

Name: Katherine Fierlbeck

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Research interests:

Health policy

Political thought

Policy implementation

Democratic theory

Comparative public policy

Politics of evidence

Accountability and governance

Philosophy of human rights

Some interesting honours topics:

- Will democracy collapse?
- Is public health care in Canada sustainable?
- How well has the province balanced the pandemic response with democratic accountability?
- Is the evidence underlying modern medicine really “neutral”, or is it politically constructed?
- Is mental illness a biological or a political issue?
- Where do human rights come from? Are they still useful, or are they obsolete?
- When public policy decisions become increasingly based on algorithms, how do we make them more democratically accountable?
- Is identity theory being used by the state to draw attention away from the increasing economic polarization in society?
- Are many common drugs (such as antidepressants) fundamentally unsafe because of the conflicts of interest underlying a regulatory system influenced by large corporations?
- What will the outcome of the Cambie case mean for the future of health care in Canada?

Some previously supervised Honours topics:

- *The “Ins and Outs” of Canadian Health Politics: Tracking the Revolving Door Among Former Federal Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Health* (2020)
- *What the Doctor Ordered? Evaluating evidence as a basis for refugee health policy in Nova Scotia* (2017)
- *The Politics of Big Soda: How Coca-Cola Circumvents the Government to Forward their Sugary Agenda* (2016)
- *From past to present: Historical considerations of mental illness and current consideration of mental illness in the DSM-5* (2016)
- *Methods of Knowledge and Power: The Implications of Applying a Citizen Science Method to the Pharmaceutical Industry* (2015)
- *Pairing Healthcare and Capitalist Markets* (2012)
- *IVF, Infertility, and Obesity* (2012)
- *Education Policy and Aboriginal Politics* (2010)
- *Morality, Irrationality, and Oppression: The Marketplace of Ideas and the Limits of Free Expression in Canada* (2009)
- *Health Care Governance in the Charter Era: Chaoulli and the Reformation of the Public/Private Debate* (2008)
- *Embracing Uncertainty in Recognition: A Vindication of Contesting Identity in Common Terms* (2008)
- *Hastening the Process: A Gendered Perspective on Participatory Democracy as Customary Law Reform in Botswana* (2008)
- *Minority Rights, Majority Rules: Examining Barry’s Pragmatic Exemptions Approach* (2007)
- *Colonial Nation to Colonized Nation? Agency, Responsibility, and the Power of Choice in (Self) Government* (2007)
- *Liberalism and Culture: Reconciling Minority Rights and Orthodox Liberal Theory* (2004)
- *Political Education: A Philosophical Approach* (2004)
- *The Politics of Determining “Essential Services” in Health Care* (2004)
- *True Patriot Love: An Investigation into Will Kymlicka’s Political Theory* (1997)
- *The Two Threads of Enlightenment Rationality* (1996)
- *Collective Rights and Multiculturalism in Canada* (1993)
- *Liberalism, Race, and Identity* (1993)
- *The Politics of Deinstitutionalization and the Mental Health System in Nova Scotia* (1993)
- *Normalcy and Ideology* (1992)
- *Political Judgement and Citizenship* (1992)

Favourite hobbies:

Fitness (join me at Dalplex!)

How often do you check your emails?

Obsessively, when not in classes/meetings. Sometimes even then.

