



University
of Victoria

Faculty of Social Sciences

Research Newsletter - Spring 2023



Bull kelp floating along BC's central coast.

Mapping the kelp forest

What's new in social sciences research?

Our faculty and students examine some of the world's most complex issues, both in the classroom and in the community, we want to share our discoveries with you in our research newsletter. Each quarter we will bring you stories about what's new in social sciences research. In this issue, we share developments in climate research, sustainability, equity, clean energy and ocean health.

Lois Harder
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences

Research Spotlight



Gerald Singh, assistant professor in UVic's School of Environmental Studies.

No one left behind: equity

Student research stories



Connecting land, water and community

For UVic geography grad student Kate Herchak, a six-week research experience in Tanzania was a journey about identity—as well as education. “It was dusty and hot riding in the jeeps but the land was so vast and beautiful,” says Herchak. “The

openness of it all reminded me of Nunavut." [Kate Herchak](#)



Addressing climate anxiety

Students at UVic shared solidarity and human connection last fall through *Living With Climate Change*, a series of campus events and learning opportunities: roundtables, reflective workshops, storytelling, community mapping and a field trip.

[Climate anxiety](#)



Political science student brings hope to Pakistan village

"Assalamu Alaikum," a customary greeting in the Northern part of Pakistan, lets villagers or neighbors of the home you are visiting know of your presence in the community. These are the words that began the journey for Marwan Khan, a 4th-year political science student at UVic.

[Pakistan village](#)

Faculty research stories



Christina Hoicka is a Canada Research Chair in Urban Planning for Climate Change, and associate professor, geography and civil engineering.

Clean energy future



Indigenous youth shape new graphic novel

A visual storytelling project unites the voices of urban Indigenous youth in care, Knowledge Keepers, and Indigenous and non-Indigenous allies in *Becoming Wolf*, a graphic novel about coming of age.

The project was led by urban Indigenous youth in care and employees of Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services along with UVic researchers Andrea Mellor and health geographer Denise Cloutier. [Graphic novel](#)



Small temp rise can cause large scale migration

Economics assistant professor, Felix Pretis, a study author from the University of Victoria, says, "crucially, we find little effect of incoming displaced people on conflict itself...this finding is novel, and dispels the common myth that displacement might further fuel conflicts." [Migration](#)

Course spotlight:

New BSc Climate Science degree for a changing world. Unique in North America, the program links Faculties of Science with Social Sciences at UVic. Its mission: to prepare students to face the future with influence and skills that turn climate science into real action.

[Climate science](#)

Donor spotlight:

The Chief Mungo Martin Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health is funded by a \$1.5-million gift, [announced](#) in December, from [UVic political science alumnus Bruce McKean](#), who has said he hopes the research chair will create knowledge and leadership consistent with Indigenous values —reinforcing and advancing those values for the benefit of all Canadians.

[Research chair](#)

\$83.6M advances UVic-led vision for clean energy shift

The funding for [Accelerating Community Energy Transformation \(ACET\)](#) will support the work of more than 40 partners from academia, First Nations, private, public and philanthropic organizations. Social Sciences researchers will be contributing their expertise as the projects develop. Learn more about the initiative through this [FAQ](#)

Moving Trans History Forward conference

Moving Trans History Forward 2023 conference ran from March 30 to April 2 at

Out with the tech, in with the new.

A large donation to upgrade equipment at the [UVic Psychology Clinic](#) is helping UVic address months-long

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Led by the Tsawout First Nation and in collaboration with [ləkʷəŋən](#) and [W̱SÁNEĆ](#)

the University of Victoria, hosted by Aaron Devor, UVic's Chair in Transgender Studies.
[Conference story](#)

wait lists and high fees while training the next generation of psychologists.
[Psychology Clinic](#)

First Nations, the University of Victoria's 2023 archaeology summer field school will dig into the past of an ancient village site near campus and the cultural landscapes that surround it.
[Archaeology field school](#)

We acknowledge and respect the lək'wəjən peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

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