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.

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.
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

CITY TALKS: “MEMORIES IN STONE: CONFRONTING COLONIAL MONUMENTS”
Nadine Nakagawa, City Councillor, City of New Westminster
Thursday, February 20, 7:30 pm, Legacy Art Gallery
In May of 2019, the New Westminster City Council voted to remove the statue of Judge Matthew Baillie Begbie that stood in front of the provincial court house. This action was prompted by a call from the Tsilhqot'in National Government and echoed actions taken by the Law Society and UVic Law School. The removal prompted significant media attention which resulted in a backlash around the province. The Begbie statue is part of a larger public discourse on the role of colonial monuments in public spaces and how they not only reflect our shared history, but also suggest continued colonial control of future narratives. Across the globe, artists and activists are confronting colonial monuments with a variety of interventions meant to highlight their contested historical narratives. Allowing for transformation and recontextualization provides an opportunity both to decolonize public spaces and to have a multi-perspective understanding of shared histories. Nadine Nakagawa is a community organizer, local activist, and City Councillor in New Westminster.

JAMES SHEPTYCKI, PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY, YORK UNIVERSITY
“Lawyers, Guns and Money; Reflections on Crime, the Canadian State and the World Money System”
Monday, February 24, 2:30-4:50 pm, ELL 161
This talk locates the Canadian ‘guns and gangs’ crisis of 2018, the ongoing opiate crisis and a number of other policing issues as symptoms of an evolving global system.

CONSTITUTIONALISM IN THE AGE OF POPULISM
March 6-8, Rm 152 Fraser Building
‘Constitutionalism in the Age of Populism’ seeks to renew the debate over the relationship between constitutionalism and democracy, now in the light of populist politics. It will do so especially in relation to two countries at the heart of the debate (Hungary & Poland) but with comparisons to other contexts in which populism is gaining a foothold. Co-sponsors include Faculty of Law, EU Canada Network Initiative:
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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