



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF ARTS AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Our Faculty
- 6 The highs and lows of teaching in (post)pandemic times
- 7 Stanfield Conversations
- 9 Centre for the Study of Security and Development
- 10 Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence
- 11 Undergraduate Program News
- 15 Graduate Program News
- 17 MITACS Award
- 25 Alumni Vignettes

Stay Connected

**Department of Political Science /
Centre for the Study of Security
and Development**

Henry Hicks Building, Room 301,
6299 South Street, PO Box 15000,
Halifax NS B3H 4R2

☎ 902.494.2396 🌐 politicalscience.dal.ca
✉ psadmin@dal.ca and [dal.ca](mailto:centre@dal.ca) and dal.ca/sites/cssd

**Follow us on social media and
stay up to date**

📱 @Dal_ALUMNI @DalPoli
@Dal_FASS @DalPols

Visit alumni.dal.ca to update your contact information and stay connected with Dalhousie University.

For information on events within the Faculty or to plan a reunion, visit dal.ca/fass or email fassalum@dal.ca

FROM THE CHAIR

WITH ALL THE TREPIDATION

surrounding the introduction of ChatGPT, it is heartening to identify the upside of its functions. Noodling around with the program, I inquired into the history of our Department and was informed, within seconds, that

The establishment of the Department of Political Science at Dalhousie University was part of a broader expansion of political science education in Canada during the mid-20th century. The Department was founded in 1948, at a time when many Canadian universities were expanding their offerings in the social sciences, including political science. The Department's founding was also influenced by the post-World War II period, which saw a growing interest in international relations and global politics. At the time, political science was seen as a key discipline for understanding these issues, and there was a growing demand for political science courses and programs.

The first head of the Department of Political Science at Dalhousie University was Dr. Alexander Brady, who served in that role from 1948 to 1962. Under his leadership, the Department grew and established a reputation for excellence in research and teaching. Today, the Department of Political Science at Dalhousie University continues to be a leading center for political science research and education in Canada.

While it was gratifying to see that AI recognizes the stature of the Department at a national level, it's also a reminder that ChatGPT likes to make things up (the University Archives note that James Aitchison came to Dalhousie in 1949 and served as departmental chair until



1973). Nonetheless, having gone this far, I thought it might be interesting to describe the evolution of the Department in a little more detail, as many students, past and present, may not be familiar with our rich heritage. And, with the help of Tracy Powell and the University Archives, we decided to dig a little deeper.

Dalhousie's history is grounded in the war of 1812, when British forces occupied Maine, and used the town of Castine as a customs port of entry. The monies raised by these revenues – the Castine Funds – were substantial, and while some argued that the funds should be used to support almshouses for the poor, the money was ultimately directed to the establishment of “Halifax College”. This was renamed “Dalhousie University” in 1818 (in honour of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, George Ramsey, the 9th Earl of Dalhousie).

In 1884, a student interested in political issues would have enrolled in History and Political Economy (requiring classes in Medieval and Modern History to 1648; Modern History from 1648;

Continued on next page

FROM THE CHAIR *cont'd*

English History from 1603 to 1689; and Political Economy, featuring the works of Adam Smith and John Stuart Mill, which are still taught today in our Political Thought classes). By 1905, a well-rounded student of politics would have been conversant in constitutional history, political economy, and philosophy; ancient languages (Greek, Latin, or Hebrew) and modern ones (English, French or German); and the natural sciences.

By 1926 – almost a century ago – Dalhousie was offering an Honours degree in Political Science within the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, with senior-level classes offered in Greek Political Thought, Political Thought of the Middle Ages, Modern Philosophy and State, Government of England, American Government, Municipal Government, Advanced International Law, Great Congresses and Treaties from Westphalia to Versailles, and the History and Practice

of Diplomacy (a class which we still offer as “Diplomacy and Negotiation”).

In 1948, as ChatGPT helpfully notes, the Department of Political Science was established, and a Master’s program in Political Science was added in 1959. The PhD program was approved in 1969. Notable in the program description (beyond the ubiquitous and confident use of the pronoun “he”) were the requirement of competence in two foreign languages and the stipulation of three field exams (in “Political Institutions and Behaviour or Contemporary States”, International Politics, Political Philosophy, or “Empirical Political Theory and Methodology”). The GRE was required for admission.

With a solid cohort of excellent young scholars, our Department will no doubt continue to evolve to engage with emergent issues and trends. Political conflict and institutional reform, for better or for worse, will always remain

topical issues for thoughtful students. And, while AI can now translate text or recover historical facts at blinding speed, the resolution of political conflict will likely remain outside of its domain of competence. For this, we will have to continue to train thoughtful and analytically accomplished students, as we have done for so long.

Dr. Katherine Fierlbeck,
Political Science Chair

OUR FACULTY



DR. PETER ARTHUR

undertook a year’s sabbatical leave from 1st July 2022. During that period, he undertook

research on the impact of COVID-19 on the activities and operations of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Ghana. The findings of that research have been submitted to the Canadian Journal of Development Studies for publication consideration. He also worked on a paper, “Jerry Rawlings leadership, media, civil society, political parties, and democratic consolidation in Ghana,” which was published in a book, **Jerry John Rawlings Leadership and Legacy: A Pan-African Perspective**, New York: Springer, which was edited by Felix

Kumah-Abiwu and Sabella Abidde. Also, together with Kobena T. Hanson of the African Development Bank, and Korbla Puplampu of MacEwan University, Peter Arthur completed an edited collection titled **Sustainable Development, Digitalization and the Green Economy in Post Covid-19 in Africa** to Palgrave Macmillan. This edited book is expected to be published in October 2023. Finally, Dr. Arthur served as an external examiner for a number of graduate theses at the University of Ghana, Legon.



DR. KIRAN BANERJEE:

During his fourth year as a faculty member in the Department, Dr. Kiran Banerjee spent the past

academic year teaching courses in the classroom, researching and writing, preparing several grant applications, as well as engaging in a number of collaborative research projects at both the national and international level. His class offerings featured the second-year undergraduate course Revolution and Rationality: Foundations of Political Thought, which he taught for the first time, as well as an upper-level undergraduate course on the International politics of mobility and migration. He also acted as an MA thesis

supervisor, as well as served on two dissertation committees. Banerjee also had the opportunity to serve on both the FASS and Departmental EDIA committees over the course of the past year, served on the new Scholars at Risk committee at Dalhousie, as well as reprised his role as one of this year's Stanfield Fellows. In addition to building on the successful news of a Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and Research Nova Scotia (RNS) award, Dr. Banerjee has been involved in several new grant submissions. The coming months will have Dr. Banerjee focused on a number of initiatives, including a co-taught course, entitled Migration and Identity, co-organizing a workshop on the intersections of climate change and migration, a study of the international dimensions of Canada's role in responding to forced migration, and ongoing research on the pandemic's impact on refugee resettlement. As this academic year comes to a close, he 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.



After many years of course reductions for administrative work, **DR. DAVID BLACK** returned to full-time teaching this past

fall, including several courses he had not seen for many years. This was, on the whole, great fun – if not without some just-in-time lecture preparation! It also took some time for students and professor alike to remember (or for some students, discover) what it was like to be fully “in-person”, albeit masked. But it turns out there is no substitute for live, real-time interaction, even if we've all gained a new appreciation for the possibilities of a virtual classroom.

David also made the classic error of taking on research commitments premised on the assumption that he would be able to do as much research and writing when teaching full-time as he

had while on sabbatical. This has made for a busy but rewarding year.

Ongoing responsibilities also included co-chairing the organizing committee for the second installment of the *Stanfield Conversations*, focused on the theme “Technology, Media Fragmentation, and the Crisis of Democracy in America” (see newsletter stories elsewhere).

Research activities included the Phase II workshop of a SSHRC funded project on “Centres, Peripheries, Interstices: Towards an Eclectic Political Economy of Global Development,” inspired by the work of Tim Shaw and Jane Parpart and held in Ottawa in June of 2022. By the time you read this, the articles from this workshop will have populated two special issues of *International Journal*, which he co-edited with Dalhousie alum and long-time partner-in-crime Larry Swatuk, and to which he also contributed a new article on “Sports Mega-events and World Order Change.”

Also, last spring, he was able to return to South Africa for the first time since before the pandemic, where he picked up a number of research threads. The most important of these involved working with other members of the South African country team for the Engendering Disability-Inclusive Development (EDID) project – a 7-year SSHRC Partnership project on which he is a co-applicant. The South Africa team includes academic and civil society partners and aims to increase understanding and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities in South Africa. Other project members are focusing on three other countries (Canada, Haiti, and Vietnam), and on the transnational politics of gender and disability.

Complementing this is his SSHRC-funded work on “Canadian development cooperation and the new politics of partnership,” where he is collaborating on a study of the Canadian development priority of Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). Finally, he continues to write on sport and

politics, including two new chapters on sport and Canadian non-state diplomacy, and on Canadian high performance sport policy.



DR. BRIAN BOW

served as Honours programme coordinator and director of the Centre for the Study of Security

and Development (CSSD). The CSSD was in a busy transition year, with a full schedule of regular events, collaborative planning for an upcoming workshop on the security implications of climate-driven migration and displacement (in August 2023), and applications for several big research grants. Hopefully some of the seeds planted this year will establish themselves in the thin soil of the late COVID era. Research work continues for two concurrent projects—one on transgovernmental networks and political accountability, and another on the “export” of policing and justice systems—and he's looking forward to a sabbatical year in 2024-25 as a chance to dive more deeply into research. He is also doing early planning now for a couple of new courses to be rolled out after the sabbatical: a 2000-level lecture course on global political economy and a 3000-level seminar on technocracy, populism, and global crises.

Continued on next page

OUR FACULTY *cont'd*



DR. KATHERINE FIERLBECK: With the pandemic receding, there has been a resurgence of interest in public talks, and

Dr. Fierlbeck was busy with five invited talks this year, including Doctors NS (November 7), the C.D. Howe Institute (30 November), the NS Legislature's Standing Committee on Health (18 January), the Institute for Research on Public Policy and the Canadian School for Public Service (March 15), and the Nova Scotia Health Care Coalition (15 April). She published two books this past year: *The Boundaries of Medicare: Public Health Care Beyond the Canada Health Act* (MQUP) with Greg Marchildon, and *Health Law and Policy from East to West* (Thomson Reuters), edited with Joaquin Cayon de las Cuevas. A third book, a comparative volume on cross-national Covid responses, will be submitted soon. She was involved in two successful CIHR grants (on "Sustainable financing to transform Canada's public health systems" and "The impact of retirement income programs on health and health equity among Canadian seniors", as well as capturing an ASPP grant. She published three co-authored journal articles this year (in *JBI Evidence Synthesis*, *Critical Studies*, and *The Canadian Journal of Critical Nursing Discourse*), and a single-author article is forthcoming in *Politics and Governance*. A report on municipal governance and public health, co-authored with Gaynor Watson-Creed, was published by the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. She has three chapters ("What is meant by a 'right' to health care? [And why should we be careful in demanding them?]" and "Analysing and comparing health care systems from an interdisciplinary approach", both in *Health Law and Policy from East to West*; and "Policy, politics, and pandemics" – on the H1N1 pandemic, written just before Covid hit – in *Public Health*

Political Science: Integrating Science and Politics for Public Health). In addition to graduate supervision, both within and beyond the department, Dr Fierlbeck has been active in CIHR and ASPP review committees and in helping to organize the Stanfield lecture and the Faculty of Medicine's annual conference. She was also involved in politics at the rock face, having served on the DFA's collective bargaining team. Hopefully 2023-24 will be a little calmer!



DR. ROBERT FINBOW was on sabbatical this academic year working on several projects. *CETA*

Implementation and Implications: Unravelling the Puzzle was released in September by McGill-Queen's University Press. He completed "Populist Backlash and Trade Agreements in North America: The Prospects for Progressive Trade" This was published online in a special issue of *Politics & Governance* (2023), 11(1), on Re-Embedding Trade in the Shadow of Populism. His chapter on "Asymmetry and Civil Society Backlash: Changing European Calculations in Trans-Atlantic Investment Relations from CETA to TTIP and Beyond" will be appearing in Elaine Fahey (ed.) *Research Handbook of Transatlantic Relations* (Forthcoming: Routledge). With some other contributors, he presented his research to a panel at the 18th Biennial EUSA Conference at the University of Pittsburgh in May. Prof Finbow was approached by a former Dalhousie MA student, Zachary Taylor, to write "Halifax: Challenging Rise to Smart City" for Martin Horak, Jack Lucas and Zack Taylor, eds. *City Politics in Canada*, 2nd ed. (UTP forthcoming). The contributors discussed their findings in a virtual workshop in March.

Conferences post Covid continued to be a mixture of both online, hybrid and in person events. Prof. Finbow

made presentations to the Trade and Investment Research Project meeting in October on the themes of the US midterm potential effects on trade policy and the latest on CETA implementation. In October, he attended the 35th Anniversary of the Erasmus Programme Roundtable Discussion hosted by the EU delegation in Ottawa. He is conducting comparative research on "Populism as an obstacle to Progressive Trade". His article on "Post Democratic State theory" is undergoing revisions. He is also working on a book proposal on *Right-populist parties rhetoric and immigration policies in the five eyes states* for Edward Elgar. Prof Finbow is also doing research on developers' relations with the City of Halifax for a potential co-authored piece.



DR. KRISTIN GOOD continued her term as the department's new Graduate Coordinator. She has enjoyed working more

closely with the department's excellent graduate students over the past two years. She is particularly pleased to have supervised her first two PhD students to completion – Tari Ajadi and Tristan Cleveland. In terms of writing and research, her co-edited textbook/volume (with Jen Nelles) entitled *Canadian Urban Governance in Comparative Perspective* has been submitted to the University of Toronto Press and is currently under review. Dr. Good has also begun to write a book on Indigenous-newcomer relations and "decolonizing" local immigration policymaking. She was awarded the Faculty of Arts and Social Science's Burgess Research Award this past academic year to recognize and assist with the completion of this work. Good was also awarded a SSHRC Insight Grant in 2022 with Co-Investigators Drs. Zachary Taylor (Principal Investigator), Sandra Breux and Martin Horak to study the role of money in local politics. The study explores campaign finance rules

(their substance, why they change and their effects) as well as actor perceptions of the role of money in local democracy using a mixed methods approach that includes surveys of municipal election candidates, document analysis and interviews. Surveys were fielded this fall in BC, MB, ON, NB and PEI and data gathering and analysis is ongoing. Dr. Good also continues to conduct research that critically examines the constitutional status of municipalities in Canada and has contributed a chapter about the status of municipalities in provincial constitutions to an edited collection that is expected to be published in the coming academic year. As founding co-editor (with Dr. Martin Horak) of the McGill-Queen's Studies in Urban Governance book series, Dr. Good continues to review books and promote the series.



DR. ANDERS HAYDEN has continued to do research on the idea of a wellbeing economy, which aims to establish

sustainable wellbeing rather than economic growth as the overarching societal goal. With Clay Dasilva, he had an article published on "The Wellbeing Economy: Possibilities and Limitations in Bringing Sufficiency from the Margins into the Mainstream." He also delivered presentations on the topic at the conferences of the International Studies Association in Montreal and the International Quality of Life Studies Association in Burlington, Vermont. A book that he co-edited with Céofride Gaudet and Jeffrey Wilson, *Towards Sustainable Wellbeing: Moving beyond GDP in Canada and the World* (University of Toronto Press), was finally published in autumn 2022. He gave a presentation providing a "Nova Scotia perspective on Canada's climate challenges" as part of a memorial event at the University of Toronto for Doug Macdonald, who had a significant influence on his work. Dr. Hayden has been serving as the department's Undergraduate Advisor and

on a number of departmental and College of Sustainability committees. As a Ukrainian-Canadian, he has been deeply affected by Russia's aggression against Ukraine. He participated in panel discussions on the war at the Atlantic Provinces Political Science Association and at Dalhousie. He also took the lead in organizing and moderating an event at the College of Sustainability on "The Environmental Effects of War in Ukraine." Since Russia's full-scale invasion began in February 2022, he has been reading widely on Ukrainian history and politics and (slowly) learning the Ukrainian language. Слава Україні!



DR. RACHAEL JOHNSTONE is now in her second official year as a faculty member at Dalhousie, finally joined the

department in person following the completion of her maternity leave in March 2022, and has been settling into her new life in Halifax. She's enjoyed meeting her colleagues and students and is savouring the slow return of in-person events and spontaneous hallway discussions.

Her course offerings this year included an introductory course on politics and government and a third-year seminar on law and constitutional politics in Canada. This focus on constitutional law is echoed in her research life. This year she was thrilled to be the co-applicant to a successful SSHRC Insight Grant (with Dr. Emmett Macfarlane at the University of Waterloo) to explore the impact of the Commonwealth model of judicial review on the development of policies implicating hate speech. This five-year project will explore the effects of a country's rights culture in shaping policies restricting hate speech, with particular attention paid to the challenges created by recent attempts to regulate speech online. They plan to look at three countries: Canada, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand. This semester, with the help of a small army

of research assistants, they have begun laying the groundwork for the project, digging up parliamentary debates and media coverage in their case countries. In addition to this work, her summer will be spent interviewing MPs about maternity and parental leave policies in the House, as she wraps up her SSHRC Insight Development Grant on parental leave and representation.



DR. SCOTT PRUYZERS enjoyed a number of big developments this past year. First, his co-authored book, *The Political*

Party in Canada, was published with UBC Press in November 2022. Second, he completed another co-authored book, *Electronic Elections in Ontario Municipalities*, which has been submitted to McGill-Queen's University Press and is currently under review. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, he was recommended for tenure and promotion and will move to the rank of Associate Professor beginning July 1, 2023. Aside from these big milestones and developments, Dr. Pruyzers enjoyed teaching his classes, supervising students, and joining committees like the Academic Development Committee. He also published a number of articles relating to party and electoral politics in outlets such as the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, the *Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science*, *American Review of Canadian Studies*, and *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*.

Continued on next page

OUR FACULTY *cont'd*



DR. LEAH SARSON spent the past academic year on parental leave after welcoming her second child this past fall.

During this time, she published an article in *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* exploring Indigenous law-making and an opinion piece in the *Globe and Mail* on gender and labour rights. She also finalized a forthcoming chapter comparing the foreign policies of Prime Ministers Stephen Harper and Justin Trudeau for publication in a book with University of British Columbia Press. Dr. Sarson was pleased to present at several conferences and events – in person! – including the Kingston Consortium on International Security, where she presented research on international cooperation in the Arctic and the American Political Science Association, where she presented work related to her monograph on the relationship between Indigenous politics and state authority. Dr. Sarson also continued to work on her monograph manuscript, which she expects to publish with McGill-Queen's University Press and began work on two edited volumes that discretely focus on global Indigenous politics and feminist foreign policy. Upon her return from leave, Dr. Sarson is looking forward to getting back in the

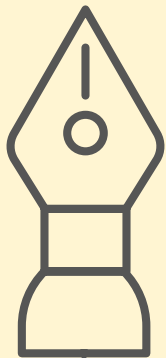
classroom and back on the road for her research. She is also excited to take over from Dr. Brian Bow as the Director of the Centre for the Study of Security and Development in summer 2023.



DR. RUBEN ZAIOTTI: It's been another productive year for me and the EU Jean Monnet Centre I am directing. You will

find more information about the centre in the dedicated article, so here I am just focusing on other activities and projects I have been pursuing in the last twelve months (and yes, academically speaking, I have a split personality!). On the research front, I have continued my explorations of the nexus between migration and technology, particularly the implications of the growth of 'digital borders' around the world. My latest paper on the topic looks at the large databases established recently to track migrants crossing international borders. These devices have become ubiquitous and used not only by the usual suspects (i.e., traditional countries of immigration in North America and Europe) but, more and more, also by governments in the developing world. The 'digital' aspect of my research is also present in a chapter I have written on the use of social media by the European Union, which is based

on an ongoing project on the digital diplomacy of international organizations, and another piece on travellers' screening programs introduced in North America and Europe since the millennium. I have also started a new and exciting research endeavour that builds on my expertise on migration policy but that branches out to consider the environmental dimension of population movements. This is the topic of a workshop that I am co-organizing with my colleagues Brian Bow and Kiran Banerjee, and that I will elaborate further as part of a larger, multi-disciplinary research project spearheaded by Dalhousie University called '[Transforming Climate Action: addressing the Missing Ocean](#)'. While I am not conducting research, I still enjoy teaching our wonderful Dalhousie students. One of the highlights of the year has been bringing a group of them to the first pan-Canadian Model European Union simulation in Ottawa. In this experiential learning exercise, students took on the role of representatives of EU member states and negotiated a common arctic policy for the regional organization. Students got to meet the EU ambassador to Canada and network with 100 other colleagues from across Canada. And they dressed up for the occasion!



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

THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF TEACHING IN (POST) PANDEMIC TIMES

Dr. Ruben Zaiotti

IN ACADEMIA, AS IN REAL LIFE,

innovation often comes out of necessity or happenstance. My pedagogy's recent trajectory has followed a similar path. Since I joined Dalhousie University, I developed and refined a personal approach to teaching based on pragmatist principles. This approach emphasizes personal interaction, collaborative work and experiential learning in the classroom and beyond. I thought I had reached a good spot. I was satisfied with my teaching and - if students' evaluations can be trusted - my students seemed to be as well. Then the pandemic hit. No more personal interaction. The world (and teaching) went all online. Was it just temporary blip or would we find ourselves in this condition in the long run? What to do after we returned to class (if ever)? Back to the status quo ante, or would a new pedagogical era emerge? We did not know at the time the answers to these questions. Like everybody else, I had to reinvent myself and my teaching. But how to do that? How could I still abide by the pragmatist principles I held so dear? At that moment of uncertainty, I decided to follow Wayne Gretzky's advice: "I skate to where the puck is going, not where it has been." My pandemic pedagogical adventure thus began. I must confess that, at least initially, I dreaded it. Yet, eventually, I came to embrace the challenge. After all, not sitting on one's laurels (i.e., continuing to innovate in light of new experiences) is a pragmatist tenet. And innovation does not necessarily mean rejecting all that came before. Therefore, my quest became adapting to the online (and post-online) world without sacrificing a student-centric, collaborative, experiential view of pedagogy. This quest required some experimentation

"Confusion is a word we have invented for an order that is not yet understood."

- Henry Miller

through trials and (inevitably) errors. My pedagogical experiments included introducing new activities to increase student engagement and reformulating collaborative work and experiential learning.

Did I succeed in the quest to find a new pedagogical Holy Grail? The feedback I have got so far seems positive. It was certainly worth trying. "You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take", as Wayne Gretzky (him again) quipped. I agree. Some 'shots', however, did not hit the target as I had hoped. What stands out for me are the challenges I faced in making students collaborate in the virtual world. It has indeed been more difficult than I expected. Students showed a degree of frustration that was higher than in previous times. In theory, finding a time to work together should be easier if location and scheduling are not an issue. The online tools available for this collaboration should help too. However, both the quantity and quality of student collaboration has been lower than in pre-pandemic times. Students had difficulty meeting and producing compelling work. This raises the question: is online learning incompatible with true class teamwork? I do not have a definitive answer to this question. My hunch is that something more profound is happening,

and the switch to online learning plays a part, but it is not the ultimate culprit. Indeed, what I noticed is that this pessimistic assessment of teamwork holds true also in the post-pandemic world. Even after returning to in-person teaching, students have a hard time learning how to interact and collaborate. They seem to have lost that skill; or, for students whose experience in higher education has been primarily online, it might not have been developed in the first place. (Re)acquiring these skills is thus a priority in the post-pandemic era. So it is that of (re)discovering the experience of learning in the real world. The delivery of new courses, such as the Introduction to the Social Sciences, which emphasizes practical academic skills, and the re-launch of experiential learning initiatives both on campus and beyond are attempts to address the 'long-pandemic' symptoms students are experiencing in the classroom today. The outcome, we all hope, is that life on campus can be healthy again.

THE 2022 STANFIELD CONVERSATION:

Technology, Media Fragmentation, and the Crisis of Democracy in America

Dr. David Black

THE SECOND ANNUAL STANFIELD

Conversation took place on the Dalhousie campus on Thursday, 20 October 2022. The Conversation featured three outstanding scholars: Professor Ron Deibert, acclaimed Director of the University of Toronto's "Citizen Lab" and a former Massey Lecturer whose work has been exposing the "dark side" of digital technologies for decades; Professor Elizabeth Dubois, University Research Professor of Politics, Communication and Technology at the University of Ottawa whose outstanding scholarship and public commentaries have focused on such issues as media manipulation, citizen engagement, and artificial intelligence; and Professor Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Elizabeth Ware Packard Professor of Communication and Director of the Annenberg Public Policy Centre at the University of Pennsylvania whose multi-award winning scholarship includes *Cyberwar: How Russian Hackers and Trolls Helped Elect a President* – the definitive book on Russian interference in

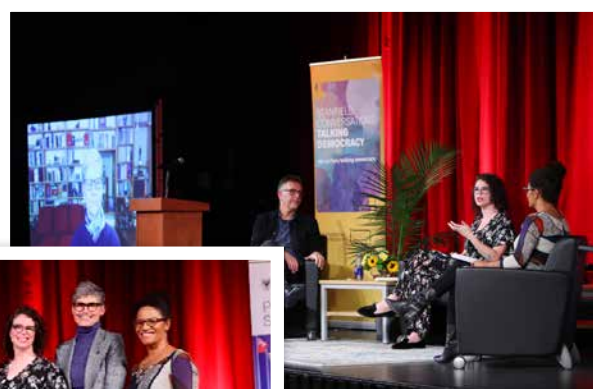
the 2016 US Presidential election. They engaged in a lively exchange concerning the many faces and applications of digital technology within democracies, demystifying algorithms, echo chambers, surveillance and manipulation, and discussing ways in which both governments and citizens can and should adapt to these unprecedented challenges. They were ably moderated by CBC's Portia Clark, the host of *Information Morning* in Nova Scotia and a Dalhousie alum.

The [Stanfield Conversations](#) have quickly become a signature event for the department, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and the University, engaging outstanding scholars and practitioners on the challenges and prospects for democratic politics within and beyond Canada. The Department is the Dalhousie lead in determining the focus and speakers for the event, working closely with the co-Chairs of the "Friends of the Stanfield Conversation," former Prime Minister Joe Clark and Deputy

Prime Minister Anne McLellan.

In addition to the main Conversation, which reaches both a live campus audience and a national and international virtual audience, there has been a "Master Class" for graduate students (discussed elsewhere in this newsletter), and a dinner at which undergraduate and graduate students are able to interact informally with the speakers and university leaders.

The department is grateful to the volunteer Friends of the Stanfield Conversation for making this annual event possible, our media partners [CBC Nova Scotia](#) for amplifying its reach, and to FASS and Dalhousie communications and advancement personnel for their vital logistical support – and of course Tracy Powell for her continuous support in this (as other) departmental projects! Stay tuned for the third Stanfield Conversation, coming this October to a campus and/or YouTube channel near you!



STANFIELD CONVERSATIONS:

Talking Democracy Master Class
with the POLI Graduate Students

Dr. Kiran Banerjee and Dr. Scott Pruysers

THIS PAST FALL DALHOUSIE HOSTED the second Stanfield Conversations: Talking Democracy. The series builds on the legacy of Rt. Hon. Robert L. Stanfield, a long-serving former Premier of Nova Scotia and celebrated former leader of the federal Progressive Conservative Party. This ongoing series focusses on critical challenges to democracy and imaginative and inspiring responses to them.

The second annual Conversation, titled 'Technology, Media Fragmentation, and the Crisis of Democracy in America', took place on Thursday, October 20, 2022, and featured leading political scientists and communications specialists Dr. Kathleen Hall Jamieson (University of Pennsylvania), Dr. Ron Deibert (University of Toronto), and Dr. Elizabeth Dubois (University of Ottawa). The moderator of the 2022 Conversation was the host of CBC Nova Scotia's Information Morning and Dalhousie alum, Portia Clark.

Complementing the public lecture, graduate students at Dalhousie were invited to a special 'Master Class', with

Hall Jamieson, Deibert, and Dubois leading a seminar. A dozen graduate students participated in a lively discussion that touched upon some of the contemporary challenges facing democracy in today's digital landscape. The ensuing conversation, informed by key texts provided by Hall Jamieson, Deibert, and Dubois, offered student participants a chance to critically engage with and provide their own perspectives on issues such as the proliferation of fake news, ongoing digital election interference, and increased online surveillance. In general, the seminar included an engaging dialogue regarding the repercussions of new media and technology-enabled subversive practices for democratic politics, including creative ways of responding to the challenges and threats that these developments present.

Another tremendous success, the Master Class will continue to

STANFIELD CONVERSATIONS TALKING DEMOCRACY



be a staple of future Stanfield events for years to come and will continue to provide political science students an opportunity to meet and engage with leading experts from around the world.

If you did not have a chance to view the event live, you can watch a recording here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQ9xFfHapzl&t=6897s&ab_channel=DalhousieUniversity



CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT (CSSD)

Dr. Brian Bow, CSSD Director

THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF

Security and Development had a busy year. Centre fellows wrapped up work on the DND MINDS-funded “Defence and Security Foresight Group” (DSFG) project and made early contributions to the SSHRC Partnership-funded Engendering Disability-Inclusive Development (EDID) project. Centre fellows led or were invited to collaborate on several different SSHRC Partnership, Insight, or Connections grant applications, which should provide research and professional development opportunities for grad students in future years.

The Centre was successful in securing a MINDS Targeted Engagement Grant to put together a workshop on the security implications of climate-driven migration and displacement, co-organized by Professors Banerjee, Bow, and Zaiotti. The workshop, originally planned for this spring, will now go ahead in August 2023 (so expect to get more details in next year’s newsletter...).

The CSSD also organized and hosted a series of public events on campus this year, some in-person only and some a mix of in-person and online participation, via Zoom. The list of CSSD events for 2022-23 is below.

Having been Centre director for seven of the last nine years, I’m looking forward to a little bit of a break. Leah Sarson will take over as the new director in the Fall 2023 term, and has ambitious plans for grants, research, and public outreach. Check the CSSD website for updates: www.dal.ca/sites/cssd.html

My sincere thanks to Allison Chandler, for her work as deputy director in 2022-23, and to Mary Okwes, for her ongoing help and support as the Centre’s administrative secretary.

- October 3** Allison Chandler, Adam MacDonald, Prof. Scott Pruysers, and Tobias Schminke, “Lost & Confused?: Canada in the World after 2022,” 5:00-6:30pm, Lord Dalhousie Room and on Zoom.
- October 26** Prof. Kim R. Nossal, “Canada Alone? Navigating a Post-American World,” 1:00-2:30pm, Mona Campbell 3107.
- November 22** Nafisa Abdulhamid, Andrea Lane, Adam MacDonald, and John Mitton, “What’s Next? Peer Advice on (Some) Non-Academic Pathways,” 7:00-8:00pm, Lord Dalhousie Room and on Zoom.
- November 30** Sarah Minckler, “Layered Lessons: Political Science Research and Military Decision-Making,” 12:00-1:00pm, Lord Dalhousie Room and on Zoom.
- January 31** Scott Burns, NATO Association of Canada, “NATO: Past, Present, and Future,” 12:00-1:00pm, Lord Dalhousie Room and on Zoom.
- February 15** Prof. Raluca Bejan, Prof. Anders Hayden, Prof. Lyubov Zhyznomirska, “The Russian Invasion of Ukraine: One Year On,” 1:00-2:30pm, McMechan Auditorium. Moderated by Brian Bow.
- March 8** Admiral Brian Santarpia, Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic, “How the Government Makes the Decision to Deploy the Canadian Armed Forces,” 1:00-2:30pm, McMechan Auditorium.



2023 Glyn Berry Lecture: Prof. Jason Lyall

- March 8** Admiral Brian Santarpia, Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic, “How the Government Makes the Decision to Deploy the Canadian Armed Forces,” 1:00-2:30pm, McMechan Auditorium.
- March 9** 2023 Glyn Berry Lecture: Prof. Jason Lyall, “Development Aid in Dangerous Places: Lessons from Afghanistan,” 2:30-4:00pm, Lord Dalhousie Room.
- March 21** Prof. Can Mutlu, Buket Tatlidil, and Emre Turker, “Earthquake, Erdogan, Elections: Türkiye in 2023,” 3:30-5:00pm, Mona Campbell 3107 and on Zoom. Moderated by Tobias Schminke.
- April 24** Ian G. McKay, Canadian Ambassador to Japan, “Canada, Japan, and the Indo-Pacific Strategy,” 2:30-4:00pm, Lord Dalhousie Room. Moderated by Prof. Leah Sarson.

JEAN MONNET EUROPEAN UNION CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (JMEUCE)

Madeleine Coffen-Smout, Centre Coordinator

THIS LAST YEAR HAS SEEN THE

Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence inching its way back towards pre-covid normality. An extension to the current EU grant has also provided an extra year to complete some of the activities which were sidelined during the pandemic, so it has been a useful period of catching up.

For the first time since 2019, the **Speaker Series** consisted only of in-person events. One even featured a guest lecturer from across the Atlantic, with Declan Walsh of University College Cork marking Ireland's 50th anniversary of joining the EU. Others drew on more locally based speakers and focused on the continuing war in Ukraine, with two collaborative panels of multiple presenters including several JMEUCE Associates and Fellows. In addition, plans are underway to hold an international workshop on transatlantic trade before the grant ends in September.

Greater opportunities for in-person interaction also meant that the annual **EU Day of Debate** with local schools finally took place again in February, when the Centre collaborated with the Dalhousie-King's Debate Society on a weekend competition for the John Grant Memorial Cup. Aided by Dal student volunteers, representatives of six schools were able to learn about the EU and some key issues it currently faces, as they practised and developed their debating skills.

After three years of very limited opportunities for student activities – other than our annual **Essay Prize**, won this year by Noah Hollis for his paper on “No Integration Without Sovereignty: The Potential for a ‘True’ European Health Union” – it was finally possible to promote student mobility again. The JMEUCE helped facilitate a successful application by master's student Joseph Fitkowski for a **Mitacs Globalink Research Award**, enabling him to undertake

research in Poland in autumn 2022 on the populist party, PiS. Another exciting initiative was the participation of a Dal delegation in the first **pan-Canadian Model European Union simulation** (5th – 7th May). JMEUCE Director, Ruben Zaiotti, led eight undergraduates to Ottawa, where they took on the role of leaders from different EU Member States tasked with achieving agreement on a common EU position. With pre-trip tutorial sessions and preparatory online materials, the experience was a valuable – and free! – opportunity to learn about the decision-making process of the EU, while strengthening skills in negotiation, teamwork and public speaking.

Similarly, for the first time in three years, we could once again support student participation in the **EU Study Tour and Internship Programme**. Undergraduates Massimo Rigatto and Sacha Grum represented Dal on this for-credit tour (8th – 26th May) to key EU and European institutions in Brussels, Luxembourg and Frankfurt. Massimo is also staying on for a summer internship with the European Centre for Electoral Support. It is great to be able to encourage and facilitate these broader learning experiences for students after the depressingly limited online years.

As well as its own events, the Centre is pleased to report on affiliated JM Activities led by JMEUCE Associates at Dal. In June 2022, the **Jean Monnet Health Law and Policy Network** headed



Dal Delegation to Model EU

by Katherine Fierlbeck concluded with a workshop in London. Outputs from that event are contributing to a book in World Scientific Publishing's Global Health Economies and Public Policy series. The Network, which hosted over a dozen events and contributed to numerous publications, ended last August. The Jean Monnet Genome Editing and Agricultural Policy, Practice and Public Perceptions Network, led by Matthew Schnurr of IDS, held its final event last May and is now finalising a new podcast series on agricultural biotechnologies and publishing a special issue with the journal *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene* before it concludes in August.

So, it has been a year of wrapping up and finally drawing a line under the covid-affected grants of recent years. Looking ahead, we have applied for new EU funding to support core Centre activities until 2026 and are also pleased to have received recognition as a senate-approved research centre at Dalhousie. Life may not be completely back to normal but at least there is a sense of a positive new chapter ahead.



*Left: Dal Delegation to Model EU - Students with EU Ambassador in Canada
Right: School debaters*



UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

Dr. Anders Hayden, Undergraduate Advisor

IN 2022-23, FOR THE FIRST TIME

since the outbreak of Covid, in-person teaching was possible throughout the full academic year – a very positive development that affected the work of the Undergraduate Advisor. For the first time since 2019, Dalhousie had an in-person Open House for high-school students considering their university options. Our department hosted three sessions, with presentations from faculty members and, most importantly, from current students who spoke about what Political Science has meant to them in broadening their horizons and opening up opportunities. We continue to find that current students, as well as those who have graduated from the department,

are the best ambassadors at such events, as they are able to share their experiences of how Political Science has benefitted them. If you have your own thoughts about the value of a Political Science degree that we could share with prospective students, please send us your thoughts (anders.hayden@dal.ca; psadmin@dal.ca).

The loosening of Covid restrictions also allowed the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) to hold an in-person Programs Advising Fair for current students to consider program options – a format that was a much better way to reach students than previous online events. With Covid no longer creating obstacles to international travel, students

are back to making plans for a semester or two abroad, with the Undergraduate Advisor playing a role in reviewing their plans and course selection.

Although it will be some time before we can fully appreciate the long-term effects of the pandemic on students and the university more generally, in at least some ways, things have been returning to “normal.” That said, we now face the challenge of ChatGPT and other advances in artificial intelligence, which will likely have even more profound and lasting effects on student learning – ones that we are only beginning to understand and respond to.



2022-23 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARD/PRIZE WINNERS

GEORGE ARNOTT, BA: Major in Political Science and Philosophy, 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.

PATRICK LYONS, BA: Major in Political Science, has been awarded the **Rear-Admiral F.W. Crickard Prize in Political Science**. This award will be offered once a year to the undergraduate student who has been nominated by a faculty member for the best IR paper in a Political Science course.

ALEXANDER MACNAB, BA: Honours Major in Political Science with Minor in 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.

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

OLIVIA PAUL, BA: Honours in Political Science, 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.

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

THE DALHOUSIE UNDERGRADUATE POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY (DUPSS)

Isobel Cameron, VP Academic



THE DALHOUSIE UNDERGRADUATE

Political Science Society's (DUPSS) 2022-2023 academic year was marked by change and adaption. As students moved back into the classrooms and the campus opened back up, DUPSS took advantage and hosted numerous in-person events, recurrent and new! Over the year, the society hosted bake sales, a trivia night, a prof mixer, study sessions, the honours panel, the Dalhousie Political Networking Initiative, and our annual gala. On top of these annual events, we introduced a number of new initiatives. With the help of alumni Dong Ngo, this year marked the start of the Political Science Alumni Networking Initiative, wherein students were matched with an alumni mentor. This was a very successful initiative, and we are excited to expand it going forward. The Podium cover design competition was also a new initiative that DUPSS introduced, we welcomed students from

all areas to submit a cover for the 2022-2023 edition of The Podium Journal. The cover, and the winning essay submissions, were celebrated at the 5th annual Political Science Gala that was hosted this March at the Daily Grind on the waterfront. This event (pictures here) was an amazing opportunity for students and faculty to get together and celebrate all the accomplishments of the year, both for DUPSS and the larger Political



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 with preference given to applicants who have voluntarily self-identified as belonging to a designated group as defined by the University, declared a major in Political Science, and demonstrated academic capability. We are pleased to announce that the 2023 recipients of this scholarship are:

- **ALISHA BARI**, BA Major in Political Science and Sociology and Social Anthropology
- **ISOBEL CAMERON**, BA Major in International Development Studies and Political Science

Science student community. DUPSS is incredibly lucky to have had such an amazing executive this year, we persevered through strikes, the hurricane, and starting off the year with just three returning members. The events and initiatives would not have been possible without such a dedicated executive team and the unwavering support of the Political Science Department, especially Dr. Fierlbeck and Tracy. Last of all, we would like to thank all the students that came and supported our events, their support is what keeps the society running. We are looking forward to another successful and exciting year!

HONOURS PROGRAMME REPORT

Dr. Brian Bow, Honours Coordinator

THE HONOURS PROGRAMME HAD

a very capable and very tight-knit cohort of 10 students for 2022-23, pursuing research in a wide variety of areas (see thesis titles listed below). We have two joint winners this year for the James H. Aitchison Prize for the best Honours thesis: Alexander Macnab and Olivia

Paul. Olivia Paul also won the Eric Dennis Gold medal for the highest GPA over the 4-year degree programme. We were very pleased to be able to celebrate with our Honours students in-person again this year, with a lunch on April 6. We're all sorry to see them go, but very proud of their accomplishments so far, and

looking forward to seeing what they'll do next. On their behalf, sincere thanks to all of the faculty members who served as supervisors and second readers, and to Tracy Powell, for administrative support to the programme.

RENADA BEGOLLI

"The European Union's Foreign Policy in the Russo-Ukrainian War: A Realism or Liberalism Approach?"

Brian Bow, supervisor; Ruben Zaiotti, second reader

JEKOB CRAIG

"A Comparative Analysis of Sanctions on Iran: ILSA vs CISADA"

Brian Bow, supervisor; David Black, second reader

CORA FLETCHER

"Send in the Women: Peacekeeping, Increasing Female Personnel Deployment, and the UN's mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo"

David Black, supervisor; Ruben Zaiotti, second reader

SEBASTIAN GARCIA-LAVIN

"Deal or No Deal: Climate Policy in the United States"

Anders Hayden, supervisor; David Black, second reader

VICTORIA GIBBS

"Securitization, Public Opinion, and the Response to the 2015 'Refugee Crisis' in Germany and Greece"

Ruben Zaiotti, supervisor; Kiran Banerjee, second reader

ALEX MACNAB

"Assessing Chapo Trap House: A Qualitative Media Analysis"

Louise Carbert, supervisor; Scott Pruyers, second reader

OLIVIA PAUL

"We Better Blast the Hell out of Somebody": A Case for the Bottom-Up Approach to the Early War on Terror, 2001-2003"

Brian Bow, supervisor; Larissa Atkison, second reader

ANNA SAVAGE

"Measuring Women's Representation and Success: An Examination into Canadian Provincial Party"

Scott Pruyers, supervisor; Rachael Johnstone, second reader

SAM SHARP

"The Violence of Exclusion: Migrant Women at the US-Mexico Border in the Title 42 Era"

Kate Swanson, supervisor; Ruben Zaiotti, second reader

JAMES H. AITCHISON AWARD FOR BEST HONOURS THESIS

We are very pleased to announce that this year we had two students who received the James H. Aitchison award, Alexander Macnab and Olivia Paul.



ALEXANDER MACNAB, BA

Honours: Major in Political Science with a Minor in Economics
I am very grateful to be a co-

recipient of the James H. Aitchison Award this year, it is a great honour to receive

such a prestigious award with such a long and important history at Dalhousie. Receiving this award includes me as a small part of the extensive university history, for which I feel very fortunate.

I have always been interested in how politics permeates all aspects of life and areas of study, so choosing Political Science as my major was an easy

decision to make. I believe a political understanding always provides a deeper explanation when considering history, philosophy, and economics – even STEM subjects. As a student, I always found inspiration from Dal faculty that has pushed me to think about political change in a variety of ways. Within Political Science, I am most interested in political economy, which I believe

this to be the central component to all other areas of politics and culture. I have further supported this interest by completing a minor in Economics.

As a mature student, I am fortunate enough to have been working at Dalhousie for the duration of my time in Political Science. I have been attending courses part-time for the last 10 years, so after graduation I will be taking a much-anticipated step away from studying. During this time, I will decide between applying for a master's program at Dalhousie or obtaining my Certified Employee Benefit Specialist (CEBS) designation. In either scenario, I will continue to work at Dalhousie because it is not just a great place to study, but it is also a great place to have a career. I look forward to spending several more years on the Dal campus.



OLIVIA PAUL, BA
Honours: Major in Political Science with a Minor in Contemporary Studies (King's College)

It is a true honour to receive such a distinguished award. I did not go into this year expecting to attain any awards for my thesis, so I was pleasantly surprised to learn that I received the Aitchison Award. I am extremely grateful to everyone who made this achievement possible: the donors and family of Professor Aitchison, who generously fund the award; my phenomenal supervisor, Dr. Brian Bow, without whom I certainly would not have been granted this distinction, and my Honours class for their support and encouragement. I was lucky enough to be part of an excellent Honours cohort – everyone was so talented, supportive, and invested in each other's success. I wish the best for all of them.

My decision to take Political Science indirectly stemmed from the 2016 U.S. presidential election. At the time, I was attending an American international

school in Singapore. Most of my peers were American – some of them were even Trump supporters – and I actively participated in discussions surrounding the election. I engaged so much in the election that I temporarily forgot I was Canadian. My American friends would ask me, “why do you care about the outcome of the U.S. election?” But it was precisely at that moment I understood the gravity of political events, and how captivating the study of politics can be. Prior to this point, I had been interested in politics, but the 2016 election was likely the catalyst in my decision to study Political Science at university. Still, when I began my degree in 2019, I had not yet decided to major in Political Science. I enrolled in the Foundation Year Program (FYP) at the University of King's College in my first year; FYP is an interdisciplinary humanities program in which students read seminal works from Western history. First-year students therefore do not begin concentrated study in a designated major. While taking FYP, I was drawn to texts with political content. In particular, I remember enjoying *The Republic* by Plato. I wouldn't say I necessarily enjoyed reading some of the other political philosophers we encountered, like John Locke and Thomas Hobbes – but that's because after four years of undergrad I can confirm that no student has ever enjoyed reading John Locke and Thomas Hobbes. Yet I found different political ideas highly compelling to study, and my experience in FYP solidified that I wanted to dedicate the remainder of my degree to majoring in Political Science.

American politics has consistently been my favourite area of study within the discipline of Political Science. I wrote my thesis on the War on Terror, which is a fascinating epoch in U.S. history. Although my analysis was primarily on the domestic implications of the War on Terror, I am passionate about researching American foreign policy, with a specific focus on the Middle East. I also enjoy the broader study of International Relations and world politics. I believe there is merit and value in studying any domain related to politics, and I am constantly discovering new topics that interest me.

For instance, this year I took a wonderful class on Political Behaviour with Dr. Louise Carbert, and it turned out to be one of my favourite courses I've taken, so I would love to explore that subject more and delve into other political lenses that I have not yet considered!

I am looking forward to presenting my thesis research at the International Association for Political Science Students (IAPSS) Conference in Montreal in May. Then, in September, I will start courses in the Master's of Global Affairs program at the Munk School at the University of Toronto. Initially, I was planning to attend graduate school in Washington, D.C., and study American Politics. I still hope to live in Washington at some point, but I decided to challenge myself by enrolling in a program that had a professional emphasis, as opposed to a strictly academic program. This represents a significant change for me, as I have so far felt most comfortable in academia, but I am excited to embrace what the Munk School has to offer. In terms of my more immediate plans, I will spend the summer back in Toronto, searching for a job and catching up on all of the Netflix shows I postponed watching due to my thesis.

GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

Dr. Kristin Good, Graduate Coordinator

THIS ACADEMIC YEAR BEGAN WITH

an in-person graduate orientation and welcome social for the first time since the pandemic began, which was a great way to start the academic year. Another highlight was our trip to the Africville museum in October, which was organized by PhD student Tobias Schminke for our incoming cohort of MA students. It was an excellent way to engage with questions of equity, diversity and inclusion in our city. Our graduate students continued to meet their program milestones including comprehensive exams, proposal defences (including the 3MT presentations described separately in this

newsletter) and examinations of theses. Three MA students defended their theses since the last newsletter including Alice Craft (“Hospitality or Hostility? The Detention of Irregular Arrivals and Asylum-seekers in Canada as explained by the Hostile Environment Framework”); Savanna Shaw (“An Exploration of African American Trump Voters”); and Bahar Tunc (“An Analysis of the Factors That Enabled the Closure of the Northern Pulp Mill”). Two PhD students also defended their dissertations including Tari Ajadi (“Power in Presence: Understanding Black-led Coalitions and Policy Change in Halifax, Nova Scotia”) and Tristan Cleveland

(“Urban Intercurrence: The Struggle to Build Walkable Downtowns in Car-Dependent Suburbia”). Congratulations to all of you! You can read about our graduate students’ many successes and interesting professional development opportunities in other articles and in their updates.

I have enjoyed being part of our graduate students’ research journeys in several capacities this year including as the instructor for POLI 5100, our graduate level research design and methods class, on thesis committees and as chair of MA theses and PhD proposal defences.

I am pleased to introduce our incoming cohort of MA and PhD students that includes Aliza Chow, Gala Palavicini Jauregui, Liam Maccarthy, Mirriam Mensah, and Samuel Ransley.



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. 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.



THE DEPARTMENT'S SECOND 3MT COMPETITION

Dr. Kristin Good, Graduate Coordinator

THE DEPARTMENT'S SECOND

three-minute thesis (3MT) competition was held online on March 7, 2023. PhD students Patricia Porto de Barros Ayaz and Xinyu Gong served as this year's judges.

Our 2022-2023 MA cohort including Austin Lees, Mirriam Mensah, Caira Mohamed, Leah Nicholson, Izzy Ortner and Buket Tatlidil all participated.

Leah Nicholson, who is supervised by Dr. Kiran Banerjee, won the competition.

Her presentation entitled "The Role of Care in Settlement Planning and Policy" scored highly on both "comprehension and content" and "engagement and communication" (the two broad categories in the Canadian Political Science Association's rubric for judging its 3MT competition, which was used to assess the presentations). The judges noted that all of the presentations scored highly on comprehension and content but that only some of the presenters (including Leah especially) engaged and connected with their audience in a powerful way.

Leah describes her research as such: In response to COVID-19's impact on the Canadian economy, the federal government announced a plan to use immigration as a tool for economic recovery. They stated that the Canadian healthcare system and agricultural sector, among other industries, rely on immigrants to function. The largely non-profit settlement sector will also become a critical component of the Canadian government's immigration plan, as they will continue to provide essential services for an increasingly larger number of immigrants and their families. Yet, IRCC released its first comprehensive report analyzing settlement outcomes in 2021 and found that there is an absence of detailed definitions of success, limiting the ability to analyze results and make policy changes accordingly. With this, and the government's renewed vision for immigration, there is a need for critical engagement with settlement policies and planning. This project seeks to respond to this need by critically examining and comparing settlement policies and

planning in Manitoba, Ontario, and Nova Scotia. I will use a content analysis method called Trace, developed by care scholar Selma Sevenhuijsen (2004), to uncover the normative frameworks underpinning settlement policies and planning and analyze them against ethics of care. This research project aims to make care ethics a clear and viable framework for critical policy analysis in Canadian immigration and settlement policies, and foreground care as an important marker of successful immigration and settlement policies.

Source cited: Sevenhuijsen, S. (2004). Trace: A Method for Normative Policy Analysis from the Ethic of Care. In S. Sevenhuijsen & A. Švab (Eds.), *The Heart of the Matter: The Contribution of the Ethic of Care to Social Policy in some new EU Member States* (pp. 13–46). Mirovini Institut.

The entire graduate cohort made excellent 3MT presentations of their MA research proposals. They are all engaged in such interesting research, and we look forward to their theses.



The Role of Care in Settlement Planning and Policy Leah Nicholson

Research Question:

How does the concept of 'care' in settlement planning get deployed by government discourse?

📍 Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia

🔍 Content analysis

📄 Policy documents, press releases, provincial immigration strategies, news media



DREW MACEACHERN (MA CANDIDATE) SECURES MITACS INTERNSHIP



AS I AM COMING UP TO THE END OF my thesis, I can reflect on my two years at Dalhousie and appreciate the variety of experiences that the program has offered me. Notably, through the department and with a recommendation from Dr. Good, I was able to work in a paid internship organized through MITACS. The purpose of the internship was to assist in researching the fiscal stability and potential revenue-generating mechanisms open to Atlantic municipalities and then crafting a report outlining those mechanisms and proposing recommendations. The principal organization I worked with was Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador (MNL) under the direction of Dr. Deatra Walsh, the Director of Advocacy and Communications. While MNL was the organization that directly supervised me and the project, the project itself was a joint project with the other Atlantic

municipal organizations, namely NSFM, UNBM, and FPEIM. The internship involved one political science grad student from Dalhousie and one finance grad student from Memorial University of Newfoundland.

The internship itself lasted four months from October until February. I was responsible for researching the various municipal legislative frameworks in each province and potential revenue-generating mechanisms that could be implemented in Canadian municipalities. The intern from MUN was responsible for examining municipal budgets and doing financial analysis. As part of the process, I suggested, and then helped to design and deliver, a survey for the chief administrative officers of Atlantic municipalities to gather relevant information and learn about their concerns. To help clean and analyze the raw data, I learned how to use RStudio,

which I was able to use later in my thesis research. The final report is now being edited and will hopefully be released this month.

While this internship was a major professional and educational opportunity for me this year, it was just one of several I was able to take advantage of at Dalhousie. Through Dr. Black, I acted as a special rapporteur for a meeting at the Law School in August about establishing a summer school program about the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. For Dr. Bow, I took on a research project to create an annotated bibliography on international political economy to help create suggestions for a potential third-year course. I have also been employed as a RA for Dr. Mannathukkaren, cross-listed with IDS, where I have been helping to plan, research, and write an essay on the Modi government's relationship to post-truth politics. We have currently resubmitted the article to the *Third World Quarterly* after having made revisions. To assist in these revisions, I taught myself how to use NVivo, and hone qualitative research skills that I had learned about in my courses.

I am now finishing last-minute research and writing my thesis with a plan to finish by the end of June. It has taken me more time than I thought but the delay has not been time wasted. Instead, I have taken my time to make the most of the opportunities that Dalhousie offers to its graduate students and used the skills I learned in those experiences to help me in my thesis work. I hope to carry these skills forward in my professional career as well. If any prospective students, or 1st year MA students who are taking another year, are reading this, I would encourage you to reach out to your professors, Dr. Good, or others in the department, and seek out the various opportunities that you can find at Dalhousie if you look and ask.

GLYN BERRY SCHOLAR

Xinyu Gong (PhD Candidate)

THERE IS NOTHING BUT GRATITUDE

I can say, as a part of the Political Science Department at Dalhousie, and as the recipient of the Glyn Berry Memorial Scholarship. I am grateful to have the support of the scholarship, as well as the help I received from our lovely faculties. Glyn Berry's lifework aimed to build a more peaceful world and help people in conflict zones. This is also the theme of my work, finding a pattern to solve the misunderstanding between cultures and bring harmony to this diverse world.

This year is tough, not covid tough, but tough enough on studying. To me, this year has been very simple, because it is exam time, as I finished my comprehensive examination. This exam was a tough challenge, I felt excited, and at the same time terrified. Thanks to Adam and Nafisa, our old PhD friends, who generously shared their comps experience with me, and guided me to prepare for the exam. I also want to thank my supervisor, Dr. Brian Bow, who saved me when I was desperate and helpless during the study. If I was a professional driver, they are my navigators and mechanic who help me, guide me, and push me to move forward.

A PhD student's life can be boring, but luckily, with my PhD-squad fellows, Tobias and Ally, life is always fun and colorful with them being on my side. We exchanged our cooking skills, and shared Canadian, German, and Chinese authentic cuisines, and we even played Mahjong to celebrate Chinese New Year. China, my home, is 10 thousand kilometers away, but I'm lucky that I have met so many lovely people at Dal, who have always been so supportive, and make me feel like being home.

The world is changing, it impacts everyone. If the responsibility of scientists is to find the truth of the physical world, for social scientists, for people who study social science or political science, like us, our responsibility is to find the truth of our history and society. It's our responsibility to find the pattern, the routine, to build



peace and harmony, to make our world a better place, and to carry on our human civilization. This is the spirit of Glyn Berry's legacy.



KEENS- MORDEN SCHOLARSHIP

Caira Mohamed (MA Candidate)



I AM HONoured TO BE THE recipient of the Keens-Morden Scholarship for the 2022/2023 academic

year. Reid and Margaret (Keens) Morden have both demonstrated a strong dedication and commitment to the betterment of Canada through farsighted foreign policy and national security initiatives.

I am very grateful for all the support and assistance that I have received from my friends and family. The decision to apply to graduate school was not an easy

one, and I wouldn't have been able to do it alone. This past year has challenged me in new ways and allowed me to grow both academically and professionally. I look forward to finishing my thesis this summer, which focuses on the experiences of women in post-conflict transition.

MARGARET MEAGHER FELLOWSHIP

Mirriam A. Mensah (MA Candidate)



I AM INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL TO have received the Margaret Meagher Scholarship, which is enabling me to pursue my studies at Dalhousie University. In a letter I received from the Meagher Family concerning this scholarship, they happily expressed how Margaret Meagher (a former Canadian high Commission to Kenya) was interested in understanding the changing roles of women in Africa and elsewhere, and as my research seeks to investigate women, peacebuilding, and security in Africa strongly aligns with this interest, I could not be more honoured to be a recipient of this scholarship. This scholarship has provided me with the motivation and inspiration to work towards a better future and I am proud to

be part of a community that values and supports students who are dedicated to making a difference.

More specifically, my research focuses on the role of women in peacebuilding efforts in Liberia and Sierra Leone, two countries that have experienced devastating civil wars and ongoing post-conflict challenges. I am passionate about shedding light on the crucial contributions that women make to peace and security and exploring ways in which they can be more effectively engaged in peacebuilding initiatives.

I am thrilled to be part of the Department of Political Science at Dalhousie University, which has provided me with a supportive and intellectually stimulating environment to pursue my research interests. I have had the opportunity to engage with a diverse range of perspectives and ideas, attend stimulating seminars and events, and interact with leading scholars in the field of Political Science. Moreover, I am grateful for the resources and support provided by the department, including access to the Killam Memorial Library, which houses an extensive collection of resources on peace and conflict studies.

I must say that moving to Halifax was not without its challenges, but with the support of the faculty, especially my graduate coordinator, Professor Kristin

Good, and my supervisor, Professor David Black, I have been able to settle in and thrive in my academic pursuits. I am also grateful for the camaraderie and encouragement of my fellow graduate students, especially my dear friend Buket Tatlidil, who has been a constant source of inspiration and support.

My experiences in Halifax have been enriching in many ways. While adjusting to a new environment, I have discovered the beauty of Canada's natural landscapes, its vibrant cultural scene, and its warm and welcoming people. I have also savoured the unique flavours of Canadian cuisine and learned to appreciate the joys of winter activities like skiing and ice skating.

Overall, I am excited to continue my research and contribute to the fields of Political Science and particularly gender, peace, and security studies. With the support of the Margaret Meagher Scholarship, the Department of Political Science, and my colleagues and friends, I am confident that I will make a meaningful impact in the world. I hope that my story will inspire others to pursue their passions and break boundaries, and I look forward to continuing this journey with the support of the Dalhousie community!

SHAW-PARPART SCHOLARSHIP

Patricia Porto de Barros Ayaz (PhD Candidate)



I SINCERELY APPRECIATE BEING

the recipient of the Timothy Shaw & Jane Parpart Scholarship. It is an honour to receive such a prestigious scholarship from these globally recognized scholars, who are committed to important causes around the world.

This was a year of learning from inspiring people, facing giants, and supporting others. A few months ago, I completed a very important step in my academic life, and I am so thankful for the many people who have assisted me throughout this process. In the summer, I had the opportunity to see a Brazilian Olympic gold medalist win another gold medal at the [Canoe Sprint World Championships](#) held in Dartmouth (NS) – many members of the Brazilian

community were there, and it was a unique day!

For a few months, I worked as a mentor for the Faculty of Graduate Studies within the Together@Dal project. I got a chance to welcome and speak to dozens of incoming students in a variety of workshops, as well as to organize social events for them. Besides that, I also worked as a volunteer member of the Mental Health Awareness Week (MHAW) planning committee. Last winter, the MHAW team planned and hosted events that brought the university community together to build social connections and improve their mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being.

Another experience for which I am very grateful is having been a part of the Graduate Admission Committee of our department. We have had many strong candidates, and it has been very interesting to see how the admission process works. Moreover, I do not intend to keep my newfound knowledge and experience to myself. What I have learned will be shared with students from Brazilian institutions who aim to pursue their studies abroad. Finally, I have also had the pleasure to be the President of the Graduate Students Society.

And this is merely a small part of my merry and busy academic year...



THE DORIS BOYLE GRADUATE PRIZE WINNER

CAIRA MOHAMED, 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 Study 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.



DALHOUSIE GRADUATE SOCIETY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE (DGSPS)

Patricia Porto de Barros Ayaz, DGSPS President

WE BEGAN THE YEAR BY WELCOMING

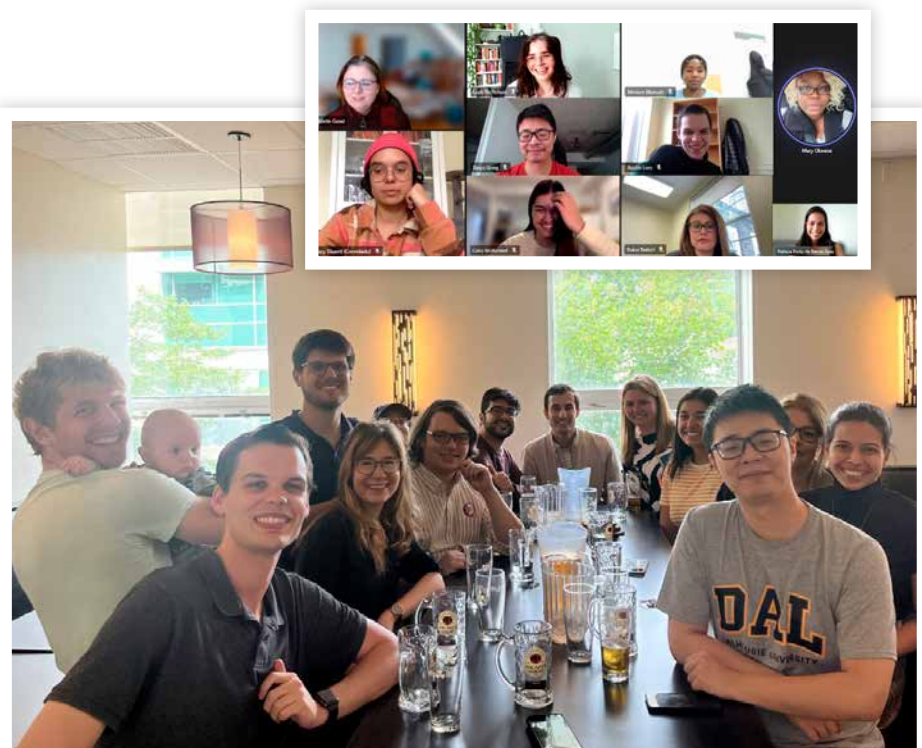
six new MA students into our program. These students compose a tight-knit and supportive cohort, which is very inspiring. Among them, we have Buket Tatlidil and Caira Mohamed, who volunteered to join our Executive team as Vice-President and Treasurer, respectively. As it used to happen before the pandemic, our first meet-and-greet took place at the Political Science Lounge and continued at the University Pub on campus. That day, the new cohort got a chance to engage with older graduate students and faculty members, as well as learn about the department and about Dalhousie as a whole.

Dalhousie Graduate Society of Political Science would like to congratulate all students for a successful year and highlight some of their most recent academic achievements. DGSPS would like to applaud Tari Ajadi and Tristan Cleveland on successfully defending their PhD dissertations; and Alice Craft, Bahar Tunc, and Savanna Shaw on successfully defending their MA theses. We would also like to congratulate Grant Curtis on passing his PhD proposal defence, and all the 2021-22 PhD cohort for successfully completing and defending their comprehensive exams. Additionally, congratulations to Leah Nicholson for winning the Political Science Department Three Minute Thesis competition, during which Xinyu Gong and I had the pleasure of participating in the jury. Finally, DGSPS would like to salute the current MA cohort for successfully completing their coursework and wish them all the best in working on their thesis.

However, as some people have wisely mentioned in the previous newsletter, I would like to remind each and every one of us that it is not all about our academic achievements. Our mental and physical well-being are essential for an outstanding academic experience – balance is key, and it is a pleasure to be part of a department that understands this fact.

Last but not least, DGSPS would like to extend their warmest thank you to Tracy Powell, Mary Okwese, and the other faculty members who have worked hard to help us have the best of our experiences at Dal. Our sincere thanks also go to the Center for the Study of Security and Development, and the Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence for all the opportunities you have provided for us, such as hosting amazing events.

Have a wonderful and restful summer, everyone!



GRADUATE STUDENTS MEET FORMER AFRICVILLE RESIDENTS

Tobias Schminke (PhD Candidate)

THE AFRICVILLE MUSEUM IS ONE OF

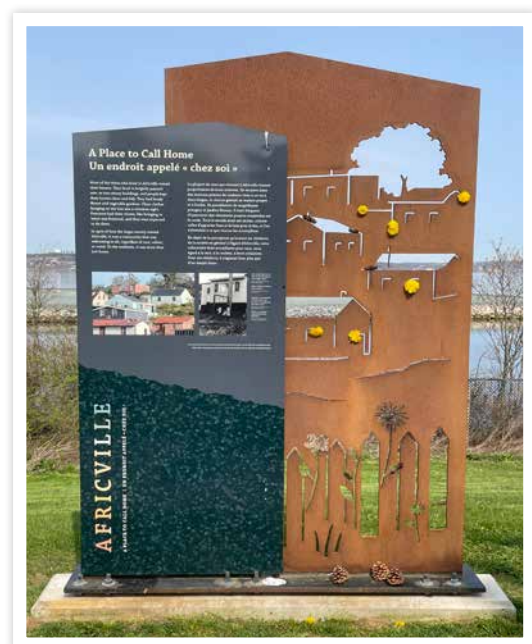
Nova Scotia's most important historical sites. It is a tribute to the former Black community of Africville, founded in the late 18th century and eventually destroyed in the 1960s in a so-called urban renewable project, in which a racialized community was forcefully uprooted in favour of a dog park and the aesthetically challenged A. Murray MacKay Bridge.

The museum displays artifacts, photographs, and stories of Africville residents, highlighting the rich history and culture of the community. The museum also aims to promote understanding and reconciliation and to raise awareness about the lasting impacts of systemic racism and social injustice.

The "Africville Apology" in 2010 involved a 4.5 million dollars public compensation settlement and the

construction of the museum, a replica of the community's church, which, in the 1960s, was destroyed by the city in the middle of the night. However, today, the museum does not receive government funding, and the city does not provide public or safe active transportation routes. Overcoming these barriers produced by public officials' neglect, political science graduate students and faculty from Dalhousie University ventured to the Northern shore of the Halifax peninsula to visit the museum on 14 October, the second trip of its kind in 2022.

The students had arranged for former residents to lead the tour through the museum—a personal, touching, and unforgettable experience.



POLI GRADUATE STUDENTS



**BASHAR
ALSARRAF**
(MA Candidate)

Jumping into the second year of my time in this program has brought many

surprises. These last few semesters have been full of challenges, including several setbacks to my personal health. Navigating a provincial health care system that is struggling has opened my eyes to the importance of public policy in improving access to fundamental health services.

However, thanks to the support of my fellow peers, mentors, and the political science department, I was able to take time to recover and return to my studies. This year has also been full of pleasant surprises, with yet another term as a Teaching Assistant, but also, the opportunity to represent Canada and Nova Scotia as a digital equity liaison for United Nations Associations Canada. Through my time with UNA-Canada, I researched the ways in which the digital divide excludes many marginalized individuals, groups, and communities from participating fully in society. As the world quickly shifted to many digital and virtual operations, the COVID-19 pandemic further highlighted the implications of the digital divide and made it increasingly pressing for all levels of government to address this issue. This work has had a direct influence on my own Master's Thesis by inspiring me to investigate the agency that municipalities have in addressing the gap left by the digital divide.



GRANT CURTIS
is a **PhD candidate** in Dalhousie's Department of Political Science. Prior to his retirement,

Grant's career focused on international development, with field-based assignments in several countries in Africa and Asia with United Nations system agencies, bilaterals, international NGOs, and the Asian Development Bank. He holds a BA in Political Science and English from the University of Saskatchewan; an MA in International Affairs from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University; an MPA from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; an MA in English from Dalhousie University; and an MFA in Creative Non-Fiction from the University of King's College, Halifax.

His doctoral work interrogates the failure of post-2001 state building in Afghanistan in relation to liberal peace/state building theory.

Research Interests

Development Studies with focus on the security-development nexus, fragile/failed states, state building, post-conflict emergency rehabilitation and reconstruction, and emergent civil society. Grant.Curtis@dal.ca



**ADAM
MACDONALD**
(PhD Candidate)

For the *Arrested Development* fans, I am starting to feel like Steve Holt in terms of

wondering when/if I will ever leave school. Joking aside, the end is near as I finish up with the writing of the dissertation and prepare to enter the job market this fall. I have enjoyed the past year academically immensely with many highlights and fond memories. These include being a winner of the Global Affairs Canada's 2022 International

Policy Ideas Challenge (for my work on evaluating different geopolitical orientations Canada could adopt towards the Indo-Pacific region); the winner of the 2022 Graduate Student Essay Award (on the nature of Chinese and Russian revisionism against US hegemony) by the Centre for Military, Security and Strategies Studies at the University of Calgary; and being a participant at a workshop hosted by the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network at the University of Victoria discussing relations with Russia in the Arctic. Though I now live in Montreal, I have enjoyed remaining in touch with many people in the Department over this past year.

I want to thank the Department and alumni for providing me funding to return to Dalhousie in October 2022 to attend a local conference and participate in an in-person CSSD event. It was great to come back to see everyone and hopefully I can do so again this fall for my defence.

Anyone, current and prospective students, interested in ever wanting to talk about anything related to the Department, the grad program, and preparing for life after grad school, feel free to reach out to me. My email is: adam.macdonald@dal.ca or adampmacdonald@gmail.com and my Twitter is @adampac.



**LEAH
NICHOLSON**
(MA Candidate)

I'm so grateful for all the support that has gotten me to this point. So many people

mentored me, believed in me, and pushed me to get my MA, apply for scholarships, and build on the research that I did in my undergrad. This year was quick, tough, and eventful! The fall semester was enveloped by our CUPE strike, but our successful labour action carried me through to the winter break. Now, I'm looking forward to the summer, writing my thesis, and spending time with friends and family.

POLI GRADUATE STUDENTS *cont'd*



IZZY ORTNER
(MA Candidate)

I graduated from University of King's College in 2021 with a Combined Honours degree

in Contemporary Studies and Political Science. My MA thesis research surrounds the impact of radical Caribbean theory on the decolonization question in the Caribbean. My general research interests include social movements, extremist/far-right groups and media, and decolonization.

Now that the classes for the degree have come to a close, I look forward to backwoods camping and canoeing at Kejimikujik National Park in the coming summer months.

I'm grateful to my high school English, Humanities, and Social Sciences teachers at Havergal College. I would not be this far in academia if it weren't for them. Thank you for seeing the potential in me and nurturing my curiosity about the world around me.

Thank you to my friends on the picket line. Solidarity Forever.



TOBIAS GERHARD SCHMINKE
(PhD Candidate)

Looking back at the 2022-23 academic period: The

comprehensive exams are done, and that's probably the best you can say about them!

I hastily add that I cherished barricading myself for hours between deep, musty Killam Memorial Library bookshelves with no other purpose than consuming the grand debates around Canadian and comparative politics.

Alas, sunlight and people could not be avoided altogether: With the support of the Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation, I attended the [2022 CAGS Annual Conference in Montreal](#), the [SEBOL conference in La Paz \(Bolivia\)](#), and

the [DemocracyXChange conference in Toronto](#), where I was (I don't use this word lightly) inspired by Nobel Peace Prize winner Maria Ressa. In addition, I look forward to attending a Western University French intensive course in Trois Pistoles, Quebec, for five weeks in May and June, supported by the foundation.

Some other notable snapshots in the 2022-23 academic period: I became a [fellow of The OpenThink Initiative at Dalhousie](#), which trains academics to communicate with a broader public. Also, I look back on my first participation in [CSSD events](#) as a speaker ("Lost and Confused? Canada in the world after 2022") and moderator ("Earthquake, Erdoğan, Elections: Türkiye in 2023") alongside my fellow graduate students, Allison Chandler and Buket Tatlidil. Organizing a student-and-faculty trip to the Africville Museum for the second academic year in a row was a particular pleasure for me.

Lastly, Scott Pruyers – with whom I look forward to the publication of our book chapter "Prejudicial Populists?" – deserves a thank you: his never-ending optimism and encouragement, paired with the occasional free lunches, keep me on track during this enriching academic journey!



BUKET TATLIDIL
(MA Candidate)

I am honored to be a Dalhousie graduate student as this was my first choice of program.

Returning to academia after working abroad as an English teacher has been an awe-inspiring experience for me, allowing me to pursue a career change into the field of refugee rights. Living among Syrian refugees in Istanbul propelled my interest and desire to expand my education, which has led to my current position as a settlement case worker in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

I am grateful for the unwavering support of my supervisor, my cohort, and the political science faculty and staff.

They have provided me with opportunities to enhance my professional skills and have been patient with me during moments of uncertainty. It has been a privilege to collaborate with Dr. Zaiotti, my thesis supervisor, who also happens to be one of my favorite professors from my undergraduate degree. I extend my appreciation to him for his guidance and support throughout the thesis design process. His expertise in refining my thesis topic and giving me direction has been invaluable in shaping my thought process and ideas on topics such as refugee rights, safe third country agreements, EU politics and institutions, and the partnership between the EU and Turkey.

Dr. Good, our graduate coordinator, has consistently offered support and motivation during stressful times. Tracy Powell and Mary Okwesie are life savers and are always ready to answer questions and offer their support. I would also like to thank Dr. Pessoa for the opportunity to be his teaching assistant. Dr. Bow's invitation to participate as a panelist in the round table event to address the upcoming elections in Türkiye was an incredible experience, and I am grateful for the opportunity. I want to express my gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Zaiotti, as well as Dr. Black and my cohort; Izzy, Leah, Ciara, and Mirriam, for coming out to support the event! The support of my cohort throughout the year has been invaluable, and I am grateful for the moments of joy we have shared, as well as the support during more challenging times. In particular, I want to thank Mirriam Mensah for being such a great friend and pushing me when I needed it the most.

I am looking forward to completing my thesis "How 'Safe' are Safe Third Country Agreements?" in the summer and eagerly anticipate the next chapter of my life in the field of refugee rights.

ALUMNI VIGNETTES

NICK HARRIS

(BA Honours in Political Science and Law Justice & Society, 2022)

Why do we study political science? The term politics comes from the Greek word polis, meaning city state. Political science is, in its essence, the study of the ideal political community. It's the study of that which we reach towards.

As a student of political science at Dalhousie and now international relations at the University of Oxford, I have learned that the international community is beset with challenges and it's clear to me that the world needs political scientists now more than ever. In the face of the world's seemingly impossible challenges, the idea of "reaching towards" a better community brought me to Oxford.

In November 2022, I was selected as a Rhodes Scholar. The Rhodes Scholarship, based at the University of Oxford since 1903, brings together individuals from around the world each year to complete their studies and "fight the world fight." This year I was asked by the Political Science Department at Dalhousie to take some time and write a reflection of my time at the University of Oxford. In the face of these challenges, what have I learned? Three lessons come to mind.

Lesson 1: I've learned to enjoy the little moments. To smell the flowers and listen to the birds, to enjoy the sunlight and the clouds that drifted by the dreaming spires of Oxford castles. To listen to the chatter in the local pubs and that soft whispering sound the breeze makes, like nature loves to chatter too.

Lesson 2: I've learned how to stand up for what I believe in. Surrounded by people, most of whom were born with all the world's advantages, I've learned how to stand up for my values. I put my name forward and was successfully elected as the Vice-President of the Oxford Student Union. I wanted to not just study political science, but to live those values in practice.



Lesson 3: I've learned, most importantly, to reach toward a better, more just, community. In the end, I'm reminded of the polis: the ideal political community. If political science is the study of that which we reach towards, it's people like you, those who dare to raise their hand—whether in the classroom

or at the protest—that make all the difference. There's hope for a better tomorrow, if only we strive to reach for it.

RON MACINTOSH
(BA Political Science with Honours, 1973)

After a transfer from McMaster, I completed the last two years of my Hon BA at Dal Poli Sci in 1973, including an Eric Dennis Gold Medal. Dal allowed and encouraged me to build my interest in developing economies on which I followed through, doing an interdisciplinary MA at Carleton in International Affairs. This led to a 35-year foreign service career. I had five assignments outside Canada including a spell in Washington DC along with three postings in Asia Pacific - Japan, Korea, and as head of Canada's office in Taiwan. Since retiring formally in 2010, I have done some research, teaching and conference work, mainly on Asia and mainly with the University of Alberta. I live in Ottawa with happy memories of my Dal time, even if only two years in the early 70s!



TALINE SELMAN
(BA Honours in Political Science and Law Justice & Society, 2020)

Since graduating from Dalhousie's Department of

Political Science, time has passed in the blink of an eye. As a 2020 graduate, my graduation was marked by the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced students, faculty, and staff alike to pivot into the unprecedented territory of online learning. At the time, I was in the midst of finishing up my last few classes, finalizing my honours thesis and completing my oral defense over the phone with Dr. Marcella Firmini and Dr. Kiran Banerjee.

Despite the unexpected last few months of my time in the Political Science Department, the program has left a long-lasting impact on me, not only inspiring me academically, but also personally. Academically, I found twin passions for international relations and political theory. I remember sitting in my introduction to political theory class with Dr. Katherine Fierlbeck and discovering my interest in philosophical questions while engaging with the idea of a social contract. I was confronted with

conceptually challenging material and the political landscape of world politics which deepened my interest in governance and sparked an understanding of the importance of the relationship between theory and practice. Personally, I had the pleasure of being a member of the Dalhousie Undergraduate Political Science Society (DUPSS) for all four years of my degree. This committee allowed me to meet some of my dearest friends who, to this day, push me to think creatively and critically about emerging issues in politics and challenge me to consider these problems in my legal career.

The skills I learned in the program from my professors and peers transferred directly into my studies at the Dalhousie Schulich School of Law. Although I expected that my time in political science would help me in classes like "Public Law" and "International Law", in fact the skills I learned were instrumental to my success in all classes. Political science and law have many things in common, not only in the sense that they relate to issues in governance, but also insofar as that they require the same abilities in critical thought, persuasive writing, and advocacy. To this day, I often think of Dr. Leah Sarson urging us to think about the importance of writing persuasively, and I ask myself, "what am I arguing, and why do we care?". The skills I learned in political science gave me the confidence to take classes fearlessly, in topics with which I had no familiarity, such as business law, for which I ended up completing a certificate. They also gave me the courage to partake in competitive mooting; I participated in the Philip C. Jessup Moot, an international law competition, in which Dalhousie ranked first nationally, and in the top 48 internationally. Now that I have completed my studies at the Schulich School of Law, I feel confident in soon starting a legal practice. My studies in political science will continue to have a long-lasting impact on the way that I solve problems. I have been fortunate enough to secure a student position at Patterson Law in downtown Halifax for the past two summers and am looking forward to starting my articling year with them this coming June. Although I am no longer

formally engaged with political science, my training in this field has propelled me to success in law school, and prepared me for the challenges to come.



ROGER THOMPSON
(MA Political Science, 1994)

Roger Thompson MA 1994 was appointed as a research fellow at

Dal's Centre for the Study of Security and Development in 2022 and he is now steaming at full speed ahead to a career as a freelance writer specializing in the US military. Roger has published 18 articles since September 2022 and one record-breaking piece titled "Facing the hard facts about the 'world class' US Navy" for the journal *Responsible Statecraft*. According to Editorial Director Kelley Vlahos, this article "is the best performing article traffic-wise for Responsible Statecraft of all time... Over 137,000 hits and counting. Wow! Thank you so much for doing it. I hope you will consider writing for us again!" He also recently received an endorsement for his 2007 book *Lessons Not Learned: The U.S. Navy's Status Quo Culture* from former Soviet Coast Guard officer Andrei Martyanov, author of the book *Losing Military Supremacy: The Myopia of American Strategic Planning*, which has been published in three languages. Martyanov called Roger's book a "watershed study" and an "important treatise" on the failures of the US Navy. Roger fondly remembers studying at Dal before everything he needed was on the Internet and attending many conferences on naval matters with his mentor the late Admiral Fred Crickard.

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

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

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

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

POLI NEWS is published annually by Dalhousie's Department of Political Science in cooperation with FASS Alumni Relations.

Editors

Dr. Katherine Fierlbeck, Department Chair
Tracy Powell, Administrative Assistant
902.494.2396 | psadmin@dal.ca

FASS Manager of Alumni Engagement
and Donor Relations
Mohammad Ashiq
902.494.6951 | Mohammad.Ashiq@dal.ca

Manager, Communications, Marketing
and Student Engagement
Genevieve MacIntyre
902.494.6288 | genevieve.macintyre@dal.ca

FASS Director of Development
Lori Ward
902.494.5179 | lori.ward@dal.ca

Office of Advancement, Development Officer
Tara Graham
902.943-5854 | TLGraham@dal.ca

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

