

2022-23 Annual Report



DIRECTOR'S NOTES: Kathryn Chan

It has been a rewarding adventure filling in as acting director of the CSRS this year. I'd like to begin this column by acknowledging the huge help that the CSRS staff - Rachel Brown, Scott Dolff, and Noriko Prezeau - have provided as I have tried to learn the ropes. I am also thankful to the broader CSRS community of fellows and advisors for their welcome and their support.

One of the priorities that the CSRS team identified for this year was the reinvigoration of the in-person events that contribute so much to the CSRS community. The pandemic has caused many university activities to be cancelled since 2020, and people's habits have changed in ways that can work against practices of community and connection. There continue, of course, to be concerns about the spread of Covid-19 and other viruses. While we continued to offer online options for our public lectures and coffee talk offerings, however, we also worked hard on increasing inperson attendance. We introduced an "associate fellow coffee talk" series, which



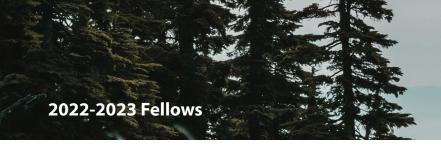
formalized an existing practice of inviting off-campus associate fellows to share their work with the year's in-house fellows. We also expanded Terry Marner's popular "Cine Centre" series, screening movies at the CSRS in advance of the discussion sessions so that fellows could watch them together. I am thankful to the many people who showed up online and in-person this year, contributing to our discussions and our community-building efforts.

As the pages of this report evidence, the research of the CSRS continued apace in 2022-23. Paul Bramadat has made progress on a number of projects during his sabbatical, including a SSHRC funded ethnographic study of modern postural yoga in Canada and the US, and an edited volume on Indigenous spiritualities in the Canadian public arena. Rachel was invited to present her research on food and religion at a summer school and colloquium at the University of Laval in Quebec City, and worked on a chapter on Muslim food and pop culture for the *Bloomsbury Handbook of Muslims and Popular Culture* (forthcoming 2023). And I added some legal scholarship to the mix, with an article that examines when the courts should be able to intervene in the decision-making processes of Indigenous and religious associations.

I can identify many highlights of my year as Acting Director. Perhaps, in closing, I'll briefly mention three. First, we had a very special week with Dr. Sa'diyya Shaikh, our Distinguished Lecturer in Islam, who travelled all the way from Cape Town to Victoria on the eve of Ramadan to share her wisdom and warmth with our community. Second, we had three fantastic days of discussions at the John Albert Hall colloquium on the use and regulation of religious property (see p.5 for the related article), which reminded me of the great value of discussions that cross disciplinary and professional lines. Finally, the sports fans in the house have great memories of our "Miracle in the Desert" coffee hour, a group viewing (and subsequent discussion) of Canada's World Cup game against Belgium in Qatar. In case you missed it, there was no miracle. As on other days, however, there was debate and laughter in our little coffee room at the CSRS, and that made it all worthwhile.

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 lak^w -and 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.



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

VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWS



Reena Cheruvalath

(Birla Institute of Technology and Science—Pilani) Religion and Morality in School Curriculum in Canada and India



Nathalie Cooke

(McGill University) Conundrum Socials and Their Contribution to **Building Church Communities**



Brian Froese

(Canadian Mennonite University) A Prairie Gospel: The Rise and Demise of a Bible Culture in Western Canada, 1922-1974



Sarah Robinson

(Independent Scholar) Challenges in Cross-Cultural Dialogue between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Legal Traditions



John Thatamanil

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

UVIC FACULTY FELLOWS



Zhongping Chen

(UVic, Department of History) Religion, Racism, and Rivalry in North American Chinatowns, 1896-1916



Cindy Holmes

(UVic, School of Social Work) Exploring the Relationship between Food, Belonging, Spirituality and Social justice through Dinner Dialogues





(Western University, Theory and Criticism) Ecological Embodiment and the Elemental *Imagination*



Michael Gollner—Katherine Young Travel Award

(McGill University, Religious Studies) Scripturalization in Late Colonial South India: The Case COMMUNITY SABBATICANT FELLOWS of the Kāmikāgama (1916-19)



Anna Lee White—Katherine Young Travel Award

(McGill University, Asian Religions) The History of Bhakti Literature from Early Modern North India

WINNIFRED LONSDALE GRADUATE FELLOW



Catherine Reardon

(UVic, History),

1850 as a Liminal Moment in the Spatial Definition between Indigenous Territory and Colonial "Victoria"

IAN H. STEWART GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWS



Aqsa Ijaz

(McGill University, Institute of Islamic Studies), Shaping the Language of Love: The Afterlife of Nizāmī Ganjavi's Khusrau u Shīrīn in Persianate India



Jason Ellsworth

(Dalhousie University, Sociology and Social Anthropology) Global Buddhism, Social Enterprises and Value(s)



Lucie Kotesovska

(UVic, English), *Ireland of the Soul: Renegotiating Domains Private* and Public in Modern Irish Poetry

CSRS GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWS



Tanya Brittain

(UVic, Pacific and Asian Studies) Magic and Modernity: Shinto-Buddhist Talismans in Early Modern and Modern Japan



Ratana Ly

(UVic, Law)

A Legal Pluralist Approach to Occupational Health and Safety of Construction Workers in Cambodia

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



Jessica Ziakin-Cook

(UVic, Art History and Visual Studies) Post-Industrial Modernism: Jazz-Age Anglo-Catholics and the Golden Cockerel Gospels



Angela Bick

Religion on Thin Ice: A Research Study of Canadian Perspectives on Deconstructing and Reconstructing

2022-23 Fellows-cont'd



Simon Owen

Decolonizing Expertise: Reorienting the Role of Legal Professionals in the Revitalization of Indigenous Laws



Gyaltsang Rinpoche

Buddhist Meditation in a Time of Pandemic



Peter Schuurman

Religion on Thin Ice: A Research Study of Canadian Perspectives on Deconstructing and Reconstructing Faith

CSRS ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE



Hinda Avery

Stories of Jewish Women in Graphic Novels: Bayla's Got (More) Issues



Holly Ratcliffe

Pentimenti: Ceramic Funeral Vessels as Biographies of Spiritual Homecomings



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

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

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

Estraven Lupino-Smith

Landscape Liturgy: Weaving as Land Based Ritual

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?

Reeta Tremblay

Missionaries, Colonial Imageries and Modern Kashmiri Muslim Identity

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

Lectures and Events

From September 2022 to April 2023, we hosted 22 public lectures. The lecture series was offered in hybrid format (in-person + online).

Sept. 15, 2022	Daromir Rudnyckyj	Protestant Ghosts of Neoliberalism	
Sept. 22, 2022	John McGuckin	Orthodoxy in Kiev and Moscow: History of an Ecclesial Union or Subjugation?	
Sept. 29, 2022	Sadaf Ahmed, Amélie Barras, Katherine Bullock, Aaron Hughes, and Sahver Kuzucuoglu	Producing Islam(s)	
Oct. 6, 2022	Carolyn Whitney-Brown	"The experience of an enfleshed spirituality": Henri Nouwen and the Flying Trapeze	
Oct. 13, 2022	Catherine Reardon	Physicians vs. Fundamentalists: The Lull in English Witchcraft Convictions	
Oct.20, 2022	Philip Jenkins	Climate, Catastrophe and Faith: How Changes in Climate Drive Religious Upheaval (Part 1)	
Oct. 25, 2022	Philip Jenkins	Climate, Catastrophe and Faith: How Changes in Climate Drive Religious Upheaval (Part 2)	
Nov. 3, 2022	Aqsa Ijaz	Fiction and the Formation of Love: Reading Nizāmī Ganjavī in Islamicate India	
Nov. 17, 2022	Lucie Kotesovska	No Transcendence but in Things: Spirituality in Seamus Heaney's Poetry	
Nov. 24, 2022	Zhongping Chen	Religion, Racism, and Rivalry in North American Chinatowns, 1896-1916	
Dec.1, 2022	Justine Semmens	Dangerous Liaisons: Sex Crimes and the Courts in France, 1500-1700	
Jan. 12, 2023	Jim Cohn	Selling Your Soul for Fun and Profit: Faustian Bargains	
Jan. 19, 2023	Zohra Batul and Reeta Tremblay	Sacred Sites as Public Sphere in Kashmir's Contentious Politics	
Jan. 26, 2023	Francis Landy	Three Bodies of God	
Feb. 9, 2023	Brian Bird	Conscience and Democracy	
Feb. 16, 2023	Tanya Brittain	Tracing Talisman: Power Politics and Religion in Modern Japan	
March 2, 2023	Jessica Ziakin-Cook	'Outward and Visible Signs': Sacramentalism and Modern Art, 1920-1931	
March 16, 2023	Ratana Ly	Cambodia: The Impact of Religious Norms on Workplace Safety	
March 21, 2023	Sa'diyya Shaikh	An Ethics of Love and Justice: Islamic Feminist Reflections	
March 30, 2023	Rebecca Hall	Visions of Impermanence: Cremation Structures and the Path to Heaven in Northern Thailand	
April 6, 2023	Holly Ratcliffe	<i>Pentimenti</i> : Ceramic Funeral Vessels as Biographies of Spiritual Homecomings	
April 13, 2023	Cindy Holmes	Around the Table: Dinner Dialogues, Spirituality and Social Justice	

2023 SUMMER LECTURE SERIES

The 2023 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.

April 27, 2023	Tzeporah Berman	A Conversation with Tzeporah Berman
May 4, 2023	David Seljak	Permanent Revolution: Religion and the Canadian Social Order
May 13, 2023	Irfan Ahmad	Drinking Secularism
May 17, 2023	Nicola Hayward	Rethinking Women's Sacred Space in Light of the Sant'Apollinare Nuovo Mosaics
May 24, 2023	Brian Froese	"The Branding Irons of Antichrist": Prairie Politics and the Bible

Brendon Neilson, JAH co-chair 2022-2023 JOHN ALBERT HALL PUBLIC LECTURES



The 2022-2023 John Albert Hall Lecture Series decolonization in the diocese. included two events. In April, we hosted a discussion between environmental activist Tzeporah Berman and forest biologist Andy MacKinnon at Bilston Creek Farm in Metchosin. Participants were treated to a rich conversation focusing on the possibilities and strategies for creating real change in a world facing profound ecological challenges.

May, we hosted Land, Law, In Religion and Reconciliation: A Colloquium, a three day event addressing the obligations and opportunities facing religious communities—especially mainline Christian churches—that have declining participation but extensive inherited wealth in the form of land holdings and endowment. The conference featured sustained interdisciplinary conversation with more than 15 experts representing multiple vantage points.

David Seljak gave the opening lecture, "Permanent Revolution:

Religion and the Canadian Social Order", in which he described the cyclical



relationship between religion and the social project in Canada. Each stage, he argued, develops solutions to problems created in the previous era, but in the process creates new problems. He contends that we are living through another of these shifts as we enter a post-secular Canada. Bishop Anna Greenwood-**Lee** offered a response that acknowledged the historically privileged role of the Anglican Church, together with her commitment to the work of

Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator of the United Church of Canada, gave the second keynote address, "#Landback: Reclaiming the Commons for a Future Not Our Own". Lansdowne artfully weaved together stories from her life, culture, academic work, and professional life as



she opened up a powerful

critique of the capitalistic forces that constrain communities of faith and Indigenous nations as they seek to imagine and live into alternatives to the prevailing system.

Around the keynote lectures were panel discussions exploring relevant legal, ethical, and practical issues at the intersection of land, law, religion and reconciliation. Special thanks to law professor and

CSRS acting director, Kathryn Chan, as the conference drew

heavily on her academic expertise and connections.

The 80+ participants were engaged and challenged throughout, and many conversations started at the colloquium are ongoing.

Next year's program will address gender, sexuality, and queer religion.





Academic Collaborations and Initiatives

The 2022-2023 academic year was a busy one. We hosted several special lectures, and collaborated with folks from across campus and around the world to bring visiting lecturers to UVic.

In the Fall, we partnered with UVic's Religion, Culture and Society (RCS) Program to host a series of spectacular online lectures. The first lecture, "Orthodoxy in Kiev and Moscow: History of an Ecclesial Union or Subjugation?", was presented by John McGuckin of the University of Oxford. Philip Jenkins of Baylor University then delivered a two-part Lansdowne Lecture titled "Climate, Catastrophe and Faith: How Changes in Climate Drive Religious Upheaval."

This Spring we hosted a Distinguished Lecturer in Islam (DLI) for the first time in many years. Sa'diyya Shaikh from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, joined us for a week full of events including her keynote lecture ("An Ethics of Love and Justice: Islamic Feminist Reflections"), coffee talks at the centre, a seminar with RCS students, and an iftar with members of the local Muslim community.

We continue as collaborators on Lori Beaman's SSHRC-funded "Nonreligion in a Complex Future" (NCF) project, and look forward to welcoming another graduate student from the

team in the Fall. We also worked with the NCF team to co-host a seminar that highlighted the findings from our recent CSRS book, Religion at the Edge (UBC 2022).

Other collaborative events included: a book launch for *Producing Islams in Canada:* On Knowledge, Positionality and Politics (UTP 2022), and a co-hosted lecture with Art History and Visual Studies by Rebecca Hall on "Visions of Impermanence: Cremation Structures and the Path to Heaven in Northern Thailand."



CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN RELIGION AND SOCIETY

An Ethics of Love and Justice: Islamic Feminist Reflections

HHB 105 and online

Sa'diyya Shaikh is Professor in the Study of Religions at the

Research and Publications

This year has been full of exciting steps forward in our research portfolio. CSRS Director Paul Bramadat won a new Insight grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) for his project "Global Spiritualities, Local Bodies: Modern Postural Yoga in Canada and the United States." Paul, Research Assistant Leah Mernaugh, and Program and Research Coordinator Rachel Brown travelled to six different cities across Canada and the US to conduct ethnographic fieldwork related to the project. Paul and Leah analyzed the data, and Paul has almost completed a full first draft of his manuscript.

CSRS Acting Director Kathy Chan advanced two research projects at the intersection of law and religion. The first, a SSHRC-funded project led by Raymond Chiu at Redeemer University, examines how and on what basis members of Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board adjudicate





religious identity and religious persecution claims by asylum seekers. The second, a sole-authored article, considers when and on what basis courts should interfere with the decisions of Indigenous and religious decision-makers.

Progress is also being made on our other major research project, 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. Like many other projects in a post-pandemic world, this project has been delayed at various stages. However, editors Paul Bramadat, John Borrows, and David Seljak have been working closely with the contributing authors, and hope to have a draft manuscript to the publisher by summer of 2023. The University of Toronto Press, our publisher, has shown tremendous enthusiasm for the project.

This year the *Bulletin for the Study of Religion* published a conversation with Noam Chomsky arising out of the 2020-2021 John Albert Hall Lecture Series "Values for a New World". Special thanks to interviewers Ian Alexander and Martha McGinnis for their role in this illuminating conversation, as well as for the careful editorial work on the final transcripts.

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, Australian Spirituality: Wellness, Wellbeing and Risks, funded by the Australian Research Council (their version of SSHRC). While there has been significant research conducted in Australia on rising religious diversity and those who are non-religious, spirituality has not received the same scholarly attention. This is the first nationwide study of spirituality in Australia, investigating First Nations, religious, and holistic spiritualities, their contributions to wellbeing,

and their possible risks. The project draws on the expertise of leading First Nations, Australian and international scholars, and will be of national benefit in its capacity to inform practices and policies for personal and planetary wellbeing.

Editors Paul Bramadat, Rachel Brown and Pamela Klassen are also working on a special collection of journal articles on new spiritualities and the health humanities arising out of the conference on the subject that the CSRS hosted in the Fall of 2021.





Coffee Talks

"Coffee talk" conversations at the Centre provide an opportunity for CSRS fellows and special guests to address issues of common concern. In-person discussions took place in the CSRS library on Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri, with an online-only discussion on Tuesdays and a special hybrid option on Fridays. Coffee hour has long been the beating heart of the CSRS community; coming off an era of limited in-person interaction, these lively conversations were particularly appreciated. We hosted over 40 of these specially-themed coffee discussions on topics such as:

"The Unification Church and Japanese Society: Cult, Politics, and Family" (Masumi Izumi)

"Tillich on Religion: The Substance of Culture" (John Thatamanil)

"Listening as Ecological Sensibility" (Julian Evans)

"Bedazzled and Bedeviled: The Medieval Bed" (Brian Pollick)

"Reckoning with Art: The Life and Work of Art Thompson" (Jessica Ziakin-Cook)

"Religious Dimensions for the Hijra Community in Mumbai" (Mathieu Boisvert)

"Keeping it Kosher: Using Zooarchaeology to Study Pre-Modern Jewish Communities" (Shamma Boyarin)

"Conundrum Socials: When Churches Had a Penchant for Parties and Puzzles" (Nathalie Cooke)

"Johannes Kepler and the Music of the Spheres" (Alan Batten)

"Animal-Centric Storytelling in Mi'kmaw Social Research" (Margaret Robinson)



CENTRE CINE

Season 8: September 2022 – May 2023

Season eight of the "Centre Cine" coffee talk series, 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 *The Seventh Seal* (1957), *Ida* (2013) *Seven Years in Tibet* (1997) and *Arab Blues* (2019).

This year we supported the Centre Cine by hosting viewing parties in the CSRS library in the days prior to our discussion. Those who could not attend were able to view the films on Kanopy, a streaming system available through the UVic library and Greater Victoria Public Library.



During the Centre Cine discussion hour, Terry offers background and facilitates an engaging conversation about the film. We look forward to Centre Cine's 9th season this fall.



OUR PEOPLE

Kathryn Chan (Acting Director)

Rachel Brown (Program and Research Coordinator)

Scott Dolff (Program and Communications Associate)

Noriko Prezeau (Administrative Assistant)

Asia Tyson (Work Study Student)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Kathryn Chan, Chair (Law, CSRS Acting Director)

Evanthia Baboula (Art History and Visual Studies)

Shamma Boyarin (Religion, Culture and Society)

Alexandra D'Arcy (Linguistics/Assoc. Dean Humanities)

Maneesha Deckha (Law)

Réal Roy (Biology)

Amy Verdun (Political Science)

ex officio: Oliver Schmidtke (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)

William (Rory) Dickson (University of Winnipeg)

Paul Gareau (University of Alberta)

Chris Goto-Jones (University of Victoria)

Lynn Greenhough (Kolot Mayim Reform Temple)

Gwen Jahelka (Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria)

Kate Newman, (Anglican Diocese of Islands and Inlets)

Rubina Ramji (Cape Breton University)

Gurdeep Singh (Victoria Sikh community)

Grace Wong Sneddon (University of Victoria)

Financial Summary

For the fiscal period of April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

Operational Revenues	\$282 , 956
General Endowments	\$230,830
Fellowship & Awards Endowments	\$25,810
Library Endowments	\$13,120
Province of BC	\$8,245
Lectures & Events Endowments	\$3,820
Book Royalties	\$966
Miscellaneous Recoveries	\$165
Project Revenues	\$91,734
SSHRCYoga Project	\$ 66,734
John Albert Hall Lecture Series	\$25,000
Donations	\$20,400
Fellowships	\$500
CSRS Main Endowment	\$16,900
Other Donations	\$3000
Total Revenues	\$395,090
Operational Expenses	\$231,864
Salaries and Benefits	\$170,283
Fellowships and Awards	\$42,558
Programs, Supplies, Infrastructure	\$19,023
Project Expenses	\$122,923
Yoga Research Project (Year 1)	\$74,737
Cascadia Research Project (wrap up)	\$12,856
John Albert Hall Lecture Series	\$15,858
Library Expenditures	\$8,931
Misc. Lectures, Conferences, Events	\$10,541
Total Expenditures	\$354,787

The principal amount in the CSRS Endowment accounts as of March 31, 2023 is \$6,768,543.

Centre for Studies in Religion and Society

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