



**DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF ARTS AND  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

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## FROM THE CHAIR



*David Black, Political Science Chair*

**ONE OF THE GREAT JOYS OF** university life generally, and political science specifically, is the opportunity it provides for continuous change, growth, and learning. The never-ending stimulus of new students with new ideas, the application of new ways of thinking to old problems, the application of longstanding 'ways of knowing' to novel challenges, and the intellectual puzzle of distinguishing what is truly novel from perennial issues in new garb are sources of enduring fascination for students and faculty alike.

Well, if the never-ending onset of new issues, challenges and puzzles is an enduring hallmark of university life, 2019/20 outdid itself. None of us in the department – young or old – has experienced anything quite like it, and polit-

ical science students and scholars will spend many years making sense of the ramifications of the covid-19 pandemic, for our institutions, our field of study, and the ideas, communities, and political dynamics we seek to understand.

If the pandemic is an intellectual goldmine for political scientists (and for Armchair Epidemiologists like me – see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-DhyjgPetQE>), it also presented unprecedented challenges to our students, staff, and colleagues. I am incredibly proud of the way they have all responded. Students faced enormous and utterly unexpected disruptions and stresses as they had to complete their courses in an unfamiliar online environment, often

*Continued on next page*

## FROM THE CHAIR *cont'd*

having had to quickly decamp to homes all over the world, without access to regular study spaces or, in some cases, reliable technology and internet service. Nothing exemplified their determination more than our honours group, who achieved a 100% completion rate of their fascinating research projects under these extraordinary circumstances. Faculty had to quickly re-engineer their courses for online delivery while providing support and reassurance to their students. Their flexibility and generosity in tackling these challenges was remarkable – even more so as we are now faced with the challenge of delivering the entire fall 2020 semester online. If teaching involves continuous learning, that learning curve just took a steep upward turn! And our administrative staff – Tracy Powell and Mary Okwese – have been their usual source of knowledge, support, patience, and competence as they faced the unprecedented challenge of working from home and dealing with the university's many and rapidly changing 'adjustments' to the pandemic. My thanks to all!

The pandemic has brought profound challenges to people and communities all over the world, but Nova Scotia has experienced more than its share. From the Portapique mass shooting, to the downing of the Halifax-based Canadian Forces Cyclone helicopter in the Lonian Sea, to the tragic loss of Haligonian RCAF Captain Jennifer Casey (a Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences graduate) in the Snowbirds crash in Kamloops, to the deep and enduring social wounds exposed by the killing of George Floyd in the face of this province's long history of structural racism, our community has experienced a series of traumas that have challenged the resilience of Nova Scotians at a time when our usual forms of community support have been sharply limited. Each of these traumas will leave an imprint, but the last one in particular challenges us to deploy our research and teaching to both understand our community as it has been, and imagine what it might become.

No doubt Dalhousie and our department, along with counterparts across the country, will face many novel demands in the months ahead. In doing so, however, we will be able to draw on the remarkable strengths of our students and colleagues. Our students' achievements, individually and collectively, are on full display in the pages of this newsletter. We are particularly proud of the Dalhousie Undergraduate Political Science Society (DUPSS), which for years has been a tremendous contributor to the life of the department and this year got long overdue recognition when it received an Impact Award as the top student society at Dalhousie. Along with our faculty members' commitment to teaching and administrative excellence, their record of research achievements is also reflected in the pages that follow. We are particularly pleased to have welcomed three outstanding new scholars in the past two years, with the addition of Professors Leah Sarson, Kiran Banerjee, and Scott Pruyers. They bring important research and teaching strengths along with a sense of renewal to the department.

The research centres and institutes we are affiliated with – the Centre for the Study of Security and Development, the Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence, and the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security – continue to enrich our research and teaching with the people and activities they attract and support. The exceptional quality of our staff got the recognition it has long deserved when Tracy Powell received the Faculty's Staff Award for Excellence in Service. And the adventurous spirit of our alumni is exemplified by the reports from three relatively recent graduates who have already undertaken a striking range of post-graduation work, study, and travel.

We remain grateful for the many contributions of our graduates, in a wide range of forms. Your adventures and achievements are one of our greatest sources of satisfaction and inspiration. Please do let us know what you are up to – we love to hear from you. And watch for new initiatives in the year ahead, Covid-19 notwithstanding!

**David Black, Political Science Chair**

### REAR ADMIRAL CRICKARD ESSAY PRIZE

When I first met the late Rear-Admiral Fred Crickard in 1989, I was at King's College studying Sociology and I immediately knew he was a special man and scholar. Not only was he the Navy's second highest ranking officer from 1983-1985, he was a true friend and mentor to me. When I graduated, I decided to change disciplines and read for an MA in Political Science at Dal just so I could learn more from him. I wrote my MA thesis on bureaucratic politics in the U.S. Navy, and his expert advice helped me complete the first draft in just three months. My thesis was published twice and became required reading in a class at MIT. It was even endorsed by the late Admiral "Bud" Zumwalt, USN (Ret.), who was the U.S. Chief of Naval Operations in the 1970s. I

owe so much of my success as a military scholar and author to the late Adm. Crickard, and so I decided that after he passed away, I would create a \$500 memorial essay prize focusing on international relations. This new prize will encourage students to write on important matters with the same dedication that he did in his days as a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies (now named Centre for the Study of Security and Development). It's my way of giving back to the admiral and the university that helped make me who I am, and I am forever grateful to both.

**Roger Thompson MA (Dal), FRAS FRSA, Assistant Professor, Kyung Hee University, Korea**

# ON THEIR SHOULDERS:

The Women Who Paved the Way in Nova Scotia Politics -  
Book Launch and Women in Politics Scholarship

*Sarah Dobson (POLI BA Honours Alumni)  
and Grace Evans (POLI BA Candidate)*

**SARAH DOBSON, A THIRD-YEAR** student at the Schulich School of Law and political science alum, and **GRACE EVANS, A THIRD-YEAR** political science student have been working on a book for the past year which highlights the fifty women to have served in the Nova Scotia Legislature. *On Their Shoulders: The Women Who Paved the Way in Nova Scotia Politics*, will tell the stories of each of the women, including the barriers they faced, the successes they achieved, and advice they have for future generations of women pursuing politics.

The book is anticipated to be released this fall, with hopes of reaching \$10,000 in sales. The proceeds of the book will create the Women in Poli-

tics scholarship fund, housed at Dalhousie for young women entering political science, with a goal of \$20,000. To officially launch their crowdfunding campaign with projectDal, Sarah and Grace hosted an International Women's Day Event with the Dalhousie Women's Division and the Junior League of Halifax. Thanks to the many supporters both online and at the event, they have reached over \$8,000. Due to COVID-19, the campaign is currently on pause, but they plan to continue fundraising this summer.

This book will serve as a celebration of the women who have served as MLAs in Nova Scotia, and a reminder of how far we have to go to further increase female representation at all levels of gov-

ernment. Sarah and Grace hope that the book and scholarship fund will serve as an inspiration to women across the province who are interested in politics. Stay tuned for the release of *On Their Shoulders* later this year, as it will be available for purchase online and at local bookstores.



Roger Thompson and David Black during Roger's visit from Korea to Dalhousie.



From left to right: The Honourable Bernadette Jordan, Federal Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard; Sarah Dobson; Grace Evans; The Honourable Kelly Regan, Nova Scotia Minister of Community Services and Status of Women.

# OUR FACULTY



**DR. PETER ARTHUR**

continued in his role as a member of the department's graduate committee

during the academic year. In this role, he, with other members were responsible for the admission of graduate students to the department. He also served on the Research Ethics Committee during the academic year. Along with these roles, he co-edited with Kobena Hanson and Korbla Pupilampu a book, *Disruptive Technologies, Innovation, and Development in Africa*, published by Palgrave Macmillan, which examines how disruptive technologies and innovation underpin the attainment of a broader development agenda in Africa. While one of his contributions, "SMEs, Industrialization and Disruptive Technologies in Africa: Enabling or Constraining?" discusses how SMEs can use ICTs as a tool to improve their business operations, initiate socioeconomic development and promote the industrialization process, another, "Disruptive Technologies, Democracy, Governance, and National Elections in Africa: Back to the Future?" explores and assesses the role of mobile technologies and other forms of social media platforms to check government activities and help improve the governance, electoral and democratic processes in Africa. Furthermore, he is supervising the thesis of a Master's student in International Development Studies (IDS), who is planning on defending her research during the summer. While Peter was planning on presenting a paper at the Annual Canadian Association for African Studies (CAAS) Conference, which was scheduled to be held in early June 2020 at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, he was unable to do so due to COVID-19. He hopes he will be able to share his research work when things get back to normal.



During his first year as a faculty member in the Department, **DR. KIRAN BANERJEE** spent the year teaching new courses,

researching and writing, preparing several grant applications, as well as engaging in a number of collaborative projects. His course offerings featured a graduate and advanced undergraduate seminar on international ethics, as well as an upper level course on the global politics of migration, both of which were offered for the first time at Dalhousie. In the last few months, he has also published two pieces. The first is a co-authored book chapter critically analyzing the neglected place of migration in international relations theory, appearing in the edited volume *Nomad-State Relationships in International Relations: Before and After Borders* (Palgrave).

The second is a co-authored article in the *European Journal of International Security* on the role of communities of practice in defense diplomacy. He also published a contribution in the special issue of the Migration & Citizenship Section newsletter of the American Political Science Association. In addition to this, Dr. Banerjee completed the nomination process for his Canada Research Chair position in forced migration governance and refugee policy, was co-applicant with Dr. Zaiotti on a multi-year grant they have submitted to create a summer institute on migration and identity at Dalhousie, and is currently organizing a research workshop on North American migration governance. Having recently arrived at Dalhousie, Dr. Banerjee would like to express his sincere thanks and appreciation to all members of the Department of Political Science, including his new colleagues and the Department staff, for their warm welcome and extensive support in helping him get settled in at the University.



**DR. BRIAN BOW** wrapped up a couple of long-running projects this past year, and is carrying on with a few others. Papers from the

2016 workshop on security policy coordination in North America and Europe—co-organized with Ruben Zaiotti—were published as a special issue of *Journal of Transatlantic Studies*. And UBC Press has confirmed that the edited volume that came out of the "Generations" project—co-organized with Andrea Lane—will be published in Fall 2020, with the new title, *Canadian Foreign Policy: Reflections on a Field in Transition*. Work continues—sometimes very slowly—on other components of the security policy coordination project and the book on the unraveling of regional integration in North America. Some of the delay can be attributed to distracting new work on populism and technocracy, and a new theoretical paper on ontological templates in different varieties of constructivism. Dr. Bow continued to serve as director of Dalhousie's Centre for the Study of Security and Development (CSSD), as one of the two co-editors of *International Journal* (with Greg Donaghy), as co-lead for the North America team within the Defence and Security Foresight Group (with Veronica Kitchen), as a member of FASS's Academic Development Committee, etc.



**DR. MARGARET DENIKE** is heading up the popular interdisciplinary program, *Law, Justice and Society*. In collaboration with the Chairs

from the Departments of Political Science, History, Philosophy, and Sociology and Social Anthropology. Denike introduced the new B.A. (Major and Honours) in 2016-17, by drawing on the existing courses that have legal studies and justice-related content that are offered in different programs and faculties at Dalhousie. Interest in the new degree program has grown exponentially, for students seeking the opportunity to study law and public policy through the varying perspectives of different disciplines, and to sample courses, for example, in International Human Rights, the History of Justice, the Sociology of Crime, and the Philosophy of Law.



**DR. KRISTIN GOOD** began a sabbatical leave in January. Although many of her sabbatical research and travel plans are on hold due to the

current pandemic, she has continued to work on a textbook on comparative urban governance (with co-editor Dr. Jen Nelles). When research restrictions are lifted, she will resume her research on local immigration policies and forms of governance. This research focuses on the ways in which local immigration governance varies in Canadian cities with different demographic configurations of Francophone minorities and Indigenous populations. Prof. Good is also developing a research program that critically interrogates municipalities' constitutional status in Canada. Her contribution on this subject, "The Fallacy of the 'Creatures of the Provinces' Doctrine: Recognizing and Protecting Municipalities'

Constitutional Status," was published by the University of Toronto's Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance (Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy) in November 2019 ([https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/98264/1/imfgpaper\\_no46\\_recognizingandprotecting\\_municipalities\\_kristingood\\_nov\\_26\\_2019.pdf](https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/98264/1/imfgpaper_no46_recognizingandprotecting_municipalities_kristingood_nov_26_2019.pdf)). She also contributed to the ongoing public debate on municipal empowerment in Toronto and nationally with an editorial in the *Toronto Star* (<https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/thebigdebate/2019/11/26/is-a-city-charter-the-best-way-forward-for-toronto.html>); a piece in *Policy Options* (<https://policyoptions.irpp.org/authors/kristin-r-good/>); and as a speaker at an event held on November 28th, 2019 at the University of Toronto entitled "Charting a New Path: Does Toronto Need a City Charter?" (the event was co-sponsored by the Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance and the Urban Land Institute).

Prof. Good is a founding co-editor (with Dr. Martin Horak) of the McGill-Queen's Studies in Urban Governance book series: (<https://www.mqup.ca/browse-books-pages-46.php?filters=a%3A1%3A%3A2%3Bs%3A4%3A%224478%22%3B}&do=changeFilter>).



The *Routledge Handbook of Global Sustainability Governance*, which **DR. ANDERS HAYDEN** co-edited (with Agni Kalfagianni and

Doris Fuchs) was published in the fall, including a chapter he wrote on the concept of "sufficiency." With his colleagues Céao Gaudet and Jeff Wilson, he has been editing a book tentatively titled *Beyond GDP: International Experiences, Canada's Options*, which builds on a major workshop of the same name that he organized in 2019. He developed and taught a new course on the Politics of Consumption, in addition to existing courses in the Politics of the Environment, the Politics of Climate Change, and quantitative methods. He continues to be involved with the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative as a member of the Advisory Board and the International Review Board for its upcoming (now virtual) conference. As a member of the Steering Committee of United for Climate Justice, an initiative of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies, he contributed to a policy paper with proposals for progressive climate action that was launched in September in New York. He contributed a policy brief on work-time reduction for the Bonn-based ZOE Institute for Future-Fit Economies, a new economics think tank. Dr. Hayden has been serving as the department's Undergraduate Advisor and on a number of departmental, faculty, and College of Sustainability committees. He is looking forward to a sabbatical– which will now take place closer to home than originally planned – to work on a project on "sufficiency: a missing ingredient in a low-carbon transition" and start a new book project.

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## OUR FACULTY *cont'd*



Despite the cancellation of several international events this summer, a pandemic isn't necessarily the worst thing to happen to a health policy specialist, so **DR. KATHERINE FIERLBECK** is currently engaged in a number of new projects (just not necessarily the ones she was planning to do). The past year saw Dr. Fierlbeck giving talks near (Faculty of Medicine, School of Nursing, Sodales Society) and far (Spain, Ottawa). She has new articles in the *Health Reform Observer and Canadian Public Administration*, one book in press (Thomson Reuters), one under review (University of Toronto Press) and a special issue of the *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law* accepted for publication in January 2021. Dr F is involved in three new grant projects (CIHR Catalyst, SSHRC Connection, and NS COVID-19 research). She gave fourteen media interviews this past year, and was brave enough to commit to her first full podcast (on health care in Canada).



**DR. ROBERT FINBOW** continued as Honours Coordinator for the department and helped navigate our students to completion of the Honours project and defenses in a time of social distancing. He continued work on his Erasmus+ project on CETA Implementation and Implications and hosted a very successful CETA Implications Conference in September with presenters from several EU states as well as Canada and the US. The event featured panels exploring the implications of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the European Union. The event began with a keynote address from Dr. Patrick Leblond,

CN-Paul M. Tellier Chair on Business and Public Policy, with panels discussing many of CETA's complex chapters. This conference was the capstone event of the CETA Implementation and Implication Project. While the Covid disruption is posing challenges for some contributors in hard hit nations and changing how the publisher works, most of the participants have submitted chapters for a book covering the implementation process and early effects of CETA. Entitled *Unraveling the puzzle: CETA Implementation and Implications*, it will be published by McGill-Queen's University Press. Chapters cover regulation, procurement, environment, food and wines and spirits, the innovative investment disputes system, labour mobility and labour relations and the implications for EU trade policy of the contested ratification of the agreement. It will be an interdisciplinary volume with insights from law, political science, public policy and economics. Contributors hail from Italy, France, Netherlands, Germany, USA, India and Canada. With these collaborators, Dr. Finbow is planning a possible Erasmus plus networking project application on the EU's transatlantic and transpacific economic and trade agreements.

In addition to his forthcoming chapters for the conference publication,

he published "Implementing CETA: A Preliminary Report" *EU-Canada Network Policy Brief*, Carleton University. He continues to work with the Center for Studies on Integration and Globalization (CEIM), University of Quebec at Montreal (UQÀM). With his colleagues there, he has chapters in process on socially responsible trade lessons from NAFTA and on trade agreements as constitutionalism for a festschrift in honour of the late Stephen Clarkson. He is also working on a book prospectus for a monograph on populism in the "Five Eyes" states and a theoretical piece for *Studies in Political Economy*. He continued as Deputy Director of the Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence and represented the centre at an October meeting of Erasmus projects and networks in Canada, hosted by the EU delegation in Ottawa. He is a participant in their EU SPA and CETA Implementation Coordination Platform and Delegation of European Union to Canada Alumni Group. Before the shut down of planned campus events and conferences, he presented on "Obama's trade policy – liberalization as usual?" to a Centre for the Study of Security and Development (CSSD) panel discussion on "Obama's foreign policy legacy" to mark the former president's visit to Halifax in November.



**Dr. Robert Finbow speaking at the CETA Implications Conference at Dalhousie University.**



**DR. SCOTT PRUYERS** joined the Department in fall 2019. During his first year he taught a variety of undergraduate classes on

constitutional politics, Canadian political institutions, and social media, served on the Canadian Politics PhD examination committee, and is currently supervising an MA thesis (Ben Andrews) on the relationship between the state of local media/journalism and the health of municipal elections in Canada. During this time Dr. Pruysers also joined the editorial board of the journal *Frontiers in Political Science* where he serves as Reviews Editor.

Since joining the Department in the fall, Dr. Pruysers has published articles in the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, *Political Studies*, the *Journal of Public Opinion, Elections, & Parties*, and the *European Journal of Politics and Gender*. He also continued his work with the Canadian Municipal Election Study (CMES), contributing chapters to two edited volumes. Much of his current research is dedicated to two SSHRC funded book projects. The first explores political ambition in Canada.

The book establishes a profile of those who express political ambition, explores the barriers to cultivating this interest, and reports the results of experiments to foster ambition among marginalized groups. The second is a study of the makeup, activity, and organization of political parties at the constituency level in Canada - both during and in between elections. While parties are often portrayed as singular coherent organizations, considerable variation exists at the constituency level where each major party has 338 unique organizations.

This past year has been full of new adventures, as **DR. LEAH SARSON** and her husband welcomed their first child in September. Before shifting gears and beginning maternity leave, Dr. Sarson co-organized the 12th annual Women in International Security (WIS)-Canada workshop at the University of Toronto in June, which brought together students, scholars, and practitioners in the field of international security for two days of research presentations and mentorship opportunities. Dr. Sarson remains the organization's Director of Operations and is looking forward to launching a Dalhousie chapter of WIS-Canada in the coming academic year. Although

her research activities took a backseat during her leave, Dr. Sarson continued to advance a project exploring Indigeneity and International Relations, examining indigeneity through the lens of International Relations and International Relations through the thought and praxis of Indigenous peoples. While a number of events this spring had to be cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic, she collaborated with a colleague to submit several grant applications related to the project and is looking forward to rescheduling events soon. Dr. Sarson also published a book chapter with colleagues on Arctic security and is awaiting publication of a chapter on feminist research methods in International Relations and one considering Indigeneity and the study of Canadian foreign policy. This summer, Dr. Sarson expects to finalize her current book project on the relationship between Indigenous global politics and Canadian foreign policy and move to Halifax with her family. She is looking forward to continuing to reintegrate herself into all that the Department has to offer, settle in the wonderful city of Halifax, and continue to build new collaborations and friendships in the year ahead in a healthy and convivial community.

**DR. RUBEN ZAIOTTI**

When I was growing up, a millennium ago, I used to binge watch the movies of my favourite director, Luis Buñuel (NB: that was the pre-streaming era; so no Netflix, but good old video tapes...). One of the Spanish author's most iconic cinematic masterpieces is the *Exterminating Angel* ('El Angel Exterminador'). The movie, which came out in 1962, tells the story of a group of individuals invited to a dinner party who find themselves stuck in the premises, without knowing why... It does not require a big stretch of the imagination (certainly not for me!) to see in the movie an eery reminder of the situation we are living today, with



**Dr. Leah Sarson (far right) and colleagues at the 12th annual Women in International Security-Canada workshop.**

*Continued on next page*

## OUR FACULTY *cont'd*

all the uncertainty and anxiety that the Covid pandemic has created in all of us. The reality we are facing today means that if I have to tell the story of my 2019/2020 academic year that just wound down, it is apparent that this has to be a play in two acts, the pre—and post—pandemic... In what now feels a long time ago, during the tranquil and careless pre-Covid era, I was immersed in my work as director of the Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence (see dedicated article in the Newsletter) and Jean Monnet Chair in Public Diplomacy. Before the pandemic hit, I was able to finalize a project on international organizations and social media, and an edited volume on this topic is scheduled to be published by Routledge in the fall of 2020. Together with colleague Brian Bow, I oversaw the publication of a special issue of *Journal of Transatlantic Studies* on transatlantic security cooperation. Then, the world came to a screeching halt. In the post-pandemic era, I have followed the fate of my colleagues at Dalhousie and beyond, namely moving my academic endeavours online. Yes, Dr. Zaiotti joined the Zoom world too! And joy ensued... sort of...

The characters on the *Exterminating Angel*, not used to the new reality of a perennial quarantine, quickly grow impatient with their condition and start acting erratically (roasting a sheep using a smashed cello for firewood, anyone?). Eventually, after numerous misadventures, they get out of their walled prison, rattled, but relieved. Hopefully, there will be a happy ending for us all as well. If that happens, I promise I'll stop making homemade bread for a while...



**DR. LARISSA ATKISON** received her Ph.D. from the University in Toronto in Political Science. She has held a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of South



**Dr. Zaiotti (pictured, left) at the conference "An Integrated Approach to NATO Communications", Brussels, January 24, 2020.**

Carolina and a SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University. She is currently finishing her first book manuscript, *Tragic Judgement*, which looks to the Greek tragic poet, Sophocles, to explore civic judgment in moments of crisis. She has teaching and research expertise in the history of political thought, democratic theory, and public law and federalism. Dr. Atkison is also a Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives research-affiliate and worked in Canadian foreign policy at Global Affairs Canada before commencing her Ph.D.



During the 2019/2020 academic year, **DR. GREGG FRENCH** expanded his teaching responsibilities in the Department

of Political Science to include World Politics (POLI 2520), Building Democracy and Peace (POLI 3520), and Human Rights: Legal Issues (POLI 4505). He also served as the second reader for a BA Honours thesis and continues to provide support to three of his former students who are currently in the process of converting their research essays into publishable articles. For all of his hard work, both inside and outside of the classroom, Dr. French

was nominated for a Sessional and Part-Time Instructor Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Earlier this year, Dr. French presented papers at the annual meetings held by the American Historical Association (AHA) and the American Catholic Historical Association (ACHA), both of which were held in New York City. He was also awarded funding from the Organization of American Historians (OAH) and the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era (SHGAPE) to support his presentation of a paper at the 2020 OAH Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, this event was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. French's article on the inter-imperial relationships that developed between representatives of the U.S. and Spanish empires was published in *Spain and the American Revolution: New Approaches and Perspectives* in January of 2020. Later this year, his work on U.S.-Spanish relations during the post-Civil War Era is scheduled to be published by Fordham University Press in their new edited volume entitled, *Reconstruction and Empire*. Dr. French is currently working on two other articles. One will explore how U.S. Hispanists influenced America's foreign policy during the nineteenth century and the other will examine U.S. imperial ambitions in the lead up to the War of 1898.





**DR. HEATHER SMITH**

In the past year I've been on sabbatical from the University of Northern British Columbia and a

Visiting Scholar with the Department of Political Science. Given that I'll be returning to full time teaching in the fall, part of my sabbatical had been about catching up on key literature in Canadian foreign policy and International Studies. Having not taught full time for eight years means there is a

lot of catching up to do!

My research activities this year include working on two edited volumes related to teaching and International Studies. The first volume is on 'Teaching International Relations During a Time of Disruption' and is co-edited with David Hornsby (Carleton) and will be published by Palgrave. This volume is just about ready to go to the press for review. The second volume is an Oxford Handbook on teaching international studies and it is co-edited with David Hornsby (Carleton) and Mark Boyer (UConn).

Beyond these activities, I've

been facilitating an international collaborative writing group for the International Society of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, working with the Centre for Learning and Teaching here at Dalhousie on a national scholarship of teaching and learning survey and working on a few Canadian foreign policy related projects.

I want to thank the Department for providing me with an academic home over the last two years – it is greatly appreciated. I will still be in Halifax next year...teaching online for UNBC (on purpose) and so I hope to touch base in the future.

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

**POLI 3532.03: Model UN** - This year was another successful year for the Dalhousie Model UN class. We enjoyed dynamic in-class simulations on topical issues such as human rights and climate change. Students from the class were encouraged to join the Dalhousie Model UN Society, which has an active on campus presence and sent students to MtAMUN at Mount Allison this fall. For more information on how to get involved with the Society, Like the Dalhousie Model UN page on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/munatdal>

**POLI/GWST 4390.03:** Practicum in Public Policy: NGOs & Government Services – Professor Margaret Denike's course, Practicum Placement in Public Policy provided 21 students

with the opportunity to work in the community at either government or NGO organizations and services. In lieu of spending their time in a classroom, students worked under the supervision of the managers and/or directors of an organization, support service, or research centre, such as the Canadian Mental Health Association, the Halifax Refugee Clinic, the John Howard Society, and Coverdale Court Services. While some students were given opportunities to work with clients of these organizations, for example, in assisting in the preparation for upcoming hearings at the Refugee Clinic; others engaged in research projects, for instance on Food Security at the Ecology Action Centre, and on gender-based violence protocols at the

YMCA Centre for Immigrant Programs, and at the Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative. Still others helped to plan and organize public education events, which were unfortunately put on hold due to the COVID crisis. This year, Professor Denike extended the course to provide credit to students who independently secure an internship, as was the case with Takdeer Brar, who successfully applied to spend the term in Washington DC, on an internship at the Canadian Embassy. Information about the Placement and reports by students can be found at: <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/politicalscience/programs/undergraduate-programs/poli-4390.html>

### POLITICAL SCIENCE TRAVEL FUND

For our graduate and honours students, field research (whether in Canada or internationally) and the opportunity to present their ideas at conferences and workshops are vital forms of educational and professional development. Yet supporting these invaluable opportunities for research and conference travel has always been a challenge for the department and our students, since there are few sources of financial assistance within or beyond the university. Now, thanks to generous alumni contributions, we have initiated a new fund to support graduate and honours student

travel, to a maximum of \$1000 within Canada, and \$2000 internationally. This will allow our students to undertake vital interview, archival, and participant observation research, and to share their ideas with audiences of peers and senior scholars. If you wish to contribute to this fund, please go online to [alumni.dal.ca](http://alumni.dal.ca) giving or contact Tracy Powell, Admin Assistant at [psadmin@dal.ca](mailto:psadmin@dal.ca). Thank you for your support!



# CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT (CSSD)

## 2019-20 WAS ANOTHER

transition year for the Centre for the Study of Security and Development (CSSD), with some old projects wrapped up, and some new ones beginning. My sincere thanks to our deputy director, Adam MacDonald (POLI PhD Candidate), and administrative secretary, Mary Okwese, for keeping things going, in spite of many uncertainties and distractions.

The “Generations” project, co-organized by Andrea Lane (POLI PhD Candidate) and I, is wrapping up this year, with the edited volume—now titled *Canadian Foreign Policy: Reflections on a Field in Transition*—scheduled to be published by UBC Press in the fall of 2020. This follows from the special issue of *International Journal*, which was published in 2017 (<https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/ijxa/72/2>). We're looking forward to a book launch event in the fall, in whatever form COVID-19 precautions will allow.

The security policy coordination project, co-organized by Ruben Zaiotti and I, is also wrapping up, with a collection of five essays in *Journal of Transatlantic Studies*. These will be brought together in a special issue later this year; for now, they are available individually on JTS's Online First page (<https://link.springer.com/journal/42738/onlineFirst>).

Anders Hayden's “Beyond GDP” project, which brought together a group of high-profile scholars for a workshop at Dalhousie in May 2019 while Prof. Hayden was interim CSSD director, is moving toward its own publications. You can get detailed info about the workshop and more updates on the project website: <https://www.beyondgd-pindicators.com/>

The CSSD's program of events was a little less ambitious than usual in 2019-20, but we're happy with the quality of these events and the level of engagement from the university community. Highlights included:

- 11 October 2019: Tari Ajadi, Jill Hatcher, Anders Hayden and Julia Rodgers, **“Climate Change and the Election”** (moderated by Adam MacDonald)
- 4 November 2019: Kate Ervine, Robert Finbow, and Ajay Parasram, **“Obama's Foreign Policy Legacy”** (moderated by Brian Bow)
- 21 November 2019: Roderich Kiesewetter, Emily Lau, Janice Stein, and Tolu Ogunlesi, **“Populism Peak: The Future of Democracy”** (Halifax International Security Forum roundtable, moderated by Robin Shepherd)
- 26 November 2019: Mathew Fisher, **“Canada in an Altering World”**

- 30 January 2020: Kevin Skillin (US Consul General), **“A Changing Global Order”** (moderated by Brian Bow), Halifax Club
- 2 March 2020: Glyn Berry lecture, featuring Corinne Cash, Heather Smith, and Larry Swatuk, **“Global Climate Crisis and the Challenges for Canada”** (moderated by Nafisa Abdulhamid and Adam MacDonald)

The year ahead looks likely to be a busy one, with a number of workshops and special events in development. We are determined to carry on with this important work, but obviously must recognize and adapt to the disruptive effects of COVID-19. Some things are inevitably going to be moved online, and others postponed. For updates, be sure to check the CSSD website (<https://www.dal.ca/sites/cssd.html>) and follow us on Twitter at @dalcssd.

CSSD faculty fellows are deeply involved in the Defence and Security Foresight Group (DSFG) network, and are working now on planning for DSFG workshops in 2020-21. The North America foresight exercise and workshop will take place in Fall 2020, and the Africa workshop in Spring 2021. CSSD will also be supporting a POLI-organized workshop in the fall, in connection with the Shaw/Parpart scholarship program.

In organizing its public events, the Centre continues to rely on institutional partners in- and outside of Dalhousie. We are grateful for practical and sometimes financial support from the Political Science and International Development Studies departments, the Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence, the MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance, and the Halifax branch of the Canadian International Council.

On behalf of CSSD staff and fellows, I hope you all have a safe and rewarding summer and look forward to engaging with you all again in the fall, in whatever ways COVID-19 precautions will allow.

**Brian Bow, Director**



**Dr. Heather Smith, Dr. Larry Swatuk, and Dr. Corinne Cash at the Glyn Berry event, March 2, 2020.**

# THE ROMÉO DALLAIRE CHILD SOLDIERS INITIATIVE

**WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO** announce that on 22 April 2020, Dalhousie University's Board of Governors officially approved the establishment of the **Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace and Security**. The Dallaire Initiative hopes to formally announce and celebrate this change in name and status with partners, friends, and supporters in Fall 2020.

The newly-established Institute will seek to deepen collaborations with three main faculties at Dalhousie -- Arts and Social Sciences, Health and Law -- in addition to establishing a Certificate in Children, Peace and Security, a Dalhousie research network and working group, and increasing our capaci-

ty to conduct guest lectures and partner on research proposals and grants in order to conduct mutually reinforcing, complementary, and ground-breaking research.

The Dallaire Institute will continue pushing forward with our important work to prevent the recruitment and use of child soldiers through practical, prevention-oriented training with the security sector in numerous countries around the world, from our three locations in Halifax, Juba and Kigali.

Published since 2016, the Dallaire Initiative's annual publication *Allons-y* is entering a new phase with a focus on supporting the implementation of the Vancouver Principles. In this and fu-

ture issues, commentaries and peer-reviewed research and policy articles will focus on all aspects of the implementation of the Vancouver Principles. The articles provide guidance, policy recommendations, and new knowledge to support the international community's work to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers. You can read Volume 4 here: <https://ojs.library.dal.ca/allons-y/index>

Stay up-to-date on our latest news by signing up for our newsletter at [childsoldiers.org](http://childsoldiers.org) (bottom of homepage).

**Aimée White, Chief of Staff**



**Dr. Shelly Whitman, Executive Director of the Dallaire Institute, provides a lecture on International Humanitarian Law to senior-year law students at the University of Juba (June 2019).**

# JEAN MONNET EUROPEAN UNION CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

## IT SEEMS FAIR TO DESCRIBE THIS

last year at the JMEUCE as having started with a bang and ended with a whimper. The bang was the welcome news that the Centre's application for renewed core funding from the EU's Erasmus+ programme had been approved. We therefore began a new three-year cycle of activities in the autumn, building on the momentum started in 2006 when the EU Centre first opened at Dalhousie. The whimper, of course, was the very unwelcome arrival of Covid-19 which has swiftly played havoc with those newly scheduled activities. However, it goes without saying that our own challenges have been minimal compared with the grim toll which the virus is taking on the broader stage in Canada, the EU and globally.

One of the activities which we did manage to hold was our ongoing Speaker Series. These public lectures focused on a range of topical issues and featured German, Irish and Belgian visiting speakers as follows:

- The Spectre of Populism in Europe: A Threat to Liberal Democracy? Oliver Schmidtke, Director, Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria, Canada.
- Brexit: How Did We Get Here, Where Do We Go Now and What Are the Lessons for Negotiators? Vincent Power, Partner, A&L Goodbody, Dublin, Ireland.
- How Far is it from Rome to Lisbon? EU Trade Policy and Bargaining Power from 1958 until Today. Dirk De Bièvre, Professor of International Politics, University of Antwerp, Belgium.

The Speaker Series also included an interesting collaboration with the Department of German and other partners to present *The Wall*. A Border through Germany, a German Government photographic exhibition marking the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The Exhibition, Reception & Panel Discussion featured Dalhousie experts on Europe: Florian Bail, Julia Poertner,

Mathias Rodorff and Ruben Zaiotti.

Unfortunately, many of our more student-focused activities have had to be postponed or cancelled, including supporting participation in this year's EU Study Tour and Internship programme, organising the annual Day of Debate for local schools and facilitating an exciting Mitacs-funded research opportunity in London, although we do still anticipate being able to award the Student Essay Prize. Another casualty of the virus was a Joint Panel on EU and Asian approaches to trade, to be presented with the National University of Taiwan's Jean Monnet Centre at the European Community Studies Association – Canada (ECSA-C)'s biennial conference in Edmonton.

In addition to its own programme of events, the JMEUCE has continued to host a suite of Jean Monnet Activities contributing to the study of EU policy. This last year has seen one successfully wrap up, another approaching its culmination, and a third launched. First, the Centre bids farewell to the CETA Project, headed by JMEUCE Deputy Director, Robert Finbow. This project wrapped up in late 2019, following the success of the CETA Implications Conference in September. The two-day event welcomed 20 guest speakers from across Canada, the United States and Europe to debate the outcomes and implications of the comprehensive trade deal between Canada and the EU. Dr Finbow

is now working on a Network application for 2021 to expand the scope and scale of the Project.

The Health Law and Policy Network, led by JMEUCE Associate Katherine Fierlbeck, is heading into its final year. The Network is currently preparing to launch a Summer School at Carleton University as well as a panel in Brussels on Health Care and the Fate of Social Europe in partnership with the European Social Observatory and the National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance.

The Centre would also like to congratulate Matthew Schnurr of the Department of International Development Studies, who was awarded a Jean Monnet Network grant last summer to study the policy and practical implications of genome editing on agriculture. The Network's UK-based team is currently preparing to launch their first virtual policy dialogue on the governance of genome-edited organisms in the European Union, the United Kingdom and beyond.

As we look ahead, it is obviously unclear how the coming weeks and months will unfold and what the implications will be, not just for the JMEUCE but for the EU as an institution struggling to cope with unprecedented challenges. It would be interesting to have a crystal ball...

**Madeleine Coffen-Smout, Coordinator**



**Dr. Oliver Schmidtke, Director, Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria giving his lecture on "The Spectre of Populism in Europe: A Threat to Liberal Democracy?"**

# STUDENTS GET HANDS ON WITH THE FEDERAL ELECTION

## STUDENTS IN A THIRD-YEAR

Political Science class at Dalhousie will get to make the most of this month's federal election, operating the voting office on campus for an election experience that's about as hands-on as it gets.

It's an idea that started with the 2015 federal election, when Elections Canada launched a pilot project with on-campus voting offices that allowed students to easily register and vote by special ballot. Political Science Professor Louise Carbert was quick to see the opportunity for experiential learning in her class.

"It's a third-year class in Canadian politics, so they know quite a bit about Canadian politics, but this is an opportunity to learn the nuts and bolts of how elections actually work," says Dr. Carbert. "The point of the exercise is to learn about elections administration and to see how the whole complicated, bureaucratic operation of Elections Canada in works in practice."

## Putting theory into practice

By working with Elections Canada, Dr. Carbert was able to develop a paid practicum that integrates into the course curriculum, with accompanying assignments and readings. Designed to provide insight into elections administration, the practicum includes an in-class orientation from Elections Canada and in-depth training before they take on their roles as poll clerks and registration officers at the campus voting office.

This year, Vote on Campus is a full-fledged program with increased hours and days of operation so the students will have even more opportunity to participate.

While Dr. Carbert says this level of involvement in the administrative activities of an election provides the class with great learning and perspective, her students' knowledge about Canadian politics is also helpful to the

voters. "One thing that makes these students particularly suited to this work," she says, "is that people will come in wanting to vote for Justin Trudeau, for example, and the students are able to explain how the Canadian electoral system works."

## Voting by special ballot

Training for this work is in-depth because the Political Science students will be walking voters through the process of using the special ballot process. Instead of using a paper list of voters, registration officers will check ID and confirm information on a computer and then supply each voter with a blank ballot so they can write in the name of their preferred candidate (they can ask for a list of candidates in their riding)

"This is being operated on campus by students but it's not exclusive to students," notes Dr. Carbert. "It's on campus to promote youth voter engagement but any Canadian can come and vote. That said, it's a write-in ballot: you have to be sure to spell everything correctly, so your ballot won't be spoiled."

## A rewarding experience

Out of a class of about 30, only two students won't be filling paid Elections Canada positions. The first, as an international student, is not eligible to work as a poll worker and will be accommodated with related activities. The second has decided to continue working for a specific candidate and will use that experience for his report.

"It's a requirement of the course that he do not just canvassing but also some elections administration," Dr. Carbert explains. "So, he's going to be working at a polling station on October 21st in a capacity with the political party."

The election administration assignment is valued at 30 per cent of the students' grades and it includes a fun, practical component. Once the practicum has concluded, Dr. Carbert wants all the students to summarize their experience as if they were writing for their resume or LinkedIn profile. She finds it's a great way to get the students thinking about how this could benefit them in the future.

"For Political Science students to go out working in political-related jobs in the public sector, this is a really nice entry on their resumé."

**Stefanie Wilson - October 4, 2019**



**The voting office at Dalhousie will be open for five consecutive days in Council Chambers on the second floor of the Student Union Building (SUB). (Emma Jones photo)**

# UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

## THE WORK OF THE UNDERGRADUATE

advisor includes a number of elements that remain constant from year to year: helping students to choose courses and navigate their way through their degree options, reviewing their plans to study abroad, and answering questions from prospective students and occasionally parents. In addition, there is a role in helping to recruit students to the department through the annual Open House for high-school students, the Program and Major Expo for current Dalhousie students considering program options, and the advising luncheon for King's College students. Current students and past graduates remain the best ambassadors for the department at such events given their ability to speak about how Political Science has benefitted them. If you have your own thoughts about the value of a

Political Science degree that we could share with prospective students, please let us know ([anders.hayden@dal.ca](mailto:anders.hayden@dal.ca); [psadmin@dal.ca](mailto:psadmin@dal.ca)).

This year, the covid19 crisis obviously created some new challenges as it caused significant disruption for students, faculty, staff, and other members of the university community. In a short time, classes that were designed to be taught in person had to be moved online. In addition to adapting to new modes of learning, students faced a range of other stresses including a need for many to move back home or find new housing on short notice, economic uncertainty due to lost jobs and diminished near-term prospects, and anxieties about their own health and that of family members. Although many students successfully navigated these challenges as they com-

pleted the winter term, others were not able to achieve the academic results that they had hoped for or become accustomed to. One response from the university has been to allow students to choose a "Pass" grade instead of a letter grade for winter 2020 classes. This will require advising discussions with many students in the days ahead to ensure that they are making informed choices about their options. Looking ahead to the 2020-21 academic year and the possibility that it may be conducted partly or largely online, there will be new challenges in helping students succeed in a very different academic environment and in promoting the department to prospective students.

**Anders Hayden, Undergraduate Advisor**

## 2019-20 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARD/PRIZE WINNERS

**NICK HARRIS**, BA Candidate: Major in Undeclared Arts has been awarded the **Commonwealth Political Science Prize**. This prize is awarded annually to the student who receives the highest grade in Political Science 2410 and 2420. The Commonwealth Prize was established by John Beveridge, who graduated from Dalhousie University in 1971.

**TALINE SELMAN**, BA Honours Candidate: Political Science and Law, Justice & Society has been awarded **The Eric Dennis Gold Medal**. Founded by Senator William Dennis and Mrs. Dennis, this medal is awarded upon graduation to the student who stands first among those taking First Class Honours in Government and Political Science. This is the University Medal in Political Science.

**HANNAH PLETZ**, BA Candidate: Major in Political Science with a Minor in Psychology has been awarded **The H.B. McCulloch Memorial Prize**. This prize is awarded annually to the student who, among all the first- and second-year students registered in introductory classes in Political Science, is judged to have written the best essay in the second term.

**LUKAS PAHAPILL-OSOSTOWICZ**, BA Candidate: Honours in Political Science has been awarded **The James H. Aitchison Award**. In 1979 Colleagues of Dr. J.H. Aitchison established a fund from which an annual prize would be awarded in recognition of the best undergraduate Honours essay. The fund was established to honour Professor Aitchison who was instrumental in founding the department.

**NOAH DAVIS**, BA Candidate: Major in Political Science with a Minor in Law, Justice & Society has been awarded **The Rear Admiral Crickard Essay Prize**. This prize will be awarded annually for five years commencing in May 2020 for the best written Undergraduate Student paper in International Relations.



## THE DALHOUSIE UNDERGRADUATE POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY (DUPSS)

**THIS YEAR THE  
DALHOUSIE**  
Undergraduate  
Political Science

Society was back with a bang! The society reached new heights, planning more events than ever before in both the fall and winter semesters. During the Canadian federal election, we made our presence on campus known by setting up information booths to help student become informed voters. We also held debate and election night viewing parties with thematic drinks. Our annual “Meet the Faculty” event was kicked up a notch by providing Canadian-political-party-themed grilled cheese sandwiches and lemonade. Through events such as our games night, fall AGM, exam study sessions, and Halloween bake sale, we were able to foster community and connect with the political science student body. On the academic front, we also kickstarted our second round of the Dalhousie Political Networking Initiative (DPNI) which gave students the opportunity to get hands-on experience working in political offices across the province. Once again, the initiative generated positive feedback and will hopefully continue next year.

We threw some of our most original events to date in the winter semester: “So you’re thinking about grad school (SYTAGS)” and “Honours Tinder” both allowed us to help students navigate their academic goals moving forward. SYTAGS brought together representa-



tives from the Rowe School of Business, the Schulich School of Law, and our very own department’s Grad students, while Honours Tinder allowed for a relaxed discussion between current and prospective honours students and faculty. The society also hosted our second “All Party Pizza Party” which brought together representatives from all four major Canadian political parties and was attended in record-breaking numbers. During the early stages of the American democratic nominations we hosted a Super Tuesday event with thematic drinks and political trivia.

The third annual Political Science Gala and Journal Launch which we held at the Four Points Hotel, was our last event of the academic year. This Gala was well attended and allowed us to honour the students published in our student journal, and also one of our

most esteemed professors, Dr. Marcel-la Firmini, who was awarded the first annual Faculty Award—an award created by students to recognize a professor who demonstrates exceptional teaching abilities, extensive knowledge and passion for their subject matter, and a deep commitment to their students’ learning and well-being.

Although we were disappointed to have not been able to host our planned “Fireside Chat” with policy specialists, nor our end of year “POLIBEER”, next year’s council is already gearing up to plan even more networking, social, and academic events for students in political science.

This year’s council was an incredibly hardworking team with a passion for politics and student engagement. We are incredibly honoured to have received the Dalhousie Impact Award for Most Impactful Faculty and Departmental Society. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us during this challenging yet memorable year. We owe a special thank-you to the Department of Political Science, which continuously supports our efforts to provide students with great opportunities. We look forward to welcoming the new executive and eagerly anticipate their significant achievements to come!

***Taline Selman, DUPSS President***



# LUKAS PAHAPILL-OSOSTOWICZ

on completing his BA Honours (Political Science)  
and being a MITACS Award Holder

## AFTER SPENDING MY FIRST YEAR

at the University of King's College in the Foundation Year Program, I transitioned to Dalhousie to pursue an honours degree in political science. While each year of my degree has been exciting and academically invigorating, this past academic year has been especially rewarding. Early in October, I began my honours thesis with Dr. Ruben Zaiotti, which investigates how right-wing populist parties in Europe have been affected by political and cultural crises.

Working with Dr. Zaiotti was very enriching. His continuous support led to him encouraging me to apply for employment at the Jean Monnet Europe-

an Union Centre of Excellence. Through my work at JMEUCE, I had the privilege to meet numerous influential humanities scholars from across the world, including my future graduate school advisor, Dr. Oliver Schmidtke, from the University of Victoria.

My successful final year was bolstered by participation in the Undergraduate Political Science Society (DUPSS). Together with the other members, we organized numerous successful events and programs across campus to bring together politically engaged undergraduates.

In an exciting culmination to the year, I was awarded the MITACS Globalink

Research Award to conduct independent research abroad in London, England, at Queen Mary University. My success with the award was undoubtedly due in large part to Dr. Zaiotti for sharing his expertise, network of colleagues and nuanced feedback. Under the supervision of Dr. Sarah Wolff, my project explores the relationship between migration and popular attitudes towards EU participation, explicitly focusing on EU member states that have become skeptical of their membership in the Union. Overall, my years at Dalhousie and King's were thoroughly rewarding and inspired me to continue my research after my undergrad degree.





# HONOURS PROGRAMME REPORT

**IT WAS A CHALLENGING, BUT** ultimately rewarding year for our honours students. Despite the challenges created by closure of campus due to Covid-19 pandemic in mid-March, all the 10 students successfully completed their honours project this year. Through a combination of remote oral defenses and written question and answer formats, and with the stellar assis-

tance of supervisors and second readers, they all managed to keep engaged and bring their projects to a successful conclusion. 7 will graduate in spring while 3 will take summer or fall credits and graduate soon.

One of the true costs of the disruption to winter term was the ability of the honours students to properly celebrate their accomplishments, with the tra-

ditional department luncheon and full university graduation. We would like to salute their achievement and hopefully find ways to connect and acknowledged them in the near future when campus life returns to normal. Meanwhile we extend our heartfelt congratulations to all.

**Dr. Robert Finbow**



**SOFIA CORDERO ALVAREZ**

*The Effect of Populism on Latin American Democracy: A Comparative Analysis of Political Participation, Social Inclusion and Redistribution*

Supervisor: Robert Finbow

**MURPHY DAROCHA**

*Reducing Barriers to Adoption in the Province of Nova Scotia: A Comparative Analysis of the Benefits of Open Adoption Legislation in the Other Nine Provinces*

Supervisor: Margaret Denike

**NOEL GUSCOTT**

*The "Ins and Outs" of Canadian Health Politics: Tracking the Revolving Door Among Former Federal Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Health*

Supervisor: Katherine Fierlbeck

**SAVANNAH HEATLEY**

*How Right is Twitter? Social Media, Political Communication and Populist Parties in European Parliament*

Supervisor: Ruben Zaiotti

**HAILEY JARVIS**

*Shifting Responsibility: The viability of the African Union as the main enforcer of the Responsibility to Protect in Africa, A comparative analysis.*

Supervisor: David Black

**EMILY JOCKS**

*Knowledge, Science, and Power: An Inquiry into Indigenous Resurgence and Relationality*

Supervisor: Margaret Denike

**BRIANNA PARENT-LONG**

*Beyond Motherhood: Western Development Policy and African Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights*

Supervisor: David Black

**LUKAS PAHAPILL-OSOSTOWICZ**

*The Reactionary Mechanism of Populism Evidence from Estonia and Italy*

Supervisor: Ruben Zaiotti

**TALINE SELMAN**

*What Are Peoples? Rights, Territory, and Kurdish Claims to Self-Determination*

Supervisor: Marcella Firmini

**SACHIN SUNDHU**

*'A Just Transition': Analyzing the approach to the phasing-out of coal — in Alberta and Washington State — from the perspective of workers and the labour movement.*

Supervisor: Robert Finbow

# E-INTERVIEW

with Lukas Pahapill-Osostowicz, Bachelor of Arts:  
Honours in Political Science - May-2020

*2019-20 James H. Aitchison Award Winner for best Honours Thesis*

**Q This award was created in honour of Professor Aitchison who was instrumental in the founding of the POLI Department and was the head of the Department from 1949-1973. How does it feel to be the recipient of this prestigious POLI award?**

**A** My peers in this year's Honours class were all extremely bright individuals with interesting essay topics, so I was initially very surprised when I heard the news that I was chosen for the award. Over the years I've had the opportunity to develop personal relationships with a number of my professors, and our conversations often included discussions of past faculty or classes offered through the department. It was always interesting to learn how the department has developed over the years. I guess through receiving this award I'm able to be a part of that history by some measure, which I believe is a very satisfying way to end my degree.

**Q What helped you with your decision to take Political Science? Was there anything or anyone who inspired you?**

**A** I've always been politically oriented. I have strong memories of getting into heated dinner table debates with my parents over various global issues. I think what finally pushed me to pursue an education in political science were the texts I read over my first year in the Foundation Year Program at King's. Certain thinkers like Hobbes and Rousseau I would read dozens of times and were always on my mind. I think my transition from King's to the political science department at Dalhousie really emphasizes the unique relationship between the two universities.

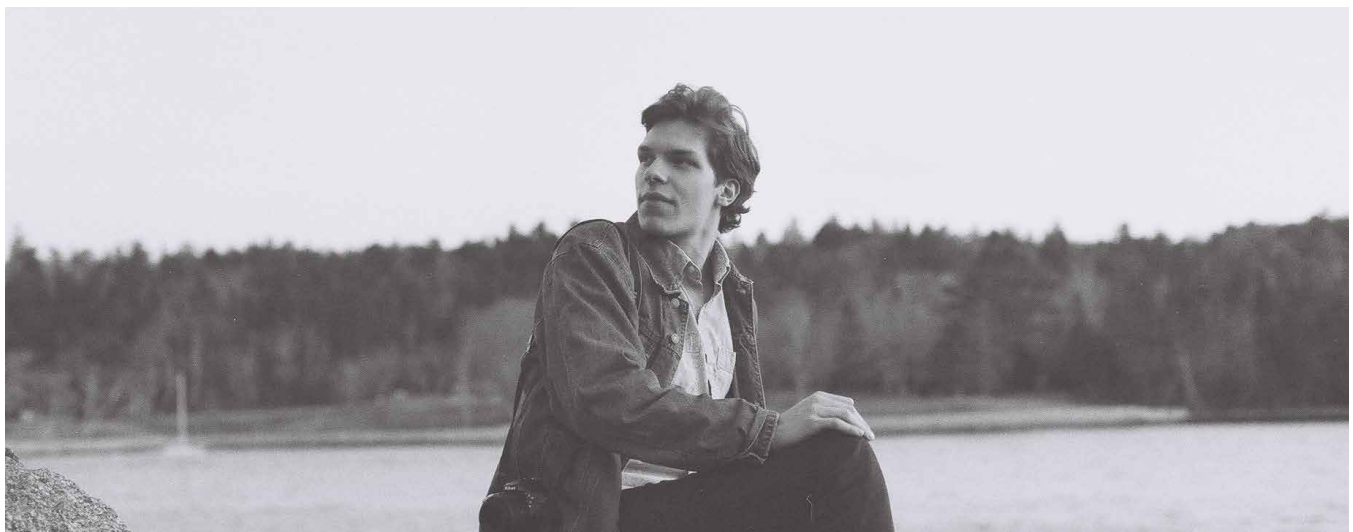
**Q Is there a particular area of Political Science that interests you most?**

**A** Throughout my degree I've been mainly interested in topics surrounding international relations. I've always enjoyed how diverse the courses are

in the political science department. For instance, a highlight of my degree has been exploring the intersection of environmentalism and politics with Dr. Hayden in Politics of the Environment and more recently Politics of Climate Change. Currently, my research is focused on the recent wave of right-wing populist political parties that have become prevalent in Europe in the last decade.

**Q What are your plans after you graduate in May? Any long-term plans or goals?**

**A** After a summer of planting trees in B.C I will be attending the University of Victoria for an MA in Political Science. I'm enrolled in the specialized stream in the Politics of Global Challenges, specifically focusing on migration and contested borders. Regarding long-term goals, I've always dreamed of a job that would allow me to travel the world, so perhaps working at an embassy "somewhere."



# WELCOME ALEXA DODGE, DONALD HILL POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW



**OUR DEPARTMENT** is pleased and proud to welcome the return of one of our graduates, Dr. Alexa Dodge. Dodge will be joining the department as a

Donald Hill Family Postdoctoral Fellow. Dodge is a socio-legal scholar whose research explores legal and extralegal responses to digital forms of sexual violence. She has published on topics such as: the digital distribution of images of sexual violence; the role of digital evidence in cases of sexual violence; police responses to non-con-

sensual intimate image distribution among youth; and judicial interpretations of digital technology in “revenge porn” cases. After completing a combined honours in Contemporary Studies (King’s) and Political Science (Dalhousie) in 2012, Dodge went on to complete her MA and PhD in Legal Studies at Carleton University. She defended her dissertation in 2019 and recently completed a limited term appointment as an Assistant Professor in Criminology at Saint Mary’s University.

The Donald Hill Fellowship provides 3-years of funding for those pursuing leading-edge research related to the im-

act of technology on society. Building on her doctoral research on criminal justice responses to “revenge porn”, Dodge’s postdoctoral research will analyze Canadian programs offering informal or restorative justice responses to digital forms of sexual violence. As a Postdoctoral Fellow, Dodge also hopes to continue teaching courses and providing community-based education on digital technology’s impacts on law and justice. Dodge will be working under the supervision of Dr. Margaret Denike and will be supported by the network of Dalhousie faculty working in the areas of law, justice, and society.

## GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

**OUR INCOMING PHD COHORT FOR 2019-20** had a 100% success rate in securing external scholarships (Grant Curtis won a Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship!) The second-year PhD cohort was very productive this year – all four of them survived their comprehensive exams with minimal bruising, and major awards were won by Tristan Cleveland (both SSHRC and Killam) and Julia Rodgers (MSSU scholarship for patient-oriented research). Not to be outdone, Adam MacDonald in the third-year cohort also won both a SSHRC and a Killam, and Ben Andrews was award-

ed a SSHRC MA scholarship. Three MA students – Catherine St Jacques, Amy MacKenzie, and Davis Yuzdepski – successfully defended their theses. In March, the universe as we know it went into a tailspin, and all new graduate thesis defences will be conducted online. I have no doubt that the digital generation will take this in stride (and faculty are being very brave) and so we enter a new era...

**Katherine Fierlbeck,**  
**Graduate Coordinator**

### THE DORIS BOYLE GRADUATE PRIZE WINNER

**GRANT CURTIS, PhD Candidate:** has been awarded The Doris Boyle Prize for Best Graduate Essay. The prize is awarded for the best essay written by a graduate student in the area of international relations. Doris Boyle served for many years as Administrative Secretary of the Centre for the Student of Security and Development (formerly Centre for Foreign Policy Studies), from its creation in 1971 until her retirement. The prize was created by faculty and research staff of the Centre to honour her contributions to the activities of the Centre.



**DGSPS at a taping of  
This Hour Has 22 Minutes**

# GLYN BERRY SCHOLAR AND SHAW-PARPART SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Nafisa A. Abdulhamid (PhD Candidate)

## I AM HONOURED TO BE RECOGNIZED

as both the Glyn Berry Scholar and the recipient of the Timothy Shaw & Jane Parpart Scholarship in Political Science. This past year, I was inspired by both Dr. Berry's unwavering commitment to humanitarianism and post-war reconstruction, and Drs. Shaw and Parpart's connection to the African continent. I carried these with me in my research toolbox as I embarked on fieldwork in East Africa.

After defending my research proposal and wrapping up my academic and personal life in Halifax, I left for Mombasa, Kenya in late June and spent the rest of the summer with my family. While in Kenya, I continued to work on my book chapter on mobile money and financial mobilization in Africa. In particular, I explored the impact of mobile money transfer technology in Kenya, and I got the chance to interview tech experts at Safaricom, the largest telecommunications firm in East Africa. I am excited to announce that this chapter is included in an edited volume, *Disruptive Technologies, Innovation and Development in Africa*, edited by Kobena T. Hanson, Peter Arthur, and Korbla P. Puplampua.

I spent the rest of the fall semes-

ter doing field work for my dissertation and conducting elite interviews with individuals at the United Nations in Nairobi, the African Union in Addis Ababa, and the United Nations Support for Mission offices in Kampala. I was also able to access the libraries at the African Union headquarters and the United Nations campus. In the process, I became a huge advocate for field work, believing that conducting interviews with foreign policy and development practitioners, government officials, peacekeepers, and military personnel uncovers important, and often untold, stories about different communities and situations. In the field, I sought to conduct meaningful research in ways that will continue to tell the untold and forgotten stories of the Somali people so that one day my findings will positively impact policy changes on humanitarian intervention practices that will actually protect civilians.

While in East Africa, I was also (virtually) working with Adam P. MacDonald to develop the course material and content for POLI 2530: Foreign Policy – Theory and Practice. As a first-time instructor, building and delivering this course was both exciting and a huge learning



curve for me. I look back at this course, and everything it took to develop and teach it, and I am grateful for the opportunity to do this kind of "teaching-while-learning" this semester. I am also grateful for all those who offered advice and supported my teaching endeavor.

When I was not interviewing people for my dissertation, or working on the course, I was home. I spent the mornings asking my grandfather about how he experienced decolonization in Kenya, my grandmother told me stories about what she would have studied if she had had the chance to go to school, and I baked pastries with my sister every Sunday. I appreciated the art of storytelling as a way to pass on generational knowledge, and I got to learn so much about myself, my people, and my identity.

Although this year ended quite abruptly, with the rapid spread of COVID-19, I remain eternally grateful for all the kindness, compassion and support I continue to receive from my supervisor, Dr. David Black, the faculty, and Tracy and Mary. I would also like to extend a special thank you to my fellow graduate students, the "Core Five," for making me laugh so hard this year – you folks are the absolute best!



# MARGARET MEAGHER SCHOLARSHIP

Allyssa Walsh, MA Candidate

## WHAT AN INCREDIBLE HONOUR

It has been to have received the Margaret Meagher Scholarship. This past year, while I had the privilege to sit in the classroom and expand my learning, it was not lost on me that this was made possible through the award whose namesake has such significance to our local history. Dr. Margaret Meagher was a changemaker, and she laid the foundation for women in the field of International Relations. As a young woman hoping to make a career in this field, I look up to her legacy and aspire to embody the determination and courage that Dr. Meagher exemplified throughout her life and her career.

My education at Dalhousie University has been exemplified by the unique opportunities that have been available to me during my time here both as an undergraduate and a graduate student in the Political Science Department. During my MA I have been able to continue to work with the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative as a Communications and Research Assistant. This opportunity has allowed me to experience first-hand how my studies connect to the workforce in my desired career path. This combination of work and education has been truly enriching and

has made a significant impact on my professional development.

As a first-generation university student, it has been a very humbling experience to continue my education through the MA program. It has been a dream come true to be able to expand my skills as a researcher and to expand my knowledge on this complex world we live in. I am grateful for every challenging question, every assignment, and every conversation that pushed me to expand my thinking. I am especially thankful for the professors I have had this past year who have made it such a wonderful experience. I must say a special thank-you to Dr. Fierlbeck who has been a great support for me and my colleagues as we navigate the graduate program. I also must express my utmost gratitude to Tracy and Mary for the hard work they do to ensure that the program runs smoothly and to help us graduate students stay on track. We would be both figuratively and literally lost without you.

It feels like only yesterday I was meeting my small – but mighty – graduate cohort for the first time. I never could have imagined the ways that we would laugh and grow together in the coming months. To Grant, Emily, and Ben, thank

you for your support and encouragement throughout this program. I have learned so much from each of you, and I cannot wait to see the incredible things you go on to do after this program. The future is looking very bright.

As Dalhousie's Political Science Department laid the foundation for Dr. Meagher and her career, it has done the same for me. It has been a home to me for the past five years, and I will always remember it as the place where my life began. I will hold the legacy of Dr. Meagher close to my heart and allow it to guide me through the exciting next chapter of my journey.



## POLI GRADUATE STUDENTS



### TARI AJADI (PhD Candidate and MacEachen Junior Fellow)

Despite these unprecedented times, this academic year

has been filled with new insights and opportunities. I successfully passed my comprehensive exams in Canadian and Comparative Politics, and I am now working on developing my research program for the rest of my degree. I have been working, alongside my academic exploits, for Statistics Canada

as a Junior Analyst. My role is to draft a conceptual framework for how the agency collects data about social inclusion in Canada. This role has been instrumental in shaping my approach to my academic research by giving me valuable insights about the politics of data collection protocols in Canada.

This year, I was able to attend a plethora of academic conferences including CPSA 2019, the International Conference on Public Policy, the Palmer Conference and more. I've managed to publish articles in Canadian Diversity, as well as The Coast newspaper, while also appearing on CBC's Information

Morning, News 95.7's The Sheldon MacLeod Show, and also on Global News. I created and co-hosted a panel to kick off Black History Month at Dalhousie, and spoke on a panel to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. All this while maintaining a thriving social life thanks to the Political Science Graduate Student Society! A heartfelt thanks to all alumni who donate so that graduate students like myself can attend and participate in conferences. Hopefully we will be able to do so again soon.

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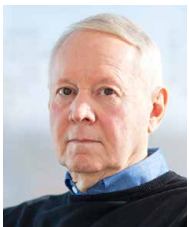
## POLI GRADUATE STUDENTS *cont'd*



### **BEN ANDREWS** (MA Candidate)

Just a few weeks removed from a three-month tree-planting season, I began my MA in Political

Science at Dalhousie. The transition was more daunting for the fact that I had a kinesiology undergrad and little previous experience studying politics. The past eight months have been challenging but rewarding. The highlight of my coursework was publishing an op-ed in the Halifax Chronicle Herald about the Liberal government's two billion tree policy. Now that my coursework is completed, I am working on my SSHRC-funded MA thesis, titled "Does Democracy Die in Darkness? An Examination of the Relationship Between Local News Health and Municipal Politics," under the supervision of Dr. Pruyers. Outside the program, I published an article in the upcoming summer 2020 edition of the *Journal of Sport History* on the Canadian Football League's use of "willful nostalgia" to secure and justify public bailouts from various orders of government in the late 1980s. Thanks to all the students and faculty at Dal for making this a fantastic year!



### **GRANT CURTIS** (PhD Candidate)

Following a satisfying career in international development, my first year of PhD studies provided

a highly reflective review of political science theory, as well as a necessary and better-late-than-never attention to the importance of good research design. Having now completed more than my fair share of graduate school courses, including a surfeit of one-off research papers, I am eager to complete my Comprehensive Exams so as to be able to focus on research and writing around the topic of Afghanistan as a failed state. Over the course of the year

I was accepted as a Junior Fellow with the Defence and Security Foresight Group (DSFG), a network of academics who provide Canada's Department of National Defence with foresight on pivotal defence and security issues. Unfortunately, a planned DSFG policy brief training workshop scheduled to coincide with the 2020 International Studies Association conference in Hawaii was cancelled due the Covid-19 pandemic; the workshop subsequently was held virtually.



### **MICHELLE LEGASSICKE** (PhD Candidate)

The last year has been both diverse and challenging for me. I concluded my

field research in the spring of 2019, and throughout the year have been writing my dissertation. I am currently living in British Columbia; however, this did not prevent me from returning to Dalhousie in the summer of 2019 to teach POLI 2520: World Politics. This was a new class for me to teach and I used this opportunity to enhance my lectures with a more interactive approach. I finished the summer with a research project for the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldier Initiative, which focused on the involvement of children in organized crime and gangs. Entering into the Fall of 2019, I took a position at Brentwood College School as a Resident Faculty Assistant. This position has allowed me to expand my teaching abilities, with particular emphasis on mentoring and coaching. I have also been heavily involved in their debate program and am expanding their Model UN Program. The onset of Covid-19 has presented its own unique set of challenges and despite the social distancing and quarantine measures in place, I find myself busier now than ever. The school has transitioned to teaching over zoom, and I have enjoyed adapting and learning this new tool. And ... yes of course, I am continuing my work on my dissertation.



### **ADAM MACDONALD** (PhD Candidate and Deputy Director of CSSD)

This past year has been a very challenging

but rewarding one. I was honored to be a recipient of the SSHRC, Killam and MINDS doctoral scholarships. I am, as well, part of two Government of Canada funded academic networks – The Defence and Security Foresight Group and the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network – which have provided platforms to further my research. In my role of Deputy-Director of the CSSD I was able to help organize and participate in several great events throughout the year, with an emphasis on including grad students. Alongside Nafisa Abdulhamid, I was a co-instructor for POLI 2530, learning quite a bit about teaching (and myself) during my first teaching experience. Thanks to everyone, especially Nafisa, for supporting me through this with advice, guidance and encouragement. During these difficult times brought about by COVID19 I have re tailored some of my focus to work on issues related to the pandemic, namely the role of the military in Canada's response, to help ground me. I want to specifically thank Julia, Nafisa, Susan and Tari for keeping in touch and checking in on each other. It has meant a lot to me. I hope we all stay connected as a Department during these uncertain times and look forward to seeing you all in person in hopefully the not too distant future.

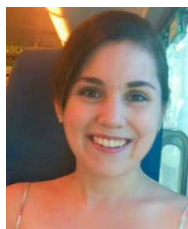


### **SUSAN MANNING** (PhD Candidate)

Susan has had a busy fourth year in the PhD program. She taught POLI

2220: Structures of Canadian Parliamentary Government in the spring term. She conducted the majority of her dissertation research

during the summer and fall terms, and began writing her dissertation over the winter term. Susan also had an article accepted by the *Journal of Canadian Studies*, which is forthcoming in next issue of the journal. She presented two papers at Congress in June, one at the Canadian Political Science Association Conference and one at the Women and Gender Studies et Recherches Féministes Conference. Susan would like to thank the alumni and donors to the POLI Travel Fund for their financial support in attending those conferences. Susan also attended the Atlantic Provinces Political Science Association Conference in October and presented two papers. She is particularly honoured to have been invited to be part of APPSA's first ever panel dedicated specifically to disability policy and politics. This year, Susan started a monthly series of professional development sessions for graduate and Honours' students, which were quite successful. She also worked on a SSHRC Knowledge Synthesis Grant exploring best practices in the use of gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) in international impact assessment, with researchers from the University of Guelph and an Advisory Circle with partners from Amnesty International, Pauktutit Inuit Women of Canada, Disabled Women's Network of Canada and the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women. Susan also continued her longstanding volunteer work with Girl Guides of Canada, as a Unit Guider with the Bridgeview District Rangers and a member of the National Programming Committee, and continued volunteering with the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog program with her dog Juno.



**EMILY MASON  
(MA Candidate)**

I reflect on my academic career with sincere gratitude. I thank my peers, the faculty and the

Department of Political Science for contributing positively to my experience at Dalhousie. Prior to my arrival in

Halifax, I was completing my undergrad at Bishop's University. In 2018, I was selected for the Nicholas Bachand Canadian Civil Society internship where I interned at an English-language radio station-CJMQ (88.9 FM). As a political commentator, I was able to pursue my passion for Canadian politics by reporting on political affairs at the national, provincial and local level. With an interest in studying Canadian elections and voting behaviour, I bid my province farewell and had my sights set for Dal. I am honoured to have been a part of this year's small cohort of master's students in the Department of Political Science. My master's courses have enriched my understanding of federalism, party politics, millennial voters and social media politics. I also had the opportunity to learn firsthand about the functions of polling districts as a service agent for Elections Canada. My interest in elections inspired me to write my master's thesis on the representation of Anglophones in Brome-Missisquoi in relation to electoral boundary alignments.



**JULIA RODGERS  
(PhD Candidate  
and MacEachen  
Institute Junior  
Fellow)**

This year has been very eventful (to say the

least). Beginning the 2019-2020 year, I was awarded the Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit Student Award and the CIHR sponsored Building Research for Integrated Primary Healthcare Student Award. As well, I became a MacEachen Institute Junior Fellow, which enabled me to begin youth engagement initiatives throughout high schools across HRM.

In January 2020, my PhD cohort completed the comprehensive exams and transitioned from students to candidates – congratulations to us all! Efforts now focus on the thesis proposal. My on-going research in the community pharmacy policy sector continues through Dalhousie Health Assured, working closely with partners at Queen's University and the

University of Cincinnati. Our focus as a research consortium has shifted in recent months to the spatio-temporal risk mapping of vulnerable population in relation to the on-going COVID-19 crisis. I look forward to developing these research activities into publications, and hope to collaborate with others in the department on several potential articles.



**ELIKEM  
TSAMENYI  
(PhD Candidate)**

2019-2020 has been a busy but rewarding year. I spent the year teaching

two courses (Introduction to Political studies and Introduction to Global Political Issues) at the International College of Manitoba at the University of Manitoba. I have also (on a happy note) successfully completed a complete draft of my dissertation. It is titled African peace, security and conflict management: an African international society approach. The dissertation examines the Africa Union's security governance mechanisms through the English School perspective within the field of International Relations. With the thesis drafting completed, I look forward to the oral defence in late summer or early Fall, 2020.

I have had the opportunity to present various ideas in my dissertation at workshops and conferences throughout the year. The most recent presentation was to the Faculty and students of the University of Manitoba, in an event organized by the Political Studies department in December 2019. In all my discussions, I touched on broad ideas in my research, highlighting key findings and their implications for the security governance of Africa as a distinct society of states within the larger global international society. I have been greatly encouraged by the positive feedback on my research, and grateful for all the suggestions for improvement.

*Continued on page 25*

# DALHOUSIE GRADUATE SOCIETY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE (DGSPS)

**WHAT AN EXCITING YEAR THIS HAS** been for our graduate students! We welcomed one new PhD and three MA students into our program. In the fall, the graduate students went to a taping of "This Hour Has 22 Minutes," a comedy tv show that reports on the news. This was an opportunity to welcome the students to the department and Halifax.

DGSPS continued to work closely with the Dalhousie Undergraduate Political Science Society (DUPSS). Together, we co-hosted the Poli-beer social, giving both undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to socialize, chat, and unwind. In addition, DGSPS was proud to support DUPSS with their annual Political Science Gala that took place in mid-March. We would like to offer our most heartfelt congratulations to DUPSS for being awarded the Impact Award for the most impactful Faculty or Department Society! What an excellent achievement!

DGSPS would also like to congratulate the current MA cohort for successfully completing their coursework and wish them all the best in working on their theses. In addition, we would also like to congratulate Tari Ajadi, Julia Rodgers, Tristan Cleveland, and Richard Saillant for successfully completing and defending their comprehensive exams.

We would like to recognize and thank a couple of individuals for their service and commitment to the graduate society, graduate students, the department, and the greater Halifax community. First, DGSPS thanks Susan M. Manning for facilitating professional development (PD) sessions for students and faculty throughout the academic year. Susan also began writing her dissertation, and had an article accepted by the *Journal of Canadian Studies*. Next, DGSPS acknowledges Julia Rodger's work as a Junior Fellow at the MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance. This year, Julia started running civic engagement seminars at local high schools to help introduce the youth to active citizenship. DGSPS also acknowl-

edges Tari Ajadi's work within the African Nova Scotian community, particularly his work on the board of the Health Association of African Canadians, and his panel about Black policy issues in Nova Scotia. Lastly, DGSPS acknowledges Adam P. MacDonald as the returning Deputy Director for the Center for the Study of Security and Development (CSSD). Adam was also instrumental in making sure the society ran smoothly while I was away on field work.

The graduate students would like to say a huge thank you to our faculty, Tracy Powell, Mary Okwese, the CSSD, and the Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence for all the kindness, support, and opportunities you provide for us.

Congratulations to all our graduate students for a successful year – have yourselves a safe and restful summer!

**Nafisa A. Abdulhamid,**  
**DGSPS President**





## POLI GRADUATE STUDENTS *cont'd*

### **(ELIKEM TSAMENYI CON'T)**

Based on some of the ideas from my dissertation, I am currently finishing a research paper examining the effects of 'newer', non-traditional security threats, including epidemics like COVID-19 on the African international society and its security governance mechanisms. In this paper, I assess the adequacy (or otherwise) of Africa's current security governance mechanisms to effectively mitigate and address these non-traditional threats going forward, with some interesting conclusions for scholars fo-

cusing on Africa. I argue that epidemics, environmental calamities, as well as other non-traditional security threats are going to remain our new normal. Hence, Africa's current security governance mechanisms, heavily biased towards dealing with traditional security threats, need critical re-imagination if the continent hopes to successfully own and deal with its security problems. I hope to have it published by Fall of 2020.

I have also spent part of the year working as a Research Assistant for the Defence & Security Foresight Group (Africa Group), assisting Dr. David Black and Dr. Jenny Baechler with organizing a workshop for early next year. This workshop will be focused on exploring lessons from the UN peace operation in Mali. I am currently finishing the set-up of POLI 2520, a World Politics course I will be teaching remotely in the summer at Dalhousie University. I am grateful to the department for the opportunity and look forward to the experience.

## ALUMNI



### **MAYA HIBBELN, BA Honours in Political Science (Spring 2017)**

Following my graduation in 2017, I decided to take a year off

before continuing with grad school. After taking the sport and politics class (POLI 3311) with Dr. David Black in third year, and subsequently writing my honours thesis on sport and soft power, I was especially interested in continuing in this field of study. However, because most available Masters programs were geared toward sport and physiotherapy or sport psychology, I was unsure if this would even be possible. I was looking for a program that was not only policy-based, but that would also expand on the in-depth topics I had covered while at Dalhousie.

During my year off, I thankfully found my way back to Halifax a few times. This began when I had the pleasure of assisting Dr. Dave Beitelman and Dr. Carla Suarez with their dissertations (once again, congrats guys!) Additionally, I had the privilege of co-authoring two chapters with Dr. Black in the realm of sport and politics that spoke to themes of globalization, sport mega events and the ongoing tension, benefits and consequences of large sporting events

[published by The Palgrave Handbook of Contemporary International Political Economy and Sport and Physical Culture in Canada]. I am thankful to Dr. Black who introduced me to the world of peer-review, publishing and also for work that required researching sport policy topics I knew very little about (e.g. sport and disability, sailing and the America's Cup, etc.).

After some overseas travel exploring the UAE, doing a SwimTrek in Oman and visiting family in the Netherlands, I accepted a spot at the University of Edinburgh in the Sport Policy, Management and International Development Master's program. I found I still needed a bit of 'Scotia' in my life so headed to Edinburgh, the capital of 'Old Scotia.' This Master's focused on a wide range of topics including human right violations of Qatari workers, the ongoing discussion of sport and sexual identity (e.g. Caster Semenya), and issues of race, marginalization and financial inequality (e.g. favelas in Rio, Colin Kaepernick, etc.).

Not only has Edinburgh been an amazing home for the past two years but I love the humour and warm hospitality that the Scots provide. I plan to stay here for the foreseeable future (Covid-19 permitting, of course). In the meantime, it will be interesting to see how sport organizations continue

to adapt to ongoing – and now new – global challenges.



### **PETRA REGENI, BA Honours in Political Science (Spring 2019)**

If you'd told me at the start of my undergraduate degree in 2015

that after graduating I would move to Turkey to intern for a humanitarian organization, while travelling other Middle Eastern countries like Iraq, Israel and Palestine, I'd probably have choked with laughter. Not because I wouldn't have thought they were interesting prospects; I just couldn't have imagined ever being capable of doing it. That's the beauty about this department and faculty though: they equip you with the tools and confidence to do crazy things.

As a student focused on Middle Eastern politics, the slightly irrational part of my brain said, "Go to the Middle East to intern and get a first-hand understanding of the political culture and region." Which is how I ended up seeking out my internship and moving to the city of Gaziantep, Turkey, roughly an hour north of the Syrian border, 2 months after leaving Dalhousie.

*Continued on next page*

## ALUMNI *cont'd*

I spent 6 months living in Gaziantep working for a Syrian third-party monitoring and evaluations (M&E) organization, Trust Consultancy and Development. The work ranged from M&E projects to capacity building programs and training sessions - all things I knew little about till I began working.

Since it's a third-party organization, I got to work on a range of projects like gender-based violence and education aid programs, and with a range of organizations such as Save the Children and Welthungerhilfe.

Now I won't go too much into the technical tidbits of the work (in essence I wrote a lot of reports using raw data) but will focus on the experiences and knowledge I gained instead. This ranges from travelling to other cities in Turkey like Kahramanmaraş for focus-group discussions with Syrian migrants on their experiences as beneficiaries of an aid project; to reading interviews with medical staff working in health centres inside Syria.

I also got to work on organizing capacity building trainings, including one with the Partnership Brokers Association in Istanbul. And perhaps my favourite experience of all was travelling to Erbil, Iraq, twice to attend training sessions on using the behaviour change framework to design humanitarian aid projects.

As a recent graduate though, the most eye-opening part is realizing how all the theories and events we are taught about in classrooms manifest into the real world. In my case, I got to see and learn about things like the impacts of the Syrian migrant crisis inside Turkey and the continued effects of the Syrian civil war on the everyday lives of civilians inside Syria.

Since graduating a year ago, I've done work I didn't even know existed before and travelled to Iraq (a crazy personal dream of mine since becoming obsessed with Middle Eastern politics). But no matter where I'll end up in life, I can always look back and appreciate the impact Dalhousie has had on my life.

It has not only built the foundations for my academic and (thus far still

short) professional career, but it gave me the confidence to dream big, be bold and chase my passions (even ones that lead me to Iraq).



**SARAH WATSON, BA Honours in Political Science with a Minor in Law and Society (Spring 2017)**

My fascination

with Political Science came about unexpectedly and started rather late in my degree, or what seemed later, compared to my peers. While many in my cohort had come to University knowing they would study Political Science, I couldn't pick just one field, enthralled by the wealth of knowledge around me. History, sociology, psychology, I wanted it all. It wasn't until I walked into my first class with Dr. Brian Bow, that I truly discovered International Relations and it all clicked into place. I would do my BA in Political Science, focusing on International Relations, with a Minor in Law and Society.

Unlike the rest of my cohort, most of my political opinions had not yet solidified around the time I declared political science to be my major. I had discovered the tip of the iceberg, but there was still so much more yet to learn. Truth be told, since graduating in 2017 (mere months after Trump was elected president of the United States) my understandings of politics, the justice system, IR and the world in general has only continued to be challenged and to grow.

Throughout the course of my time at Dal I learned not only so much about the world around me, but about myself and my thirst for knowledge. I was afforded opportunities that, at one point, I could have only dreamed of. I am so so grateful for my years at Dal and all the time spent with some of the greatest minds I have ever met. Not only the world class faculty, but also my fellow graduates, who have gone on to do some remarkable things. That being

said, after completing my Honours program I decided against the traditional routes of Law school or pursuing a Masters degree. I moved to the United Kingdom to work, travel, and consider my future.

After spending almost two years exploring different avenues of work, continuing to volunteer and network in the UK, the serious illness of a close family member brought me back to Canada. Upon moving back to Ottawa, I decided to use my time to learn more skills, while caring for my family member. I took a course in basic coding. And another one in Digital Marketing, through the University of Ottawa with a local agency. I continue to learn everyday about content marketing and copywriting, data analytics and market research, and web development.

Where once my writing and research skills were used to construct and analyze academic theories, now they enable me to perform market analysis for products and services, curating content for targeted demographics. At the moment I manage all things digital marketing for two Ottawa based companies, while volunteering for a third not-for-profit Mental Health agency, also running digital. In addition, I do freelance projects (mostly writing) for businesses all over the world, and consult for Shopify, a multinational e-commerce company headquartered here in Ottawa.

I'm sure in another 3 years, I'll be somewhere completely different, working on projects I hadn't dreamed of. But as a wise professor once told me in my final days at Dal, in academia or otherwise, learning how to be comfortable with the uncertainties of the world is an essential component of learning to live in it.



**DAVIS YUZDEPSKI, MA**  
**Political Science (2019)** - My time at Dalhousie in many ways shaped who I am today. I

graduated with an MA in political science last year, and was fortunate to embark on a career shortly thereafter in my home province as a Research and Policy Analyst with the Saskatchewan

Teachers' Federation. It is a position I hope to hold for a long time, and includes everything I could possibly ask for – intensely political work, rigorous research, enriching interpersonal relationships, and knowledge that my input will (hopefully) make a positive impact on the lives of Saskatchewan teachers, as well as on public education writ large.

This past while has been difficult for most, and especially for those in Nova Scotia. To this end I want to say that

my time in Halifax and at Dalhousie left me with an indelibly positive image of the east coast. I wish nothing but the best to all of you, and in the better days ahead I have no doubt I'll be back to visit the many great friends, colleagues, staff and professors I encountered along the way.

Thank you all, and see you soon!





### **DALHOUSIE POLITICAL SCIENCE (WITH THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT)**

offers an excellent undergraduate program (with Honours option) and graduate programs (MA and PhD) in a collegial, small department. Our professors are known internationally for their outstanding research. We offer a congenial social environment, enhanced by the entertainment and environmental amenities of the City of Halifax. We offer courses and degree programs in four sub-fields:

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- International Relations and Foreign Policy
- Comparative Politics
- Political Theory

**Financial Aid:** Full-time MA and PhD Students are eligible for prestigious prizes, awards, and scholarships. These include the Glyn R. Berry Memorial Scholarship in International Policy Studies, Killam Memorial Scholarship, Margaret Meagher Fellowship in Political Science, Keens-Morden Scholarship, Timothy Shaw and Jane Parapart Scholarship, and other Graduate Scholarships and Teaching Assistantships.

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**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!** Do you have an interesting story to share? Know of a former classmate who is doing something exciting and newsworthy? Email us at: [PSADMIN@DAL.CA](mailto:PSADMIN@DAL.CA)