

FALL 2022

FISSSH TALES

Faculty of Indigenous Studies,
Social Sciences and Humanities
NEWSLETTER

The UNBC Faculty of Indigenous Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities is grateful to work and learn on the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. We take seriously our responsibility to live in good relation with the original occupants of this land.

Our Faculty is also committed to UNBC's values on equity, diversity and inclusion. We believe that social and cultural diversity is core to enriching the learning environment of a modern university. The confluence of diversity and respectful discussion stimulates creative thoughts, new ways of thinking, and new pathways of inquiry.

DEAN'S WELCOME



Dr. Kriston Rennie

On behalf of the Faculty of Indigenous Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities, it's my pleasure to welcome all new and returning students, faculty, and staff to the beginning of another academic year. As this Fall newsletter illustrates, it has been a busy and productive summer for many. I note, in particular, the excellent work of our Graduate students, our faculty's active research agendas (including grants and publications), the successful archaeology field school in Charlie Lake, exciting news from a Global and International Studies alumna, and much more.

We also have a lot to look forward to in the academic year ahead, with events planned throughout 2022-23. So please keep an eye out for the various Faculty invitations and advertisements, as we return to more in-person and on-campus activities that aim to mobilise, recognise, and celebrate the many teaching and research strengths and expertise within our Faculty.

And finally, I want to thank our new Engagement Advisor, Dr. Ben Bradley, for taking on the role of curating and producing our Faculty's newsletter. My gratitude as well to everyone whose teaching, research, and studying adventures make the content not only possible, but rich and exciting. Happy reading!

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: EMILY MACLISE:

Tell us about yourself and your background:

I was born in Williams Lake on the unceded territory of the Tsilhqot'in Nation. My family, which is of Scottish and Irish ancestry, moved to Prince George when I was eight years old, and I have lived here on the unceded traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation ever since.

As a pre-teen and teenager, I was heavily involved in the local music, speech arts, and drama communities, and I initially planned to pursue a career in acting and theatre. After finishing high school, I spent several years working in the theatre industry, teaching speech arts and drama classes to children and teenagers and completing an Associate (ARCT) Diploma in Speech Arts and Drama Performance with the Royal Conservatory of Music. However, I eventually realized that a career in theatre and acting would not be a good fit for me.

During this time, I began to develop a strong interest in human rights and social justice issues as I became more aware of the discrimination, disadvantage, and injustices that many individuals and groups experience in contemporary Canada, and I became interested in human rights law as a mechanism to address these issues. As a result, I decided to pursue an undergraduate degree at UNBC so that I could subsequently attend law school and become a human rights lawyer. I completed a BA in English at UNBC in April, and I decided to continue on to the English MA program here before going to law school.



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Tell us about your graduate research:

My research focuses on settler allyship against colonial oppression in literature written during the Romantic era. I am studying three British authors and organizations who used their writings to challenge oppressive colonial orthodoxies and to support Indigenous peoples' resistance to colonial injustices in Upper Canada during the late 1830s: Anna Brownell Jameson, Eliza Field Jones, and the Aborigines' Protection Society. Although these authors attempted to act as allies to Indigenous peoples by challenging colonial oppression, the former remained fully implicated in colonization and, to varying degrees, engaged in practices that supported and perpetuated harmful aspects of colonial ideology and policy.

My analysis of these authors' writings is informed by postcolonial theory and research on settler colonialism, as well as contemporary scholarship on allyship. By using this conceptual framework to analyze these texts, I hope to identify common issues and problems with historical allyship that are relevant to present-day Canada. Consequently, my research focuses on the following questions: 1) what do these authors' writings reveal about the nature, dynamics, and outcomes of settler allyship against colonial oppression in Romantic-era Upper Canada, and 2) to what extent can these texts illuminate problems with contemporary allyship to Indigenous peoples? I am particularly interested in studying the disjunction between my chosen authors' perceptions of their actions and the reality of those actions, as, from the research that I have conducted so far, this disconnect seems to also be a major problem with allyship in present-day Canada.

Why did you choose UNBC for your studies and for this research project?

I mainly chose to remain at UNBC for my graduate studies due to the faculty in the English and First Nations Studies departments. The opportunity to work with Dr. Kevin Hutchings, an English professor who has conducted extensive research on representations of Indigenous-settler relations in Upper Canadian literature, was the primary reason why I stayed here. Our research interests align very closely, so he is an ideal supervisor for my MA thesis. Moreover, the emphasis on First Nations Studies and Indigenous Studies at UNBC makes it an excellent place for me to conduct research on settler allyship to Indigenous peoples. Additionally, during my undergraduate studies, I was impressed by the supportive academic community and engaging research environment at UNBC, and I wanted to continue working in this positive atmosphere during my graduate studies.

What are your upcoming plans for the project?

I am only in the first semester of my MA degree, so for now I am focusing on developing my conceptual framework and conducting contextual research for my thesis. Once I have completed it, I would like to publish its individual chapters as journal articles.

My hopes for the impact of my research are twofold. First, I hope that, by increasing scholarly knowledge of historical and contemporary problems surrounding allyship, my research will assist non-Indigenous individuals to recognize and avoid these issues when working with Indigenous peoples in present-day Canada. Second, I hope that conducting research on allyship will allow me to learn how to effectively stand in solidarity with Indigenous peoples, as well as other individuals and groups who are experiencing discrimination, disadvantage, and marginalization, which is what I aspire to do in the future as a human rights lawyer. I have a strong interest in working with Indigenous communities to end violations of their human rights and Indigenous rights, as well as to address issues surrounding stolen land, self-government, and sovereignty. However, as a non-Indigenous person, I need to ensure that I work with Indigenous communities in a respectful, constructive manner that actually produces meaningful change without causing harm, and I hope that educating myself on issues surrounding allyship via my graduate research will allow me to do so.

"the emphasis on First Nations Studies and Indigenous Studies at UNBC makes it an excellent place for me to conduct research on settler allyship to Indigenous peoples"



GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: RONJA FRANK:

Tell us about yourself and your background:

I am an international student from Germany in my final year of the English MA program here at UNBC. I completed my undergraduate degree in English, Theology, and Education in 2020. Before coming to UNBC, I worked at the Equal Opportunities and Diversity Management Unit at my previous university, which gave me some really good insights into university administration and the ways in which postsecondary institutions can contribute to a diverse and welcoming environment for their students. In my free time, I like to read, write, draw, do yoga, bake, and spend time with my friends and family. My favourite book series at the moment are probably *The Wheel of Time* by Robert Jordan and *Cradle* by Will Wight. I also recently read *A Psalm for the Wild-Built* by Becky Chambers and *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer, both of which I enjoyed immensely. Since my partner has family in both Canada and South Africa, and my family lives in Germany, we typically spend our summers travelling to one continent or another together to visit our loved ones around the globe.

Tell us about your graduate research and upcoming plans for the project:

My current research focuses on children's literature of the late 19th and early 20th century. I am interested in Romantic notions of childhood and 'nature,' particularly in the human-nonhuman relationships and land ethics that they mediate. My conceptual framework combines ecocritical, post humanist, and postcolonial theory. After completing my Masters, I want to pursue doctoral studies in the Environmental Humanities. Through my research, I aim to examine how the engagement with literary texts can enable and encourage readers to rethink and re-evaluate the human relationship to human and nonhuman environments and entities in positive and productive ways.



Why did you choose UNBC for your studies and for this research project?

I came to UNBC as an international exchange student in the 2017/2018 academic year, so when I applied for the MA program, I already had an idea of the positive and welcoming learning environment and community that UNBC offers. Since I am really interested in ecocritical approaches to literary analysis, the English MA program's focus on literature, culture, and place also seemed like a great fit for my current and future research.

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FACULTY UPDATES

Congratulations to **Dr. Daniel Sims** who received an Insight Grant, with Tyler McCreary and Nicole Wheele valued at \$389,652 titled “A Forgotten Land: Tsek'ehne Concepts of Wilderness and Development in the Finlay-Parsnip Watershed of Northern British Columbia, 1871-1956.”

On September 21, 2022, **Dr. Daniel Sims** held the inaugural workshop for Indigenous Studies 101. It was titled “What Is Colonialism?” This workshop series is modeled after one he previously organized at the University of Alberta – Augustana Campus and is going out of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives on Campus. It is aimed to help faculty and staff Indigenize and decolonize their course content and pedagogy. He would like to thank Henry Harder, Brandon Prince, and Aman Litt for receiving his proposal and helping him organize it.



A further congratulations to **Dr. Dana Wessel-Lightfoot** who won Article of the Year award from the Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies (best article published in this journal from 2020 to 2021).

Dr. Paul Bowles, Global & International Studies, recently participated in the first Arctic Academy for Sustainability held in northern Finland. He gave a number of lectures to graduate students attending the field school which was organized by the UArctic Thematic Network on Sustainable Resources and Social Responsibility and funded by a grant from the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. The second Academy will be held at UNBC in May 2023 and there are opportunities for graduate students to attend.

Dr. Karin Beeler presented a paper on “Canine ‘Bites’: Dogs, Disability and Human Health in Short Screen Productions” at the Animals in the American Popular Imagination conference (September 2022).

Dr. Karin Beeler Co-hosted and acted in an Improv show for the Nechako Community Theatrics Society (September 24, 2022 at the Omineca Arts Centre)

Dr. Ben Bradley gave a public talk on “The Long Wait for Highway 16” at the Valley Museum and Archives in McBride (October 1, 2022), and presented the paper “Fruitleggers and Fruit Police: Black Markets and Agrarian Resistance on the Margins of Canadian Orchard, 1940-1975” at the Agricultural History Society conference at the University of Stavanger (August 2022).

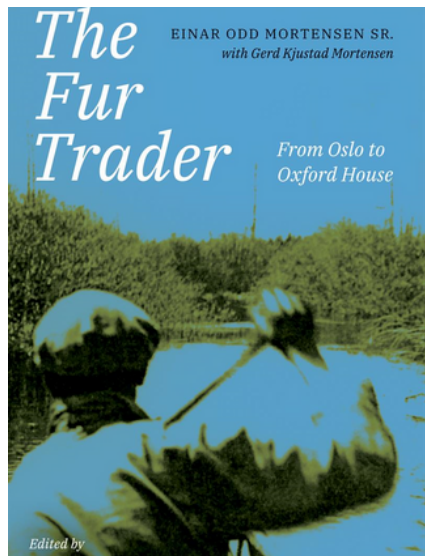
ALUMNI UPDATES

Karine Peschard, a graduate of the MA INTS program at UNBC; has written a book, Seed Activism – Patent Politics and Litigation in the Global South, will be published next month by MIT Press.

The book takes a deep look at the strategies used by corporations to control, and profit from, patented biotech crops in countries with different intellectual property legislation – and how activists are fighting back in the courts. Seed Activism was released on October 4. It is now available to order and will also be made available in Open Access on the MIT Press website.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS



Dr. Daniel Sims

Daniel Sims and Ingrid Urbeg, eds., *The Fur Trader: From Oslo to Oxford House* (University of Alberta Press, 2022).

Daniel Sims, "The West Beyond the Levant: Comparing British and Ottoman Colonization in the Writings of Algernon Heber-Percy" is in press with the journal *Prairie History* for its issue number 8, a special theme issue on the Indigenous West.



Dr. Gary Wilson

P. Selle and Gary Wilson, "Economy, Territory, and Identity: A Rokkanian Analysis of Indigenous Self-Determination in Canada and Norway," *Polar Record* 58, 3 (2022): 1-12.

Dr. Karin Beeler

Karin Beeler and Stan Beeler, eds., *Animals in Narrative Film and Television: Strange and Familiar Creatures* (Lexington Books/Rowman & Littlefield, 2022).

Dr. Gabrielle Daoust

Jan Selby, Gabrielle Daoust, and Clemens Hoffmann, *Divided Environments: An International Political Ecology of Climate Change, Water and Security* (Cambridge University Press, 2022).

Dr. Dana Wessell Lightfoot

Alexandra Guerson and Dana Wessell Lightfoot, Dana, "A Tale of Two Tolranas: Jewish Women's Agency and Conversion in Late Medieval Girona," *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies* 12, 3 (2020): 344-364.

Alexandra Guerson and Dana Wessell Lightfoot, "Complicated Lives and Collaborative Research: Mapping the Effects of Conversion to Christianity on Jewish Marriage Practices in Late Medieval Girona," *Medieval People* 36 (2022).

Dr. Fiona MacDonald

Created a website funded by her SIG Explore Grant awarded by UNBC on photovoice pedagogical approaches. <https://www.communitythroughcare.net/about>



Dr. Shauna LaTosky

"When the milk containers are empty, the children 'milk' the marula!" The Role of Wild Food Plants for Food Security in Mun (Mursi), Southern Ethiopia," *Journal of Ethiopian Studies/Rassegna di Studi Etiopici*, 3a serie (LIII), 6 (2022).

STUDENT UPDATES

Several English MA students defended their theses in September 2022:

Alora Bowness defended "The Grey: Emerging Identity of The Female Androgynous Hero."

Ines Glanznig defended "Gendered Representational Strategies in Erotic Literature and Screen Adaptations: Marquis de Sade and Pauline Réage."

Michael Rief defended "'Explorers in the Further Regions of Experience': Late Twentieth-Century Body Horror's Subversion of Victorian Monsters and Modern Sex Politics."

History BA (Hons) student **Lydia Kinasewich** won the BC Historical Federation's 2022 W. Kaye Lamb Prize for "From Health Resort to Pleasure Resort: Reconstructing Harrison Hot Springs as a Tourist Destination, 1920-1930."

History BA student **Jillian Pearson** won the Okanagan Historical Society essay prize for "Rapid Descent: The Rise and Fall of Outdoor Waterslides in the Okanagan Region." Her article based on the paper will be published in the 2022 edition of Okanagan History. Jillian is now in the B.Ed program at UNBC.

INTS MA student **Arturo Sepulveda Garcia** presented some of his thesis work on Sustainable Food Diets in China and Japan at the III International Symposium on Economic, Social and Environmental Development (September 1 - 3, 2022) organized by the Universidad Técnica de Machala, Ecuador.



ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL



Photos (all credits to Farid Rahemtulla)

This was the first year of a five-year project that was initiated by the Tse'K'wa Heritage Society (Doig River First Nation, West Moberly First Nation, and Prophet River First Nation), who invited Dr. Rahemtulla and Dr. Mike Richards (SFU) to partner with them on this innovative research and training program.

During May and June students from UNBC and from a number of northern Indigenous communities participated in the Archaeology Field School, directed by **Dr. Farid Rahemtulla**. The students received instruction on field methods in archaeology, and they learned about Dane-Zaa culture history from Elders and from other community members.

The group included six UNBC students, and five students from Halfway River First Nation, Prophet River First Nation, and West Moberly First Nation. After initial lessons on mapping and field techniques, the group excavated an area at Tse'K'wa ("Stone House") near Fort St. John, one of the oldest Indigenous archaeological sites in Canada.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Faculty of Indigenous Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities’ Inaugural Professorial Lecture

FISSSH
Professorial Lecture
Dr. Jacqueline Holler
In Defence of the Ordinary

Join us in celebrating Dr. Jacqueline Holler's recent promotion to Full Professor. Learn about her research endeavours, scholarly achievements and scholarly contributions to the fields of colonial Latin America and contemporary gender studies.

Thursday October 27, 2022
 at 5:00 pm

Lecture: 7-212
 Reception to follow in 7-150/7-172
 Please RSVP below by October 20th

Read more about Dr. Holler here

UNBC UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA
 Faculty of Indigenous Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities

This is a very special occasion which aims to recognize and celebrate Jacqueline’s recent promotion to Full Professor at UNBC. Significantly, it is an opportunity to learn about her scholarly career thus far, her research endeavors and expertise in the fields of colonial Latin America and contemporary gender studies, as well as a wonderful chance to gather and acknowledge her many achievements and contributions.

Thursday October 27, 2022 (5:00-7:00pm) in Room 7-212

“In Defense of the Ordinary,” to be delivered by Dr. Jacqueline Holler

A reception in the Bentley Centre will follow the formal lecture.

RSVP to the following address:
<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=u5rup4VILkmzMab6BRo5u3j0Zc3MkuZNvwDykRVt2qJUOEFNM1JFSDZTUONBWldKNUUyV0cwNOVQNC4u&wdLOR=cA7E2897B-8FA5-4933-89DB-D59332D2D5AD>

First Nations Studies Speaker Series

October 19, 2022 (12:00-1:00pm)

Dr. Daniel Sims

Institute for Global Population and Economy titled “Dreams of Finparpea: The Rise and Fall of Finlay Forks, 1912-1968”. Examining the history of Finlay Forks BC, he argues that “Its erasure highlights how recountings of the colonial project not only celebrate the success, but also efface failures.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Global Fridays

Global Friday Presents Fall 2022

September 16 Dr. Catherine Nolin (UNBC)	Scholar Activism in Action: Solidarity with Mining Resistance in Guatemala
September 23 Dr. Matias Margulis (UBC) <i>Co-Sponsored by the Canadian International Council</i>	Rights Redux: The Return of Human Rights at the World Trade Organization
October 7 Dr. Chris Kilford (CIC) and Andrew Rasiulis <i>Co-sponsored by the Canadian International Council</i>	How Will Russia's Invasion of Ukraine Reshape NATO's Role in the 21st Century
November 4 Dr. Clare McGovern (SFU)	The Disunited Kingdom: Separatism in the Post-Brexit Era
November 18 Dr. Ross Hickey (UBCO)	Title to be announced
November 25 Dr. Pelle Valentin (Oxford) <i>Will be delivered online only</i>	Title to be announced



Zoom Info:

<https://unbc.zoom.us/j/61550856895>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/GlobalFridays>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/UNBCGlobalFri>

Podcast:

<https://video.unbc.ca/channel/Global%20Fridays/23995>

Gender and Politics

(co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science and the Department of Women's Studies)

November 15, 2022 (4:00-5:30pm) in the Bentley Centre

Photo Voice Gallery Opening and Reception for students, faculty, administration, staff, and community members.

Using Photo Voice to Build Community Through Caring Curriculum

Join POLS 416/616 and WMS 416/616 for their exhibit Opening on
November 15, 2022 at 4:00pm
 in the Bentley Centre
 co-sponsored by the UNBC Department of Political Science and the Department of Women's and Gender Studies
 light refreshments will be served.

Riona MacDonald
 Assistant Professor of Political Science
 University of Northern British Columbia

As educators we can and should celebrate the diverse experiential knowledge our students bring into the classroom.
 This project asks students to document their experience(s) of gender and/or sexuality in their everyday life. Students must identify an artifact (media, news, advertisement, product, person, place, object, experience, clothes, space, location, building, etc.) that illuminates a way that gender/sexuality is enacted/constructed/ challenged in their everyday life.

STAY IN TOUCH



We are located at:
3rd Floor, Administrative Building /
Charles McCaffray Hall

Advisor: April Tod, april.tod@unbc.ca

General Contact: fisssh@unbc.ca

[FISSSH Website](#)

Department Websites:

[Anthropology](#)

[English](#)

[First Nations Studies](#)

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