POLITICAL SCIENCE WEEKLY DIGEST
FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2020

POLITICAL SCIENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPACT CHAIR IN INDO-PACIFIC STUDIES AND ENGAGEMENT

Application deadline: Friday, March 13

Full posting here:

The University of Victoria invites applications for a Chair in Indo-Pacific Studies and Engagement, with a prospective start date of July 2020. The appointment will be made at the rank of tenured Associate Professor or Professor, cross-appointed in Pacific and Asian Studies (PAAS) and Political Science (POLI), and embedded in the Centre for Asia Pacific Initiatives (CAPI). UVic Impact Chairs are intended for exceptional researchers acknowledged as leaders in their field, with recognized success in research-inspired teaching and fostering collaborative and interdisciplinary research. The term of the Impact Chair is five years, after which the appointment will revert to a regular faculty position at the appropriate rank (tenured Associate Professor or Professor). During the 5-year tenure of the Impact Chair, the appointee will receive up to $50,000 annually to support research, partnerships and dynamic learning programs as applicable. This appointment is limited to external candidates.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REGAN BURLES!

Congratulations to PhD candidate, Regan Burles, and Will Kujala (former UVic Poli MA) who have published a paper titled “The Politics of Ethics: Spinoza and New Materialisms,” the journal, Theory & Event: https://muse.jhu.edu/article/747098. The paper evaluates the use of Baruch Spinoza’s ethical philosophy in new materialist political thought. While Spinoza’s Ethics figures prominently in this literature, his political works remain marginal. For Spinoza, the paper shows, the transformative potential of the Ethics is both enabled and limited by a series of political conditions associated with theories of the early modern state. The Ethics thus already presumes certain answers to questions about the nature and limits of political authority and political space that may implicitly limit the ethical self-transformation implied in what affect theorists take to be Spinoza’s philosophy. The implication for those drawing on the Ethics is that they risk leaving intact the limitations of the liberal politics of right, territoriality, sovereign power, and the cultivation of fear that they hope to contest.

PANEL DISCUSSION: YOUTH & STUDENTS IN GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT: EXPERIENCES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Tuesday, February 4, 4:30 - 6:00 pm, SEDG C168

Facebook event page: https://www.facebook.com/events/2774497749240334/

Featuring recently returned youth and student interns from Africa and Asia, and students from the August 2019 field school in Tanzania (Geography field school)

- Interested in doing an internship, or learning about the partner organisations in Asia and Africa that host interns?
- Would you like to learn about conservation and development efforts in rural areas of Tanzania, especially the Serengeti and Ngorongoro?
- Are you interested in doing a field school or other travel-study program?
CONGRATULATIONS TO JENNIFER POWER, UVIC POLI ’83 and UVIC LAW ’86!
Faculty of Social Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award Winner
Awards Ceremony, Tuesday, February 4, 7:30 pm, Michele Pujol Room
Congratulations to the Honourable Madam Justice Jennifer Power, winner of the 2020 Faculty of Social Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award. Formerly Regional Crown Counsel with the Ministry of the Attorney General (Victoria), she is now a member of The Supreme Court of British Columbia in Nanaimo and the first Indigenous justice appointed to the BC Supreme Court. Madam Justice Power received a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) (Political Science and Economics) in 1983 as well as a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) in 1986 from the University of Victoria. She received a Master of Law (LL.M.) from the University of Cambridge, London, England in 1990. She was admitted to the British Columbia Bar in 1987 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2006. Madam Justice Power has been Regional Crown Counsel in Victoria since 2001; Deputy Crown Counsel (North Island 1997-01); Administrative Crown Counsel (1995-97) and Crown Counsel (1990-95). Madam Justice Power has been an organizer and panellist for the Annual Crown Counsel Conference (2005-08). She is a member of Métis Nation of Greater Victoria.

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.

POLI SPEAKERS SERIES 2019-20
Dr. Kathryn Harrison, Department of Political Science, UBC
“Carbon Taxation in a Petro-State”
Tuesday, February 25, 2:30 pm, DSB C128
There is broad consensus that carbon taxes are good policy but bad politics. Carbon taxation is an environmentally- and cost-effective policy instrument to mitigate climate change, but tends to be unpopular with both carbon-intensive industries and voters at
large. It is thus surprising that Canada, a country with an economically-dominant fossil fuel industry and whose citizens enjoy among the most carbon-intensive lifestyles in the world, should adopt a national carbon pricing scheme that resulted in carbon taxes in 8 provinces and emissions trading in 2 others. It is also surprising that the government that implemented unpopular carbon pricing in an election year was re-elected. This presentation, which draws on research for a broader project on the comparative politics of carbon taxes, examines the impact of public opinion, industry opposition, political institutions, and political leadership in explaining the adoption and survival of carbon pricing in Canada.

UVic ANNOUNCEMENTS

BORDERS IN GLOBALIZATION REVIEW
The first issue of Borders in Globalization Review (BIG_Review) is now available online for free. Published by the University of Victoria, BIG_Review is a new kind of journal, bridging disciplinary boundaries and integrating the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. We provide an open-access forum for academic and artistic explorations of borders in the 21st century. Our inaugural issue features:

- Double-blind peer-reviewed articles on transborder governance, identity, culture, precarity, and conflict in borderlands around the world, including the Aegean, Eastern Europe, sub-Saharan Africa, the Arabian Sea, and indigenous America
- Peer-reviewed essays on border-wall graffiti, aterritorial borders, and Paul de La Pradelle
- Original artwork and poetry on themes and sentiments related to borders
- And film and book reviews of works concerning borders

Open the complete PDF→ BIG_Review 1.1. Or visit our journal homepage for multiple formats and individual articles, essays, works of art, and film/book reviews. Enjoy and share widely – the journal is completely free under Creative Commons licensing.

SOCIOLOGY: LANSDOWNE LECTURE - Dr. JASON BECKFIELD, HARVARD
LECTURE: “Social Adaptation to Climate Change”
Tuesday, February 4, 7 pm, DSB C122
The climate emergency is the social problem of the day. Macroscopic transformational changes like adaptation to climate change affect people through social structures: we can think of social structure as a prism that refracts macroscopic forces into unequal outcomes depending upon social networks, communities, organizations, race, class, and gender. Drawing on foundational works of environmental sociology and the social demography of migration, this lecture focuses on how sociology can contribute both to a better understanding of societal adaptation, and to more successful adaptation strategies. Dr. Beckfield is Professor of Sociology, Chair of the Department of Sociology and Associate Director of the Center for Population and Development Studies at Harvard University.

SOCIOLOGY: LANSDOWNE LECTURE - Dr. JASON BECKFIELD, HARVARD
SEMINAR: “Unequal Europe: Regional Integration and the Rise of European Inequality”
Wednesday, February 5, 1-2 pm, COR B344
The Euro-crisis of 2009–12 and the UK’s 2016 vote to leave the EU vividly demonstrated that EU policies matter for the distribution of resources within and between European nation-states. Throughout these events, distributive conflicts between the European Union’s winners and losers intensified, and continue today. Unequal Europe, forthcoming from OUP, places these events into a broader historical, sociological, and economic perspective by analyzing how European integration has reshaped the distribution of income across the households of Europe. In this presentation, Jason Beckfield discusses
the overarching argument of the book, with selected empirical analyses to demonstrate some of the most controversial arguments.

LATIN AMERICA RESEARCH GROUP: TIMO SCHAEFER, POSTDOC, DEPT OF HISTORY, UOF 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 Mexico’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.

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
If you have an item for the newsletter or would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact poliao@uvic.ca.

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