



CENTRE FOR  
GLOBAL STUDIES  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

JULY 2024  
TO JUNE 2025



RESEARCH FOR  
A SUSTAINABLE &  
EQUITABLE WORLD



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## CFGS & THE SDGs — NEW FOR THIS REPORTING PERIOD

Building on UVic's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—and through the work of CIFAL Victoria hosted in the CFGS halls—we have integrated the SDGs into this year's annual report. As UVic continues to advance the SDGs, we aim to highlight how the Centre and its projects connect our region to the global community and support international knowledge-sharing and partnerships. On each project page, you will find three key SDGs that best represent the work being done.

Through this process, we learned that while the SDGs are imperfect, they offer a valuable and aspirational framework for understanding the economic, environmental, and social impacts of our local and global efforts towards a more sustainable, equitable, and just future.



University  
of Victoria

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# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



**T**his past year marks the last in which I have had the privilege of witnessing the creativity and dedication that define the Centre for Global Studies. It has been deeply rewarding to anchor a few additional projects and to see the Centre grow into an extraordinary hub of innovation, collaboration, and global engagement over time. The 2024–2025 year captures what makes CFGS so special: a place where scholarship meets purpose and where ideas are transformed into impactful research and meaningful action.

Throughout the year, we have worked across disciplines and borders to address the defining challenges of our time, from climate change and Indigenous self-determination to democratic governance, migration, and social justice. The Centre continues to demonstrate how research, dialogue, and community partnership can shape better futures, particularly in challenging times.

A highlight of this year was welcoming both the Balance Co-Lab project and CIFAL Victoria to our community. These initiatives reflect the spirit that animates CFGS, connecting research and practice to empower communities, inform policy, and generate solutions grounded in local knowledge and global responsibility. Alongside our cornerstone programs—Borders in Globalization, POLIS, Past Wrongs, Future Choices, Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives, the Europe–Canada Network, and the UNESCO Chairs—they show how the Centre continues to turn scholarship into impactful insight and action.

This year also saw POLIS expand its work through the Wildfire Resilience Project, adding a vital focus on sustainability and community preparedness. Together, these initiatives underscore CFGS's unique ability to bridge global debates with local realities and to ensure that our research contributes to both knowledge and change.

Similarly important, the latest cohort of fellows has left a lasting mark on the life of the Centre. Under the admirable leadership of Jodie Walsh, the Centre has welcomed more than 250 fellows and interns from 45 countries, cultivating a vibrant international network of scholars and practitioners over the past twelve years. Their intellectual diversity and dedication continue to enrich our community and extend UVic's global engagement. It is this spirit of exchange—open, critical, and forward-looking—that remains at the heart of CFGS's accomplishments.

As I prepare to step down, I do so with gratitude and confidence in the Centre's bright future. On January 1, 2026, Dr. Cynthia Milton will assume the role of Director. I have no doubt that under her leadership, CFGS will continue to flourish and expand its horizons. I am also profoundly thankful to our exceptional administrative team—Jodie, Jenn, Lia, and Elena—whose professionalism and warmth have made every success possible.

Serving as Director of the Centre for Global Studies has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my career. I leave inspired by the creativity, curiosity, and commitment of this remarkable community. CFGS will always hold a special place in my heart.

And as for me: it's time for an academic to do the unthinkable—find a new calling. Whatever comes next, I will carry the spirit of this Centre, and the people who make it extraordinary, with deep fondness and gratitude.

With appreciation, admiration, and a hint of curiosity about life after administration,

**Oliver Schmidtke**

*Director, Centre for Global Studies*



## About CFGS

### THE GLOBE IN PERSPECTIVE

The Centre for Global Studies (CFGS), founded in 1998, fosters research, reflection, and action on complex issues of local, national, and global importance. Located on the University of Victoria's stunning campus, CFGS is a collaborative community of scholars and leaders that is uniquely positioned to bridge academic research and student mentoring with innovative knowledge mobilization and effective community engagement. A truly interdisciplinary research centre, CFGS explores global and Indigenous perspectives, facilitating exploration, discussion, and collaboration in new and unexpected ways. CFGS is an international community, purposefully designed to foster exchanges that lead to collaboration and innovation.

*"This was one of the most intellectually and socially fulfilling experiences I have had at UVic. I was in world of like-minded scholars studying the most critical issues of our time. The CFGS is open to creative and diverse forms of scholarship so feel free to experiment."*

DARLENE CLOVER, UVIC FACULTY FELLOW, PROFESSOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY  
AND LEADERSHIP STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

CFGS research considers the nexus of the local and global—how local concerns have global effects and how global issues manifest at the local level. Our fellows and researchers are exploring issues vital to people, places, policy, and the planet and are making an impact around the world. We have specific interest in the following areas:

- Borders and migration in the 21st century
- Environmental and social policy and ecological governance, with a strong emphasis on water
- Indigeneity and reconciliation from global and local perspectives
- Social justice and participatory democracy
- Governance as an integrated process

CFGS collaborates on projects across faculties and departments at the University of Victoria, as well as with communities, practitioners, partners, and universities around the globe. These projects reflect the main research areas of CFGS. Their research, events, and publications foster interdisciplinary networks, making boundary-pushing research accessible to policy makers, researchers, and the wider community beyond the halls of CFGS. The faculty and staff involved in these projects occupy the offices and are an integral part of the centre's day-to-day activities.

## Balance Co-Lab: Collaboration for Sustainable Communities

Launched in April 2023, Balance Co-Lab is funded by a seven-year \$2.5M SSHRC Partnership Grant. Its purpose is to advance Indigenous self-determination, community capacity and well-being. Their work brings community- and university-based partners together to support decision-making and impact assessment informed by Indigenous knowledge and values. They pull together resources from extensive, transdisciplinary networks to customize solutions based on the needs and objectives of Indigenous partner organizations.

In May 2024, Director Matt Murphy, Co-Director Johnny Mack and Co-Director Emily Salmon, welcomed Program Manager, Catherine Schafers, and 3 Research Assistants to the team, Sydney Wanchulak, Justine Keefer, and Tricia Thomas. Over the year, they have added 3 new Research Associates and an Administrative Assistant to support expanding projects, Sherry Mattice, Tara Mahoney, Lorenzo

Magzul, and Marcela Faralhi Daolio, respectively. Their network includes 9 Indigenous Nations and organizations, including New Relationship Trust, and 24 university-based researchers across 5 universities and 13 research units.

### Community Partnerships

In June 2024, Balance Co-Lab began working with Ha'oom Fisheries Society (HFS), formed following the 2009 BC Supreme Court decision recognizing Aboriginal rights of the five Nuu-chah-nulth Nations (Ahousaht, Ehattesaht/Chinehkint, Hesquiaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, and Mowachaht/Muchalaht (MMFN)) to catch and sell all seafood harvested within their territories. Working closely with MMFN, Balance Co-Lab supported the Resilience Initiative: Strengthening Seafood Supply Chains for Food Security and Emergency Preparedness project, focusing primarily on the Food Security study to understand current conditions and identify barriers to accessing



traditional and market foods. Six community workshops brought researchers, fisher families and members of the community together to engage and discuss research findings, gather feedback, and shape a shared vision for food security in MMFN.

Complementing this work, an MBA team from Gustavson's School of Business, supervised by Matt Murphy, conducted a cold chain analysis of MMFN's fisheries operations. This Capstone project assessed current seafood handling and storage processes, identified infrastructure gaps around ice and cold storage, and offered recommendations to improve fish quality, operational efficiency, and long-term economic viability.

The success of this partnership led HFS to invite Balance Co-Lab to partner on a Racial Justice Grant, "Empowering Indigenous Governance and Racial Justice through Nuuchah-nulth Salmon Laws and Consultation Protocol Initiative." This \$1M four-year initiative aims to revitalize and promote the Nuuchah-nulth laws that safeguard salmon habitats and foster sustainable harvesting practices within the Five Nations' territories.

Additionally, Balance Co-Lab is co-creating a Fishing Business Skills Training program for Five Nations communities and fishers. Co-designed with and for the Nations, the program aims to build financial and business management skills within the fisheries sector.

### ***Knowledge Mobilization***

To address the gap in Indigenous-led impact assessment resources, Balance Co-Lab is developing a CIFAL Victoria accredited micro-credential course titled "Indigenous-led Cumulative Impact Assessment". Target audiences include Indigenous communities, organizations, and contractors and advisors who support their work. The course will be delivered online, asynchronously, using a variety of resources and tools. The first phase of video podcast recordings is complete.

### ***Balance Co-Lab Highlighted Events***

#### **SHARING KNOWLEDGE, SHAPING FUTURES**

Balance Co-Lab hosted its first Symposium on June 2–3, 2025, at the Peter B. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia. The gathering aimed to showcase ongoing projects, invite feedback, and foster meaningful dialogue across communities, Nations, and academic fields. Presenters were invited to share related work that aligned with Balance Co-Lab's focus areas, creating space for mutual learning and new connections. The presence of hereditary Chiefs and Elders, along with their generous insights, was especially impactful. It was a remarkable space for rich conversations, mutual respect, and the co-creation of knowledge across diverse experiences.



Balance Co-Lab Symposium, June 2025.  
PHOTO: GUOCHEN (CHEN) WANG

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REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES

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PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS

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PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS

## Borders in Globalization

Borders in Globalization has had a productive and exciting year. BIG\_Lab's Indigenous Internationalisms pillar gained momentum, hosting several events focusing on the meaning and impact of borders for Indigenous nations and peoples globally, and strategies of resistance against the colonial incurrence of borders.

BIG\_Lab Indigenous Internationalisms hosted a documentary film screening of *Yintah* followed by a Q&A with the director, Jennifer Wickham and subject, Sleydo' Molly Wickham. Indigenous Internationalisms also organized a successful colloquium titled "Upholding Indigenous International Laws: Conversations on Rights, Title, and Kinship", hosting Indigenous lawyers, academics, and activists from Mexico, New Zealand, Australia, and across Canada, including the Arctic. The first evening featured a showing and Q&A with Inuk filmmaker and 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, Aaju Peter. Finally, the *Frontlines Are Everywhere* Podcast, hosted by Jeff Corntassel completed its second season.

After their mid-term report was approved by SSHRC, BIG\_Lab renewed its commitment to partner universities and organizations, collaborating to co-host and contribute to six international conferences and workshops over the past year in Canada, the United States, Japan, Germany, France, and India.

The Constellation of Truths team (Emma Swan, Maria Finnsdottir, and Jules Soupault) also organized a workshop, bringing scholars from across the world together to discuss issues of populism, civil society contention, and border politics. The proceedings of this two-day workshop are currently being developed into a special issue.

In keeping with its regular schedule, BIG\_Lab continues to produce monthly episodes of *BIG\_Podcast*, hosted by postdoctoral fellow Benjamin Perrier and its *BIG\_Talk* series. Recent topics include regional restoration practices (Raven Borse and Morgan Brown), border studies in Africa (Antony Asiawaju), carceral hotels (Andrew Burrige), and Mexican migrant settlements in Ciudad Juárez



(Irasema Coronado and Hector Antonio Padilla Delgado). BIG\_Lab has also published two issues of its peer-reviewed journal, *BIG\_Review*.

Expanding on the program's Summer Institute offerings, BIG\_Lab has introduced a ninth institute to be offered in July 2025. Led by BIG\_Lab Senior Fellow of Practice Martin Pratt, this institute will explore the management of border disputes, equipping students with the skills to identify and propose resolutions for disputes using contemporary frameworks. In partnership with Propero Learning Systems, BIG\_Lab has also released a new series of free webinars on border management topics such as technology integration, strategic leadership, and artificial intelligence. These webinars are intended to round out the Summer Institute program and generate interest in future course offerings.

Delivering on its commitment to supporting student research, BIG\_Lab has continued to provide opportunities for students to present their research to its international network at various conferences, most notably the Association of Borderland Studies where PhD Fellows, Benjamin Ajabuin, Andrew Ambers, Nazia Arifa, Emma Bowick, Jules Soupault, and Shoukia van Beek presented their work. BIG\_Lab welcomed six student fellows, and a new Program

Manager, Caitlin Janzen. We also said ‘farewell’ to postdoctoral fellows, Maria Finnsdottir, who accepted an exciting new position at the University of Alberta and Emma Swan, who has accepted the position of Teaching Professor in the Department of Political Science here at UVic.

### ***BIG\_Lab Highlighted Events***

#### **2024 Summer Institutes – July 2024 – UVic**

In July 2024, BIG\_Lab offered eight Summer Institutes, including three new institutes: Ecological Border Management, Indigenous Internationalisms and Border Crossings, and Modern Border Security Management. BIG\_Lab saw its most successful year yet, with 125 learners from 33 countries. Summer institute participants learned from the world’s leading policy and academic experts on border management challenges, providing them with an understanding of the complexities and challenges of managing cross-border regions, trade flows, migration, machine learning, border disputes, and more.

#### **The Future of Cross-Border Cooperation and Mobility: Horizontal Integration and Beyond – September 26–27, 2024 – Maastricht, Germany**

This two-day conference, jointly organised by the Institute for Transnational and Euregional cross-border cooperation and Mobility (ITEM) and the Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network (TEIN) and supported by BIG\_Lab, addressed the practical challenges and prospects for future cross-border cooperation and mobility, and advanced debates and

policy perspectives around and beyond the concept of horizontal integration.

#### **MOT Borders Forum: What if We Dared to Make a Cross-Border Deal? Exploring the Future of Cross-Border Relations – December 2–3, 2024 – Paris, France**

At this international conference/workshop series held at the Cité Internationale Universitaire, BIG\_Lab Junior Resident Fellows Onome Akhigbe and Anna Perez Verdia-Bayne presented their research on fiscal solidarity. Together, they examined cross-border infrastructure projects in Latin America and Africa to identify instances of fiscal solidarity and evaluate the overall level of integration of each continent. Their research provides valuable insight into the nature of interactions between neighbouring countries in the examined regions.

#### **Upholding Indigenous International Laws: Conversations on Rights, Title, and Kinship – March 14–15, 2025 – UVic**

This two-day colloquium saw Indigenous knowledge-holders and legal scholars gather to examine the diverse ways that Indigenous nations and communities invoke Indigenous international law to confront ongoing colonization and assert self-determining authority. Meaningful conversations were shared about how Indigenous nationhood and internationalism are practiced and adapted to confront contemporary challenges and create meaningful strategies for Indigenous nations.



BIG Communications Assistant, Luca Nemet, and BIG's Indigenous Coordinator, Braelynn Abercrombie, representing BIG at POLIS' resource fair. PHOTO: LIA LANCASTER



BIG Graduate Fellows, Emma Bowick, Nazia Arifa, and Benjamin Ajabu in after their presentations at the Association of Borderland Studies Annual Conference in Seattle. PHOTO: CAITLIN JANZEN

## **21st Century Borders, Mobility, and Risk in Japan: Early Career Researcher Writing Workshop – March 20–21, 2025 – Nagasaki, Japan**

Hosted in collaboration with the International Research Centre for Japanese Studies, the Research Center for Global Risk at Nagasaki University, and the Slavic Eurasian Research Centre and School of Public Policy at Hokkaido University, this workshop brought together early-career researchers to examine the conceptualization and operation of Japan's borders in a regional context with the aim of developing research articles and policy papers for publication.

## **ABS Annual Conference: Across the Canada–United States Border – April 2, 2025 – Seattle, WA, United States**

Delivered as part of the Association of Borderlands Studies' annual Legacy Conference (held in partnership with the World Social Science Association), this one-day workshop looked at relevant regional border issues from a security perspective. A small group of approximately 25 people from academia, industry, and government

examined regional border issues through a multifaceted lens and explored options for improving cross-border relationships. A first panel on digital identity and a second on e-commerce, provided structure for the roundtable discussions.

## **Constellation of Truths: Towards a Conceptualization of Borders, (Un)civil Society, and Contentious Politics – April 7–8, 2025 – UVic**

This two-day workshop brought scholars from across the world together to discuss issues of populism, civil society contention, and border politics. Emerging and established scholars presented on topics including the discursive making of borders, the politics of resistance in border regions, the imperial and colonial dimensions of borders, and the role of populism and 'post-truth' in border contention. BIG\_Lab team members also presented their novel theoretical framework, 'Constellation of Truths', which contends that diverse voices, narratives, and truth claims all interact with differing degrees of power to construct and broaden the realm of political imaginaries.

## **CIFAL Victoria**

An initiative of the University of Victoria and the United Nations Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR), CIFAL Victoria has a mandate to advance UVic's efforts towards implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. CIFAL Victoria continues to focus on four key thematic areas: *Oceans, Climate, and Sustainability; Innovation and Entrepreneurship; Decolonization and Indigenous Knowledge; and Global Health and Well-being*. These themes guided the development of new programs and partnerships over the past year, ensuring that the work remained both locally grounded and globally relevant. In its third year of operation, CIFAL Victoria more than doubled the number of individuals trained compared to the previous year, engaging over 1,500 people across a wide range of events, including 38 training opportunities.

A highlight of the past year was the expansion of international partnerships, particularly with universities in Southeast Asia. CIFAL Victoria

delivered its signature training program, "Developing a Sustainability Mindset for Executive Leaders" at the University of the Philippines – Los Baños in October 2024 and at Mahidol University in January 2025. This three-day training supports university leaders in integrating sustainability and the SDGs across all levels of their institution, including teaching, research, operations, and outreach. CIFAL Victoria also led a customized iteration of this training for the board of CANARIE, the Canadian research network, which the team hopes to do for other private and public sector partners in the future.

On campus, CIFAL Victoria supports outstanding work led by colleagues from multiple units across the university to empower students and future leaders. UVic partners include the Division of Continuing Studies, Ocean Networks Canada, the POLIS Project on Ecological Governance, and program level initiatives such as the Coastal Climate Solutions Leaders and the new BSc in Climate Science, as well as numerous others. A new initiative launched in partnership with UVic's Co-op Program intertwines

work-integrated learning, student-led projects to advance the Sustainable Development Goals, (SDGs), and cultural intelligence. By embedding the SDGs into co-operative education, this CIFAL-UNITAR accredited program raises awareness and empowers and supports students to be SDG change-makers.

Through connections with colleagues at the Centre for Global Studies, CIFAL Victoria has engaged in a collaborative research partnership to support the Indigenous Leadership Initiative (ILI)'s campaign to advance Indigenous Guardians programs and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA)s. This partnership brings together the Balance Co-Lab, BIOSCAN Canada, and Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) at UVic who will work together to advance research, strategic initiatives, and training program development activities which promote regenerative stewardship economies through Indigenous-led biodiversity conservation and climate action.

CIFAL Victoria remains committed to being a bridge for knowledge generation and mobilization between UVic and the UN CIFAL Global Network and UN system. With a growing portfolio of programs and a deepening network of collaborators, CIFAL will

continue supporting UVic's commitments to the SDGs and UNDRIP and connecting UVic to global partners equipped to tackle the world's most pressing challenges.

### ***CIFAL Highlighted Events***

#### **UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM**

From July 14-15, 2024, CIFAL Director Crystal Tremblay, along with UVic President and CIFAL Victoria Board Chair Kevin Hall, traveled to New York for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The HLPF is the central UN platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While there, they participated in a workshop to develop a joint statement supporting and advancing the Leaders in Higher Education Alliance and Programme – For Accelerating Sustainability Transformations (LEAP-FAST).

#### **CIFAL GLOBAL NETWORK DIRECTOR'S VISIT**

CIFAL Victoria hosted Alex Mejia, the Director of the CIFAL Global Network and Division Director of the UN Institute for Training and Research, at UVic for two days in July 2024. The visit allowed CIFAL Victoria to



CIFAL course participants and instructors.  
PHOTO: JODIE WALSH

convene scholars and partners from around campus to share their work that intersects with the SDGs and created an opportunity to connect their work to the CIFAL Global Network. This group also met with the sustainability team at the City of Victoria's City Hall; they shared the municipality's initiatives related to sustainable infrastructure, policies and programs.

## IMPACT INVESTING SUMMER SCHOOL

This intensive week-long program, organized by Basma Majerbi and the UVic Impact Investing Hub and certified by CIFAL Victoria, offered students an immersive experience in exploring how finance can be leveraged to address societal challenges and accelerate progress toward the UN SDGs. The Hub hosted the summer school from August 24 to 29, 2024 and will host it again in August 2025.

## COASTAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS LEADERS

CIFAL Victoria certifies the Coastal Climate Solutions Leaders, an interdisciplinary and intersectoral training program for graduate students, led by Julia Baum and the Coastal Climate Solutions team. This eight-month program provides students with a deep understanding of scientific and technical climate change solutions, the skills to collaborate across disciplines and sectors, and the experience needed to navigate the real-world complexities of the climate crisis and accelerate the development and implementation of solutions. The most recent cohort of CCSL started in September 2024 and wrapped in May 2025.

## DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABILITY MINDSET

CIFAL Victoria delivered its signature sustainability training program three times over the past year. Designed for higher education leaders and learners, the 3-day program builds sustainability competencies through SDG-focused strategies and hands-on techniques. The training was delivered at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (October 16-18, 2024), Mahidol University in Bangkok (January 27-February 1, 2025), and a one-day workshop edition for the board of CANARIE in Halifax (April 23, 2025). These sessions highlight CIFAL Victoria's growing global presence and commitment to transformative learning that advances the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Crystal Tremblay at CIFAL Global Network Conference in Riyadh, SA, Dec 2024.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF CIFAL SAUDI ARABIA

## ESG AND IMPACT FUNDAMENTALS FOR SMES IN THE BLUE ECONOMY

This short course from the UVic Impact Investing Hub and the Gustavson School of Business, geared towards small and medium enterprises (SMEs), trained participants on the essentials of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors and impact fundamentals. The course focused particularly on the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and the health of ocean ecosystems. This CIFAL-certified course ran from January 16–March 15, 2025.

## STUDENT ASSEMBLY ON REDUCING HARMS FROM TOXIC DRUGS

The University of Victoria hosted a Students' Assembly to engage students in shaping the university's approach to toxic drug harm reduction and overdose prevention. Participants learned about the toxic drug crisis in BC and evidence-based approaches to harm reduction, met with experts and those with lived experience of drug use, and were given the chance to provide input to enhance harm reduction strategies at UVic. The outcomes of these discussions were to be submitted with UVic's Campus Overdose Prevention and Response Committee. CIFAL Victoria certified students' participation in this three-day event, held March 27, 29, and 30, 2025.

## MIND TO MATTER: TRANSLATING SUSTAINABILITY INTO ACTION WITH MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY

This 4-day training program builds upon CIFAL Victoria's signature course, "*Developing a Sustainability Mindset*", to develop the leadership competencies, skills, and attitudes required for institutional change towards sustainability. In June 2025, executives from Mahidol University came to UVic to continue their SDG and sustainability learning journey. The program offered morning workshops followed by afternoon knowledge exchanges with UVic leadership, as well as sustainable tourism excursions.

### SDG WORKSHOPS FOR UVIC UNITS

CIFAL Victoria developed and delivered a workshop to advance knowledge, awareness, and action on the SDGs for several UVic entities, including the President's Leadership Council (August 24, 2024), the Division of Continuing Studies (November 15, 2024), the International Centre for Students (December 11, 2024), and the Office of the Vice President Indigenous (January 22, 2025). The workshops helped units understand the significance of the SDGs to their work, recognize how their work advances UVic's

sustainability commitments, and identify areas for further action. The team is also developing similar workshops for UVic faculty who wish to embed sustainability competencies into their courses.

## The Europe-Canada Network (EUCanet)

For the Europe Canada Network project, the academic year 2024/25 provided an opportunity to present the findings from two major research projects it has supported in recent years: the four-year Jean Monnet Network on Memory Politics and the ongoing SSHRC-funded Insight Grant Populism and its Effects on Liberal Democracy.

Through a series of high-profile scholarly publications — including several special issues of academic journals and a co-authored book manuscript scheduled for publication in early 2026 — as well as public outreach initiatives such as podcasts, webinars, expert interviews, and media interventions, EUCanet actively engaged in the public debate on threats to liberal democracy. A central component of these initiatives has been the focus on how collective memory, particularly of democracy



Mahidol University Executives at Mind to Matter Training in June 2025.  
PHOTO: COURTESY OF CIFAL VICTORIA

and totalitarianism, shapes public attitudes toward democratic governance.

In parallel, EUCanet successfully concluded the Konrad Adenauer Foundation project on Governing Irregular Migration and Refugees, culminating in a video series and the publication of a comprehensive report addressing this complex policy challenge, which continues to influence both European and American politics. The report identifies irregular migration as a “wicked policy challenge” due to its unpredictability, political sensitivity, and the difficulty of balancing humanitarian principles with national security concerns. Furthermore, it explores how issues related to (irregular) migration and refugees can be addressed at local, regional, national, and transnational levels through pragmatic, policy-oriented approaches.

The academic year 2024/25 also marked the completion of a special issue for *Augenblick*, the undergraduate journal housed at UBC. In this issue, participants from the EUCanet Politics of Memory Study Tour reflected on learning experiences while visiting sites of commemoration in various European

countries. The impact of the tour was demonstrated by student engagement through pedagogical opportunities, both written and artistic formats, that preserve the memory of historical injustice and totalitarianism for younger generations.

This past academic year has also been a time for exploring new funding opportunities in collaboration with a broad network of European scholars with whom we have worked over the years. A key element in preparing for the next round of applications to Canadian and European funding agencies is the push to think creatively about how scholarly knowledge can gain visibility and exert meaningful influence in the public realm.

In an era of growing political polarization and increasing threats to democracy, EUCanet continues to explore what engaged scholarship could (and should) look like. To this end, EUCanet organized a series of meetings with prospective partners in Canada and Europe to plan future research and public engagement initiatives around the concept of “mnemonic democracy,” or the role memory plays in politics.

## POLIS Project on Ecological Governance

### *POLIS Water Sustainability Project*

The POLIS Water Sustainability Project team continues to engage strategically as a trusted advisor and expert voice on watershed security, law, policy, and governance reform with partners from across the country from a variety of sectors and backgrounds. Over the last period, the team has continued to deepen its relationship and ongoing advisory role with the B.C. provincial government around the development and implementation of the Watershed Security Strategy and related priorities, including linking water to other issues such as health, sustainability, and economic or material security. In October 2024, the federal Canada Water Agency (CWA) was officially launched — a major national milestone almost 10 years in the making — and POLIS’ Oliver M. Brandes was among those specifically thanked. His strategic contributions and

governance work through the Forum for Leadership on Water (FLOW) and POLIS helped catalyze and drive this initiative.

The POLIS Water team remains active and highly engaged in many facets of the “water-scape” in B.C., nationally, and globally with many partnerships and projects. For example, POLIS is dedicated to supporting and advising the work of the BC Watershed Security Coalition (a non-partisan coalition of over 50 organizations representing 255,000 British Columbians) and a broad range of many other leading water funders and related water champion organizations, such as Watershed Watch Salmon Society, FLOW, Cowichan Watershed Board, Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources and its Collaborative Leadership Initiative, Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, MakeWay Foundation, Provincial Health Office, the Koksilah





Government-to-Government Water Sustainability Planning process, and various other local and regional governments and initiatives. POLIS' Oliver M. Brandes works closely with the leadership of the BC Watershed Security Coalition and sits on its Knowledge Council, while POLIS' Laura Brandes sits on its Communications Committee and is a lead advisor on strategic media efforts.

In September 2024, the International Joint Commission (IJC) announced the formation of the International Elk-Kootenai/y Watershed Study Board and the appointment of POLIS' Oliver M. Brandes as co-chair. This IJC Study Board is the first of its kind in its being initiated by the Governments of Canada and the United States along with the transboundary Ktunaxa Nation. Over two years, the independent Study Board will convene experts and knowledge holders to conduct transparent and coordinated transboundary data and knowledge sharing and to analyze data and information to support a common understanding of pollution impacts in the watershed, ultimately leading to options and recommendations to address the concerns.

POLIS has been strengthening its ongoing strategic partnership and advisory role with UBC-Okanagan

through Rheanne Kroschinsky's (POLIS Visiting Governance Graduate Student Fellow) applied governance research and her affiliation with UBC-Okanagan Watershed Extension. This includes supporting partnerships for new approaches to watershed planning and governance in the region. As one example, the by-invitation February 2025 Watershed Governance Learning Session for the District of Peachland's Municipal Council explored current facets of watershed and drinking water insecurity for Peachland Creek.

As part of POLIS' commitment to supporting young professionals and students to help grow the next generation of water leaders, during this period POLIS employed and mentored eight interns, work study students, and volunteers and hosted its sixth annual Water Research Roundup webinar, which featured three emerging water champions.

In 2024, the POLIS Water Sustainability Project was featured in 382 media articles. Beyond this direct impact, the POLIS team works closely with several journalists and communications networks to provide advice, expert insights, and focused commentary to support a cohesive and integrated approach to advancing a powerful watershed security narrative in B.C.

## ***POLIS Wildfire Resilience Project***

Since its public launch in May 2024, the POLIS Wildfire team has been building and engaging a large network of government, industry, community leaders, and experts who are actively sharing knowledge and building solutions to address the wildfire crisis. Through POLIS' partnership with UBC-Okanagan, the team supported new approaches to planning for wildfire resilience treatments in the region.

During this review period, the POLIS Wildfire Resilience Project published the first two briefs in its new "Lightning Explainer" series: one focused on wildfire and a whole-of-society approach and the other on the economic impacts of catastrophic fire. In May 2025, its second major research report, "Beneficial Fire in B.C.: An Exploration of How Fire Can Contribute to Wildfire Resilience," was published and received positive media attention. In the 2024 calendar year, the POLIS Wildfire Resilience Project was featured in 249 earned media articles.

In September 2024 the POLIS Wildfire team was invited as an expert advisor to the watershed security and wildfire resilience strategic pilot launch workshop for North Aberdeen Plateau (Vernon and Lake Country in the Okanagan), which was hosted by Regional District of North Okanagan, Vernon Water, District of Lake Country, Okanagan Indian Band, Ministry of Forests, and Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.

To date, the POLIS Wildfire Resilience Project has had significant influence on the Premier's Expert Task Force on Emergencies, subsequent ministerial mandates, and budgets in forest, water and planning ministries. The broad goal of the project is to drive a transformative shift to a more proactive approach to wildfire resilience as a provincial — indeed national — priority.

## ***POLIS Biocultural Ethics Initiative***

The POLIS Biocultural Ethics Initiative continued its multi-year work to develop ethical guidance that supports knowledge sharing across Indigenous and Western scientific knowledge systems. The ethical guidance is informing work with the Piikani (Blackfoot) Nation in southern Alberta to develop Piikani Biocultural Community Protocols for cultural

keystone species such as Ma'nstaam (lodge pole pine) and Iinii (buffalo). The work is under the direction of Piikani Elder and Knowledge Holder Ira Provost who has recently joined POLIS as an Affiliate and Indigenous Mentor.

Collaborative work on water ethics and cross-cultural values also continued with CFGS fellow, Serap Asar Brown (PhD student in Leadership Studies, Faculty of Education). Her new initiative, *Reconciling with Water*, included a two-day symposium that brought together Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Holders and community members with professors, students, activists, artists, and policymakers in a spirit of listening and relational accountability to water.

## ***POLIS Project Highlighted Events***

### **WHEN FIRE MEETS WATER: HEALTHY WATERSHEDS AS A SOLUTION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

In June 2025, POLIS' Oliver M. Brandes and Andrea Barnett were featured panellists at the webinar *When Fire Meets Water: Healthy Watersheds as a Solution for the 21st Century*, which explored the relationships between fire, watershed hydrology, and ecological governance. This was the first of two webinars offered through Raincoast Conservation Foundation's *Fire Files* series and made possible by the support of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS).

### **ADVANCING BENEFICIAL FIRE WORKSHOP**

On June 11th, 2025, the POLIS Wildfire Resilience Project hosted a by-invitation virtual workshop that brought together over 60 practitioners, scientists, planners, and policymakers to share and discuss key findings from POLIS' new Beneficial Fire report. Featured speakers included POLIS' Andrea Barnett and Kevin Kriese.

### **CANADIAN WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025**

On May 27th, 2025, POLIS' Oliver M. Brandes and Rheanne Kroschinsky spoke at the *Canadian Water Resources Association National Conference* on the traditional and unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan peoples in Penticton, B.C. They spoke on current POLIS research at three complementary presentations that explored: the state of watershed governance in B.C.; the urgent need for integrated

and modernized land use planning to achieve provincial mandates and watershed security priorities; and the process of co-creating a framework for governance of the sqw'a (Peachland Creek) Community Watershed.

### CREATIVE WATER CONNECTIONS ARTS-BASED WORKSHOP

On April 5th and 6th, 2025, Kelly Bannister (POLIS Co-Director/(Biocultural Ethics lead)) and Serap Asar Brown (CFGS Graduate Student Fellow) participated in the Creative Water Connections workshop that they co-organized with POLIS collaborator Tom Gleeson (UVic Engineering). The innovative workshop brought the power of arts and sciences together to strengthen relationships with water and build new, creative connections between the University of Victoria's Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Education, and the POLIS Project.

### UVIC SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL ROUNDTABLE

POLIS and CFGS supported the Environmental Roundtable, organized by the University of Victoria Sustainability Project (UVSP) in March 2025. This annual student-run event brought together UVic students, campus initiatives, and local community groups who care deeply about sustainability. This year's Roundtable theme was Nurturing Relationships, Inspiring Action and included talks by Loreisa Lepine,

Drew Elves, and Justin Rhoden, as well as facilitated discussions to share ideas and build connections for a more sustainable future.

### DISTRICT OF PEACHLAND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WATERSHED GOVERNANCE LEARNING SESSION

On February 25, 2025, as part of POLIS' strategic relationship with UBC Okanagan, Oliver M. Brandes supported Visiting Student Governance Research Fellow, Rheanne Kroschinsky in an invited Watershed Governance Learning Session for the District of Peachland's Municipal Council. Rheanne masterfully facilitated this unique session which focused on enhancing governance for the Peachland Creek watershed, and opportunities for the District to exert more local-level influence in regulatory decision-making. The session explored current facets of watershed and drinking water insecurity for Peachland Creek, and introduced *Water Sustainability Act* tools, policy opportunities, and ground-level processes for enhancing watershed security and co-governance.

### CENTER FOR INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE AND OKANAGAN BASIN WATER GOVERNANCE

Led by the Okanagan Nation Alliance, and supported by the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) through its Collaborative Leadership



POLIS Workstudy student Kamilla Hindmarch, POLIS Research Assistant Kallalei Ryden, and Lia Lancaster (CFGS) connecting with students and community at POLIS' World Water Day resource fair. PHOTO: JODIE WALSH

Initiative (CLI) to support the ongoing development of the Okanagan Similkameen Collaborative Leadership Table, and the evolving Okanagan Lake Responsibility Planning process. Oliver M. Brandes in his dual role with POLIS and as CLI national advisor provides capacity and strategic direction on this landmark project, bringing together Syilx and municipal and regional government leadership to advance collaborative watershed governance. A series of structured gatherings throughout 2024 enabled trust-building and deepening alignment on regional priorities and a basin vision. A significant milestone was reached when Syilx Nation Chiefs, along with mayors, councillors, and regional district representatives, finalized a Memorandum of Understanding in Penticton on November 15, 2024.

## COLUMBIA RIVER TRANSBOUNDARY WATER GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS SYMPOSIUM

From November 12th to 14th, over 150 people gathered at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington for the Columbia River Transboundary Water Governance and Ethics Symposium 2024. The symposium was coordinated by POLIS' Rheanne Kroschinsky and organized by a steering committee with membership from the Universities Consortium on Columbia River Governance; University of British Columbia Okanagan; One River, Ethics Matter; North American Youth Parliament for Water; and Gonzaga Institute for Climate.

## PEOPLE-PLANT INTERRELATIONSHIPS AND THE LAW ONLINE SERIES

On October 23rd, 2024, POLIS' Kelly Bannister delivered a lecture in the University of Queensland Law School's online series: People-Plant Interrelationships and the Law. Her talk explored how our understanding of people-plant interrelationships is fundamentally influenced by whether we use colonial or Indigenous laws as our legal reference point. She drew on her decades of experience in ethnobiology and biocultural diversity research and ethics policy development to share insights from collaborating across Western and Indigenous systems of knowledge, laws, and ethics.

## WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

From September 16th to 20th, 2024, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities hosted its annual convention in Vancouver, B.C. The POLIS team partnered with Coree Tull (BC Watershed Security Coalition) and Lina Azeez (Watershed Watch Salmon Society) to deliver the workshop "Floods! Droughts! Watershed Security! Working Together Towards Resilient Communities," which featured a panel of water policy experts, legal advisors, and local government leaders, including Deborah Carlson (Westcoast Environmental Law), Jason Lum (Fraser Valley Regional District), Blair Ireland (Regional District of Central Okanagan), and Aaron Stone (Cowichan Valley Regional District). Closing remarks were offered by POLIS' Oliver M. Brandes.

## Water Innovation and Global Governance Lab (WIGGLab)

The Water, Innovation, and Global Governance Lab engages in transdisciplinary research to support water governance innovations, social-ecological resilience, and transformations for sustainability and justice.

### *Biocultural stewardship and groundwater governance – exploring Karez water systems in Afghanistan*

This past year, WIGGLab's Abdul Tawab Balakarzai completed his data collection examining the biocultural nature of groundwater governance in Afghanistan's Karez systems. Karez are irrigation

and groundwater systems and have been part of groundwater management in the region for thousands of years. The deep tunnels and canals that comprise the Karez structures have been previously studied from engineering perspectives, but much less attention has been given to the traditional knowledge holders operating, maintaining, and governing groundwater throughout areas with Karez. Working with local knowledge holders from 13 different provinces, Tawab's research examines the intertwined social-ecological nature of the Karez systems, spanning technical knowledge about nature-based solutions for water efficiency to spiritual



ceremonies and identities. The social-ecological memory, knowledge, and stewardship of the Karez has co-evolved through the varied and diverse relationships between the water, the people caring for it, and all that relies upon its sustenance.

### ***Relationality and reflexivity: capacities for walking into multiple futures from multiple pasts***

In a [recent review](#) led by Simon West (Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU) WIGGLab explored diverse relational perspectives that have been articulated by Indigenous, humanities, and social sciences scholars, practitioners and activists from the Global South and North. The review described how these different perspectives consider the role of five concepts important to transformations: human-nature connectedness, agency and leadership, scale and scaling, time and change, and knowledge and action. The work summarized different practices that can support how people can walk together “in a world of many worlds”.

In a second collaboration with Simon West, along with Jamila Haider (Stockholm Resilience Centre), Dan McCarthy (Waterloo), and led by Anita Lazurko (UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology), the team continued to build on the WIGGLab’s previous work on the role of reflexivity as a capacity for transformations. Reflecting on Anita’s PhD research in the Canada-US Red River Basin, and a complex scenario modelling process that was undertaken, [this work](#) explores the role of critical reflexivity in transdisciplinary research processes. A framework was developed to support scholars who are new to transdisciplinary research and the many boundaries that need to be navigated in the science-practice interface.

### ***Integrating more just approaches to food systems transformations?***

Given the importance of water for food, the WIGGLab was pleased to contribute to developing a new approach, called the [Just Transformation Matrix \(JUSTRA\)](#), that can help guide food system practitioners in strategizing, implementing, and

monitoring how justice concerns are integrated in any transformative change efforts. This work aims to inform the [2025 Eat Lancet Commission](#) report that will be released in October 2025.

### ***Soc-SES launched***

This year saw the launch of the [Society for Social-Ecological Systems \(Soc-SES\)](#), which serves to advance social-ecological systems research and training with the intent of supporting just and sustainable futures. The WIGGLab’s Michele-Lee Moore is part of the team leading the Society’s Transformative Change theme. The Society is transdisciplinary and welcomes new members from research and practice.

### ***WIGG Lab’s highlighted events***

#### **PECS III-PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE**

In August 2024, Michele-Lee Moore attended the [PECS III-Pathways to Sustainability Conference](#) hosted by the Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS in Montreal, Canada. Michele-Lee led a collaborative session exploring dilemmas of multi-method research approaches in transdisciplinary research, and presented recent research on positive tipping points and transformations.

#### **EUROPEAN GEOSCIENCES UNION GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

In collaboration with Petr Vesnovskii, the WIGGLab’s ongoing research on [mapping global water resilience risks for river basin governance](#) was presented at the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly in Vienna (April 27–May 2).

#### **POWERING CHANGE: JOKKMOKK MARKET FILM SCREENINGS**

As part of the Powering Change project, Michele-Lee was part of a team of scholars and reindeer herders who co-hosted two film screenings on the effects of wind energy expansion on Sami lands at the [Jokkmokk market](#), held February 6-8, 2025. Preparations are now underway to continue sharing diverse perspectives about relationships among Sami, reindeer, wind, and energy development for next year’s market.

## Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives (SCVN)

The Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives project engages in an arts-based, trauma-informed approach to documenting the lived experiences of survivors of genocides and mass atrocities. Prioritizing survivors' well-being, SCVN upholds shared agency in the co-production of the survivor narratives and follows an ethos of care in all project activities.

The third year of the SCVN project focused on supporting the ongoing collaboration with survivors and graphic artists and facilitating the creation of graphic narratives, short documentaries, and educational resources.

### *Emmie Arbel. The Colour of Memory*

SCVN's first graphic novel, *Emmie Arbel. Die Farbe der Erinnerung* (2023), received the [2024 Gustav Heinemann Peace Prize](#), a prestigious annual German book award for children's and young adult literature that promotes peace, democracy and cross-cultural understanding. It has received widespread recognition, including the German Federal Agency for Civic Education endorsing it for classroom use across Germany. It is now available in German, English, French and Spanish.

### *Expanding the Graphic Narratives*

Many of the artists expanded their work beyond the initial thirty pages, developing more comprehensive narratives to honour the survivors' lived experiences. Through internal and external funding, SCVN has supported additional pages for each graphic novel, including funding awarded by the National Holocaust Remembrance Program, Canada Council for the Arts, and the Berner Design Foundation in Switzerland.

### *Exhibitions and New Artwork*

The exhibition of 'But I Live. Remembering the Holocaust' (2022) continued its successful run and was hosted at Erica-Fuchs-Haus Museum and the Bergen-Belsen Memorial in Germany. New exhibits of original artwork were also showcased by SCVN artists in Finland, Switzerland, and Germany.

### *Documentary Short Films*

SCVN completed four documentary short films about the artist and survivor collaborations this year, with

two Holocaust-focused and two Rwanda-themed available on the [SCVN YouTube](#) channel.

### *Knowledge Mobilization*

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) gathered the Research Cluster co-leads at the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam to discuss strategies for "going public" and planning knowledge mobilization activities starting in 2026. Methodology and resource toolkits were developed with UBC's Public Humanities Hub based on the webinar series [Ethics of Trauma-Informed Research](#) and [Art and Testimony](#).

### *Student Engagement*

Co-director Dr. Andrea Webb developed educational materials with UBC's Bachelor of Education Program teacher candidates, creating mini-units for upcoming publications. SCVN continues to fund graduate research assistants at UVic, NIOD, UBC, the University of Aberdeen, and the University of Fribourg, while also supporting undergraduate practicums at UVic.

### *Research Cluster Highlights*

Key activities include hiring Dr. Leyla Ferman to support research and interview facilitation with a Yezidi survivor; filming and interviews with survivors and artists in Brussels, Sarajevo, Rwanda, and Vancouver; a two-year artist residency with Yale's Fortunoff Video Archive for graphic artist Nora Krug, and cross-cluster activities with Artist Café sessions, partner interviews, and participatory action research meetings.



SCVN's graphic artist Miriam Libicki, Holocaust survivor Rose Lipszyc and Research Cluster Co-Lead Mark Celinscak interviewing with Rose at her residence in Toronto, Ontario PHOTO: CHORONG KIM



## SCVN's Highlighted Events

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025: KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

From June 18-20, 2025, the third Annual General Meeting of the Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives project was hosted at the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies based in Amsterdam. It gathered Research Cluster co-leads, project partners, and local students to reflect and engage on the next phase of the project's knowledge mobilization as they prepare to "go public" through the publication of the graphic narratives and public engagement activities.

### 'VISUALIZING SURVIVORS' VOICES' AT SPUI25, AMSTERDAM

On June 18, 2025, Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives project members spoke on the panel 'Visualizing Survivors' Voices' at SPUI25 in Amsterdam. The event was hosted by the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and featured co-directors Dr. Charlotte Schallié and Dr. Andrea Webb, graphic artist Tobi Dahmen, Syrian regime survivor Akram al-Saud, and Research Cluster co-leads Dr. Kees Ribbens and Dr. Uğur Ümit Üngör. This was Tobi and Akram's first public reading of the graphic novel, and

the panel explored how survivors of violence and mass atrocities can work in dialogue with graphic artists to interpret and record their experiences.

### 'ARCHIVES OF MEMORY' AT ZURICH UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS

The Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives project partners at the Institute for the Performing Arts and Film at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) hosted an interdisciplinary arts-based research incubator for scholars, artists, storytellers, and educators who joined from Canada, Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, Israel, and Cameroon. The two-day event, 'Archives of Memory', was an interdisciplinary exchange for the project artists to meet in person and share insights from their ongoing collaborative memory work with survivors of genocide.

### NEW EXHIBITS OF ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY SCVN GRAPHIC ARTISTS

New work by artists collaborating with the Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives project was showcased at several individual exhibitions in the spring of 2025. "Landscape in Comics", in Oulu Finland, featured artwork by Anneli Furmark inspired by her collaboration with a survivor from the Yugoslav Wars Research Cluster. Jared Muralt displayed sketches from his upcoming book "Ružica's Last Summer" at the Berner Design Foundation's annual BESTFORM exhibition. He is collaborating with a Roma woman, retelling her life in Serbia in the 1990s, where the discrimination and violence of the Yugoslav Wars shaped her childhood. Lastly, the exhibit "I will not be silent! Drawn Memories of Comics" at the Wiesbaden Kunsthaus featured original panels by Tobi Dahmen from the upcoming graphic narrative 'Al-Fazîa' – *The Horror: Surviving Syria's Prisons*. The exhibit centred on life stories that remind us that the past is part of our present, highlighting the importance of democracy and exploring ways of sharing these stories through art.

### DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILMS

Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives project created its first four documentary short films focusing on each survivor and artist collaboration. Director Chorong Kim created two short documentaries for the Holocaust Research Cluster, 'The Apothecarian's



SCVN participants at the Zurich Arts workshop from left to right: Charlotte Schallié, Tobi Dahmen, Gilad Seliktar, Michel Kichka, Anna Wohlgemuth, Joëlle Epée Mandengue, Miriam Libicki, and Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley. PHOTO: ZURICH UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS

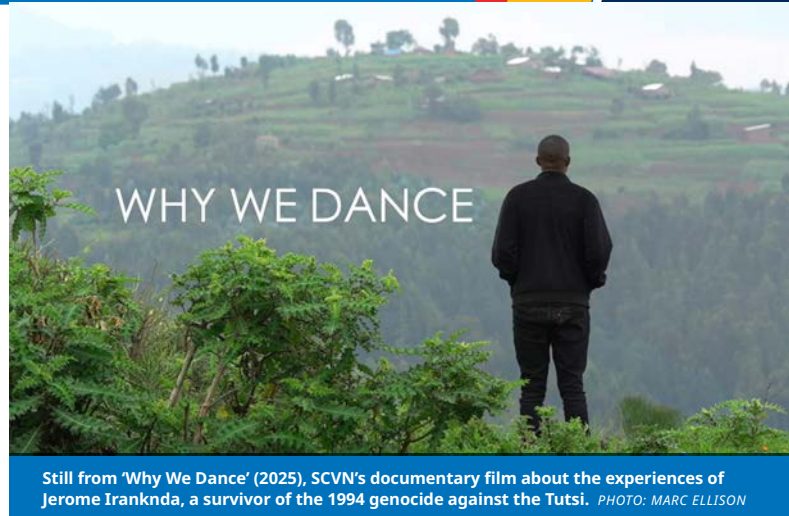
Boy' and 'A Rose in Plain Sight', weaving together past archives and present reflections across a diversity of filming locations from Palm Springs and Berlin to Toronto. Documentary filmmaker Marc Ellison filmed and directed the Rwanda films, 'Why We Dance' and 'A Compassionate Heart', each featuring a survivor of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. He filmed in Rwanda and in Brussels, Belgium, where survivors travelled to participate in interviews with the graphic artists. Coordinated by Rwanda Research Cluster Co-Leads Fransiska Louwagie and Erin Jessee, the interview sessions created a space for deep listening, dialogue, and connection between the survivors and the artists. The films will be available on the [SCVN YouTube channel](#).

## 'A KIND OF RESISTANCE: ILLUSTRATING HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR STORIES' WITH MIRIAM LIBICKI AT PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

On February 25 and 26, 2025, Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives graphic artist Miriam Libicki was invited to present at Pennsylvania State University in a session titled 'A Kind of Resistance: Illustrating Holocaust Survivor Stories' to present the collaborative nature of her work and a workshop 'Inking the Unthinkable: A Sense-Memory Writing and Cartooning Workshop'. She shared a detailed deconstruction of the process of building a graphic novel out of interviews and active collaboration with survivors, historians, and researchers. She discussed the unique strengths, as well as challenges, of using comics to depict the Holocaust, and to depict subjective memory in the absence of photographic documentation.



Tobi Dahmen outlining Akram's cell size at the Wiesbaden Kunsthaus exhibit  
PHOTO: PATRICK BAUML IMAGE: TOBI DAHMEN



## BARBARA YELIN'S PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS FOR EMMIE ARBEL. DIE FARBE DER ERINNERUNG

The first publication from SCVN is Barbara Yelin's graphic novel *Emmie Arbel. Die Farbe der Erinnerung* (*Emmie Arbel. The Colour of Memory*) documenting Barbara's continued collaboration with Holocaust child survivor Emmie Arbel. Since its publication in 2023, Barbara has participated in over sixty public engagements, including readings, panel presentations, workshops, and interviews in media such as radio and TV features. The book has received widespread recognition and is now available in German, English, French and Spanish, with an Italian version coming in January 2026. It has also been published by the Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung/German Federal Agency for Civic Education making it accessible for classroom use across Germany.

## EXHIBITIONS OF 'BUT I LIVE'

Continuing its successful three-year run, the exhibition "But I Live. Remembering the Holocaust" was hosted at the [Erica-Fuchs-Haus Museum for Comics and the Art of Language](#) in fall 2024, and at the [Bergen-Belsen Memorial](#) in spring 2025. Co-curated by Jakob Hoffmann and Barbara Yelin, it featured original art produced by artists Barbara Yelin, Miriam Libicki, and Gilad Seliktar for the graphic novel *But I Live: Three Stories of Child Survivors of the Holocaust* (2022), based on interviews with Holocaust survivors Emmie Arbel, David Schaffer, and Nico and Rolf Kamp. The exhibition also included sketches, reference materials, interviews, and documentary films in German and English.



## Past Wrongs Future Choices

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 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.

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 Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives. In addition, many of PWFC's former artists-in-residence including those funded by CFGS attended our 2024 Banff Symposium that brought together over 70 members of PWFC's research collective to plan, present and network over a beautiful weekend in November at the Banff Centre for the Arts.

In January 2025, Project Director Jordan Stanger-Ross, and Nikkei National Museum's Director and Curator, Sherri Kajiwarra, attended a global Nikkei



PWFC members and the project's 2024 Residency Cohort.  
PHOTO: PWFC

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 Kajiwarra 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 and was opened with great fanfare and garnered wonderful reviews.

2025 marked the start of year four of seven and the process of the SSHRC midterm report is underway for submission in the fall. PWFC is not only on track with its application outputs but also has several incremental projects in store.



2024 Banff Symposium that brought together over 70 members of PWFC's research collective over a beautiful weekend in November at the Banff Centre for the Arts. PHOTO: RODOLFO WADA

# ASSOCIATED PROJECTS

Associate projects are led by our Associate fellows and have an active presence at the CFGS. These projects are linked through our associate fellowship program and we partner with these projects to host grants, events, and guest lecturers.

## Canada-China Focus (CCF)

Canada-China Focus (CCF) is an educational project committed to cultivating a respectful, anti-racist environment for dialogue on Canada-China relations.

One of CCF's main activities this past year was organizing a series of educational activities that focused on Chinese Canadians and foreign interference. The series began with a public talk at UVic by Dr. Xiaobei Chen, Carleton University and co-chair of Canada-China Focus. Organized in partnership with CFGS and CAPI, Professor Chen presented findings from a national survey conducted by Ekos Research highlighting how disinformation around foreign interference has fueled anti-Chinese racism, suppressed free speech, and discouraged civic engagement.

Members of the CCF Advisory Board helped to raise public awareness about the impacts of expanding national security legislation on civil liberties and racialized communities. CCF co-founder John Price wrote a submission to the Honourable Marie-Josée Hogue, Commissioner of the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions. The submission drew on Price's expertise in Canadian foreign policy and decades of community-based research with racialized groups. It offered a historically grounded and critical reflection on the current discourse surrounding foreign interference.

Board member Dr. Timothy J. Stanley, University of Ottawa, examined how systemic racism has shaped public and governmental responses to alleged interference by China in the publication "History and Consequences of Sinophobia and Anti-Chinese Racism in Canada." It warned that such biases risk scapegoating Chinese Canadian communities and distorting foreign policy.

CCF organized webinars addressing pressing issues at the intersection of racism and foreign policy. CCF co-hosted the webinar "Understanding Bill C-70: Beyond a National Security State" with the Canadian Foreign Policy Institute. Featuring Senator Yuen Pau Woo, Professor Midori Ogasawara, and Tim McSorley of the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, the discussion aimed to deepen public understanding of the bill, its far-reaching implications, and its potentially devastating impact on social movements. It also highlighted the importance of challenging and moving beyond the motivations that fuel a national security state in Canada.

CCF also co-sponsored the seminar "Fighting Racial Profiling and the Criminalization of Academia in North America" as part of its partnership program with Simon Fraser Labour Studies and the Canadian Association of University Teachers. The event highlighted the case of Dr. Anming Hu as part of a larger discussion on racial profiling, academic freedom, and rising surveillance of scholars of Chinese descent. It was moderated by CCF Advisory Board member Dr. Xinying Hu.

Other events included a roundtable on the challenges and opportunities of field schools in China, featuring UBC professor Henry Yu, Xiaobei Chen, and CAPI associate Robyn Fila, as well as a discussion on sustainable trade with China, with Senator Yuen Pau Woo, Dr. William Carroll, and economist Marc Lee from the Canadian Centre of Policy Alternatives.

At the end of 2024, CCF held a fundraising campaign and is grateful for the generosity of many individuals who raised sufficient funds to continue its program until the end of 2026. These funds will allow CCF to pursue a six-track educational programming focusing on: 1) a student environmental essay project and associated field school in China; 2) an environmental technology program to support Indigenous communities; 3) a China field school on literature and film; 4) a Peace in the Pacific program; 5) anti-racist projects in collaboration with SFU Labour Studies and the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT).

CCF welcomes Georgia Kelly as the new Communications Director for Canada-China Focus.

Georgia is a former assistant news editor at rabble.ca and recently returned from six months in Taiwan studying Chinese language and culture. She will be connecting with project leads in the coming months to support outreach and communications efforts.

## Living and Learning with Climate Change Project (LLWCC)

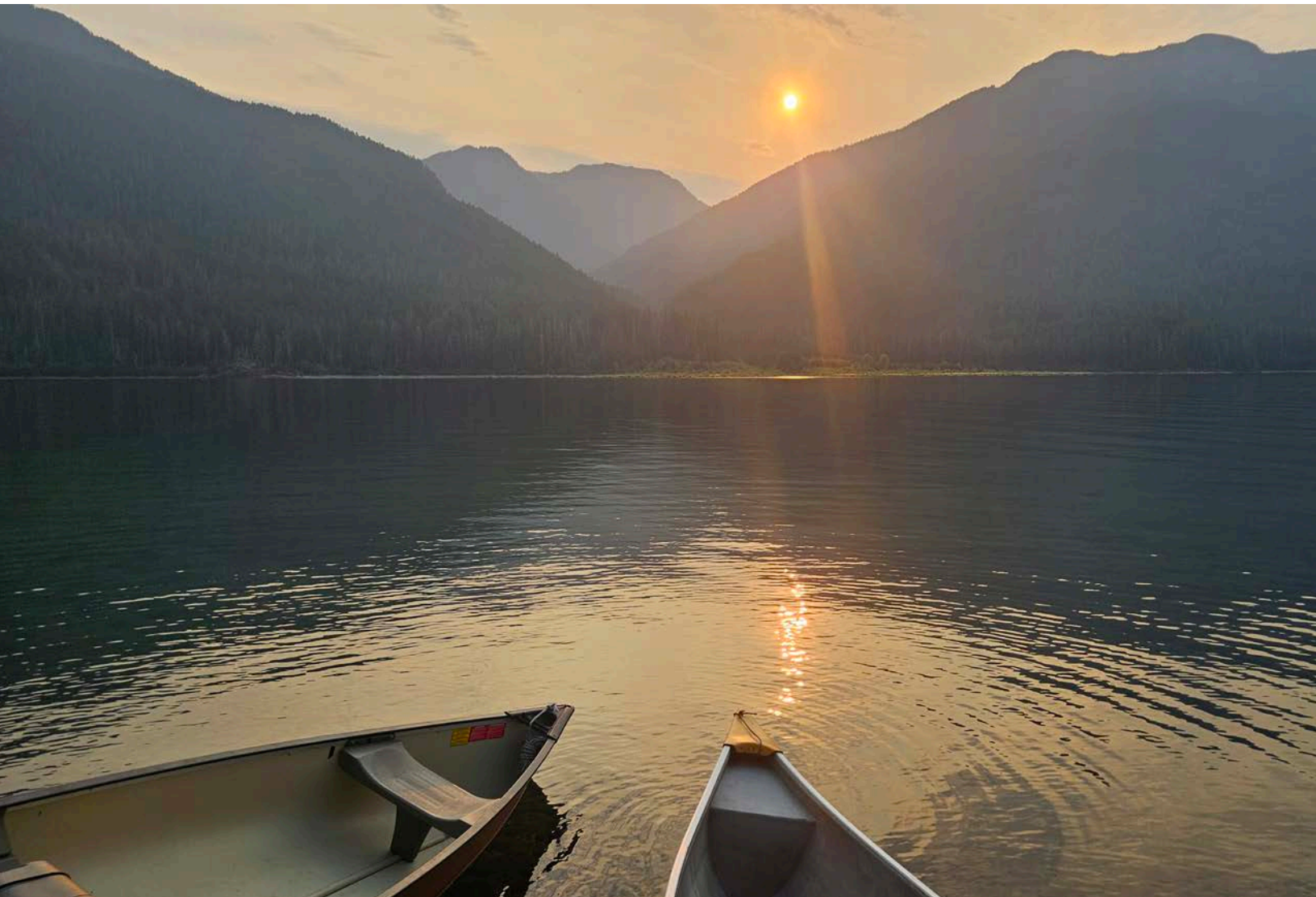
The Living and Learning with Climate Change project is being undertaken by the Climate Survival Design group, which has been initiated in Spring 2025 by CFGS Associate Fellows Michael Lines and Thomas Heyd. Presently it is a collective including Michael Lines, Thomas Heyd, Pearce Jones, Jade Chicorelli, Savannah Barratt, and Dan McNeill. It has met several times in the Spring 2025 semester. Upcoming is a

“design jam” on the psychology of climate survival scheduled for August 2025, guided by Dan McNeill.

The LLWCC group is also working on a report supported by CIFAL-UNITAR. The report is being produced by Thomas Heyd, Michael Lines and Crystal Tremblay (eds.), *Living and Learning with Climate Change* (CIFAL-UNITAR Victoria, in press).

Also through LLWCC, Thomas Heyd and Crystal Tremblay are working on another forthcoming publication, a book chapter on Engaging Youth and Training Leaders for Climate Action at the University of Victoria, in Alexander Lautensach and Nicolina Montesano Montessori's (eds.), *The Palgrave Handbook on critical constructive approaches to the UN Sustainable Development Goals* (Palgrave, under review).

PHOTO: JODIE WALSH



# WORKING GROUPS

CFGS is the institutional home for a number of working groups. The Centre often collaborates with these groups to bring greater visibility to their events and research. The working groups offer a unique and interactive opportunity for scholars from UVic and members of the community to meet and discuss specific topics. All of these working groups are open to the public—please contact the CFGS main office for more information on meeting schedules and events.

## Latin American Research Group

In response to the inauguration of Donald Trump as US President in January of this year, LARG organized a successful hybrid panel titled “Trump: Implications for Latin America” (Jan. 29, 2025). Speakers were Laura MacDonald (Professor of Political Science at Carleton University and president of the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies), Pablo Policzer (Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Calgary), and Michelle Bonner (Professor of Political Science at the University of Victoria and Director of Latin American Studies). Approximately 90 people attended either in person or online for a lively discussion of current events. Thank you to Latin American Studies, Mirai Molina (LAS work study student), and the Centre for Global Studies for their support in the organization of this panel.

## Property Rights & Society Discussion Group

For the past five years the Property Rights and Society Discussion Group, organized by Andrew Buck, Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Law and the Department of History at the University of Victoria, has been running a popular series of talks by the authors of recently published books that focus on the question of Dispossession in a global context. This program has allowed CFGS to engage with scholars from around the world on this issue of global significance.

Between July 2024 and June 2025, this presentation series included the following:

- Dylan C. Penningroth (Berkley) discussed his new book *Before the Movement: The Hidden History of Black Civil Rights* (W.W. Norton, 2023).
- Peter Radan (U of Sydney) *Creating a More Perfect Slaveholders' Union: Slavery, the Constitution, and Secession in Antebellum America* (University of Kansas Press, 2023).
- David E. Gillbert (Berkley) discussed his new book *Countering Dispossession, Reclaiming Land: A Social Movement Ethnography* (University of California Press, 2024)
- Andrew W. Kahrl (U of Virginia) discussed his new book *The Black Tax: 150 Years of Exploitation and Dispossession in America* (University of Chicago Press, 2024)



## Middle East Discussion Group (MEDG)

The MEDG had two key activities in this reporting period. Firstly, Martin Bunton hosted a discussion at CFGS on October 2, 2024: “Gaza: One Year On”. The CFGS and the MEDG co-hosted this event as a place for open discussion and dialogue, and used historical contexts of the region to give perspective on the current situation.

On March 26th, the Middle East Discussion Group hosted Hassan Diab at CFGS as a guest to talk about his experience with Canadian extradition law and the resulting separation from his family and three year imprisonment in France. Martin Bunton moderated the event, and two of Hassan’s former colleagues also attended and provided their perspectives. This event was co-hosted by MEDG and CFGS.



PHOTO: JODIE WALSH

## UNESCO

Launched in 1992, the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme, which involves over 700 institutions in 116 countries, promotes international inter-university cooperation and networking to enhance institutional capacities through knowledge sharing and collaborative work. The programme supports the establishment of UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks in key priority areas related to UNESCO's fields of competence. CFGS is the institutional home for two UNESCO Chairs: the UNESCO Chair in Early Childhood Education, Care and Development (ECD) and the UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education. This year, both continued their crucial and impactful work.

### UNESCO Tri-Chair in Early Childhood Education, Care and Development (ECD)

What began in 2008 as the UNESCO Chair for ECD in Africa now encompasses four individuals. Three of those: Professors Alan Pence (UVic), Hasina Banu Ebrahim (South Africa) and Oumar Barry (Senegal) are the current Co-Chairs, with UVic Adjunct Asst. Prof Dr. Patrick Makokoro (Zimbabwe) as a key part of the Co-Chairs' team.

Prof. Ebrahim is arguably the most prolific Africa-born ECD academic author in Africa today. While her focus has always been on ECD in Africa and the Majority World, her Keynotes and publications increasingly address audiences beyond Africa. For example, in August 2025 she was a featured Keynote presenter at the prestigious European Early Childhood Education Research Conference held in Slovenia. Prof. Ebrahim provides highlights of her work in 2024-2025 in the sections that follow this Summary.

Prof. Barry is similarly distinguished for his many years of leadership for ECD in Francophone Africa. Currently the Chairperson for Psychology, Prof. Barry has led ECD research and development initiatives in a dozen French speaking countries. That work and leadership will be projected further as he and his colleagues at the Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar mount in 2025/2026 a first for Francophone Africa, a new Masters degree for ECD, as well as a Bachelor's degree program at a collaborating institution. A key publication by Prof. Barry in 2024 was *Mental Health of Malnourished Children and their Mothers: Psychosocial Care in the Community Context of Sahel Countries*.

As noted, Dr. Patrick Makokoro is a key team member of the UNESCO Co-Chairs for ECD. Makokoro met UNESCO Chair Pence when Makokoro was selected to join the UVic Masters degree Early Childhood Development Virtual University (ECDVU) in 2016. Makokoro stood out as a uniquely skilled and effective ECD leader whose influence had already spread beyond his child and family development work in Zimbabwe to neighboring countries in southern Africa. Dr. Makokoro's work emphasizes the importance of community, context and culture in early childhood education. His approach recognizes that effective ECD programs must be grounded in local contexts while honoring cultural diversity and community assets. Patrick also contributed to the expansion of the ECD in Africa website resource materials as part of the UNESCO Tri-Chairs initiative, aimed at encouraging diverse approaches to early childhood development across the African continent.

As the UNESCO Co-Chairs' 2025-2029 renewal document indicated, a succession plan was initiated to ensure that this critically important work in support of African children and families is sustained. In the coming period Pence will conclude his leadership of the team, assuming an advisory role while a replacement for the third member is identified. Pence, after more than 50 years in the field, commenced his own transition process during COVID, taking the lead in editing a history of ECD in Africa: *Sankofa: Appreciating the Past in Planning the Future of ECD in Africa* (Pence, Makokoro, Ebrahim & Barry). *Sankofa* represented one long term facet



of Pence's work, another preceding period was his work with Indigenous communities across Canada and internationally. In 2025 Pence was honored with a King Charles III Coronation Medal for his work with First Nations in Canada.

### *Impact and Reach*

The above work spans multiple domains:

- **Resource Preservation:** Maintaining and expanding access to historical and contemporary ECD materials, particularly focused on African networks and initiatives

- **Knowledge Sharing:** Publishing research and insights that inform best practices in culturally responsive early childhood education
- **Capacity Building:** Providing consulting services that strengthen organizational capabilities in the ECD sector
- **Global Networking:** Facilitating connections between early childhood development practitioners across different countries and contexts

See more on the work of the UNESCO Tri-Chair in Early Childhood Education, Care and Development [here](#).

## UNESCO Co-Chair in Community Based Research (CBR) and Social Responsibility in Higher Education

Over the past year, the UNESCO Chair in CBR has carried out a wide range of activities, structured around four core areas.

The Chair continued its oversight and support for the Knowledge for Change (K4C) Global Consortium for Training in Community-Based Participatory Research. This year, particular emphasis was placed on the regionalization of its established training initiative, the Mentor Training Programme (MTP), which is now being implemented through regional training centres worldwide. In this context, three new centres were

launched: one in Latin America (Colombia), one in Africa (Uganda), and one in Asia (Malaysia).

During the past year, the Chair successfully obtained funding to support and launch the DECODE Knowledge Project, which employs Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) to foreground Indigenous, local, and experiential knowledge systems that are often marginalized within mainstream academic frameworks. Grounded in the principles of knowledge democracy and guided by decolonial and gender-sensitive perspectives, DECODE



Launch of Asian Knowledge 4 Change (K4C) Centre.



Rajesh Tandon and Budd Hall sharing experiences and memories at the '50 Years of Participatory Research' event hosted by CFGS. PHOTO: LIA LANCASTER

has supported ten global case studies—located in Western Canada, the Arctic, Bolivia, Colombia, Brazil, Tunisia, Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire, India, and Malaysia—that examine how arts-based, land-based, and dialogic methodologies can strengthen community resilience and enhance collective responses to the climate crisis. Across these diverse regions, the project has facilitated the dissemination of Indigenous and place-based knowledges by using tools such as StoryMaps and webinars. With the first six case studies nearing completion, the project team initiated an initial synthesis to identify connections across the studies, and key insights are currently being summarized and disseminated through three forthcoming research papers.

Another key activity in 2024/2025 was the development and delivery of the Knowledge Democracy in Higher Education Series, in collaboration with the Division of Continuing Studies. The program comprised five modules addressing core themes: global policy frameworks, integration of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), power and knowledge dynamics, community-university partnerships, and community-based participatory research. The courses were delivered in a blended format, combining asynchronous and synchronous learning, and featured guest contributions from subject-matter experts during live Zoom sessions. The series expanded outreach and engagement

with diverse academic and community audiences, contributing to the Chair's mandate of advancing inclusive and socially responsive higher education.

Finally, the Chair has continued to strengthen its commitment to public engagement. In early May, co-chair Rajesh Tandon delivered the keynote address at the Professional Science Communications Global Conference in Aberdeen, Scotland, whose theme "Using Science Communication to Effect Positive Change" reflected key concerns in contemporary knowledge mobilization. Alongside Dr. Tandon, Budd Hall and Carmen Koessler also presented the DECODE project's work at the same conference. Later that month, on May 19th, Budd Hall led a seminar at the Institute of Development Studies in England marking 50 years of Participatory Research, offering reflections on the movement's origins and its global evolution over five decades. In June, Hall also shared DECODE findings with representatives from the Futures of Education and Innovation, Open Science, Higher Education, and Indigenous Knowledges teams at UNESCO headquarters, further contributing to global dialogues on research, equity, and knowledge systems.

### ***UNESCO Co-Chair in CBR and Social Responsibility in Higher Ed. Highlighted Events***

#### **LAUNCH OF AFRICAN K4C CENTRE**

On June 10, 2024, the African Knowledge for Change (K4C) Centre was formally launched at Gulu University in Uganda. The event was led by the Vice-Chancellor of Gulu University, with the presence of UNESCO Co-Chairs Rajesh Tandon and Budd Hall.

#### **LAUNCH OF LATIN AMERICAN K4C CENTRE**

In November 2024, the Latin American Knowledge for Change (K4C) Centre was officially launched at the University of the Andes. The event was led by the University's Vice-President for Research, in collaboration with Dr. Irma Flores and UNESCO Co-Chair Budd Hall. The launch took place through a community-focused ceremony, highlighting the Centre's commitment to participatory research, social responsibility, and deep engagement with local knowledge systems across Latin America.



Launch of Asian Knowledge 4 Change (K4C) Centre

#### LAUNCH OF ASIAN K4C CENTRE

In October 2024, the Asian Knowledge for Change (K4C) Centre was formally launched through a Mentor Training Program (MTP) Residency hosted by Mizan Hub at Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia. Conducted from October 5 to 13, the launch featured the inauguration of Mizan Hub's training center and brought together regional mentors in a residency focused on building capacity for participatory research and knowledge co-creation across Asia.

#### LAUNCH OF SALISH SEA HUB

On May 8th, 2025, the Salish Sea Hub officially launched with the event "Connection: The Power of Community-Based Research" at the Kwench Co-working Centre in Victoria, BC. In his talk, UNESCO Co-Chair Dr. Rajesh Tandon underscored the global significance of community-driven research frameworks. The evening featured networking opportunities, mentorship connections, and discussions on integrating Indigenous knowledge systems in research practices.

The CFGS hosts conferences, workshops and speakers all year round to promote critical citizenship in a complex and rapidly changing global environment and facilitate expert discourse on defining events as they unfold. These events bridge the divide between academia and the community, as well as inform policy, decision makers and citizens on important issues. This section includes events that CFGS hosted, sponsored, or co-sponsored during the review period. For project-specific events, please see the Projects section.

## Global Talks

Established in 2013, the CFGS Global Talks Series is a weekly speaker's series and forum through which the greater CFGS community can share their research and reflect on critical questions and emerging issues. These informal talks provide an opportunity to highlight the work of CFGS fellows, their projects, and working groups. Over the past nine years, the Global Talks program has grown and now represents a regular fixture within the greater Uvic community. The Global Talks Signature Series typically occurs on the first Wednesday of every month and is publicized more widely within the community. This series includes presentations given by senior experts or practitioners within the CFGS community as well as invited guests from other universities. The 2024/2025 Signature Series consisted of eight presentations:

- **September 18, 2025:** "Looking back to think forward: Curating knowledge for a gender just future" by Darlene Clover
- **October 2, 2025:** "Gaza: One Year On" by Martin Bunton
- **November 6, 2025:** "Enhancing Community Relations Through Dialogic Actions: A Case Study with Underprivileged Families of Special Education Students in Pakistan" by Shiza Khaqan
- **December 4, 2025:** "Planetary Health through Arts-Based and Indigenous Worldviews: Canada-Mexico Perspectives" by Matty Cervantes, Gerry Ambers, and Rande Cook
- **February 5, 2025:** "Making a Splash! Understanding Research Impact" by POLIS Water Sustainability Project Team
- **March 5, 2025:** "The network of 'Commons Napoli': Arts-based and care practices in 'commoning' experiences" by Federica Liberti
- **April 2, 2025:** "An SCVN Graphic Narrative Webinar: 'Al-Fazia' – The Horror: Surviving Assad's Prisons" by Tobi Dahmen, Akram al-Saud, Uğur Ümit Üngör, Charlotte Schallié and the Survivor Centred Visual Narratives Project
- **April 16, 2025:** "Advancing Indigenous self-determination, community capacity and well-being" by Matt Murphy, Heynahmeek Johnny Mack, and Unxiimtuanaat Emily Salmon and the Balance Co-Lab Project
- **May 7, 2025:** "The Logic of Sodom: greed, scapegoating, and climate change in an age of deception" by Shefa Siegal



Oliver Schmidtke moderating a Global Talk session with speaker and CFGS Fellow Matty Cervantes, alongside special guest and Uvic Elder Gerry Ambers. PHOTO: JODIE WALSH



A Global Talk with CFGS Faculty Fellow Darlene Clover. PHOTO: JODIE WALSH

### Regularly-Scheduled Global Talks

- **September 24, 2025:** “Religion’s Revenge: “Super, Natural BC” and Indigenous Discourses on Religion and Spirituality in the Supreme Court” by Stacie Swain
- **October 9, 2025:** “Knowledge is power: Experiences from the grassroots academy in Brazil” by Jutta Gutberlet
- **October 16, 2025:** “Death in Life (To Say Nothing of the Other)” by Yuliia Vatsyk
- **October 23, 2025:** “The World is Watching – Implications of the 2024 US Election” by Oliver Schmidtke
- **November 20, 2025:** “South-South Cooperation: Education and Health Research in Chad” by Maili Ow González
- **November 27, 2025:** “Examining Research Trends on Challenges for Women in Higher Education Leadership Across Regions” by Azra Fanoos
- **January 22, 2025:** “Beyond ‘job counting’ – Exploring the social dimensions of low-carbon transitions” by Bregje van Veelen
- **January 29, 2025:** “Trump: Implications for Latin America” by Dr. Michelle Bonner, Dr. Laura Macdonald, Dr. Paulo Policzer
- **February 12, 2025:** “Broadening women’s rights through international advocacy: the case of parental alienation and related concepts at the CEDAW Committee” by Tamara Amoroso Gonsalves
- **February 26, 2025:** “Kindly Monetary Masters: How Central Banks Dominate” by Andrew Allison
- **March 19, 2025:** “University Extension as a bridge for hydrosocial communities – exploring the rescaling of water governance in BC” by Rheanne Kroschinsky and Oliver M. Brandes
- **March 26, 2025:** “(Re)imagining Relations with Water” by Serap Asar Brown
- **April 9, 2025:** “Navigating Shared Waters: possible intersections between water knowledges and organizational practices” by Olívia Almeida
- **April 23, 2025:** “Taking a Rights Approach to Transparency and Accountability” by Michael Harvey
- **June 4, 2025:** “Towards a hotel geopolitics of detention: Hidden spaces and landscapes of bordering and carcerality” by Andrew Burrridge

To reach a broad, international community, we continue to host our regular Global Talk series using a mixture of virtual and hybrid platforms. Global Talk recordings are published on the [CFGS Youtube Page](#) and on the events section of the website as they become available.

### Webinars and Webinar Series’

**September 19, 2024:** “100% Tariffs on China’s EVs – Is this Canada’s ‘Just Transition’?” with Sam Gindin and Elizabeth May

CCF hosted this event along with the Canadian Foreign Policy Institute as a co-sponsor. Panelists included former research director of the Canadian Autoworkers, Sam Gindin, federal Green Party leader Elizabeth May, and law student Gobind Dhugee. The event explored the Liberal government’s imposition of a 100% tariff on Chinese electric vehicles, raising questions about trade policy, climate action, and geopolitical alignment.

**Fall 2024:** The *Art and Testimony* webinar series was the second webinar series co-hosted with the Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives project and the UBC-V’s Public Humanities Hub. It engages with art not only as a critical tool for knowledge mobilization but also as an impactful form of participatory action research. It enquires how visual narratives can disrupt the traditional process of the testimony collection, which often favours language over image. A [research toolkit based on this webinar series](#) is now available at the UBC Public Humanities Hub website.

**September 26, 2024:** “Art and Testimony Webinar Series – [The Art of Testimony on the Classroom](#)” with Andrea Webb and Alyssa Wood

Andrew Webb discussed the process and approach to developing educational materials for the award-winning graphic novel *But I Live: Three Stories of Child Survivors of the Holocaust*. She is joined in conversation with Alyssa Wood, to discuss how graphic narratives can be used to teach genocide and the [educational materials that accompany But I Live](#) can be implemented and adapted in the classroom.

**November 28, 2024:** “Art and Testimony Webinar Series – The Art of Comics-Engaged Research” with Raey Costain, Cal Smith, and Dr. Mary Chapman

Raey Costain and Cal Smith, in conversation with Dr. Mary Chapman, presented their research on how visual methods such as comic drawing have a unique capacity to explore and document human stories in the past and present. They challenged traditional terminology applied to art and aesthetics, revealing the expressive force and the lasting value of overlooked practices such as doodling and sketching.

**January 27, 2025:** “Inherently International: Indigenous International Law and Assertions of Self-Determining Authority” with Jeff Ganohalidoh Corn tassel

In this webinar, Co-Director of BIG Lab Jeff Ganohalidoh Corn tassel compared the Buffalo Treaty (2014) and the recent implementation of the Five Tribe Wildlife Management Reciprocity Agreement (2024) in Oklahoma in regards to expression of solidarity and Indigenous international law. Hosted by BIG Lab and supported by CFGS.

**February 24, 2025:** “Shared Sovereignty as a Governance Framework for the Resolution of Maritime Boundary Disputes” with Halina Sapeha

BIG Lab Fellow Dr. Halina Sapeha explored when and why states agree on shared sovereignty arrangements and the effectiveness of this governance framework for resolving maritime boundary disputes. Using the comparable world-wide data accessed through the BIG Dyads Database, Sapeha identified patterns of interest to analyze the potential of a shared sovereignty mechanism for resolving maritime boundary disputes. Co-sponsored by BIG and CFGS.

**March 6, 2025:** “Creating a Blue Dialogue – Sixth Annual Research Roundup” by POLIS Project on Ecological Governance, featuring Rheanne Kroschinsky, Sacha Ruzzante, and Lucas King

POLIS hosted its sixth annual Freshwater Research Roundup, featuring emerging researchers Rheanne Kroschinsky, Sacha Ruzzante, and Lucas King. The speakers discussed governance and decision-making frameworks for source watersheds in B.C.; how climate change and historic droughts are affecting streams and salmon on the west coast; and the intersection of sustainability and natural resources

governance through a lens of relationship and responsibility to Treaty, land, and water. Following their presentations, discussant Dr. Jon O’Riordan offered remarks from his perspective as a veteran researcher and policy advisor.

**March 25, 2025:** “Nanuk Narratives” with DECODE

This DECODE webinar introduced the Nanuk Narratives Storymap, which showcased the research carried out by the case study team and community partners. Sharing insights from the case study titled ‘Nanuk Narratives’, the discussion highlighted how community knowledge keepers and external researchers can collaborate to address the climate crisis through locally rooted, decolonizing, and transformative approaches.

**March 26, 2025:** “Navigating Databases: Landscapes of Injustice Case Files” with the

Past Wrongs, Future Choices (PWFC) and the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) presented an online basic seminar on demonstrating how to navigate the LOI database by exploring a sample case file and guiding participants on how to locate records of family members who were interned during World War II.

**March 27, 2025:** “Connecting Indigenous-led research through climate, water and health issues” with DECODE

This DECODE webinar introduced the Storymap and gave community leaders and researchers the opportunity to share insights from the case study titled ‘*Connecting Indigenous-led research through climate, water and health issues*’. This discussion highlighted how community knowledge keepers and external researchers can collaborate to address the climate crisis through locally rooted, decolonizing, and transformative approaches.

**March 28, 2025:** “Guardians of the Forest (Guardianas del Bosque)” with DECODE

This webinar presented the project “Guardianas del Bosque”, a process of rapprochement for the defense of territory and ancestral knowledge in the Colombian Amazon piedmont, aiming to generate a dialogue between similar experiences.

**April 2, 2025:** “A SCVN Graphic Narrative Webinar: ‘Al-Fazia’ – *The Horror: Surviving Assad’s Prisons*” with Tobi Dahmen, Akram al-Saud, Charlotte Schallié, and Uğur Ümit Üngör

In this SCVN Webinar, graphic artist Tobi Dahmen and Syrian prison survivor Akram al-Saud discussed their collaboration in telling Akram’s story, in conversation with Dr. Üngör and Project Director Dr. Charlotte Schallié. They explored the difficulties of representing imprisonment and torture, and how graphic narratives can help survivors of mass violence find a voice. There was also an in-person audience at CFGS for this webinar.

**April 3, 2025:** “South Asia Webinar on ‘Decolonized, Community-led Co- construction of Knowledge towards Climate Resilience’” by DECODE

This DECODE project webinar brought together community leaders and researchers to share insights from the Indian case study titled ‘Food from Forest – Bridging Tradition, Science, and Sustainability in the Himalayas’. The discussion highlighted how community knowledge keepers and external researchers can collaborate to address the climate crisis through locally rooted, decolonizing, and transformative approaches

**April 10, 2025:** “Wise Women, Acholi Knowledge, Climate Leadership: An African Webinar on Traditional Knowledge & Climate Resilience” by DECODE

This webinar explored how traditional African knowledge, exemplified by the Wise Women Uganda case study, is actively contributing to climate change mitigation and community regeneration. Sharing insights alongside practices from a similar network in Embu, Kenya, the discussion co-generated a deeper understanding of climate solutions rooted in African wisdom.

**April 28, 2025:** *BIG Talk* “Reimagining the Mexican Dream: Migrant Integration and Settlement in Ciudad Juárez” by Irasema Coronado and Hector Antonio Padilla Delgado

This talk was centered around a paper that examined the experiences of 24 migrants from diverse national backgrounds who faced shifting migration policies and enforcement at the U.S.-Mexico border

that rendered the pursuit of the American Dream increasingly inaccessible, joining a growing number of migrants who have turned to Mexico as a place of permanent settlement rather than transit.

**May 21, 2025:** “ DECODE South-East Asia Webinar – Decolonized, Community-led Co-construction of Knowledge towards Climate Resilience” by DECODE

This dynamic session explored the impact of decolonized, community-driven knowledge creation on policy, practice, and climate resilience. Drawing insights from six global case studies, the webinar explored how epistemological diversity shapes real-world change.

## Public Events, Panels and Guest Lectures

**August 20, 2024:** “Global Pax Collective – Art & Culture for Peacebuilding with the Land (and between humans)” with Matty Cervantes

PhD candidate and CFGS Graduate Student Fellow Matty Cervantes presented at a community gathering with Global Pax Collective. Global Pax Collective is an international group of creatives (artists, scientists, activists, educators, creative humans) around the globe with the mission of promoting peace and healthy human development through arts.

**October 26, 2024:** “Community Engagement Session” with Matty Cervantes

CFGS Fellow Matty Cervantes, joined by two co-facilitators Nathali Arostegui and Miream Rabba, held a session to gather and dream together about Climate Justice and Planetary Health. It was an opportunity to inquire and co-create positive ideas and pathways, as well as fostering meaningful cultural exchange between Mexico and Canada. Co-sponsored by [PICS](#) and CFGS.

**October 29, 2024:** “Protest, US Politics and the War in Gaza” with Peter Beinart, Neilesh Bose, and Jordan Stanger-Ross

On the eve of the US elections and after a year of atrocity and war in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank, Peter Beinart, a leading journalist of the Jewish American left, and Neilesh Bose, UVic, discussed the

causes and consequences of protest for US politics, the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement, freedom of speech, and the future of the region. Jordan Stanger-Ross also moderated the session. Co-sponsored by UVic's Humanities, History, Writing, English, and Law departments, as well as the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society and CFGS.

**November 4, 2024: "Global and Transatlantic Security in the Nordics"** with Karin Öhman, Jacob Bay Lindkvist, Per Unheim, Jon-Åge Øyslebø, Sari Uusi-Rauva

Deputy Heads of Missions from Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark were featured in a panel discussing transatlantic security, the war in Ukraine, the Arctic, trade, climate and more. This panel was co-hosted by CFGS and the Canadian International Council (CIC).

**December 2, 2024: "Canada's Freshwater Future: Challenges and Opportunities for the New Canada Water Agency"** with Daniel Wolfish

On December 2nd, 2024, the POLIS Water Sustainability Project and Centre for Global Studies co-hosted a small workshop with Canada Water Agency (CWA) Interim President Daniel Wolfish. He gave a keynote, followed by discussion about the CWA's strategy to improve freshwater management in Canada.

**January 21, 2025: "Eroding Boundaries Between Humans and Animals and Their Legal Implications"** with Dr. Margot Michel

The Animals & Society Research Initiative (ASRI) at UVic presented an online lecture asking what makes the creation of human-animal hybrids so problematic when almost all other forms of animal use are legally permitted, what happens to the law when the boundary between humans and animals begins to crumble, and whether it is wise to continue to build a normative order on boundaries that are in the process of dissolving. Hosted by the ASRI group, and supported by CFGS.



November 4, 2024 "Global and Transatlantic Security in the Nordics" with Karin Öhman, Jacob Bay Lindkvist, Per Unheim, Jon-Åge Øyslebø, Sari Uusi-Rauva, moderated by Oliver Schmidtke PHOTO: JODIE WALSH

**January 22, 2025: "The Future of Canada-China Relations"** with Don Davies

As part of its ongoing commitment to fostering informed dialogue on international affairs, CCF hosted the lecture "The Future of Canada-China Relations" featuring MP Don Davies. Drawing on his extensive parliamentary experience and recent involvement with the Canada-China Parliamentary Association, Davies shared his insights into the challenges and strategic priorities shaping this critical bilateral relationship. This talk was co-sponsored by CFGS.

**January 28 & 29, 2025: "Karuara, People of the River – Second Film Screening"** with Balance Co-Lab

Co-sponsored by Balance Co-Lab, the second film screening of *Karuara, People of the River* takes place in a world that puts a price tag on nature, taking viewers inside the magic and beauty of the Amazon region and reminds us of our sacred connection to water.

**February 5, 2025: "Aisha's Story"** with Elizabeth Vibert

Former CFGS fellow Elizabeth Vibert (History) and colleagues launched the 2025 documentary film *Aisha's Story*. Made by a team of Palestinian and Canadian researchers and filmmakers, the film tells the story of grain miller Aisha Azzam's efforts to keep Palestinian food culture alive in a refugee camp. Hosted by UVic Humanities and supported by CFGS.



The UNESCO CBR team, CIFAL team, CFGS team, and friends and colleagues gather for a group photo after Budd and Rajesh's event titled '50 Years of Participatory Research', moderated by Oliver Schmidtke. PHOTO: JODIE WALSH

### February 6, 2025: "Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan" with Dr. Sima Samar

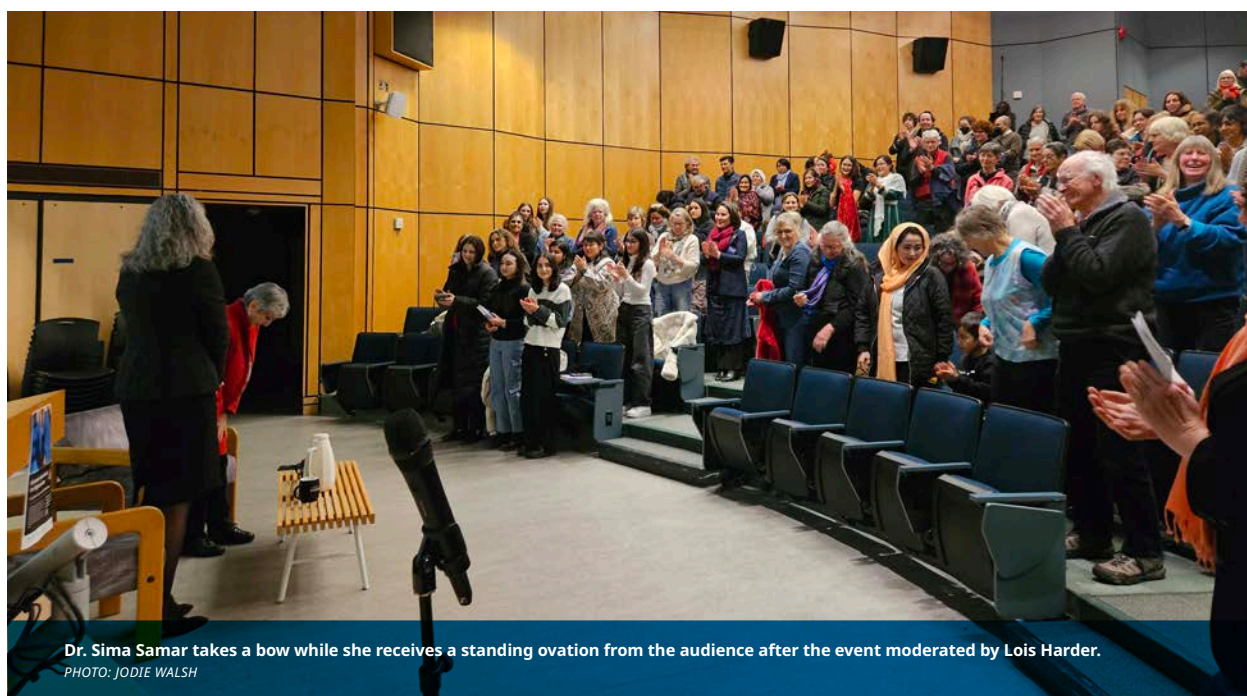
Renowned Nobel Peace Prize nominee Dr. Sima Samar discussed human rights in Afghanistan—particularly the rights of women—under the Taliban. Lois Harder, Dean of Social Sciences at UVic, moderated the talk that brought together a multi-generational audience to hear Dr. Samar's story, and her hopes and guidance for the future. The talk was co-sponsored by the Faculty of Social Sciences, Environmental Studies, Gender Studies, Social Justice Studies, Global Development Studies, Centre for Society and Religion, Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, and the Centre for Global Studies.

### February 7, 2025: "Defining Pro-Russian & Anti-Western Narratives in the Black Sea Region" with Oliver Schmidtke, Tatiana Cojocari, Cristian Emilian Ghiță, Romania Piotr Oleksy, and Valentin Valkanov

Hosted by the EU-Canada Network (EUCanet) Project, this online panel discussion used a policy paper to focus on the European Union's narrative resilience in the Black Sea and strengthening transatlantic cooperation in understanding how anti-Western disinformation functions within the region. Hosted by EUCanet and supported by the CFGS.

### February 7, 2025: "YINTAH – Film Screening" with BIG\_Lab

BIG Lab held a screening of *YINTAH*, meaning "land", a feature-length documentary on the Wet'suwet'en nation's fight for sovereignty. Spanning more than a decade, the film follows Howilthkat Freda Huson and Sleydo' Molly Wickham as their nation reoccupies and protects their ancestral lands from several of the largest fossil fuel companies on earth. Hosted by BIG Lab, supported by the CFGS.



Dr. Sima Samar takes a bow while she receives a standing ovation from the audience after the event moderated by Lois Harder. PHOTO: JODIE WALSH

**February 21, 2025: “Sector 8, Childhoods of Chad – Book Launch” with Maili Ow Gonzales**

CFGS Fellow Maili Ow launched her book, ‘Sector 8, Childhoods of Chad’. It contains 25 short stories with themes of education, family, marriage, birth, death, work, and fraternity written by and about children and young people from Chad. Audio recordings of stories were also shared, and many of Maili’s colleagues from Chad and Chile attended virtually for this celebration of her work, hosted by the CFGS.

**March 12, 2025: “Chinese Canadians and Foreign Interference Concern” with Xiaobei Chen**

The Canada-China Focus (CCF) shared key findings from a recent survey of Chinese Canadians’ experiences with intimidation, threat or harm by a foreign state actor, as well as their views regarding prejudice and stigmatization associated with foreign interference. Co-sponsored by CCF and the CFGS.

**March 12, 2025: “Twice Colonized” with Auju Peter**

BIG Lab hosted a screening of the film *Twice Colonized* along with a keynote featuring writer and co-producer Aaju Peter. A renowned Inuit lawyer, Peter has led a lifelong fight for the rights of her people. The film follows the sudden death of her son, and her journey to reclaim her language and culture after a lifetime of forced assimilation. Hosted by BIG Lab, supported by the CFGS.

**March 20, 2025: “The Spirit Who Swims” by the POLIS Project on Ecological Justice**

POLIS Water Sustainability Project co-hosted a celebration for World Water Day. It began with a Water Sustainability Resource Fair including over 15 initiatives, projects, and NGOs, followed by a screening of *The Spirit Who Swims* (2024) at Cinecenta. Elder Terri Barnhard (səlxwéyn sqwél Elders’ Voices Program, UVic) opened the screening. POLIS’ Laura Brandes then facilitated dialogue with Bev Sellars (film producer/co-director; former Chief Xat’súll Nation), Robert Clifford (Indigenous Legal Studies, Allard School of Law, UBC), Deborah Curran (Environmental Law Centre, UVic), and Garry Tutte



(film co-director/cinematographer). POLIS co-hosted the event with the Environmental Law Centre, Centre for Global Studies, CIFAL Victoria, UVic Sustainability Project, and Watershed Watch Salmon Society.

**March 26, 2025: “Justice for Hassan Diab” with Hassan Diab**

The Middle East Discussion Group and Centre for Global Studies hosted Hassan Diab as a guest to talk about his experience with Canadian extradition law, the resulting separation from his family, and his three year imprisonment in France.

**April 2, 2025: “PWFC Talk Series: Short Film File No.2304” with Alison Kobayashi**

Past Wrongs, Future Choices (PWFC), with filmmaker Alison Kobayashi, and moderator Susanne Tabata, discussed Alison’s new film project in progress. After accessing the custodial file of her great-grandfather in the National Archives of Canada, Kobayashi discovered details about her family history before their internment that were previously unknown. File No. 2304 is a chapter of her interdisciplinary work, *Electric Neon Clock*, which explores the file consisting of court transcripts, inventories and forms that reveal hidden narratives and family history. This talk was hosted by PWFC and supported by the CFGS.

**April 7–14, 2025:** “Scientific, Cultural & Artistic Planetary Health Summit” with Matty Cervantes

CFGs Fellow Matty Cervantes coordinated a Summit which featured a mentorship Indigenous-led curriculum-based opportunity, held in La Paz Baja California Sur. This event enhanced reciprocal relationships, knowledge sharing, and cultural exchange, including participation in ceremonies hosted by Indigenous Elders.

**April 24, 2025:** “Fifty Years of Participatory Research” with Rajesh Tandon, Budd Hall, and Oliver Schmidtke

CIFAL Victoria and the Centre for Global Studies held an in-depth conversation moderated by Oliver Schmidtke, with UNESCO Co-Chairs Rajesh Tandon and Budd Hall, to reflect on the last five decades of Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR), exploring its development, global significance, and its role in addressing contemporary social issues. Budd and Rajesh told stories, provided insights, and shared their hopes for the future of CBPR, along with guidance for those emerging researchers and others hoping to integrate CBPR into their work. This event was hosted by the CFGs.

**May 6–9, 2025:** “From Theory to Practice: Competencies for Community Engagement” with CIFAL Victoria, Crystal Tremblay and Rajesh Tandon

This intensive four-day original course from CIFAL Victoria, in partnership with UVic Continuing Studies, the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Faculty of Human and Social Development (now Health), and the Centre for Global Studies, engaged academics, staff, graduate students, and community leaders seeking to enhance their understanding and practice of community engagement. Through interactive sessions and hands-on learning, learners developed skills in

the foundations of building authentic partnerships, explored innovative participatory research and engagement methods, dove deep into thematic research areas, and developed ethical decision-making skills for community engagement.

**May 26, 2025:** “Bridging African Boundaries” by Anthony I Asiwaju

This BIG Talk followed up on Anthony I Asiwaju’s compendium, ‘Bridging African Boundaries: Cross-Border Areas and Regional Integration in Comparative History and Policy Advocacy’ (Pan-African University Press, 2021). The book brings together three seminal works by the author, representing a lifetime of labor and outstanding achievement in the field of Comparative African History and Borderlands Studies. This presentation followed up on a recent special review report, “Bridging African Boundaries: Four Reviews of Professor Asiwaju’s Compendium” by Isabella Soi, Victor Konrad, Jussi P. Laine, and Paul Nugent (Borders in Globalization Review, Vol. 6, no. 1, Feb. 2025, pp. 206–11).

**June 9, 2025:** “BIG LAB Coffee Talk” by Xwesultun Raven Borse and Morgan Brown

The Indigenous Internationalisms group with special guests Raven Borse and Morgan Brown discussed their work in relationship to the life and waters of Xw’ullemmy (the Salish Sea bioregion), including efforts to protect the salmon amidst climate change and depleting fisheries, the restoration of ancestral plant medicines and seed rematriation, as well as the enduring relationships between salmon and the Lummi and Swinomish peoples. Hosted by BIG Lab, supported by CFGs.

# KEYSTONE EVENTS

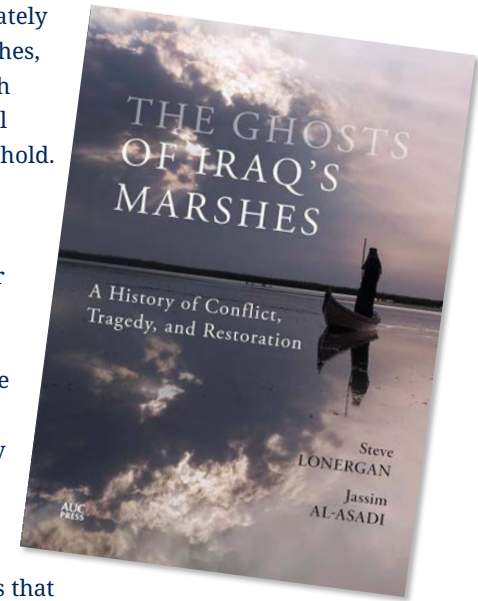
This reporting period brought about a wide range of meaningful events at CFGS. Collectively, the following selection of 'Keystone Events' encapsulates the research, reflection, and action at the heart of the Centre's purpose. These events demonstrate the unique and vibrant community upon which CFGS depends.

## Book Launch: 'The Ghosts of Iraq's Marshes: A History of Conflict, Tragedy, and Restoration'

On September 10th, 2024 CFGS hosted the launching of a new book, "The Ghosts of Iraq's Marshes: A History of Conflict, Tragedy, and Restoration," by CFGS Associate Fellow and retired UVic Geography professor Steve Lonergan. Steve's academic research focuses primarily on water resources and conflict in the Middle East, and he is the author of four books, including "Watershed: The Role of Freshwater in the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict." From 2006-2010, Steve led a project funded by the Canadian government titled the "Canada/Iraq Marshlands Initiative," part of the international effort to support the restoration of the Iraqi Marshes.

The book follows the life of Jassim al-Asadi, an irrigation engineer who was jailed and tortured under Saddam Hussein and who subsequently dedicated his life to the reflooding and restoration of the Marshes. Steve and Jassim became friends and colleagues working together to tell the story of Iraq's Marshes in what became an impactful book, woven with the stories and photos of the people whose lives were and are intricately connected with the Marshes, and supported by the rich geographical and cultural history that the Marshes hold.

Steve's good friend John Talbot served as the facilitator and moderator of the book launch, starting with thoughtful conversation between the two of them, followed by engaging the audience by encouraging everyone to make new connections with their seat-mates, and to pose the questions that were on their minds. The launch was well-attended by many of Steve's friends and colleagues, as well as CFGS community, UVic professors and students, and interested community members.



Steve Lonergan (holding a copy of his book) alongside friends and colleagues after the book launch event. PHOTO: JODIE WALSH



Oliver Schmidtke opens the event with author Steve Lonergan and event host John Talbot. PHOTO: JODIE WALSH

## Can We Talk? Conversation Series

In September, 2024, CFGS and CSRS (Centre for Studies in Religion and Society) partnered to propose a series of three unique workshops, as recent global and local crises had reminded the UVic community of the importance of universities as potential sites for civil discourse and deliberation across social or political divisions. This event series was a place to foster conversations about.... well, conversation itself, with music and art to enrich the space. The workshops were aimed towards UVic faculty, and also included interested UVic staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students.

The *Can We Talk?* conversations began with music by [Sean Kiley](#), art, and a lunch at the University Club. Following lightly curated lunch conversations hosted by a diverse group of facilitators, there was open engagement. The meals and discussions were hosted by CSRS Director Paul Bramadat and CFGS Director Oliver Schmidtke, with the goal of fostering respectful conversations and community building.

This pivot from the small-group experience of hospitality and gathering to the moderated large-

group setting of open inquiry and debate worked well for each separate discussion, hosted between November, 2024, and May, 2025. Music and the arts enriched the space, offering another way of bringing together multiple perspectives.

**November 29, 2024**

### CAN WE TALK... ABOUT THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITY IN A POLARIZED SOCIETY?

In this workshop, participants examined the university's role during global conflicts and political extremism. How can the university promote innovative, respectful discussions about fundamental challenges? What is the appropriate balance between the freedom of academic debates and the need to address hate-speech and promote feelings of safety? How do researchers balance their scholarly commitments and their political engagement as citizens? How can the university adapt, respond, and contribute to the development of inclusive and resilient democratic societies? The art for this workshop was provided by CFGS Faculty Fellow Darlene Clover, who brought an exhibit titled 'Visibility/Invisibility: Gendered (Re)orderings into the space.



Elder May Sam speaks during the open discussion at the third Can We Talk event on May 6th, 2025.  
PHOTO JODIE WALSH



**March 7, 2025**

### **CAN WE TALK... ABOUT GLOBAL CONFLICTS WITHOUT LOSING OUR FRIENDS?**

In this workshop, participants discussed the ways global conflicts create significant tensions in local settings. This has certainly been present at Uvic in recent memory. Sometimes these dynamics reveal elements of both the local and the global arenas in useful ways. What lessons might be learned about the ways local tensions, personal traumas, and regional interests often inflect the ways global crises are talked about and experienced? What examples are there in Uvic classes or in the broader academic contexts that might illustrate these lessons? The art for this workshop was an exhibit curated by Ciel Dong and the Past Wrongs, Future Choices Project, titled 'Art and Historical Injustice'.

**May 6, 2025**

### **CAN WE TALK... ABOUT THE RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS OF GLOBAL OR LOCAL CRISES?**

In this workshop, participants addressed the ways individuals and society deal with the explicitly religious elements of political and social crises. Religion figures prominently in a great many of the most pressing global and local challenges—from religious nationalism in India and the US, to wars in Ukraine and the Middle East. And yet, there is a strong tendency either to focus exclusively on this influence, or to attribute it to some other force (geopolitics, the control of women's bodies, greed, oil, etc.). What are helpful ways to discuss the religious aspects of these problems? Why is it so difficult to discuss religion in a dispassionate way? The art for this workshop was provided by CSRS artist-in-residence [Jacob Maddison](#), titled 'Doikayt: hereness journal, volume 1-6.'

## Reconciling with Water Symposium: A Collective (Re) imagining and (Re)storying our Relations to Water

CFGS supported and coordinated logistics for 200 participants who attended a Water Symposium on June 18-19 at the First Peoples House. The event was part of a CFGS fellowship project imagined and co-organized by Serap Asar Brown (CFGS Graduate Student Fellow, Faculty of Education), with Kelly Bannister (Co-Director, POLIS Project on Ecological Governance), and Jean-Paul Restoule (Professor and Chair of Indigenous Education). Participants included local Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Holders, youth, faculty, educators, managers, teacher education and policy studies students, members of government and non-governmental organizations, artists, activists and policymakers.

This Symposium positioned relations to Water amid climate crisis as the fundamental issue upon which to convene singers, drummers, dancers, artists, keynote speakers and panelists. These included J'SINTEN Dr. John Elliott, PENÁWEN Elliott, SXEDFELISIYE Renee Sampson, and WSÁNEĆ youth as well as Lorna Wanosts'a7 Williams (Lil'wat Nation) and Jeff Ganohalidoh Corntassel (Cherokee Nation), Hōkūlani Aikau, Nick Stanger, Belinda Daniels, Jean-Paul Restoule, Carl Olsen, Robert Clifford, Deb Curran, Zita Botelho, Tom Gleeson, Oliver Brandes, India Young, Nicole Stanbridge, Deb Gloeckler, and Alexander Taylor-McCallum.

CFGS offers a place of networking for fellows to foster meaningful relations within and beyond its



Elder Lorna Williams gives a keynote speech at the Water Symposium. PHOTO: MAC NGUYEN

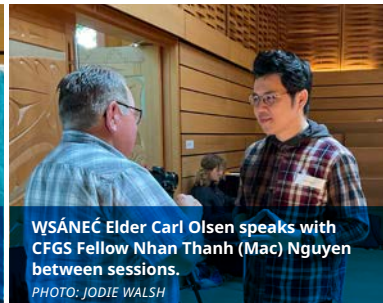
CFGS Fellow Serap Asar Brown and Artist Alexander Taylor-McCallum stand in the centre of a circle of art created by Student-Teachers in the Indigenous Education program. PHOTO: JODIE WALSH



WSÁNEĆ youth dancers begin the event. PHOTO: JODIE WALSH



Kelly Bannister (POLIS Co-Director) at the beautifully curated gifting station for speakers, Elders, and other contributors. PHOTO: MAC NGUYEN



WSÁNEĆ Elder Carl Olsen speaks with CFGS Fellow Nhan Thanh (Mac) Nguyen between sessions. PHOTO: JODIE WALSH

academic walls. The Symposium was an example of relationships, networking, collaboration, and activism at local, provincial and national levels that are all fostered at CFGS. This fellowship project linked the works of POLIS, Balance Co-Lab, Faculty of Education, Indigenous Education Department, and Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions.

WSÁNEĆ Elder Carl Olsen's discussions on responsibilities and treaty rights for salmon in one panel was connected by POLIS partner Deborah Curran (Executive Director, Environmental Law Centre) who co-lead a session for collaboration and action with Robert Clifford (Co-Academic Director, Indigenous Legal Studies, Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia). Another panel included discussions on stories of watershed governance, featuring Oliver Brandes (Project Lead, POLIS Water Sustainability Project) and POLIS partners Zita Botelho (Executive Director, Watersheds BC) and Tom Gleeson (Research Lead, Groundwater Science and Sustainability Research Group). The symposium affirmed that the Centre is a space for not only initiating meaningful projects but also sustaining these relations.

Supporters and funders included Pacific Institute for Climate Solution, Balance Co-Lab, Indigenous Education, Faculty of Education, Centre for Global Studies and the POLIS Project on Ecological Governance.

- **DECODE Project** through UNESCO Co-Chair – Co-construction, Decolonisation & Transformation: Producing Actionable Knowledge for the Challenges of Our Times, **International Development Research Centre (IDRC)** – January 1 2024-June 30, 2026
- **POLIS Project** – In November 2024, the **Sitka Foundation** approved a multi-year grant for the POLIS Water Sustainability Project's work "Towards Watershed Governance: a comprehensive approach for water management, policy and law and watershed security and governance in B.C. This newly approved grant is in addition to existing multi-year funding from the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, MakeWay Foundation, and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for the ongoing work of the POLIS Water Sustainability Project and POLIS Wildfire Resilience Project.
- POLIS also received funding from the International Joint Commission – Elk-Kootenai/y Watershed Study Board \$110,400 November 2024 – September 2026.
- **SCVN Project** – Drs Charlotte Schallié, Andrea Webb, and Mark Celinscak, with Project Manager Jennifer Sauter, were awarded \$129,769 over five years from the **National Holocaust Remembrance Program** to support the development of open-access educational resources, learning activities (in-person and online), and an art exhibition to accompany two non-fiction graphic novels by award-winning artist Miriam Libicki: *A Kind of Resistance* (published in the anthology *But I Live*, New Jewish Press, 2022) and *Two Roses: A Story of Deception and Determination in Nazi Germany* (New Jewish Press, 2025).
- **SCVN Project** – Turtle Island Research Cluster Co-lead Duncan McCue has been awarded a **Canada Council for the Arts (CCA)** grant of \$57,900 to expand the production of the graphic novel *Indians Do Cry: A Hockey Survivance Story* to over one hundred pages. In creative partnership with Mangeshig Pawis-Steckly, McCue is collaborating with survivor George Kenny and his son Mike Auksi on an intergenerational survivor story, exploring the impacts of Indian residential schools, intergenerational trauma, and the healing power of the game of hockey. The project is being funded through the 'Creating, Knowing and Sharing: The Arts and Cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples' program of the CCA.
- **SCVN Project** – Turtle Island Research Cluster Co-Leads Drs. Shannon Leddy and Biz Nijdam have been successful in applying for additional funding for the three-year **Partnership Development Grant** 'Visual Storytelling in the Indigenous North'. It is an Indigenous-led project expanding upon Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives' s methodology by connecting storytellers, artists, and scholars from across the Circumpolar North to share stories of Indigenous survivance through comics, documentary film, podcasts, and digital media. It will also support Natasha Donovan's collaboration with survivor Dorothy Visser as part of their collaboration on SCVN.
- **SCVN Project** – The **Berner Design Foundation** has generously supported the Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives' graphic artist, Jared Muralt, by awarding funding of \$8,000 CHF(\$13,500 CAD) for additional pages of his graphic novel. The Berner Design Foundation is based in Switzerland and supports professional designers from the fields of graphic and product design, ceramics, fashion and textile design as well as scenography, while managing the Canton of Bern's collection of applied arts.



PHOTO: JODIE WALSH

# AWARDS

- Balance Co-Lab collaborator Juan Francisco Chavez Ramirez, Queens University, and Balance Co-Lab Director, Matt Murphy received the **European Group for Organization Studies (EGOS) Best Paper Award 2023** for their paper Institutional subversion through performative acts: The emergence of aboriginal monitoring programs in the Canadian oil pipeline industry.
- On Dec. 29, 2022, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, announced Hall's appointment as Officer of the Order of Canada for his "contributions as a pioneer in the field of community-based research, and for his advancement of knowledge building and research capacity around the world." On October 3rd, 2024, Budd attended the **Order of Canada investiture ceremony** at Rideau Hall in Ottawa.
- Co-director of the Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives project, Dr. Andrea Webb, received an **Honourable Mention** at the 2025 **Open Scholarship Awards** (recognized by the Canadian Social Knowledge Institute) for creating the *But I Live Educators' Resource*.
- In 2024, SCVN's first graphic novel, *Emmie Arbel. Die Farbe der Erinnerung* (2023), received the **Gustav Heinemann Peace Prize**, a prestigious annual German book award for children's and young adult literature that promotes peace, democracy and cross-cultural understanding. The graphic novel was also recognized in the acclaimed **2024 White Ravens Catalogue**, highlighting the book's thoughtful visual storytelling and profound exploration of memory and identity.
- **UVic's 2025 Co-Op International Employer of the Year: UNITAR.** This award recognizes outstanding co-op employers who have gone above and beyond to support co-op student learning. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is CIFAL Victoria's coordinating UN agency; this partnership has enabled three UVic co-op students to work at their headquarters in Geneva over the past three years. Under the mentorship of UN professionals, students have helped develop training workshops and courses on topics including water management, maternal and infant health and breastfeeding education, women empowerment, and more.
- In 2025, CFGS Research Associate and UVic Professor Emeritus Martin Segger was awarded the **King Charles III Coronation Medal**. At the Government House ceremony, he was recognized for services to the arts and heritage conservation and, in particular, his service to Government House as Hon Curator of Collections.
- In 2025, Alan Pence, UNESCO Co-Chair in Early Childhood Education, Care and Development, was honoured with the **King Charles III Coronation Medal**. The award "recognizes outstanding individuals who have made a difference...in Canada." Pence stated it is a particular honor for him to have been included amongst a group of Indigenous awardees noted for their very significant contributions to First Nations communities and their children.
- Abdul Tawab Balakarzai received a **CFGS award** for attending the workshop "From Theory to Practice: Competences for Community Engagement", which was hosted May 6-9, 2025. Tawab also received a Certificate of Completion co-signed by UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research) and CIFAL Victoria.



## Memorial Tribute: Celebrating Thiyaas Dr. Florence James (1947–2025)

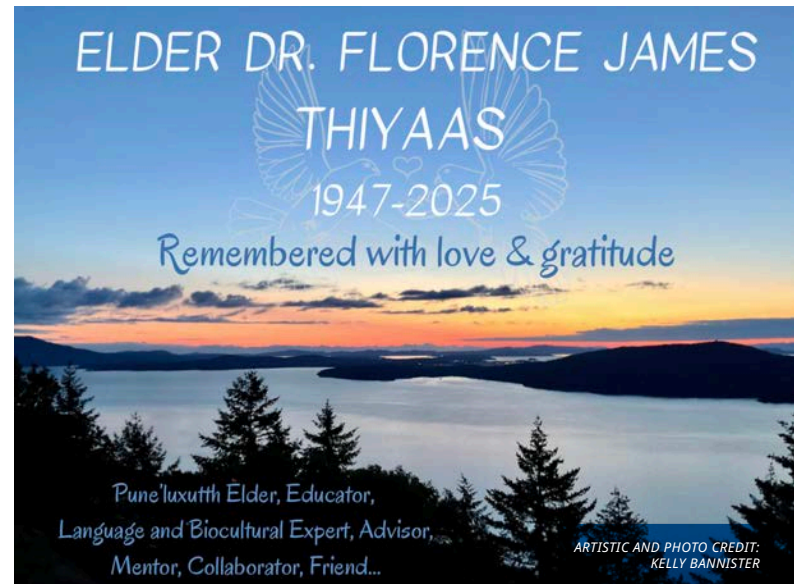
With deep gratitude and great sadness, we celebrate the life of Coast Salish Elder Thiyaas Dr. Florence James (Pune'luxuth Tribe) who passed to the Spirit world on June 15, 2025. She is survived by her son Rocky and her sister Marguerite, and a large and loving extended family.

Florence was a respected Knowledge Holder and Wisdom Keeper who shared with others for the wellbeing of Mother Earth. She was a Hul'q'umi'num language expert and teacher, a devout educator on culture and ecology, a powerful advocate for early childhood education, a holistic healer, and a loving family member, friend and mentor to many.

Florence was also an avid researcher, research participant, advisor, translator, and expert witness in legal cases pertaining to Coast Salish law. As an educator, she drew on both her traditional gifts and teachings from the Ancestors and her university-based education. She had a profound impact as Elder-in-residence and teacher at VIU for many years by sharing her culture, language, and family teachings with grace and generosity, including developing Hul'q'umi'num curriculum for language learning.

Florence's devotion to language learning continued into her last days in support of the graduates of *LING 182: Language Learning, Language Revitalization and Social Action* class of Summer 2025. Her son Rocky shared in his [grief blog](#) that "In her dying days mom was so absolutely determined to keep working and to keep helping people that she showed up to three classes with us. That's how much the language mattered to her. This week, Penelakut Tribe members completed their final class for their certificate. Each get to carry a piece of mom with them."

In 2024, Florence received an Honorary Doctor of Letters from VIU for her commitment to sharing knowledge to keep Coast Salish culture and traditions living and to protect the environment for future generations. POLIS and CFGS were honored to support this nomination through a formal



letter of recommendation detailing Florence's contributions over decades. A small selection of these innumerable contributions is recounted below, as a memorial tribute.

POLIS' long and cherished history of working with Florence goes back to 2002 with a SSHRC-funded research project called "Protection and Repatriation of First Nation Cultural Heritage" that continued through 2006. Florence had been identified as a Knowledge Holder by the Hul'q'umi'num Treaty Group, the community research partner. The project documented Hul'q'umi'num heritage laws related to protection of sacred sites and ancient human remains. The resultant reports and publications, based on cultural teachings shared by Florence and many other Elders, has significantly influenced treatment of archeological heritage in Hul'q'umi'num territories. [[Final research report](#)]

Florence participated as a local ecological and cultural expert in POLIS' [Chemainus Biodiversity Education Project](#) from 2007-2008, which brought together local and academic expertise and experiential learning in 'Nature as an outdoor classroom' for community members of all ages in the Chemainus Valley region. Florence and other community members shared their place-based experiences with the project in a session on *Cultural and Spiritual Dimensions of Ecological Governance*

during UVic's Ideafest event in 2013. These place-based efforts had real impact, helping to save a 50-acre municipal forest in Chemainus from housing development. On Indigenous Peoples Day in June 2022, Florence was asked to officially give a name to what is now Wul'aam Park, meaning "echo" in Hul'q'umi'num.

Florence walked for many years with POLIS Co-Director Dr. Kelly Bannister in facilitating cross-cultural ethical guidance for biodiversity research, education and policy, eventually shaping the Biocultural Ethics initiative at POLIS. Florence was Elder-in-Residence for a number of major events, including the International Society of Ethnobiology's 12th International Congress in Tofino in 2010, the Working Better Together national conference on Indigenous research ethics in Vancouver and Watersheds 2016 in Vancouver, where she shared her traditional teachings and contributed her wisdom to international and national and regional policy discussions.

Florence served as an Advisor and Mentor to POLIS and CFGS until her passing, supporting us with cultural guidance in her gentle, compassionate way. She had an invaluable role in many POLIS and CFGS gatherings and events over the years, both in person and online. She offered territorial acknowledgements, event openings and closings, prayers, songs, and cultural teachings, particularly related to reconciliation, watershed governance, biodiversity and biocultural ethics.

One poignant example during COVID restrictions was an online Listening Circle in 2021, with her son Rocky and Pune'luxutth Elder Ray Tony Charlie, to help us better understand what reconciliation requires.

Florence stood with other Elders as they were celebrated at UVic. She led a blanketing ceremony with Coast Salish Elder May Sam (*Tsartlip*) for Pune'luxutth Elder Raymond Tony Charlie in June 2022, in recognition of the publication of his personal story of residential school in a book entitled *In the Shadow of the Red Brick Building*.

Many within our POLIS and CFGS community have experienced first-hand Florence's generosity in sharing her cultural and ecological expertise for research, education, health, cultural and general awareness. Her formal and informal contributions began well before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action and have been invaluable in the evolution of our professional and personal development. Whenever we asked to learn, Florence answered our call. Above all, Florence was gentle, wise, generous, and kind. She lived her faith and beliefs with great integrity and respect for all Beings. She was most passionate about caring for and educating the youngest ones among us, steadfastly upholding and believing in them for our future.

In her acceptance speech for her honorary doctorate, almost exactly a year before her passing, Florence shared what the recognition meant to her: "I am feeling so honored that you pushed me beyond the clouds. I'm up there soaring in my heart."

Florence's contributions are beyond words; they live in a cherished place in many of our hearts. We remember with gratitude the many gifts that she shared with the world, and we lift up her memory with respect, honour, care and gratitude as she has lifted so many others. Thiyaas Elder Dr. Florence James, soaring beyond the clouds, dearly missed, never forgotten.

*Tribute written by POLIS Co-Director, Kelly Bannister*

PHOTO: JODIE WALSH



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- Wiebe, Sarah Marie. (2024). A Paradox of Public Engagement: The Discursive Politics of Environmental Justice in Canada's Chemical Valley. *Politics & Policy* 52(6): 1246–1265.

## Reports

- Kriese, K., & Barnett, A. (with O. M. Brandes, D. Donaldson, J. O'Riordan, & L. Shepherd). (2025). 'Learning to Live with Fire: Beneficial Fire in B.C. – An Exploration of How Fire Can Contribute to Wildfire Resilience.' Victoria, Canada: POLIS Project on Ecological Governance, Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria.
- Price, John. Submission to the Honourable Marie-Josée Hogue, Commissioner of the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions., July 2024.
- Stanley, Timothy J. The History and Consequences of Sinophobia and Anti-Chinese Racism in Canada: A Submission to the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions., July 2024.
- UNITAR and UVIC. University of Victoria Co-Op Students Advance UN SDGs Through the Co-operative Education Program. September 2024.
- UNITAR. Joint Statement from Higher Education Institutions 2024: Leaders in Higher Education Alliance and Programme – For Accelerating Sustainability Transformations (LEAP-FAST). July 2024.

CFGs Director Oliver Schmidtke appeared multiple times in a broad range of Canadian and International media this year, covering topics like the [rise of far-right parties in Europe](#), the [European Union and the American presidential election](#), [Polish politics](#), the [German election](#), the [Canadian election](#) and [political landscape](#), including current [Canadian sentiments](#) and [response to U.S. tariffs](#).

John Price, CCF, wrote two articles for Rabble, titled: [Rushed Passage of C-70: An Urgent Wake-Up Call](#), and [Racialized communities caught in a maelstrom](#). John Price and Midori Ogasawara critiqued the framing of foreign interference as a justification for growing state surveillance and securitization in the article for rabble.ca “the Hogue Commission: Inquiry or Inquisition?”.

In 2024 Trevor Hancock, CFGS Associate Fellow, continued his weekly column in the Times Colonist, and in 2025 began writing monthly. During the reporting period his column, focused on topics related to public health and the environment, appeared thirty-one times in the Times Colonist. See a full list of his published TC articles [here](#).

BIG\_Lab had a range of media to highlight this reporting period. Jeff Ganohalidoh Cornstassel spoke with Indigenous scholars, activists, artists, and knowledge holders on the ‘[Frontlines are Everywhere](#)’ podcast, producing 10 new episodes. Also in podcast form, the BIG Podcast series continued with BIG Post-doctoral fellow Benjamin Perrier as the lead.

CIFAL Victoria appeared in the UVic News following the [co-creation of disaster and emergency management training for First Nations](#) with Huu-ay-aht and T’Sou-ke First Nations plus First Nations Emergency Services Society. CIFAL Victoria was also highlighted in University Affairs, highlighting their project’s impact at UVic in advancing the SDGs, and in the University World News for their work in [research for the SDGs](#).

The POLIS Project gained media attention for research on [beneficial fire in B.C.](#) with an article in The Narwhal which featured insight from Kevin Kriese. Doug Donaldson, Andrea Barnett, and Oliver M. Brandes wrote about the [economic implications of wildfire](#) in an Op-Ed published in the Vancouver

Sun. In another opinion piece, ‘[B.C. needs to prove water matters](#)’ Laura Brandes and Oliver Brandes highlighted POLIS’ ongoing work on water, and Oliver Brandes appeared in an article by the East Kootenay News Online Weekly on a [watershed study](#).

CFGs Fellow Matilde Cervantes hosted the first two episodes of their podcast, ‘Planetary Health Through Arts and Indigenous Worldviews: Global Perspectives.’ Both episodes, [Resisting violence and vandalism—let’s decolonize planetary health](#), and [Listening to Culture, Land and Community – Transforming Planetary Health](#), are available on most streaming platforms.

The CFGS Fellowship cohort produced diverse publications in various forms, starting off with CFGS Visiting Graduate Student Andrew Allison, who wrote the article ‘[What the looming federal election could mean for the Bank of Canada’s independence](#)’ for The Conversation Canada in January, 2025. CFGS Faculty Fellow Darlene Clover published a zine titled ‘[Looking Forward, To Think Back – The Feminist Imaginary Research Network](#).’ There is also an accompanying YouTube video, ‘[Looking back to think forward: Curating knowledge for a gender just future](#).’

The Vice-President Research and Innovation at UVic produced an article for their bulletin titled “[UNESCO: bringing people together through education, culture and science Impact and resilience in local communities worldwide](#).” The article highlighted the recent work of both UNESCO Chairs hosted at CFGS, the UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education jointly held by Budd Hall and Rajesh Tandon, and the UNESCO Chair in Early Childhood Education, Care and Development held by Alan Pence.

CFGs’ alumni also shared their expertise in the media this past reporting period. Peter Dietsch wrote an article, “[The carbon tax needs fixing, not axing — Canada needs a progressive carbon tax](#)”, for The Conversation Canada, and appeared in [CBC Media](#) on “Hanomansing Tonight”, “Mornings with Simi”, and “The Early Edition”. Another CFGS alumnus, Carolina Carvalho, wrote an article titled ‘[Our FEM.DES São Paulo Lead shares insights from 5 cities](#)’, sharing her research on gendered inequalities in urban areas.

# FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

## People

Since its establishment in 2012, the CFGS Fellowship Program has hosted over 240 fellows, interns, and visiting scholars from 47 countries; each has brought with them a diverse array of disciplines, perspectives, and research specialties. This reporting year alone the CFGS welcomed 12 new faces in the halls who engaged with our programming this year with a variety of disciplines and scholarly backgrounds.

From UVic these included Faculty fellow **Darlene Clover**, Department of Educational Psychology & Leadership, and 4 UVic Graduate Student Fellows, **Olivia Andrade de Almeida**, School of Public Administration, **Serap Asar Brown**, Department of Educational Psychology & Leadership, **Arvind Kumar**, Faculty of Law, **Stacie Swain**, Department of Political Science.

The CFGS team was also grateful to host researchers visiting from other universities including Visiting

Graduate Student, **Andrew Allison**, Department of Philosophy at the University of Calgary, Visiting Research Fellows **Maili Ow González**, Professor of Philosophy and Spanish at the Catholic University of Chile and an associate professor at the Faculty of Education of the Catholic University of Chile; **Azra Fanoos**, formerly Assistant Professor at the University of Lakki Marwat (ULM) in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where her presence was particularly notable as the only female employee at the institution, Luca Giuseppe Queirolo Palmas, Professor in Sociology of Migration and Visual Sociology at Genoa University, and **Bregje van Veelen**, Assistant Professor, Lund University Centre of Sustainability Studies in Sweden Visiting Research.

Internship students this year included two very capable students, **Katharina Brucker**, Master of Arts European Public Administration, University of Applied Sciences Kehl, Germany and **Sophia Rey**, Departments of Government and History, Harvard University, Cambridge MA, USA. Both assisted with communications, events, and supported research initiatives with the Borders in Globalization Summer Institutes and the POLIS Projects.

The CFGS fellowship cohort was grateful to have several researchers continue in the fellowship program this year which helped continue the balance of our interdisciplinary program as well as provide an intellectual basis for our incoming researchers. Please see the full list below.

Global Talks and meetings continued to be available in hybrid formats and offer the CFGS community the opportunity to come together to learn from each other through a variety of disciplines and areas of study. The fellowship program continues to be a vibrant part of the intellectual community of the Centre and gives perspectives from other cultures, geographies, and disciplines.

Applications for the fellowship program are accepted in November of each year with fellowship intake occurring in September of the following year, with some exceptions for visiting scholars and associates.



CFGS Team and Fall 2024 Fellowship Cohort from left to right: Lia Lancaster (CFGS), Matty Cervantes, Oliver Schmidtke (CFGS) Olivia Almeida, Darlene Clover, Stacie Swain, Arvind Kumar, and Jodie Walsh (CFGS). PHOTO: ELENA SENEAL

*“This was one of the most intellectually and socially fulfilling experiences I have had at UVic. I was in world of like-minded scholars studying the most critical issues of our time. The CFGS is open to creative and diverse forms of scholarship so feel free to experiment.”*

– DARLENE CLOVER, FACULTY FELLOW, EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY AND LEADERSHIP STUDIES, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

*CFGS creates, the “conditions for research in an intercultural and international academic community that ‘breathes’ situated and necessary knowledge.”*

– MAILI OW, VISITING RESEARCH FELLOW, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF CHILE

*“I really valued the opportunity to focus on writing up and sharing my research findings with others. The opportunity to share my research was a great way to connect with other researchers at UVic and get feedback on my work.”*

– BREGJE VAN VELEN, VISITING RESEARCH FELLOW, ASSOCIATE SENIOR LECTURER, CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES, LUND UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN

*“My internship at CFGS was not only a chance to contribute meaningfully to exciting projects like the weekly ‘On Tap’, but also an opportunity to grow*

*professionally in an inspiring environment surrounded by supportive colleagues and passionate researchers.”*

– KATHARINA BRUCKER, VISITING GRADUATE STUDENT INTERN, MASTER OF ARTS IN EUROPEAN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AT THE UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES KEHL AND LUDWIGSBURG, GERMANY.

*“My time at the CFGS was memorable and it has a very special place in my heart. My doctoral journey is taking me to very meaningful moments in global communities and the CFGS fellowship has offered me resources, technical supports, knowledge, and professional networks to enhance international collaborations and achieve ethical progress for my PhD work.”*

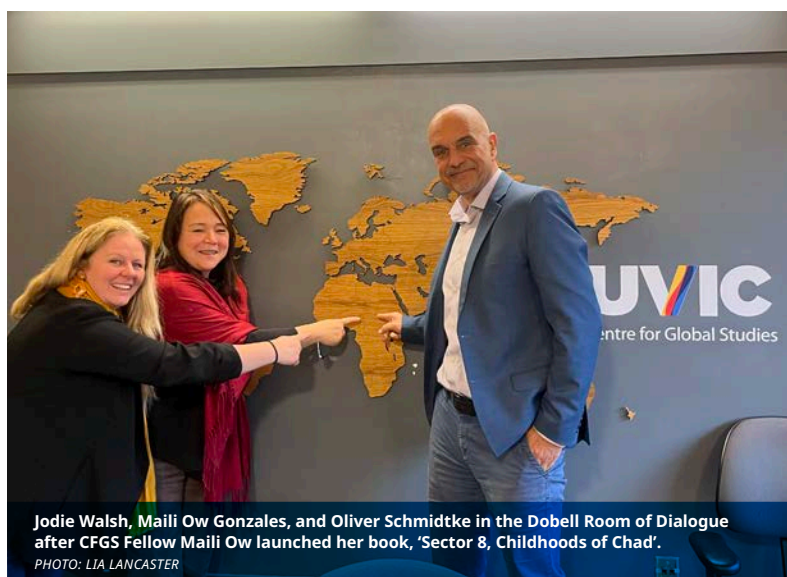
– MATILDE CERVANTES NAVARRETE, CFGS GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOW, INTERDISCIPLINARY PH.D CANDIDATE, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

*“Because of the supportive and welcoming environment I engaged in the CFGS, I experienced a strong sense of community, which helped me connect and perform better. I am very grateful to the Centre for Global Studies for providing me with the fellowship opportunity, which initiated meaningful and continued relations and helped build a better future.”*

– SERAP ASAR BROWN, CFGS GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOW, PH.D. CANDIDATE IN ADULT EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP STUDIES, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA



Lia Lancaster (CFGS), Kallalei Ryden (POLIS), Sandrine Chartray (CFGS Intern), Benno Fladvad (CFGS Fellow) and Jodie Walsh (CFGS).



Jodie Walsh, Maili Ow Gonzales, and Oliver Schmidtke in the Dobell Room of Dialogue after CFGS Fellow Maili Ow launched her book, 'Sector 8, Childhoods of Chad'.

PHOTO: LIA LANCASTER

## FELLOWS



**Abdul Tawab Balakarzai**

**Graduate Student Fellow, WIGG Lab**

Strengthening water governance in arid regions by enhancement of traditional water practises, nature-based solutions, and integration with higher education water-related programs



**Nathaniel Brunt**

**Aspiration 2030 Post-Doctoral Fellow**

Modern armed conflict's representation in photography



**Olívia Almeida**

**Graduate Student Fellow, CFGS**

Development studies, public policy and management, community engagement, participatory mapping, critical cartography, border studies and water governance



**Serap Asar Brown**

**Graduate Student Fellow, CFGS**

Relational water pedagogy, 'commodity' to 'community' in the context of reconciliation and climate change



**Michael Carpenter**

**Post-Doctoral Fellow, BIG**

Participatory governance, civil resistance, Middle East Politics, international relations and political theory



**Carolina Carvalho**

**Visiting Research Fellow, CFGS**

Participatory mapping and participatory GIS applied to urban planning and development



**Matilde Cervantes Navarette**

**Graduate Student Fellow, CFGS**

Planetary Health, global peacebuilding, arts-based research, the arts & health nexus



**Azra Fanoos**

**Visiting Scholar, CFGS**

Gender, leadership and social justice; intersectional barriers to women's advancement in educational institutions



**Kalpana Jha**

**Graduate Student Fellow, BIG**

Borders and bordering processes between Nepal and India



**Arvind Kumar**

**Graduate Student Fellow, CFGS**

Law and Indigeneity, Indigenous Legal/Governance Traditions, Socio-cultural-religious-political history of South Asia, Adivasi and Dalit Movements, Critical Race/Caste/Indigenous Studies, and Legal Pluralism



**Nhan Thanh (Mac) Nguyen**

**Graduate Student Fellow, CFGS**

Institutions, social-symbolic resources, temporality, innovation, and regenerative sustainability



**Benjamin Perrier**

**Post-Doctoral Fellow, BIG**

The legal regime of the border, cross border territorial cooperation law, transnational and global law, environmental realization



**Fazila Mat**

**Graduate Student Fellow, CFGS**

Hybrid regimes and the role of transnational advocacy networks in promoting democracy in Turkey



**Jules Soupault**

**Graduate Student Fellow, BIG**

(Un)mapping cross-border integration as a strategy of pacification: a critical ethnography of the US-Canada and France-United Kingdom borders



**Emma Swan**

**Post-Doctoral Fellow, BIG/CFGS**

Canadian foreign policy, masculinity and resistance activism, gender and peacebuilding.



**Shoukia van Beek**

**Graduate Student Fellow, BIG**

How borders and their associated practices function as a mechanism of settler-colonialism



**Ivan Thompson**

**Community Practitioner Fellow, CFGS and POLIS**

**Wildfire Resilience Project Strategic Advisor**

Supports collaborative efforts to safeguard wild salmon watersheds in B.C and advises a variety of regional conservation initiatives, biodiversity funders, and associated partners



**Bregje van Veelen**

**Visiting Research Fellow, CFGS**

Climate Change and Society, with a focus on how social dynamics shape the outcomes of low-carbon transitions



**Luca Queirolo Palmas**

**Visiting Researcher, CFGS**

Sociology of migration in Europe, migrant solidarity and youth cultures



**Darlene Clover**

**Faculty Fellow, CFGS**

Women's and gender museums and how they visualise and tell stories to address the pressing gender and social injustice issues of our time



**Andrew Allison**

**Visiting Graduate Student, CFGS**

Business ethics, political philosophy, and the philosophy of economics. With particular interest in the ethics of banking, the moral limits of markets, and the ontology of money.



**Stacie Swain**

**Graduate Student Fellow, CFGS**

The critical study of religion into conversation with abolitionist and Indigenous feminist theories to understand religion as a technology of statecraft, critique Canadian settler colonialism, and reorient towards Indigenous relationalities.



**Maili Ow Gonzalez**

**Visiting Research Fellow, CFGS**

Children's and young adult literature, literature didactics. Specializing in education for international cooperation with development projects in Chad, Africa.



**Yuliia Vatsyk**

**Graduate Student Fellow, CFGS**

The Perception of Human mortality in Ukrainian Culture in the Context of the Russian-Ukrainian War

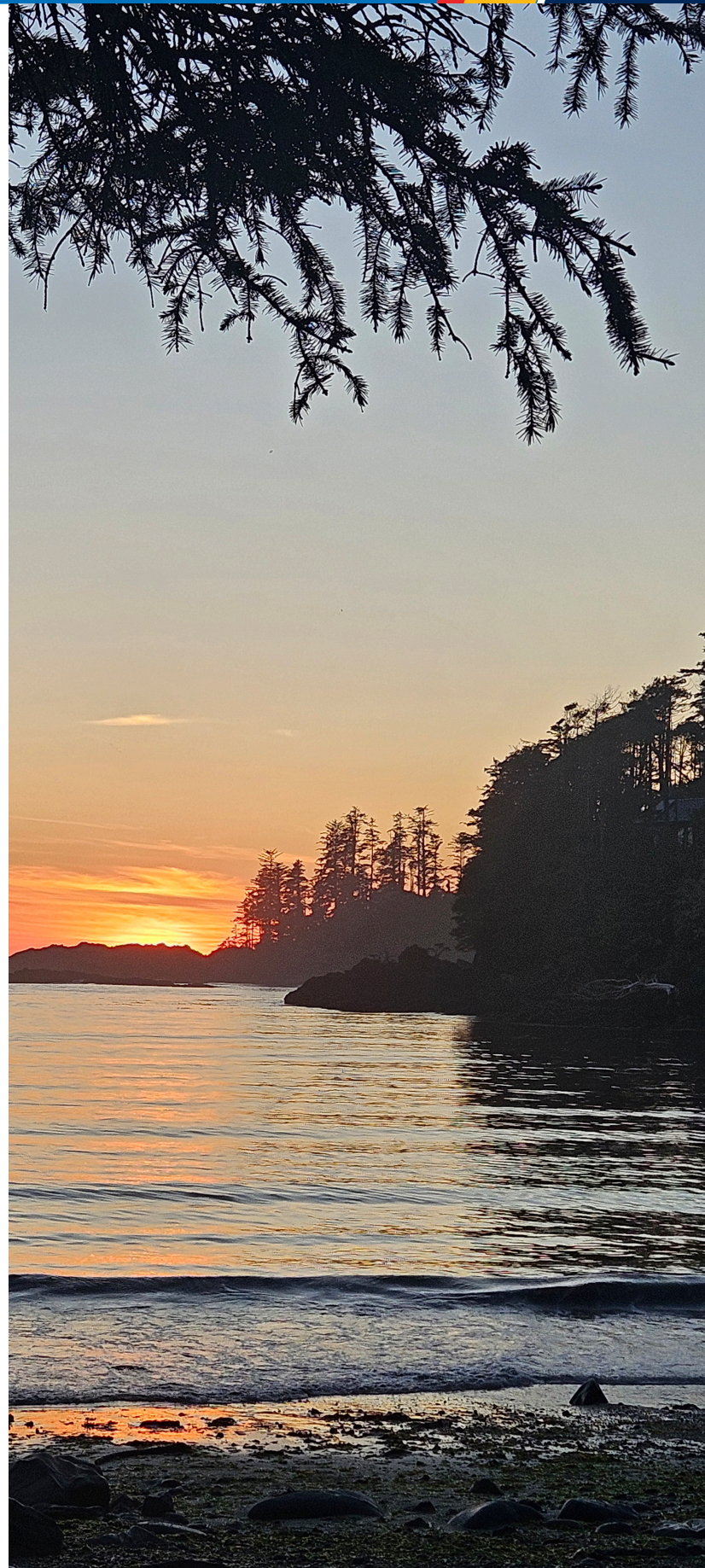


PHOTO: JODIE WALSH

## CFGS

### Katharina Brucker

Intern, CFGS and Eucanet

### Lia Lancaster

Events Coordinator and Administrative Assistant

### Aashna Parikh

Workstudy

### Sophia Rey

Intern

### Oliver Schmidtke

Director

### Elena Senecal

Communications Assistant

### Jennifer Swift

Finance and Special Projects Manager

### Jodie Walsh

Operations Director/Research Coordinator

## BORDERS IN GLOBALIZATION (BIG)

### Braelynn Abercrombie

Indigenous Coordinator, Borders in Globalization

### Andrew Ambers

BIG Research Assistant

### Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly

Director, Borders in Globalization

### Michael Carpenter

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Editor of BIG\_Review, Borders in Globalization

### Maria Finnsdottir

Database Coordinator, Senior Research Assistant, Borders in Globalization

### Jeff Ganohalidoh Corntassel

Co-Principal Investigator, Borders in Globalization

### Caitlin Janzen

Program Manager, Borders in Globalization

### Luca Nemet

Communications Assistant, Borders in Globalization

### Benjamin Perrier

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Host of BIG\_Podcast, Borders in Globalization

## EUROPE-CANADA NETWORK (EUCANET)

### Fazila Mat

Communications and Media Officer, EUCANet

### Beate Schmidtke

Co-Lead and Project Manager, EUCANet

### Oliver Schmidtke

Co-Lead

## POLIS PROJECT ON ECOLOGICAL GOVERNANCE

### Shayla Auld

Coordinator & Graphic Design, POLIS Wildfire

### Kelly Bannister

Co-Director, POLIS Project

### Andrea Barnett

Project Facilitator & Analyst, POLIS Wildfire

### Laura Brandes

Communications Director, POLIS Project

### Oliver Brandes

Co-Director, POLIS Project

### Hailey Chutter

Work Study Student, POLIS Water

### Doug Donaldson

Senior Wildfire Policy Analyst, POLIS Wildfire

### Kamilla Hindmarch

Work Study Student, POLIS Water

### Kevin Kriese

Senior Wildfire & Land Use Analyst, POLIS Wildfire

### Rheanne Kroschinsky

Visiting Governance Graduate Student Fellow, POLIS Water

### Deana Machin

Strategic Advisor, POLIS Water

### Amanda Merritt

Research Assistant, POLIS Water

### Jon O'Riordan

Strategic Advisor, POLIS Water

### Kallalei Ryden

Research Assistant, POLIS Wildfire

### Rosie Simms

Director of Place-Based Projects, POLIS Water

## CIFAL VICTORIA

### Nicole Bates-Eamer

Associate Director, CIFAL

### Crystal Tremblay

Director, CIFAL

### Bethany Woodbridge

Program Officer, BIOSCAN Canada Research Associate, CIFAL

### Max Wu

Workstudy Student, CIFAL

## BALANCE CO-LAB

### Justine Keefer

Research Assistant, Balance Co-Lab

### Matt Murphy

Program Director, Balance Co-Lab

### Catherine Schafers

Program Manager, Balance Co-Lab

### Tricia Thomas

Research Assistant, Balance Co-Lab

### Sydney Wanchulak

Research Assistant, Balance Co-Lab

## SURVIVOR-CENTRED VISUAL NARRATIVES (SCVN)

### Jennifer Sauter

Project Manager, Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives

### Charlotte Schallié

Project Lead, Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives

## UNESCO CHAIRS, COMMUNITY BASED RESEARCH AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION (CBR) & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

### Olivia Almeida

DECODE Coordinator, UNESCO CBR

### Maeva Gauthier

Program Manager, UNESCO CBR

### Budd Hall

Co-Chair, UNESCO CBR

### Barbara Jenni

Research Assistant, UNESCO CBR

### Jessica Lansfield

UNESCO CBR

### Walter Lepore

Project Director, UNESCO CBR

### Patrick Makokoro

Research Assistant, UNESCO ECD

### Alan Pence

Co-Chair, UNESCO ECD

### Rowan Salverda

DECODE Coordinator, UNESCO CBR

### Rajesh Tandon

Co-Chair, UNESCO CBR

## CANADA CHINA FOCUS (CCF)

### Rachelle Hu

Administrator, CCF

### Jessica MacVicar

Administrator, CCF

### Bianca Mugenyi

Communications, CCF

### John Price

Co-Founder, CCF



Lia Lancaster (CFG5) attended the 2024 'Working Together on Water – UNDRIP Approach' Waterlution Canada workshop in Whistler, BC. PHOTO: WATERLUTION

# ASSOCIATE FELLOWS

## PAST WRONGS, FUTURE CHOICES (PWFC)

### Jordan Stanger-Ross

Project Co-Director, Past Wrongs, Future Choices

### Audrey Kobayashi

Project Co-Director, Past Wrongs, Future Choices

### Michael Abe

Project Manager, Past Wrongs, Future Choices

## WATER INNOVATION AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE (WIGG) LAB

### Abdul Tawab Balakarzai

Doctoral Fellow, WIGG

### Michele-Lee Moore

Co-Founder & Faculty Lead, WIGG

### Colin Bennett

Political science, surveillance technologies and privacy protection governance

### Geoffrey Bird

Culture & heritage tourism, war heritage research initiative

### Andrew Buck

History of dispossession, interdisciplinary studies

### Gregory Blue

Western interpretations of Chinese history, Western intellectual and cultural history, the history of China and Southeast Asia since 1400.

### Doug Donaldson

POLIS Wildfire, BC MLA for Stikine, Natural Resource Operations

### Budd Hall

Co-chair of the UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education

### Trevor Hancock

Public health, health promotion, human health and the natural environment, sustainable community approaches through a 'One Planet' region.

### Helga Hallgrímsdóttir

BIG Senior Researcher, historical comparative sociology

### Thomas Heyd

Environmental philosophy, history of philosophy, aesthetics of prehistoric art.

### Hanny Hilmy

Contested interaction between the rights of national sovereignty and the requirements of international interventions.

### Patrick Makokoro

Community development, social justice, early childhood education, child protection, advocacy & government regulations.

### Vic Neufeld

Special advisor to the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research Capacity development for health system reform; health research in low and middle class incomes.

### Jon O'Riordan

Provincial water policy and the ecological governance of water management.

### Edward A. (Ted) Parson

International environment law and policy

### Alan Pence

Early childhood education, community based aboriginal child and youth care education, capacity building in the majority (developing) world.

### Tamara Plush

International development, adolescent and youth participation, child rights, gender equality, disaster risk reduction, climate justice, responsive listening and voice.

### Martin Segger

19th century colonial architecture in India, impact of international cultural conservation protocols on museum management practices in the developing world.

## INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT LAW AND POLICY

### Dan and Rae Emmett

Professor of Environmental Law

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

### Fraser Hof

Oliver Schmidtke

Kelly Bannister

Paul Bramadat

Oliver Brandes

Martin Bunton

Neilsesh Bose

Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly

Jutta Gutberlet

Victor Ramraj

Alan Pence

Astrid V. Pérez Piñán

# CONNECT WITH US

Whether you are part of the UVic community, a CFGS alumnus, or an interested community member, we want to hear from you. Feel free to contact our office, follow us on social media, or visit our website.

## Centre for Global Studies

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FACEBOOK: @Centre for Global Studies  
YOUTUBE: Centre4GlobalStudies  
LINKEDIN: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/centre-for-global-studies/>

## Balance Co-Lab

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## Borders in Globalization

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X: @big\_uvic  
BLUESKY: @big-lab.bsky.social  
IG/FB: @bordersinglobalization  
LINKEDIN: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/biguvic/>  
YOUTUBE: <https://www.youtube.com/@bordersinglobalizationuvic>  
EMAIL: [bigmanager@uvic.ca](mailto:bigmanager@uvic.ca)  
TEL: 250-721-6490

## Canada China Focus

WEBSITE: <https://www.canadachinafocus.ca/>  
SOCIAL MEDIA: <https://x.com/CanadaChinaCCF>  
YOUTUBE: <https://www.youtube.com/@CanadaChinaFocus>  
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EMAIL: [georgiajinkelly@uvic.ca](mailto:georgiajinkelly@uvic.ca)

## CIFAL

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CIFAL ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: Nicole Bates-Eamer ([nbeamer@uvic.ca](mailto:nbeamer@uvic.ca))  
CIFAL PROGRAM OFFICER: Bethany Woodbridge ([bethanywoodbridge@uvic.ca](mailto:bethanywoodbridge@uvic.ca))  
CIFAL VICTORIA CERTIFIED TRAINING CATALOGUE AT UVIC CONTINUING STUDIES: <https://continuingstudies.uvic.ca/study-options/programs/un-accredited-sustainable-development-training>  
LINKEDIN: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cifal-victoria>  
INSTAGRAM: <https://www.instagram.com/cifalvictoria/>  
X: <https://twitter.com/CifalV>  
FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083791104834>

## Canada – EU Dialogue (EUCAnet)

EUCANET CO-LEAD & PROJECT MANAGER: Beate Schmidtke  
WEBSITE: [www.eucanet.org](http://www.eucanet.org)  
X: @CdnEurDialogue  
FACEBOOK: @CanadaEuropeDialogue

## Cedar Trees Institute (CTI)

PROJECT LIAISONS: Keith Cherry  
WEBSITE: [www.cedartreesinstitute.org](http://www.cedartreesinstitute.org)

## European Studies

WEBSITE: <https://www.uvic.ca/humanities/intd/europe/>  
EMAIL: [eusprog@uvic.ca](mailto:eusprog@uvic.ca)  
TEL: (250) 721-7063

## Past Wrongs, Future Choices

WEBSITE: [www.pastwrongsfuturechoices.com](http://www.pastwrongsfuturechoices.com)  
EMAIL: [info@pastwrongsfuturechoices.com](mailto:info@pastwrongsfuturechoices.com)

### **POLIS Project on Ecological Governance**

WEBSITES: [www.polisproject.org](http://www.polisproject.org) | [www.poliswaterproject.org](http://www.poliswaterproject.org) | [www.poliswildfireproject.org](http://www.poliswildfireproject.org)  
EMAIL: [communications@polisproject.org](mailto:communications@polisproject.org)  
FACEBOOK: [@POLISWater](https://www.facebook.com/POLISWater)  
VIMEO: [vimeo.com/poliswater](https://vimeo.com/poliswater)  
Instagram: [instagram.com/polisproject](https://www.instagram.com/polisproject)  
LINKEDIN: [linkedin.com/company/polis-project-on-ecological-governance](https://www.linkedin.com/company/polis-project-on-ecological-governance)

### **Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives**

Project Manager: Jennifer Sauter  
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LINKEDIN: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/survivor-centred-visual-narratives/>  
INSTAGRAM: <https://www.instagram.com/survivorvisualnarratives/>  
YOUTUBE: <https://www.youtube.com/@survivorvisualnarratives>  
FACEBOOK: Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives

### **UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education**

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EMAILS: [bhall@uvic.ca](mailto:bhall@uvic.ca), [rajesh.tandon@pria.org](mailto:rajesh.tandon@pria.org), [decodeknowledge@uvic.ca](mailto:decodeknowledge@uvic.ca)  
LINKEDIN: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/89860211/admin/dashboard/>  
INSTAGRAM: <https://www.instagram.com/unescochaircbrsr/>  
FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/UNESCOchairCBR/>  
YOUTUBE: <https://www.youtube.com/@unescochaircbrsr4930/videos>

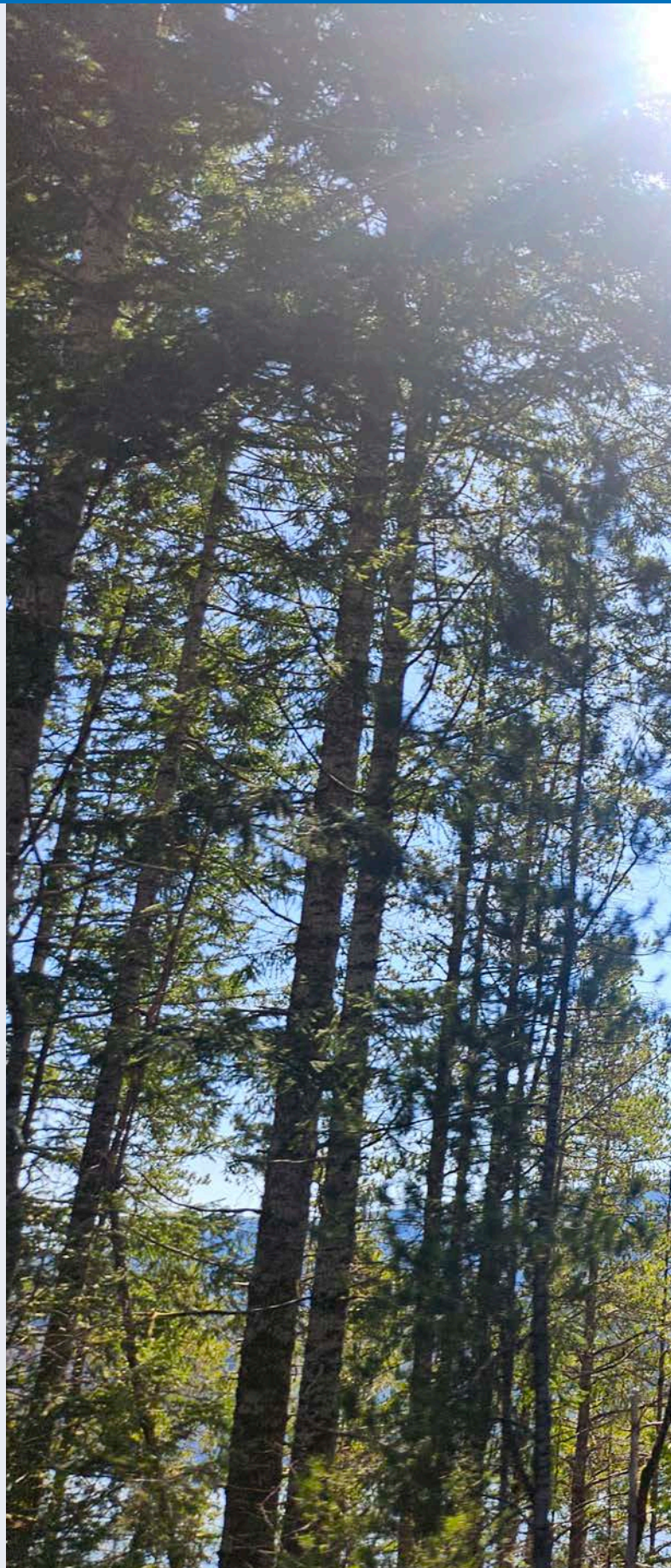
### **UNESCO Chair in Early Childhood Education, Care, and Development**

WEBSITE: <https://ecdinafrica.org/>  
EMAIL: [apence@uvic.ca](mailto:apence@uvic.ca)

### **WIGGLab**

WEBSITE: <https://www.wigglab.com/>  
CO-FOUNDER: Michele-Lee Moore  
X: @WIGGLab

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