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These “anxious” political times – as former Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland has recently labelled them – have energized our faculty and students with ramped up engagement on several fronts. Notable examples include our U.S. election night watch party (hosted by our student association and Professors Randy Besco, Andrea Olive and Spyro Kotsovilas), which had to be moved to a larger venue after overwhelming student interest, and our packed first-ever department Open House on our beautiful Maanjiwe nendamowinan building terrace for new and returning students. On the faculty front, Menaka Philips’ new book, *The Liberal Trap* won the C.B. Macpherson prize from the *Canadian Political Science Association* for the best book in political theory. UTM is also recognizing Professor Philips with this year’s Annual Research Prize in the social sciences. Several colleagues have also received major research grants, including Alison Smith, Andrea Olive, and Alexander Reisenbichler who received SSHRC grants on the politics or policy of homelessness, biodiversity conservation, and housing and climate change, respectively. Meanwhile, Geoff Dancy received a major grant from *Global Affairs Canada* to continue his Transitional Justice Accountability Project with partners at Harvard University.

UTSC faculty have been working extraordinarily hard to develop research projects, partnerships, and grant applications for Tri-Council funding. These efforts continue to pay off. Aisha Ahmad is building on her successful SSHRC Insight Development Grant, “Survival without the State: Community-led Famine Mitigation in War-Torn Somalia.” Torrey Shanks was awarded a SSHRC Connections Award for her project “Women in the History of Political Thought.” Andrew McDougall was awarded a SSHRC Insight Development Grant for his project “The Supreme Court and the Canadian Economy: Assessing the Impact of R.v. Comeau.” Similarly, Robert Schertzer received support from the SSHRC Insight Development Competition for his project “Nationalist Pluralization and the Fight over Climate Change.” Matthew Hoffmann joined the ranks of Connaught scholars by winning a Connaught Community Partnership Research Award for his project “From Envisioning to Empowering a Just Transition in Scarborough.” Lucan Way, inducted into the Royal Society of Canada this fall, continues his SSHRC-funded research on “The Sources of Democratic Resilience in an Age of Backsliding.” These impressive efforts join a dozen other projects underway at UTSC and a dozen others under review. We’ll have more to report in a few months. Congratulations to everyone!

Rising student enrollments at St. George signaled the start of an exciting year. We welcomed new faculty members Caleb Pomeroy (International Relations), Patricia Mockler (Canadian Politics), and Lana Salman (Comparative Politics), along with post-doctoral fellows Myrthe Bartels and Shardul Tiwari. Together with the Munk School, we also welcomed political scientists Brian Rathbun, Manjari Chatterjee-Miller, and Lewis Krashinsky, and we announced the joint appointment of Sheryl Lightfoot, an eminent professor of Indigenous Politics. Faculty members winning various distinguished awards since last summer included Franklyn Griffiths (Order of Canada), Sylvia Bashevkin (Governor General’s Award and Order of Canada) Jacques Bertrand (Distinguished Professorship) and Lynette Ong (SSHRC Insight Award), while fourteen professors across our three campuses won highly competitive SSHRC grants, and two PhD students, Yojana Miraya Osco and Jenna Quelch, won Public Impact fellowships from the Connaught Foundation. Rounding off a busy semester were three faculty searches (in Canadian Politics, Black Political Thought, and Liberal Democratic Theory) and lectures from several esteemed visitors, including Christina Bambrick (Notre Dame) and Serhii Plokhii (Harvard).

This past year has been a time of renewal for our graduate programs. In the summer of 2024, we launched “Politics in the Public Sphere”, a new experiential learning course for MA students. This course connects students with community partners to work on research projects. Partners include the Asia Pacific Foundation, Parity, the NATO Association of Canada, and the Canadian Human Rights Commission. Alumni interested in mentoring students through this program can reach out to the course instructor, Dr. Oded Oron. Additionally, we’ve introduced Oxford-style tutorials, which give students the opportunity to work closely with faculty members in small groups of two or three on research projects. We are happy to welcome Claretta Traeger and Nicola Nones, two post-doctoral fellows who will be teaching advanced courses in quantitative methods. Along with the roll-out of these courses, we are also developing a proposal for a new doctoral field in Research Methods.



Lawrence King
Undergraduate Student

Why did you decide to study Political Science (specialist)?

I decided to study political science because of politics' wide-ranging impact on everything around us. Our society can comprise of a very intelligent, talented, and dedicated population, but without properly functioning political institutions, only misery awaits us. In my opinion, intergovernmental relations in Canada operate without a rules-based approach and under the heavy influence of personal political ambition. The malfunctioning of this system is responsible for much of the public policy challenges that Canada faces, including healthcare funding, fighting climate change, infrastructure spending, and Indigenous services. Studying political science allows someone like me to explore these issues and come up with proposals to fix them.

What have been the most rewarding and challenging experiences during University thus far?

My most challenging experience has been bouncing back in courses that I did not initially excel in, which happens more often than most people would like to admit. The most rewarding experience has been having the honour of attending the annual award ceremony in the department, where faculty and leaders of the department, whom I've never met, told me they had heard of me and were happy to finally put a face to my name. I have had the honour of winning several awards during my years at U of T, but no award would ever come close to earning the recognition and respect of my instructors.

What did you learn at University that you did not expect to?

I learned how resilient and strong humans can be. The challenges of the university experience allowed me to go to a place within myself that I couldn't have gone to without it. At times, it can feel impossible to execute what we are assigned in classes, let alone present them in a manner that we will be proud of. Most students find the determination to overcome these challenges no matter how big or complicated the task at hand. The collective resilience and strength of our student body instilled confidence about our ability to deal with other serious issues in our world such as climate change, income inequality, and international conflicts.

What do you plan to do after graduation?

I plan to study public policy at the master's level and begin my career in the public service as a policy analyst. My ultimate goal is to become a member of the Privy Council Office.

"How power is delegated among people to then be vested in institutions is the process that determines the limit and potential we possess in our societies."



Serena Bahadur
Graduate Student

Why did you decide to pursue an MA in political science at U of T?

I have always been a fascinated observer of power. How power is delegated among people to then be vested in institutions is the process that determines the limit and potential we possess in our societies. As a young Black girl growing up, I knew I felt limits on my potential, so now I aim to engage with and challenge the biases of power towards equity. After I finished my HBA in International Development Studies at UTSC, I met my mentor, Dr. Caroline Shenaz Hossein and fell into the world of solidarity and social economy. I began hosting the 'Diverse Economies For Youth' podcast, where I interviewed feminist scholars and community leaders from her DISE (Diverse Solidarity Economies) Collective on how my generation can dismantle imposed limits and wield unrealized potential. The passion I felt throughout this learning experience led me here.

Tell us about the research you're planning to conduct

My research seeks to analyze the relationship between formal political and economic institutions, and their informal counterparts. Formal institutions, like our banks, are highly visible in Canadian society, so not many people know that there are alternative versions of them. Many diasporic Black women use community economies and money-pooling systems that work as an informal equivalent to formal banks. They build them from the ground-up without barriers to access them, making them more effective for their needs and attuned to their collectivist values. There is a rich history in academia on informal institutions, from Douglas North to Caroline Shenaz Hossein. When specific groups are excluded from formal institutions, they thrive using their own systems of informality. With formal political institutions at best collaborating with, and at worst criminalizing informal political institutions, a positive or negative relationship likely has a substantial impact on the way people in Canada view and interact with both types of institutions. My research aims to uncover how collaborative formal/informal relationships in Canada can introduce us to a diversified approach to knowledges, values, and power.

Future plans post MA?

Before further academic work, I would love to work for an NGO or the Canadian government so that I can accumulate more real-world experience and knowledge of the inner workings of formal institutions. This will shape me into a more worldly scholar and a stronger person and activist. I intend to complete a PhD abroad, and potentially a JD as well. From there, I want to contribute to scholarship and law. Writing, both academically and non-academically, has always been my passion, and I am excited to see how my MA will serve as an empowering basis for the rest of my life journey.

LENS ON LABS

Ziibiing Lab: Now under the direction of U of T's Indigenous Research Network, managing director Meagan Hamilton on how they plan to work together

What is the Indigenous Research Network and how will it work in tandem with the Ziibiing Lab?

The Indigenous Research Network (IRN) at the University of Toronto is committed to reshaping academic practices through Indigenous-led research, sustainable funding support, and the establishment of respectful, community-aligned methodologies. Through robust local, national, and international networks, the IRN fosters connections that prioritize Indigenous perspectives and support impactful, ethically grounded research initiatives.

In strategic partnership with the Ziibiing Lab—a Global Indigenous Politics Research Collaboratory with a unique focus on Indigenous politics from global, international, and transnational perspectives—the IRN aims to create a strong presence dedicated to Indigenous research at U of T. Together, we are committed to leading the way with multiple Indigenous methodologies and knowledge systems. This work aligns with a broader global movement to end the harmful extraction of knowledge from Indigenous communities and elevate Indigenous research practices that respect community sovereignty.

Despite Canada's formal commitments to Truth and Reconciliation, substantial change has been slow. The IRN seeks to bridge these gaps, building spaces where Indigenous scholars and Indigenous communities are welcomed and empowered. By integrating Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into academia, the IRN contributes to solutions for critical global challenges, from advancing social justice to addressing the impacts of climate change and beyond.

As the managing director of IRN, what will your and Professor Turner's strategic plan be for the lab going forward?

Since July 2024, Dr. Dale Turner has served as Acting Director of the Ziibiing Lab and Senior Advisor to the Provost on Indigenous Research, leading efforts to establish a strong foundation for Indigenous research at the University of Toronto. Under Managing Director Meagan Hamilton (through April 2025) and Indigenous Communities Liaison Roxanne Sky, the Indigenous Research Network is building a network to support Indigenous scholars and foster respectful collaborations with Indigenous communities.

The IRN emphasizes community-driven, ethically aligned research that upholds Indigenous data sovereignty and community-led priorities. Key initiatives include sustainable mentorship programs, securing long-term funding, and creating a dedicated IRN space at U of T as a collaborative hub for Indigenous scholarship. Through partnerships, workshops, and digital resources, the IRN amplifies Indigenous perspectives and methodologies, aiming for a transformative and lasting impact.

Indira Quintasi Orosco, formerly the knowledge mobilization specialist at Ziibiing, is now transitioning to the role of Lab Coordinator. In this position, she will be responsible for coordinating and delivering various initiatives, projects, and programs in collaboration with the IRN, strategic partners, collaborators, faculty, and students.

The Ziibiing Lab also offers resources, including a high-quality recording studio and equipment, accessible to faculty, students, and community members across U of T's three campuses for recording interviews, oral histories, and podcasts.



Meagan Hamilton

Eric Merkley, the new director of PEARL (Policy, Elections, and Representation lab), now housed in the Department of Political Science, introduces us to our newest research space



Eric Merkley

What is the PEARL lab and what are its objectives?

The researchers at PEARL explore Canadian and comparative political behaviour, including political polarization, misinformation, elections and voting behaviour, elite opinion and decision making, and the politics of AI. We tend to come at the study of politics through an empirical lens, using surveys, experiments, and text analysis for descriptive or causal inferences.

The lab was founded by Professor Peter Loewen, who was recently appointed the Harold Tanner Dean of Arts and Science at Cornell University. PEARL now includes four faculty members, myself as director and associate directors Chris Cochrane (UTSC), Michael Donnelly (UTSG/Munk) and Semra Sevi (UTSG). We have six postdoctoral fellows, six doctoral fellows, several MA research assistants, and two visiting international students.

Among our research projects, the most notable is perhaps our co-leadership, with a team at McGill, of the Canadian Digital Media Research Network (CDMRN), which monitors misinformation in the Canadian information ecosystem and its effects on public opinion. As part of CDMRN, our members have studied the effects of Meta's ban on Canadian news on Canadian public opinion and political information consumption. Beyond academic outputs, PEARL researchers have also conducted fast-response research projects about incidents in the media ecosystem as well as creating reports and updates for policy-makers, journalists and other stakeholders. Our members are also actively involved in studying the effects of generative AI on persuasion and misinformation correction.

As PEARL's new director, what will be your main focus for the next five years?

My priority is to ensure the smooth transition of our team and research program from the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy to its new home in the Department of Political Science. PEARL provides a unique and valuable training environment and helps fund graduate students in the department. It has also acted as a launching pad for the careers of a number of junior scholars, including myself, by facilitating the production of high quality and impactful research.

Our research process is fundamentally collaborative and all of our members—faculty, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows—propose and lead projects from start to finish. We believe the practice of social science can be a richer, more fulfilling, and more rigorous process when done in collaboration with others.

Maintaining this commitment to high-caliber training and high-quality research while institutionalizing PEARL as a permanent fixture of the Department of Political Science is my overriding goal.

Faculty Updates: Ran Hirschl tells us about his latest research and what being appointed University Professor means to him



Ran Hirschl

What is your general area of research?

My research focuses on Canadian and comparative public law. Over the last two decades, I have written extensively about the global expansion of constitutionalism and judicial review, and about the judicialization of politics and policymaking worldwide. Today, apex courts in ever more countries are issuing ever more decisions about seemingly ever more important questions, oftentimes addressing quandaries that define and divide entire nations. These global trends, which Canada joined with the adoption of the Constitution Act in 1982, are arguably among the most significant developments in late-20th and early-21st century government.

This past summer you were appointed the elite designation of University Professor. What does this recognition mean to you both personally and professionally?

It is a tremendous honour to be recognized in this special way, and to have my name added to the long list of distinguished, world-class scholars at the University of Toronto who embody the University's 'defying gravity' maxim. I must say that it still feels somewhat surreal to join the class of U of T political science giants such as C.B. Macpherson, Peter Russell and Janice Stein, although I am gradually getting accustomed to it...constitutional thought is one of Canada's main intellectual exports. I'm exceptionally proud to have contributed, however modestly, to this trend. None of it or any of my other accomplishments would have been possible without the unflagging support of my close family and colleagues, and not least, the ability of the department leaders over the years to create a collegial environment that welcomes novel thinking and is conducive to high quality scholarship.

What research project are you currently working on?

I am currently completing a new book entitled *Constitutionalism 2050*, which will be published next year by Cambridge University Press. In it, I assess the potential of constitutionalism as a dominant vernacular of contemporary politics to help us address the main challenges we face as we head into 2050 and beyond. It has been a fascinating intellectual exercise to think about planetary challenges from our present-day constitutional vantage point. I'm also finishing several new articles and book chapters on other topics such as the constitutional dimensions of extensive urbanization in Canada and abroad, experimental research on public participation in constitution-making, and the law and politics of the transnational regulation of sports. On this last theme, I am collaborating closely with my better half, Ayelet Shachar, with whom I managed to travel to Paris during the recent Summer Olympic Games to conduct interviews with members of international sport governing bodies and tribunals. I love my job!

Now in his second year at U of T, Tommaso Pavone on his latest appointment as the Director of the Centre des Études de la France et du Monde Francophone (CEFMF)

You've just entered your second academic year in the department of political science. What are your impressions so far?

People who are into nature excursions and foraging for wild edibles sometimes describe stumbling upon a fertile patch and being struck by a sense of "option anxiety" – well, for me, U of T is that bountiful patch of forest and meadow, where it's hard to know where to start! It is such a sprawling, patchworked, vibrant university in an equally sprawling, patchworked, vibrant city that I could explore for years and nonetheless feel that there's more people I must meet, events to attend, and conversations to be had. The pull of seemingly endless intellectual possibilities is stronger at U of T than in any university I know, but so is the pragmatic, humbling realization that you can't pursue it all and need to find ways to prioritize and structure your pursuits. Isn't this the central tension of the academic vocation, embodied in one place?

As the new Director of the Centre for the Study of France and the Francophone World at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, what will your main focus be in your new role?

I have three years to figure out how to best leverage CEFMF to support francophone studies in the humanities and social sciences, in a predominantly anglophone university. It means on the one hand, supporting immersive research by PhD students, faculty and invited intellectuals on French politics, society and culture, drawing on French sources (and to sometimes hold these conversations in French!). On the other hand, it means zooming out and dialoguing with our colleagues who neither speak French nor are centrally focused on the francophone world, to break down boundaries and illuminate pressing, cross-cutting lines of inquiry. Francophone literature, theory, and politics are born in particular places and times, but we can grapple with them, and think through them, across disparate contexts.



Tommaso Pavone

Knowledge Translation:

The goal of the 'Connaught PhDs for Public Impact' program is to support doctoral students in learning how to communicate their research to the public. Two recipients explain how they plan to make these connections through their scholarly work



Yojana Miraya Oscoco

YMO: My doctoral research focuses on how Andean communities resist mining extractive industries. To understand Andean forms of resistance, it is essential to examine how Quechua people exercise Andean community institutions and forms of governance, known as Community Governance (*Llaqta kamachiy*). *Llaqta kamachiy* is the common form of governance in Andean communities, a structure that precedes colonialism grounded in Andean cultural norms. With the support of this fellowship, my proposed project is to create podcasts and community websites to expose Indigenous struggles by expanding community media in Indigenous Quechua communities in Peru. Podcast episodes will be recorded in the communities where my doctoral research takes place with the goal of sharing and archiving personal stories, interviews, and storytelling.

The websites will share videos, audio recordings, and photos documenting different life experiences, enabling communities to construct solidarity across different regions and diaspora communities, which is important for raising awareness about extractive activities.

The importance of *Llaqta kamachiy* and the degree of governance can vary across different communities. Undertaking this kind of project fosters solidarity and raises awareness about the significance of political organizations that often do not receive the attention they deserve. Andean norms shape this form of governance and are deeply interrelated with broader social and political structures in Andean communities. Understanding it and sharing this struggle across the diaspora community is crucial in the context of



Jenna Quelch

JQ: With subfields in Canadian Politics and Public Policy, my research interests include the politics of parenthood and reproduction, with a focus on comparative health and social policy. With the support of the Connaught PhDs for Public Impact fellowship, my dissertation examines how provincial-territorial health systems conceptualize women's health and how different definitions of medical necessity contribute to inequities in health access for oft-contentious, gendered health services. My earlier work in the non-profit sector highlighted the importance of translating research into tangible changes, so I was

particularly interested in applying for the Connaught PhDs for Public Impact fellowship.

The fellowship provides a cohort-based approach to training, with sessions focused on knowledge translation and opportunities to workshop our public impact initiatives. For my project, I am focused on highlighting gaps in healthcare access, so the work will include producing op-eds for the public and a white paper for policymakers outlining best practices in service availability.

Emeritus Faculty Spotlight:

Ronnie Beiner: Grateful for his good fortune



Professors Ronnie Beiner & Melissa Williams

I grew up in a lower-middle-class suburb north of Montreal. It was a very constricted world. Going to McGill and then to Oxford broadened horizons big-time. I've always been acutely aware of my limitations: I read extremely slowly, and I'm hopeless at learning foreign languages. But I've also known what my advantages are – most of all, being able to craft nice sentences, and to write them very quickly. These abilities have paid big dividends! Becoming an academic, I got the amazing opportunity to visit exotic places all over the world; to meet, and sometimes become friends with, famous intellectuals; and to get well paid for doing what I love to do: writing. Sabbaticals allowed me to live in five different countries. Back in my student days, my ambitions were modest: I always felt that I would be content simply to teach political theory in a small liberal arts college. Clearly, I've far exceeded those modest ambitions. It's been an overwhelming privilege to spend most of my career at U of T, one of very best places in the world to pursue political theory, and I honestly don't think a single day has gone by without my feeling immense gratitude for my good fortune. It's heartbreaking to me that it's become steadily more challenging for our most talented PhD students to gain access to the great good fortune that I've enjoyed as an academic.

I retired officially in July of 2021. Naturally, people never fail to ask me if I'm enjoying retirement. I always answer: absolutely! I taught for 43 years, which was plenty. I've remained intellectually active, of course: my new book, *Moses and Political Philosophy*, will be published by UTP in the spring of 2025. Intellectual life, like other regions of life, is always beset with tough challenges, and the challenges don't seem to be diminishing. The humanities and social sciences are increasingly driven to give priority to the immediate demands of social policy in the here and now, rather than encouraging a loftier conception of the intellectual vocation. The imperatives of praxis trump more expansive forms of theoretical reflection, which I suppose sometimes they should. Meanwhile the perception grows outside the university that scholars of the humanistic disciplines are simply pandering to partisan ideological agendas, which in turn threatens to delegitimize the highest purposes of the university. As regards interactions between colleagues, and between teachers and students, these, as we know, have shifted more and more from physical to online settings, which I find dismaying. Intellectual life, in common with social and civic life more generally, requires hope in order to sustain itself in a productive way. I don't doubt that the next generation of students and scholars will find ways to nourish the hope that they need, and I admire them for being able to do that. But one wishes that the world made it a little easier to stay hopeful.

To PhD or not to PhD?

Having a doctorate informs more than an academic career. Two alumni – one who went the traditional route and one who became an entrepreneur, discuss their careers.



Aarie Glas (PhD, 2017)

Associate Professor / Department of Political Science and Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University

Why did you decide to pursue a PhD in Political Science?

After my BA in Political Science and History I was considering Law School. I really enjoyed Political Science, in particular International Relations so I decided to pursue a masters' degree. After studying at the LSE, I was really hooked. I wanted to return home to Canada and I knew – especially after working for a year in the private sector to pay off debts from living in London – I wanted to keep studying IR with hopes of continuing on as a professor.

As a Professor in the Department of Political Science and Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University, what does the job entail and what might a typical day look like for you?

I research, teach and work with students, and help run the mundane – though important – aspects of the university while also contributing to scholarly communities beyond it, like the Interpretive Methodologies and Methods group at APSA. That means my days vary. Some are focused on teaching prep, lecturing, and leading seminars. Others center on research and writing with plenty of meetings in between.

What advice would you give a graduate student considering going into academia or the workforce in general?

My advice will be nothing new to most, but finding a supervisor – like Matt Hoffmann – who you like as a person and who will support you and your work is crucial, as is the support of your student colleagues in the program.

What do you enjoy most and least about your job?

I enjoy teaching, particularly keen undergraduate students, and working with graduate students. Research travel and collaborative research are also high points of the job. This includes working with friends I made during my time in Toronto, including ongoing projects with Professors Jessica Soedirgo, Marion Laurence, Stéphanie Martel, and many others. On the other end of the spectrum are issues around navigating the fiscal challenges and pressures of higher education today.

Any fond memories of being a graduate student here?

I have too many to note! Studying for the comp exams with a great group of supportive friends, working lunches, post union meeting drinks at the GSU pub, and nervously prepping for conference presentations all immediately come to mind.



Kofi Hope (BA, 2006)

Co-Founder of *Monumental* / Urbanist in Residence at U of T's School of Cities

Why did you decide to pursue a BA in Political Science, African Studies and Religion?

At the time, I had so many passions and areas of interest, doing a Major and two minors allowed me to indulge them all. Politics and social change, both societal and institutional, was always something I was interested in and so I really took the 'follow your passion' approach to post-secondary education. This continued with going to Oxford for my master's and PhD. From my experience doing work in the community, I took actual questions about how change happens and turned them into research questions.

Co-Founder of *Monumental* and Urbanist in Residence at School of Cities, what do the roles entail and what might a typical day look like for you? How does your doctorate inform your professional life?

Running a small business means lots of time is spent with my business partner operating our company, supporting our staff, taking care of finances and developing new business. The School of Cities role has kept me very busy this Fall, teaching a new course called 'Hip-Hop and the City' with my co-instructor Shad Kabango in the music department. This mix of running a company and staying connected to teaching and research at U of T keeps an interesting balance in day-to-day activities. I continue to use the skills I learned during my doctorate, such as ways of thinking, writing and constructing clear and logical arguments.

What advice would you give a graduate student considering founding their own business or going into the workforce in general?

My advice is always to try to align your passions with what the world is looking for. Starting a business is all about putting a product or service out there that fits a need. The next step is to understand what problem you could solve with your company and for whom. Once you have that concept, don't wait, don't overthink it; but don't quit your day job just yet. Find a way to start that company now, as a 'side hustle' and go out and test what the market is for what you have to offer.

What do you enjoy most and least about your job?

I love helping to build a team, creating relationships with new people, facilitating critical conversations with clients and working on solutions to wicked problems. Sometimes the day-to-day administrative tasks of running a small business can be less exciting for me.

Any fond memories of being an undergraduate student

Meeting my wife in second year in Politics of Development class! That and organizing an event we held in 2005 where we invited 800 Black young people from across the city to Convocation Hall to discuss solutions to violence within their communities.



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1. Jacques Bertrand, Roméo Dallaire and alumnus Alexandre Pelletier (L-R) who was recently appointed the Roméo Dallaire Leadership Chair in the Study of Conflict and Peace at Université Laval.
2. Franklyn Griffiths (L) and Louis Pauly at a recent event to celebrate Franklyn becoming a Member of the Order of Canada.
3. The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Ontario Minister of Finance, meeting with students at a recent Canadian Club event. (L-R) L. Hutton, P. Phanachet, A. Brett, R. S. Pirsaraei, D. Shi, Minister Bethlenfalvy, L. El-Awad, P. Yakushev, S. Watson.
4. Lucan Way (L) and John Sides discuss the U.S. election as part of the Munk Distinguished Lecture Series. (Credit: Nicole In)
5. Lynette Ong receiving the SSHRC Insight Award from SSHRC President Ted Hewitt.
6. Doctoral students who presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Political Theory. (L – R): R. Wagner, S. Playford, K. Gordon, L. Gates, Professor Emily Nacol, V. Bruzzzone, I. Sonsino, J. Chorley-Shulz and M. Zeldes Rother.
7. Sylvia Bashevkin (L) receiving the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case.

Reports: Undergraduate, Graduate, Alumni and the academic job market

**Emma Dobrovnik**

President, APSS/Association of Political Science Students

The APSS hosted its annual orientation picnic in September, offering new and returning students a chance to connect as the semester begins. In October, we hosted our first pub night of the year at the Firkin on Bay. In November, we were fortunate enough to participate in The U of T Pre-Law Students' Association's Law Day event. Additionally, we held this term's academic panel, Palestinian Futures: Sumud and The Transformative Politics of Care. Our undergraduate mentorship program is also in full swing. The program connects first- and second-year students with upper-years who provide guidance on navigating academics and making the most of their time at university. Meanwhile, the editorial team for the latest issue of *POLIS*, the undergraduate journal of Political Science, has been busy working on this year's publication, entitled "Spectacle." We are currently planning next semester's Bubble Tea Social with the Undergraduate Public Policy Students' Association. We are also excited to announce that the APSS is elevating the Undergraduate Research Conference beyond its traditional format to create a more inclusive conference for all. Stay connected with us through Instagram [@utapss] where we post the social, academic, and professional opportunities that we have planned! We can't wait to see you at our upcoming events!

**Anthony Fernando**

Alumnus, PSAA/Political Science Alumni Association

On December 11th, the Political Science Alumni Association hosted Michelle DiEmanuele, Secretary of the Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council for the government of Ontario. Secretary DiEmanuele graduated from the University of Toronto in 1994 with a master's degree in political science. The evening featured a fireside chat led by Professor Andrew McDougall, followed by a reception and dinner. Secretary DiEmanuele spoke about her journey from political science student to Ontario's Top Public Servant. She also addressed how Ontario's Public Service is responding to contemporary challenges and opportunities. Closing remarks were delivered by Minister Todd McCarthy, another member of our alumni community, having completed his undergraduate degree in Political Science in 1984. Several Deputy Ministers and Cabinet Ministers were also in attendance. This event appealed to those interested in how government works and how to build a career in the public service. For more information on getting involved with the PSAA, please contact Anthony Fernando: anthonyfernando@gmail.com.

**Marc Calabretta & Piper Sterling**

Co-Chairs, GASPS/Graduate Association of Students in Political Science

The start of the Fall term brought many new and exciting opportunities to the graduate program! GASPS has been engaging with our new cohort participating in orientation events, hosting a few socials to welcome our new community members and strengthen our current community bonds. We have also selected our GASPS representatives for the academic year. We are also happy to share that the Women's Caucus, a valuable place for women and gender minorities in the department to find community and academic support became active again last year. Moreover, we will be announcing our research cluster funding very shortly, and we are excited to continue funding our colleagues in their research pursuits, including the newly formed Qualitative Methods Cluster and International Relations Area Working Group. As the year goes on, we are hoping to engage in many projects, from more socials and professional development opportunities to an updated website and revamped social media presence. We are very much looking forward to bringing this semester to a successful close and continuing to engage our community through the winter term! We would also like to thank our fellow executive members, Natalie Playford, Callum Shepard, and Valeria Suarez-Gomez, for their excellent work in GASPS this year.

**Geoff Dancy & Menaka Philips**

PhD Job Placement Coordinators, Report on the Academic Job Market

The Graduate Placement series consists of professionalization workshops—on entering the market, applying for academic positions and postdocs, and crafting effective presentations—as well as practice job talks delivered by graduate students. By the end of the fall term, we will have run nine practice job talks featuring graduate students either actively on the market or preparing for it. The workshops have benefitted from great student and faculty engagement thus far. Since becoming placement directors in the fall of 2023, our aim has been to give students some tools for professional development, and to foster a culture of departmental support and peer feedback among graduate students at all levels. We look forward to continuing the series in the winter term. William O'Connell (2024 Postdoctoral Associate, Columbia University): "The academic job market is perhaps where knowing the 'hidden curriculum' is most important, and Profs. Philips and Dancy did an excellent job demystifying it in their placement workshops. We covered everything from writing application materials to preparing talks to navigating the lengthy and often variable interviewing process. These sessions were invaluable not only for my job search, but also in clarifying crucial elements of my dissertation to speak to a wider audience."

Contributors: Serena Bahadur, Ronald Beiner, Steven Bernstein, Marc Calabretta, Christopher Cochrane, Geoffrey Dancy, Emma Dobrovnik, Theresa Enright, Anthony Fernando, Aarie Glas, Christopher Greenaway, Meagan Hamilton, Philip Henderson, Ran Hirschl, Kofi Hope, Lawrence King, Margaret Kohn, Lewis Krashinsky, Sheryl Lightfoot, Eric Merkley, Nicola Nones, Yojana Miraya Osceo, Louis Pauly, Tommaso Pavone, Menaka Philips, Jenna Quelch, Lana Salman, Piper Sterling, Junyan Zhu.

POLITICS

Editors: Jennifer O'Reilly, Julie Guzzo, Elizabeth Jagdeo
Front Cover & design: Chenyu (Donny) Wang

Front Cover: *Campus Views - Roberts Street Rink*
 Photograph by Robert Lansdale, January 30, 1972
 University of Toronto Archives

Faculty

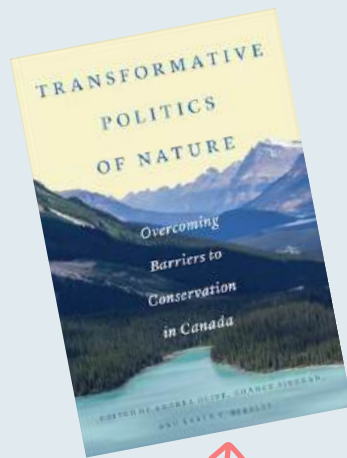
- **Sylvia Bashevkin** received a Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case and was appointed to the Order of Canada.
- **Jacques Bertrand** received U of T's Dean's Research Excellence Award and was appointed Junior Faculty Advisor for a one-year term.
- **Dan Breznitz** received the "That's Interesting!" Award from the Academy of International Business for his co-authored paper, "Business Networks, Enclave Formation, and the Failure of Foreign Investment to Transfer Technology."
- **Geoff Dancy** received a major grant from Global Affairs Canada to continue his research with partners at Harvard University.
- **Franklyn Griffiths** was appointed to the Order of Canada.
- **Matthew Hoffmann** won a Connaught Community Partnership Research Award.
- **Lynette Ong** received the University's Distinguished Professor Award, was the co-winner of the CPISA prize in comparative politics and received a 2024 SSHRC Impact Award.
- **Tommaso Pavone** was appointed as Director of the Centre for the Study of France and the Francophone World (CEFMF).
- **Menaka Philips** received the CPISA C.B. Macpherson prize. She also received UTM's Annual Research Prize in the social sciences.
- **Alexander Reisenbichler** was appointed MA supervisor for a one-year term.
- **Semra Sevi** received a Connaught New Researcher Award.
- **Torrey Shanks** was awarded an SSHRC Connections Award.
- **Peter Solomon** was elected an Honorary Fellow of the American Society for Legal History.
- **Matthew Walton** was appointed Associate Professor with tenure. (July 1, 2024).
- **David Wolfe** was appointed as Acting Associate Vice-President International Partnerships at U of T.
- **Lucan Way** (Fellow) and **Caroline Shenaz Hossein** (College Member) were both elected to the Royal Society of Canada (RSC).
- **Antoinette Handley, Phillip Lipsy, Kate Neville** (& co-applicant **Jessica Green**), **Andrea Olive, Andy Sabl, Semra Sevi, Alison Smith** and **Lucan Way** all received SSHRC Insight grants.
- **Andrew McDougall** (& co-applicant **Elizabeth Acorn**), **Alexander Reisenbichler, Robert Schertzer** and **Semra Sevi** all received SSHRC Insight Development grants.

Students

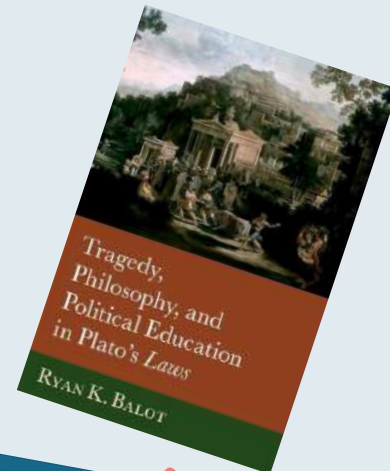
- New PhD's:** Dr. Victor Bruzzzone, Dr. Yang-Yang Cheng, Dr. Mujahed Islam, Dr. Catherine Moez, Dr. Andreea Musulan, Dr. William O'Connell, Dr. Semuhi Sinanoglu, Dr. Chengmin Xu.
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship (Domestic PhD):** Sanjida Amin, Thomas Bergeron, Marc Calabretta, Isabela Dos Santos, Thomas Galipeau, Kelsey Gordon, Laila Khoshkar, Avinash Krishendeoll, Tanya Kuzman, Devin Ouellette, Matthew Palynchuk, Jae Park, Michaela Pedersen-Macnab, Jenna Quelch, Marc-Antoine Rancourt.
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship (Masters):** Jasdeep Sidhu.
- Connaught PhD for Public Impact Fellowship:** Yojana Miraya Oscco, Jenna Quelch.
- Beattie Fellowship:** Iddan Sonsino.
- Recognition of Excellence Award:** Keith "Chuka" Ejeckam, Alaa Mazloun, Maemae Richardson, Eli Rose.
- SSHRC Doctoral:** Madalyn Hay Kellar, Samuel Henderson.
- Outstanding TA:** Alfred Oduro (UTSG), Neekoo Collette (UTM), Victor Bruzzzone (UTSC).
- Royal Bank Graduate Fellowship in Public and Economic Policy:** Mathieu Beauchamp.
- SGS Inclusive Excellence Admissions Scholarship:** Catherine Dumé, Kaia Poole.
- SGS Inclusive Excellence Graduate Scholarship:** Ashley Splawinsky.
- Robert and Moira Sansom Ideas Foundation Graduate Scholarship:** Devin Ouellette.



Two Cheers for Minority Government: The Evolution of Canadian Parliamentary Democracy, Second Edition
Peter H. Russell
University of Toronto Press

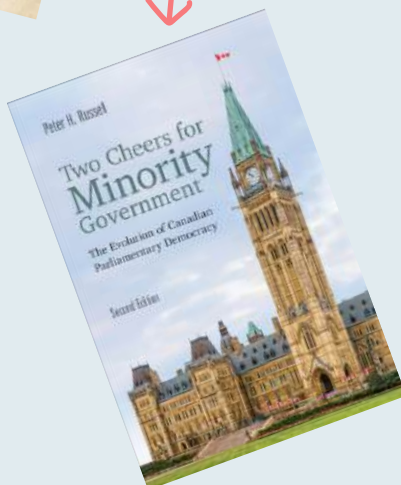


Lectures on the Philosophy of Right, 1819-1820
G.W.F. Hegel
(Translated by **Alan Brudner**)
University of Toronto Press

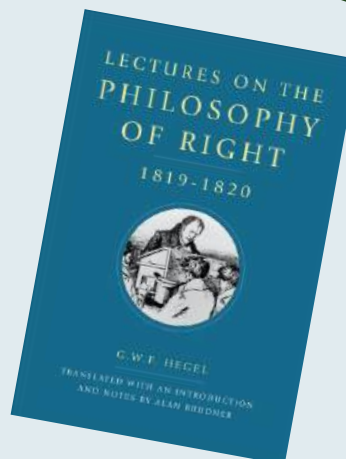


The Banker Ladies: Vanguards of Solidarity Economics and Community-Based Banks
Caroline Shenaz Hossein
University of Toronto Press

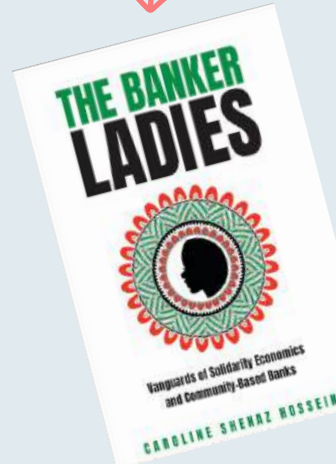
Going to Seed: Questions of Idleness, Nature, and Sustainable Work
Kate J. Neville
University of Regina Press



Transformative Politics of Nature: Overcoming Barriers to Conservation in Canada
Edited by **Andrea Olive, Chance Finegan** and **Karen F. Beazley**
University of Toronto Press



Tragedy, Philosophy, and Political Education in Plato's Laws
Ryan K. Balot
Oxford University Press



NEW



Christopher Greenaway (PhD, *University of Toronto*) is an award-winning educational developer and the Manon Tremblay Fellow for the Canadian Study of Parliament Group. He applies a political discourse framework to his research and teaching, focusing particularly on parliamentary politics and accessibility in Canada. Having taught over 20 different courses across the University of Toronto, he now joins UTM as Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream, where he integrates experiential learning and Writing-Integrated-Teaching into his courses on Canadian government and federalism.



Philip Henderson (PhD, *University of Victoria*) is a settler scholar, conducting his postdoctoral fellowship under the supervision of Professor Dale Turner, exploring interrelations between organized labour and Indigenous land/water defenders in Canada. He is also editing a volume under the working title *The Work of (Anti-) Colonialism* and is completing his first manuscript, *On the Shores of Anger*, which elaborates a theory of settler anger as a constituent force of Canadian colonialism. He is also in the middle stages of a book on state-theory entitled *Institutionalizing Canadian Imperialism*.



Lewis Krashinsky (PhD, *Princeton University*) joins UTSC as a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, under the supervision of Professor Christopher Cochrane. At Princeton, he was a Fulbright scholar, a recipient of a SSHRC Doctoral Award, and the winner of the George Kateb teaching award. He studies political behaviour in Canada and the United States with a focus on white working-class voting. He was born and raised in Toronto.



Sheryl Lightfoot (PhD, *University of Minnesota*) joins the department as Professor, with a joint appointment at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. Her research focuses on global Indigenous politics and rights implementation. She is the author of *Global Indigenous Politics: A Subtle Revolution* and *The Handbook of Indigenous Public Policy*. She is currently an Expert Member and Former Chair of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP). She was previously at the University of Minnesota and the University of British Columbia.



Nicola Nones (PhD, *University of Virginia*) joins the department as a sessional instructor in Winter 2025. Since July 2023, he has been a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, working on projects on the political and economic repercussions of sovereign bond legal clauses with Mark Manger. He specializes in international and comparative political economy, using a range of quantitative and qualitative approaches. His current research focuses on the media and the economy, with a particular emphasis on finance.



Lana Salman (PhD, *University of California, Berkeley*) is a scholar of international development and urban politics. Her research and teaching focus on everyday statecraft, social reproduction, and urbanism in the Middle East and North Africa. Before joining the University of Toronto, she was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University, and a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellow at Ghent University. Salman's work is grounded in transdisciplinary inquiry and engaged research across the North/South divide.



Junyan Zhu (PhD, *University of Nottingham*) joins the PEARL lab as a postdoctoral fellow under the supervision of Professor Eric Merkley. Her research focuses on political advertising, campaigns and elections. In collaboration with colleagues from the Media Ecosystem Observatory at McGill University, she serves as the lead survey analyst for the 2024 British Columbia provincial elections, examining social media engagement, news consumption, and public perceptions of AI and misinformation.

FACE



Meet the team from the China Governance Lab!

Based at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, the China Governance Lab serves as a hub for students and faculty interested in China-related governance issues to discuss ideas and generate research for the scholarly and policy communities. Led by Lynette Ong, the Distinguished Professor of Chinese Politics at the University of Toronto, the lab aims to serve the U of T and larger communities by engaging in research relevant to China's authoritarian system and its impact on Canada and western democracies. It also holds public events to disseminate their research findings. Current projects include 'Social Unrest in China' and 'Foreign Interference in Canada'. Faculty and students who would like to get involved can reach out to Professor Ong at lynette.ong@utoronto.ca. For more information, please visit: <https://www.ChinaGovernanceLab.org>.

The team: 1. Professor Lynette Ong 2. Elsa Jia 3. William Shi 4. Steven Wang 5. Jiayi Du

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