



Faculty of Humanities 2021–22

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*Indigenous Resurgence
Coordinator*
Lydia Toorenburgh

Annual Report

Editor & Copy Writer
Philip Cox

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Annalee Lepp begins new term as Dean of Humanities

Dr. Annalee Lepp, a highly accomplished researcher, teacher and administrator who is known for her commitment to social justice and consensus-based community building, was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Humanities for a term beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2026. She is the first woman to serve as Dean in the Faculty's history.

As Acting Dean of Humanities since April 1, 2020, Dr. Lepp is widely credited with leading the Faculty through the pandemic with a steady hand, successfully balancing the evolving needs of students, staff and faculty while overseeing the mobilization of critical resources and support packages throughout this unprecedented period.

It is particularly noteworthy that Dr. Lepp's term as Acting Dean began less than two weeks after the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry declared a public health emergency in BC and increasingly strict social distancing measures were implemented across the province to contain the spread of the virus. Despite the challenges, the Faculty of Humanities managed to achieve incremental enrollment growth, advance its strategic priorities and increase its research revenues under her leadership.

Currently an Associate Professor in Gender Studies, Dr. Lepp served as the Chair of the Department of Women's Studies (now Gender Studies) for eleven years. More recently she served as the Acting Chair of the Department of Linguistics and the Acting Associate Dean of Academic Advising for the Faculties of Humanities, Science and Social Sciences.

As a historian by training, Dr. Lepp has focused her academic research on examining Canadian gender, family and legal history, with a focus on the history of marital breakdown and domestic violence in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Her more recent research focuses on community-engaged studies of sex work, human trafficking, transnational labour migration and irregular border movements in the Canadian and global contexts. She holds a BA (Honours) from the University of Winnipeg, a MA from the University of Manitoba and a PhD from Queen's University.

In 1996, Dr. Lepp was a founding member of the Global Alli-

ance Against Trafficking in Women (GAATW) Canada, for which she has acted as Director since 2000. Her work in this area has also included national advocacy and leadership positions in a number of collaborative research projects that approach human trafficking and irregular cross-border movements from a work

e 2021 Humanities Awards

Our Faculty's mission is to enrich human dignity, provoke critical inquiry, engage myriad voices and inspire innovative expression—objectives that have been achieved at the University and abroad by each of this year's award recipients, each in their own way.

Early Career Excellence in Research Award

waaseyaa'sin Christine Sy (Gender Studies) *inaugural recipient*

A scholar of Anishinaabeg womxn's history and material and economic social security, of Indigenous cultural production and of Indigenous feminist theories and practices, waaseyaa'sin

Advancing the philosophy of education

Humanities philosopher Colin Macleod has been recognized for his contributions to the philosophy of education by North America's oldest and largest professional organization for philosophers.

In June, the American Philosophical Association (APA) announced that Macleod has won the [Israel Scheffler Prize in Philosophy of Education](#)—a triennial award that recognizes excellence in the philosophy of education, as represented by either a book or a connected set of three or more papers on the topic. Founded in 1900, the APA fosters creative and scholarly exchange between philosophers across North America, while promoting the discipline and profession of philosophy within the academy and in the public arena.

The association cites the following of Macleod's works in their announcement:

- ["Toleration, Children and Education"](#) (*Educational Philosophy and Theory*, 2010)
- ["Justice, Educational Equality and Sufficiency"](#) (*Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 2012)
- ["Freedom as non-domination and educational justice"](#) (*Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, 2015)

- ["Just Schools and Good Childhoods: Non-preparatory Dimensions of Educational Justice"](#) (*Journal of Applied Philosophy*, 2018)

Humanities sweeps the REACH awards

Four out of nine of this 2021-22 REACH awards have been granted to members of the Humanities community—a tremendous showing in the university-wide competition.

The prestigious REACH awards represent UVic's top accolades for teaching, research and creative work by faculty and graduate students across the campus.

Digital Humanities pioneer wins lifetime achievement award

By Philip Cox

For more than twenty years, Associate Professor of English Janelle Jenstad has quietly and dedicatedly laid the foundations for a revolution in digital scholarship and collaborative practices that promises to shape Humanities research for decades to come. These contributions have been recognized by the Canadian Society of Digital Humanities/Société Canadienne des Humanités Numériques (CSDH-SCHN), which honoured her with the Outstanding Achievement Award for Computing in the Arts and the Humanities—the esteemed group’s equivalent of a lifetime achievement award.

“Dr. Jenstad has been a pioneer from her first days as a graduate student,” the award citation states. “The CSDH/SCHN Awards Committee was particularly impressed by the breadth of the reach of her pedagogical innovations, research and training.... This kind of collaborative open-mindedness and innovation is indeed the hallmark of leadership in a career filled with substantial achievements.”

A member of UVic’s department of English since 2003, Jenstad has established herself as an internationally recognized leader in the fields of early modern literary studies, digital humanities and book history. Her work focuses on building accessible, interactive digital editions of early modern texts for what is known as the semantic web—an extension of the World Wide Web in which all data is encoded with a well-defined meaning, to make that data more clearly understandable by both computers and other people.

She is perhaps best known as the creator and director of the Map of Early Modern London (MoEML), a richly interdisciplinary project hosted by the Humanities Computing and Media Centre that is for and director of the

Of mentors and mentees

By Philip Cox

Few people are lucky enough to have a mentor like English professor and winner of the 2021 Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) Award for Outstanding Graduate Mentorship, Stephen Ross—at least, that’s the impression one gains from speaking with his mentees.

“I don’t know where I’d be without Stephen Ross,” says Matthew Huculak, the Head of Advanced Research Services and Digital Scholarship Librarian at the University of Victoria Libraries, without a hint of hyperbole. “When I was at a crossroads during a particularly tough year, Stephen supported my work and helped forge a position as the Libraries’ first postdoctoral fellow with the University Librarian. Because of his support and mentorship, I now have the best job I could ever have imagined.”

Testimonials like this are surprisingly common among those provided by students mentored by Ross, given the emotional timbre of their acknowledgments. Many note instances when he helped them navigate the complexities of graduate studies or supported them through personal difficulties. Most say he did both.

“A memory of Stephen Ross that I cherish is from when, in the second year of my PhD, I realized that I wanted to alter my research focus. He encouraged me to follow my heart, even though it meant replacing him as my supervisor,” explains Lucie Kotesovska, an English PhD candidate and Vanier Scholar whom Ross also supported during her move from the Czech Republic to Victoria in 2020. “He told me that I was admitted to the program not for the project I had envisioned, but for the person I am. That was the most powerful moment of validation in my academic career so far.”

Ross himself is an internationally recognized and esteemed leader in Modernist studies. Within the last five years alone, he has published three books and written three more, and served as President of the Modernist Studies Association—the largest international organization in his field, with nearly 3,000 members at the time of his tenure—all while teaching, publishing

scholarly articles, presenting regularly at conferences around the globe and supervising the largest number of post-doctoral fellows, PhDs and MAs in his department. Nevertheless, his students emphasize his availability and generosity of spirit in their interactions with him.

“Stephen Ross is available, accommodating, understanding and caring—qualities one dreams of having in a mentor,” says Saba Pakdel, a first-year English PhD student supervised by Ross. “He is also generous with his knowledge and does not make students feel inadequate if they cannot understand complicated concepts.”

In 2020, Ross received UVic’s REACH Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision and Mentorship—the university’s top honour for academic supervisors. He is now the first professor at the University to receive the CAGS Award for Outstanding Graduate Mentorship.

For Amy Tang, a recent UVic graduate and current assistant professor at the University of the Fraser Valley, the compassion that Ross showed her had a profound impact on her life in and out of the classroom.

“When I first came out to my family, I had an extremely tough

A day in the life of Ruth Parrish

By Philip Cox

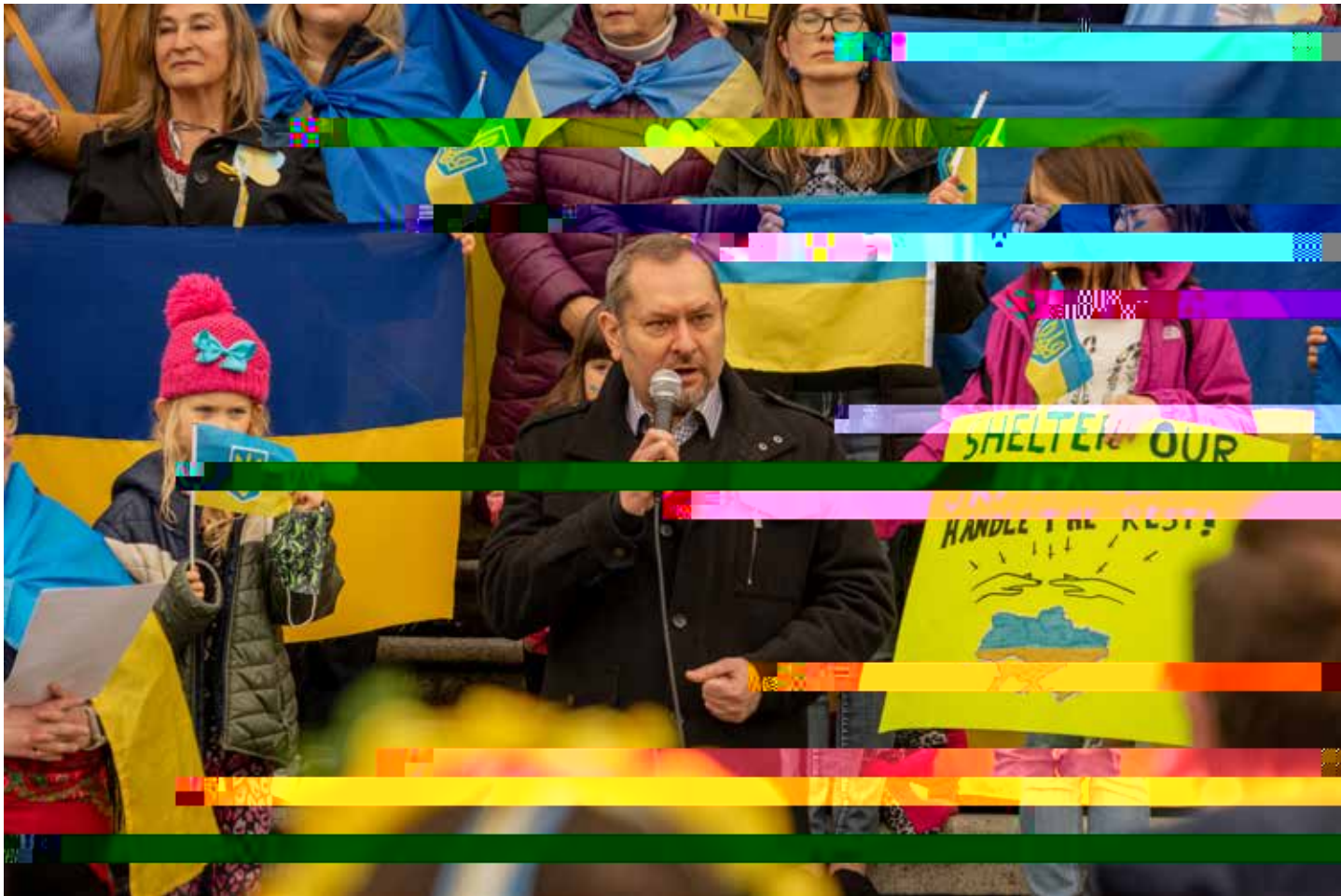
On a warm spring day last May, Ruth Parrish and her daughter Alana stood in front of a large crowd by the longhouse outside the Royal BC Museum, drums adorned with their Haida family crest in hand, singing The Children's Blessing Song by Cree-Dene musician Sherryl Sewepagaham.

Between them stood Layla—barely one year old, hands gripped tight, her beautiful brown eyes soaking up the scene before her from the safety of the shadows cast by her mother and grandmother.

This was no ordinary day for Parrish; nor for anyone who had read the news that day. This was the day the remains of 215 Indigenous children were revealed at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School, and Parrish was singing in their honour.

"I'm not outgoing. I don't do these kinds of thing very often," Parrish states. "But for the children I did it, you know? For the people there. For ceremony. For healing. So... it was a really big moment in a small way, you know? It's just a song. But it's more than a song, really."

An ordinary day for Ruth Parrish starts between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. when she



Historian of Ukraine thrust into public role by war

By Philip Cox

When Russian missiles struck Ukraine in the early hours of February 24, 2022, UVic historian and professor of Slavic studies Serhy Yekelchuk was watching the news in his kitchen in Victoria, waiting anxiously for his parents to call from their family home in Kyiv, as they did every morning.

He recalled stories his mother had told him of the Nazi invasion in 1941, when communications were cut off and ad hoc communication networks were built between families, who would relay news about the life or death of their loved ones.

He thought of Syria, whose city centres and residential areas Russia had bombed indiscriminately in 2015. He thought of Chechnya, 1999.

He wondered when his parents would call well into the afternoon until, finally, they did.

"One of the ironies of war in the 21st century is that communications continue," Yekelchuk states. "Even in the besieged cities of Kharkiv and Mariupol, which is basically destroyed, there is cell phone service. In Kyiv, the internet connection was never lost."

This constant global connectivity has enabled Yekelchuk not only to stay in contact with his family back home throughout the invasion, but also to defend against their nation's invaders by rallying support and countering disinformation from here in Canada with his pen, his voice and his vast knowledge of Ukrainian history.

"I am a historian and a citizen, really, of two nations," he says with an accent that friends here might say is Ukrainian and family there might say is Canadian.

Internationally, Serhy Yekelchuk is recognized as an esteemed scholar, public intellectual and advocate for democracy in Ukraine.

Since February, he has fact-checked for the New York Times, interviewed for CNN and written for BBC History and Politico—all while speaking at conferences and fundraisers and offering expert commentary for media outlets around the world.

Ukrainian air defenses that covered only the central region of the city were mobilized over its eastern bank, showering explo-

English PhD receives

From Saanich to Spain and back again

By Philip Cox

One semester studying abroad in Spain gave UVic graduate Elijah Ackerly a new perspective on life back home in Saanich that would change his path forever.

"I fell in love with the language and culture in Spain, but also with the way that learning a new language can influence your perspective on the world," Ackerly says. "I saw that life can be different from where I grew up."

Ackerly, who graduated with a major in Hispanic Studies and a minor in History, was raised with his sister by his mother in a single-parent, low-income home. Despite experiencing what he describes as "a noticeable class discrepancy" between himself and his elementary, middle and high school classmates, he never doubted that he would one day attend university.

"I didn't always know what I wanted to study, but I always knew I wanted to go to university. It just meant that I had to take out student loans and work hard for scholarships," Ackerly reflects.

Among the many merit-based scholarships that he received is the Elias Mandel Prize for Study Abroad in Hispanic and Italian Studies, which assists undergraduate students with tuition fees and travel costs associated with the university's study abroad

Lessons in French and life back on campus

By Philip Cox

“I didn’t realize how much I missed seeing people and engaging with them until I came back to campus,” says fourth-year French major Anabel Sargent. “And then I thought ‘This is why I love going to university and taking classes.’”

In June 2021, Sargent returned to campus along with two dozen other undergraduate students for one of two French courses offered throughout July—FRAN 409: Speech Art in French, taught by associate professor Sara Harvey; and FRAN 345: Summer Francophone Institute, taught by professor Catherine Caws.

For both the students and the professors, this was their first time in a classroom on campus since March 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a nation-wide pivot to online learning and instruction.

“I was happy to go back to face-to-face instruction,” says Caws. “The first meeting was quite emotional. Everyone was thrilled to be back.”

Fourth-year Education student Brittany Johnson suggests that the joy of seeing and studying with others in person helped the class to overcome any uncertainties that they may have felt after being away for so long.

“When we all introduced ourselves on the first day, everyone was super keen that this was their first class back. There was obviously a little bit of anxiety related to easing back into the campus life with all the restrictions, but overall people were excited to get back into the class-

room and participate,” Johnson states.

By July of that year, BC had entered stage 3 of its restart plan, which allowed for indoor gatherings of up to 50 people or 50% of the room’s total capacity. This enabled the University to offer a limited number of in-person classes that adhere to the safety precautions set forth in its own restart plan, which follows the guidance of the BC Restart plan, the provincial Return-to-Campus guidelines and the provincial health officer.

It is important to acknowledge the emotional and social challenges that have arisen for the University’s students and faculty, and the challenges that have arisen for the province and the nation as a whole. The University is taking steps to ensure the health and safety of students, faculty and staff, and to ensure that the learning experience is as high quality as possible.

– SARA HARVEY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF FRENCH

Measures taken by the University to ensure the health and safety of students, faculty and staff included physical distancing requirements, enhanced cleaning and hygiene procedures, and mask recommendations in indoor common areas.

Both students interviewed for this article noted that their instructors were

clear about the University’s requirements and considerate of the class’ emotional well-being as well.

“The first thing our professor asked us was about our comfort level with COVID-19 protocols and how we felt about being back in the classroom again, which I thought was really good” says Sargent. “I felt super comfortable. And by hearing how other people felt, I was able to have more empathy for them.”

Johnson adds that the students were also respectful of one another and proactive about ensuring each other’s unique needs were met.

“When we go outside for group work, everyone makes sure there’s distance between them and that each is comfortable with what the other is doing,” she explains. “Most people will ask things like,

English student named 2022 Youth Poet Laureate

By Tori Jones

When the City of Victoria announced that English and Writing double-major Eli Mushumanski had been chosen as their 2022 Youth Poet Laureate—the third UVic student to earn the title in the last decade—we were eager to sit down for an interview with this thoughtful, introspective non-binary poet.

How did you get your start in poetry?

I actually started writing as a three year old. It's nonsensical gibberish. But I remember wanting to be a writer; and then I wrote all the way through elementary and high school. It was at UVic that I ended up getting into poetry. I was a very self-conscious teenager and I don't like seeing my feelings in written form, but I took a workshop on poetry and realized that, in a sense, it's bigger than my own personal problems.

What do you hope to accomplish as Youth Poet Laureate?

I want to make climate change just a little bit more manageable through poetry. Obviously, it's never going to be manageable—it's this massive, massive problem with so many different components and it's so big that it feels unreal. I think the only way out—to use a cliché, which as a poet maybe I shouldn't—is to feel our way through it in order to make change. Poetry is one way to connect people to the natural world and help them to really love it and care about it.

The last poet laureate, John Barton, is also a UVic grad. Will you have opportunity to work with him?

John is going to provide mentorship—I can ask his opinions on my work and get feedback, which is really nice. He's also organizing some readings for Pride and has invited me to be a part of some of them.

But, maybe more importantly, just being able to read other queer poets like John is a really exciting thing that, 100 years ago, I wouldn't have been able to do. I know a lot of young queer people, but I don't really know a lot of older queer people. We lost a lot of those voices during the AIDS crisis and due to hate crimes, so having older voices like John's is really powerful for the queer community.

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Photo by Victoria University

A Message from the Associate Dean Research,

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ʃo di , aɔ o.

– ELI MUSHUMANSKI

Humanities Week 2022 Recap

Humanities Week is our annual, week-long series of events that showcase the critical and creative research of our Faculty and students while provoking our audience to reflect on contemporary social challenges.

Established in 2019, it has evolved from a simple idea into our largest and most popular public-facing event, gaining momentum every year and building a devoted audience along the way.

This year we were excited to host all events online for the second year in a row. This approach provided us with an opportunity to reach new audiences and utilize accessible event formats that heightened the experience for all involved.

Humanities Week 2022 was hosted in partnership with the Moose Hide Campaign and co-sponsored by the McPherson Library, with support from the Office of the Vice President Research and Innovation (OV-PRi) and Humanities Media and Computing Centre (HCMC).

Visit www.uvic.ca/humanitiesweek/ to learn more about past and future events!

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Humanities Research Grants 2021

33 NEW GRANT RECIPIENTS

John Archibald
Sikata Banarjee
Nicholas Bradley
Sonya Bird
Penny Bryden
Helene Cazes
Zhongping Chen
Jason Colby
Jeff Corntassel
Peter Dietsch
Erin Ellerbeck
Richard Fox
Lisa Kahaleole Hall
Li-Shih Huang
Sara Humphreys
Chase Joynt
Thomas Land
Pierre-Luc Landry
Mary Elizabeth Leighton
Patrick Lozar
John Lutz
Lynne Marks
Laura Parisi
John Price
Mike Raven
Dan Russek
Ray Siemens
Alejandro Sinner
Jordan Stanger-Ross
waaseyaa'sin Christine Sy
Su Urbanczyk
James Young
David Zimmerman

40 NEW GRANTS AWARDED

- 4 Insight
- 1 Partnership Engage
- 2 Connection
- 6 LTSI Grants
- 2 Strategic Framework Impact Fund
- 1 Humanities Faculty Fellowship
- 10 Internal Research Grants
- 5 Miscellaneous external grants
- 9 SSHRC grant transfers/
sub-awards to co-applicants

72.7%

Application success rate for new SSHRC grants (compared to 49.1% national average for 2020)

69.0%

Application success rate for all external grants announced in 2021

\$1.4 M

Value of new grants awarded (excluding matching funds, etc.)

\$1.0 M

Value of SSHRC funds awarded for new grants

20

Total number of new external grants awarded

16

Number of new SSHRC grants awarded (incl. 10 sub-grants)

Humanities research goes global with \$5M in funding

Two Humanities-based projects that put past injustices at the forefront of public conversations about equitable futures—one leading the co-creation of graphic novels by accomplished artists and survivors of mass atrocities and genocides, the other illuminating the mistreatment of people of Japanese descent in allied countries during and after the Second World War—received \$5 million in federal government support to create new global connections and partnerships.

These two grants are part of the \$6.6 million announced June 2022 by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) that is going to UVic researchers and students. The Faculty of Humanities is the only faculty this year at UVic to receive SSHRC partnership grants in the 2021-22 award competition.

The project on *Visual Storytelling and Graphic Art in Genocide and Human Rights Education*, co-directed by Holocaust historian Charlotte Schallié, chair of UVic's Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies, and UBC educator Andrea Webb, builds on an innovative approach to recording and commemorating the experiences of genocide and mass atrocity survivors through the co-creation of graphic novels based on survivors' experiences. With partners in 16 countries, the initiative connects 11 survivors of the Holocaust and mass atrocities committed in Rwanda, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, Syria and Canada with a team of 52 scholars, 13 artists and practitioners from 36 museums, schools and human rights groups.

Over the next seven years, this international team will produce documentary films, museum exhibitions, gallery installations, youth-appropriate educational materials and graphic novels that will reach audiences around the world and help teach a new generation about mass atrocities, large-scale traumas and human rights. This approach to testimony collection and dissemination builds on the foundation of Schallié's earlier project of a similar name—the

Landmark collection of Holocaust graphic novels released

By Philip Cox

Learning from past wrongs

In spring 2022, the highly acclaimed Landscapes of Injustice project—which catapulted the dispossession and displacement of Japanese Canadians in the 1940s and 1950s into the national conversation—formally wrapped up after a seven-year run that resulted in the capstone “Broken Promises” exhibit, eponymous book (McGill-Queen’s), online database and complementary website.

Now, the tried-and-true concept behind this project is going global, thanks to a \$2.5 million grant from the Social Sciences and Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) that has been matched with an additional \$3.3 million in contributions from project partners, which will fund a new research network entitled Past Wrongs, Future Choices (PWFC).

Co-directed by UVic historian Jordan Stanger-Ross and Queens U. geographer Audrey Kobayashi, the PWFC initiative will connect community partners and researchers from 40 organizations on four continents to explore the long-neglected connections among injustices toward people of Japanese descent (Nikkei), who in the mid-twentieth century were uprooted, interned, dispossessed and displaced in allied countries across the Americas and the Pacific.

Housed at UVic’s Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, with team members in Australia, Brazil, Japan, the United States and Canada, the project will prompt communities across the world to grapple with anti-Asian racism from the past and present by producing museum exhibitions, digital collections, documentary films, teaching resources and three books that show what these transnational injustices can teach us today.

As the PWFC partnership begins its activity, we invited Jordan Stanger-Ross, Audrey Kobayashi and project manager Michael Abe to share their aspirations for this major initiative.

What can this new project teach us about the displacement and dispossession of Nikkei communities that we did not know before?

ABE: Many in our Nikkei community in Canada are familiar with the Japanese Canadian uprooting, dispossession, and internment experience and somewhat knowledgeable about the Japanese American incarceration but they are quite surprised and intrigued when hearing about what happened to their counterparts in South America. I would wager the number of Japanese Canadians knowledgeable about Japanese Australians could be counted on one hand. Until now.

STANGER-ROSS: Explanations of these events in Canada and

Transformative Immaging

By Philip Cox

The story of Agnes—known to many as the locus classicus of sociological research about transgender people—has been interpreted in many ways for many purposes, but never in the way that it's told in a new feature-length documentary by UVic assistant professor of Gender Studies Chase Joynt, which premiered at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival.

“Framing Agnes challenges assumptions about historical truth while examining the pressures put on trans people to tell and perform certain kinds of truths for safety and access to services that others take for granted,” says Joynt, who directed, co-wrote and produced the film. “Everyone performs different truths for different reasons and to different ends. Here we try to show how even sociological studies and film documentaries can act as a sort of playground of fictions that naturalize some ways of being at the expense of others.”

Although the film centres around Agnes—who in 1958 entered a study about sex disorders at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) under false pretenses to gain access to the gender-affirming care she needed—it also tells the never-before-heard stories of five other gender non-conforming people who were involved in the study but ultimately excluded from the published research and, thus, the historical record.

These stories are vividly realized by an all-star cast of trans actors, including

artist and filmmaker Zackary Drucker, producer of the Golden Globe and Emmy Award winning show Transparent, and the indomitable Angelica Ross, most well known for her roles on the FX television series American Horror Story: 1984.

Joynt began filming Framing Agnes shortly after arriving at UVic in 2019.

An open

Making textbooks free

By Lisa Abram

The cost of textbooks is a common complaint among students across North America—and UVic’s Libraries and Humanities’ faculty members are listening.

*With support from an Open Education Resource (OER) grant and Inba Kehoe, the Libraries’ head of copyright and scholarly communication, English professors Sara Humphreys and Erin Kelly have published the open-access textbook *Why Write? A Guide for Students in Canada* to help students become better writers.*

“Universities are communities that should welcome individuals who bring to their classes and research projects a wide range of interests, experiences and knowledge,” says Kelly. “One barrier to access to university for some people is cost, including the high cost of textbooks, so we need to do all we can to create free educational materials that help students meet their academic goals.”

Kehoe notes that this textbook has proven to be so popular that the Faculty of Social Sciences has asked them for an open textbook, too.

*For students, the savings so far have been incredible. In 2021–22 alone, more than 2,100 students used *Why Write* in the first-year course, ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing, for a collective cost savings of at least \$52,750.*

The OER grants are part of an open education resource movement on campus spearheaded by UVic Libraries’ in partnership with the University of Victoria Students’ Society (UVSS), the Division of Learning Teaching Support and Innovation (LTSI), University Systems and BCcampus. Funding is provided to campus faculty members whose projects can demonstrably alleviate financial pressure for students so they can focus on their studies.



Health. Wellness. Politics. Yoga?

By Jodie Walsh

Traditional forms of religious participation may be in sharp decline in North America, but the popularity of other kinds of spiritual pursuits is rising—just ask the 45 million people in Canada and the US who practise postural yoga.

Religious studies scholar Paul Bramadat, director of UVic’s Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, wasn’t paying much attention to the yoga phenomenon until severe arthritis in his knees convinced him to—rather reluctantly—give ashtanga yoga a try. His sampling of different yoga studios in his own travels caused him to wonder whether the context and culture of the country or community where it’s practised change the experience.

“We know that globalization is having a major impact on religion, politics and economics,” Bramadat states. “But the question is whether these changes are unfolding in the same way in every country.”

*That question is at the heart of Bramadat’s latest research project, *Global Spiritualities, Local Bodies: Modern Postural Yoga in Canada and the United States*, which is supported by an Insights grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.*

We sat down with Bramadat to learn about this exciting project.

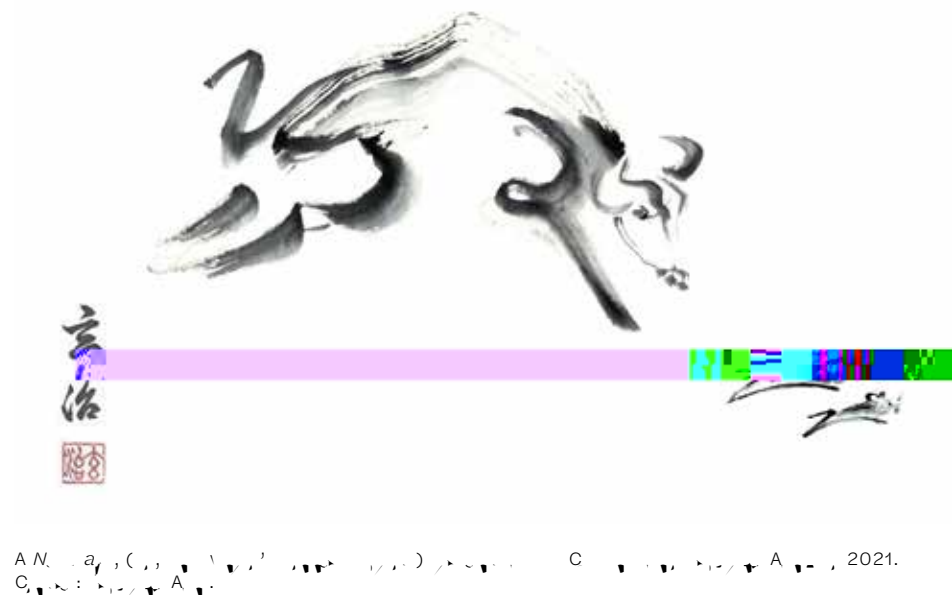
What kind of differences would you expect to find in a yoga studio in Canada versus one in the US?

I’m very open to the idea that there will be no major differences—and that conclusion would be interesting on its own—but I have a hunch that political differences will show up in yoga studios. There are lots of commonalities between the US and Canada, but when you consider issues like attitudes toward guns, women’s legal right to control their bodies, race and reconciliation, and health care, those are meaningfully different in our two countries.

My project will begin by focusing on distinctive US and Canadi-

Supporting equitable access to

Announcing the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society Award



It is with privilege and gratitude that we announce the creation of the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society Award for undergraduate students.

Open to all undergraduate students at the University of Victoria, this endowed award will support innovative and creative research in Japanese Canadian history, art, culture and language.

"We are proud to have established this endowed award at the University of Victoria's Faculty of Humanities," says Tsugio Kurushima, President of the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society (VNCS). "By advancing student research in these subjects, the award provides an important way to honour our Japanese roots and the contributions of Japanese-Canadians to Canadian society."

Since 1993, the VNCS has supported and fostered community among those of Japanese heritage or interested in Japanese culture. In addition to identifying and serving the needs of the Nikkei (or, Japanese emigrants and descendants residing in a country outside of Japan), the VNCS actively promotes awareness of Japanese culture through social outreach, public advocacy and community programming and events.

The first Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society Award will be dispensed in 2022 and awarded annually, in perpetuity.

"The University places great emphasis on engaging undergraduate students in research," says Lisa Surridge, Humanities Associate Dean Academic. "We are thrilled that this award will open new research opportunities for students interested in studying Japanese culture, language, arts and history."

More new Humanities-based financial awards created in 2021-22

- Charlotte S.M. Girard Memorial Bursary
- Christine Welsh Scholarship for Indigenous Gender Studies Students (endowed)
- Frank Sylvester Scholarship
- Hugh Campbell and Marion Alice Small Graduate Teaching Fellowship in Scottish Studies
- Judy Payne Memorial Award for Latin American Studies
- Kari Moore Award for Slavic Studies majors
- Langford-Seaborne Award for Indigenous Students in the Humanities
- Lawrence & Maria Luisa Macrae Scholarship in Italian Studies
- Lawrence & Maria Luisa Macrae Scholarship in Spanish Studies
- Mary Naidu Entrance Scholarship for Indigenous Students
- Murray and Lynda Farmer Award for Critical Thinking
- Robert Herchak Graduate Scholarship in Ukrainian Studies
- Ukraine Emergency Doctoral Student Fellowship in the Humanities

To help support our students visit

<https://www.uvic.ca/humanities/giving-alumni/>

New emergency fellowship for Ukrainian PhD students

As the Russian invasion of Ukraine continues with no end in sight, Ukrainian students are increasingly impacted by the war and all the uncertainty it brings.

In response, the Faculty of Humanities has created an emergency fellowship for doctoral students currently studying at a Ukrainian university, offering financial support, peer and faculty mentors and an office space at UVic to safely complete their degree.

"Students in Ukraine are highly vulnerable at the moment due to the ongoing invasion and attempted genocide by Russia," says Serhy Yekelchuk, a UVic professor of Slavic Studies and internationally recognized specialist on the Ukraine/Russia conflict. "Canada is both a trusted ally of Ukraine and a site of outstanding expertise in Ukrainian studies. It is quite possibly the best place for Ukrainian students, who will feel welcome at UVic and be able to continue with

Unearthing passions: the impact of field schools and experiential learning

By Nicole Pointon

In the spring of 2022, two years and one pandemic after a previous semester studying abroad, Sally Martin-Damman was eager to get back to Greece. A six-week immersive field school at Eleon—an ancient site in the village of Arma—beckoned her.

When she started out at UVic, Martin-Damman had planned on pursuing a teaching degree with a minor in French. Then, in 2019, Greek and Roman Studies Professor Brendan Burke visited one of her classes, encouraging students to take part in a Semester in Greece program. Martin-Damman decided to go for it.

“It was sort of on a whim,” says Martin-Damman. “But the semester studying in Greece totally changed my life.”

Returning to Greece this year to take part in the Eastern Boeotia Archeological Project not only required patience—with the pandemic putting field schools on hold—and planning, but also a lot of saving to cover the costs of the experience. She saved money from summer jobs and working part time during the school year, but when this was not enough, she also applied for financial awards like the Elias Mandel Prize for Study Abroad, an endowed fund available to Faculty of Humanities students for travel-based or experiential study.

“I would not have been able to afford this opportunity without receiving funding from UVic,” says Martin-Damman, with no hint of exaggeration.

Professor Trevor Van Damme, who recently took over the leadership of the Eastern Boeotia field school from Burke, emphasizes that donor support for student travel awards, as well as philanthropic infusions towards field schools directly, can significantly lower barriers to participation.

“The main barrier is the cost associated with the program in terms of student tuition, travel expenses and lost summer job revenue as well as the program fees, which are dependent on the cost of housing, food and transportation during the six-week period in Greece,” says Van Damme. He also notes that this year has been particularly costly due to increased energy costs and inflation.

Experiential learning opportunities offered by the Department of Greek and Roman Studies include the Semester in Greece, the Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project and an archaeological program at Ilduro in Catalonia, Spain, led by Professor Alejandro Sinner. These are a few among many Faculty of Humanities field schools that are challenged by inflation and rising costs of travel.

“Even with carried-over travel funds accumulated when field schools were not operating during the pandemic, we are still del

e happy return

By Philip Cox

Twelve years and three children after completing a second master’s degree, Lucie Kotesovska fulfilled her long-held dream of returning to the academy to begin a PhD in literary studies.

Now a highly acclaimed researcher with a stellar record of success, one might not believe that she had ever doubted it was possible at all.

“Deciding to pursue a doctorate was not straightforward for me, because I am a full-time mom with three kids under the age of nine,” Kotesovska explains. “It had been quite a few years since completing my master’s, during which I spent most if not all of my focus on my children—their interests, their education, their personalities. I had to put my own ambitions on hold for that time.”

With two masters’ degrees and a professional certification in pedagogy under her belt already, Kotesovska was able to put her education to great use during this period nonetheless, working in the Czech Republic as a language instructor and translator.

The work was interesting, she says, but not the path that she’d envisioned for herself.

As her children grew and became less dependent upon her, Kotesovska began thinking about going back to school once again, yet several barriers remained.

“I didn’t really feel confident that I could go back to school. I didn’t know if there would be interest in my research, and maintaining a home for my kids required so much time and resources,” she states.

Even without children in tow, Kotesovska knew first-hand the challenges of trying to earn an income while pursuing an advanced degree, having worked in the service industry during her final year at the University of Northern Iowa when funding provid-

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