

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

It has been another busy and productive academic year for the Faculty of Indigenous Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities. As I reflect on the many accomplishments which adorn the Fall and Winter semesters, replete with teaching, learning, and scholarly activities, I'm grateful for the boundless commitment and energy demonstrated by our faculty, staff, and students.

This Spring newsletter arrives with the melting of snow in Prince George.

We're delighted to spotlight new-ish faculty members in two departments; to provide some faculty updates on exciting initiatives and achievements; to recognize and celebrate recent publications and scholarly outputs; to document our inaugural Graduate symposium; and so much more.

On behalf of the Faculty, I would also like to welcome our newest members who will be starting in July: Drs Christine Campana (English), Luna KC (Global and International Studies), and Max Hamon (History). My congratulations also to our colleagues who were promoted and tenured in the last application round: Jason Morris, Drs Rheanna Robinson, Angèle Smith, Daniel Sims, and Fiona MacDonald.

As we turn our attention towards the Summer, I know many are looking forward to travel, concentrated research, and conferencing activities, in addition to some well-deserved leave. Our academic programs remain busy and focused on offering a number of exciting courses across our Spring/Summer terms, and we continue to plan for a successful start to the 23/24 academic year.

As a parting thought, I encourage everyone to take a look at the newest addition to our Faculty webpage, which is now hosting video content for this past year's wonderful [Professorial Lecture series](#).

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: KOSTAS BACH

BA English & Political Science

What is it like to be the undergraduate representative for FISSSH?

It was similar to sitting on the board of governors. You meet and get to hear about what is going on, as well as contribute to decisions in your faculty. It is very low intensity, but it helps you better understand what is going on behind the scenes.

How has this experience helped you to reach your own academic goals?

This position helped give me experience in another political setting, which is my long-term career goal. It was cool to get to see and learn about the different disciplines that come together during faculty meetings.

What are some of the best undergraduate opportunities out there for FISSSH students?

The undergraduate opportunity that I have taken the most advantage of has been scholarships. I would recommend that undergraduate students apply for these every year of their education. There are also phenomenal travel bursaries, like the Travelling Knowledges Program, that I just heard about this last year, which allows you to travel and gain research experience in other countries. These things can make your university experience that much more engaging and educational.

"This position helped give me experience in another political setting, which is my long-term career goal. "

Are FISSSH students in your opinion maximizing the full potential of the opportunities offered to undergraduate students?

I don't think they are, and in some ways, I think that is due to poor advertising/information. There are many students who miss out on scholarship opportunities because they are unaware of how to apply for them or even where to find that information.

What would you like to see for FISSSH students in the future?

I think that a clear information session on the financial aid and other available opportunities would be incredibly helpful, especially for those students who are living semester to semester. Emails are great, but students receive so many of them that information is often lost on us. A session at the start of every year could be a positive - perhaps even a mandatory - part of orientation with an option for non-first years to attend as well.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. GABRIELLE DAoust

Assistant Professor, Global & International Studies

Tell us a bit about your research program

My research covers a pretty wide range of topics: the political economy of conflict, peacebuilding and development, environmental and climate security (including conflict and migration), education interventions, and humanitarian response, with a focus on the Lake Chad region and Sudan and South Sudan. My recent research has explored the relationships between environmental and climate change, water, and insecurity, which is the focus of a coauthored book published in late 2022, *Divided Environments: An International Political Ecology of Climate Change, Water and Security*. I've studied how these relationships are discussed, by whom, and why, and am currently writing about women activists' narratives about climate change and (in)security around Lake Chad. My research also explores humanitarian and development responses to insecurity, crisis, and conflict, including education interventions as well as dynamics of vulnerability and violence in the humanitarian sector. Across these areas of research, I'm particularly interested in gendered dimensions and experiences and in how colonial histories and legacies shape contemporary understandings and responses.



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

On a broad level, I hope that my research can contribute in some way to more nuanced understandings of – and discussions about – dynamics of conflict and insecurity, environmental change and its impacts, and forms of humanitarian and development intervention. And I hope that my research can contribute to more critical analysis of development, humanitarian, peacebuilding, and climate change responses, to inform policies and programmes that are more responsive and just, including through research collaborations with international organisations like UNICEF and the British Red Cross and government bodies like the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

Which research interest are you currently prioritising?

Building on my previous and current work, I'm interested in better understanding how the idea of 'climate (in)security' is defined in 'everyday' terms, by those directly experiencing the combined impacts of climate change and conflict, especially in terms of their gendered dimensions. I'm also hoping to bring together my interests in climate change, conflict, and education responses by exploring how the impacts of climate change are shaping education responses in crisis-affected places.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. SHAUNA LATOSKY

Assistant Professor, Anthropology

Tell us a bit about your research program

My research involves a variety of topics associated with rapid culture change, culture loss and cultural resilience in Southern Ethiopia, spanning two broad themes. The first thematic focus is the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Mun (Mursi) agro-pastoralists. I am especially interested in why certain cultural practices are prioritised over others, just as certain elements of natural heritage protected. For example, one of the most enduring examples of cultural resilience in Southern and Southwestern Ethiopia today is an indigenous form of martial arts, called *donga* or *sagine* (ritual stick duelling) that is practiced among the Mursi and Suri. Together with retired *donga* fighter, Olibari Olibui, we are analysing the continued relevance and resilience of *donga* today, despite attempts to ban it, arguing for its protection under UNESCO (LaTosky and Olibui, forthcoming). A second interrelated research area focuses on cross-cultural comparisons of large-scale development, socio-economic instability and environmental shocks on food security, indigenous knowledge transmission, health and well-being across several indigenous groups in South Omo.



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

One of the main aims of my current research program is to integrate the ecological expertise, social and economic capacities of indigenous pastoralists with the work of national and international researchers and development actors in ways that take seriously the needs and desires of pastoral women and men and their varied experiences of development. Through the establishment of new forms of meaningful and long-term cooperation, one hopeful impact of this research is that it will contribute to improving the health and well-being of agro-pastoralists in South Omo, whose rights to their cultural heritage, but also their land and water resources are being radically undermined.

Which research interest are you currently prioritising?

More research is needed that supports long-term food security and food sovereignty in Southern Ethiopia. My current research on ethnobotany - the scientific study of a culture's relationships with plants - is one research priority. Since it is still often assumed that cattle herders rely almost exclusively on the bi-products of their animals (e.g. milk, butter, yogurt, blood etc.), horticulture, hunting, fishing, beekeeping and the gathering of medicinal and wild edible plants are often overlooked by development planners, food security experts, policy makers and academics. At least this is the case in Southern Ethiopia, where no cross-cultural data exists to date on the continued use of, for instance, root crops, but also other important "famine foods". Root vegetables can yield food in abundance during times of seasonal scarcity, yet such knowledge is fading in some communities (LaTosky, 2022), as reliance on food aid increases and as indigenous agro-pastoralists are being pressured to adopt irrigation farming.



FACULTY UPDATES

Congratulations to **Jason Morris** for his promotion to Senior Instructor III; to **Angèle Smith** for her promotion to Full Professor; to **Fiona MacDonald** and **Rheanna Robinson** for their successful tenure application and promotion to Associate Professor; and to **Daniel Sims** for his successful tenure application.

Dr. Agnieszka Pawlowska-Mainville appointed co-chair of the new United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Living Heritage and Sustainable Livelihoods (see also “News Media”)

Dr. Daniel Sims appointed co-lead of the National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (NCCIH) and the PI for the British Columbia Network Environment for Indigenous Health Research (BC NEIHR) for UNBC.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Bouchard, Michel

2023. Lavenda, Robert H., Emily A. Schultz and Michel E. Bouchard. 2023. *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*. Canadian Edition. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

LaTosky, Shauna

2022. Hariman, R., LaTosky, S., Mokrzan, M., Pelkey, J. and Strecker, I. “Rhetoric Culture Theory.” *Oxford Encyclopedia of Anthropology*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190854584.013.588>

Rahemtulla, Farid

2023. Zara Evans, Lindsey Paskulin, Farid Rahemtulla, and Camilla F. Speller, "A comparison of minimally-invasive sampling techniques for ZooMS analysis of bone artifacts," *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 47. doi.org/10.1016/j.jasrep.2022.103738

Wilson, Gary

2023. Gary N. Wilson and Catriona Mackie. “Quite an Innocuous Thing: The Select Committee on the Greater Use of Manx Gaelic and Language Revitalisation in the Isle of Man.” *Shima*. v17/n1: 1-17. <https://shimajournal.org/article/10.21463/shima.184#gsc.tab=0>

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Daoust, Gabrielle

“Climate Change, (In)Security, and Women’s Narratives in the Lake Chad Region.” Global Friday Speakers Series, UNBC, 3 February 2023.

Hutchings, Kevin

“From Argentina to Upper Canada: The Rhetoric of Anti-Imperialism in Sir Francis Bond Head’s Argentine and Canadian Writings” Global Fridays Speakers Series, UNBC, 17 February 2023.

King, Jessie

“Storytelling as Resistance and Reconciliation”. Participatory Theatre in Canada, Nigeria and Ethiopia Workshop, UNBC, 26 March 2023.

LaTosky, Shauna

“Paying Lip-Service to Women’s Health and Well-being in Southern Ethiopia.” Anthropology in our Backyards Speakers Series, UNBC, 9 March 2023.

(with Pascale de Robert) “To Wear, or Not to Wear: Symbolism and Technology of Lip-plates in Mursi (Ethiopia) and Mebêngôkre (Brazil). Society of American Archaeology, Portland, 2 April 2023.

Rahemtulla, Farid

“An 8,000 Year Old Indigenous Maritime Village on Calvert Island, Central Coast of British Columbia.” Paper presented at the Indigenous Maritime Archaeology Conference, Underwater Archaeological Society of British Columbia, Vancouver, 15 April 2023.

Sims, Daniel

“Dreams of Finparpea: The Rise and Fall of Finlay Forks, 1912-1968,” Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy: Speaker Series, 19 October 2022.

“Infinite Diversity in Infinite Complexity: Dealing with Exceptions When Teaching Indigenous Topics,” Maskwacis Cultural College Microlearning Series, 16 December 2022.

“Indigenous Foodways: Before and After Contact.” Farm to School BC, 15 February 2023

Book launch of *The Fur Trader*. University of Alberta – Augustana Campus, 16 February 2023
Coming together of author team from Alberta, BC, and Norway.

“Failure in the Rocky Mountain Trench: Defining Homesteading Success in Northern British Columbia, 1871-1914.” American Society for Environmental History, Boston, 23 March 2023.

Wilson, Gary (with Will Hanlon)

“Collateral Damage? The Consequences of Brexit for Crown Dependencies in the British Isles.” UNBC Research Week, 3 March 2023.

NEWS MEDIA

“UNBC Associate Professor named to UNESCO”

(Dr. Agnieszka Pawlowska-Mainville)

CKPG Today, by Cheryl Jahn (Apr 3, 2023)

<https://ckpgtoday.ca/2023/04/03/unbc-associate-professor-named-to-unesco/>

Related media links:

Prince George Citizen (April 3, 2023)

<https://www.princegeorgecitizen.com/local-news/unbc-researcher-awarded-unesco-chair-6800813>

CBC Daybreak North (April 4, 2023)

<https://player.fm/series/daybreak-north-2441075/unbc-and-unesco>



UNBC Global and International Studies Associate Professor Dr. Agnieszka Pawlowska-Mainville is the new United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Co-Chair in Living Heritage and Sustainable Livelihoods.

“Lessons from Bard” (Dr. Lisa Dickson)

BC Booklook (April 5, 2023)



Dr. Lisa Dickson, a UNBC professor specializing in Renaissance Literature and Shakespeare.

“Education plays a key role in promoting understanding”

Troy Media (January 9, 2023)

Gerry Chidiac, Columnist and French Language Instructor at UNBC

<https://troymedia.com/education/education-plays-a-key-role-in-promoting-understanding/>



Gerry Chidiac
Columnist

“Body Modification” (Dr. Franz Manni & Dr. Shauna LaTosky)

CBC Daybreak North (April 4, 2023)

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2189917251565>

NEW MA STUDENTS

We welcomed these 39 students into our MA programs this academic year:

- Irish Abendan, MA International Studies
- Elvis Agyei-Okyere, MA Political Science
- Carolina Alday Mondaca, MA Gender Studies
- Bahareh Amiri, MA Gender Studies
- Grace Anane-Nimako, MA Gender Studies
- Philomena Anetor, MA International Studies
- Mubarak Azeez, MA Political Science
- Katelynn Baerg, MA English
- Viduri Dedyagala, MA International Studies
- Gertrude Fordjour, MA Gender Studies
- Shafaq Gburi, MA Gender Studies
- Tanvi Guhagarkar, MA Gender Studies
- Jonas Hasabumutima, MA International Studies
- Nevada Hinton, MA History
- Adriana Hurtado Bautista, MA International Studies
- Syed Jafri, MA International Studies
- Piper James, MA History
- Parisa Khodadadi Sharifabad, MA International Studies
- Zaida Lara Gonzales, MA Gender Studies
- Monique LeFeuvre, MA International Studies
- Grace Lekwauwa, MA International Studies
- Emily MacLise, MA English
- Faezeh Mahdavi Shirazi, MA Gender Studies
- Sarah Milligan, MA History
- Cassidy Muir, MA English
- Samarpita Mukherjee, MA Gender Studies
- Aritha Nyador, MA Gender Studies
- Kell Nyamekye-Acquah, MA International Studies
- Ayodeji Olaomi, MA International Studies
- Lenworth Reckford, MA International Studies
- Laura Rodríguez Galarza , MA Gender Studies
- Rozanna Rosarydasan, MA International Studies
- Maedeh Saki, MA Gender Studies
- Prapti Sarkar, MA Gender Studies
- Kanwal Shoukat , MA Gender Studies
- Musfiq Tajwar, MA International Studies
- Ekpeno Ukut, MA International Studies
- Tierney Watkinson, MA English
- Matt Wood, MA Political Science

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

FISSSH RESEARCH WEEK SHOWCASE PANELS (Feb. 27 – March 3, 2023)

by Kevin Hutchings (Department of English, FISSSH Research Committee Chair)

In response to our CFP, we were able to create three sessions (two panels and one roundtable) for presentation during Research Week in March. Dr. Júlia Campos Climaco (Gender and Women's Studies) organized and chaired a panel on "Motherhood and Matrilocality" featuring graduate student presentations by Chinedum Adebomi, Grace AnaneNimako, Piumi Lakchani, Prapti Sarkar, Vibusha Madanayake, and Victoria Awodele. A panel on "Research in Gender and Indigenous Studies" featured presentations by Dr. Kevin Hutchings, graduate student Cheri Brown, and English sessional instructor Alex Wagstaffe. Dr. Shauna LaTosky organized a roundtable (with Gabrielle Daoust as moderator) titled "Emerging UNBC Researchers Roundtable Discussion on Theatre for Development (TfD): A Creative and Transformative Methodology in Action." Presenters included Dr. LaTosky and graduate students Ekpeno Ukut, Musfiq Tajwar, and Rosarydasan Rozanna Devamalar.

ONE-DAY GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM: "Casting a Wide Net: New Directions in FISSSH Graduate Research" (March 17, 2023)

by Kevin Hutchings (Department of English, FISSSH Research Committee Chair)

Our first annual one-day FISSSH Graduate Symposium was a great success thanks to the excellent research presentations prepared by the graduate student participants and to our collaboration with Global Fridays. The event included two graduate student panels (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) and a talk by Global Fridays speaker Dr. Tatiana Degai (University of Victoria), whose Global Friday presentation doubled as our symposium's keynote talk. The Research Committee would like to thank the graduate students who participated in this event. Thanks are also due to Kriston Rennie for delivering the Dean's Welcome speech and for attending all the panels and presentations; Dr. Gary Wilson for his work in organizing the very successful Global Fridays collaboration; Selina Ross for booking the room and ordering lunch; and everyone else involved in the event.



Panel 1: New Directions in Gender Studies (from left to right) Tanvi Guhagarkar (MA, Gender Studies), Prapti Sarkar (MA, Gender Studies), Piumi Lakchani (MA, Gender Studies), Dr. Shauna LaTosky (Moderator, Dept. of Anthropology), Kiah Leone (PhD, Health Sciences and Anthropology), Viduri Dediayagala (MA, International Studies).

WORKSHOP: “Building Connections between Theatre Initiatives in Canada, Nigeria and Ethiopia” (March 25-26, 2023)

by Ekpeno Ukut (MA Student, International Studies)

In many communities across the world, theatre and other performance practices have been used by citizens as a creative means of interaction, knowledge sharing and social criticism with the aim of bringing positive change. In line with this universal practice, Dr. Shauna LaTosky (Department of Anthropology), Dr. Gabrielle Daoust and Mr. Ekpeno Ukut (Department of Global & International Studies) organized a participatory theatre workshop titled, ‘Building Connections between Theatre Initiatives in Canada, Nigeria and Ethiopia’. The two-day hybrid workshop explored the connections between indigenous performance and community theatre initiatives that are specifically focused on the applied use of performance for raising consciousness about social justice issues, from residential schools in Canada to political activism in Ethiopia. The workshop brought together theatre practitioners, researchers and representatives from community-based organisations and theatre companies including The Raven Collective (Terrace, B.C.), Theatre Northwest and Central Interior Native Health Society-CINHS (Prince George, B.C.), Nigerian Popular Theatre Alliance-NPTA (Nigeria) and South Omo Theatre Company (Ethiopia). Faculty members from the Department of First Nations Studies (Dr. Jessie King) and the Department of Social Work (Dr. Emmanuel Chilanga) also participated. At the end of the workshop, one of the resolutions was to share and further develop ideas for educational theatre programs across these countries where people continue to learn and critically use indigenous performance and forum theatre in ways that bring positive change within their communities.



Bradley Charles, Melissa Glover and Anna Russell (Theatre Northwest) discuss with Ekpeno Ukut (moderator, MA student, International Studies), Dr. Emmanuel Chilanga (Dept. of Social Work) and Musfiq Tajwar (MA student, International Studies) how both ‘conventional’ and applied theatre approaches are being used to interact with prison inmates in northern BC.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<h2>Indigenous Studies 201</h2>	
 <p>northern health the northern way of caring</p>	<p>Do you want help decolonizing and Indigenizing your course content? We can help!</p> <p>Join Dr. Daniel Sims for four workshops this summer in the FNC Gathering Place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 May: Community Engagement • 16 June: Readings • 21 July: Activities • 25 August: Assignments <p>Workshops run from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Refreshments will be provided.</p> <p>Participants are asked to register here. https://forms.office.com/r/0EbdUA652p</p>
 <p>National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health</p>	
 <p>UNBC UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA</p>	



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](#)

[Global and International Studies](#)

[History](#)

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

[Northern Studies](#)

[Political Science](#)

[Women's & Gender Studies](#)



[FISSSH.UNBC](#)



[@Faculty_ISSSH](#)



[@fisssh_unbc](#)



**Indigenous Studies,
Social Sciences and
Humanities**