

A Very Brief History of the Centre

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As part of the Political Science department's practicum program, Richard Kingston worked as a student intern for the Centre for the Study of Security and Development in the Winter 2018 term. One of his responsibilities was to prepare a draft history of the Centre, based on interviews with current and former Centre fellows. This history is a perpetual work-in-progress, which we hope will be updated and improved as time goes on.

Since its founding as the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies (CFPS) in 1971, the Centre has experienced a few thematic changes. Most recently was the re-branding of the Centre as the CSSD. My role with the Centre has been to document these progressions, to speak to current and former members, read their publications, and to illustrate the breadth of Centre knowledge, expertise, and activity. While its full extent is impossible to capture in such a brief report, the following is a summary of each of the (nearly) five decades. In addition, I have selected a few publications produced by Centre scholars that remain particularly relevant in the current socio-political climate. Apart from their inherent interest, these publications are a testament to quality and longevity of Centre work.

1971-1980

CFPS was launched in 1971 by Denis Stairs and Gilbert Winham. The Centre was created with funding from the Donner Canadian Foundation, in support of its comparative foreign policy approach. The initial goal of the Centre was to apply a consistent methodological foreign policy framework to multiple states. As a result, the Centre attracted scholars specializing in different areas, notably Robert Boardman (European politics and international institutions), Roger Dial (Chinese foreign policy), Michael MccGwire (Soviet naval policy), Timothy Shaw (African politics), Denis Stairs (Canadian foreign and defence policy), and Gilbert Winham (international trade policy), among others. These researchers examined the complex intersecting foreign policy characteristics of various states, producing a large quantity of insightful publications.

The scope of Centre operations quickly evolved beyond the framework, and included a wide variety of research objectives. In addition to the growing body of written work, the Centre became increasingly involved in conferences, either through Michael MccGwire's hosting of the high-profile Soviet Naval Developments conference series, the Centre's Foreign Policy Workshops, or consistent appearances by Centre members in external conferences. These conferences reached a wide variety of people, from students to prominent government officials both from Canada and abroad. The first decade of the CFPS laid the foundation for its reputation as a distinguished research hub. Furthermore, there are works produced during this time period which are particularly relevant to the security and development focus of the CSSD.

Roger L. Dial (1974). *Advancing and Contending Approaches to the Study of Chinese Foreign Policy*.

- A compilation of essays written by experts affiliated with the Centre. A variety of approaches create a comprehensive look at the theory surrounding Chinese foreign policy.
- Features a chapter by Robert Boardman, which highlights an apparent lack of understanding for what motivates Chinese foreign policy decisions. He draws on *Perception Theory*, an approach which focuses on the role played by cognitive structures, to examine Chinese foreign policy decisions. Following a method evocative of contemporary social constructivist theory, Boardman implicates several factors such as language, culture, and custom as informing models of human perception and behaviour at the state level.

John W. Holmes (1973). *The Changing Role of the Diplomatic Function in the Making of Foreign Policy*.

- Holmes calls for a renewed belief in the efficacy of diplomacy and cautions against allowing the technological advancement of communications to diminish the role of traditional diplomatic channels. Outlined here is a compelling argument for treating diplomacy as an imperative in foreign policy, notwithstanding its ever-increasing complexity.

1981-1990

Throughout the 1980s, the Centre expanded its range of activities and affiliations. Notable here is a long-running relationship with the International Ocean Institute and its founder Elisabeth Mann-Borgese, beginning in 1981 with a set of conferences on the Law of the Sea. Under Centre directors Gilbert Winham, Robert Boardman, and Dan Middlemiss, the Centre's focus expanded to include various aspects of maritime security, capitalizing on the relative absence of the subject from Canadian research institutions. This was in part fueled by the securing of a grant as part of the Department of National Defence's Military and Strategic Studies Program (MSSP). Through this program, the Centre hosted a series of Defence Fellows from the Canadian Navy, to bolster its maritime expertise.

Despite the increased emphasis on maritime security in this period, the Centre continued to facilitate the study of various aspects of international relations, development, foreign policy, and security. This included monthly Defence Newsletters which covered both Canadian and International security issues, and media outreach, with members contributing expert opinion to CBC Halifax, the Chronicle Herald, and the Globe and Mail.

Charles F. Doran & Joel J. Sokolsky (1985). *Canada and Congress: Lobbying in Washington*.

- In their examination of the Canada-United States relationship, Doran and Sokolsky identify an asymmetric cultural exchange, with US media being consumed in Canada far more than Canadian media is in the US. They highlight the role that public perception can have on influencing Congress, and caution that the economic significance of the alliance may be underestimated as a result of low recognition of the Canadian position among the US population. This dilemma is outlined within the frame of democratic norms and structures, highlighting the role that foreign influence can play in skewing public perception through lobbying in Congress.

1991-2000

Under the leadership of director Dan Middlemiss and with funding under the MSSP, the Centre continued to focus on issues of maritime security and oceans policy in a comparative perspective. During this time, there were many new faces who became a part of the Centre, including David Black (sub-Saharan Africa), Robert Finbow (trade policy), Frank Harvey (diplomacy and security policy), and Ann Griffiths (peacebuilding). During this period the Centre expanded its in-house publications program and hosted a number of high-profile events, including conferences and workshops on crisis management, civil-military relations, humanitarian intervention and peacebuilding. With leadership from research fellow David Griffiths, Centre fellows were often involved in “Track Two” diplomacy initiatives in various regions, including the Caspian Sea, and the India-Pakistan and Israeli-Palestinian conflicts.

David N. Griffiths (2000). *Regional Maritime Security in the Middle East*.

- Griffiths outlines a discussion of several complex foreign policy issues in the Middle East, drawing on ideas presented during a conference of the same name. Several solutions to regional instability are explored, with the aim of enhancing regional security structures, rethinking the role and perception of extra-regional intervention, confidence building initiatives, regional trade and economic structures, and political and social reform, among other factors.

David R. Black & Susan J. Rolston (1995). *Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy in the New World (Dis)Order*.

- A collection of essays exploring global and regional efforts to contain violent conflict in the post-Cold War world.

Janis van der Westhuizen (1997). *Ideas, Cultural Forces, and the Development of International Relations*.

- Westhuizen outlines the trajectory of International Relations, with special thought given to aspects of culture including art, architecture, film, and music. This insightful analysis of IR development places theories within their contemporary cultural context and highlights the importance of considering the broader picture in order to understand the motivation behind IR theories.

2001-2010

The early 2000s were marked by an ever-increasing list of Centre affiliations and operations, a relatively new cast of characters, and continued international recognition. Under directors Dan Middlemiss and then David Black, the Centre continued to focus on issues relevant to Canadian foreign and defence policy, with the notable addition of key areas such as strategic studies, human security, and international development. Along with the established Centre functions of media outreach, policy advice, Track Two diplomacy, publications and conferences, a renewed emphasis was placed on graduate students. The Centre, while not a degree-granting program, has acted,

and still acts, as a forum through which the work of graduate students can be showcased. Furthermore, activities such as simulation exercises held in conjunction with the Canadian military helped develop skills in crisis management and diplomacy. In turn, graduate employment prospects and expertise have been continually enhanced by work with the Centre.

Adding to Centre acclaim is the maintenance of a robust network of interdisciplinary organizations. Notably, the Centre is host to the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative (RDCSI), which was formed in 2007 by retired LGen Roméo Dallaire who was the Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda during the 1994 genocide. This global partnership approaches the issue of child soldiers from a security sector perspective, with training, research, and advocacy operations. The RDCSI maintains a strong connection with the CSSD, adding to the existing partnerships with Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute, the Canadian International Council, and the International Oceans Institute, among others.

Anita Singh & David S. McDonough (2007). *From Defence to Development: Resolving Threats to Global Security*.

- This book is a compilation of essays and addresses as part of the Centre's 2007 Graduate Symposium. Highlighted here are a series of works produced by graduate students affiliated with the Centre, which broadly conceptualize security in the post-Cold War and post-9/11 environments. With the aim of providing solutions to global insecurity, these essays embody a variety of perspectives, outlining the appropriate roles for major and middle powers, NGOs, and international organizations.

Christopher D. Laroche (2008). *Negotiating with the Hermit Kingdom*

- The puzzle of North Korean nuclear disarmament has been a constant since the end of the Cold War. In another example of a failed attempt at denuclearization, Laroche outlines the 2007 Six-Party talks. He provides an overview of the dilemma followed by an analysis of each player party to the talks and compares their approaches. This book seeks to illuminate the root of what hinders North Korean denuclearization attempts from enduring.

2010-

Since 2010, the Centre has continued to evolve. Prominently, the Centre was renamed the Centre for the Study of Security and Development in 2015. This shift followed the end of DND's Security and Defence Forum program, through which the Centre was receiving the bulk of its funding. The end of the SDF prompted the Centre leadership to reassess and expand its research focus, building on current strengths within Political Science and in other cognate departments at Dalhousie. Under director Brian Bow, the Centre has maintained its robust network of institutions, collaborating regularly with the Canadian International Council, Dalhousie's Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence, the Bill Graham Centre for Contemporary International History, and the International Oceans Institute. Furthermore, the Centre continues to act as the institutional home for the prolific Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative. In 2018,

the Centre collaborated with the Balsillie School to secure new DND funding to build a prototype network of Canadian defence and security scholars.

The Centre continues to host lectures regularly, such as the Glyn Berry lecture series, inviting guest lecturers such as Michael Byers, Adam Chapnick, and Reid Morden among others. With an active intellectual community and high standard of teaching, the Centre maintains an impressive list of graduate students whose work has been recognized with prestigious SSHRC, Killam, and Trudeau Foundation scholarships.

Ann Griffiths (2011). *Is There Life Abroad after Afghanistan? The Future of Canadian Expeditionary Operations*.

- In this book Ann Griffiths compiles a series of papers written by Centre scholars, including current director Brian Bow, and former directors Dan Middlemiss and Denis Stairs. With the benefit of multiple perspectives on the issue of Canadian expeditionary operations, this book explores the nature and likelihood of future military operations, the trajectory of Canada-US relations, and unpacks political lessons from Afghanistan. These papers outline Canada's role on the global stage, and the impact the Canadian public has on policy decisions.

Carla Suarez (2011). *Security and Conflict: Evolving Theory and Practice*.

- In the aftermath of the Cold War, intra-state violence has become far more common than inter-state violence. Suarez examines this new era of war, by unpacking the politics of securitization, problems with peacekeeping and peacebuilding strategies, alternative approaches to post-conflict justice, and Canada's role in international affairs. This book rethinks the current theoretical approaches to security studies.

David A. Beitelman & Jen-François Bélanger (2013). *The Rise of the Rest? Opportunities and Implications*.

- Framed within the major themes of balance of power and the role of technology in a changing economy, Beitelman and Bélanger examine the onset of emerging economic power in countries other than the United States. They seek to reconcile the enduring nature of the American economy and its apparent lack of decline with the rampant predictions that China will soon overtake the US economically. This book draws from several scholars, and outlines challenges to US hegemony by a variety of states.