without Beliefs

### IAN H. STEWART GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWS

### Isabelle Kostecki





### Lauren Strumos

(University of Ottawa, Classics and Religious Studies) Notions of Environmental and Ecological Justice Among Protestors Opposed to the TMX Pipeline Project



### **Trevor Israelsen**

(UVic, Business), Institutionalizing Legacy: Entrepreneurship Pathways for Constructing a Business Dynasty

### CSRS GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWS

#### Stacie Swain



(UVic, Political Science) *Reorienting "Public" Space through the Politics of* Indigenous Ceremony

HEATHER J. LINDSTEDT AND BRIAN A. POLLICK **GRADUATE FELLOW** 



#### Jaiya Anka

(UVic, Art History and Visual Studies) Queens, Saints, and Sultanas: Interwoven Identities as Portrait in the Sixteenth Century



#### COMMUNITY SABBATICANT FELLOWS



**Jim Cohn** Deals with the Devil: The Faust theme in Marlowe, Goethe, and Mann



**Matthew Ponak** Oasis Time: A Guide to Home-Based Spiritual Refreshment



**Don Wren** It Kept Everyone Together: An Ethnohistory of Post-cession Pribilovian Orthodoxy



CSRS ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE



**Patrick Boyle** From Nowhere to Now Here



**Estraven Lupino-Smith** Landscape Liturgy: Weaving as Land Based Ritual



**Terry Marner** Searching for Home - Finding Fingerposts in Neuroscience

## **Associate Fellows**

#### **Angela Andersen**

Islamic Architectures: Muslim Spaces of Prayer, Ceremony and Learning Beyond the Mosque

**Russ Callaghan** Mindfulness in the Buddhist Tradition and Medical/Psychological Interventions

**Jim Cohn** Deals with the Devil: The Faust theme in Marlowe, Goethe, and Mann

#### **Harold Coward**

Word, Chant and Song in the Major Religions: Spiritual Transformation

**Michel Desjardins** Food: Connector to People's Spiritual Worlds

**Erica Dodd** *Treasures of the Early Christian Church* 

Robert Florida Ethical Issues in Modern Buddhism

**Nicola Hayward** The Use of Funerary Art for Commemorating Social Identity and Memory: The Case of the Via Latina's Samaritan Woman

### Victor Hori

The Modernization of Buddhism in Global Perspective

#### **Chelsea Horton**

Living Histories of Religion, Irreligion and Settler Colonialism in the Pacific Northwest

#### **Ambreen Hussaini**

Art of Qur'anic Calligraphy and Material Culture: Investigating the Use of the Qur'anic Text in Contemporary Pakistan

#### **Lesley Jessop**

Students or Tailors? A Re-evaluation of the Sculptures on the South Transept of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris

#### **Todd Klaiman**

Developing a Pedagogic Curriculum to Evaluate the Effects of State Endorsed Cultural Tourism on Religious Sites in China

**Francis Landy** The Book of Isaiah

**Lytton McDonnell** Tuneful Trances: Music, Mysticism, and Re-enchantment in Modern America

#### **Graham McDonough**

How Supersessionism Impedes Catholic Christianity's Approach to Reconciliation with Indigenous Persons and Groups

#### **Brendon Neilson**

Post-Christian Diaspora: How Millennials are Making Meaning after Leaving the Church

#### **Brian Pollick**

The Merchant Moral Eye Model in Late Medieval European Art

#### **Justine Semmens**

Dangerous Liaisons: Sex Crime and the Courts in Catholic Reformation France, 1500-1700

#### **Paige Thombs**

*Religion and Lawyers: Strange Bedfellows or Intimate Partners?* 

**Carolyn Whitney-Brown** 

Henri Nouwen's Unfinished Last Manuscript: The Flying Trapeze

**Grace Wong Sneddon** 

Chinese Canadian Spirituality in the 21st Century

#### **Katherine Young**

The Divyaprabandham, Canonization, and Śrīvaisnava Formation: Musical Tropes and Identity Negotiations



From September 2021 to April 2022, we hosted **24 public lectures**. The Fall semester was a hybrid (in-person + online) format. The Spring semester lectures were online only due to COVID, apart from our concluding gala Artist-in-Residence event.

Sept. 23, 2021	John Thatamanil	Desiring Truth: The Fate of Knowing in a Post-Truth Era
Oct. 7, 2021	Dustin Benac	Collaborative Partnership as a Way of Life
Oct.14, 2021	Karin Meyers	Love it or Leave it? Buddhist Perspectives on the Natural World
Oct. 20, 2021	Jane Macnaughton	Medical Humanities and Post-Covid Futures
Oct. 21, 2021	Andrea Jain	Eat Your Own Leg: Medicine, Religion, and Non-Compliance in the Time of Planetary Crisis
Oct.28, 2021	Dan Russek	Secular Mysticism: Aesthetic Experience and the Epiphanies of the Everyday
Nov. 2, 2021	Deanna Hutchings, Misha Butot, and Peter Scales	Speaking of Death
Nov. 4, 2021	Man Kong Wong	Christian Contributions to Medicine in Hong Kong during WWII
Nov. 18, 2021	Graham McDonough	How Supersessionism Obstructs the Catholic Church's Approach to Reconciliation
Nov. 25, 2021	Estraven Lupino-Smith	Landscape Liturgy: Weaving as Land-Based Ritual [postponed]
Dec.2, 2021*	Cynthia Moe-Lobeda and David Seljak	Resisting Structural Evil: Climate, Economy and Hope
Jan. 13, 2022	Andrew Wender	Messianic Imperialism: The Nature of a Paradox
Jan. 20, 2022	Abby Day	Why Baby Boomers Turned From Religion
Jan. 27, 2022	Amy Verdun	The Wellbeing of Bangladeshi Migrants in Italy: The Impact of Muslim Religious Practices
Feb. 10, 2022	Trevor Israelsen	Business Dynasties, Tradition and the Resilience of Ancient Institutions
Feb. 17, 2022	Stacie Swain	Reorienting Politics through Public Expressions of Indigenous Ceremony
March 3, 2022*	Tzeporah Berman, Deondre Smiles, and Christiana Zenner	Watershed Moment: Spirituality, Forests and Fresh Water
March 10, 2022	Jaiya Anka	Queen, Sultana or Saint? Interwoven Identities as a Portrait of 16th Century Venice
March 17, 2022	Jerry Flexer	Jiddu Krishnamurti's Invention of Religion Without Beliefs
March 24, 2022	Dominique Leydet	Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Legal Traditions in Canada: Some Challenges
March 31, 2022	Lauren Strumos	Notions of Justice Among Activists Opposed to the Trans Mountain Pipeline
April 7, 2022	Estraven Lupino-Smith	Landscape Liturgy: Weaving as Land-Based Ritual
April 7, 2022	Patrick Boyle	Nowhere to Now Here
April 14, 2022	Shianna McAllister	Property, Industry, and Climate Injustice in Nlaka'pamux Territory
*John Albert Hall L	ecture Series	

### 2022 SUMMER LECTURE SERIES

The 2022 Summer Lecture Series features a diverse set of topics across a number of disciplines. The issues are contemporary and show the importance of religion as a lens through which we may engage areas of deep social concern, as well as the broad, interdisciplinary nature of the CSRS community.

May 5, 2022	Paul Bramadat et al	Religion at the Edge: Nature, Spirituality, and Secularity in the Pacific Northwest
May 12, 2022	Isabelle Kostecki	Emerging End of Life Rituals in Western Healthcare
May 19, 2022	Katherine Young	Paradoxes of Youth and Old Age in the Arts of India
May 26, 2022	Brian Pollick	Hell to Pay: Merchants and the Visualization of Morality in 14th C Italy
June 2, 2022	Jasjit Singh	Being Sikh in a Digital World



### 2021-2022 JOHN ALBERT HALL PUBLIC LECTURES Brendon Neilson, JAH co-chair



It was another year of offering lectures in the spirit of John Albert Hall amid a pandemic. This year's events went smoothly and were centered on a common concern for the climate crisis.

**Cynthia Moe-Lobeda**, Professor of Theological and Social Ethics at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary helped us to look seriously at the structural manifestations of evil, and how

race, class, and climate are bound together in daunting ways. She then offered us some reflections on what gifts religion might bring to bear in navigating these complex times. **David Seljak**, Professor of Religious Studies and chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Waterloo, then discussed with Cynthia how one might teach these issues in ways that could empower and engage.

In a follow-up to last year's "Values for a New World" series, Noam

Chomsky engaged in an extended interview with lan Alexander (former co-chair of the John Albert Hall committee) and Martha McGinnis (Chair of UVic's Department of Linguistics). A two-part video of this conversation released on YouTube has accumulated over 20,000 views to date. Thank you to Noam, Martha and Ian for this rich conversation.

In March we hosted a panel discussion entitled

"Watershed Moment: Spirituality, Forests and Fresh Water" that featured environmental activist **Tzeporah Berman**, UVic Assistant Professor of Geography **Deondre Smiles**, and **Christiana Zenner**, who is Associate Professor of Theology, Science and

> Ethics at Fordham University. They each addressed the issues with intellectual rigor



while sharing openly from personal experience. The tone of the conversation was striking in its ability to engage both the human spirit and academic conversation simultaneously.

Tzeporah will join us later in the summer for a community event hosted by Bilston Creek Farm. "A Conversation with Tzeporah Berman" will

include food and mingling beforehand, followed by a meaningful conversation between Tzeporah, renowned forest ecologist Andy MacKinnon, and the assembled crowd. Christiana will also travel to Victoria in the summer of 2022 to participate in events organized by the CSRS, the Centre for Global Studies and local Anglican churches.





### Academic Collaborations and Initiatives

In the Fall of 2021 we welcomed our first recipient of the new Indigenous Arts and Research (IARF) fellowship program, Shianna McAllister. Shianna is a PhD student in Political Science and Indigenous Nationhood at UVic. During her time with us, Shianna gave a lecture on "Property, Industry, and Climate Injustice in Nlaka'pamux Territory." The IARF program is a collaboration between the CSRS and a benefactor who is an Indigenous Artist and past CSRS fellow.

In October 2021 we hosted our (twice Covid-postponed!) Health Humanities workshop. The workshop brought together scholars as well as health practitioners from all over the scholarly and geographical map to discuss new spiritualities and the Health Humanities. We hosted five workshop sessions on topics such as Secularization, Conspirituality, and Creativity and Care, as well as two keynote lectures.

In the Fall of 2021 the CSRS helped launch the Yoga Studies Network of Canada (YSNC). YSNC will help support the scholarly study of yoga in Canada. Our first public forum will be held in late June.

This year we continued to be involved as collaborators on Lori Beaman's "Nonreligion in a Complex Future" project, and welcomed our first visiting graduate fellow from the team,

Lauren Strumos. Lauren gave an excellent public lecture on "Notions of Justice Among Activists Opposed to the Trans Mountain Pipeline."

This Spring, in cooperation with the local Sikh community, we will welcome Jasjit Singh to the CSRS for a week long visit. While in Victoria, Jasjit will spend time with the local Sikh community, and his lecture, "Being Sikh in a Digital World", will be featured in our summer lecture series.



#### CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN RELIGION AND SOCIETY

Medicine, Wellness and Post-Institutional Spirituality: An Interdisciplinary Workshop

October 20-21, 2021 Lecture details at <u>uvic.ca/csrs/events</u>

Keynote Lectures by Jane Macnaughton, Professor of Medical Humanities at Durham University, and Andrea Jain, Professor of Religious Studies at Indiana University.



### **Research and Publications**

### **Publications**

As we slowly and intermittently returned to "regular" research life at the Centre, we were able to continue to push our research projects forward. Our "Cascadia project" is in its final knowledge dissemination stages with the publication of *Religion at the Edge: Nature, Spirituality, and Secularity in the Pacific Northwest* (UBC Press 2022). Some members of the research and editorial team will come together for various book launch events this spring. We also pitched a roundtable discussion on "Religion



ITED BY PAUL BRAMADAT, PATRICIA O'CONNELL

and Bioregionalism" to the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion's annual conference based on some findings from the project, and will propose a similar



dissemination event for the meeting of the International Society for the Sociology of Religion in 2023.

Our other major research project underway is the third volume in the Religion and Ethnicity in Canada series. The volume, tentatively called *Opening and Closing Relations: Indigenous Spirituality in Canada* involves scholars of Indigenous law, history, and literature, as well as sociologists, political scientists, and religious studies scholars. The editors (Paul Bramadat, John Borrows, Heidi Kiiwetinepinesiik Stark and David Seljak) have been receiving and editing draft chapters from contributors over the course of the year and hope to have a draft manuscript to submit to the publisher by summer of 2022. The University of Toronto Press, our publisher, has shown tremendous enthusiasm for the project.

The Bulletin for the Study of Religion will be publishing conversations with Esi Edugyan, Linda Woodhead and Noam Chomsky as

a follow up to our 2020-2021 John Albert Hall Lecture Series "Values for a New World." Special thanks to interviewers Tim Lilburn, Ian Alexander and Martha McGinnis for producing such engaging conversations, as well as for the careful editorial work on the final transcripts.



### Future Research Projects

Building on networks involved in our Health Humanities workshop, Paul Bramadat is a co-investigator (with colleagues in Australia, Spain, and Canada) in a major project submitted to the Australian Research Council (their version of SSHRC). This project would allow a team to analyse and document various forms of spirituality in Australia, with a focus on their contributions to wellbeing and their possible risks. He and colleagues in Australia and Europe continue to seek support for a project on "Conspirituality" in contemporary societies, especially relevant in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Finally, during the 2021-2022 academic year Paul Bramadat started a small research project on the history of modern postural yoga (MPY) in Canada. In this project, Paul is conducting oral history interviews with key teachers/practitioners of yoga in Canada. This project is one part of a larger project on MPY in Canada and the US for which we applied for funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). This project will address the relevance of national norms and discourses in the ways religious and spiritual phenomena are imagined and experienced in North America. The project stands at the intersection of comparative nationalisms, lived religion, and secularism studies. In April of 2022, we learned our application was successful, so stay tuned to our newsletters and annual reports for updates on this exciting new project.

### **Community of Learning**

### **Coffee Talks**

"Coffee talk" conversations at the Centre provide an opportunity for CSRS fellows and special guests to address intellectual issues of common concern. Discussions in the Fall took place in person Monday to Friday, with a special "hybrid" session on Wednesdays. In the Spring we held a combination of hybrid (Mon), in-person only (Tues-Thurs), and Zoom only (Wed-Fri) discussions. Coffee hour has long been the beating heart of the CSRS community, but in the midst of (yet another) pandemic year, the lively interaction of these times together was especially appreciated. We hosted over 40 of these specially-themed coffee discussions on topics such as:

- "Buddhist Studies hits Broadway: A Multimedia Presentation" (Martin Adams)
- "The Importance of Maus and the Graphic Novel" (Angela Anderson and Hinda Avery)
- "The Politics of Hinduism: the 2021 State Elections in Tamil Nadu (India)" (Katherine Young)
- "Is Poetic Faith Religious?: Shakespeare and the World of *Slings & Arrows"* (Gary Kuchar)
- "World Values Survey--Canada Religion Stats" (Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme)
- "Psychedelic Assisted Therapy and Spiritual Care" (Ruth Dantzer)
- "How Do Scholars Theorize Religion and Race?" (Stacie Swain)
- "Putin's War in Ukraine" (Megan Swift)
- "You Might Be Sorry You Read This--A Poetic Memoir" (Michelle Brown)
- "Listening to Hasidic Stories" (Justin Lewis)





### **CENTRE CINE**

#### Season 7: September 2021 – April 2022

Season seven of the monthly Centre Cine series of Coffee Talks, facilitated by our Artist-in-Residence **Terry Marner**, explored questions of morality, culture, the search for meaning, and other themes arising from the human spiritual journey.

The selection of films this year included *Blinded by the Light* (2019), *Night and Fog* (1956), and *Just Mercy* (2019).

Centre Cine participants are sent the name of a selected film at various times in the year. All the films are available to stream on Netflix or a public streaming site and most are available from the Greater Victoria Public Library. The participants watch the film in their own time to prepare for a group discussion. During the Coffee Talk time slot, Terry facilitates an engaging conversation about the film. We are excited to introduce incoming CSRS fellows to Centre Cine's 8th season this fall.





### **OUR PEOPLE** Paul Bramadat (Director) Rachel Brown (Program and Research Coordinator) Scott Dolff (Program and Communications Associate) Noriko Prezeau (Administrative Assistant) Talia Friedman (Work Study Student) **PROGRAM COMMITTEE** Paul Bramadat, Chair (History/Religion, Culture and Society) Evanthia Baboula (Art History and Visual Studies) Shamma Boyarin (Religion, Culture and Society) Kathryn Chan (Law) Alexandra D'Arcy (Linguistics/Assoc. Dean Humanities) Réal Roy (Biology) Coby Tschanz (Nursing) ex officio: Martin Bunton (Centre for Global Studies) ex officio: Cynthia Milton (Associate VP Research) ex officio: Peter Scales (Chair, Advisory Council) ADVISORY COUNCIL Peter Scales, Chair (Unitarian Chaplain) Peter Beyer (University of Ottawa) Rory Dickson (University of Winnipeg) Paul Gareau (University of Alberta) Victor Hori (McGill University, emeritus) Gwen Jahelka (Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria) Dvora Levin (Congregation Emanu-El) Mary Louise Meadow (Anglican Church of Canada) Rubina Ramji (Cape Breton University) Jo-Ann Roberts (Media/Civil Society) Gurdeep Singh (member of local Sikh community) Grace Wong Sneddon (University of Victoria)

Centre for Studies in Religion and Society University of Victoria PO Box 1700, STN CSC, Victoria, BC Canada V8W 2Y2

### **Financial Summary**

For the fiscal period of April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022

Operational Revenues	\$269,695
General Endowments	\$219,180
Fellowship & Awards Endowments	\$24,290
Library Endowments	\$11,840
Province of BC	\$8,245
Lectures & Events Endowments	\$3,460
Book Royalties	\$1,480
Miscellaneous recoveries	\$1,200
Project Revenues	\$32,500
Building Connections Grant	\$7,500
John Albert Hall Lecture Series	\$25,000
Donations	\$27,598
Fellowships	\$5,500
CSRS Main Endowment	\$21,698
Other Donations	\$400
Total Revenues	\$329,793
Operational Expenses	\$233,586
Salaries and Benefits	\$179,552
Fellowships and Awards	\$44,714
Supplies, Equipment, Infrastructure	\$9,320
Project Expenses	\$34,957
Cascadia Research Project (Year 5)	\$4,211
John Albert Hall Lecture Series	\$17,088
Library Expenditures	\$2,982
Misc. Lectures, Conferences, Events	\$10,676
Total Expenditures	\$268,543

The principal amount in the CSRS Endowment accounts as of March 31, 2022 is \$6,554,707.



# University of Victoria

Centre for Studies in Religion & Society

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