

I hold a BA and MA from the Department of Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia, where I focused on Japanese Studies, writing my MA thesis on the author, Akutagawa Ryunosuke. My PhD is from the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Toronto, where I wrote my dissertation on the avant-garde novelist, playwright, and theatre director, Abe Kobo. I have taught at the University of Toronto, the University of Iowa, and, since 2002, here at the University of Victoria. My research is in the traditions of the Humanities, focusing on the intersection between works of art and their historical contexts, and the critical comments they make on these. I teach courses on Japanese, and more broadly, Asian, aesthetics, literature, history, religion, theatre, cinema, and language.

The function of the Dean is to respect, support, and protect the needs of all members of the faculty community, from undergraduate to graduate students, from staff to faculty at all stages of their careers, and to members of the larger community whom the Faculty of Humanities serves. The Dean of Humanities must be fair, open, accessible, and responsible to the constituents for whom the office exists, and the Dean must, in particular, always remember that all of us here exist to serve the educational, social, and vital goals of our students, colleagues, and members of the community around us. The Dean must be the humblest of servants for the Faculty as a whole; must respect and promote the agenda which the _Faculty as a whole_ sets; must listen to all members of the Faculty, equally and sincerely; and must be a tireless and fierce defender and promoter of the fundamental importance and undeniable value of the Humanities as the true basis of a meaningful education. The Dean must be a visible, persuasive, and effective steward of the Humanities as a whole, with a clear understanding of the range of approaches which the Faculty of Humanities includes, in order to help the broader community recognise and appreciate the Humanities as distinct, and distinctly important, in comparison with other faculties. It will be my honour to serve the Faculty of Humanities on this committee to select an appropriate Dean.