View from the Chair’s Perspective

As we move into the fall season, the view from the Chair’s seat is fantastic! Over the past several years, a wonderful group of new colleagues has joined the department. We have rethought our programs and policies, and we have come a long way in creating a friendly place to work. It has been a pleasure representing the department so far. I look forward to another great year.

We opened our doors to 8 new graduate students in September. Our newest students come from diverse areas ranging from Prince Edward Island to Tawain. I hear they are all very excited to begin their explorations of multivariate analysis and immanent critique (as all of us would be). Although our new students have experienced a kind of welcome overload in the past few weeks, I nevertheless wish to take this (final) opportunity to extend a warm welcome to each new student on behalf of the department. I hope your years with us are intellectually engaging, personally rewarding, and a lot of fun.

In July, we were thrilled to hear that Lydia and Min became the proud parents of Jeremy. It has been a while since there were babies around the halls. Everyone is excited to get to know Jeremy in the coming years.

I wish everyone an amazing year.

~Sean Hier

International Conference: Iran’s Struggles for Social Justice

Peyman Vahabzadeh was the principal organizer of this summer’s conference, *Iran’s Struggles for Social Justice*, held at UVic, July 10-12. This free event was the first scholarly conference on this topic.

The interdisciplinary conference brought together local, national, and international academics, advocates, activists and artists. Dr. Hamid Dabashi, Professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature, Columbia University gave the keynote address. The two days were filled with numerous panel sessions on topics including student movement, women’s movement, theoretical approaches to social justice, and social justice through film and the arts, to name a few.

The conference was well attended. The event managed to successfully lay the groundwork for what the group hopes will be a new “school” for social justice studies. There are plans for annual conferences. Several papers from the conference presentations will be published in a book on the subject edited by Peyman. The event was supported by various UVic departments and agencies as well as funded by a SSHRC Connection Grant.

For more information, see: [http://socialjusticeiniran.com/](http://socialjusticeiniran.com/)
Faculty News and Highlights

In June, the Canadian Sociological Association awarded **Bill Carroll** the Canadian Review of Sociology Best Article Award, for his 2013 article, “Discipline, Field, Nexus: Re- visioning Sociology.”

**Canadian Review of Sociology 2013 50: 1-26.** [https://www.csa-scs.ca/awards](https://www.csa-scs.ca/awards)

**Grants**


This catalyst grant proposal was initiated by PEERS Victoria Resources Society as an opportunity to increase the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services in the Victoria area for sex workers and those in their networks. The proposal is a collaboration which involves a diverse network of representatives from peer-based service organizations, medical clinics for marginalized populations, health service managers, and academics who have studied the sex industry in Victoria for the past two decades.

The research project has four aims: 1) Create an evidence-based report with two main components: a) building on the research literature, it will describe proven effective empowering strategies for sex workers and other populations at higher risk of exposure to HIV/AIDS such as men who have sex with men and injection drug users; b) it will describe the current state of, and key factors that led to, co-operation among agencies that serve sex workers; 2) Develop and deliver an empowerment program tailored for the city of Victoria based on the evidence based report; 3) Develop and implement an evaluation plan to assess the effectiveness of the empowerment program, and 4) Document the development and delivery process for distribution and possible adoption in other communities and subsequent further research. [http://webapps.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/cfdd/db_results_submit](http://webapps.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/cfdd/db_results_submit)

**André Smith**, Sue Kurucz and Anne Dawkes received an Island Health Collaboration Research Grant ($15,000) for “Optimizing antipsychotic use for persons with dementia in residential care: A focus on care planning and family involvement” (2015-2017).

In the Spring, **Karen Kobayashi** was appointed the Co-Leader of CC1 (Crosscutting Activities-1), the Knowledge Mobilization Cluster for the NCE-funded AGE-WELL Network. She will lead the Cluster along with Dr. Lynn McDonald (University of Toronto). Karen has also been recruited as a member of the Research Management Committee for the Network.

Funded in December 2014, AGE-Well is a national research and innovation network of industry, non-profit organizations, government, care providers, caregivers, end-users, and academic partners working together to drive innovation and create technologies and services that benefits older adults. [http://www.agewell-nce.ca](http://www.agewell-nce.ca)

**Over the summer Bruce Ravelli** decided to change where he allocated his UVic textbook royalties from the CW Mills Memorial Speaker’s Series to the local non-profit organization, Out of the Rain. This organization provides food and shelter to young people (18-25) in Victoria. The contribution will pay for Friday night “pizza parties” for the entire 2015-2016 season. Here Bruce is presenting the cheque to Jenn Mortimer, Manager, Youth Shelter and Homelessness Services for Beacon Community Services.

**We are excited to welcome the newest member to our department, little Jeremy!**

**Congratulations to Min Zhou and his wife Lydia on the birth of their beautiful baby boy—born July 19.**
Congratulations on being one of 16 doctoral scholars to receive this prestigious 3-year award!

Can you share a bit about the application/selection process for this competitive award?
The application/selection process is both long and intense. First you need to apply to the university to nominate you for the award with a 20 page application. They can nominate up to 8 people from across the university. Then, if you get out that door, your application is submitted to the Trudeau Foundation, and they go through a selection process whereby they choose 30 people to interview in person. This was actually my second time applying. I didn’t get to the interview stage last time. If selected, you go to Montreal for a 40 minute interview for which you really can’t prepare. That was pretty terrifying. While really time consuming, the process was amazingly useful in terms of having to practice articulating repeatedly, what it is you are trying to do in your work, and why you think it matters, to non-sociological and non-academic audiences. I owe a lot to my amazing and brilliant friends in the department, my advisors Peyman Vahabzadeh and Karen Kobayashi, as well as other professors in the department who took the time to give me feedback at various stages of the process. I also owe a lot to my dad, who conducted a mock interview with me every day for the week before the interview—that was invaluable. I most definitely didn’t win this award alone.

What does being a Trudeau scholar mean to you?
The funding of course is amazing and really takes the pressure off. But, even more than this, the gift is being part of and getting to learn from an amazing network of scholars, fellows (established academics) and mentors (experienced Canadians with a track record of contributing to public life) working on issues of shared concern all from different angles and in different ways. We meet at least twice a year to share our work, discuss potential collaborations and receive support in different ways. In our third year, scholars are paired with a non-academic mentor to help us think through knowledge dissemination in creative ways. Despite it’s name, it’s got a strictly non-partisan mandate, and they support scholars to find our public voice and use it. For instance, at the first meeting I went to, all new scholars participated in a workshop on writing op-eds.

So receiving this award doesn’t put any pressure on you to vote Liberal in the upcoming election?
Especially with the election around the corner, I’m glad you asked that! They are explicitly non-partisan premised on the belief that there is no politics without healthy debate. We are not only encouraged to express our opinions, they are financially supporting us to do so. It’s pretty wonderful.

Are there certain responsibilities/obligations that come with the award?
We have annual reports to fill out for them, and events to attend, but really, the main responsibility is that we find ways to engage the broader public through our work - to try and reach beyond our departments or academic walls with our work - so that we are contributing to a culture of public intellectuals in Canada.

I assume recipients must be Canadian but do they need to be studying in Canada? Canadian research topic?
Winners can be Canadians who are studying anywhere in the world, or people from anywhere in the world studying in Canada. The research needs to relate to one of the Foundation’s four themes: Human Rights and Dignity, Responsible Citizenship, Canada in the World, and People and the Natural Environment. An increasingly cross-cutting theme of all of the Foundation’s work is around Indigenous issues. UVic’s 2014 Trudeau Scholar Aaron Mills, and 2015 Trudeau Fellow Nancy Turner, are both making significant contributions in this area.

Can you tell us about your recent conference activity? I believe you also have a book coming out?
Yes! I am co-editing an interdisciplinary publication called “Exploring Empathy” with 11 contributors from different disciplines from different world regions. The idea of that book came out of the 1st Global Conference on Empathy which I went to in Prague last year. I just participated in the 2nd Global Conference on Empathy in Oxford. It was an amazingly inspiring conference - I learned a lot - and have another book idea brewing out of that. I’m off this month to the Social Good Summit in NYC as part of United Nations Week. The focus is on the role of new technologies and social media in various social movements, which I think will be an important aspect of my work.

For more information on the scholarship: http://www.trudeaufoundation.ca/en/about
Welcome New Graduate Students!

MA Students (and supervisors):
Stephanie Bethune (CSPT) - Steve Garlick
Brigitte Benning - Garry Gray
Russell Elliott (CSPT) - Bill Carroll
Tianyang Hu - Min Zhou
Galina Scolnic (CSPT) - Peyman Vahabzadeh
Isaac Rosenberg (INTD) - Steve Garlick
Zachary Lewis - Bill Carroll
Shih Hsieh (Jan 2016 start) - Zheng Wu

New PhD student:
Jennifer Aitken (INTD) - André Smith

We wish you all the best as you begin your graduate work in our department!

Teaching Assistant Consultant (TAC)
New TAs will want to get to know Edwin Hodge! His role this academic year is to provide support and professional development for the department’s cohort of teaching assistants. Edwin states, “Whether TAs need help with grading, or establishing a positive classroom environment, or if they simply have questions about how to improve the learning outcomes of the students they are responsible for, I will do what I can to assist. If I do not have the answers or information they require, I can connect them with people or campus centres that will.”

Students — look for an email in the next few weeks announcing a TA development workshop to be held in early October, where you will have the chance to develop your grading and assessment skills!

Graduate Student Awards

SSHRC Scholarship winners:
Mushira Khan (PhD) - $105,000 (3 years)
Nicolas Graham (PhD) - $40,000 (2 years)
Wrenna Robertson (MA) - $17,500 (1 year)
Nicola Temmel (MA) - $17,500 (1 year)

Interdisciplinary Graduate Scholarship
Linda Outcalt (INTD PhD) - $18,000 (1 year)

Recent Graduates

Who: Lei Chai, July 31, 2015
Thesis: "Living Apart Together in Canada: A National Portrait"
Supervisor: Zheng Wu

Upcoming/pending MA defenses (dates to be confirmed):
Bryan Benner
Domenico Cerisano
Marlee Leslie
Hanning Wang

Current Graduate Student News

I am in my 4th year of my PhD, and it is a busy one. I have the oral component of my second candidacy exam at the end of the month, and I am also working as the teaching assistant consultant for the department for this academic year. In addition, I am conducting a study through UVic’s Centre for Global Studies and the Borders in Globalisation project on the impacts of the temporary foreign worker program on the service sector of the Okanagan Valley. Finally, I am also working as a teaching assistant for Bruce Ravelli’s intro sociology course this fall.

~ Edwin Hodge
Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (LATHE) Graduate Certificate

Like many of you who are interested in academic careers, I have contemplated and at times worried about my career possibilities. I have been a TA since 2008, done guest lectures, attended workshops on how to get that elusive first academic job, looked at others’ teaching dossiers, and wondered how I would fare trying to secure a (hopefully, or perhaps wishfully, tenure-track) position. How will I make myself stand out from other candidates? Perhaps you, too, have heard this: doctoral degrees aren’t always enough anymore. 40% of the job is, after all, teaching. And it is a tough job market “out there.”

A year ago, at the Fall TA conference, I heard about “LATHE” and immediately applied. The Learning and Teaching in Higher Education program is a two-year certificate program that you take in addition to your graduate degree (MA or PhD), one course per term, during which you learn skills to improve your teaching, how to develop a course curriculum, and what some of the contemporary issues facing higher education are. It is consciously designed to not overwhelm you as a graduate student with extra course work, and to give you the opportunity to practice teaching with immediate and formative feedback. It could mean the difference between “you don’t have enough evidence of your teaching ability” and “we’d like to interview you.”

For me, the experience has been extraordinary. I am in the second year of the program now, and immensely looking forward to the opportunity to develop my own course and have it critiqued by my professors and peers. The first course alone was a treasure trove of new teaching techniques I could try out and then put into practice as a TA that very same term. Moreover, the courses have not felt in any way overwhelming or like a burden, and they have not slowed down the completion of my degree. While in the LATHE program, I have completed and defended a comprehensive exam, my dissertation proposal, and am now starting my own research, which I will be working on at the same time as I complete the second year of LATHE coursework. I understand we as graduate students and often our supervisors have reservations about us taking on more and more things, but I would argue that this program is worth it, and I encourage everyone to check out the details of the program at the following link: http://www.uvic.ca/learningandteaching/ta/pro-d/programs/lathe/index.php

“Kimi Dominic, INTD doctoral student

Graduate Student Colloquium Series

The first Graduate Colloquium of the academic year will be held on Friday, September 25th in the large conference room (108) of the Grad House, from 12pm until 3:30pm. The first half of the colloquium will consist of informal 3-5 minute presentations in which students will share the topic of their thesis or dissertation so that we may gain a greater appreciation of the breadth of research being undertaken within our diverse department. There are 12 students (8 PhD., 4 MA) who will be speaking in this portion of the colloquium.

The second half of the colloquium will consist of three formal, 15-minute presentations delivered by PhD students Rebecca Nelems and Kimi Dominic, and MA student Bryan Benner. Each of these students will be discussing their research or proposed research.

The colloquium will also serve as the initial event in a biweekly (every other Friday, 1pm-2pm) professional development series that will provide an opportunity for greater engagement within the department, while focusing on issues of relevance both within and beyond academia. While details are still being finalized, the first two themes will likely focus on how to translate academic experience into work outside academia (led by Career Educator Joy Andrews of UVic Career Services), and how to craft and deliver successful presentations.

These biweekly events will also provide the opportunity for students to rehearse and gain feedback on conference, proposal or defence presentations. While the first Graduate Colloquium is a student-only event (open to all Graduate students as well as Honours students), the ongoing series will involve the support and engagement of our Faculty. More information on these events will be made available through the grad student listserv once details are finalized.
Graduate Student Update

This was an exciting but busy year for Jacqueline Quin- less! After her proposal defense in May 2015 she has completed all requirements of her candidacy and is now officially ABD status.

In June she attended Congress 2015 of the Social Sciences and Humanities in Ottawa, Ontario and shared findings of a collaborative national research project with the Director of Research at the National Association of Friendship Centres entitled “Urban Aboriginal Wellness & Applied Sociology: A Practical Approach to Understanding the Role of the National Association of Friendships Centers and Community Driven Data Gathering Processes” and shortly after went on to present a research paper entitled “Social Design, Social Practice & Social Change: Re-Visioning Applied Sociology” at the Tenth International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences in Split, Croatia.

Jacqueline also taught her first course in the department this past summer which was 305B:Sociology of the Family and Social Change and is looking forward to teaching Sociology of Gender 281 in the Spring semester 2016.


Grad School Info Event

Have You Ever Thought about whether a Graduate Degree might be Right for You?

The Department of Sociology will be holding a Graduate School Information event on Wednesday October 7th, 3 - 4pm in Cornett A125.

Come along to learn about the benefits of doing a Master’s degree and some of the resources available to graduate students.

Information will be provided on the department’s MA program, along with practical advice on how to put together an application for admission. There will also be the opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

Refreshments will be served.

For more information, please contact the Graduate Advisor, Steve Garlick, at sgarlick@uvic.ca

Honours Program

The Sociology honours program offers dedicated undergraduate students the opportunity to engage in original, innovative, cutting-edge research under the supervision of a full-time faculty member. The program provides a high level of training in critical reading, writing, and thinking.

Seven students have entered the program this year: Andrew Elliot, Maria Finnsdottir, Heather Haukioja, Brett Koenig, Emily Penner, Jason Miller and Patrick Teichreb. Stay posted for more information on their research projects in the next newsletter.

Also, congratulations to Heather Haukioja, Brett Koenig, Jason Miller and Patrick Teichreb for receiving a Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award (JCURA) for 2015-2016. This award supports exceptional students wanting to engage in research, typically within an Honours program.

For more information about this program, contact André Smith, the Honours Advisor at apsmith@uvic.ca
Undergraduate Co-op Program

How does a degree in Sociology prepare you for life after graduation? As a Sociology student you are developing skills and competencies that employers look for but how do you make that bridge between university and work once you graduate? Sociology Co-op can help! As a sociology co-op student you can combine full-time work experiences into your degree program.

2014-15 was another great year for Sociology Co-op students. Co-op students from this department worked with community in a variety of ways whether in social services, tourism, government oversight, or public safety and security. Everyone built on their academic skills and learned how their studies can inform their professional work and also contribute to society.

This summer, Sociology Co-op student Erin Moen completed a co-op term with Prince of Whales Whale Watching in downtown Victoria. While initially it didn’t seem like the position had much relevance to her degree, Erin quickly noticed how her studies impacted her work life. “I’ve worked a lot of similar jobs in the past, but I never put a lot of thought into them. Going into this position with a sociological perspective I was more focused not only on how my actions impacted others, but how to change my approach in order to achieve the result I wanted. I became a lot more confident in my own abilities, and I also got to spend a lot of time talking about whales, which was great.” Erin is currently on her second co-op term as a UVic Recruiter where she is building on her experience from her summer co-op.

Brett Koenig has always been interested in helping others and working with those facing challenges in their lives. During his first co-op term with Beacon Community Services, he was a life skills mentor, supporting people with disabilities, language difficulties, and other social barriers as they embarked on their job search. He had always had a passion for helping marginalized populations and this co-op term allowed him to apply this passion, along with skills learned through his Sociology degree, in a practical work setting. “I loved what I did. It wasn’t always easy but this Co-op gave me invaluable skills and experience in supporting the people I’ve always been passionate about working with.”

To apply to the program

If you’re in at least second year and have a B average, you are eligible for the Sociology Co-op Program. Download an application form (http://www.uvic.ca/coopandcareer/assets/forms/pdf/ss_application%20form.pdf) or pick one up from the Social Science Co-op Office in DTB A204. Please visit the Sociology Co-op website for further information or contact André Smith, departmental Co-op representative.

New opportunity for undergraduate students: the Social Sciences-AIESEC Fellowship. AIESEC Victoria’s Outgoing Exchange Program provides students with access to a wide variety of internships abroad. To encourage Social Science students to participate in this program, the Faculty of Social Sciences is funding four fellowships valued at $500 each to cover the fees AIESEC collects to cover its costs. Students must have completed 12 academic units before they are eligible to apply.

AIESEC is a youth leadership organization that provides professional development and cultural exchange to youth around the world. It is the largest student-run, non-profit organization in the world and exists in over 124 countries. Every local committee, including AIESEC Victoria, seeks to provide enriching work experience for youth by sending students at the home university abroad on international internships as well as by bringing interns from all over the world to work within their community to internationalize their workplace.

The full description and eligibility criteria can be found on the Faculty of Social Sciences website: http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/current-students/home/international/index.php
Bureau of Sociology Students (BOSS)

The Bureau of Sociology Students (BOSS) is a collective of students from the Sociology Department at the University of Victoria.

As a student-run organization governed by UVSS policy, our aim is to promote the study of sociology, to foster a sense of community on campus and, to create a positive and inclusive environment for sociology students by promoting both social and academic experiences. BOSS coordinates a number of events throughout the year, including movie nights, study groups, and information sessions, mixers and pub crawls, and organizes group attendance at lectures and information sessions.

Working with the faculty and staff, BOSS hopes to provide sociology students with the resources needed to succeed at the undergraduate level and beyond. The BOSS is a great way to become involved on campus and offers students a forum to engage with sociologically relevant material outside the classroom. Fun social events are planned as well. Last year, these events included an event to Galey Farm Corn Maize, ice skating and two Social (club) Nights.

Membership is open to any and all students taking an undergraduate-level sociology class during the year. Students are encouraged to join our Facebook group or send us an email with any thoughts you may have.

Weekly BOSS meetings will be held Thursdays at 4:30 in COR A125. If you are interested in getting involved or would like to provide input on upcoming events, feel free to drop by!

BOSS Executive:
President: Katrina Kelly, Vice President: Alicia Cattermole
Treasurer: Nathan Michael, Faculty Liaison: Hannah Furness
Communications Director: Mikaiya Austin
Social Media Director: Stephanie Formosa
Academic Events Coordinator: Patrick Teichreb
Community Outreach Coordinators: Delaney McCartan and Alicia Cattermole

One of the first events being co-sponsored by BOSS is the Faculty and Student Meet and Greet, this Friday afternoon (Sept 25). All first year students are welcome to attend. This will be an informal social time and chance to get to know the various departmental members.
Stay tuned for more social events later in the term!

People and Places

Rebecca's son, Everest, giving Wrenna's dog Wookie some love.

Garry cycling around Buckingham palace while on break from a conference.

Ruth with her son, enjoying the great vistas and hikes at Whistler this summer.

Edward marching with the Boylesque troupe at Pride Parade.
The Sociology of Lawns and Gardens . . . and Other Unexpected Things

Sociology enjoys a rich history of investigating the everyday activities that people are involved in. I’m well aware that a good number of contemporary sociologists like to ask big questions about myriad social problems. But sometimes as sociologists we overlook the routine aspects of daily life—routines that not only comprise the subject of foundational work in our discipline but also touch our lives directly.

Indeed, it’s easy to overlook the significance of seemingly innocuous and mundane experiences in our everyday lives. Some of the most interesting features of everyday life—our normative rituals, embedded routines, common courtesies, non-reflexive actions—are so frequently taken for granted that we don’t think about them as potential sites for sociological investigation.

The residential front yard garden—especially the boulevard garden—is a case in point. North Americans have enjoyed a love affair with front-yard lawns since at least the Second World War. Encouraged by the proliferation of suburbs and golf courses, the lawn industry, with all its material offerings (e.g., mowers, fertilizers, pesticides, sprinklers, seeds, soils, tools), became so influential that today’s common sense is indexed to maintaining a front lawn (and the moralism that derives from a poorly kept one!). But if you pay attention, growing numbers of people in Victoria are opting for front-yard gardens rather than the commonplace lawn.

I am one of those Victorians. On a Saturday afternoon not so long ago, I was weeding my front lawn; because I have an aversion to pesticides, my weeding strategy entailed a hands-and-knees intervention. Neighbours had lauded us for maintaining such a lovely lawn. On this Saturday afternoon, however, I began to wonder what bizarre social forces had conspired to condition my belief that responsible home ownership equated to the aesthetics of lawn maintenance as an ethical human practice. After reading several books on the history and moral regulation of lawn maintenance, my longstanding interpellation as a ‘lawn person’ splintered. Within a week, our front lawn disappeared. Before long, the grass on the boulevard that sits across from our property also vanished.

In place of our old lawn sits an extensive vegetable garden. In place of the old boulevard grass sits an extensive flower, shrub, and herb garden. Yes, routine garden upkeep is more demanding than lawn maintenance was. And yes, I am engaged in a constant struggle with the residential parcel of deer. But something else—besides weekend labour demands and wildlife struggles—developed from our horticultural transformation.

Soon after we banished the lawn, neighbours, pedestrians, and random passers-by began to engage us in conversation. These were not the neighbours, pedestrians, and passers-by who used to talk to us before our turn towards front-yard gardening. These people expressed admiration and pride that the lawn had been replaced by something new and unusual. Many commentators expressed their own desires to have the courage and will to take the gardening plunge.

Beyond the compliments and accolades, something else was happening. People in the neighbourhood were interacting and building community. Every weekend, cyclists stop to talk to us when we are tending to the gardens. Cars slow to enjoy the view (several motorists have taken pictures). Passersby tell us how they’ve changed their walking routes to see what’s new at our house. And more than a handful of people have shared with us how they feel better when they take in our gardens. (One area resident even apologized after his dog urinated on the edge of the front garden—in the very place that our own dogs prefer!)

I suspect that a scholarly investigation of lawns and gardens sounds decidedly West Coast to many sociologists. It might even seem a bit light, intellectually speaking. But underneath the veneer of triviality lurks something very interesting and sociologically significant: be it identity formation, social-movement activity, community development, municipal land appropriation, growing residential food, sustainability, or another way to rethink the conventional understanding of the human-nature dichotomy, trends in alternative residential land use present a
fantastic site for sociological investigation—one that is rich in possibility and nothing short of unique.

In the coming year(s), I will no doubt undertake a study of alternative residential land use and municipal land appropriation by homeowners and residents. Of course, beyond the sociology of lawns and gardens, my wider point is that the interesting stuff in social life might lie right in front of you, lurking beneath the veil of every experience. Students (especially) looking for inexpensive, easy to execute topics for a thesis project should remember that the big questions are not always the only ones to ask. Many aspects of our everyday lives beg for—and would richly reward—sociological investigation.

And for those of you who know where I live, stay out of the vegetable patch!

~Sean Hier

Alumni News

For the last eight years, Lois Stewart (PhD, 2014) has worked as a policy analyst for the British Columbia and then Alberta provincial governments. She gained her first government position through University of Victoria’s co-operative education while enrolled in the PhD program within the Sociology Department.

She is currently the Manager of Research and Program Policy at the Alberta Ministry of Seniors. In this position, she takes a lead role in identifying and interpreting research and data, which enable her to provide analysis and advice regarding complex policy initiatives relating to seniors. Much of her work is focused on programs and policies impacting low-income seniors.

Her doctoral research focused on income-inequality and various approaches to social policy as demonstrated in welfare state variations. She feels very fortunate to have the opportunity to apply the theoretical and methodological knowledge she developed at the University on a routine basis. Indeed, Lois credits the guidance provided by her doctoral supervisor, Dr. Helga Hallgrimsdottir, along with her strong research, analytical, and writing skills in preparing her for the work she is now undertaking – thanks, Helga! Lois can be reached at Lois.Stewart@gov.ab.ca.

Jessica Duncan completed her MA in spring of 2010. Her thesis was “An inquiry into the pecking order: the British Columbia egg scheme and the yoking of sustainable egg producers” co-supervised by Martha McMahon and Ken Hatt. After leaving UVic, she received a PhD from the Centre for Food Policy, City University London, UK and is now an Assistant Professor in the Rural Sociology Group, Wageningen University, Netherlands.

She recently published a book entitled, “Global Food Security Governance: Civil Society Engagement in the Reformed Committee on World Food Security” (Routledge). Jessica dedicated this book to the memory of our late and deeply missed colleague Ken Hatt. Jessica had worked closely with Ken during her time in the Sociology department and later, while she was at the University of Catalonia she taught a course with him in an international program in Barcelona, Spain several years ago.

Lei Chai (MA, 2015) just started his PhD in Sociology at the University of Alberta, working with Dr. Lisa Strohschein. He is working as a TA for two lab sections in statistics, using the new program R. Additionally, he is taking the Sociology of Human Fertility, Structural Equation Modeling with LISREL and a directed reading course with his supervisor. In this course, he will be studying the family complexity and LATs in Canada by using event history analysis.
Recent Publications

*Faculty, adjunct professor, sessional instructor and (former) graduate student names are highlighted*

**Journal Articles:**


**Books**


**Book chapters:**


**Other:**


Presentations (Conference Papers/Invited/Guest Speaker/Posters)


Smith, M., Benoit, C. *Diversity and discretion: Sex workers’ experiences with & views on police officers in Victoria, BC.* Victoria Police Department Reserve Constables, Victoria, BC, April 8th, 2015.


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**Important Date!**

The Sociology Department and the Centre on Aging are co-sponsoring a guest lecture this fall!

**Who:** Dr. Pia Kontos  
**Title:** Towards a Relational Model of Citizenship: Insights from a Study of Elder-Clowning  
**Where:** DTB A110  
**When:** Wednesday, October 14, 2:30-4:40pm

Pia Kontos is a Senior Scientist at Toronto Rehabilitation Institute-UHN and Associate Professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, UofT. Central to her program of research is the transformation of the culture of dementia care so it is more humanistic and quality enhancing for people living with dementia, family care partners, and health care practitioners. She draws significantly on the arts for their emotive and expressive nature, specifically music, dance, and improvisational play to enrich the lives of people living with dementias. She has presented and published across multiple disciplines.

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**Upcoming Conference**

**Moving Trans* History Forward 2016**  
March 17-20, 2016  
Brought to you by The Transgender Archives at the University of Victoria

**Keynote Speakers:**  
**Martine Rothblatt,** Co-CEO of United Therapeutics, will deliver a virtual keynote address based on her books *From Transgender to Transhuman* and *Virtually Human* in which she lays out her vision for a future in which gender dimorphism becomes obsolete, human bodies become optional, and human consciousness has the potential to become immortal through advancements in artificial intelligence.

**Jamison Green,** President of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) will speak on “Triumphs and Challenges for Transgender People around the World”

**Call for Proposals:**  
We welcome proposals concerning any aspect of preserving and recounting the history of trans* and GNC people and communities. Proposals that expand the horizons of trans* and GNC history, and engage related fields, are particularly encouraged. Submit abstracts as a pdf attachment to transarc@uvic.ca by Nov 16, 2015.