POLITICAL SCIENCE WEEKLY DIGEST
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2020

POLITICAL SCIENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO LENA PRICE!
Lena, a POLI Major, has won the 2019-20 Co-op Student of the Year for the Optional and Professional Programs! Lena’s nomination stood out as she is an excellent student and has completed two outstanding work terms with the BC Public Service Agency. The Optional and Professional programs includes eight faculties. More info to follow shortly.

POLI SPEAKERS SERIES 2019-20
ANDREW ADAMS, Centre for Business Information Ethics, Meiji University, Tokyo
“Superheroes on Screen: Real Life Lessons for Security Debates”
Tuesday, February 11, 2:30-4 pm, HHB 110
Superhero movies and TV have become one of the major success stories of entertainment in the 21st century. As an element of the SF/fantasy genre of fiction, comics, TV shows, movies and books featuring people with superpowers have mostly been dismissed as escapist, unrealistic fiction. The impact of fictional presentations on real world understanding of life and society has focussed more usually on gritty real world drama and “literary fiction”. However, the prevalence of superhero tales and their widespread consumption by ever-larger percentages of the population of many countries (the US and Europe particularly) requires us to re-evaluate their relevance as modern myths that not only allow viewers to dream of being super men and women, but inform their thinking about societal threats ranging from organised crime to autonomous weapons, and surveillance technology to terrorist or rogue states with nuclear or biological weapons. In this talk the humanities method of “close reading” is applied to three recent superhero tales: Marvel’s Daredevil (season 2; from Netflix and Marvel); Batman V Superman (from DC); Captain America: Civil War (from Marvel). Using clips from these movies, societal issues of security policy are presented and explored and it is argued that they are highly influential in how people consider security policy decisions. Whether it is voters deciding whose approach to trust on law enforcement or on whether the death penalty should be allowed, police or other law enforcement officials implementing policies, or individuals deciding to involve themselves in stopping a man with a knife attacking people on a London street, the modern myths of the superhero, exemplified in these films, influence their decisions.

UVic ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAPI: INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD
Sujan R. Chinoy, Director General of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses
Tuesday, January 21, 12-1 pm, SED C168
In recent years, India has pursued a ‘Neighbourhood First’ policy which seeks to prioritise economic growth, development and connectivity in the region for common benefit. ‘Commerce, Connectivity and Culture’ have been the 3C’s driving this policy. A secure, stable and peaceful neighbourhood remains
central to India’s security outlook. China’s growing economic and strategic engagement in South Asia has progressively emerged as a key strategic challenge for India. India has attached priority to building an open and inclusive architecture in the Indo-Pacific region.

**CAPI STUDENT INTERSHIP INFO SESSION**
*Wednesday, January 22, 12:30, SED C168*
CAPI is offering eight funded internships (approx. 6 month each) for UVic students to work with NGO partners in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Japan.

**CITY TALKS: CHANGING MEMORYSCAPES IN THE CITY**
*Emma Renaerts, School of Journalism, UBC*
**Thursday, January 23, 7:30 pm, Legacy Art Gallery 630 Yates St.**
At 5 a.m. on August 11, 2018, city workers prepared to remove a statue of Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada’s first prime minister. As the sun began to break through the clouds, workers fastened ropes around Macdonald’s bronze neck and, as if he was being hung in public, lifted the figure off its base. A couple dozen supporters and protesters faced off nearby. As the statue rose into the air, then was placed on a flatbed truck, the protesters, arms linked in a line, began to sing the Canadian national anthem. “….True patriot love, in all our sons command. O Canada, we stand on guard for thee…” Activists responded with their own chant. “Na na na na, na na na na, hey hey hey, goodbye,” they cheered. Around 7:30 a.m., the truck pulled away with its load, disappearing around the corner and out of sight on the way to city storage where the statue remains today. The Macdonald statue is just one of countless statues of controversial figures to have been removed in recent history. But the removal, and what is happening now within the City of Victoria, shows that there is more than one way to remove a statue. It also begs the question: are there right and wrong ways to remove a monument? Emma’s talk will explore these questions and more, looking at why monuments matter, the meanings they have, and the controversies that spring up around them – looking at the removal of Macdonald’s statue as well as other examples from her research and journalistic coverage of memorialization. More info at [http://citytalks.geog.uvic.ca/section/current-lectures](http://citytalks.geog.uvic.ca/section/current-lectures).

**ANIMALS & SOCIETY RESEARCH INITIATIVE LECTURE SERIES**
**RADHIKA GOVINDRAJAN, U OF WASHINGTON**
“Animal Intimacies: Interspecies Relatedness in India’s Central Himalayas”
**Thursday, January 23, 11:45 am - 1 pm, DSB C126**
*Animal Intimacies* tells stories of how moments of everyday entanglement between the individual human and nonhuman animals whose lives crisscross one another’s in the mountain villages of India’s Central Himalayan region produce an intense and intimate sense of “relatedness” between them. Radhika Govindraj is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Washington. Her book, *Animal Intimacies: Interspecies Relatedness in India’s Central Himalayas*, was published by the University of Chicago Press in 2018 and Penguin India in 2019. It won the 2019 Gregory Bateson Award by the American Anthropological Association and the 2017 Edward Cameron Dimock Prize in the Indian Humanities by the American Institute of Indian Studies. A light vegan lunch will be provided.

**PICS: FROM GRIEF TO HOPE: A CLIMATE STORYTELLING WORKSHOP**
**Thursday, January 23, 4-6 pm, SUB Upper Lounge**
Join the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) and guests from the UBC Climate Hub for a workshop on empowering positive and solution-oriented conversations on climate change. We will discuss the climate crisis, personal experiences of it and of climate grief, and how to use storytelling to inspire hope. We will also learn about youth who have used their own ‘climate stories’ to enact positive change. Participants will create their own stories that can be used to advocate for climate action and
discuss ways to get involved with climate solutions at UVic and more broadly. Because of its hands-on nature, this workshop is limited to 25 participants. The workshop is free but pre-registration is required. If you would like to attend, please RSVP on our Facebook event: https://www.facebook.com/events/2585943191521546/ If you don’t use Facebook you can RSVP directly on our Eventbrite page: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/from-grief-to-hope-a-climate-storytelling-workshop-registration-89053478351

HISTORY LANSDOWNE LECTURE: AARON BOBROW-STRAIN  
“The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez: Writing at the Boundaries of Journalism, Ethnography, and History”  
Thursday, January 23, 7:30 pm, DTB A102  
Dr. Aaron Bobrow-Strain, Politics Department, Whitman College, Washington State, is an internationally recognized expert on the history, geography, and politics of the U.S.-Mexico border. His most recent book, *The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez: A Border Story* (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2019) examines the history of militarization on the border through the dramatic life story of an ordinary young woman trapped between worlds.

THE DEFYING HATRED PROJECT PRESENTS VICTOR REINSTEIN  
“Tell Them Not to Hate” — Words of Witness and Sacred Imperatives  
Sunday, January 26, 2-5 pm, Victoria Jewish Community Centre 3636 Shelbourne St  
Rabbi Victor Hillel Reinstein is the founding rabbi of Nehar Shalom Community Synagogue in Jamaica Plain, MA. He was the rabbi of Congregation Emanu-El in Victoria, B.C. from 1982-1998. Drawing from Torah and Jewish life the “vision and the way,” he seeks at the core of his work to help fulfill God’s hope for a world of justice and peace. In the early 1980s, Rabbi Victor Reinstein founded Holocaust commemoration in Victoria. In recognition of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, he looks back upon those early events, when the Victoria Community included many survivors. “Their words,” Rabbi Reinstein recalls, “seared into our collective consciousness... we sought to honor our survivors. In the process, we were strengthened and given hope.” Following his lecture, members of the UVic’s Defying Hatred Project will share the results of their research on communal memory, history, and resilience.

CSPT EAT DRINK TALK  
Wednesday, January 29, 5:30 pm  
Proposal submission Friday, January 24  
The "Eat, Drink, Talk, and Think!" series is a comfortable and informal arena to test new ideas, flesh out current research, or share completed research papers/thesis chapters with other students. You can read more about it here: http://www.uvic.ca/interdisciplinary/cspt/home/colloquium/index.php. Each colloquium runs approximately an hour and a half. The presentations are 20 minutes, with time for questions and conversation afterwards. We welcome presentations of all types. This includes but is not limited to: formal academic-style presentations, panel discussions, group workshops, or creative presentations. Work at any level of preparation will be considered. Please send proposals of no more than 300 words to csptcolloquium@gmail.com, giving a brief summary of your proposed presentation and a title. We look forward to your submissions and to eating, drinking, talking, and thinking together.

PACI LANSDOWNE LECTURE: NURY TURKEL  
China’s Mass Internment of Uyghurs: The Urgent Need for a Global Response  
Wednesday, January 29, 2:45 pm, CLE A307  
The spectacular leaks of sensitive Chinese government documents are “game over” for the Chinese government’s propaganda campaign denying its massive repression of the Uyghur people. China has not denied the authenticity of the documents. What does this tell us about the nature of the Chinese state,
the ambitions of the Party, and the vision of Party General Secretary Xi Jinping? What are the ramifications for other countries’ political, trade, and scholarly relations with China? Nury Turkel is a lawyer and Uyghur rights advocate who was born in a re-education camp in Kashgar at the height of the Cultural Revolution. Turkel holds a Master of Arts in International Relations and a Juris Doctor degree, both from the American University in Washington, DC. He is the first US-educated Uyghur lawyer. Turkel practices law in D.C., specializing in regulatory compliance, federal investigation and enforcement, aviation, and immigration.

UVIC LIBRARIES AND EQUITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS: ON THE VERGE STUDENT WRITING CONTEST
Deadline: Saturday, February 1
The theme for this year’s contest is compassion. Submit poetry, fiction, spoken word and creative non-fiction for $1600 in prizes. on the Verge Writing Contest showcases and celebrates emerging UVic student voices with an annual theme under the broad rubric of equity, diversity and human rights. As a reformulation of the 10-year running Diversity Writing Awards, we carry forward the spirit of diversity under a broader umbrella and with a renewed spirit of creative exploration. The contest is co-sponsored by UVic Libraries and Equity and Human Rights (EQHR) with significant support from other units on campus. More info at https://www.uvic.ca/library/featured/events/vergecontest/index.php.

LATIN AMERICA RESEARCH GROUP:
Timo Schaefer (Postdoc, Department of History, University of Toronto)
Friday, February 7, 2-3, SED C168
This talk is about the experiences of an indigenous democracy activist during the transition from dictatorial to democratic rule in late-twentieth century and early-twenty first century Mexico. Born into poverty in the indigenous hamlet of San Miguelito, Raúl Gatica was a leading presence in the indigenous social movements that during the 1980s, 1990s, and early 2000s pushed Mexico’s political elites toward gradual democratic reform. The talk highlights the clash between competing democratic imaginaries during Mexico¹'s period of political reform and challenges the perception that democratic reformers in Latin America shared a single understanding of what 'democracy' meant or how it should be achieved. By focusing on Gatica’s ground-level experiences of regime repression and negotiation, furthermore, it describes the workings of an informal dimension of politics that is often ignored in standard accounts of Latin America’s democratic transitions. This talk is part of the Latin America Research Group’s speakers’ series, in collaboration with the Centre for Global Studies.

EXTERNAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOB OPPORTUNITY AT BRANDON UNIVERSITY
Application deadline: Thursday, February 20
The Department of Political Science at Brandon University invites applications for a 12-month term position in the areas of Canadian and Comparative Politics. The successful candidate will demonstrate excellence in teaching, have an active research profile, and be willing to participate collegially in the life of the university. The preferred qualification is a PhD in Political Science, but ABD candidates may be considered in exceptional circumstances. While there may be some flexibility in terms of course offerings, ideally the successful candidate will be able to teach the following undergraduate courses in the 2020-21 academic year:
78:172 Fundamentals of Politics
78:270 American Politics
78:352 Women in Politics
78:360 Party Politics in Canada
78:452 Issues in Comparative Politics
78:460 Issues in Canadian Politics

Applicants should forward a cover letter, a CV, one writing sample, a teaching statement, a sample course outline related to expected teaching responsibilities, teaching evaluations, the names and contact information of three referees, and proof of citizenship status in one pdf document to Dr. Lisa Robson at PoliSciSearch@brandonu.ca. All applicants are invited to consult the Brandon University course calendar for more information at www.brandonu.ca. Preferred Start Date: July 1, 2020. Application Deadline: Assessment of applications will begin February 21; however, the competition will remain open until filled.

**BCPSA 2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Submission deadline: March 21**

BC Political Science Association  2020 Annual Conference  May 7-8, 2020, Okanagan College, Kelowna

Call for Papers: Politics and Anti-Politics. BCPSA 2020 aims to engage in an academic debate addressing such questions such as:
- Is this going to cause a radical shift in the way we think about our politics?
- Is the anti-politics empowering people and is good for democracy?

A broad interpretation of the conference theme is encouraged, focusing on the changing nature of politics – domestically, regionally and internationally – in the world. Proposals on other political science topics are also welcome. Participation is open to all political scientists and other scholars who are interested in current political issues. Recognizing the role of the younger generation in shaping our future, conference organizers particularly welcome proposals from both graduate and advanced undergraduate students, as well as mixed student-faculty panels.

Please send a 250-300-word summary of your paper or panel proposal outlining the argument, the method of analysis and the significance of the topic to: Dr. Ayla Kilic: AKilic@okanagan.bc.ca Dr. Linda Elmose: LElmose@okanagan.bc.ca

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*The Political Science Weekly Digest is a weekly e-mail newsletter and monthly in the summer. It’s also available online* [http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/politicalscience/home/news/index.php](http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/politicalscience/home/news/index.php)

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