

2018-19 Annual Report

University of Victoria

Centre for Studies in Religion & Society

ACTING DIRECTOR'S NOTES: Christopher Douglas

It's been a privilege to step in as Acting Director while Paul Bramadat is on study leave for the year. One of the Centre's activities that I've enjoyed the most is hosting public academic lectures at UVic on topics of religion and society for Victoria's broader community. This included our regular schedule of Thursday afternoon lectures, as well as our feature Ideafest lecture on religious rights in Canada (see page six for a full account) and two special John Albert Hall lectures co-sponsored with the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia. The first of these, in November, was a fascinating panel discussion on "Gender, Justice and the Church," featuring feminist church activists Cheri DiNovo, Jennifer Henry, and Gina Messina. The second was our January hosting of US journalist Chris Hedges on "Christian Fascism and the Rise of Donald Trump." It was the largest public event in CSRS history, with about 800 attendees.



The Centre's research continued apace, with Paul leading the Cascadia research project into the spirituality of the Northwest region, aided by Research Coordinator Chelsea Horton. The Centre hosted many active research fellows this year, including Ramesh Bairy from India, Tatiana Tiaynen-Qadir from Finland; graduate student fellows Daniel Sherwin from the University of Toronto, Mo Wei from Shanghai Normal University, Kasra Ghorbaninejad from Northeastern University and Helen Jennings from the Arctic University of Norway; and Hairong Huang, Denae Dyck, Kefen Zhou, Zahra Kazani, and Liang Han from UVic. We hosted UVic Faculty Fellows Megan Swift and Sara Beam, as well as local favourites Miles Lowry and Terry Marner as our Artists-in-Residence. Our many Associate Fellows and Community members continue to drop by for coffee talks, helping to make the Centre the vibrant intellectual community that it is. Throughout the year, we've enjoyed the special and rewarding "Relationship and Reconciliation" coffee talks on Indigenous-Settler relations, led by Michelle Brown and Chelsea Horton, as well as Terry's monthly cinema series.

This year has seen some dramatic personnel changes at the Centre, besides my Acting Directorship. The Centre saw its Administrative Assistants, Sarah Grindlay and Roshnie Kabir-Clarke, leave for full-time positions elsewhere at UVic. Meanwhile, our Administrative Coordinator, Sally Lin, was seconded to the Office of the VP-Research to work on a health care research initiative. We were sorry to see them go but wish them the best in their new positions; meanwhile, we were very happy to welcome Noriko Prezeau as our new Administrative Assistant in May, and Becky Rogers as our new Administrative Coordinator in March. Scott Dolff remains our steadfast Research Associate and events coordinator extraordinaire, the holder of CSRS institutional memory (and heart) until Paul returns in July 2019.

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, with respect, the Lekwungen-speaking 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.

At the CSRS, 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 also sponsor graduate student, faculty, artist in residence, visiting researcher, and sabbatical fellowships, and produces 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



Brian Froese

(Assoc. Prof. of History, Canadian Mennonite University) Alberta's Apocalypse: Evangelical Eschatology, Anticommunism, Oil and the Cold War



Pushpa Kamal Subedi

(Prof. of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University) Nepalese Communities Struggle with Christian Conversions



Tatiana Tiaynen-Qadir

(Postdoctoral researcher, University of Tampere) Science and Religion in Northern Europe: Global Institutional Dynamics in Human Experiences of the Divine

HAROLD COWARD INDIA RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP



Ramesh Bairy

(Indian Institute of Technology Bombay) Making of the Matha: Caste, Hinduness and the Contemporary

RELIGIOUS STUDIES TEACHING FELLOW



Rachel Brown

(UVic Religious Studies) Consuming Identity: Food and Maghrebine Muslim Experience in Paris and Montreal

VISITING GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWS



Kasra Ghorbaninejad

(PhD Candidate, Northeastern University), Protesting Shias, Pope-ish Sultans? Cross-Religious Alliance Building Across the Mediterranean in the 1600s



Helen Jennings

(PhD Candidate, The Arctic University of Norway), Religion, Tourism and Indigeneity



Mo Wei

(PhD Candidate, Shanghai Normal University), Sparkling Light of Englightenment and Religious Art in Zikawei (Xujiahui)— T'ou-Sè-Wè (1847-1949)



Liang Han

(MA Candidate, UVic History) The Integration of Religions in Victoria's Chinatown from 1858-1930

IAN H. STEWART GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWS

WINNIFRED LONSDALE GRADUATE FELLOW



Hairong Huang

(MA Candidate, UVic History), Popular Religion and Guandong Politicians: Political Mobilization over Populace during the Mid-19th to the Early 20th Centuries



Daniel Sherwin

(PhD Candidate, U of T Political Science), Settler-Colonial Responses to Indigenous Resistance: A Critical Examination of Euro-Canadian Political Thought

VANDEKERKHOVE GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWS



Denae Dyck

(PhD Candidate, UVic English) Forming Wisdom: Elizabeth Barrett Browning and the Work of the Sage in Victorian Britain



Kefen Zhou

(PhD Candidate, UVic History) Mission to Modernize: The Contributions of Canadian Missionaries in China

HEATHER J. LINDSTEDT AND BRIAN A. POLLICK GRADUATE FELLLOW



Zahra Kazani (PhD Candidate, UVic History and Visual Studies) Belief Embodied: Uncovering the Relationship of Script, Geometry and Magical Ideas in Medieval Islamicate Societies

CSRS ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE



Miles Lowry Ogham - The Tree Alphabet

Terry Marner

Searching for Home - Finding Fingerposts in Neuroscience



UVIC FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS



Megan Swift

(Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies) Appropriating the Past: The Russian Orthodox Church and Putin-Era Commemoration of the Victims of Stalinist Political Repression



Sara Beam

(Department of History) The Origins of Single Motherhood in Europe During the Reformation Period: Links with Canadian Policies Toward Single Mothers Today

COMMUNITY SABBATICAL FELLOWS



Travis O/Brian

Religion, Rights & and Conflict in Canada: The Internationally Protected Freedom of Religion or Belief



Peter Scales

Views of the Shepherds: Interviews of Experienced Clergy

Angela Andersen

Cemevleri: An Examination of the Historical Roots and Contemporary Meanings of Alevi Architecture and Iconography

Harold Coward

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

Jane Dawson What About the Bible? An Exploration of Current Interpretive Practices

Erica Dodd *Treasures of the Early Christian Church*

Robert Florida Ethical Issues in Modern Buddhism

Christopher Gillespie When Church and State Collide: Secularism in Early 21st Century North America

Andrew Gow Secularism in Christianonormative Secular Societies

Nicola Hayward

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

Lindsay Herriot

Disrupting the Catholic versus Transgender Binary: Using Queer Theology to Empower Catholic Educators in Affirming Transgender Students

2018-2019 Associate Fellows

Stefan Sunandan Honisch

"The Power of a Healing Service:" Musical Encounters with a Disabling God

Victor Hori The Modernization of Buddhism in Global Perspective

Graham Jensen

Unorthodox Modernisms: Varieties of Personal Religion in Twentieth-Century Canadian Poetry

Lesley Jessop

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

Francis Landy The Book of Isaiah

Lytton McDonnell

Tuneful Trances: Music, Mysticism, and Reenchantment in Modern America

Graham McDonough

How Catholic Schools can be Thought of as Sites of Inter-Religious and Ecumenical Dialogue

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

Jordan Paper

Theology Throughout Most of the Human Past: The Spiritual Life and Understanding of Gathering-Hunting Peoples

Jarrad Reddekop

Relating to the Forest in Amazonian Quichua Philosophy; Relational Ontology, Selfhood, Ethics, and Aesthetics

Paige Thombs

Arc of the Covenant: The Evolution of Trinity Western University's Community Covenant as a Response to Secularization

Lycia Trouton

Post-Conflict, Plural Society of the Island of Ireland and Communities of the Irish/Ulster Scots Diaspora

Anna Tsurkan

Islam and Politics in "Arab Spring" Countries from an International Community Perspective

Carolyn Whitney-Brown

The Meaning of Founding Stories: Jean Vanier and L'Arche Communities Around the World

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 2018 to April 2019, we hosted **20 public lectures**, which drew a total attendance of **912 people** from the university and greater Victoria communities.

Sept. 13, 2018	Christopher Douglas	The Christian Right in American Literature and Culture	
Sept. 20, 2018	Kevin Lewis O'Neill	The Unmaking of David Roney	
Sept. 27, 2018	Grace Wong Sneddon	Rescue Home Missions: Institutionalizing Race, Gender and Class	
Oct. 4, 2018	Kasra Ghorbaninejad	Protesting Shias, Popish Sultans: Cross-Religious Identification in the 17th C	
Oct. 11, 2018	Angela Andersen	Unresolved Matters: Contemporary Islamic Architecture in Turkey	
Oct.18, 2018	Megan Swift	Putin and the Patriarch: Appropriating Russia's National Past	
Oct. 25, 2018	Helen Jennings	Religion, Indigeneity and Tourism in British Columbia	
Nov. 1, 2018	Adrienne Williams Boyarin	Converts, Cleaners, Cannibals: Jewish Women in Medieval Books	
Nov. 8, 2018	Jerald Sabin	Faith and Race in Politics: Language, Media and the NDP Leadership Election	
Nov. 22, 2018	Zahra Kazani	The Theatrics of Script: Material Culture and Magical Practices in Medieval Islam	
Jan.10, 2019	Daniel Sherwin	How Does Settler Colonialism Control the Boundaries of Debate?	
Jan. 24, 2019	Danae Dyck	Forming Wisdom: Reinterpretation and Dialogue in A Drama of Exile	
Jan. 31, 2019	Miles Lowry	Letters from the Trees: Mysteries and Devotions of the Irish Tree Alphabet	
Feb. 7, 2019	Hairong Huang	The Taiping Rebellion: Christian or Political?	
Feb. 14 , 2019	Jordan Paper	The Religion of Humans for the First 95% of Their History	
Feb. 28, 2019	David Clough	The Challenge of Christian Animal Ethics	
March 14, 2019	Rinku Lamba	The Meaning(s) of Religion in India	
March 21, 2019	Liang Han	The Integration of Religions in Victoria's Chinatown from 1838-1930	
March 28, 2019	Sara Beam	How the Reformations Created Single Motherhood	
April 4, 2019	Ramesh Bairy	Thinking Religion Regionally: Hindu Institutions in Contemporary South India	

2019 Global South Colloquium

Religion and Its Others: Power, Sovereignty, and Politics in Indian Politics Past and Present



Funded by a Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) Programme Development Grant as well as support from the Lansdowne Lecturer fund allocated to the Religious Studies program in the Faculty of Humanities, the CSRS hosted a two-day academic conference on the subject of religion in India in historical, political, and socio-cultural frameworks. The symposium began with an evening lecture on March 14, 2019, by Dr. Rinku Lamba of the Centre for Political Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi, India. Her lecture, "The Meaning (s) of Religion in India" explored the myriad meanings of religion in India over time and space, with a focus on bhakti and devotional traditions in medieval and early modern India. The second day featured three sessions of original papers, covering topics such as the many-headed histories of religious reform from different perspectives, and the complex topic of secularism in India.

Bringing together scholars from religious studies, history, sociology, political science, and anthropology, from institutions in India, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, and Canada, the symposium broached a number of questions pertinent to the study of religion today that complement ongoing discussions about religion, secularism, post-secularism, and power from a decidedly South Asianist perspective. The symposium plans to continue conversations in a future meeting in Doha, at Georgetown University-Doha, within an expanded framework to include Indian Ocean sites alongside territorial South Asia.



2018-2019 JOHN ALBERT HALL PUBLIC LECTURES



Gender, Justice and the Church



Jennifer Henry



Gina Messina

On November 29, 2018, the CSRS and John Albert Hall Trust hosted a panel discussion titled "Gender, Justice and the Church". Three leading reformers—Cheri DiNovo, Jennifer Henry, and Gina Messina—reflected on the ways in which Christian communities have struggled with the longstanding and systemic mistreatment, underpayment and sexual harassment of women and members of the LGBTQ+ community. Michelle Slater, pastor of Oak Bay United Church, moderated the discussion.

Christian Fascism and the Rise of Donald Trump



The second John Albert Hall Lecture of 2018-2019 took place on January 17th, 2019, and featured Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and social commentator Chris Hedges. Hedges, never one to shy away from controversy, chose the provocative title "Christian Fascism and the Rise of Donald Trump."

In his talk, he elaborated on what he sees as the demise of the American Empire and the rise of a new age of fascism rooted in the Christian Right. These themes are the subject of his most recent book, *America: The Farewell Tour*, a chapter of which he also took time to discuss with CSRS fellows, UVic faculty and graduate students in a private seminar.

John Albert Hall Interview Series





June 21, 2018 – "Reforming Tradition: A Conversation with Remi De Roo," an interview with Bishop Remi de Roo by Ian Alexander
March 17, 2019 – "The Christian Left and Canadian Politics," featuring Bill Blaikie. Blaikie, in conversation with a panel of local experts, explored what it means to be a progressive Christian in today's political climate
March 27, 2019 – "Up Close and Personal with Herbert O'Driscoll." Herbert O'Driscoll interviewed by Ian Alexander, including reflections on O'Driscoll's latest book, A Greening of Imaginations

2019 SUMMER LECTURE SERIES

The 2019 Summer Lecture Series featured research fellows visiting from institutions in Saskatchewan, Australia and England, in addition to UVic. The issues were contemporary and historical, domestic and international, and garnered wide interest. The lectures were held each Wednesday evening in May in the David Strong Building.

May 8, 2019	Kerry Sloan	"A Great Compassion': Spirituality in Metis Culture, Law and Diplomacy"
May 15,2019	Pauline Ridge	"Law and the Financing of Religion in a Secular State"
May 22, 2019	David Tollerton	"Religion and Public Holocaust Remembrance in Britain"
May 29, 2019	Kefen Zhou	"Christianity and Chinese Women's Social Mobility, 1880-1950"

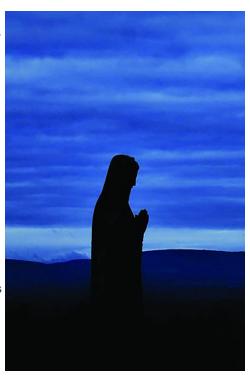
EVENTS & LECTURES CONTINUED

2019 IDEAFEST

The Changing Face of Religious Rights in Canada

In March 2019, the CSRS co-sponsored with the Faculty of Law a panel discussion on "The Changing Face of Religious Rights in Canada" for UVic's Ideafest. The session was prompted by the momentous Supreme Court ruling related to the accreditation of Trinity Western University's proposed School of Law. In June 2018, Canada's highest court upheld the decision of two provincial law societies denying accreditation to the proposed law school. The issue was a required "Community Covenant" that would effectively deny admission to LGBTQ+ individuals, which the court agreed was discriminatory.

The legal panel consisted of Kathryn Chan, CSRS Associate Fellow and Assistant Professor of Law at UVic, a specialist in religion and law; Jeremy Webber, former Canada Research Chair in Law and Society and Dean of Law at UVic; and Earl Phillips, executive director of the proposed TWU School of Law. It was moderated by Christopher Douglas. The session was another installment in their long-running public discussion (and disagreement) about the school and the ruling. Kathryn and Jeremy had argued that the mandatory covenant entailed an undue restriction on the Charter Rights of potential LGBTQ+ students, while Earl had contended that TWU had an institutional right to religious freedom of belief that protected the covenant. The panelists had a vigorous exchange of views, followed by a short moderated discussion and then a broader question-and-answer period with the audience.



One emergent question discussed was that of the future direction of religious rights in Canada, and how it might impact individual and institutional freedom of religion in the country. St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, for instance, receives public funding, yet its Catholic commitments may restrict its ability or willingness to provide abortion or medical assistance in dying services to patients – another case of institutional religious rights coming into potential conflict with individual rights. The evening opened up a host of important issues. What is the relationship between an institution's religious freedom and that of its members? How should the Court understand "Charter values," as opposed to the relatively better defined Charter Rights? And what do the changing generational values about LGBTQ+ – and other rights – tell us about the future of religious belief and practice in Canada and abroad?



CENTRE CINE

Season 4: September 2018 – April 2019

Season four 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 *Come Sunday* (2018), *The Sense of an Ending* (2017), *The Light Between Oceans* (2016), *Toc Toc* (2017), *Roma* (2018), and *Mother!* (2017).

Centre Cine participants are sent the name of a selected film each month. All the films are available to stream on Netflix 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 5th season this fall.



DAILY COFFEE TALKS

The daily "coffee talk" discussions at the Centre provide an opportunity for CSRS fellows and special guests to address intellectual issues of common concern. Discussions occur every weekday and represent the heart of the community. In addition to conversations the intellectual content of which are determined at the beginning of the session, we also host a large number of coffee talks with a pre-determined theme (often featuring a special guest or format).

In the year under review, we hosted over 40 of these specially-themed coffee discussions on topics such as:

- "Reconciliation and Relationship: A Sustained Dialogue" (Chelsea Horton and Michelle Brown) - A series of 13 talks for the CSRS community to deepen its understanding of relationships between Indigenous and settler people in Canada
- "Quebec's Ethics and Religious Culture Program, the Aim of Interculturalism, and Teacher Impartiality" (Adair Ng)
- "Can We Be Sanctified By Our Own Bootstraps?" (Alan Batten)
- "Judaism: The Genealogy of a Modern Notion" (Daniel Boyarin)
- "Between the Sonic and the Psalmic: Musical Encounters with a Disabling God" (Stefan Sunandan Honisch)
- "The Bible's Many Gods: Polytheism and Monotheism in Ancient Israel" (Christopher Douglas)
- "Unorthodox Modernisms: Varieties of Personal Religion in Twentieth-Century Canadian Poetry" (Graham Jensen)
- "Fresh Face of Hitler Youth: Hip New Face, Same Old Hate" (Paige Thombs)

RESEARCH PROJECT UPDATE: RELIGION IN CASCADIA

Phase II: Analysis and Knowledge Dissemination

Things have been busy for the "Religion in Cascadia" research team since the last CSRS Annual Report. Data collection has been completed and analysis and knowledge dissemination are well underway.

Specifically, sociologist Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme produced an accessible quantitative report highlighting key data from the project's Pacific Northwest Social Survey. In spring and summer 2018, Paul Bramadat, Lynne Marks, Chelsea Horton, and Taylor Antoniazzi from the University of Victoria conducted qualitative fieldwork with a combined total of 112 participants in Victoria, Vancouver, Seattle, and Portland. This includes interviews with religious and community leaders; focus groups with millennials and religious adherents; and oral history interviews with families with irreligious and committed Christian roots in the region reaching back to the early twentieth century.

The interviews and focus groups were transcribed and coded in summer and early fall 2018. Archival sources were likewise collected from online repositories and onsite at archives in Vancouver, Seattle, and Portland. Thank you to Research Assistants Paige Thombs, Zabeen Khamisa, Angela Anderson, Darren Reid, and Taylor Antoniazzi for their essential contributions to this work, and to Liang Han for her English translations of the Chinese Times newspaper.



Team members, who work from a variety of academic angles, are now reviewing this rich data pool and writing draft chapters. Chapter topics include historical and generational patterns of irreligious and Christian adherence and practice; Indigenous spiritualities and settler colonial place-making; reverential naturalism; and contemporary "religious nones."

The team is meeting at the University of Washington in Seattle in late May to workshop chapter drafts, which will then be revised and submitted for publication by an academic press. Team members will likewise be sharing findings from the project at several academic conferences in spring and fall 2019.





OUR PEOPLE

Christopher Douglas (Acting Director) Paul Bramadat (Director) Scott Dolff (Research Associate) Noriko Prezeau (Administrative Assistant) Becky Rogers (Administrative Coordinator) Chelsea Horton (Cascadia Research Coordinator) Aidan Crossley (2018 Work Study Student) Karine Hack (2019 Work Study Student) Chrystal Phan (Humanities Development Officer)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Christopher Douglas, Chair (English) Paul Bramadat (History/Religious Studies) Alexandra D'Arcy (Linguistics/Assoc. Dean Humanities) Kathryn Chan (Law) Bruce Kapron (Computer Science) April Nowell (Anthropology) Charlotte Schallié (Germanic and Slavic Studies) Coby Tschanz (Nursing) Neilesh Bose (History) **Ex officio:** Oliver Schmidtke (Political Science/CFGS) Graham McDonough (CSRS Advisory Council)

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Graham McDonough, Chair (University of Victoria) Lori Beaman (University of Ottawa) John Biles (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) Michelle Brown (Cree poet, performer, homilist) Victor Hori (McGill University, emeritus) Dvora Levin (Congregation Emanu-El) Mary Louise Meadow (Anglican Church of Canada) Jo-Ann Roberts (Media/Civil Society) Amyn Sajoo (Simon Fraser University) David Seljak (St. Jerome's University) Hari Srivastava (University of Victoria)

Financial Summary

For the fiscal period of April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019

Operational Revenues	\$261,737
General Endowments	\$214,375
Fellowship & Awards Endowments	\$22,450
Library Endowments	\$11,775
Province of BC	\$8,245
Lectures & Events Endowments	\$3,250
Book Royalties	\$633
Miscellaneous recoveries	\$1,009
Project Revenues	\$92,324
SSHRC Funding	\$62,515
John Albert Hall Lecture Series	\$25,160
Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute	\$4,649
Donations	\$21,851
Fellowships	\$11,850
CSRS Main Endowment	\$9,341
Other Donations	\$660
Operational Expenses	\$212,613
Salaries and Benefits*	\$140,926
Fellowships and Awards	\$52.068
Supplies, Equipment, Infrastructure	\$19,619
Project Expenses	\$100,771
Cascadia Research Project (Year 2)	\$64,235
John Albert Hall Lecture Series	\$32,600
Found in Translation / St. John's Bible	\$324
Shastric Indo-Canadian Institute	\$3,162
Misc. lectures, conferences, events	\$450

* The salaries and benefits of the Cascadia research staff members are included in the project expenses section.

The principal amount in the CSRS Endowment accounts as of March 31, 2019 is \$6,121,252

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University of Victoria

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