



**DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF ARTS AND  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

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## FROM THE CHAIR

**THIS IS MY FIFTH, AND FINAL,** message as Chair of the Political Science department at Dalhousie. Each one has offered some reflections on the year just past and how it has affected the life of our department, its members, and our students. This year, the world 'out there' has conspired to provide unprecedented material.

One of the enduring benefits of teaching and researching in Political Science is the never-ending cycle of pivotal events that illuminate both profound changes and deep continuities. There were plenty of both this year: electoral dramas, new/old conflicts in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa, the apparent recession of democracy and rise of renewed authoritarianism, enduring cycles of rights repression and courageous resistance, alongside the spectacle of the storming of the US Capitol, the negotiation of Britain's final withdrawal from the European Union, intensified climate 'events' and politics, the postponement of the Tokyo Olympics, etc. Two particular developments, however, left what promises to be a lasting imprint on the department and on Dalhousie. These are, of course, the Covid-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement, highlighting deeply rooted social, economic, and political injustices and prompting renewed efforts to tackle them.

With the rest of the world, our department has spent the past year grappling with the deep disruption of the pandemic. With universities across the country and beyond it, this meant pivoting to fully online and remote instruction. The resulting challenges are a recurring theme in the pages that follow. This unprecedented and unanticipated turn placed exceptional strains on staff, students, and faculty alike. There were dire predictions of enrollment collapse



**David Black, Political Science Chair**

that played their own part in the trials of Collective Bargaining. In the end, however, staff showed remarkable initiative and professionalism in ensuring that administrative demands were successfully navigated; students showed exceptional resilience and adaptability in succeeding in their studies and supporting each other in this strange new environment; and department colleagues showed exceptional creativity and commitment in adapt-

*Continued on next page*

## FROM THE CHAIR *cont'd*

ing their courses and their pedagogy to online delivery. While we don't ever want to repeat this giant pedagogical experiment, many imaginative innovations were adopted and adapted, some of which will become part of a renewed teaching skill set for all of us!

Efforts to advance Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) have been building at the university for several years now, but were decisively advanced as the Black Lives Matter movement aligned with other historically marginalized groups to raise awareness of this country's own long heritage of displacement and exploitation. The challenge of reckoning with the more shameful aspects of our history and working towards greater equity and justice will be prolonged and arduous, but the department took some important initial steps in the course of the past year. These include: a new bursary for Black/African Canadian and Indigenous Political Science majors; a new Scholarship for Women in Politics (thanks to the efforts of recent POLI graduates Sarah Dobson and Grace Evans); a curriculum review to support a more diverse curriculum; and training initiatives to better enable us to support the needs of a more diverse community of students – all covered in the pages of this newsletter. My thanks to Ruben Zaiotti, chair of the curriculum committee, for his leadership in these efforts, and to the students who continue to challenge us to grow as teachers and scholars in this and other ways.

Both Covid and Black Lives Matter pose, on their own but also in inter-related ways (see <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-the-two-pandemics-of-anti-black-racism-and-covid-19-are-tied-together/?fbclid=IwAR31CL9QuwZqyj3QtKPImgijl3pkNp77D-D20mVJ7liD8vx49uA-GPQ845E>) renewed challenges to the future of democratic political life. In the coming year and in the years ahead, the department will have an exceptional opportunity to participate in a new series of annual events ("The Stanfield Conversations") probing key themes and chal-

lenges for democracy. Watch for the first of these events featuring two of Canada's most distinguished political thinkers – Charles Taylor and Simone Chambers – this coming September.

As I transition out of my term as Chair, I want to warmly welcome our newest member, Rachael Johnstone, who brings to the department her expertise on the intersections of politics, public policy, law, and healthcare as they relate to gendered bodies. While Rachael will spend her first year welcoming a new member to her family, she reinforces an outstanding group of young scholars who have joined the department in the last four years (Leah Sarson, Scott Pruyers, and Kiran Banerjee) and promise to renew our long history of teaching and research excellence.

I must also thank those who are moving into new roles and who have provided tremendous leadership during my time as Chair. Brian Bow has ably navigated the Centre for the Study of Security and Development (previously the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies) through a difficult transition away

from its former reliance on core funding from the Security and Defence Forum, and has sustained a tradition of timely events, initiatives, and publications that Peter Arthur will take forward as the new Director. Katherine Fierlbeck has sustained the grad program's tradition of excellence through two terms as Coordinator. Her reward is to jump from the grad studies "frying pan" into the Department Chair's "fire". Thank you Katherine! Kristin Good steps in as Graduate Coordinator – a role she has ably filled on an Acting basis in the past. And, although they are (fortunately) "resting in place," our administrative staff – Mary Okwesee and Tracy Powell – have continued to provide truly outstanding support through this difficult year. Like previous chairs, I find it hard to imagine how I could have done this job without Tracy Powell's amazing skills and commitment.

Finally to our students, past, graduating, and continuing, you are why we do this. Thanks for your continuing inspiration!

**David Black, Political Science Chair**

### WOMEN IN POLITICS SCHOLARSHIP

The Women in Politics Scholarship was established in September 2020 through the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences by Sarah Dobson, a Dalhousie Political Science and Law graduate and Grace Evans, then a current Political Science student. The Women in Politics Scholarship supports the next generation of women-identifying students in the field by encouraging and inspiring their career aspirations. This award is given annually to two students who have identified as female, declared a major in Political Science, demonstrated academic capability, and demonstrated a commitment to feminist and gender issues. We are pleased to announce that the first recipients of this scholarship are as follows:

**CLAIRE BELLIVEAU, BA Major in Political Science and Law, Justice & Society**

**CHARLOTTE BOURKE, BA Major in Political Science with a Minor in Environmental Studies**



**CLAIRE BELLIVEAU, BA Major in Political Science and Law, Justice, and Society (Candidate)**

It is an incredible honour to be named as one of two recipients of the inaugural Women in Politics Scholarship.

While being a full-time Political Science and Law, Justice and Society student, I have also been working as a Community Outreach Coordinator in the office of

# ON THEIR SHOULDERS:

The Women Who Paved the Way in Nova Scotia Politics

Sarah Dobson and Grace Evans

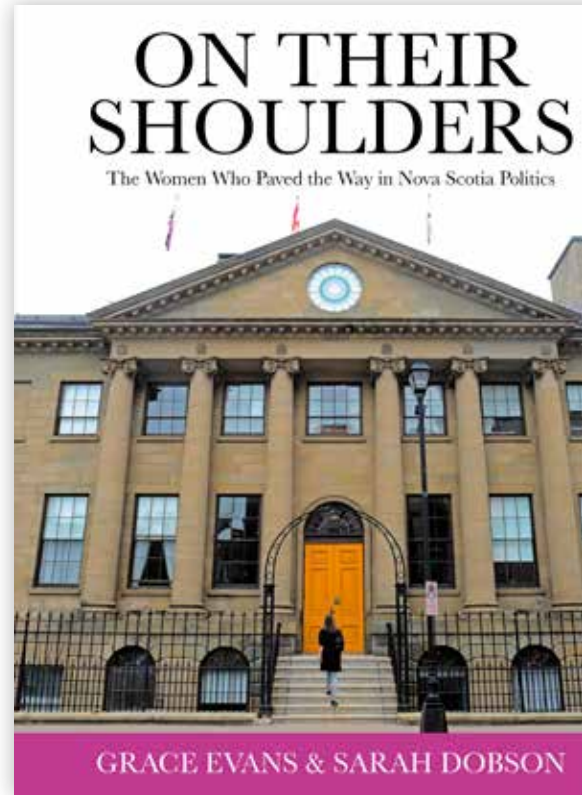
**SARAH DOBSON, AN ALUM OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND THE SCHULICH SCHOOL OF LAW, AND GRACE EVANS, A FOURTH-YEAR POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENT**

launched a project last year to celebrate women in Nova Scotia politics. Their book, *On Their Shoulders: The Women Who Paved the Way in Nova Scotia Politics*, tells the stories of the first fifty women who were elected to the Nova Scotia Legislature. Due to COVID-19, the publishing process had been stalled, but they are hopeful for a release in Summer 2021. Earlier this spring, Sarah and Grace were pleased to share the book cover – one that symbolizes a woman's rightful place in the legislature.

Along with the book, Sarah and Grace established the Women\* in Politics Scholarship at Dalhousie University. With the help of their friends, family, and the Dalhousie community, their fundraising efforts were able to start the scholarship fund with over \$13,000.

The *Women\* in Politics Scholarship* will see two women\* students who aspire to a career in politics receive a scholarship of \$1,000 each. Particularly during such financially challenging times, it was very important to both Sarah and Grace to launch this scholarship as soon as possible to provide relief to students who have had to navigate the challenges associated with being a student during a pandemic. All proceeds from the book will go towards the scholarship fund as well, ensuring that its impact will last for years to come.

**\*Applications are welcome from gender-diverse students, including agender, genderfluid, and genderqueer.**



an MLA. Gaining both theoretical knowledge and practical experience at the same time has allowed me to find my voice as a young woman in politics.

I have had the opportunities to advocate for issues that I'm passionate about, such as increasing the representation of women in politics and sexual violence against women.

I'd like to thank Sarah Dobson and Grace Evans for all their work in making this scholarship possible. They are both incredibly strong and inspiring young women who work hard to help dismantle barriers that may prevent other young women from pursuing an education and/or career in political science.



**CHARLOTTE BOURKE,**  
**BA Major in Political Science with a Minor in Environmental Studies (Candidate)**

Being one of the first recipients of the Women in Politics Scholarship is both an honour and a privilege. For the past three years at Dalhousie, I have been pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree majoring in Political Science and minoring in Environmental Studies. I have also been involved in research at the Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence at Dal, where I have worked as a research assistant in the Health Law & Policy Network. After I graduate in Spring 2022, I hope to attend graduate school

and continue researching how social and environmental policies impact marginalized groups.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude toward Sarah Dobson and Grace Evans for making the Women in Politics Scholarship possible. I feel incredibly grateful to have been selected as a recipient of the award—especially considering what it represents. It is important to encourage and welcome women in politics, and this scholarship is a key step in doing so at Dalhousie.



# ONE YEAR LATER:

## Fass Acting Dean On Surviving And Thriving During A Difficult Year Genevieve MacIntyre - April 7, 2021 – Featured in Dal News

**WHEN ROBERTA BARKER ASSUMED** the role of acting dean in Dal's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences upon her return from sabbatical last July, she encountered a very different reality than when she'd left. In-person courses were replaced with virtual, advanced research projects disrupted, performances cancelled. But she also saw sparks of ingenuity and inspiration, students persevering in the face of obstacles, new research projects beginning and staff and others overcoming the day-to-day challenges of remote working.

Below, Dr. Barker reflects on what the past 12 months has meant in FASS:

**Q How did the upheaval brought on by COVID-19 impact research in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences?**

**A** COVID-19 affected FASS research on every level. Many FASS researchers are engaged in field research or archival research, which depend on the ability to travel. Some of our faculty members and graduate students found themselves trapped abroad when the pandemic was declared and had to shut down their research activities in order to get home. Some found themselves unable to visit the archives and libraries where they had hoped to spend their summer research time; others—such as our performing artists — faced cancellation of public performances and shutdown of the theatres, clubs, and concert halls where they usually practice their craft. Perhaps the most widespread impact, though, was the fact that the demands of prepping online classes while working from home — often while supporting home-schooling for children or providing care for sick or aging family members — made it extremely difficult for our faculty and graduate students to find research



time this year. At the same time, many FASS faculty members were inspired to begin new and very relevant research projects into the social, political, and cultural impacts of the pandemic. To help support both faculty and students in their research, FASS offered special RA positions during the pandemic year that provided employment for undergraduate students while also supporting the continuance of faculty and graduate student research. Despite all the challenges of this year, FASS researchers are incredibly resilient and have continued to show in many, many ways how crucial their work is to creating a better world.

**Q What do you see as some of the lasting impacts of the pandemic on education in the Arts and Social Sciences at Dal?**

**A** The pandemic has had some positive impacts on education in the Arts and Social Sciences at Dalhousie. We've learned a huge amount about how to make our public lectures accessible to a much wider audience via online platforms, and have been able to share our work with people all over the world in this way. We've also learned so much about what does and doesn't work in online education in the arts and social sciences. Helped by extensive feedback from our students, we've striven to find the best ways to create community, encourage active and critical learning, and foster creativity through virtual media.

**Further reading:** [Rewriting the script on film studies during a global pandemic](#)

At the same time, I think one of the most lasting impacts may be a profound rediscovery of how much we value learning together in person. So many disciplines in the arts, humanities, and social sciences focus on the subtleties of relationships (between people, between communities, between humans and the natural world, and so on). I hope one of the lasting impacts of the pandemic on education in the arts, humanities, and social sciences will be a permanently deepened appreciation for how much learning in these fields depends on the subtleties of interpersonal interaction, as well.

**Q What has been the most inspiring aspect of leading the Faculty over the past year?**

**A** By far the most inspiring aspect of serving as acting dean of FASS during this challenging year has been the opportunity to experience the strength, resilience, and determination of our community. Our students have persevered through extremely challenging circumstances and have found ways to pursue their passions, dreams, and interests despite all the obstacles the year threw in their way. Through our open forum on online learning this fall, students gave us extensive and honest feedback about the difficulties they were facing. Our faculty members have worked incredibly hard to listen, learn from, and respond to this feedback, repeatedly adapting and changing their course delivery and assignments to better support students. Our staff members have worked overtime to help make these teaching and learning relationships possible. All three of these communities — students, faculty, and staff — have come together to help with recruitment, outreach, and retention efforts (for example, by participating in online interviews and orientation sessions introducing their departments, participating in virtual open fairs, sharing recordings of lectures, etc). Our members have also had to reimagine ways to successfully

offer and execute experiential learning in FASS – not an easy task in the midst of social distancing! I'm blown away and inspired every day by the many ways in which our learning community has managed to survive and even thrive through these difficult days.

**Q How has your Faculty contributed to the efforts to combat and raise awareness about the different impacts of COVID-19?**

**A** Many of our faculty members have been featured in the media, sharing their research on the social and cultural impacts of the pandemic. To name just a few: Bob Huish's research on the stigma associated with COVID infection has been featured in the New York Times. Emma Whelan, too, has underlined the ways in which moralizing narratives about who does (and doesn't) get ill can have harmful effects on individuals and populations. Katherine Fierlbeck has advocated for transparent and accessible data around the pandemic. And Christina Haldane has contributed her creative work on ICARE, an interdisciplinary workshop and digital performance project, to the Royal Society of Canada's web installation, Engaging Creativities: Art in the Pandemic. All of these and many other FASS colleagues have helped us better to understand how COVID-19 is impacting diverse communities and how those communities might emerge stronger from these challenges.

**Further reading:**

**Ask an expert:** [Political scientist Ruben Zaiotti on the pros and cons of the 'Atlantic bubble'](#)

**Ask an expert:** [Robert Huish on pandemic-fuelled stigmas and what can be done to prevent them](#)

**Q What innovations, adaptations or creativity have you seen emerge out of your Faculty as a result of the pandemic?**

**A** FASS has been incredibly innovative in response to the pandemic. In record time, we saw the creation of new courses such as The Politics of Pandemic by Larissa Atkinson in the

Department of Political Science and Pandemic – The Class by Bob Huish in the Department of International Development Studies.

**Further reading:**

**Pandemic politics:** [Course explores the implications of our moment](#)  
**Pandemic, the class:** [Real time simulation based course challenges students to prevent virus outbreaks](#)

We also saw the Fountain School of Performing Arts create its first ever digital production, which led the way for numerous online concerts, plays, and even operas to follow.

**Further reading:** **The (digital) stage is set:** [Fountain School performance season begins online with "Concord Floral" Fountain School's Beyond Windows opens doors for remote creation](#)

**Q What have you missed the most about in-person operations and what are you looking most forward to getting back to when the pandemic is over?**

**A** Maybe I'm biased by my own discipline (live theatre), but what I miss most is the exchange of energy that takes place when people learn together in the same space. I've really missed seeing students respond spontaneously to one another's insights in the heat of in-class exploration, or colleagues laughing together at a joke that lightens up an otherwise heavy meeting. I can't wait to be back in the classroom or the rehearsal room with students and to have the chance to bounce off one another's discoveries in physicalized "real time" again. And, I must admit, I'm looking forward to giving a hug to a number of heroic colleagues once we're able to do it safely!

**Q Any parting thoughts?**

**A** Thanks for this opportunity! And thank you so much, FASS students, staff, and faculty, for everything you've done to keep our Faculty afloat in a truly exceptional year.

<https://bit.ly/3vMI6F3>

# OUR FACULTY



**DR. PETER ARTHUR** was a member of the department's curriculum committee as well as the graduate

committee. He also served as the department's acting undergraduate advisor from July 2020 to December 2020 when Dr. Anders Hayden was on sabbatical leave. In this role, apart from assisting students with course selection, he also provided advice regarding various academic matters. Additionally, he completed his three-year term as a member of Research Ethics Board and will be joining the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) Research Development Committee (RDC) as a new member. Finally, he is assuming the position of the Director for The Centre for the Study of Security and Development (CSSD) on 1st July 2021.

Along with these roles, he worked on various research papers. His work, "Digitalization for Industrialization in Africa: Rationale and Influential Forces," is currently under review for publication by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in a special edited report (South-South Cooperation for Harnessing Digitalization for Africa's Industrialization). This work analyzes how digitalization can unleash the potential of Africa in industrialization and how factors such as investments in digital infrastructure (data, broadband, and cloud computing), education and skills development, as well as national and regional regulations and trade governance architecture can influence it. Similarly, his work "Extractive Sector Regulations in Africa: Old Practices & New Models for Change," in Hany Besada & Cristina D'alexandro (Editors), *Routledge Handbook on Natural Resources in Africa* (Routledge) is undergoing a peer review. This

work assesses the various initiatives that have sought to ensure extractive natural resources contribute to the socioeconomic goals of countries. In particular, it examines the new regulations and approaches that can ensure the effective and efficient management of extractive natural resources among African countries.

Aside from his own research work, he is supervising an MA student who is working on the political economy of China's investments on the African continent. This is in addition to serving as the supervisor of a visiting graduate student from Brazil (Kelly Oliveira Meira), who received a scholarship from the Emerging Leaders in the Americas (ELAP) Program. Kelly is researching the influence of the segregationist governments of South Africa, Namibia, and Zimbabwe on the institutionalization of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) during the period from 1975 to 1994.



During the 2020/2021 academic year, **DR. LARISSA ATKISON** expanded her teaching responsibilities in the Department

of Political Science to include Human Rights: Legal Issues (POLI 4505), Canadian Indigenous Politics (POLI 2215), and Political Thought 1789-1900 (POLI 2420). She also designed a new POLI offering, the Politics of Pandemics (POLI 3510), which was featured last fall in the [FASS newsletter](#). Dr. Atkison supported two of her students in successfully publishing their research papers in student journals, including in the Dalhousie Undergraduate Political Science Society (DUPSS) Journal *PODIUM*; she is currently working with a third student to publish their research paper next year. Dr. Atkison continues work on the final stages of her book project, *Tragic Judgement*, which draws

on the ancient Greek tragic theatre to make an unconventional argument about individual and collective capacities for practical judgement when confronted with sustained indeterminacy and crisis.



During his second year as a faculty member in the Department, **DR. KIRAN BANERJEE** spent the past year

teaching courses online for the first time, researching and writing, preparing several grant applications, as well as remotely 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. He also acted as an honours thesis supervisor for the first time in the Department, and joined two dissertation committees. In addition to receiving the news of his successful nomination as Canada Research Chair in Forced Migration and Refugee Policy, Dr. Banerjee has also been involved in three new grant projects (CIHR Rapid Response, SSHRC Connection, and CFI/JELF), while the coming months will have him focused on a number of initiatives, including a study of the impact of delayed refugee resettlement as well as a collaborative project on the role of Canadian foreign policy in forced migration governance. This has been an exceptionally challenging time, and so Dr. Banerjee would like to express his thanks to the staff and his colleagues in the Department of Political Science, as well as his students across all his classes.



**DR. BRIAN BOW** finished up a number of long-term administrative and service commitments this

year, including Director of the Centre for the Study of Security and Development (2015-21), editor-in-chief of *International Journal* (2015-21), and service on the FASS Academic Development Committee (member, 2017-2020; chair, 2020-21). He is looking forward to carrying a full teaching load in 2021-22, and to starting work on a number of new research projects in the next few years. New and ongoing projects explore: the success and dissolution of the constructivist project in IR theory; recasting of debates over transgovernmental networks, in the context of anti-globalization movements and the spread of populist authoritarianism; discursive struggles over the meaning and salience of "the West," as reflected in other states' criticisms of the Bush and Trump administrations; the legacies of the NAFTA ratification debates with respect to US trade policy; and the "export" of police and justice-system models through international conditionalities, reform pressures, and training programs.



**DR. KATHERINE FIERLBECK**

Marshall McLuhan observed (in the 1960s!) that technological advances constrain some aspects of our

lives, but substantially facilitate others. The move to virtual communication has forced us to work within our isolated little boxes, but it has also given us unprecedented ability to meet in real time with colleagues both nationally and globally. The last meeting I attended had participants from 17 different countries, spanning North America, Europe, Australia, China, Southeast Asia, and Africa. This is now completely unremarkable. In this way, I've been able this year to attend a conference in Toronto (for the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management), participate in panel discussions in Lancaster UK (on health

law and policy), provide a keynote address for a conference in BC, join a CIGI working group on national health security, and serve as an expert consultant for the Auditor General's report on pandemic preparedness – all without any carbon emissions. The way in which academic life operates has been profoundly restructured.

The inability to travel has also meant more time to write, and I've been fortunate to have articles published this year in the *Journal of Health Policy, Politics, and Law*; *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, *Canadian Public Administration*, and the *Journal of Law and the Biosciences*. I'm especially honoured to have been able to contribute a chapter on pandemic management to the seminal volume edited by Colleen Flood, Jane Philpott, and others (*Vulnerable: The Policy, Law, and Ethics of COVID-19*). The books I reviewed this year can be found in the *Canadian Journal of Political Science* and the *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, and my latest book (with Janice Graham and Matthew Herder), *Transparency, Power, and Influence in the Pharmaceutical Industry*, will be released by the University of Toronto Press in July.

On another front (as if the pandemic weren't enough), faculty at Dalhousie have been obliged this year to fight against salary rollbacks and pension reductions proposed by the Board, and it has been both an education and an honour to be able to work on the front lines of the DFA to protect the faculty from potentially serious cutbacks.

Finally, I've been delighted to be able to work this year with PhD students Richard Saillant, Julia Rodgers, and Steve Machat, as well as MA students Noel Guscott, JP Chater, and Filip Guzina. The ideas, insights, and thoughtful discussions that these students bring has been so important in keeping the intellectual fires burning over the past year. And onwards we go...



**DR. ROBERT FINBOW**

like his colleagues, devoted much of the year to conversion of class materials to online formats and mentoring his

students virtually. On a timely topic, he published "Covid 19 Impacts on trade and the economy: Hard Choices for the EU" in the commentary series on Covid for the European Studies Association of Canada. His projects with the Center for Studies on Integration and Globalization (CEIM), University of Quebec at Montreal (UQÀM) reached press. He published "The necessity of socially responsible trade" in M. Rioux and S. Zini (eds.) *Towards a Socially Responsible Trade Policy: A Challenge for Canada and its Partners*, (University of Quebec at Montreal (UQÀM) Press 2021); and "Constitutionalism by Stealth? CETA as an exemplar of Clarkson's Supra national constitutionalism" in Marjorie Griffin Cohen, Michèle Rioux and Daniel Drache (eds.) *Multiple Governance Dilemmas in the 'new' North America: A Tribute to Stephen Clarkson* (Palgrave 2021). Under the strictures brought by Covid 19, the book from the Erasmus + project, *Unraveling the puzzle: CETA Implementation and Implications*, continues to inch forward with McGill-Queen's University Press.

With the continuing shut down of campus and conferences, his presentations were virtual including "Implementing CETA - a year 3 assessment" to a conference on CETA: Where Are We After More Than Three Years? organized by the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, Carleton University in March. In the fall he participated in a roundtable at Dalhousie as part of its Open Dialogue Live, on "Neighbourly Relations - The US Election and How Canada Could Be Impacted." He continued as Honours Coordinator for the department

*Continued on next page*



## OUR FACULTY *cont'd*

and helped guide our students to completion of their honours projects and defenses via numerous MS Teams meetings. All the current students completed excellent projects in time for spring graduation. In winter, he served as Acting Director of the Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence, which organized interesting virtual speakers on EU borders and Covid and prospects for EU transatlantic relations under the Biden administration.



**DR. KRISTIN GOOD:** In January 2021, Kristin Good resumed what was supposed to be a year-long sabbatical that began in January 2020 and

was interrupted by a decision to return to teaching in the fall because of the pandemic restrictions. Many of her sabbatical plans were postponed and then cancelled including a conference in Paris and a workshop in Rotterdam. This left Dr. Good with the opportunity to focus on completing writing projects including a textbook on comparative urban governance (with co-editor Dr. Jen Nelles), which she hopes to submit to the University of Toronto Press by the end of the summer. She has also been analysing interview and other data collected as part of a decade-long study of local immigration policies and forms of governance in Canada cities. This research focuses on the way local immigration governance varies in Canadian cities with different demographic configurations of Francophones in minority settings and Indigenous peoples. She is currently writing a paper for presentation at the annual Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) meeting, which will be held from June 7th to 10th this year. The paper is entitled "Decolonizing Local Immigration Policymaking in Canada? Assessing Indigenous Engagement in Local Immigration Partnerships".

This year, the annual meeting of the CPSA will be held independently (of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences) and, of course, virtually. Dr. Good is on the program committee as the Section Head for "Local and Urban Politics". As part of this role, she took the lead in organizing a workshop called "Interrogating Racism and Colonialism in Canadian Cities and Beyond: Toward New Theories, Questions and Methods in the Study of Municipal Politics and Urban Governance". The workshop is jointly sponsored by the CPSA's Race, Ethnicity and Indigenous Peoples and Politics Section, which is co-headed by Kiera Ladner (University of Manitoba) and David B. MacDonald (University of Guelph). Dr. Good's paper on Indigenous engagement in local immigration partnerships will be presented as part of a series of papers on the workshop themes.

In addition to her research on local immigration policies, Dr. Good has been developing a research program and advocacy agenda that critically examines the constitutional status of municipalities in Canada. Early this year, she published an essay with the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP) as part of their inaugural series of essays to launch their new Centre of Excellence on the Federation (under the direction of Charles Breton). The essay is called "Reconsidering the Constitutional Status of Municipalities: From Creatures of the Provinces to Provincial Constitutionalism". Building upon former department member, Prof. David Cameron's work, she argues that we ought to consider municipal systems as parts of provincial constitutions and not only as an area of provincial jurisdiction like the others in Section 92 of the Constitution Act, 1867. Here is a link to the paper:

[Reconsidering-the-Constitutional-Status-of-Municipalitiess.pdf \(irpp.org\)](#)

Dr. Good also served as a member of an advisory group, providing advice and support to the organizers (led by

Massey College Principal, Nathalie Des Rosiers) of a Massey City Summit Event on "Constitutional Space for Cities" that was held online from April 6th to April 8th. She is an ongoing "supporter" of the summit goal of creating constitutional space for Canadian municipalities, with a group of other professors, writers, researchers, senators and advocates. Dr. Good was invited to present at the summit and produced a paper entitled: "Moving Beyond the "Creatures of the Provinces" Doctrine: Exploring Pathways to Municipal Empowerment in Provincial Constitutions". Information on the summit, including her presentation are available online:

<https://www.masseycitysummit.ca/conference-recap>

Dr. Good is a founding co-editor (with Dr. Martin Horak) of the McGill-Queen's Studies in Urban Governance book series, which is an ongoing project of reviewing books for the series and promoting it to colleagues:

<https://www.mqup.ca/browse-books-pages-46.php?filters=a%3A1-%3A%i%3A2%3Bs%3A4%3A%224478%22%3B}&do=changeFilter>

Dr. Good will be stepping into the role of Graduate Coordinator as of July 1. She held this role on an interim basis when the current Graduate Coordinator (and soon to be Chair), Katherine Fierlbeck, was on sabbatical from January 2016-December 2016. Dr. Good looks forward to working more closely with the department's highly talented graduate students.



**DR. ANDERS HAYDEN** has been putting the final touches on an edited volume titled *Towards Sustainable Wellbeing: Moving beyond GDP*

*in Canada and the World*. The book includes chapters he co-authored on "The Long Road Beyond GDP"



and "Beyond Dollars and Cents: The Canadian Index of Wellbeing and Nova Scotia Quality of Life Initiative." His work in this area also included a chapter, "From Fantasy to Transformation: Steps in the Policy Use of 'Beyond-GDP' Indicators," for a book on *The Well-being Transition*, and an invited online presentation for an event on a new Genuine Progress Indicator for South Korea. A policy brief that he wrote on work-time reduction was published this year by the ZOE Institute for Future-Fit Economies, a Bonn-based think tank. With energy consultant Ralph Torrie, he has been working on a project to examine the role of sufficiency, i.e., actions to reduce volumes of production or consumption or levels of energy-consuming activity, in a low-carbon transition in Canada. He has also been participating in an East-West Dialogue on Canadian Climate Change Policy. Dr. Hayden has been serving as the department's Undergraduate Advisor and on a number of departmental, faculty, and College of Sustainability committees. He was on sabbatical from July to December 2020. His original plans for travel to international conferences gave way to substantially more time in his home office than he had expected. On the positive side, and most significant among the past year's accomplishments, he was able to discover many beautiful places to hike and take photos in Nova Scotia, which he intends to return to again and again.



**DR. SCOTT PRUYZERS**

had a fruitful, albeit bizarre, year. While online teaching was a challenge, he learned a lot of new skills, like how to

record and edit lectures in Panopto, that he is excited to continue developing even as classes move back to in-person learning. In addition to teaching classes on Canadian

government, social media and politics, and quantitative methods, he also had the opportunity to supervise an IDS honours thesis regarding Toronto's public transit system and potential lessons the city could learn from other countries. During the last year he published a number of single and co-authored articles in journals such as *Contemporary Politics*, *the Journal of Public Opinion, Elections & Parties*, *Political Geography*, and the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*. In addition to this work he co-edited a special issue about the role of personality in political behaviour for the journal *Frontiers in Political Science*. He also continued his role as an editorial board member of two journals (*Frontiers in Political Science* and *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics*).



After completing her maternity leave in April, **DR. LEAH SARSON** slowly adjusted to full-time work with a baby at home during a pandemic. Certainly

not an easy time for anyone! Over the past few months, she has thrown herself into several projects related to Indigeneity and International Relations, including a special issue of a journal and her monograph, which focuses on strategies used by Indigenous nations to accrue authority. She also won a SSHRC Insight Development Grant with her co-applicant to expand her work into the Arctic. While travel has obviously been put on hold, Dr. Sarson is eager to head up north to begin this new research. Over the past year, Dr. Sarson published a chapter analyzing Indigeneity in the study of Canadian foreign policy and a review of an article exploring Canada's feminist foreign policy, and is awaiting the publication of a chapter on feminist research methods. She presented virtually at several conferences this year, including

at the Millennium: Journal of International Studies and the International Studies Association annual conferences. One of the minor silver linings of the pandemic was that she could present in London, England, and at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland on the same day - albeit online! Like many of her colleagues, Dr. Sarson entered the world of online teaching this year with trepidation, but was delighted and gratified by the enthusiasm and dedication of her students in her second year World Politics class, her third year Human Rights class, and her seminar on Indigenous Global Politics. She is looking forward to taking on two new courses during the upcoming academic year, Canadian Foreign Policy and Indigenous Politics in Canada. Now that she and her family have settled in Halifax permanently, Dr. Sarson is excited to continue building her academic and personal community here as we slowly transition out of the darkness of the pandemic.



A year in the (pandemic) life: **DR. RUBEN ZAIOTTI**. There are many words that have been used to describe the times we are currently

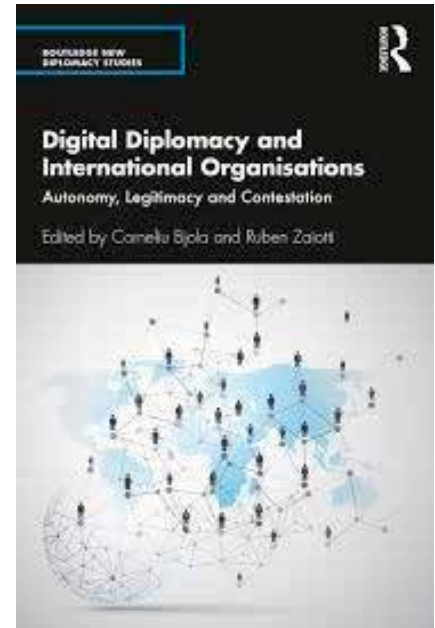
living in. The one that best applies to my (and I am sure many others') situation is 'suspended'. While a lot of things have happened in the last twelve months, the same can be said of what *could have happened*, but it did not (yet, at least). Indeed, I had many plans for this academic year (I was on sabbatical after all!). That included fieldwork in Europe to collect data for a new project on border control; attending international conferences; and organizing a summer school on migration and identity here in Halifax. Ah well, all that has to wait. Suspended! And yet, I tried to render this time of forced *otium* (in the sense

*Continued on next page*

## OUR FACULTY *cont'd*

that Latins gave to the term, namely a time devoted to various leisure endeavours, including academic activities) as productive as possible. I was able to bring to the finish line a publication I had been working on in the last couple of years (see the book cover). The edited book examines how international organizations have fared in the digital age, focusing on their efforts in engaging with social media. I have also been active providing public commentary on major events. My expertise on borders has come quite handy, given that one of the first and most consequential responses that governments around the world have taken to contain the pandemic has been to limit international and domestic cross-border mobility. Not a good time

to be a traveller for sure, but lots of opportunities for me to comment on how bad the situation is... And last but not least, like all my colleagues, I faced (and, so far, survived) the perilous adventure that is online teaching. After all, it was not as bad as I feared (although my students might beg to differ on this point). But I certainly look forward to a time where we can meet and talk about globalization, international relations, social media and European politics in a classroom. And I mean a real classroom. Academia was born as an institution where face-to-face interactions and exchanges of ideas were paramount. And if Greeks did it 3000 years ago, we in the 21st century should be able to do it too...



## GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

**DESPITE THE INITIAL AWKWARDNESS** of switching to an online-only format for thesis examinations (as well as for everything else), we had a number of successful thesis defences this year, including Ben Andrews (*Does Democracy Die in Darkness? An Examination of the Relationship Between Local Newspaper Health and Municipal Politics*), Ksenia Mykula (*An Analysis of Twitter Responses to the Kerch Strait Naval Clash between Russia and Ukraine*), Erik Fertsman (*Theorizing Stable Relationships Between the European Union and Ukraine: A Comparative Study*), Emily Mason (*Establishing Effective Representation and Protected Districts for Anglophones in Brome-Missisquoi*), and Susan Manning (*Centring Community: New Pathways in Resource Extraction Policy Processes*). Well done, everyone!

Our current cohort was equally undaunted by the new format and contributed to a lively and engaging graduate seminar this year. Given that there is no better time to work intensely and without distraction than during a full lockdown, this year's MA students will no

doubt be able to finish their theses in record time. I'm happy to be able to introduce our upcoming cohort of MA students (Bashar Al-Sarraf, Dylan Bennett, Alice Craft, Joseph Fitkowski, Drew MacEachern, Riley Nielson-Baker, and Savannah Shaw) as well as our new PhD students (Ally Chandler, who won a SSHRC award this year), Xinyu Gong (who has been awarded the Glyn Barry scholarship), and Tobias Schminke (who nabbed a NS Graduate Scholarship). While this is a bright and dynamic group of students, I am sorry that I will not be able to work with them as they develop their research projects this coming year. That honour will go to Kristin Good, our incoming Graduate Coordinator, who will be taking over the position this summer as I transition into the Chair. Working with graduate students is both a joy and a privilege, and I am sure that Kristin will enjoy the experience as much as I did!

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



### THE DORIS BOYLE GRADUATE PRIZE WINNER

**FRANCESCA BRAY, MA**

**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.

# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING, VIRTUALLY

## The Practicum Placement in Public Policy

Margaret Denike

### WHILE COVID RESTRICTIONS

seriously curtailed the ability of students to interact directly with each other and with faculty and community leaders, they did not stop students from seizing the invaluable opportunity of engaging in experiential learning – virtually.

Among the notable adaptations that were made to the curriculum this year are those that enabled 10 fourth year students to pursue placements within the community through Dr. Denike's course, [Practicum Placement in Public Policy: NGOs and Government Services](#).

This course was originally designed to give fourth-year students in Political Science the opportunity to gain practical experience by working eight hours per week at a government or non-government organization or service, rather than spend the time that would be otherwise dedicated to a single course in a classroom. The aim of this course was to enable students to work directly under a supervisor within a community organization or at a research institute on a specific project or initiative, while applying and sharing the knowledge they have gained from their academic studies, and becoming familiar with the day-to-day challenges of working in the field.

The opportunities for placements have been established over the past four years at a wide range of settings in local NGOs, research institutes, and public services in the community, including for example: the Halifax Refugee Clinic; the Romeo Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace & Security; the Canadian Centre for Rights and Freedoms; Dalhousie Legal Aid; the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives; and the Canadian Mental Health Association. This year, Dr. Denike collaborated with supervisors from several of the host organizations to establish remote alternatives to the otherwise hands-on experiential learning, to design projects that could engage students, virtually, in their work and service delivery. For some organizations, this has meant working very differently and creatively to meet their mandates and provide services to clients under seemingly impossibly challenging circumstances. For others, such as research institutes, there has been little change. Our students' experiences within such settings have perhaps inspired and empowered them to seek out opportunities for research, project coordination, and support services from wherever they are, and despite the distance between them and their supervisors or colleagues.

The virtual form of such experiential learning has also enabled students to appreciate that nothing replaces the value of face-to-face and hands-on contact when it comes to providing material support and assistance to members of marginalized groups who rely on NGOs for their livelihood. In this way, while the constraints of working virtually have been limiting in terms of the knowledge and experience that one gains on the front lines, they have also provided insight on how much more impactful COVID-based restrictions are to the most marginalized and disadvantaged individuals who rely so heavily and quite literally on the direct contact that has been far less available to them. Our students rose to the challenge of becoming active participants in the support services of our virtual communities.

Also see Dal News Story - EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING THROUGH PRACTICUM PLACEMENTS . . . FROM A DISTANCE – Genevieve MacIntyre – April 9, 2021 - <https://bit.ly/3zMGmxC>

### 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/giving](https://alumni.dal.ca/giving).





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

## 2020-21 WAS A VERY QUIET YEAR

for the Centre for the Study of Security and Development (CSSD), with faculty and students focused on adapting to online teaching, and everyone struggling to get through the stress and uncertainty of the long pandemic year. We talked about trying to organize online events, to try to sustain a sense of community around the Centre, but it seemed everyone was suffering from online-meeting fatigue, and we decided to try not to add any new responsibilities and distractions.

A few Centre-sponsored events did go ahead, despite it all, and some CSSD fellows participated in online events elsewhere. Adam Macdonald participated in a CDAI event, "Canada's National Security After COVID-19," on May 1, 2020. Through the fall, Veronica Kitchen and I—as co-leads for the Defence and Security Foresight Group (DSFG) North America group—ran an online forecast-

ing exercise with 25 experts looking ahead to Canada's defence and security challenges over the next 20 years. Later in the fall, CSSD fellows joined a couple of panel events on the US elections: on October 14, I was part of a panel organized by the MacEachen Institute, with Maryscott Greenwood, Jennifer Mustapha, and Christopher Sands; and on October 26, I joined a panel organized by Dalhousie's Open Dialogue series, featuring Robert Finbow, Ajay Parasram, and Kayla Preston. On November 16, CSSD hosted a Zoom panel on world politics after the 2020 elections, with Aaron Ettinger, Anders Hayden, Andrea Lane, and Leah Sarson. And Jennifer Baechler and David Black organized a DSFG webinar on "Peace Operations and the Future of Mali," on May 11, and a foresight workshop on "Mali: Prospects for a Durable Peace" on 18-19 May.

The Centre community was pleased to welcome Leah Sarson and Kiran Banerjee as new faculty fellows, and we're looking forward to all they will accomplish in the coming years.

Peter Arthur has agreed to take over as Centre director in July 2021, and he will be ably supported by deputy director Grant Curtis and administrative secretary Mary Okwese. I wish him the best of luck in guiding the Centre through the next few years and will be happy to advise and support him as needed. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the people I worked most closely with at the Centre over the last few years: Andrea Lane, Adam MacDonald, and Grant Curtis as deputy directors, and Shannon Langton and Mary Okwese as administrative secretaries. My sincere thanks and best wishes to all.

*Brian Bow, CSSD director, 2015-21*

Centre for the Study of Security & Development (CSSD), Dalhousie University  
Dalhousie Undergraduate Political Science Society (DUPSS)

Aaron Ettinger, Carleton  
Anders Hayden, Dalhousie  
Andrea Lane, Canadian Forces College  
Leah Sarson, Dalhousie

# WHAT NEXT? THE WORLD AFTER 2020

Monday, November 16, 2020, 7:00pm AST

Zoom sign-on info: <https://www.dal.ca/sites/cssd.html>



# JEAN MONNET EUROPEAN UNION CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (JMEUCE)

## LAST YEAR'S JMEUCE SUBMISSION

to this venerable newsletter closed by wondering what might lie ahead "in the coming weeks and months" and concluded that it would be interesting to have a crystal ball. Little did we expect the crystal ball to show the Centre standing empty for not just weeks or months but a whole year and so many activities continuing to be put on hold. Difficult times...

One activity which could continue, albeit remotely, was the Speaker Series. The online model did at least enable us to beam in interesting academics and practitioners from around the world, even if Zoom fatigue made it challenging to sustain high levels of attendance. (How many hours can one reasonably expect students to spend staring at lectures on a screen?!) The following public events were held online, with most available for watching afterwards via the [News and Events](#) section of the JMEUCE website:

- **Brexit: Breaking the EU, UK, British Isles... and the Law?** Vincent Power, Partner, A&L Goodbody, Dublin.
- Book launch and panel discussion on **Digital Diplomacy and International Organisations** with editors Corneliu Bjola, Associate Professor of Diplomatic Studies, University of Oxford, and Ruben Zaiotti, Director, JMEUCE & Associate Professor of Political Science, Dalhousie University, joined by five of the contributors.
- **A New Beginning with President Biden: European Priorities for the Transatlantic Agenda.** Markus Kaim, Senior Fellow, International Security Research Division, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin.
- **Internal Borders and Health Crisis in the EU: Is Covid a Threat to Schengen?** Ngo Chun Luk, Researcher, Justice and Home Affairs Section, Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels.

Many of our more student-focused activities continued to be postponed or cancelled, given the restrictions around both gatherings here and travel to Europe. However, planning is already underway to move ahead with them again once the much anticipated post-pandemic era finally arrives. In the meantime, we could at least offer the JMEUCE Essay Prize and received a number of strong entries. The 2021 prize was awarded to Patricia Porto de Barros Ayaz, a first year PhD student in Political Science for her paper on "The European Union's Migration Management: Border Externalization and the Negligence to Human Rights", which you can check out in the [Publications](#) section of our website.

In addition to its own events, the JMEUCE is pleased to report on three affiliated Jean Monnet Activities based at Dalhousie which focus on important EU-related topics. Research from the recently concluded [CETA Implementation and Implications Project](#) was edited into a book by Deputy Director Rob-

**Internal Borders and Health Crisis in the EU: is COVID a Threat to Schengen?**

**Legend**

- Non-Schengen country
- No COVID-19 related temporary internal border controls introduced
- COVID-19 related temporary internal border controls introduced and notified under SBC; all COVID internal border controls lifted or expired
- COVID-19 related temporary internal border controls introduced and notified under SBC; some COVID internal border controls lifted or expired, some still in place
- COVID-19 related intra-EU+ entry restrictions introduced at national level but **not** notified under SBC

Callout boxes: Iceland, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta

Continued on next page

ert Finbow. *Unraveling the Puzzle: CETA Implementation and Implications* is now under peer review for McGill-Queen's University Press. Dr Finbow also participated in a third anniversary conference for CETA. Plans for a network based on the project were delayed as Erasmus+ no longer funds such projects or networks. However, alternative funding is being sought for a transatlantic research network including some of the project partners, reflecting on EU progressive trade agreements as an instrument for inclusive and equitable post-pandemic recovery.

Another JM Activity is the [GEAP3 Network](#), led by Matthew Schnurr of International Development Studies (IDS), which seeks to investigate the policy, practical and public perceptions dimensions of genome editing in agriculture across Europe and Africa. In the autumn, the Network's [Policy Hub](#) launched a series of policy briefs culminating in an online event to debate the policy dynamics and ramifications of the EU's approach towards gene edited crops. At the same time, the [Practice Hub](#) began conducting a series of inter-

views with plant scientists and program officials to investigate how new technologies like CRISPR are likely to impact the African continent. In addition, the [Public Perceptions Hub](#) is in the process of gathering data on how the debate surrounding gene editing is unfolding on social media. With help from its students, the Network has also published a series of [blog posts](#) on the implications of new breeding technologies. Next year it hopes to host an event at Dalhousie and launch a new podcast series.

Finally, Katherine Fierlbeck's Health Law and Policy Network continued to release a variety of outputs for scholars, policy officials and the wider public. In January it launched a [virtual discussion series](#) with its first installment held virtually and a second planned for June featuring a panel discussion on regulatory transparency in the EU, US, and Canada. In addition, the Network published a [volume on transparency and the pharmaceutical industry](#) with University of Toronto Press as well as a [special issue of Journal of Health Policy, Politics & Law](#) based on workshop held in Copenhagen in 2019. Behind the

scenes a team of graduate and undergraduate Research Assistants in Canada and the UK have also compiled a helpful library of class syllabi in health policy, global health and pharmaceutical policy, as well as a full directory of health law researchers based across Europe and North America, both of which can be found on the [Network's website](#).

On the personnel front, Ruben Zaiotti has been on a six month sabbatical since January, so Bob Finbow is currently Acting Director and represented the Centre at a briefing on future Erasmus+ ventures. Research Administrator Alana Taylor has moved back to Newfoundland but continues to be involved in the Networks so we look forward to her continued participation albeit at a distance – not that that is actually noticeable in the age of WFH! -- and Nafisa Abdulhamid's time as Centre Assistant has now come to an end. We would like to express our thanks to them both for their help and to wish them well for the future.

**Madeleine Coffen-Smout, Coordinator**

## REVISITING THE CURRICULUM: THE DEPARTMENT'S WORK ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

**ADDRESSING QUESTIONS OF** equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in the classroom and workplace has become a priority for the university. As a department, we have taken on the task of finding concrete ways to incorporate EDI into the various aspects of our activities as colleagues, educators, and mentors. Actively supporting students from equity deserving groups is one component of these efforts. The newly introduced bursary for Black and Indigenous students goes in that direction (see dedicated article in this Newsletter). Rethinking how we teach and engage with our students is also crucial. Our attention has therefore turned to the curriculum. During the 2020/21 academic year the Curriculum Committee has conducted a review of course offerings and curricula both within the

department and in other Political Science units in U15 University across Canada to highlight best practices and gaps when it comes to EDI content and teaching pedagogies. The objective is to provide feedback to individual faculty members so that they can expand the scope of their teaching and offer a more diverse range of course material and strategies to their students. The plan is to turn this annual review into a permanent feature of the Committee's work. Creating an inclusive and welcoming classroom requires a greater awareness on our part of the complexities of teaching in a diverse classroom. For this purpose, the Department has planned to organize a series of training sessions where experts discuss with us how EDI issues shape class dynamics and our engagement with students, and share

tips and strategies that we can apply in our teaching practice. The first of these sessions is scheduled for June. Finally, with assistance from faculty members, the department plans to introduce a mentorship support system for Black, Indigenous, and other People of Colour (BIPOC) students. The idea is to help BIPOC students with their academic and professional development, as well as assist them to make connections, and feel a sense of belonging, which would hopefully help them to deal with any challenges that they would like to have addressed in the department.

**Peter Arthur and Ruben Zaiotti**

# PROMOTING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN POLITICAL SCIENCE:

## The Bursary for Black/African Canadian and Indigenous Students

**AS NOTED IN THE REPORT FROM** the Curriculum Committee on “Revisiting the curriculum,” both the university and our department have prioritized equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) for historically under-represented and marginalized communities within Dalhousie. Towards this end, the department’s faculty members and staff have committed over **\$5000 thus far** to establish a new Bursary for Black/African Canadian

and Indigenous Students, with ongoing pre-commitments to ensure its sustainability on an annual basis. The bursary aims to help alleviate financial difficulties for Black/African Canadian and Indigenous students who have declared themselves as Political Science majors or honours students. In doing so, it also aims to help retention and encourage student success in the program, and to support the Department’s commit-

ment to expand the diversity of our program and field. The bursary will allow us to address the need for greater diversity concretely, alongside our efforts to address these issues in curriculum and research. There is much to be done to advance these objectives, but I am very grateful to my colleagues for taking this significant practical step.

**David Black, Political Science Chair**

## ‘CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?’ – A COFFEE CHAT WITH CELINA CAESAR-CHAVANNES

Tari Ajadi (PhD Candidate)

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SCHOOL** of Public Administration and the Dalhousie Undergraduate Political Science Society, the Department of Political Science had the pleasure of hosting former MP Celina Caesar-Chavannes in a coffee chat with PhD candidate Tari Ajadi

on March 2nd. The discussion centred around Caesar-Chavannes’ new memoir, ‘Can You Hear Me Now?’. The pair discussed the durability of anti-Black racism in Canadian politics, the intersectional and feminist leadership needed to recover from the past year and an-

swered insightful questions from students. You can find the hour-long conversation between the pair [here](#). For more coverage on the event, check out this article in [Dal News](#).

School of Public Admin and Dept of Political Science jointly invite you to join in a coffee chat with

### Celina Caesar-Chavannes

March 2 at 9 a.m. AST



Register with the link in the description



# UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

## PERHAPS SURPRISINGLY, IN A YEAR

when students faced new stresses due to the pandemic and the challenges of adapting to online learning, the work of the Undergraduate Advisor was quieter than usual. (At least that was the case at the time of writing). This outcome was due to the fact that a number of the usual activities that involve major time commitments did not take place or took a different form this year. At a time of restricted travel, students stopped making plans for a year abroad, and reviewing their plans and course selection was no longer required. The annual Open House for prospective students to learn about the possibilities at Dalhousie took place online this year, a

much different format in which faculty members from the department did not make their usual presentations to give students a taste of classes in Political Science. Instead, students dropped into virtual chat rooms to ask questions (a format that was not as effective in allowing engagement with as many students as in the past). Neither the Program and Major Expo, which normally allows representatives of the department to meet with current Dalhousie students considering their program options, nor the annual advising luncheon for King's College students could take place this year. There was nevertheless still work to do in determining equivalencies for courses that students have

taken at other universities and helping students navigate their way through course selection and their degree options in Political Science. Indeed, once students turn their minds to course selection for the 2021-22 academic year, which will be complicated by the continued uncertainties about whether teaching will take place in person, online, or in hybrid form, it can be expected that the Undergraduate Advisor's job will be as busy as ever.

**Anders Hayden, Undergraduate Advisor**



## 2020-21 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARD/PRIZE WINNERS

**OLUMAYOWA OLUWASANMI**, BA Candidate: Major in Political Science and UG Certificate: Computing in Arts and Social Sciences 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.

**POPPY JACKSON**, BA Honours Candidate: Major in Political Science and Economics 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.

**JOE VAN WONDEREN**, BA Candidate: Major in Undeclared Arts 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.

**POPPY JACKSON**, BA Honours Candidate: Major in Political Science and Economics 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.

**DAVE HEINTZMAN**, BA Candidate: Major in Political Science with a Minor in History has been awarded **The Rear Admiral Crickard Essay Prize**. This prize will be awarded annually for five years which commenced in May 2020 for the best written Undergraduate Student paper in International Relations.





## THE DALHOUSIE UNDERGRADUATE POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY (DUPSS)

**THE DALHOUSIE UNDERGRADUATE** Political Science Society went out with a bang last year at our third annual Gala and Journal Launch – a memorable event to mark the end of a memorable year. Although there were lots of uncertainties as the academic year came to a close and our new executive took over, our 2020-2021 team worked hard to adapt to the virtual learning environment and to continue providing social, academic, and networking opportunities for students. We held a virtual 'Meet & Greet' event to kick off the fall term and give students the chance to connect with their professors, meet other political science students, and discuss experiences with online courses. During the build up to the 2020 U.S.

Presidential Election, we hosted a Facebook Live event to discuss the final debate and engage with students who were watching, and during the aftermath, we collaborated with the Centre for the Study of Security & Development for a panel event on the election's implications. DUPSS was also excited to be able to launch the Dalhousie Political Networking Initiative (DPNI) for the third year in a row. The DPNI generated interest from several political offices who were able to provide virtual work opportunities to political science students seeking to gain hands-on experience in the field.

After wrapping up the fall exam season with some study sessions and enjoying a well-deserved holiday break, we began the winter term with our 'So You're Thinking About Grad School?' event for the second year in a row. This time, we collaborated with the Rowe School of Business, the Schulich School of Law, and representatives of the MPA and MA in Political Science programs to provide students with lots of information about possible academic paths to take after graduation. We also held a session on the honours program – called 'Go Fish: Honours Edition!' – to encourage interested students to learn about this option, scope out potential supervisors, and ask questions to students currently writing their honours

thesis. The DUPSS also did our best to preserve our very popular 'All Party Pizza Party' event in a virtual format by inviting representatives from all four major political parties to engage in an online discussion, where three of the participants were selected to win a free pizza! In March, we launched our fourth annual Podium Journal, for which we received a record number of submissions. Our council members have worked hard to adapt our events and initiatives to these unusual times, and while it might not be quite the same virtually, we are fortunate to have been able to gather online with students and faculty to celebrate the launch of The Podium and to highlight the accomplishments of the eight students whose work was selected for the journal this year.

This academic year proved to be a challenging one for students in many ways, but I am proud of all the time and energy our society members have dedicated to ensuring our events and initiatives were still possible and ran smoothly. While we did miss hosting our annual Political Science Gala, I hope that makes the celebrations next year all the more special. Thank you to all the DUPSS members for your incredible work this year, and to the Department of Political Science, which has continued to provide us with so much support. We wish the best to our incoming executive team and are excited to see what they have planned for the 2021-2022 year!

**Poppy Jackson**  
*President, Dalhousie Undergraduate Political Science Society*

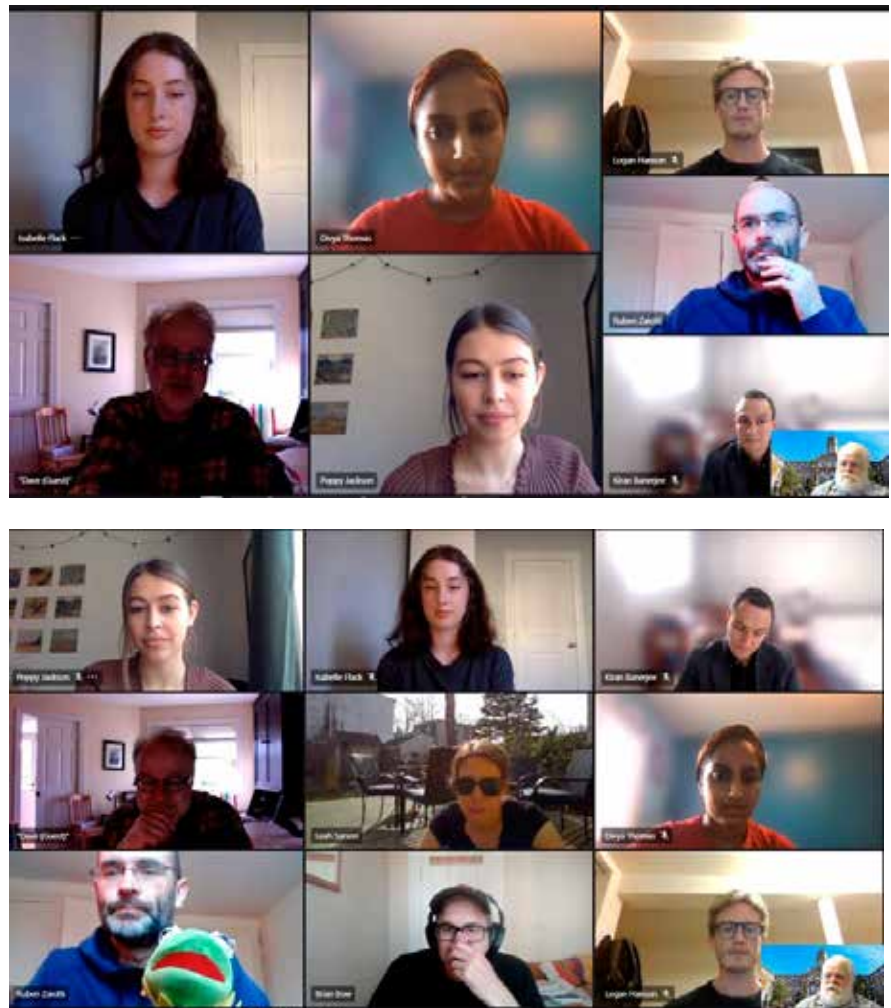


# HONOURS PROGRAM REPORT

## THE CLOSURE OF CAMPUS

due to Covid-19 pandemic this year meant that the honours seminar moved online to MS Teams format. Five students successfully completed their honours project this year and were able to have online oral defenses now that we are more familiar with online meetings options. Once again, the campus closure limited our ability to help the honours students celebrate their success and plans for an in person, socially distanced meet-up were abruptly cancelled when pandemic conditions worsened, and health restrictions tightened in April. However, we did have a congenial online meetup, pictured here, joined by several of the supervisors who committed their energies to helping the students to success. A sincere congratulations to all and hopefully we can still celebrate in person later this summer.

**Dr. Robert Finbow,**  
Honours Coordinator



**Honours Program - End of Year Virtual Celebration**



**ISABELLE FLACK**  
*An Exercise in Futility? The Canadian Position on NATO Exercises in Canada's Arctic*  
Supervisor:  
Dr. Leah Sarson



**LIAM FRAZER**  
*"Global IR and African Regionalism: Applying (Chinese) Relationalism to South Africa and Nigeria's Non-Compliance with the ICC Case against Omar Al-Bashir."*  
Supervisor:  
Dr. Brian Bow

**LOGAN HANSON**  
*"Resource Nationalist Policy and Mining in Southern Africa: A State-Level Comparative Analysis of its Potential to Catalyze Economic Diversification"*  
Supervisor:  
Dr. David Black



**POPPY JACKSON**  
*"Clashing on the Inside, Aligned on the Outside: Norms and Identity in the Visegrád Group and European Union Approaches to External Migration Policy"*  
Supervisor:  
Dr. Ruben Zaiotti



**DIVYA THOMAS**  
*"Exploring Governments Perceptions towards Climate-Induced Migration and its Impacts on Response Measures in the European Union and Canada"*  
Supervisor:  
Dr. Kiran Banerjee

# 2020-21 JAMES H. AITCHISON AWARD WINNER FOR BEST HONOURS THESIS

Poppy Jackson, BA: Honours in Political Science and Economics



**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** I'm honoured to have been selected for such a prestigious award, especially after all of the work and challenges that have led up to the completion of my project this year. Completing my honours thesis in the midst of a pandemic and while working out of my apartment has been a challenge in many ways, but I'm beyond grateful for the support and encouragement I received from my supervisor, Dr. Zaiotti, and the honours coordinator, Dr. Finbow. It feels incredibly special to receive an award that was established in honour of Professor Aitchison, an award which so many other bright scholars have received before me.

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

**A** I've always considered myself to be politically inclined, which is largely thanks to my parents and their engagement in politics and world events. I've been encouraged by my mum and dad to learn about what's going on in the world and to ask questions and think critically for as long as I can remember; my parents like to joke that it's a 'fight to take up air' at our family dinners because of our lively debates. So, when I decided to pursue liberal arts in university, political science was the first field I thought of. After enrolling in my first-year government and politics course with Dr. Marcella Firmini, I never looked back. Dr. Firmini brought so much passion to her teaching that I couldn't help but get excited about the material as well, and my experiences with all my other professors in the department over the next three years of my degree made me feel the same way. My family sparked my interest in political science and the department here has nurtured this by providing me with all the necessary tools to continue pursuing a career in this area. I'm especially grateful to my political science professors this year, who have continued to help me grow as a scholar and prepare for graduate school despite the virtual format of our courses.

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

**A** My main area of interest is international relations because I find studying the way different actors interact with each other at the global level fascinating. I've developed a particular interest in studying the political phenomenon of the European Union, migration, and the theories we employ to explain these sorts of things. This past year, my research for my honours focused on the intersection of these topics to study how the EU approaches migration policy beyond its borders from a social constructivist perspective, and I hope to continue examining this topic (or a related one) in greater depth going forward.

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

**A** This summer, I am working as a research assistant at the University of New Brunswick for the Centre for Research in Integrated Care. I've worked with this health research team since 2019, and while not focused on political science, it has been an amazing way to discover how widely applicable the knowledge and skills I have gained from my degree can be. However, I am also excited to be continuing my political education at the graduate level in the Department of Political Studies at Queen's University in the fall. I'm unsure about where my career will take me after my MA – perhaps a PhD or working abroad – but I will always be taking with me the things I've learned throughout my time studying political science at Dalhousie University.



# GLYN BERRY SCHOLAR

Nafisa A. Abdulhamid (PhD Candidate)

## IT HAS BEEN THE GREATEST HONOR

to be recognized as the Glyn Berry Scholar for the past four years. I am forever grateful for the support that the Glyn R. Berry Memorial Scholarship has provided me with throughout my doctoral studies. In keeping with Dr. Berry's devotion to improving the conditions for everyday people in conflict zones, my doctoral research, which has undergone several transformations over the course of my program, explores and assesses the extent to which the African Union has adapted humanitarian approaches to civilian protection in their mission in Somalia (2007 – present). I hope to translate the core findings of my dissertation into real policy recommendations that can be used by both the African Union and its mission in ways that will actually protect civilians in Somalia.

This past year has been challenging on so many levels. The spread of the coronavirus meant that we had to adapt to new public health measures, including working from home, reducing interactions with friends and family, and sheltering in place. While it was difficult for me to reconcile with this new reality, especially at the height of the pandemic, I felt blessed to be able to shelter in place in Halifax. The pandemic would have been a far more isolating experience had it not been for the support from the "Fab Five" – Adam MacDonald, Julia Rodgers, Susan Manning, and Tari Ajadi. Despite not being able to go back to Kenya to visit my own family, I knew that I could rely on their friendship, and our hilarious group chat, to get me through the pandemic.

While trying to be kind to my mind and body, taking time to rest and recoup when needed, I managed to prioritize projects that I was most passionate about. I co-authored a paper on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the externalization of migration in the European Union, and presented a paper on the social media presence of border museums with Dr. Ruben Zaiotti. I was fea-



tured as one of WIIS-Canada's Emerging Thought Leaders (<https://wiiscanada.org/emerging>) and CIC's "Engaging with Emerging Scholars" podcast series. I also got involved with the Defence and Security Foresight sub-group on Sub-Saharan Africa and Complex Peace Operations as their Project Coordinator. In addition, I managed to write and revise my dissertation, which ended up being my ultimate passion project. The process of going through the data I collected, and consolidating it into prose, solidified my belief in the need to reduce harm and

protect civilians in armed conflict.

There is still so much uncertainty in the world, but I continue to remain eternally grateful for the kindness, support, and compassion I receive from my supervisor and mentor, Dr. David Black, and my committee members, Drs. Peter Arthur and Ruben Zaiotti. I would also like to extend a special thank you to Tracy Powell, who continues to go above and beyond to check up on the graduate students and inquire about our mental and physical wellbeing.



# KEENS-MORDEN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Benjamin Ofosu-Atuahene (MA Candidate)

## TO BE GREAT BE GRATEFUL!

I am honored to be the recipient of the Keens-Morden scholarship award in Political Science for the 2020/2021 academic year. Mr. Morden has led an exemplary life of patriotism as he has served his country Canada in several ways. Through this patriotism, his contribution to Canadian foreign policy, defense, and security led to his recognition as a member of the Order of Canada. The love for his country and the quest for a secure global order are the steps I seek to follow as a young and proud African scholar whose passion is to contribute to changing the narrative of the African continent through cutting-edge research. I am grateful to the Keens-Morden family for placing me a step closer to achieving this dream by funding my graduate studies at Dalhousie University.

This academic year has been challenging as it has pushed many students to embrace and adapt to new realities. But it has also been exciting and fulfilling for me because it was my dream to study at Dalhousie University.

In the fall term, I started this journey studying virtually from Ghana on the other side of the globe. Although the time difference, the unreliability of the power supply, and a poor internet connection were going to be challenging, I had made my mind up to defeat these difficulties by planning strategically. Thankfully, I was able to participate in every class without challenges and met every deadline.

I also landed a teaching assistant position for POLI 1500.06 titled Global Politics & Society with Drs. Zaiotti and Fitting, as well as a research assistant position with Dr. Finbow. These assistantships were exciting and beneficial as the former allowed me to engage

with new undergraduates who had exciting ideas and questions about politics in this dispensation. The research position also enhanced my research skills in data collection, analysis as well as reporting.

I was able to join my cohort in the winter term, during which I was welcomed with immense kindness from faculty, staff, and students of the department of political science. As an individual who has never experienced the harsh conditions the winter season comes with, the winter was not as welcoming as everyone else was. However, the concern shown by the department is unforgettable, and despite the freezing hands and watery nose for the first four weeks, it still felt like home.

I have currently completed my coursework requirement, submitted my research proposal, and am working towards completing my research thesis. The research focuses on private security in West Africa and is co-supervised by Dr. David Black and Dr. Peter Arthur.

Insecurity is undoubtedly an issue that continues to threaten the strides made towards development by the African continent in the post-2000s. In parallel, there has been a rise in private security services. I therefore seek to make a case that private security - although controversial on the continent - is not only unavoidable but also the only alternative to filling the security gap on the continent.

Outside the classroom, I participate in some volunteer programs and extra-curricular activities to give back to the community in the small way possible. I am currently working with the Imhotep Learning Community (ILC) on campus and also double as part of its



executive committee as the communications and outreach coordinator. The ILC is a student society group made of and for students of African heritage in the university. The group offers support via peer-mentorship and community-building programs to students in that category.

I am grateful to the Keens-Morden family for this opportunity and also to the Department of Political Science. I always assert, if I had to redo my Master's program over again, I would choose to study with Dalhousie and the department of political science.

# SHAW-PARPART SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

## Benjamin Ofosu-Atuahene (MA Candidate)



### WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS

how elated I am to be acknowledged as a Shaw-Parpart Scholarship in Political Science award recipient for the 2020/2021 academic year. Throughout this academic year, the African word -Ubuntu- continues to resonate with me due to the tremendous opportunity granted to me by Drs. Shaw & Parpart through their scholarship award. Ubuntu, which means "I am because you are," is an embodiment of how the Shaw-Parpart Scholarship award has been beneficial towards my graduate study. To Dr. Shaw & Parpart, I say I am because of your generosity and commitment to international perspectives. Through you, students from the Global South like myself have the opportunity not only to pursue higher education, but also to contribute through their diverse perspectives towards the shaping of a global world via research.

Drs. Shaw and Parpart's interest in the African Continent, and young scholars, is not only purposeful and prudent but also exemplary. We cannot have a globalized understanding without investing in facilitating global perspectives.

I thank the department for their unwavering support and for making my experience at Dalhousie a great one. The administrative staff -Mary and Tracy- have been helpful to say the least, and the faculty have been very accommodating.

Furthermore, I am grateful to the graduate coordinator Dr. Katherine Fierlbeck, for her continuous support and also very thankful to my supervisors, Dr. David Black and Dr. Peter Arthur. Their critical evaluations have been constructive towards my ongoing thesis.

Finally, to my small but mighty cohort, I appreciate your cordiality this year.

## Patricia Porto de Barros Ayaz (PhD Candidate)



### I WOULD LIKE TO THANK

Jane Parpart & Timothy Shaw for this scholarship opportunity, which would not be possible without their great generosity. I was ecstatic when I heard I had been selected. Amidst a crisis that has caused education to suffer many cuts, mainly in the Global South countries, it is a blessing to have people like them, who believe in the power of education to change lives. Studying has always been a passion of mine, and this

scholarship has helped me to make my dream of PhD studies come true. I am unable to fully express my gratitude and happiness for being selected as the recipient of this scholarship. I would like to thank my professors Maria Villarreal, Beatriz Cunha and Enara Echart for their support in this process. Furthermore, I would like to commend Jane Parpart & Timothy Shaw for their inspirational attitude.



# DALHOUSIE GRADUATE SOCIETY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE (DGSPS)

## THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS

affected graduate students in diverse ways. For some, it meant not being able to return home to visit friends and family, cancelling important conferences, adapting to online learning and teaching, learning new hobbies to cope with the uncertainty of the world, and so much more. In September, we welcomed one new PhD student and nine MA students who embarked on the new academic year with online classes. As a Society, we were unable to organize in-person events for new and returning graduate students to connect and reconnect. Still, our graduate students displayed great resiliency and commitment to their studies and their communities while living through a global pandemic.

DGSPS would like to extend a warm congratulations to several graduate students on their achievements this year. First and foremost, a huge congratulations to Dr. Susan Manning on successfully defending her PhD dissertation entitled, "Centring Community: New Pathways in Resource Extraction Policy Processes." Susan should be celebrated for both her academic achieve-

ments and her dedication to service in the department. We would also like to congratulate Ben Andrews, Erik Fertsmann, Emily Mason, and Ksenia Mykula on successfully defending their MA theses. We wish the new graduates success in all their future endeavours! Lastly, congratulations to Tari Ajadi, Julia Rodgers, Adam MacDonald, and Tristan Cleveland on passing their PhD proposal defences!

"Productivity" should not be the first word that comes to mind when reflecting on the past year. Rather, we need to be kind to ourselves and prioritize both personal and mental health and well-being. This has been a challenging year for graduate students who, now more than ever, need continued support from the department. To my fellow graduate students, the incredible efforts you put into adapting to online learning and teaching, the masks you continue to wear, and your commitment to public health regulations all contribute to the greater communal efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19.



As you also reflect on the past year, I hope you will join me in taking pride in all your personal and academic achievements and look forward with hope that one day soon we can all reconnect in person.

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





# POLI GRADUATE STUDENTS



**TARI AJADI**  
(PhD Candidate)

As I'm sure you'll read about elsewhere in this newsletter, the past year has presented

incredible challenges to merely existing. The COVID-19 pandemic has completely disrupted most of our day-to-day rhythms, and the ongoing movement against anti-Black racism and white supremacy both within the academy and in our broader society has taken a great degree of my academic, activist and emotional energy.

Paradoxically, the past year has also been a time of many academic successes for me: I was fortunate to receive the Killam Predoctoral Scholarship to support my doctoral research, and I was also named a 2020 OpenThink Fellow. I have successfully defended my thesis proposal and I am at work on my dissertation project. I have also been fortunate enough to co-publish two academic pieces: one in *International Journal* with Dr. Heather Smith, and the other in the *Healthy Populations Journal* with my colleague and friend Julia Rodgers. I was the co-chair on a panel about interpretive methods and politics at the International Research Society for Public Management conference this year, and I was a keynote speaker at the annual general meetings for both the Nova Scotia Health Coalition and the Canadian Union for Public Employees - Nova Scotia chapter.

I am proud of and thankful for these many successes and opportunities, and I'm particularly thankful to alumni who have donated to facilitate some of these opportunities. Yet none of these assuage the utter tragedy of the past year, and I would be remiss to pretend as if any of these accomplishments overshadow the grief and sadness that frame many of our everyday experiences. I'm thankful to my friends, mentors and family for providing

guidance and care through this storm.



**GRANT CURTIS**  
(PhD Candidate)

As a now-going-into-third-year PhD student, I relish getting my teeth

into research focusing on Afghanistan as a failed state, building on some 7 years living and working in Kabul. And, if and when academic life at Dalhousie begins to return to some degree of normality, I look forward to a more active role as Deputy Director of Dalhousie's [Centre for the Study of Security and Development \(CSSD\)](#). In addition to being part of Dalhousie University's 2021 [OpenThink](#) cohort, I am a Junior Fellow with the [Defence and Security Foresight Group \(DSFG\)](#), a network of academics and PhD students who provide Canada's Department of National Defence with analysis of pivotal defence and security issues. I also serve on [Cuso International's](#) Board of Directors.



**NOEL GUSCOTT**  
(MA Candidate)

Noel is completing his MA thesis supervised by Dr. Katherine Fierlbeck, and

supported by the SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship – Masters, and the SSHRC-DND MINDS Scholarship Initiative. His thesis research is applying a political lens to the understudied military health care system in Canada. The objective of this thesis is to determine the impact of the Canadian government's policy direction to decrease Canadian Armed Forces funding on the development of the Canadian Forces Health System between 1994 to 2020. Noel looks forward to completing the written thesis in July 2021, orally defending this thesis

in August 2021, as well as disseminating these findings to government by the end of the year.

Noel has also been fortunate to contribute his time, energy, and ideas to various projects throughout the year. For a year and counting, Noel has been working with Dr. Catherine Mah and Dalhousie's Food Policy Lab (FPL) on a variety of food policy-related projects! Of note, he is first author on a forthcoming conference paper based on FPL's SSHRC-funded *Grocery Gateways* project along with Emily Jago, Rebecca Hasdell and Catherine Mah. This will be presented at ICCP5 – Barcelona in July 2021. He has also contributed research or teaching assistance time with various faculty members on subjects related to political theory, health policy and global migration. Lastly, Noel has authored and co-authored op-eds in the Chronicle Herald, the Nova Scotia Advocate, Halifax Examiner, and Policy Options. Noel wants to thank his instructors this year for delivering fantastic courses despite the COVID-19 pandemic, and he wishes everyone all the best in the coming days.



**ADAM P. MACDONALD**  
(PhD Candidate)

Like many others, this past year has been like no other in my life. It has led to great

introspection about my positionality and privilege in life, both in the past and present. The pandemic has radically altered our lives, and while we are all 'in the same storm' we are not all 'in the same boat'. The pandemic has laid bare, and in many cases exacerbated, long-standing social inequities. Similarly, the George Floyd murder brought issues of structural, anti-black racism and police brutality into the mainstream, not just in the US but here also. The avalanche of stories by survivors of sexual

*Continued on next page*

misconduct and assault in the Canadian Armed Forces, an organization I served in for half my life, demonstrates how morally, culturally, and institutionally broken it remains despite 'efforts' at reform. These matters are not my academic focus, but I have tried to make them more central aspects of my life. This includes having tough, honest conversations with former colleagues, friends, and family to promote and push for change. These updates are usually about academic achievements, which are important and need to be celebrated. And there have been successes, but I wanted to share how I felt during this tumultuous year. University is challenging in the 'best of times', but the pandemic has imposed additional stresses on everyone, albeit unequally. It has not been business as usual. My advice is to try not to be too hard on yourself. Perseverance is success. Thanks to everyone who has been checking in and 'hanging out' (in accordance with public health measures). It's really appreciated and means a lot. We are going to get through this.



**SUSAN MANNING**  
(PhD Candidate and Newest Alumni) I had a very busy fifth and final year in the PhD

program! I successfully defended my dissertation in late April and moved on to my new position as a Diversity Analyst with the Canadian Coast Guard Arctic Region in May. Most of this past year has been dedicated to finishing my dissertation. I also taught POLI 3206: Constitutional Law and Politics in Canada in the winter term. I had one article published in the past year in the *Journal of Canadian Studies* and a second co-authored article is forthcoming in *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal* later this year. I am also participating in a roundtable at the upcoming Canadian Political Science Association Annual Conference. Thanks to the alumni and donors to the POLI Travel Fund for their financial support in

attending that conference. While the pandemic has put my usual therapy dog volunteering on hold, I did continue doing a mix of virtual and in-person meetings with my Girl Guide Ranger group and continued in my role as a member of Girl Guides of Canada's National Programming Committee.



**GRAEME PARSONS**  
(MA Candidate)

2020/2021 has been an incredibly challenging year but I wanted to reflect on it with the utmost gratitude. I want to recognize the work that everyone in the department has done in adjusting to our limitations and making the year a thoroughly rewarding experience. I graduated from Queen's University in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics last winter unsure of what the future would hold but have found myself at home in the department. It is remarkable how much I have been able to grow as a student through the screen of my computer in the past year. From rewarding research with Professor Caron to work that I have been incredibly excited about, this year has been a complete success. I now move on to writing my thesis on China's influence in the African regional project with further excitement for the litany of opportunities and potential that this year has bestowed on me.



**PATRICIA PORTO DE BARROS AYAZ**  
(PhD Candidate)

Although this past year has been challenging, it has also been rewarding. I am very delighted to be a Dalhousie student, and I am honored to be a recipient of the Jane Parpart & Timothy Shaw and JMEUCE scholarships. Since I registered at Dal, I have tried to enjoy as much as possible from what it offers to the students. For instance, I have attended a variety of workshops offered by the University

and its partners, which were very helpful to my academic development. Something unusual that happened in the last term was that, due to the large time zone difference between Turkey and Canada, some of the classes were ending after midnight for me. However, I also had an amazing cohort, which made these moments easier. Now, since my mandatory coursework is over, the next step is getting ready for my comprehensive exams and preparing my research project proposal. Although my research ideas are still in a metamorphosis process, I can say that it is approaching the international migration scenario, especially the fluxes towards the European Union's territory, as well as the protection of the rights of the people who compose these fluxes. Moreover, I am continuing as a member of GRISUL, a research group in which I have been a volunteer researcher since 2016. At GRISUL, I have the opportunity to debate different matters from the Global South, including international migration. Furthermore, I am also a volunteer content contributor – I help cover the news about international migration for the Graduate Bulletin which is written by members of this and other Brazilian research groups.



**JULIA RODGERS**  
(PhD Candidate)

What an absolute dumpster fire of a year. I want to start by saying Black lives matter. We all work in the ivory tower and it is our responsibility to deconstruct the pillars of systemic racism that run rampant in academia. That being said, I want to acknowledge and thank my peers for all the work they have done this year to help make our institution and communities more equitable. Further, this year has brought to light the issue of mental health within the academy. Whether it is "burn out" or life-long struggles, I want everyone to know that they are not alone, and we need

*Continued on next page*

## POLI GRADUATE STUDENTS *cont'd*

to normalise prioritising our well-being over deadlines.

Though 2020 had its challenges (to say the absolute least), there was still some light. I successfully defended my thesis proposal and have begun interviews to inform my dissertation (a phase of research that was delayed due to COVID-19). I had the ability to attend international conferences due to the virtual shift and I joined a health research team based out of Queen's University. An important professional milestone, I had my first peer-reviewed article published in the *Healthy Populations Journal*, written in collaboration with Tari Ajadi - an extraordinary activist, peer, and friend.

Acknowledging my position of privilege, I know not everyone can boast the good parts of 2020. Many people are still mourning loss - personal, professional, or other. For me, none of my accomplishments could be achieved without the support of my peers and faculty members, the institutions that

fund my research, and the alumni who support us through donations. So, a massive thank you to everyone helped me in any way this year.



### **BAHAR TUNC** (MA Candidate)

Last year has been hectic but also enlightening for me. In the middle of the COVID-19

pandemic, I wouldn't imagine doing my MA degree online. Before my journey at Dalhousie University, I received an Undergraduate degree from Saint Mary's University (SMU) in Political Science and Philosophy, with a minor in Sociology; now I'm focusing on Political Science and the environment. Throughout the year, I successfully completed 6 courses and had the honour to be employed as a Research Assistant, a Teaching Assistant and a Marker; these

opportunities significantly developed my academic skills and broadened my vision. Now that I have time in summer, I will focus solely on my thesis work. It wouldn't be possible without the scholarships I was awarded. My research is about environmental racism, social mobilization strategies and Indigenous resistance, with special focus on the Boat Harbour Act in Pictou Landing, asking how the resistance became successful in changing the government's decision towards shutting down the toxic paper mill. I will be analysing the implications this positive case study has for Canada, especially about the importance of implementing UNDRIP and Bill C-230. I can say that being born and raised in Turkey made me a justice nerd. I am planning to do a 1.5 year program, graduating in May 2022 and moving forward to my PhD, hopefully. Since 2016, my life in Canada has been a journey that has taught me a lot; I'm looking forward to my education at Dalhousie University.

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## GRAD PROFILE: 'SQUEEZE ACADEMIA FOR EVERYTHING IT'S WORTH'

Benjamin Andrews – MA Political Science (2020), Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

**Genevieve MacIntyre – October 16, 2020 – Featured in Dal News**

### **WHEN BENJAMIN ANDREWS**

was in high school and was first weighing his post-secondary options, he had two disciplines in mind: kinesiology and journalism. Unsure at the time of which path would suit him best, he made the pragmatic decision to begin by studying kinesiology at the University of Windsor, as it was in his hometown, he had an interest in kinesiology, and his father worked at the university.

When he completed his BA in Kinesiology, his interest in pursuing journal-

ism remained, but he had an aversion to sports journalism. He decided that studying political science would be a smart move to better prepare him for a future career in journalism.

"At the time, I felt my academic record limited the kinds of reporting jobs I qualified for and the kinds of stories I felt qualified to tell," explains Ben. "In a media environment where journalism is . . . or should be . . . shifting from an emphasis on speed to an emphasis on accuracy and contextualization,

I felt subject expertise in political science would help my chances of employment and, once employed, my ability to provide better, fairer coverage."

### **Expanding expertise**

This self-awareness resulted in Ben applying to grad school to pursue a Master of Arts degree in political science. He decided that studying political science would be a great stepping-stone toward getting the most out of a Master of Journalism degree, and whatever career would follow. He says he decided to go to Dalhousie University for his MA for several reasons: he was interested in living in Halifax, it was possible to complete the program in one year, he was awarded funding by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), and because of the kind and informative communication he received

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from Dalhousie's Department of Political Science.

"David Black, chair of the political science department, was far and away the most welcoming voice from any school I reached out to," Ben says.

Ben's MA research intertwined his interest in politics and journalism. His thesis was a quantitative study that examined the relationship between local newspaper health (the amount and frequency of newspaper publication per capita) and voter turnout in Canadian municipal elections.

"Turns out healthier local newspapers are . . . at least a little . . . related to higher municipal turnout," says Ben. "I chose the topic because I have a vested interest in the outcome — Don't tell ethics..."

## Entering a different era of journalism

This fall, Ben began the Master of Journalism (MJ) program at Carleton University in Ottawa. He is realizing that in this current political climate, studying journalism poses a unique set of challenges to studying political science.

"Studying and practicing journalism requires constant attention to the news cycle, which feels like a special kind of masochism — especially in a fractured media landscape where truth is actively undermined and fact is as malleable as opinion."

He adds that the COVID-19 pandemic

may complicate the delivery of journalism courses, but beyond that, it is drastically altering the foundations of journalism itself.

"That is fundamentally different than how it impacted my studies at Dal, which amounted to a shift out of the classroom and into the home office. Our understanding of politics may be irreversibly changed by recent global events, but because political science focuses on studying rather than practicing politics, the foundations of political science do not seem challenged the same way as the foundations of journalism."

Ben's unique combination of education in kinesiology, political science, and now journalism is preparing him for a career where he can knowledgeably report on health and politics.

"As the pandemic has highlighted, quality factual reporting on health and politics is integral to public safety. Done poorly, it can also be incredibly damaging. I hope that my education will show itself indirectly through the stories I pursue professionally."

## It's okay to get lost

Ben says he learned an enormous amount at Dal and as he graduates from the Political Science department's graduate studies program, receiving his parchment as part of the fall convocation celebration activities, he has a fully different outlook to the one he en-

tered with.

His advice for students that have decided to pursue a range of studies, as he's done, is to embrace discomfort and accept that you will make mistakes, but to be sure to prioritize your mental health and meaningful personal relationships.

"You will often say the wrong thing. You will often feel lost. Eventually, you will become more comfortable, but if you are sacrificing too much of yourself to get there, walk. Take care of yourself."

He encourages current and future university students to "squeeze academia for everything it's worth."

"That means recognizing that universities are full of talented people who care and have enormous knowledge to offer. It also means being realistic about the basic transactional relationship between a university and its students. Always be aware of that tension. Do not fall victim to path dependence. You always have agency — if not over your situation, then over your response."

<https://www.dal.ca/news/2020/10/16/grad-profile--squeeze-academia-for-everything-it-s-worth-.html>

# ALUMNI VIGNETTES



**DOMINIC  
CARDY (BA  
Political Science  
with Honours  
1991-5), New  
Brunswick's  
Minister of  
Education and  
Early Childhood  
Development**

Twelve years after leaving Dalhousie, in late April 2007 I was stuck in a dark room in a run-down hotel in Gamgadhi, Nepal, in the Himalayas close to occupied Tibet. Next to me was my fearless co-worker and translator Shrishti Rana, and on the other side of the splintered table two Maoist revolutionaries, with a third blocking the door. One sat down and said, "you've got two days to leave town" as he swept a homemade pistol, the sort Nepalis had learned to call a 'country gun' out from his belt. He aimed it briefly at my head before laying it pointedly on the table.

The Maoist cadres were unhappy that the organization I served as Nepal country director, the US Democratic Party-linked National Democratic Institute, was organizing election campaign training for hundreds of activists from democratic political parties. "Why two days? If you were serious, you'd say 24 hours," I replied, though you could easily walk out of Gamgadhi after a brisk ten-minute walk in any direction.

All morning I'd thought about how to handle the Maoists' demand for a meeting. They were a disciplined military force with ten years' experience fighting a civil war that killed 13,000. The war had ended with the 2006 revolution that saw the revolutionaries join an alliance of democratic parties to topple an autocratic monarchy. Now the Maoists were campaigning for an election they would go on to win, a year later. That day in April I was confident they wouldn't kill me because I knew their local leaders owed more to the central leadership than to the peasants they were supposed to serve. That leadership was desperate to gain international credibility, and the

local commander had already said that he knew I was Canadian. Given those constraints my bravado was less a risk than it appeared, as the guerilla leader, the inspiringly-named Comrade Hitman, could not push too far and did not want to lose face in front of his subordinates. Threading together my education around party structures, civil war, and negotiation theory, I had felt prepared, if not over-confident.

My time at Dalhousie, in the early nineties, gave me the tools I needed to work on the front lines of democracy promotion from Afghanistan to South Sudan. Professor Finbow, who introduced me to political economy as an explanation of the centre-periphery conflicts that mark Nepal (no comment on any applicability to my current job!). Professor Fierlbeck, who deepened my obsession with democracy and who, not unrelated, showed me that through quantitative analysis democracy could be measured, just like anything else. Professor Harvey, who taught me international relations and, in one of the first computer-based negotiation simulation classes at Dal, how political deal-making works in real time. There were others and, though I was a terrible student, whatever useful things I've done in the intervening years have been the practical application of what I learned at Dal.



**LYDIA PEROVIĆ  
(MA 2001)**

Right after I graduated, I was lucky to find a wee job in a Halifax publishing house but I

couldn't really go anywhere for 3 or 4 years as my work visa was for this job only, or else I'd have to leave the country. Back in 2001, the processing of permanent residence applications was stalled by a massive backlog and took years, which for the applicant meant staying put and for the employer going out of their way to make the case to the government for why they were insisting

on hiring this foreigner instead of a local, year after year. (The permanent residence processing times was a Liberal government snafu that the Conservatives actually fixed when they came to power - credit where credit is due).

With PR finally acquired in 2004 I could actually look for other jobs, and move to other cities. In Toronto, I had a one-year teaching contract at a vocational college, trying to get classes of 200 young people, future tradesmen, paramedics and ECEs, interested in Humanities. Trial by fire! Public speaking after that was easy. Then I volunteered and worked as a constituency assistant for a first-time MPP in the Ontario legislature for a few months, but that contract ended too and there was no job at the end of that election. (The behind the scenes drama around staff jobs in the third party of a provincial legislature deserves its own Armando Iannucci treatment.) From there ensued a string of purely administrative jobs in the culture and non-profit sectors. The thing I've learned about admin jobs is that they demand a lot of affective labour: many are in effect Personal Assistant jobs even if they're described as administrative. The admin jobs can be quite complex and juggle-y, but they rarely lead to promotion. Long story short: as time went on and my job applications for the civil service on the municipal, provincial and federal level never led to a single interview, I began to realize that I may never become a Sir Humphrey. This was one of my top dreams: to be some sort of a humourless, competent mandarin, preferably in culture or immigration, who'd simply progress through the ranks and than see ministers proliferating before her eyes while she and her team actually run the show.

For the civil service, I expect, you have to have specialized in public policy, and need to have some connections in government. I was disadvantaged on both counts. So after I quit my last full-time admin job (at Toronto Arts Council) I thought, why don't I start doing this other thing that I really want - what I did

do before moving to Canada: be a writer and journalist. By that time I was settled into English, which was taking over as my first language. I'd occasionally pitch and publish things in American or British literary magazines or online portals, but that was maybe once every six months. Now that I had more time, and looked for part-time jobs only, I could pitch and write more seriously.

And since 2010, that's what I've been doing. I began to specialize in music and literary journalism and criticism – and this was the last decade of the arts journalism in Canadian media, now all but gone from the dailies, magazines and the CBC. Canadian freelancers do benefit from the vast US media ecosystem: most online and print outlets in US take pitches, and nobody cares where you're pitching from. The Canadian culture media I found more closed but not impermeable. Editors change! And those who ignored you will be replaced by someone who may be thrilled by your ideas.

Before the pandemic shut down all of the performing arts, about 80 percent of my freelance writing income came from writing about performing arts. But then two things happened. By the end of the decade, by 2020, people who run Canada's dailies and magazines decided that Canadians don't need serious arts journalism and criticism. It was phased out. Then, to add injury to injury, the pandemic hit. So now I'm writing about podcasts, hoping I won't have to write

about real estate or tech. I'm trying to sell the idea of literary criticism but for podcasts to various Canadian and US editors, none of whom is biting yet. Naturally, I've always kept a part-time job in addition to writing; my two-day-a-week job in a co-op building kept me working through the pandemic and paid the rent when the writing dried up.

And my third book will be out later this year. Oh, did I mention? I'm on my third book. My first two books were fiction, and this one will be my first collection of essays. I'll be combining personal, political and historical. If you are interested in my writing or would like to get in touch, drop by [www.lydiaperovic.com](http://www.lydiaperovic.com), or find my Long Play newsletter on Substack. I'm also on Twitter but trying to quit. For years now.



**ROGER THOMPSON (MA 1994)** is being recognized by respected science fiction VIPs for his Ethics of Star Trek

class at Kyung Hee University in Korea. According to Mark A. Altman, author of the bestselling *Fifty-Year Mission: The Complete Uncensored, Unauthorized History of Star Trek* books and writer/producer of the popular movie *Free Enterprise*, "Roger Thompson is one of the foremost experts on Star Trek in the world. His class on the ethics of Star Trek and insights into the sociological

underpinnings of this unique pop culture staple should be part of any curriculum about this iconic television series." Hollywood screenwriter and director Marc Cushman, author of the award-winning *These Are The Voyages* series, wrote: "Congratulations Professor Thompson on becoming Korea's first Star Trek professor. Keep up the good work – I know Gene Roddenberry would approve!"

Additionally, the renowned television icon Ralph Senensky, director of six Star Trek episodes, opined "You, Professor Thompson, in your Ethics of Star Trek Course, have taken a major step to restore Gene Roddenberry's vision to its original course... Continue your pioneering, trailblazing undertaking. We praise and thank you and I'm sure Gene Roddenberry is smiling down on you..."

Finally, Thompson's former supervisor, Dr. Lee Hyeran, wrote "I have worked with Professor Roger Thompson for several years, and I think he is a remarkable professor. Not only is he a first-class teacher, with excellent student evaluations, but he is also a world class scholar. His books and research papers are respected around the world, and he is a true professor."

**Prof. Roger Thompson**

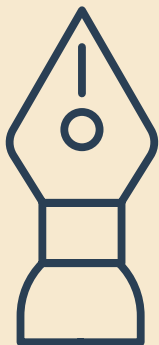
MA FRAS FRSA

Ethics of the Future:

Analyzing Science Fiction Films

Kyung Hee University

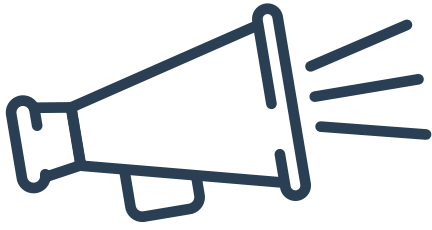
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## DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

If you wish to share your alumni story in our next issue of the Political Science Annual Newsletter, please reach out to [psadmin@dal.ca](mailto:psadmin@dal.ca)





# NOTABLE POLI FACULTY AND STUDENT NEWS STORIES AND BLOGS

## **Tari Ajadi, POLI Doctoral Candidate**

ADVOCATE PLEASED HALIFAX COUNCIL CHANGED TACK ON ARMoured VEHICLE Noushin Ziafati - June 10, 2020  
<https://www.saltwire.com/nova-scotia/news/provincial/advocate-pleased-halifax-council-reconsidered-purchase-of-armoured-vehicle-460167/>

## **Tari Ajadi, POLI Doctoral Candidate**

THE TWO PANDEMICs OF ANTI-BLACK RACISM AND COVID-19 ARE TIED TOGETHER written with Debra Thompson, Associate Professor of Political Science and Canada Research Chair in Racial Inequality in Democratic Societies at McGill University  
Special to the Globe and Mail – May 22, 2021 <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-the-two-pandemics-of-anti-black-racism-and-covid-19-are-tied-together/?fbclid=IwAR31CL9QuwZqy-j3QtKPlmgyl3pkNp77D-D20mVJ7liD-8vx49uA-GPQ845E>

## **Ben Andrews, MA (2020)**

Nova Scotia's population is growing, thanks in part to pandemic migrants  
Ben Andrews - Special to National Post - March 30, 2021  
<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/nova-scotias-population-is-growing-thanks-to-pandemic-migrants-and-to-locals-staying-put>

## **Dr. Larissa Atkison**

PANDEMIC POLITICS: COURSE EXPLORES THE IMPLICATIONS OF OUR MOMENT  
Genevieve MacIntyre – September 17, 2020  
[https://www.dal.ca/news/2020/09/17/pandemic-politics-course-explores-the-implications-of-our-momen.html?utm\\_source=dalnewsWeekly&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=400&utm\\_campaign=dalnewsWeekly](https://www.dal.ca/news/2020/09/17/pandemic-politics-course-explores-the-implications-of-our-momen.html?utm_source=dalnewsWeekly&utm_medium=email&utm_content=400&utm_campaign=dalnewsWeekly)

## **Dr. Kiran Banerjee**

DALHOUSIE TEAM OF CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS CONTINUES TO GROW  
Michele Charlton – August 26, 2020  
<https://www.dal.ca/news/2020/08/26/dalhousie-team-of-canada-research-chairs-continues-to-grow.html>

## **Dr. Brian Bow**

talks about how the outcome of the US presidential election could impact Canada.  
Matt Reeder - October 23, 2020  
[https://www.dal.ca/news/2020/10/23/ask-an-expert-political-scientist-brian-bow-on-how-the-outcome-.html?utm\\_source=Today@Dal&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=dalnews](https://www.dal.ca/news/2020/10/23/ask-an-expert-political-scientist-brian-bow-on-how-the-outcome-.html?utm_source=Today@Dal&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dalnews)

## **Grant Curtis, POLI Doctoral Candidate**

OpenThink Blog – Empowering PhD students to engage the world  
<https://blogs.dal.ca/openthink/author/grant-curtis/>

## **Dr. Katherine Fierbeck**

SAFE ASSURED: POSITIONING NOVA SCOTIA AS THE NORTH AMERICAN LEADER IN COMMUNITY PHARMACY SAFETY  
Erin Elaine Casey - April 16, 2020  
<https://www.dal.ca/news/2020/04/16/safe-assured-positioning-nova-scotia-as-the-north-american-lead.html>

## **Dr. Katherine Fierbeck**

Public Health on life support: underfunded and underappreciated  
Yvette D'Entremont - March 2, 2021 -  
<https://www.halifaxexaminer.ca/province-house/public-health-on-life-support-underfunded-and-underappreciated/>

GRAD PROFILE: MILITARY TO CIVILIAN, SKEPTIC TO SCHOLAR - Political Science newest undergraduate **Noel Guscott**  
Genevieve MacIntyre - May 25, 2020  
[https://www.dal.ca/news/2020/05/25/grad-profile.html?utm\\_source=Today@Dal&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=dalnews](https://www.dal.ca/news/2020/05/25/grad-profile.html?utm_source=Today@Dal&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dalnews)

## **Dr. Scott Pruyers**

ASK AN EXPERT: SCOTT PRUYERS ON NOVA SCOTIA'S NEW PREMIER AND THE CHALLENGES HE'S NAVIGATING  
Stefanie Wilson - March 2, 2021  
[https://www.dal.ca/news/2021/03/02/ask-an-expert-scott-pruyers-on-nova-scotia-s-new-premier-and-t.html?utm\\_source=Today@Dal&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=dalnews](https://www.dal.ca/news/2021/03/02/ask-an-expert-scott-pruyers-on-nova-scotia-s-new-premier-and-t.html?utm_source=Today@Dal&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dalnews)

## **Dr. Ruben Zaiotti**

ASK AN EXPERT: POLITICAL SCIENTIST RUBEN ZAIOTTI ON THE PROS AND CONS OF THE 'ATLANTIC BUBBLE'  
Matt Reeder – September 18, 2020  
[https://www.dal.ca/news/2020/09/18/ask-an-expert-political-scientist-ruben-zaiotti-on-the-pros-and.html?utm\\_source=dalnewsWeekly&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=400&utm\\_campaign=dalnewsWeekly](https://www.dal.ca/news/2020/09/18/ask-an-expert-political-scientist-ruben-zaiotti-on-the-pros-and.html?utm_source=dalnewsWeekly&utm_medium=email&utm_content=400&utm_campaign=dalnewsWeekly)

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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)

*photo: Dr. Katherine Fierlbeck*

