

# 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 MESSAGE



Dr. Kriston Rennie

In my final newsletter message as the Dean of Indigenous Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities at UNBC, I wanted to take a moment and express my appreciation for the breadth and depth of work being undertaken across the Faculty. From thought-provoking research and inspiring teaching to impactful student engagement and community partnerships, it's clear that the values of scholarship, collaboration, service, and social responsibility are deeply embedded in all we do. I'm especially struck by the commitment to advancing knowledge in ways that are both rigorous and responsive to the needs of our diverse communities.

Congratulations to everyone featured—your contributions are making a real difference.

This issue of our newsletter highlights recent academic achievements, faculty spotlights, student activities, and upcoming events at UNBC. It features in-depth interviews with Dr. Taylor Morphett and Dr. Ayesha Rogers on their teaching philosophies and research, celebrates Dr. Ted Binnema's retirement and scholarly legacy with a Banff conference and publications, and reports on student engagement through Model NATO and the International Studies Student Association. This issue also announces awards, presentations, media contributions, and publications from faculty, while showcasing initiatives in heritage, health, and gender-based violence research. It concludes with a reflection from Writer-in-Residence Tenille Campbell on Indigenous literature, storytelling, and artistic influences.

As always, happy reading!

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. TAYLOR MORPHETT

Assistant Professor, English

## What drew you to Rhetoric?

The short answer is that I love to teach. I enjoy nothing more than helping students along in their learning. Writing in any genre, as I teach in English 170, is one of the best forms of rigorous thinking we have. When we write, we think. And the truth is that writing is hard. It's hard to learn how to write in any genre. The first step to being able to write in a genre is to recognize that it is, indeed, a genre. This is one of the hardest things for students when they make the transition into university. First-year students find themselves in a new and complex rhetorical situation, where they have to figure out how to first recognize that they're being asked to write in new genres and that these genres vary from class to class.

I remember that when I started my BA, I was stunned to learn that the writing I had become accustomed to in high school wasn't the kind of writing I was being asked to complete in university. I found the genre of academic writing difficult to learn, mostly because I didn't know I could ask for help and believed I had to learn all this new writing stuff on my own. As I progressed in my BA and learned how to write, I began to help others with their writing and I realized that they all had the same problems I had run into at the start of my degree. When I began graduate school, I became a tutorial assistant, helping students learn how to write first year essays. I also began to do a great deal of outreach for my English Department, meeting with incoming students with their parents and answering questions about the school and majoring in humanities-based disciplines. It was here that I learned two things very quickly: everyone I spoke to was terrified to have their writing graded and everyone was nervous about majoring in the humanities.

When I began my PhD research, it was these two co-existing worries that became fascinating to me. Why were these the consistent fears students held about majoring in programs like the ones we house here in FISSSH?

My research sought to answer this question in the Canadian context. To do this I had to think about why we teach writing in the ways that we do and how this connects to these larger fears about majoring in the humanities and social sciences. My research ended up being a deeply historical consideration of teaching writing at the post-secondary level, taking me all the way back to the English Reformation and through the present day. I combined this with a rhetorical analysis of Critical University Studies, a branch of cultural studies that takes the university as its object. Within this field, I was able to think about how deeply connected writing is with the types of knowledges produced by different disciplines and how that knowledge is received.

The result of all this research is my approach to teaching writing, one that hopes to enable students to share their perspectives and thoughts with the world at large.



*Dr. Taylor Morphett*

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. TAYLOR MORPHETT CONTINUED...

## What is your current research and/or book project about?

My current book project considers the historical foundations of today's epistemologies of what writing is. Writing was not always thought about the way it is today. Writing today is often equated with the literal representation of the writer's interiority. Writing is a technology and does not have a one-to-one relationship with our thoughts. So, when and how did writing begin to be thought of this way?

Researchers have long considered the origin point of this belief to come to us from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. My work extends this history back and considers the deep links between this belief about writing in the English language context to consider the colonial and nationalist ties encoded in these beliefs. To do this work, my book project engages in archival research, rhetorical analysis, and an analysis of the pedagogies, curriculum, and reading lists found in early Anglo-Canadian universities.

## What are some of your best writing tips for new university students?

My best writing tip is for students to take a writing class! Even if you're already a strong writer, writing classes can introduce you to the hyper-specific and sometimes weird genre of academic writing. My next best piece of advice is to start small. Learn how to write a really solid academic paragraph. Paragraphs are unique organizing principles in academic writing. Learning how to write a great paragraph will help you build your essays out of manageable components. Remember, one paragraph contains only a single idea. Academic paragraphs have a few incredibly unique features that you won't see in any other genre of writing. Learning how to write a paragraph will begin to help you understand what makes the writing we do here in university unique. Finally, always ask for help and for feedback on your writing. All writing is social and all writers ask people to read their work. Don't be afraid to ask people to read your work, and be eager to read other people's work. Understanding what makes great writing is partially about becoming a great reader. Beyond that, try to have fun with your writing if you can. The more fun you have with your writing, the more you'll be able to share your passions and opinions with the world around you.





# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. AYESHA ROGERS

Adjunct Professor, Anthropology & Global and International Studies

## Please tell us a bit about yourself.

I started my studies at UBC in the late 60s in Classical Studies with a special interest in archaeology. This provided my first field opportunity when I went on a UBC-UofT excavation in southern Turkey. After that, my goal was to go abroad and pursue archaeology, which is what I did. After wandering around the Mediterranean for a while, I shifted to Asia, specifically Hong Kong. The archaeology of the region appealed to me because it was relatively underdeveloped and seemed full of possibilities. It marked the beginning of nearly 50 years of living and working in Asia, during which I completed an MA in Archaeology and Ancient History at the University of Birmingham (1980) and my PhD in Archaeology at University College London (2000).

Between 1978 and 1981, I was fortunate to do fieldwork with a lifelong colleague on a long-term archaeological project in South Thailand. Working with the maritime-adapted indigenous people of the Phuket islands has been one of my great joys for more than 40 years. Some projects can change your life without warning.

There were big gaps between my studies because I spent most of the 1980s raising a family and the 1990s starting Hong Kong's first and longest-lived archaeological consultancy company. I became increasingly involved in the heritage system in Hong Kong, working on the Antiquities Advisory Board and the Town Planning Board – the beginning of my interest in how heritage is defined, managed and protected.

Starting around 2000, I began my continuing involvement with UNESCO Asia-Pacific and other international agencies, doing projects around the region. This gave me a wonderful opportunity to live and work in many parts of Asia, doing a wide range of projects and studies, from integrating archaeology and demining unexploded landmines in Northern Laos to conducting environmental assessments for a prehistoric urban site in Western China.

In 2006, I moved to Lahore, Pakistan and began teaching in earnest for the first time as Foreign Faculty Professor at the National College of Arts. I established a department in Heritage Management and worked at the College for over a decade. I also set up another consultancy with Pakistani colleagues and had the good fortune to carry out numerous projects such as a pioneering impact assessment for the thousands of rock carvings to be flooded on the upper Indus River, planning for Lahore's Mass Transit and a UNESCO Historic Urban Landscape pilot project in the historic centre of Rawalpindi. In 2022 I left Pakistan to settle here in Prince George and take on a new challenge as an Adjunct Professor at UNBC.



*Dr. Ayesha Rogers*



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. AYESHA ROGERS CONTINUED...

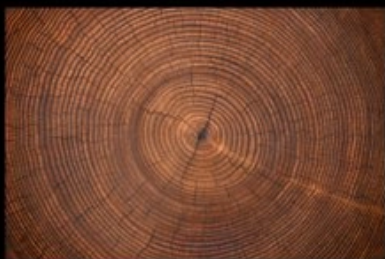
## What is one of the highlights of your career?

I have already mentioned a highlight of my work in Phuket, Thailand, and how life-changing that sort of intense, on-the-ground research experience can be. Another example of this, and about as different from the sunny beaches and boat living of Phuket as one can possibly imagine, was the enormous impact of shifting to the dense, historic chaos and beauty of Pakistan. I spent sixteen years in Lahore and visited and worked in most of the country, including the northern tribal mountain areas, historic urban centres of Punjab, archaeological sites in the Sindh desert and ancient underground water systems in the mountains of Balochistan. It is very difficult, to be honest, to pick one highlight of my career – I have been very lucky to have so many to choose from.

## Please tell us more about your upcoming spring course in Anthropology and your recent local/global heritage work?

The course ANTH/INTS 298 is called Cultures of Southeast Asia. It will be an introductory or survey level course to introduce students to this amazing part of the world to which I am so attached. We will look at how the region was formed over 50 million years, the formation of its land, sea and rivers and the arrival of humans, prehistoric cultures, the role of the great religions and empires, colonization and its aftermath and how modern Southeast Asia is seen and sees itself. There will understandably be an emphasis of archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, living heritage and traditions and my personal experience of places and what constitutes the essence of the region. I have lived and/or worked in most of the countries of Southeast Asia and I hope I can bring it to life for students and interest them in learning more about the region.

Recently I ventured into the world on online writing with a Substack Newsletter called [Northern Heritage](#). It is an invitation to join me -- a professional returning to Canada after fifty years abroad – as I attempt to overcome culture shock and understand, become involved with and appreciate the totally different kind of heritage found here in Prince George and the North. It is an addictive and very entertaining experience and gratifying to find that a lot of people share my enthusiasm!



## NORTHERN HERITAGE

join a heritage professional discovering  
Prince George, BC

# FACULTY UPDATES



*Dr. Daniel Sims receives the Stewardship Award*

Dr. Daniel Sims (Associate Professor of First Nations Studies) was officially recognized by Parks Canada for his work as a member of the Indigenous Cultural Heritage Advisory Council. He received the Stewardship Award.



*Dr. Shauna LaTosky receives the Community Impact Award*

UNBC Professor of History, Jacqueline Holler and UNBC Assistant Professor of Anthropology Shauna LaTosky received a Community Impact Award from the Afro-Caribbean Society (Prince George).



*Dr. Jacqueline Holler receives the Community Impact Award*

# FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

## Barrie Blatchford

Barrie Blatchford presented research at the American Society for Environmental History conference this month. The talk is entitled: America's "Global Goose-Chaser": Nelson Gardiner Bump, the Foreign Game Introduction Program, and the Quarter-Century Quest to Renovate American Fauna.

Dr. Blatchford also presented at the BC Studies conference in Vancouver in May. The title of his talk is: Reordering Nature: Settlers, Introduced Species, and Environmental Change in the Haida Gwaii.

## Kevin Hutchings

As part of the celebrations on Convocation Day on May 30th, Kevin Hutchings will be performing a 30-minute set of songs on a stage in the Wintergarden starting at 1:30.

## Shauna LaTosky

The Rhetorical Importance of Marula in Mursi, Ethiopia. Conservation of Culturally Important Sites. The 46th Annual Conference of the Society of Ethnobiology, Lake Tahoe, Nevada, May 21–24, 2025.

## Erica Kilius

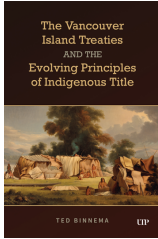
The Students' Gambit: Canadian university students' perceived vulnerability to disease and situational COVID-19 risk in the transition back to campus". The 50<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Human Biology Association in Baltimore, Maryland, March 12th.

Work, Sleep, Play: Biocultural perspectives on health risks. Anthropology in our Backyards: March 20<sup>th</sup>, UNBC.

# RECENT AND FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

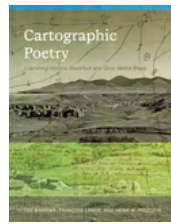
## Ted Binnema

Professor emeritus, Ted Binnema, published two books in 2025 that he was working on during his career at UNBC. In March, he published *The Vancouver Island Treaties and the Evolving Principles of Indigenous Title* (University of Toronto Press), <https://utppublishing.com/doi/book/10.3138/9781487554095>. Based on multidisciplinary research begun in the 2010s, this book places the Vancouver Island treaties, concluded between 1850 and 1854, in the context of thousands of years of Indigenous history along the Northwest Coast and hundreds of years of treaty making between Indigenous People and representatives of the British state.



Together with François Lanoë and Heinz W. Pyszczuk, Ted Binnema also published *Cartographic Poetry: Examining Historic Blackfoot and Gros Ventre Maps* (University of Alberta Press, 2025) (<https://ualbertapress.ca/9781772127997/cartographic-poetry/>).

Intrigued by five maps drawn by Blackfoot and Gros Ventre people in 1801 and 1802, and by the contributions of Indigenous People to maps of North America, Ted and his co-authors explore the five maps in detail and the contributions of Indigenous People to Western mapping more generally. *Cartographic Poetry* is based on research, including thousands of kilometres of driving to find and photograph landforms on maps, which Ted began as a graduate student in the 1990s but returned to over the last several years. The publication of this book was supported by a generous grant from the UNBC Research Office. Ted was part of the History Department at UNBC from 2000 to 2024.



## Barrie Blatchford

Barrie Blatchford, "Salmon Propagation and Settler Colonialism in California: The United States Fish Commission, the McCloud River Hatchery, and the Dispossession of the Winnemem Wintu." *Settler Colonial Studies* vol. 15.2 (2025), pp. 152–173. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2201473X.2025.2464330>. He also discussed this work on a podcast, <https://www.unfold4all.org/blog/podcast-3>



## Troy Michael Bordun

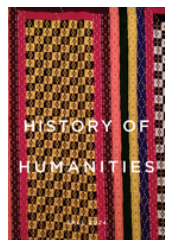
Troy Michael Bordun, "'You're a Triple Imposter...': Scarlett Johansson's Femme Fatales." *Intersectional Perspectives* 4 (forthcoming, 2025).

Troy Michael Bordun, "Philip Lopate's Second Affair with Art House Cinema." Review of *My Affair with Art House Cinema*, by Philip Lopate. *Senses of Cinema*, no. 113 (May 2025).

Troy Michael Bordun, "Where Your Story Begins." Review of *Arrival*, by David Roche. *Science Fiction Studies*, vol. 52, no. 2 (July 2025).

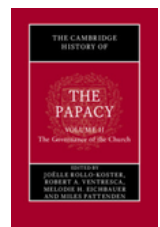
## Kriston R. Rennie

Kriston R. Rennie, "'Happy Are the Professors': Strasbourg, the Spirit of Synthesis, and the Unification of Historical Knowledge," *History of Humanities*, vol. 9.2 (2024), pp. 421-50. ["Happy Are the Professors": Strasbourg, the Spirit of Synthesis, and the Unification of Historical Knowledge | History of Humanities: Vol 9, No 2](https://doi.org/10.1080/2201473X.2025.2464330)



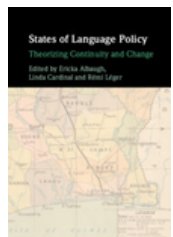
Kriston R. Rennie, "'Whoever is sent from another': Legates as Instruments of Papal Government," in *The Cambridge History of the Papacy. Volume II: The Governance of the Church*, eds Joëlle Rollo-Koster, Robert A. Ventresca, Melodie H. Eichbauer, Miles Pattenden (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2025), pp. 261-81.

["Whoever is sent from another": Legates as Instruments of Papal Government \(Chapter 10\) - The Cambridge History of the Papacy](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781107700000.010)



## Gary N. Wilson

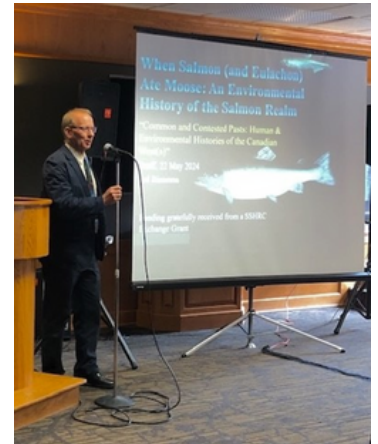
Gary N. Wilson, "The Decline and Rebirth of Manx Gaelic: State Traditions and Language Change in a Small Island Context." In Ericka Albaugh, Linda Cardinal and Rémi Léger (eds). *States of Language Policy: Theorizing Continuity and Change* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2025), pp. 66-83. [The Decline and Rebirth of Manx Gaelic \(Chapter 4\) - States of Language Policy](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781107700000.010)





# COMMON AND CONTESTED PASTS: CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF DR. THEODORE (TED) BINNEMA, EXPLORING THE PASTS OF THE WEST(S)

In May 2024, historians, parks practitioners, anthropologists, and graduate students gathered in Banff for a conference celebrating the scholarly legacy of Dr. Ted Binnema, who retired from the Department of History in June 2024. Taking its name from Binnema's influential first book, *Common and Contested Ground: A Human and Environmental History of the Great Plains* (University of Oklahoma, 2001), the conference brought together established and emerging scholars working at the intersections of Indigenous, environmental, legal, cultural, and imperial histories. UNBC was well represented not only by Dr. Binnema's keynote presentation "When Salmon Ate Moose," but also by Dr. Max Hamon and Dr. Kevin Hutchings, who presented papers and, in Dr. Hutchings' case, also provided a musical presentation rooted in the research presented.



*Dr. Ted Binnema*

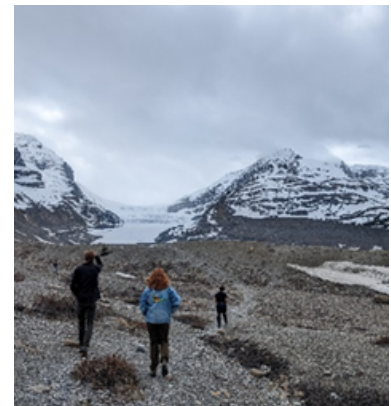


*Keynote presentation Dr. Jennifer Brown*

Funded by an Exchange grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and generous assistance from FISSSH, the UNBC Office of Research, the Department of History, and the UNBC Faculty Association, the conference was co-organized by Dr. Jacqueline Holler and Dr. Brian Gobbett.

Megan Yaskow and Sean Robinson, both senior undergraduate History majors, offered able assistance. Sean wrote an article about the conference in *NICHE* and also (with the mentorship of Dr. Hamon) created a four-episode podcast examining the conference and some of its themes. The Common and Contested Cast is available on Spotify and other podcast platforms.

Dr. Holler and Dr. Gobbett are currently preparing an edited collection, also currently entitled *Common and Contested Pasts*, based on the excellent papers delivered at the conference and subsequently revised and submitted for publication. Tentatively scheduled for publication late in 2026, the volume offers a sustained meditation on Binnema's legacy and new scholarly directions in ethnohistory, environmental history, treaties and justice in the West, and the history of the Hudson's Bay Company.



*Historical sightseeing at Athabasca glacier en route to the conference.*



[Listen to the podcast here](#)

# NEWS MEDIA

## The History Behind Your Piercings: UNBC Exhibition Takes Body Modification from Ancient to Trending

Thanks to a grant from the Council of Deans, Dr. LaTosky and her students will take this exhibition on the road this summer.

<https://overtheedge.unbc.ca/the-history-behind-your-piercings-unbc-exhibition-takes-body-modification-from-ancient-to-trending/>



ANTH 303 students and Dr. Shauna LaTosky during the opening reception of the international exhibition "Piercing" and student exhibition "From Paris to the Pacific Northwest Coast". Robert Frederick Gallery.



Dr. Margot Parkes, Lheidli T'enneh Elder and UNBC Chancellor Darlene McIntosh and Dr. Rheanna Robinson gather during a health research engagement initiative focused on Indigenous, rural and remote communities in northern B.C.

## Carrier Sekani Family Services and UNBC release research addressing gender-based violence

The joint research project highlights community-driven solutions to help prevent and reduce instances of violence against Indigenous women, girls and LGBTQ2S+ people along the Highway of Tears.

<https://www.unbc.ca/our-stories/story/carrier-sekani-family-services-and-unbc-release-research-addressing-gender-based-violence>



A team of UNBC researchers led by Women's and Gender Studies Professor Dr. Jacqueline Holler collaborated with Carrier Sekani Family Services on a data collection project resulting in 36 recommendations.



Dr. Heather Smith, Professor of Global and International Studies

## UNBC Professor Heather Smith honoured with ELIAS Distinguished Scholar Award

Dr. Heather Smith has been recognized with the ELIAS Distinguished Scholar Award for her outstanding contributions to global and international studies. Her dedication to mentorship and innovative teaching continues to shape the field and inspire future scholars.

<https://www.unbc.ca/our-stories/story/unbc-professor-heather-smith-honoured-elias-distinguished-scholar-award>



## The BBC interviews UNBC Professor Dr. Gary Wilson during JD Vance's visit to Greenland.

Professor Gary Wilson is an expert in Arctic governance and Indigenous-state relations. He is also featured in a local newspaper article. Ted Clarke, "Trump's Greenland Takeover Plan Panned by UNBC Professor," *Prince George Citizen*, January 8, 2025. <https://www.princegeorgecitizen.com/local-news/trumps-greenland-takeover-plan-panned-by-unbc-professor-10050541>.



Dr. Gary Wilson, Chair of Political Science

## Continuing a legacy of giving at UNBC

Inspired by mentors, the United Way's workplace campaign at UNBC continues to thrive thanks to the ongoing efforts of Faculty of Indigenous Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities Professor Dr. Jacqueline Holler.

<https://www.unbc.ca/our-stories/story/continuing-legacy-giving-unbc>



Dr. Jacqueline Holler, Chair of Global and International Studies

## Governance and Gender in the Carney Era

Don't miss Dr. Fiona MacDonald's two recent articles in *The Conversation*. Jeanette Ashe and **Fiona MacDonald**, "Mark Carney's Cabinet: A Course Correction on Gender, but There's More Work Ahead." *The Conversation*, May 13, 2025. <https://theconversation.com/mark-carneys-cabinet-a-course-correction-on-gender-but-theres-more-work-ahead-256541>.

**Fiona MacDonald** and Jeanette Ashe, "Game Change: Canadian Election — Mark Carney Leads Liberals to Their Fourth Consecutive Win." *The Conversation*, April 28, 2025. <https://theconversation.com/game-change-canadian-election-mark-carney-leads-liberals-to-their-fourth-consecutive-win-253721>



Dr. Fiona MacDonald  
Associate Professor, Political Science



UNBC students Blaise Feltis and Luke Frolick travelled to Ottawa in February to gather with peers and experience a simulation of the debate and decisions made by member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

## Experiencing the high-stakes world of modern diplomacy

For two senior undergraduate students, Model NATO 2025 provided a unique learning experience that went beyond the intricacies of navigating a simulated international security crisis to fostering connections and expanding their perspectives. <https://www.unbc.ca/our-stories/story/experiencing-high-stakes-world-modern-diplomacy>. See page 12 for more.



## UNBC Graduate Student Earns International Conference Award for Diabetes Research

Jake Ostberg was one of only two students in Canada selected from nearly 200 abstract submissions for a scholarship award at the Keystone Symposia on Obesity and Adipose Tissue earlier this year. The honour highlights his research on improving treatment for type 2 diabetes.

<https://www.unbc.ca/our-stories/story/unbc-graduate-student-earns-international-conference-award-diabetes-research>



*Jake Ostberg at the 2025 Keystone Symposia on Obesity and Adipose Tissue in Banff.*



*Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in History graduate Sean Robinson is the Valedictorian at Ceremony 1 during UNBC's 2025 Convocation.*

## Ready to lead meaningful change

The sense of belonging Sean Robinson found while pursuing a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree at UNBC ignited his curiosity, critical thinking skills and dedication to inclusion, empowering him to become a thoughtful leader and advocate for change. Robinson will reflect on the guidance of family, the transformative power of education and the importance of engaging with diverse worldviews in his valedictory address during Ceremony 1 of UNBC's 2025 Convocation.

<https://www.unbc.ca/our-stories/story/ready-lead-meaningful-change>

## NEW MA STUDENTS

We welcomed the following 21 students into our MA programs this academic year:

- Mildred Azak, MA First Nation Studies
- Clair Bohme, MA English
- William Brown, MA History
- Bobby Clark, MA First Nation Studies
- Erika Genesius, MA History
- Rosemary Goyayi, MA International Studies
- Kathryn Kervel, MA First Nation Studies
- Jenikka Kirkland, MA International Studies
- Katherine Paredes Martinez, MA Gender Studies
- Jessica Mckay, MA First Nation Studies
- Karon Mckay, MA First Nation Studies
- Caridad Medialdea, MA Interdisciplinary Studies
- Kelsey McKeon, MA International Studies
- Malik Moeed Ullah, MA International Studies
- Laura Pyke, MA International Studies
- Lavita Robinson, MA First Nation Studies
- Irene Squires, MA First Nation Studies
- Christina Stanley, MA First Nation Studies
- Cheryl Tait, MA First Nation Studies
- Rylan Watson, MA English
- Pamela Wright, MA First Nation Studies

# MODEL NATO RETROSPECTIVE

By Blaise Feltis

Luke Frolick and I were selected to attend the Carleton Model NATO (MNATO) and represent the country of North Macedonia, a small nation bordering northern Greece. Luke was on the North Atlantic Council, while I was on the Military Committee (MC). Each Committee had three topics to discuss and draft communiqués on; my topics were NATO's Approach to AI and Autonomous Weapons Systems (AWS), Rising to the New Realities of Terrorism – Creating New Approaches to Counter-terrorism, and NATO's Response to Hybrid Warfare & Foreign Actor Interference. Each communiqué needed one-third of the committee to help write the draft and another third to support it before being further discussed for changes and amendments. Then, the committee voted to pass 50% +1 before heading to the NAC for a final decision that had to be unanimous. Any communiqué that the NAC passes is sent to NATO, which is a fun fact.



*Blaise Feltis (left) and Luke Frolick (right)  
at the student-led Model NATO conference.*

The trip's highlights were the keynote speaker and the embassy visits organized by the host university, Carleton. The keynote speaker was the Polish Ambassador, with the Spanish and Estonian Ambassadors and other senior officers from NATO's member nations present. At the same time, the highlight of our visit was our group's trip to the Turkish and Polish embassies. The Turkish Embassy visit was a particularly eye-opening experience, as I sat down and spoke with the Turkish Ambassador on security topics, learning how they view the world and why they do what they do, which we don't see here. The Polish Ambassador spoke to us more when we visited and showed why he has the job with the knowledge he has.

This year, MNATO was terrific; the calibre of students that presented from across the country was great to see and speak to. The delegation from RMC, the University of Windsor, the University of Calgary, and Carlton University's students was exceptional in their knowledge and performance and great people.



*Blaise Feltis at the MNATO.*



*UNBC political science student, Blaise Feltis, receiving his award for best paper.*

Also, I received an award at the national conference for having the best paper on the Military Committee for North Macedonia regarding their geopolitical position in NATO, "North Macedonia's Geopolitical Position: Modernization, Synchronization, and Unity."

# WRITER IN RESIDENCE

Interview by Joyce Cortez

Hello, Tansi, my name is Tenille Campbell. I'm the Writer in Residence [Department of English] at UNBC. I've been here since January, ending in April, and I'm really excited, first time in your beautiful city. I'm also Dene from English River First Nation, and I'm Métis from the Batoche region of Saskatchewan.

## What does writer in residence entail?

My writer-in-residence is really about finishing my thesis, my PhD dissertation. I am writing Indigenous romantic comedy. Not sure how that's going, and I'm working on the fourth section of poetry in my third collection of poetry. So, it's a new book. It's divided into four parts, and I've really been focusing while I'm here on land and memory and kinship practices with the land, and if the land carries memory.

So, lots of like, big, moody feelings, long walks in your guys' beautiful forest, and like, really thinking about what it means to be Plains culture in a mountain because I'm not mountain people. So yeah, my writing residency has been about, like, poetry and long walks.

## Could you share your insights on what students can learn from Indigenous literature and how you would describe it?

I really feel, having done my PhD in Indigenous literature, that non-Indigenous readers can really learn about decentering themselves and about approaching the world through different philosophies and ways of being. And I think when we read not just Indigenous literature, but literature that is not from our culture or ethnicity, we have the opportunity to self-educate, to really form connections with outside cultures, and to really, like, form connections.

Indigenous literature is fundamentally important, as we are always on Indigenous land. But all genres of literature, all cultures of literature, are important as it just makes us better people, more empathetic and more into, like, creating the world that we want to live in.

I think I would describe Indigenous literature as the root of literature in Canada. I really don't think we can get to this idea of Canadian literature without understanding from which it came, and understanding how stories emerge from this land and our peoples is fundamentally important.

So, I think Indigenous literature is the root, and is the tree, and it's the flower, and it's the sky, and it's the wind, and it's the stars. I think it's everything. And I do think that every person coming to university or high school or elementary school should encounter at least one or two Indigenous authors on their journey of education and storytelling, because without Indigenous stories, what do we have?



*Tenille Campbell, Writer in Residence*



**What is your main source of inspiration, photography and poetry? Could you share insights from both of these worlds, including how they evolved over time?**

So, some of my main influences as a writer have been other creative writers, especially those who kind of sit in the academic slash creative genre that I sit in. So obviously, like Joshua Whitehead, Billy-Ray Belcourt, there's this author coming out of Calgary, Kaitlin, but just like people who take their stories, they don't really think about genre, but they tell the story the way the story needs to be told.

I don't think we need to define ourselves as poets or nonfictionists or fictionalists, but rather as storytellers, because the story will take the shape it needs to take. So, those are some of my influences. Some of my experiences within Indigenous literature that have shaped me have just been, like, reading other Indigenous authors. Rita Bouvier was one of the first Indigenous authors that I read in postsec, and she wrote this poem about skinning a fox, and it was the first time that I had been reminded of home in an academic setting. And I realized the power that memory and story can hold for us, and that our lived experiences are poet-worthy. Poetry-worthy. So, it really reminded me that coming home and telling our authentic stories is incredibly important to me as an author, and has basically kind of shaped the way that I write story.

Some of my main influences as a photographer are because I actually do [Sweetmoon Photography](#). I've been doing it for 12 years. I'm an elder, and I specialize in Indigenous portraits throughout Turtle Island. So, some of my main inspirations as a photographer have been Nadya Kwandibens and Amy Campbell. There's, like, this huge influx of very talented, really quite amazing, Indigenous photographers who kind of, like, tell our stories from the inside and really make it a point to showcase all of our faces, not just, like, the stoic ones, not just, like, the warriors, not just, like, the super traditional Natives but, you know, the nurses, the doctors, the students, the moms, the dads, the hockey players, the athletes. Because we're complex people, and I like it when visuals tell complex stories.

And then some of my inspirations as a poet, those are, well, my poetic inspirations are wide and varied. I've really been into Gregory Scofield lately. I like the way he tells a story. Richard Van Camp, obviously, is a favorite. The way that he also really sits down and tells you a story is incredibly important. I really like Joy Harjo out of the States. I really like the way that she uses cadence in her work. Locally, Canadian, Marilyn Dumont! Stop! Stop! She's great. She's great.

Yeah, there are just too many to name, which I think is a really great problem to have. Indigenous literature keeps growing, and more books are getting published every year, and our stories are just coming out.

So, my influences are wide and varied and never-ending and new and old, and I think that's just the way it's gonna be.

[Check out our interview with Tenille Campbell on Instagram](#)

# INTERNATIONAL STUDIES STUDENT ASSOCIATION

## Celebrating International Women's Day

By Alina Rattanshi and Pamela Okafor

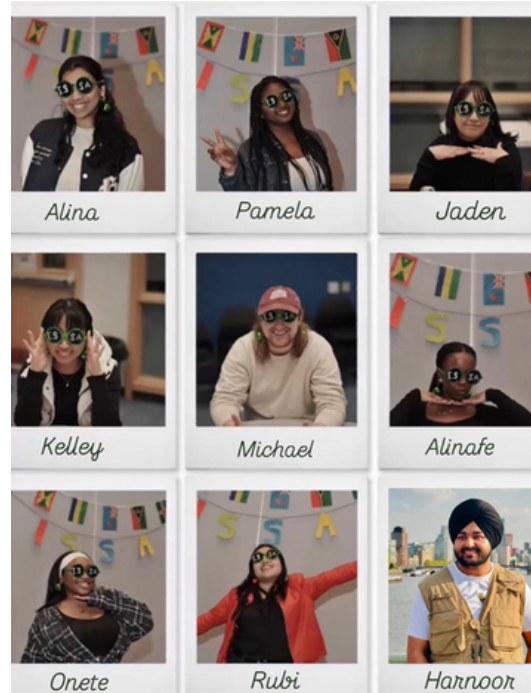
On March 8th, as Co-Presidents of the International Studies Students Association, we had the privilege of attending the International Women's Day Breakfast hosted by the North Central Labour Council. Alongside a couple of professors from the FISSH Department, we stepped into a room filled with energy, warmth, and a powerful sense of community. From the moment we arrived, we could feel the spirit of solidarity in the room. It was inspiring to see women and allies from all walks of life come together to honour the achievements, struggles, and ongoing contributions of women around the world. Over a delicious breakfast, we engaged in conversations that were both meaningful and eye-opening. We also had the chance to listen to incredible speakers who shared their personal stories—stories of resilience, leadership, and the power of collective action.

Although our schedules didn't allow us to stay for the full event, we walked away feeling grateful and moved. Being invited into such a space reminded us of the importance of showing up—not just in celebration, but in support, in learning, and in commitment to building a more just and inclusive world.

We're thankful for the invitation and the opportunity to be part of such an empowering morning. It's moments like these that remind us why community matters, and why we do the work we do.



*Dr. Dawn Hemmingway, Dr. Indrani Margolin, Cathy King, Dr. Tammy Pearson, Alina Rattanshi, Pamela Okafor, Dr. Ayseha Rogers, Ceyanna Meroniuk, Dr. Gabrielle Daoust, Dr. Heather Smith (left to right)*



## The ISSA's Opening Act (OMIT)

On February 26th, the International Studies Student Association (ISSA) successfully kicked off its first event with a lively and engaging meet and greet. The get-together provided a relaxed, friendly atmosphere for students to connect with one another, build new relationships, and engage in meaningful discussions. With the focus on fostering a sense of community, the event was an excellent opportunity for students from diverse backgrounds and interests to come together in a casual setting.

Attendees had the chance to enjoy delicious food and take fun photos, which helped create a comfortable environment for students and faculty alike to unwind and get to know each other. Whether students were discussing their experiences in the International Studies program, sharing travel stories, or simply chatting about their academic journeys, the event facilitated valuable connections and camaraderie.

The ISSA is thrilled with how the event turned out and is excited to keep organizing similar gatherings that promote collaboration, support, and engagement within UNBC's wonderful community. The association is eagerly looking forward to providing students with more opportunities to network, exchange ideas, and strengthen the sense of community that makes UNBC unique. We are committed to bringing you more engaging events in the future. Look out for our posters and our table in the coming semester!

# FISSH RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 3.0

13 MAR  
2025

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
Conference Room 6-205

WELCOME AT 8:30 AM

• PANEL 1: HERITAGE (8:35 TO 9:35 AM)

• ROUNDTABLE 1: CARE IN ACADEMIA (9:45 TO 10:45 AM)

• PANEL 2: CHALLENGING ACADEMIC GENRES AND LANGUAGES  
THROUGH INDIGENOUS-FOCUSED WORK (10:55 TO 11:55 AM)

CATERED LUNCH FROM 11:55 AM TO 12:40 PM

• ROUNDTABLE 2: CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY IN A CHANGING WORLD  
(12:40 TO 1:40 PM)

• SHOWCASING STUDENT SENIOR UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE  
RESEARCH: INDIVIDUAL PANEL PAPER (1:50 PM TO END)

THIRSTY MOOSE AT 3:30 PM

The Research Symposium is organized by the FISSH Research Committee

## PANEL 1: HERITAGE

**DR. SHAUNA LATOSKY**



**NUSRAT PANNA**



**AYESHA ROGERS**



**ANGEL LAU**



## PANEL 2: CHALLENGING ACADEMIC GENRES AND LANGUAGES THROUGH INDIGENOUS-FOCUSED WORK

**DR. CHRISTINE  
CAMPANA**



**DR. JEFF SWIM**



**DR. TARA JOLY**



**DR. TAYLOR  
MORPHETT**



## ROUNDTABLE 1: CARE IN ACADEMIA

**PARTICIPANTS: (L-R)**

- DR. TARA JOLY
- RAEGAN COTE
- DR. HEATHER SMITH
- DR. GABRIELLE DAOUST
- RUBI BRIONES VENEGAS



## ROUNDTABLE 2: CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY IN A CHANGING WORLD

**PARTICIPANTS (R-L)**

- DR. GABRIELLE DAOUST
- WATHSALA DE SILVA
- NUSRAT PANNA
- OYINDAMOLA MAJEKODUNMI
- KOLE OLSEN



## RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS BY UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

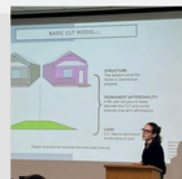
**VIDURI  
DEDIYAGALA**

We are Caught Between Suspicion and Survival: Militarization and Security in Post-War Sri Lanka



**KELSEY MCKEON**

A perspective on the radical roots of New Communities Inc. and the extent of their incorporation into the Community Land Trust (CLT) model



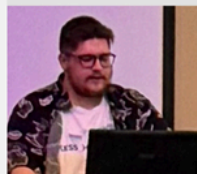
**LUKE FROLICK**

Preserving Identity and Culture in a Digital World: Why Online Gaming Communities Should be Archived



**KARL HOLLMANN**

Objects Reborn – On the Theme of Rebirth in 'Innocent Objects'



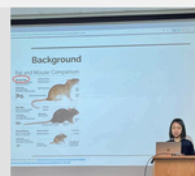
**TYSON  
GAGNON**

The Air Might Kill You: Canada, the United States, and Lead Gasoline



**ANGEL LAU**

Pest and Politics: The History of Rat Control in New York City from 1900 to 1970



**SARAH MILLIGAN**

Guiding to "Places of Pleasure and Diversion": Harris's List of Covent Garden Ladies, Guidebooks, and Defining Places of Prostitution in Urban London, 1761-1794



**JOYCE CORTEZ**

The Privatization of Healthcare in Canada



## CELEBRATION AT THE MOOSE

Thank you to everyone who participated! Your energy and creativity continue to inspire. Keep shining, and don't let doubt or discouragement dim your light.



Photo collage by Joyce Cortez



# STAY IN TOUCH



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**Indigenous Studies,  
Social Sciences and  
Humanities**

## Department Websites:

[Anthropology](#)

[English](#)

[First Nations Studies](#)

[Global and International Studies](#)

[History](#)

[Interdisciplinary Studies \(IDIS\)](#)

[Northern Studies](#)

[Political Science](#)

[Women's & Gender Studies](#)