

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 and unceded 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.

We recognize that racism, white supremacy, anti-semitism, Islamophobia, sexism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, ageism, and many other systemic barriers to learning and career progression unfortunately exist in academia. As such, we place high value on learning, teaching, research, and service that work to expose, record, and address equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) issues in our disciplines and communities. The Faculty is committed to creating safe spaces for faculty, staff, and students who face systemic barriers. For more information and to access resources available at UNBC, please visit <https://www2.unbc.ca/positive-environment>

DEAN'S WELCOME



Dr. Kriston Rennie

The beginning of the 2021-22 academic year is unlike any other. We are returning to campus after a hiatus of almost nineteen months. We are returning under the organisation of a new Faculty, which comprises the departments of Anthropology, English, First Nations Studies, History, Global and International Studies, and Political Science, in addition to the academic programs of Women's and Gender Studies, Northern Studies, and Interdisciplinary Studies. We are also returning with a few new faces on the third floor of Charles J. McCaffray Hall, namely Dr. Sara Farhan (History), Dr. Ben Bradley (History), Dr. Fiona MacDonald (Political Science), Dr. Diana Barreto Ávila (SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow), and Debbie Price (Dean's Office). And we are returning with some new committees in the teaching and research space, both poised to strengthen and support our Faculty's initiatives, direction, and success. For these reasons and more, this September represents a significant change to our usual business and outlook, promising the opportunity for many firsts throughout the coming academic year.

Some familiarity remains nonetheless amidst the changes. The transition of seasons brings anticipation, hope, and a fair bit of excitement, as new and returning students breathe life into a campus waking from its slumber. Our course schedule for the Fall and Winter semesters is filled

with an impressive depth and breadth of disciplinary choice, representing the very best content and training that the Social Sciences and Humanities have to offer. One glance at these offerings showcases a full spectrum of our Faculty's ideas, talents, research interests, and expertise that promise to enliven our classrooms and enrich the entire UNBC community.

Outside the classroom, we look forward to an active events calendar with some modifications. The year ahead will be filled with regular activities such as the Global Friday Speakers Series, Anthropology in our Backyards, the First Nations Studies Speakers Series, as well as student-led activities. Our calendar will also be populated with some newer research and social events organised by our Faculty's Engagement Advisor, Dr. Tara Joly, ably supported by Selina Ross' administrative talents.

This newsletter represents one outcome of such initiatives. We are extremely proud to launch our inaugural issue. In the pages that follow, you'll find news about upcoming events, faculty updates, a faculty spotlight, an introduction to our Faculty's teaching and research committees, and a welcome to incoming graduate students.

I hope you enjoy the curated content. May this academic year bring you many joys and successes.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. NATHAN ANDREWS

Assistant Professor, Global and International Studies

Tell us a bit about your research program, including your new SSHRC award.

My research program on the global political economy of resource extraction and development can be broken up into two interrelated clusters of work: 1) global governance, social justice and development; and 2) sustainability, environment and livelihoods. I also have an interest in the scholarship on teaching and learning where my focus has been on exploring racism, whiteness and epistemic oppression in higher education. I do get bored sometimes so I occasionally dabble in other topics I consider to be academic hobbies. But I will shed a brief light on my new SSHRC-funded project, which aligns with the above-mentioned research program.



The new project, *Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement in Resource Rich Communities: Comparative Cases from the Global South and High North*, is an exciting opportunity for me to collaborate with a group of Canadian and international researchers on this important topic. The work will take us to host communities of extractive projects in Canada, Chile, Ghana and Norway. We seek to better understand meaningful consultation, particularly what it means to those being engaged, the reasons why marginalized groups (such as youth, women, and those opposed to extractive projects) face structural impediments to substantively accessing consultative processes.

"I have always been curious about why marginalization, social injustice and poverty exist in places where there is tremendous human and natural resource endowment."

To learn more about the project, visit:
<https://www2.unbc.ca/newroom/unbc-stories/making-engagement-meaningful>

What originally motivated you to do this research? What keeps you passionate about the work today?

I have always been curious about why marginalization, social injustice and poverty exist in places where there is tremendous human and natural resource endowment. Obviously, the 'resource curse' thesis sparked my interest because it sought to point to some of the governance gaps and other 'wicked' problems that make seemingly propitious resource booms turn out to have negative socio-economic and political outcomes. While my research has critiqued the resource curse logic (including its methodological nationalism), one thing that keeps me passionate about my work is the fact many communities and people living next to extractive projects often tend to be worse off than those elsewhere. This means the promised material benefits of extraction are not getting into the right hands. Understanding this conundrum leads me to explore many angles that bring to bear the work of a globalized assemblage of institutions, actors, networks and power structures whose work significantly influence the developmental outcomes of resource extraction. It's the complexity and the constantly changing terrain that keep me energized.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. NATHAN ANDREWS

Assistant Professor, Global and International Studies

What kind of impact do you hope your research will have?

I am hoping my work would have a three-fold contribution, including impact on scholarship, policy and communities. The first one is expected of academics and is achievable via scholarly publications among others but I believe knowledge should be purposeful in shaping policy and making people's lives better. I am not quite there yet but the goal is that my research will have demonstrable non-academic impacts that would inspire or even drive change. For instance, one of the expected outputs of the new SSHRC-funded project is a community-based toolkit that would serve as an actionable protocol that facilitates ongoing and future engagement efforts of companies with stakeholders. Here, our emphasis is on the kind of engagement that is grassroots-oriented and takes particular account of what marginalized stakeholders view as meaningful consultation.



"even in the midst of uncertainty
anything is possible"

What are you most looking forward to about the September 2021 semester?

People! After many months of dealing with several restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, what I miss most is in-person engagement with students and colleagues. I know there is still some uncertainty and anxiety about what the Fall re-opening will look like and its potential health ramifications. But I am really looking forward to seeing people and staying off my computer a bit.

"I believe knowledge should be purposeful in
shaping policy and making people's lives better."

If you were to give UNBC students one piece of advice for the academic year, what would it be?

Despite the difficulties caused by the ongoing pandemic, I have seen many people achieve significant milestones during this same period. It tells me that even in the midst of uncertainty anything is possible. Also, these past several months have me thinking more about gratefulness. What it means to me is that no matter where I find myself or what I encounter, there is always a reason to be thankful. I hope UNBC students will see their being able to have an education (whether virtually or in-person) as a sign of a bright future ahead. Not everyone has this opportunity. We should all try to stay positive and look up because there is nothing down there!

FACULTY UPDATES

Our faculty members have been busy over the past few months publishing and disseminating their research, teaching innovatively, serving their communities, and reaching new career milestones. The following highlights represent just some of the great work they are doing. Congratulations to all for these achievements!

Dr. Karin Beeler has been elected co-Vice President of the Canadian Association of Chairs of English (CACE).

Dr. Kevin Hutchings is working on a major project entitled *The Life and Literary Adventures of Sir Francis Bond Head*. The resultant monograph is under contract with McGill-Queen's University Press. Head was a nineteenth-century man of letters who governed Upper Canada from 1836 to 1838. This project is funded by a four-year SSHRC Insight Grant. For the past year Dr. Hutchings has been working on this project with a brilliant undergraduate research assistant, Emily MacLise, a fourth-year English major at UNBC.

Since April Dr. Hutchings has been working with Dr. Uchechukwu Umezurike, a newly minted PhD and Vanier Scholar from the U of Alberta, who is applying for a Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship at UNBC under his supervision. Uche's preliminary application (or Expression of Interest) was approved and they are currently working on the full application.

Dr. Tara Joly began a new research project in the summer of 2021, entitled "Gendered Violence and Ethnographic Fieldwork in Northern Extractive Zones". Dr. Joly has been working with Courtney Hayhurst, a fourth year Anthropology student at UNBC, who has been contributing to literature reviews, data collection, and data management.

Dr. Daniel Sims was elected to the executive council of the Canadian Historical Association and made a member of Parks Canada's Indigenous Cultural Heritage Advisory Council.

Dr. Angèle Smith gave the 2020-21 Robert W. Tait Annual Lecture on Implementing Teaching Excellence. Her talk was on May 27th and entitled: "What the pandemic taught me: Reflections on teaching and learning in the midst of COVID".

Dr. Dana Wessell Lightfoot and Alexandra Guerson were co-winners of the 2021 Bishko prize for the best article in medieval Spanish history from the Association of Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies for their work "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.



Dr. Diana Barreto Ávila

NEW POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW ON CAMPUS

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Diana Barreto Ávila, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of History who recently started working from the UNBC campus. She has been working at a distance during the pandemic on research in Roman and Mexican archives as part of Jacqueline Holler's SSHRC Insight project on women's healing networks in colonial Mexico. Dr. Ávila holds a PhD in History from National Autonomous University of Mexico and held a postdoctoral fellowship at the Università Roma Tré from 2018—2020.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Karin Beeler

Beeler, Karin. 2021. "I Feel Like I Became a Zombie": COVID-19, Zombies and English Paratextual/Paramedia Responses to South Korean Music and Film" PopMeC (Special Issue). <https://popmec.hypotheses.org/4664#:~:text=Download%20PDF%20version>

Karin Beeler is currently co-editing a book (with Stan Beeler) on *Animal Heroes, Villains, and Others: The Narrative Functions of Strange and Familiar Creatures in Film and Television*. The book is under contract with Lexington Books.

Dr. Michel Bouchard

Bouchard, Michel, Sebastien Malette and Siomonn Pulla (eds). 2021. *Eastern Métis: Chronicling and Reclaiming a Denied Past*. Lanham: Lexington Books.

Dr. Farid Rahemtulla

Rahemtulla, Farid. 2020. "Unsettling the Archaeology Field School: Development of a Community Engaged Model at the University of Northern British Columbia." Canadian Journal of Archaeology 44:105-132.

Dr. Jacqueline Holler

Holler, Jacqueline. "Inquisitor as Physician: Friars, Inquisitors, Women, and Medical Knowledge in Early Colonial New Spain (1530—1650)." Early Science and Medicine 26, in press for December 2021.

Holler, Jacqueline. 2021. "Mixing/Medicines: Healing Exchanges among Women in Early Colonial New Spain (1530—1650)." Gender & History 33, 2. DOI: 10.1111/1468-0424.12553.

Dr. Kevin Hutchings

Hutchins, Kevin. 2020. *Transatlantic Upper Canada: Portraits in Literature, Land, and British-Indigenous Relations*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press. https://www.mqup.ca/transatlantic-upper-canada-products-9780228001294.php?page_id=73&

Dr. Tara Joly

Joly, Tara 2021. "Growing (with) Muskeg: Oil Sands Reclamation and Healing in Northern Alberta." Anthropologica 63(1).

Joly, Tara. 2021. "Growing with Research: A Reflection on Chance Encounters in Northern Alberta." Journal Article Introduction Series, Network in Canadian History & Environment Canada (NICHE). Published 26 August. <https://niche-canada.org/2021/08/26/growing-with-research-a-reflection-on-chance-encounters-in-northern-alberta-muskeg-and-oil-sands/>

Joly is currently working on two publications from an Indigenous community-based environmental monitoring project in northern Alberta. She is first author on one of these articles, titled "Respecting the Web of Life: Prioritizing Métis Space Towards a More Holistic Understanding of Wellbeing and Freshwater Mussel Health in the Lower Athabasca Watershed".

Dr. Tristan Pearce

Pearce, Tristan, ed. 2021. *Research with Arctic Inuit Communities: Graduate Student Experiences, Lessons and Life Learnings*. Springer Polar Sciences. Springer International Publishing. <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-78483-6>.

Pearce T, Manuel L, Leon J, Currenti R, Brown M, Ikurisarua, I, Doran, B., Scanlon, H, and Ford, J. 2021. "Mapping Social Values of the Sigatoka River Estuary, Nadroga-Navosa Province, Viti Levu, Fiji." Human Ecology DOI 10.1007/s10745-021-00258-5

Naylor A, Pearce T, Ford JD, Fawcett D, Collings P and Harper S. 2021. "Understanding determinants of hunting trip productivity in an Arctic community." *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*.

Lede E, Pearce T, Furgal C, Sidle R, Ashford G and Ford J. 2021. "The role of multiple stressors in adaptation to climate change in the Canadian Arctic." *Regional Environmental Change*, 21(50): 1-13.

Dr. Daniel Sims

Sims, Daniel. 2020. "Concerning Cruelty, Clemency, and Commonwealths." The Conrad Grebel Review 38 (3). <https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/publications/conrad-grebel-review/issues/fall-2020/concerning-cruelty-clemency-and-commonwealths>

Dr. Angèle Smith

Smith, A. and Power, N. (Eds.) (2021) Special edition "Youth Transitions to Education and Employment: A mobilities perspective" in the International Journal of Children, Youth and Family Studies. Vol. 12, No. 2 (July 2021).

Smith, A. and Power, N. (2021) "Introduction for Special edition, Youth Transitions to Education and Employment: A mobilities perspective" in the International Journal of Children, Youth and Family Studies. Vol. 12, No. 2 (July 2021), p. 1-11.

Smith, A. (2021) "Precarity, Agency and Unsustainability: The mobility of young adult tourism workers in Banff National Park, Canada" in the International Journal of Children, Youth and Family Studies. Vol. 12, No. 2 (July 2021), p. 65-87.

Dr. Heather Smith

Smith, Heather A., and David J. Hornsby, eds. 2021. *Teaching International Relations in a Time of Disruption*. London: Palgrave. <https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783030564209>

Dr. Lianne Tripp

Sawchuk, Lawrence Alexander, and Lianne Tripp. 2021. "Managing an Epidemic in Imperfect Times: Encampment and Immunity Passes in 19th Century Gibraltar." BMJ Global Health 6 (8): e006713. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2021-006713>.

Dr. Gary Wilson

Wilson, Gary N. 2021. "Developing a Sustainable and Inclusive Northern Knowledge Ecosystem in Canada." Sustainability 13 (16): 9213.

NEW FACULTY COMMITTEES

Several new Faculty Committees and an Engagement Advisor position have been created within the new Faculty structure. We are pleased to announce that these roles have been filled and we look forward to reporting Committee Updates in future issues of this newsletter.

Research Committee:

Dr. Ben Bradley
 Dr. Tristan Pearce
 Dr. Fiona MacDonald
 Dr. Jessie King
 Dr. Kevin Hutchings

Teaching and Learning Committee:

Dr. Lisa Dickson
 Jason Morris
 Dr. Dana Wessell Lightfoot
 Dr. Agnes Pawlowska-Mainville
 Dr. Sara Farhan

Engagement Advisor:

Dr. Tara Joly



UPCOMING EVENTS

FISSSH RESEARCH SHOWCASE: TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS

FISSSH will be hosting a research-based event on campus in November 2021, showcasing how different researchers and departments approach a shared, broad theme. Researchers from across the Faculty are invited to present short, 2-minute Pecha Kutcha or rapid/playful presentations on the topic of "Treaties and Agreements" (interpretation open). More information will be provided in September.

If you are interested in participating, please contact:
Tara Joly - tara.joly@unbc.ca

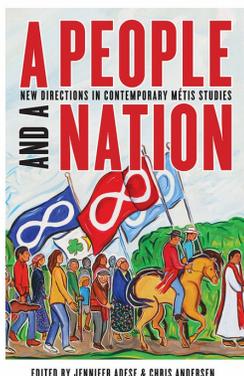
Global Fridays

September 17, 2021 (12:00-1:30pm)

Dr. Logan Cochrane

*Progress, Challenges, and Future Options
for Food Security in Ethiopia*

For more Global Friday events visit: <https://www2.unbc.ca/global-international-studies/global-friday-speakers-series>



First Nations Studies Speaker Series

October 7, 2021 (10:00am)

Drs. Chris Andersen & Jennifer Adese will discuss their recent book, *A People and a Nation* and Métis studies in general.

Anthropology in Our Backyards

TBC: October 2021

Dr. Lena Gross, University of Tromsø

Samí Responses to Extraction in northern Norw

November 9, 2021 (12:00-1:30pm)

Dr. Daniel Tubb and María Ximena González-Serrano

The African Origins of Lowland Colombia's Agrarian Worlds

For more Anthropology in Our Backyards events visit:

<https://www2.unbc.ca/anthropology/anthropology-in-our-backyards>



**ANTHROPOLOGY
IN OUR
BACKYARDS**

STAY IN TOUCH



We are located at:

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[FISSSH Website](#)

Department Websites:

[Anthropology](#)

[English](#)

[First Nations Studies](#)

[History](#)

[Global and International Studies](#)

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