Chair’s Welcome

This academic year began on a sombre note as we learned of the passing of our former colleague, Professor Zheng Wu, in late August. Although Zheng had recently moved to a Canada Research Chair position at SFU, we anticipated his presence in the department for many years to come. He was a much respected figure in the department for almost 30 years, and he will be missed by many of us.

In other respects, the past year has been a successful one for the department. Our Academic Program Review was completed and the review committee’s report affirmed the quality of both the research and teaching that takes place in the department. The year was also marked by many student successes. In particular, we had four MA and one PhD students win SSHRC fellowships, and Nick Graham and Andrew Ivsins both successfully defended their PhD dissertations. Congratulations are also due to Professor Bill Carroll, along with Shannon Daub from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, who are winners of the 2019 UVic REACH Award for Excellence in Research Partnerships.

The department has seen a number of retirements in recent years. Notably, Doug Baer retired over the summer. Doug joined us in the early 2000s and served a term as Chair. We thank him for his service to the department and wish him well in his retirement. The year ahead will be an important one in the history of the department as we anticipate the hiring of three new faculty members who will join us in the summer of 2020. We enter this process with a sense of great optimism and look forward both to restoring our faculty numbers and to the fresh opportunities and exciting areas of research that will undoubtedly come along with new colleagues.

Finally, we will welcome two distinguished scholars to give Lansdowne lectures this year. Professor Asef Bayat from the University of Illinois will be speaking on ‘The Arab Spring: Revolutions of Our Different Times’ on October 3rd, and Professor Jason Beckfield from Harvard University will be speaking on ‘Social Adaptation to Climate Change’ in early February. I hope to see everyone at these and other events around the department in the year to come.

~ Steve Garlick

New Roles

Karen Kobayashi has taken on the position of Acting Associate Dean, Research in the Faculty of Social Sciences. Additionally, in July Karen was promoted to Full Professor - Congratulations!

Min Zhou is the new Graduate Student Advisor (minzhou@uvic.ca).

Jacqueline Quinless is leading the Honours Seminar this year.

Hassan Arif and Robert Neubauer are new sessional instructors this term.
In Memoria—Zheng Wu

Zheng Wu, a long-time member of the UVic Sociology Department (1992-2019), passed away on August 27, 2019 in Victoria, British Columbia following a brief illness. At the time of his death, he was Professor of Gerontology and Tier I Canada Research Chair in Aging and Health at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Zheng was born and raised in Beijing, China. After completing high school, he and Lanjing Li, his future wife, were among those educated urban youth who the government sent to live and work in rural and remote areas of China. They spent two years in these areas as part of the *Up to the Mountains and Down to the Countryside Movement*, a policy instituted in China by Mao Zedong during the Cultural Revolution that had them re-educated by the workers and farmers who lived there. Universities were shut down for several years during this period but when they re-opened, Zheng completed a BA in English at the Beijing International Studies University (in 1983). Upon graduation, he spent two more years there as an Instructor before taking a position as a Cultural Representative for the People’s Republic of China at the Chinese pavilion at Disney World in Florida. He subsequently made his way to the University of Victoria, as the first international graduate student from China admitted to the program. He completed his MA in Sociology in 1988 (with Dr. Dan Koenig as a Supervisor) followed by a PhD in Social Demography from the University of Western Ontario in 1992 (with Dr. T. Balakrishnan as a Supervisor).

Zheng’s PhD dissertation, entitled ‘A Social Psychological Analysis of Remarriage’, examined the transition from marital union dissolution to remarriage in Canada, using data from the 1990 General Social Survey. His graduate training and dissertation were the starting points for a longstanding career interest in family demography and specifically, in marital and cohabiting unions and other family relationships. His approach was also consistent: almost all of it featured careful statistical analyses of the GSS and other national survey data sets. Over the years, Zheng’s research interests expanded to include numerous other demographic topics, such as race and ethnicity, immigration, and social integration. In recent years, his research program incorporated aging-related trends and patterns, both in Canada and China. Among his concerns were union formation and dissolution in later life and the physical and psychological well-being of older adults. Zheng was an accomplished and productive scholar. Over the course of his career, he held numerous research grants and published over 100 books, edited volumes, chapters in books and peer-reviewed journal articles. In 2004, he received the University of Victoria Faculty of Social Science Award for Excellence in Research, in recognition of his achievements.

However, Zheng’s academic impact extends well beyond his individual research contributions. It includes numerous contributions to the universities where he worked as well as the demography community in Canada and internationally. At the University of Victoria, he adeptly served as Chair of the Sociology Department (2006-2011). He was also the Founding Director of the Population Research Group (2008-2018), an interdisciplinary group devoted to promoting research and training in demography and population studies. Zheng was also a dedicated educator and mentor who spent countless hours meeting with and mentoring students. The students he worked closely with remember him for his intellectual contributions but also, for his kindness and support. Beyond the university, he held numerous other leadership positions, including that of President of the Canadian Population Society.

He was also a Research Affiliate or Visiting Professor at a number of universities in Canada, the US, and China. In all of these positions, Zheng dedicated himself to the task of promoting and encouraging research and the collaborative networks and training necessary to do so.

Zheng’s loss has been keenly felt by colleagues, students, and friends alike. Above all, Zheng was kind, gentle and modest. A few of the many tributes paid to him appear over the next few pages. They tell a consistent story of a man who left his mark, not only as an academic but as a person who exuded humanity and humility. We are privileged to have known him as a colleague, teacher, mentor and friend.

Zheng is survived by his wife Lanjing Li, his brother Jun, and his sister Fei, as well as their families. The things he cared about most were his wife and family, his colleagues/friends, and his work. He was a great host, often bringing all three groups together. However, he also made time to enjoy other good things in life, whether it be hiking up mountains, playing a round of golf, or travelling to exotic and interesting locales. He and Lanjing travelled the world together while also spending time at their urban high-rise cottage in the heart of Vancouver. For all that he was and all that he did, he will be missed.

~Submitted by Margaret Penning & Neena Chappell
Undergraduate Rising Stars Awards

BOSS has started organizing study groups for first year courses to encourage first year students to getting involved and to ease life into their studies.

Colleague Memories

Zheng was an active member of the Canadian Population Society (CPS), serving in many capacities including as president of CPS from 2008-10. He was a prolific scholar and his expertise in family demography, aging and health was internationally recognized. On a personal level, Zheng was both friend and mentor to me, and his loss is immeasurable.

~Lisa Strohschein, Canadian Population Society

This comes as a tremendous shock and leaves a hole in the hearts of those who knew Zheng, even those who only knew him for the short time that he resided in our department. Zheng was a terrific colleague and friend who emoted the highest level of integrity, diligence and kindness. It has been an honour to have known Zheng for over 35 years, primarily through the tight-knit demography and gerontology communities. Indeed, he has left a deep footprint in these fields. But I will remember him as a gentle soul of the most humble nature, an individual who always had a positive comment to any situation. He will be greatly missed, but will remain forever in our hearts and minds.

~Andrew Wister, Simon Fraser University

I am truly saddened and devastated to hear of the sudden passing of Zheng. This is a great loss for his family, our department, and the wider academic community. I feel honored and privileged that I was able to work with him in a number of different capacities over the past several decades. Andrew and I were also really looking forward to going to China with him next week although it became clear that his health was deteriorating over the past year and that he would be unable to travel. I am also grateful for the many memories of him that I continue to cherish. Zheng was a remarkable man who was always willing to share his enthusiasm for family demography and his incredible technical expertise with others. Overall, he was a very kind and dedicated human being who deeply cared about others. I hope that we can all draw upon his inspiration in this time of mourning and grief and celebrate his life and enormous contributions.

~Barbara Mitchell, Simon Fraser University

I first met Zheng almost 25 years ago, when he visited my institute and gave a talk in Spring 1995. I can still remember he lectured on marriage and family in Canada. After my family moved to Vancouver in late 1990s, we gradually became very close friends. Since 2004, after the School of Public Policy and Administration was founded, Zheng was invited to be a guest chair professor by Xi’an Jiaotong University and became a long-term collaborator at the Institute for Population and Development Studies. In 2012, he founded the Center for Aging and Health Research at Xi’an Jiaotong University, and organized the annual international workshop on aging and health research. Zheng had made tremendous contributions to capacity building of our research team and platform. By cooperating with local researchers, teaching courses at Summer School, supervising our graduate students, and hosting PhD students from XJTU to UVIC and SFU, he had made great efforts to enhance international academic exchange and cooperation, and gave great support to introducing social studies of China into international academia.

About two weeks before his passing, I visited Zheng in Victoria. The meeting was very short, about 10 minutes. Working in front of computer, he looked very feeble and slim, but I could see his good mood and spirits, his confidence, and the familiar fortitude in his eyes. He was very rational, telling me his health was very bad, and how much he enjoyed his life of teaching and doing research. He also said we would continue the work. Both of us believed he would recover … It was heart-breaking when I realized that day with him was our farewell.

His first name, Zheng, means integrity, honest, justice, positive, and personal loyalty in Chinese. Just like his name, Zheng always gave us support, care, and sunshine. He was a magnificent person who inspired every life he encountered. His passing is a painful loss for his family, his friends, and our communities of gerontology, demography and social sciences. We will all deeply miss his intelligence, kindness, and friendliness. Our beloved friend, colleague, and teacher has gone, but what he left to us will stay for long.

~Li Shuzhou, Center for Aging and Health Research, Institute for Population and Development Studies, Xi’an Jiaotong University, China
Zheng was an accomplished scholar who lived by his values. His integrity was especially visible as chair of the sociology department where his belief that the discipline is stronger when it embraces multiple perspectives ensured that all were treated respectfully and were valued irrespective of their ideological leanings. He was taken from us far too soon; his contributions as an intellectual and as a person will be deeply missed.  ~Neena Chappell, UVic

I liked Zheng. He was a person of dignity and integrity... he and I disagreed on almost everything in departmental meetings I guess but that didn’t matter. He was totally bemused by my keeping donkeys as he had worked with donkeys on a farm when he was young – they did not endear themselves to him....

Zheng, Margaret Penning and I all joined the Department of Sociology around the same time. For years, we were the ‘junior faculty’. As typically happens, the camaraderie of the early days gave way to a relationship of colleagues. Zheng was a wonderful colleague. Zheng and I probably never voted the same way more than twice in departmental meetings. Zheng was without rancour or meanness of any kind. He treated people on all sides of the political divide with respect and interest in who they were and what they were doing. I was deeply shocked and very sad at his death. I suspect many will write of his academic accomplishments. But I wanted to write as a colleague who knew his dignity and integrity as a person.  ~Martha McMahon, UVic

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Zheng played an important part in our lives since Mikael met him and Lanjing in graduate school in London and Cecilia met them when Zheng was wooed for a position in the Department of Sociology at UVic. Throughout these 30 and some years our lives have been intertwined and we have grown immeasurably through our interactions, professionally and personally. Many are the times that we grew frustrated by Zheng’s blunt rejection of our favourite ideas because they were not confirmed by data. Zheng had the outmost respect for empirical data. It did not matter if the contradictory data were qualitative or quantitative because empirical data mattered to Zheng. For many years his presence in his departmental office was a refuge where we sought out consolation for our academic struggles and our personal frustrations. Zheng was always up for a visit and chat before turning back to the analysis for a paper he was occupied with – the activity that was his professional life’s passion.

He taught us about research and he taught us about entertaining. Zheng and Lanjing parties were legendary and always consisted of the most delicious Chinese dishes we ever ate and we have not visited a restaurant serving Chinese food without them since the first dinner they served us. Zheng’s success in academia and personal life was remarkable, especially given that he was a new immigrant to Canada and had to overcome numerous challenges, including grasping the complexities of language and culture. We are lucky to have known him as a colleague and friend even for the too short time that he shared his life with us.

Cecilia Benoit & Mikael Jansson, UVic

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If we are lucky, we have people in our lives whose impact is profound and everlasting. To me, Zheng was one of those people. He was the best kind of colleague - a dedicated, hard-working and talented researcher who was dedicated to his craft and always supportive and generous with his time and with his talents. Our research interests brought us together and our skills were complementary. The result was a great partnership that lasted for a long time and one that we both planned for and hoped would continue, despite Zheng’s illness. I will miss our academic partnership and all that resulted from it. However, even more, I will miss the kind, honorable and dear friend that Zheng was.

~Margaret Penning, UVic

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Only a man who crosses the river at night knows the value of the light of day.

- Chinese Proverb

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Having overcome numerous challenges in his journey to Canada as a young man, Zheng knew and never forgot the value of the light of day. His strong work ethic reflected his adherence to this adage; it was something that I deeply admired. Zheng was an exceptional scholar, but equally, if not more important, he was a kind and generous colleague, mentor, and friend. He was also a fair and patient leader, whose quiet nature belied his great passion for the discipline and his fierce loyalty to the department, his colleagues, and his graduate students. A light has gone out in our community and the loss is immeasurable. Rest peacefully my dear friend.

~Karen Kobayashi, UVic

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~Cecilia Benoit & Mikael Jansson, UVic

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~Martha McMahon, UVic
Student Memories

It’s impossible to summarize Zheng Wu’s impact on my professional development in a few short lines, but it’s fair to say that I owe him my career. I worked with Zheng for 18 years, transitioning from a fledgling research assistant to a full-fledged collaborator under his mentorship. Perhaps the most valuable lesson he instilled in me is the need to be persistent, for it is persistence that sets the course toward success. Whatever I achieve in my career is both a testament and a tribute to Zheng Wu’s legacy as the finest mentor a person could hope to have. Since I have gained so much from his presence, I feel the weight of his absence all the more.

~ Christoph Schimmele, Statistics Canada, Ottawa

I am so incredibly sad. He was so kind, honest, dedicated, and modest. He changed my life and I will be forever grateful. Such a wonderful mentor. I had a really nice phone conversation with him a couple of years ago. I am so glad that I told him how much his mentorship means to me. As usual, he wanted no praise.

~ Randy Hart, Saint Mary’s University

Zheng’s passing came as a tremendous shock and left a big hole in the hearts of those who knew him. Zheng is an outstanding family demographer and sociologist, and an outstanding supervisor. I feel extremely thankful to my supervisor for his guidance during my Ph.D. Studies. I started my PhD with almost no understanding of what was expected or required, merely possessing a puppy-like enthusiasm and a passion for research. By contrast, my supervisor was very disciplined, focused, and determined. His professionalism on sociological and demographic research, as well as on communicating and time management, have benefited me and influenced me very much.

Zheng was instrumental in my development as a scholar by providing me with ample opportunities to learn new skills, and by being a truly super mentor in every sense of the world. The support had never stopped, and I asked myself what, over the years, had I done for him? The short answer was not a lot. But I will surely remember him as a gentle soul of the most humble nature, and an individual who emoted the highest level of integrity, diligence and positiv-ity. He will remain forever in my heart.

~ Andrew Elliott, UVic

I first met Zheng at an American Sociological Association (ASA) conference in the early 1990s. I was at the University of Richmond, Virginia, then, and we talked about our research interests. Later, we would see each other again at other ASA and Population Association of America (PAA) conferences. We maintained close contact and when I had a sabbatical leave in 1995-96, I decided to come to UVic for the year because of my association with Zheng. Meanwhile, Zheng had been introduced to my spouse, Barry Edmonston, who is also a demographer. We became good friends with Zheng and his wife, Lanjing. After my sabbatical, we returned east, but soon moved to Portland, Oregon, in 1998. We both worked at Portland State University until we moved to Victoria in 2006. Our friendship with Zheng was a key reason for why we moved to Victoria, and requested affiliations with UVic.

Barry and I are fortunate to have known Zheng. We shared research interests and worked together on research projects. He was always ready to discuss ways to frame and analyze intriguing research questions. His positive and enthusiastic approach to research was infectious. He was a joy to work with. He was incredibly dedicated to his work. We could always count on seeing him in his office on the weekends. Barry and I often knocked on his door on a Sunday, and chat about research, travels, and share funny stories. It’s painful to know we can’t do this anymore.

We didn’t learn about Zheng’s passing until September 1. We had been traveling in remote Northern Australia and didn’t access email until that day. The first email I saw had the subject line, “Zheng’s obituary”. Even now, it’s impossible to express our disbelief, shock, and grief as we read the emails, with tears flowing. We remain devastated. It’s difficult to accept we will never see Zheng or hear his voice again.

~ Sharon Lee & Barry Edmonston, UVic

Put simply, Zheng is the reason I am in the department today. I first worked with him in 1995 when I took on the short term position of lab instructor after completing my MA. Returning to the department in 2008, he employed me as an RA. When the lab instructor position became a permanent one in 2010 he encouraged me to apply. The rest is history! Over the years we worked closely together - I helped him with various research and administrative tasks, assisted in coordinating and hosting the Population Research Group as well as several conferences. He was always appreciative of my work. He loved quantitative research and was excited when others shared his passion. He was not only a supportive mentor and employer, but a kind and thoughtful friend. I will greatly miss our “couch chats” in his office.

~ Ruth Kampen, UVic

I could not have asked for a better mentor than Zheng. Whenever I was feeling low or doubting myself he would reassure me that I could do what needed to be done. He often said he owed a duty to help others the same way he was helped when he was starting out and I think this exemplifies Zheng’s humble and caring nature. I am forever grateful for his support and will try to help others as much as he helped me.

~ Grace Li, UVic

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~ Grace Li, UVic
Faculty Awards and Honours

**Dorothy Smith.** adjunct professor in our department, has been awarded The Order of Canada to recognize her significant academic contribution, specifically, "for extending the boundaries of traditional sociology to incorporate a feminist perspective, and for developing institutional ethnography." In 2015 Dorothy Smith participated in a very successful public workshop on institutional ethnography in our department. This workshop was hosted by Garry Gray and Ruth Kampen for the SOCI 515 graduate course on qualitative methods. After the formal workshop had completed, Dorothy spent an additional hour and a half speaking one-on-one with our graduate students.

Dorothy will go to Ottawa on November 21 to receive the award from the Governor General. The link to the announcement includes information on other recipients as well.

**Bill Carroll** and Shannon Daub from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives are the winners of the 2019 UVic REACH Award for Excellence in Research Partnerships. The award recognizes research excellence, as demonstrated through scholarly contributions and societal impact, jointly achieved by a UVic researcher in collaboration with an external research partner. An awards ceremony will be held in October.

Faculty Research Grants

**Cecilia Benoit.** SSHRC/CHIR Partnership Grant. Healthy Professional/Knowledge Workers: Examining the Gendered Nature of Mental Health Issues, Leaves of Absence & Return to Work Experiences from a Comparative Perspective. Bourgeault, I. (PI), Benoit, C. (Co-Lead) et al. ($1,425,000), 2018-2023

**Cecilia Benoit.** Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Grant. Beyond the ‘Missing Women Inquiry’: Empowering Sex Workers as Social Justice Advocates. ($225,000), 2018-2021

**Garry Gray.** SSHRC Institutional Grant. The Qualitative Narrative Policy Framework (QNPF) and Canadian Public Policy Debates. (Principle Investigator). ($7000), 2019-2020

**Karen Kobayashi.** SSHRC Partnership Grant LOI for “Addressing social isolation among older immigrants in Canada: Developing multi-level, multi-component interventions to promote connectedness.” Co-Investigator (Principal Investigator: Sepali Guruge) ($20,000), 2019-2020

**Karen Kobayashi.** Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) Implementation Science Team Grant for “Embedding Health Care Technologies in Real-World Contexts: Developing the Scale-Up, Spread and Sustainability of Assistive Technologies in Homes, Communities, and Health Care Systems.” Co-PI (with Elizabeth Borycki) ($500,000), 2019-2022

**Karen Kobayashi.** AGE-WELL NCE Catalyst Grant for “Beyond Ability411: A Participatory Action Research Study to Scale-Up a Web-Based Service About Assistive Technologies for Older Adults in British Columbia.” Co-PI (with Elizabeth Borycki) ($30,000), 2019-2020

**Karen Kobayashi.** AGE-WELL NCE Cross-Cutting Theme Grant for “Developing a “Knowledge Community” in Technology and Aging.” Co-PI (with Amanda Grenier) ($116,000), 2019-2020

**André Smith.** SSHRC Internal Research Grant - The Experience of Ostomy Surgery in Young Women with Inflammatory Bowel Disease. ($7,000), 2019-2020

Faculty News: Voices in Motion Research Project

Funded by the Alzheimer Society of Canada and the Pacific Alzheimer Research Foundation until March 2021, the Voices in Motion (ViM) choir study involves an interdisciplinary partnership with André Smith (Sociology), Debra Sheets (Nursing), Stuart MacDonald (Psychology), Mary Kennedy (Music), Helen Kivnick (School of Social Work, University of Minnesota), and Paul Carl Asche (Center for Outcomes Research, University of Illinois).

The study seeks to assess the impact of participation in two purpose-built community choirs on social inclusion, health and well-being for persons with dementia (PwD) and their caregivers. The study wants to understand what factors motivate PwD and their caregivers to participate in choir singing, does participation in a choir improve cognitive and functional abilities, mood, and quality of life in PwD and their family caregivers, and finally, does the multi-generational composition of the choir increase social inclusion between PwD and other choir participants?

Preliminary analyses reveal that choir participation mitigates the mild to moderate symptoms of dementia and promote social engagement and inclusion. There was significant improvement in episodic memory for PwD following choir participation. Caregivers also showed an important reduction in depressive symptoms. The distress experienced by caregivers in providing for a loved one with dementia is well known – our interviews with this group identified the importance of the choir for helping caregivers to mitigate feelings of stress, anxiety, and social isolation. The observed improvements in memory and reduction in depressive symptoms for caregivers may reflect the social benefits of the choir intervention and meeting others experiencing similar challenges. The social network analysis showed that, over time, trust and reciprocity emerged within the choirs as more people shared information about themselves. Choir involvement also fostered interactions between PwD and the high-school students participating in the choir. Students’ regular contact with PwD appears to have decreased ageism and stigma and increased intergenerational bonds.

Overall, preliminary results suggest that ViM is a community-based non-pharmacological intervention that improves the verbal abilities of PwD and enhances memory performance, combats loneliness and hopelessness, increases social engagement, and reduces symptoms of anxiety and depression. ViM also benefits family caregivers in terms of reduced stress and having an opportunity to engage in a meaningful social activity together. Finally, students gain a deeper understanding of dementia and its challenges, and of the ways in which PwD can continue to learn, socialize and contribute to the choir.

We are currently continuing to analyze the qualitative and quantitative data that has been gathered over the past year and a half. We anticipate several papers being published from this research and results have already been presented at various conferences.

The study has also received quite a bit of media attention with articles in the local media as well as Globe and Mail and CBC News. Moreover, Shaw created a 12 minute Spotlight documentary, focusing on one of the couples in the choir.

ViM choir members have had several concerts as well as requests to do additional performances in the community, including a performance during the British Columbia Legislative Assembly this past Spring. It is hoped that these activities contribute to an awareness of the benefits of choral singing and the reduction of stigma. There are now six ViM choirs in the Victoria region and there is hope that more choirs will start in Victoria and across the province in the future.

From the department, Tara Erb, Chandra Berkan Hozempa, Ashley Berard and Ruth Kampen are assisting with the qualitative data collection and analysis for the study. For more information, see the choir’s website. To view the Shaw Spotlight documentary, click here.

Garry Gray was a Visiting Professor in Fall 2018 in the Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Evaluation of Public Policies (LIEPP) at Sciences Po University, Paris, France. In addition to spending his time writing at the LIEPP, he also worked with researchers from the Centre de Sociologie Des Organisations on legal intermediary research. Together they organized and created a series of academic panels on legal intermediary research for the Law and Society Association Meetings the following spring in Washington DC. While there he also gave a public talk “Experiencing Safety: Local Culture, Near Miss Accidents, and Regulatory Dismemberment”.

More Faculty News

Co-directed by Bill Carroll, this SSHRC Partnership entered its sixth year in April 2019. Much of the research and policy commentary issuing from the Project can be found at its website. Numbering well over 100, the CMP team includes university-based and community-based researchers, community advisors drawn from social movements and progressive journalism and policy circles, and student research assistants.

Last October, Bill gave an invited address to the conference ‘Antonio Gramsci, a Legacy for the Future?’ at Simon Fraser University. Bill’s lecture was titled “The struggle for hearts and minds in the crisis of fossil capitalism: insights from The Corporate Mapping Project.” In March 2019, Bill presented “Network Analysis in Mapping Corporate Power” at our Department Colloquium, How to Study Corporate Power and Elite Deviance. In June, he and CMP co-director Shannon Daub of CCPA-BC presented a day-long symposium at Congress, featuring CMP research and related papers, including “Carbon Capital’s Political Reach: A Network Analysis of Federal Lobbying by the Fossil Fuel Industry, from Harper to Trudeau,” co-authored by Bill with Nicolas Graham and David Chen – CMP student researchers in our Department. Bill and Shannon Daub also made a plenary presentation at the Canadian Sociological Association, entitled “Researching and Contesting the Power of Fossil Capital: The Corporate Mapping Project.” In August Bill presented an invited address on “Public Sociology in the Pursuit of Climate Justice: Lessons from the Corporate Mapping Project” at the Presidential Panel on Economic Justice, at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association.

In July, a new online mapping database was launched. The tool helps shed light on who’s who in the oil resource sector by highlighting the 50 most influential fossil fuel industry players in Western Canada.

The Project held its second Summer Institute, with strong participation from UVic graduate and honours students, and is currently planning a major conference on corporate power, fossil capitalism and just alternatives, to be held next May 22-23 at UVic. Stay tuned for more information!

Previous Department Talks & Events

Bill Carroll’s ‘Organizing the 1% How Corporate Power Works’ talk and book launch took place October 12th. The event was sponsored by the department and Fernwood Publishing.


An end of the Fall term potluck lunch, featuring a talk by Nick Graham on his dissertation research – ‘Forces of Production, Climate Change and Canadian Fossil Capitalism’ took place on December 5.

Peyman Vahabzadeh’s book launch hosted by the Department of Sociology and University of Toronto Press. “Violence and Nonviolence: Conceptual Excursions into Phantom Opposites” on Friday, April 5th, 2019. A 30 minute youtube recording of the talk is available.

The department held its first ever Undergrad and Faculty Social in the afternoon of February 27. The event was organized by Peyman, the Undergraduate Advisor. Light refreshments were provided for all to enjoy. The event was promoted to upper level students as well as BOSS members and there was a good turnout. Students enjoyed the opportunity to speak with their professors and instructors in an informal setting.

Thanks to all who came out and made this a successful event!
Remembering Alan Hedley — Former Chair

R. Alan Hedley passed away on April 8th, 2019 at the age of 78. He was a distinguished Professor of Sociology at the University of Victoria for 35 years and the chair of the department from 1989-2003. He enjoyed teaching, was popular with students and colleagues, and regretted having to leave ("they fired me!") in the last year of mandatory retirement at UVic.

Alan received his BA and MA in Sociology from the University of BC, and earned his PhD at the University of Oregon. During his career, he wrote two books, made numerous academic contributions to textbooks and journals, and delivered papers at conferences all over the world. One of Alan’s proudest professional accomplishments was the creation of a graduate tuition bursary for women in less-developed countries, based on the premise that educating women benefits all society. In 1995, he convinced then-President David Strong to incorporate this award into UVic’s donations program, where it continues as the "Women in Development Graduate Bursary.”

Generous and compassionate, Alan supported over 30 causes, including local and international anti-poverty charities and environmental organizations. He could not pass a homeless person without helping, and in the words of one charity director, was "a great humanitarian with a giant heart and an infectious enthusiasm for life." Alan was the grandson of Robert Rist Hedley, after whom the town of Hedley, BC was named, and took a personal interest in supporting the Hedley Museum.

Alan leaves behind his wife Darby Carswell, two sons and a step-daughter, as well as grandchildren. This warm, kind man with a unique sense of humour will be missed by all who knew him. A celebration of life was held May 26, which several departmental members attended.

~Obituary edited from the Times Colonist online.

We feel very lucky to have known Alan as a friend and colleague. We think of his hard work as department chair to reach consensus when issues divided colleagues, his passion of helping undergraduate students develop a “sociological eye”, and his efforts to help women in low-income countries to receive a higher education. His silly grin and a twinkle in his eye brought joy to our hearts when he interacted with us. Alan was a warm and loving man who always made a special effort to be particularly goofy with our daughter, Annika, and any other child that he had an opportunity to interact with. We miss him deeply.  ~Cecilia Benoit & Mikael Jansson

Seneca, the great Roman philosopher wrote, “Life is never incomplete if it is an honorable one. At whatever point you leave life, if you leave it in the right way, it is whole.”

By the measure of these words, my dear friend and mentor Alan Hedley led a whole life. His generosity, kindness, and compassion towards others were evident throughout his career as an academic and administrator; he genuinely cared about people and he deeply valued his connections with the local and global community. As a colleague and a leader, Alan was principled and fair. As a friend, he was thoughtful and empathetic. I count myself extremely fortunate in this lifetime to have been able to spend time with and to learn from him. On a personal note, I will remember Alan as the first colleague to provide comfort, support, and a much-needed warm embrace when I experienced a series of devastating losses as a young faculty member. He just knew how to be there for me, how to be present. I have never forgotten those quiet moments — they helped get me through to the other side. As academics, we are often so caught up in our professional lives, our teaching and research responsibilities, that we forget to be kind to one another. As a sociologist, Alan’s greatest legacy was his humanity. He cared deeply about people, all people. This is an important reminder to all of us. I miss him dearly.  ~ Karen Kobayashi
Recent Graduate Student Defenses

PhD Students
Nicolas Graham (PhD) - May 7, 2019, “Forces of Production, Climate Change and Canadian Fossil Capitalism” (Supervisor: William Carroll, Member: Martha McMahon)

Andrew Ivsins (PhD) - December 7, 2018, “Couched in Context: exploring how context shapes drug use among structurally marginalized people who use drugs in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside”, (Supervisor: Cecilia Benoit, Member: Karen Kobayashi).

MA Students


Graduate Student Awards & Scholarships
We are very pleased to announce that five (5) graduate students in our department received SSHRC funding! Congratulations to:

Roisin Unsworth (PhD)
Theo Holland
Celeste Morales
Chandra Berkan Hozempa
Mark Shakespear
Jason Miller

Congratulations also to the following students who received various Donor Awards:

Tianyang (Alexi) Hu: Robert Hagedorn Graduate Scholarship
Jason Miller: Roy E. L. Watson Graduate Scholarship
Grace Li: Bob and Kay Lane Scholarship
Tara Erb: Dean’s Award for Indigenous Students
Keely Bethune: Robert W. Ford Graduate Scholarship
The department is very excited to welcome the new graduate cohort, consisting of 9 MA students and 2 PhD students (one to join in January 2020). Their names, supervisor, former educational institution and research areas of interest are listed below. We wish all students a successful year!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
<th>Previous Institution</th>
<th>Areas of Research</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PhD Students</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Berard</td>
<td>Andre Smith</td>
<td>University of Victoria</td>
<td>Social media; online analysis; health and identity; post-disaster context, climate adaptation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Miller (Jan 2020 start)</td>
<td>William Carroll</td>
<td>University of Victoria</td>
<td>Relationship between narratives, ideology, and power, with increased attention to media landscapes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MA Students</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alison Barnard</td>
<td>Andre Smith</td>
<td>U of California-Davis</td>
<td>Various intersections of the sociology of medicine, specifically as it pertains to mental health care, decolonization practices, and non-profit organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachael Barton-Bridges</td>
<td>Bruce Ravelli</td>
<td>University of Victoria</td>
<td>Empowering and connecting communities through confronting social inequality, stigma, and poverty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelsey Block</td>
<td>Steve Garlick</td>
<td>University of the Fraser Valley</td>
<td>Gender and sexuality - with focus on intersectionality and the marginalization of people due to their gender or sexuality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finn Deschner</td>
<td>Garry Gray</td>
<td>University of Victoria</td>
<td>White collar crime - investigating an emerging wave of deregulatory politics under President Trump</td>
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<td>Conrad Flegg</td>
<td>Peyman Vahabzadeh</td>
<td>Mount Royal University</td>
<td>Knowledge, power and culture formations - how gender is expressed and reinforced; how spaces are reinforced as being a part of the dominant culture; how identities are formed based on cultural convergences; or the processes of legitimation of knowledge among the public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shreyashi Ganguly</td>
<td>William Carroll</td>
<td>Jawaharlal Nehru University</td>
<td>How caste, in the form of ascriptions and reservations, finds representation in comedy in India at present</td>
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<td>Alexandra Haupt</td>
<td>Bruce Ravelli</td>
<td>University of Victoria</td>
<td>Sociology of education; community engaged learning and experiential learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jen Kostuchuk</td>
<td>Aaron Devor</td>
<td>Carleton University</td>
<td>Women’s rights; sexuality; and social justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Revilla Sanchez</td>
<td>Steve Garlick</td>
<td>Brock University</td>
<td>Gendered violence; sexualities and youth; Latin American feminism and literary criticism; representations of masculinities and femininities in cultural production</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Updates from Recent Graduates

I had a great first year out of school! In August 2018 I started as the Indigenous Education Coordinator at Peace Wapiti Public School District. This position directly relates to my graduate research as I focus on Indigenous-based support in education, however it also adds a new element with the K-12 learning environment rather than post-secondary. Entering this role at this time has been exciting, as the Alberta Teachers Association rolled out new Teaching Quality Standards that include Indigenous Education as a core value for the first time ever. This has opened a window into working with educators on enhancing their own foundational knowledge of Indigenous people, culture and history within Canada. In addition to professional development with staff and working with our Indigenous Liaisons, I am able to go into classrooms and work with students as well. Whether it’s helping students understand treaty negotiations within Canada, or exposing them to Inuit culture through a critically acclaimed Inuk artist, the time I get to spend with kids is always inspiring.

Still, the strategic planning aspect of my job is my favourite part. Peace Wapiti School District is unbelievably diverse and dynamic. We provide service to about 6,000 students in 35 schools, including 9 Hutterite colony schools, 2 outreach schools, an online school and schooling for students from Horse Lake First Nation and Kelly Lake Métis settlement, all within about a 2 hour radius from the city of Grande Prairie. While this can make strategic planning for Indigenous Education somewhat challenging, it also results in a beautiful vision that respects diversity, autonomy, and core values of reconciliation. Last year was a huge learning year, so I am excited to see what this year brings!

In addition, last February I was invited to be a co-keynote with my mom, Kelly Benning, at the UAKN (Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network) Atlantic Knowledge Mobilization Conference, held at the University of New Brunswick. I was able to share my findings from my Master’s Thesis, *Indigenous-based Support in Post-Secondary Education: The On-Campus Friendship Centre at Grande Prairie Regional College*. This was an exciting opportunity to speak about our local practices at a national level! I am really looking forward to returning to UVic this November to speak with the Graduate Qualitative Research Methods class, thanks to Garry Gray and the Indigenous Research Resurgence Support Fund!  
~Brigitte Benning

I was very pleased to have defended my PhD in December 2018. In February I started as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Medicine at UBC and at the BC Centre on Substance Use, working with Ryan McNeil. I am doing similar work to what I did during my PhD actually: qualitative research in the Downtown Eastside. Among other things, my main project is evaluating a "safe supply" program aimed at addressing the current overdose/toxic drug supply crisis. The safe supply program is a low-threshold program operating in an overdose prevention site in the DTES. Program participants are prescribed a daily amount of hydromorphone (i.e., Dilaudid) which is distributed by a nurse throughout the day in small doses, and must be consumed within the overdose prevention site (either injected, taken orally, or snorted). The goals of the program are to reduce fentanyl use and prevent overdoses.

~Andrew Ivsins

I graduated from UVIC in May 2019, with a BA in Sociology and a Business minor. It has been a very surreal feeling not returning to school this fall, but I have been enjoying my time in Vancouver since graduation. The Sociology program along with my Co-op with Destination British Columbia helped me realize what I wanted to do post-graduation, and I have been able to apply many of the things I learned in my Sociology classes in my career as well as my everyday life. After graduating, I landed a job in Market Research with NRG Research Group (now Leger after recently being acquired) in Vancouver as a Research Assistant. Day to day, I work as a project manager for clients such as ATB Financial and the CPA WSB, where I’m responsible for ensuring that research projects are conducted from start to finish and the clients research needs are met. The research methods and statistics courses I took helped give me a solid foundation for Market Research, having taught me how to create questionnaires and analyze data using tools like SPSS and Excel.

My Sociology degree not only gave me the tools to conduct research, but also how to better navigate the corporate structures around me. Working in the Financial District in Vancouver was not a place I really expected or planned to be, but having taken more theoretical Sociology courses has given me a critical lens that I have used to better understand the environments I find myself in. I am incredibly grateful that I had the opportunity to study Sociology at UVIC and I look forward to whatever comes next!

~Andrea Hondas
When Research Fights Back

My name is Thomas Mallette and I am a 3rd year MA student in the Cultural Studies and Political Thought (CSPT) program. Under the supervision of Dr. Steven Garlick and Dr. Emile Fromet de Rosnay, I am currently conducting an auto-analytic ethnography at ZUMA mixed martial arts in Victoria BC. In touching topics ranging from newly emerging gender dynamics of mixed-sex martial arts, theories of emancipation for human bodies, and the utility of using microsociology in evaluating sparring dynamics, my work takes various existential questions under consideration. Weaving together the theoretical work of Martin Heidegger, Loic Wacquant, Erving Goffman, Emile Durkheim, Randall Collins, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, and others, I seek to evaluate the nature of one of humanity’s oldest known rituals: human sparring. Specifically, Wacquant’s (2004) method of using the body as a ‘tool of inquiry’ offered a micro-sociology of boxing culture that unveiled significant new openings in exploring the realms of human combat. For me, his main work, Body and Soul: Notes of an Apprentice Boxer, proved a radical way to test abstract theory with the material conditions of social life. To pull punches with trained boxers took guts, but above all, it took care, in a very real, human sense. To purposely live the life of others is to pay homage to their perspective. I saw it as a tribute to the struggles of the everyday person facing social contexts of suffocating constraint. It occurred to me that if Wacquant could become a boxer to penetrate the habitus of his object of study, then I could become an MMA fighter to study the nature of human sparring in the same way. His approach was fundamentally brilliant.

What I didn’t anticipate was how far I needed to go to understand the phenomenon in question. To “become” human sparring meant to take-on roughly 7-10 hours a week of Brazilian Jujitsu, wrestling, Muay Thai, boxing, and no-Gi grappling, from mid-August 2018 through to mid-April 2019. Having only a background in Western boxing, this meant I would have to increase my training hours substantially to develop any real competency in these combat arts. In fact, in those 10 months, one would be hard pressed to find any gym member (out of the roughly 300) that was training and sparring more than myself. Additionally, I realized that without intimate knowledge of the sparring rigours associated with the preparation for real combat, like so many ancient and contemporary sparrers themselves, I may fall short in explaining this crucial and timeless subset of sparring dynamics. It occurred to me that I had to live the difference itself, rather than simply observe it. In other words, to know what sparring is, how its purpose seems to change form to form, I had to know what it definitely isn’t. To train like it was life or death was no longer simply an expression. My life became combat. And combat became an obsession. This rigorous training schedule allowed for an accelerated descent into the underbelly of contemporary human sparring practices.

After months of training, in April 2019, I was able to clinch a spot in the National Amateur MMA championships, held in Lethbridge Canada. The ‘Rumble in the Cage’ event drew attention from various professional fight leagues looking to sign amateur combatants to full professional contacts. Additionally, this competition was an open invitation to the best amateur MMA fighters in the country. In a three-day tournament, the winner would gain a spot on the Amateur MMA Canadian National Team and represent Canada in the International Amateur World Championships in Thailand later on in the year. Unfortunately, after breaking my hand in the first round, I ended up losing in a 3-round decision to a tough opponent. The experience itself was awesome in quite a literal sense. It was an insightful opening into the nakedness of human violence that changed me forever, warranting a description that could not be given justice here today.

Aside from taking a hands-on approach to the sociology of sparring, I had tremendous help from my participants. The 8-week intensive study period involved asking 19 participants (fellow gym members) to compile two sets of data. My instructions were simple: through journaling, describe the recently completed rounds of sparring with whatever thoughts, facts, feelings, and happenings occurred. The second data set was a running document of their own field notes, observations, and thoughts about sparring. I wanted to capture their mental content that structured sparring dynamics themselves, that often seem to appear remote from the actual interaction itself. With Heidegger in mind, my methodology took the nature of human sparring and radical phenomenology to dynamic levels. Sparring, like the nature of human perception itself, can be disorientating. By asking my participants to journal, I could test various assumptions about the nature of social realities at-hand. After the coding and data analysis process was completed in late May 2019, I began writing the initial chapters of my thesis, which continues today. I project I will complete the writing process by spring 2020 and hope to defend late spring or early summer 2020.
Graduate Student Updates: Research and Work

Wachay/Greetings! My name is Tara Erb and I am starting my third year as an MA student. I am of Moose Cree and French European ancestry, and I acknowledge with gratitude and respect the Lekwungen peoples whose traditional territory we study and work on. I am working on a thesis titled *The process behind cultural safety and our collective responsibility to cultural safety facilitators*. Using a qualitative research approach, my study examines the successes and challenges of facilitating cultural safety training from the perspective of facilitators. My focus is their lived experience so that we can learn what supports are necessary to continue this important work. A deeper understanding of the process behind cultural safety may not only help researchers and policymakers identify resources needed to sustain cultural safety training, but also make visible any risks involved in its facilitation, such as emotional taxation. If you see me around the department, do not hesitate to say hello- I always enjoy talking with other students about their work!

In addition to working on my thesis, this year I become the Network Coordinator for the Indigenous Mentorship Network of the Pacific Northwest (IMN-PN), which is generously supported by a grant from the CIHR and consists of our partners at Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia, University of Northern British Columbia, and the University of Victoria. The IMN-PN is a Network of Indigenous and allied researchers, professionals and communities who support Indigenous students and research trainees across British Columbia and the Yukon to engage in community-based health and wellness research. Some of the things we do include: facilitate academic, professional and community mentorship opportunities; offer trainee research and travel awards; provide experiential and other learning activities; and support local, national and international student networking.

As the Network Coordinator, my main responsibilities entail connecting members with available resources, developing strong lines of communication, organizing events and activities, creating a friendly and engaging environment for mentees and mentors, and growing the Network. We are always looking to grow our Network, so if you are interested please connect with us at either uvic.ca/imnpn or imnpn@uvic.ca.

Grad school & motherhood: Navigating and surviving the first year

Before getting into the trials and tribulations of graduate school, I would like to introduce myself and provide some context about why I might be giving you advice on how to survive your first year of grad school. My name is Chandra Berkan Hozempa and I am a second year MA student. I received my BA from the University of Regina, majoring in Sociology, minoring in Women and Gender Studies. My MA focus is on student-mother experiences in post secondary education, and much of my research focuses on women’s health. Throughout my first year I worked as a research assistant on two projects: "Voices in Motion", in which we studied inter-generational choirs, social networks/capital and Alzheimer’s, as well as "The Cowichan Women Against Violence Society (CWAWS) Homeless Prevention Program Project" which is investigating the efficiency of a federally funded homelessness prevention program that has been piloted in Cowichan Bay. For the fall and winter semester I was a TA/Seminar Leader for two sections of the SOC 100 course, and was responsible for lecturing weekly, grading exams/essays, hosting office hours, etc.

As if I didn't have enough on the go, I am also a mother of two (6 & 3), and have two dogs and two cats. Additionally, I coached my daughter’s hockey last season. Somehow through all of this, I managed to maintain my grades, retaining my funding, but also managed to secure SSHRC funding and a full time permanent position for the Ministry of Health as a Policy Analyst for the Women's, Maternal and Child Health Division- Public Health. As you can see, my plate is full. Like many of the new graduate students, I moved across the country to take part in this program. The move itself was likely one of the hardest parts to this entire transition. Moving away meant leaving support systems, accustomed faces and the comfort of familiarity- not to mention the financial burden. Throughout the year I documented the majority of my experiences for my thesis, and through reflecting on this I would like to provide five pieces of advice for navigating your first year successfully.
1. **Turn to your cohort:** Many of these people have just endured a very familiar transition. Despite having various backgrounds, experiences, roles, responsibilities, views and priorities you all share the same eagerness and love for knowledge acquisition. You will face similar challenges in relation to course load, juggling expectations and responsibilities of the program. Our cohort formed our own sort of support group, in which when one person struggled the group would provide whatever energy and support they could, and this would be reciprocated for others when they were in need.

2. **Do NOT procrastinate:** This might seem obvious, but procrastination does nothing to assist you. Plan out your entire semester, including class times, assignments, exams, grading, as well as time to work. Priority lists for daily, weekly, and monthly tasks also help. This is helpful not only for your mental health, but in terms of avoiding burnout. Having things done ahead of time will do wonders for your cortisone levels.

3. **Eat good foods and drink water:** When things get stressful many of you without a doubt will reach for the caffeine and convenience diet. Prepare for this by stocking your desk with calorie dense foods, nut butters, granola bars, etc.

4. **NO assignment is worth jeopardizing your mental health:** Grad school stakes are high—while you should always put your best effort into things, and produce work that is well done—do not risk your mental health and self-worth over an assignment. I like to give myself the 5 year rule—will this *assignment, exam, class* matter to me in five years? Will I remember doing poorly on this five years from now? If the answer is no, I provide the assignment with the energy and time that I have at that given moment and come back to it later.

5. **Ask for help:** Navigating everything is hard REGARDLESS of what you have on your plate. Your department and professors want you to succeed and thrive, so if there is something that they can do, be assured they will. I found Aileen, Zoe and Anne to be very helpful in directing me to resources that could help with given issues that arise. There are a surprising amount of supports and policies in place to help grad students. If you aren’t sure where to look, they can guide you! In all, take care of yourself and your brain first and foremost, and trust the process. It is a lot, and it feels like a lot, but it is manageable and at times (dare I say) enjoyable?! Take solace in knowing you aren’t the first or last to tangle with this beast. You are not defined by your grades, successes or failures—this is just another adventure to navigate.

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**Graduate Student Conference Presentations**

I presented twice at the CSA annual conference at Congress this year, held at UBC in Vancouver, BC. I presented a paper in the section ‘Feminist Conversations: Ecofeminisms’ titled “Imagining the end of Capitalism: Ecofeminist Imaginaries and Prefiguration for a Future of Multispecies Flourishing” in which I argue that contemporary ecofeminist scholars and feminist science fiction authors are working with alternate social imaginaries to prefigure a livable multispecies future.

I originally wrote said paper for my Political Sociology course with Dr. William Carroll, and adapted it after receiving feedback into a powerpoint presentation and discussion. This was my third conference presentation (my first two were during Congress 2018) and I felt it went exceedingly well, certainly my best so far.

I also jointly presented with my supervisor **Martha McMahon** in the ‘Political Sociology and Social Movements: Framing and Memory Making’ section. Our presentation was titled “Sociological entanglements of engaging humanity talking about climate change and their political subtexts” and delved into a forthcoming chapter in an edited collection on environmental sociology in which we argue that, given current environmental challenges, it is urgently needed for feminist environmental sociologists to abandon the sociological ancestors and instead to call for making kin with other critters, and to turn to telling different stories or to compos(ing) ourselves differently as humans. **“Chelsea Power, 3rd year MA Student”**

I was invited by the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) Conference to present my research at their annual conference at the University of Leeds in June 2019. Thanks to the support of my co-supervisors, **Dr. Karen Kobayashi** and **Dr. Margaret Penning**, I was able to access funding from the Faculty of the Graduate Studies, as well as our union CUPE 4163, which made my conference attendance possible.

My presentation, ‘The Representation of Syrian Refugees in the Turkish Policy Debate’, was based on research I conducted in our qualitative methodology class last year. In this presentation, I tried to outline and discuss the anti-refugee and ‘pro-refugee’ discourses in the Turkish context, while also comparing it to the broader context of the refugee narratives. As a Middle Eastern Studies conference, the event hosted a diverse and interdisciplinary audience. This diversity was also present during my session, where I was the only Sociology PhD candidate among the four presenters. The questions and comments of the audience were mainly policy-related, again as a result of the disciplinary background of the conference. I think it was both an advantage and a challenge for me to present sociological research in this interdisciplinary studies environment. I am looking forward to participating in sociological conferences, to see and explore other ways of navigating and presenting my interdisciplinary background.

**“Sanam Vaghefi, 3rd year PhD student”**
Co-op Program

UVic offers an exciting co-op program for undergraduate and graduate students. More and more Sociology students are taking the opportunity to gain valuable and relevant work experience while also completing their degree. For more information about the program as well as requirements, click here. The submission below is from Chelsea Power who is currently in her third and final co-op placement. On the next page, students who are currently on co-op as well as those who participated this summer and spring are listed.

This fall 2019 semester I will be working my third co-op term of my graduate degree with the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing as a Policy Analyst. My first co-op term in Summer 2018 was with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) in Whitehorse, Yukon as a Communications Assistant. My second co-op term was this past Spring 2019 semester with Environment Climate Change Canada (ECCC) as a Special Project Assistant. Despite both my past co-op terms being with the federal government, the tasks and experiences in each position have been very different. I have found my experience with the co-op and each of my work placements very rewarding as work experience but also as learning experiences.

As communications assistant with CIRNAC Yukon I often had the opportunity to assist different Yukon First Nations with special events, and was often given projects that related to my interest in the Environment. The position often allowed me to travel and meet many different people from many different First Nations in the Yukon. I worked at the public consultations for the Faro Mine Remediation project in Ross River and Faro, I organized the Annual Bannock Bake off at the Kluane cultural centre as part of the National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration, and led a student sourced project in creating communications products for the Yukon telegraph wire cleanup project. My most rewarding experiences with CIRNAC was the week I spent providing whatever help I could at the first ever annual Yukon First Nations Elders Gathering hosted by the Kluane First Nations in Burwash Landing. I knew I was going to the event to provide assistance, what I did not know is how much I would learn and how much would be shared with me. In helping Kluane Elder Sharon Kabaknak prepare for her Birch Basket making workshop at the festival Sharon shared knowledge with me about traditional uses of plants in the area, preservation techniques, beading, basket making, and even a little singing. I gave as much as I could at this event, yet left feeling that I had been gifted so much. This work term also included a lot of writing (for newsletters, posters, etc), digital design (posters, videos, pamphlets), and research. I learned a lot about Yukon First Nations and self-governance, the state of the environment in the North, and the incredibly visible impacts of Climate Change that rampage the Canadian North (it’s hard to deny when the permafrost holding up most of the territory is thawing and sinking roads, buildings, and forests with it).

My term with Environment Climate Change Canada was quite different from my term with CIRNAC. ECCC is a science based department, even when it comes to policy and the consequences of social interactions with the environment. I worked mostly with the Mackenzie River Basin Board (MRBB). The Mackenzie River Basin in the largest fresh water basin in Canada, and the board is a multi-stakeholder entity that is made up of 13 members: 3 representing the Federal Government, 10 representing the provinces & territories, and 1 member from each of the provinces & territories represent Indigenous organizations. The three main projects that I had with ECCC were: Updating the MRBB website to a new content management system, writing the MRBB Annual Report for 2017-2019, and undertaking the pilot project for an ArcGIS storymap to help tell the varying place-based stories of the Basin. In the time in between these projects I worked on Salish Sea files with my direct supervisor. I had some really unique learning experience, including being supported in learning how to use ArcGIS and ArcGIS online software, which is a lifelong employable skill that is difficult to obtain without some background in Geography (which I do not have), and gained experience in presenting my work to a multi-stakeholder board. My work with ECCC was highly valued, enough so that upon the request of my supervisor I was hired part-time for the summer semester and worked remotely from the Bob Wright building on Campus (at the Canadian Centre for Climate Modeling and Analysis).

Each of my work placements has provided skills and experiences for me that I would have missed out on if not for the co-op program. Although I am now entering the third year of my Master’s degree, I do not feel at all behind. Instead I feel that I have enriched my experience as a UVic Sociology Master’s student, and am looking forward to what new skills and experiences I will receive at my current work placement (finally a placement in Victoria).

~Chelsea Power, 3rd year MA Student
## Co-op Program - 2019 Student Placements

### Fall 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Degree Program(s)</th>
<th>Work Term</th>
<th>Co-op Employer</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gagan Sharma</td>
<td>MA - Sociology</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>BC Ministry of Social Development &amp; Poverty Reduction</td>
<td>Victoria, BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chelsea Power</td>
<td>MA – Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs &amp; Housing</td>
<td>Victoria, BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sabrina Nutchey</td>
<td>SOCI Major &amp; BUSI Minor &amp; Humanities Certificate</td>
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<td>Victoria, BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Grunert</td>
<td>SOCI &amp; Poli Sci Major &amp; Humanities Certificate</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Democracy Reporting International</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natalia Gagne</td>
<td>SOCI Major &amp; Minor Indigenous Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>U of Newcastle</td>
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### Summer 2019

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<td>Sarah Grunert</td>
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<td>Nofel Sheleeg</td>
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<td>Crown – Indigenous Relations &amp; Northern Affairs</td>
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### Spring 2019

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<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
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<td>Chelsea Power</td>
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<td>Quinna Laver</td>
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<td>Natallia Gagne</td>
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<td>Noelle Skillings</td>
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<td>Western Economic Diversification</td>
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</table>
Undergraduate Student Research

On March 19, 2019 the Honours students presented their research projects to interested faculty, students and family members. Their projects covered many interesting areas. The students and their project titles are listed below:

Reggie Bast – Neoliberalism, Collusion, and Hegemony: An Ideology-focused Critical Discourse Analysis of Canadian Mass Media

Olivia Bing – “This is bullshit man, it’s like liquid handcuffs”: An Analysis of the Biopolitics and Governmentality of the Methadone Clinic, Methadone Maintenance Programs and Methadone Formulation Changes

Arrate Martinez – The ‘Strong Woman’ and Contemporary Feminism(s)

Sierra McTavish – Meet People Where They Are At; A Guide To Social Sustainability In Development’s

Jana Vincent – How Street-Involved Youth Utilize Support Resources to Foster Resilience: A Systematic Review

Nathaniel Waldman – The Emergence of Predictive Policing: A Systematic Review

Alexandra Haupt – Community-Engaged Learning: One Student’s Journey Beyond the Classroom

This year’s Honours program includes eight students. The students and their supervisor are:

Caitlin Chong - Peyman Vahabzadeh
Melina Cortina Castro - Karen Kobayashi
Cole Freeman - Bill Little
Camille Guthrie - Bruce Ravelli
Talya Jesperson - William Carroll & Jentery Sayers
Caroline Lauder - Bruce Ravelli
Rosemary McAllister - Edwin Hodge
Candace Woodland - Edwin Hodge

The Sociology honours program offers dedicated undergraduate students the opportunity to engage in original, innovative, cutting-edge research under the supervision of a faculty member. The program provides a high level of training in critical reading, writing, and thinking. If interested, please contact Steve Garlick, at sociologychair@uvic.ca.

Each year the Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards (JCURA) are awarded to exceptional students who are undertaking research. Congratulations to Caroline Lauder, Candice Wood and Melina Cortina Castro—this

Student Interest — Career Fair

On October 1 & 2, 2019 the Co-operative Education Program & Career Services is holding a Work Experience and Career Fair. There will be 50+ employers you could meet to discuss possible careers. If you are thinking of graduate school there will be 20+ schools in the Upper Lounge. The event runs from 10am-3pm in the Michele Pujol Room, SUB. You can find more details here.

Government Employment Opportunities

Have you thought about working for the government after graduating? Our own MA student, Finn Deschner may be able to help you! He has gained valuable experience through his co-op positions working for the provincial and federal governments. He is now a Federal Government Student Ambassador - an on-campus link to employment with the government. The Ambassadors are able to provide information on hiring initiatives and offer support with job applications and more. Finn is in the Campus Services Building 007 on Wednesdays from 9:30-2:30 - pay him a visit or check out the website which has numerous links and information about services provided.
BOSS News

BOSS kicked off the 2018/2019 school year with a welcome event for new sociology students that included free pizza and an opportunity to socialize with professors & BOSS executives!

In addition to cooking for the Out of the Rain youth shelter, BOSS supported the Tiny House build (to house the Tiny House Warriors fighting against the Trans Mountain Pipeline) by cooking lunch for the carpenters and volunteer builders.

We also had several team building events for the executives including pumpkin carving at Halloween and going to an escape room (yes, we escaped!).

After our holiday party and Secret Santa draw, at the beginning of the spring term, BOSS hosted a fundraiser for the Out of the Rain youth shelter called "Halloween 2". The event was a karaoke party at Felicita’s Pub and people we're encouraged to dress up for a costume contest.

Our most notable event was our academic event, which took the form of a student research panel and highlighted topics including motherhood, policy narratives around the opioid crisis, gender and cultural genocide, and criminal injustices against Indigenous peoples. The panel consisted of three grad students (Gagan Sharma, Mikaela Brooks & Chandra Berkan Hozempa) and one undergrad (Larissa Edmondson) and served to make a connection and build community between the undergraduate and graduate students.

This year we plan to continue involving grad students in our academic events and hope to host an environmentally themed research panel.

There are also changes to BOSS leadership on the rise - there will be a new president (Max Yelovatz) starting in the spring 2020 semester of this year and the current president, Eden Wallis, will be stepping down in order to mentor the new leadership before she graduates. We are hoping that this new process of transferring presidency with added support and mentorship will help BOSS continue to run smoothly!

BOSS meets every Wednesday at 2:30pm in Cornett A372. You can find BOSS on Instagram @bossuvic and on Facebook: UVic Bureau of Sociology Students (BOSS). We can be reached by Facebook messenger or by email at bossuvic@gmail.com

Get yourself on the mailing list to stay informed of our various events! We look forward to another great year!

BOSS Welcome Event

BOSS is hosting a welcome event for students and faculty. It’s a chance for first year students to get to know professors and instructors in the department in an informal setting. Mark your calendar for October 16 in Cornett A344 from approximately 12:30-2pm (time to be confirmed—check the Facebook page closer to the event).

First Year Students Shine at Legal Debate Competition

On March 3, first year students, Adele Mark, Kellie-Anne Goldberg, and Rachel Kaufman won second place at the Collegiate Moot Beit Din (CMBD) at Princeton University in New Jersey. CMBD is the only inter-collegiate and pluralistic Jewish legal debate competition, attracting participants from across the globe. CMDB is a platform that bolsters learning by challenging students to grapple with contemporary ethical dilemmas through the prism of Jewish law.

The weekend consisted of several riveting academic lectures and group discussions about this year’s topic, the impact and importance of the #MeToo movement. For the debate, teams were tasked to evaluate if the #MeToo whisper networks were an effective platform of empowerment and protection against sexual harassment that also conformed to the standards of Jewish law and ethics. The University of Victoria team’s winning argument proposed an alternate response to sexual harassment that allows women to stand up for themselves and challenge societal ideals of women as weak, inferior, and passive. The team is looking forward to returning again next year.
Upcoming Lectures

The department is pleased to host a Lansdowne Lecture this week—Dr. Asef Bayat will be giving two talks. Dr. Bayat, the Catherine & Bruce Bastian Professor of Global and Transnational Studies, teaches Sociology and Middle East at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. His research areas range from social movements and social change, to religion and public life, Islam and modernity, urban spaces and politics, and contemporary Middle East.

Thursday (Oct 3) is the Lansdowne lecture titled, “The Arab Spring: Revolutions of our Different Times”, at 7pm in David Strong Building, Room C118.

Friday’s (Oct 4) talk is “Urbanity and Insurrection” held in Cornett A344 at 1pm.

2020 Conferences

Mark your calendars for these upcoming local, national and international conferences.

Graduate Student Welcome Lunch

The term started on a strong note with plenty of food and friendly conversation as the new graduate students were welcomed by faculty members and had the chance to meet current grad students.

We hope the collegiality continues and everyone has a productive and positive year!
BOSS has started organizing study groups for first year courses to encourage first year students to getting involved and to ease life into their studies.

Faculty, adjunct professor, sessional instructor and graduate student names are in bold.

Books:


Book Chapters:


Vahabzadeh, P. (2019). La conexión secreta de Berger y Luckmann: la influencia de la fenomenología husserliana en La Construcción Social de la Realidad, in Federico Véliz and David E. Builes (Eds.), Crítica, perspectivas y aplicaciones de La Construcción Social de la Realidad de Berger y Luckmann a 50 años de su publicación (Manizales, Colombia: Editorial Universidad de Manizales). In Spanish.

Articles:


BOSS has started organizing study groups for first year courses to encourage first year students to getting involved and to ease life into their studies.


**Reports:**


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


Browning, S. & Penning, M.J. *Social Location and Health in Middle and Later Life: Age, Gender, Immigrant Status and Social and Cultural Resources*. Presented at the 28th John K. Friesen Conference on Understanding and Fostering Resilience in Older Adults, Vancouver, BC, June 10-11, 2019.


BOSS has started organizing study groups for first year courses to encourage first year students to getting involved and to ease life into their studies.

Carroll, W. *The Struggle against the Free Trade Agreement, 30 Years On*. Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences, Vancouver, June 4, 2019.


Carroll, W. *Network Analysis in Mapping Corporate Power*. Sociology Department Colloquium, How to Study Corporate Power and Elite Deviance, University of Victoria, March 7, 2019.


The annual Rising Star Event hosted by the Social Sciences faculty was held January 31, 2017 in the Michele Pujol Room, SUB. We celebrated 14 students from our department who received financial awards.

Undergraduate Rising Stars Awards

BOSS has started organizing study groups for first year courses to encourage first year students to getting involved and to ease life into their studies.


In the Media

Aaron Devor has conducted over a dozen media interviews, including:

2019
- **Miracle Channel** Bridge City News, Canada, July.
- **CBC Radio** News, Victoria, July.
- Victoria News, Online, June.
- Vanity Fair Magazine, INTL, June.
- Monday Magazine, Victoria, June.
- Times-Colonist Newspaper, May.
- Atlantic Monthly, Online, Jan.
- LGBTQ Nation, Online, Jan.
- The Martlet Newspaper, UVic, Jan.

2018
- The Kwatlan Runner, Dec.
- The Tyee, Online, Nov.
- On The Coast, CBC Radio, Nov.
- Inside TRU, Kamloops, Sept.


Tamara Humphrey’s research with Tracy Vaillancourt featured in the Wall Street Journal: “Teaching Girls to Be Great Competitors”. April 12, 2019 Article [here](#).

Garry Gray provided an interview on near miss accident methodology for The Globe and Mail Article ‘Once in a blue moon: What we can learn from things that never happened’ (August 9, 2019)


Edwin Hodge: Citynews 1130 – “Like America, Canada grapples with white supremacy” – a discussion with reporter Liza Yuzda on the growth and influence of white supremacist ideology in Canada (August 2019)

Edwin also spoke to Global News – “The Lynda Steele Show” – a 20-minute on-air interview discussing the growth and spread of the Men’s Rights Movement online (November 2018)

Samir Gandesha and Peyman Vahabzadeh, “In Conversation with Ian Angus.” Invited by the Institute for the Humanities, Simon Fraser University, April 6, 2019.