





**Ryan Balot**

Chair,  
UTSG

This academic year has been a highly successful one at St. George. Our faculty continue to distinguish themselves in both research and teaching: Ran Hirschl was appointed University Professor, the University's most distinguished academic rank. Tommaso Pavone was awarded the Certificate of Merit from the *American Society of International Law* as well as the *Council for European Studies* Carolina de Miguel Moyer Young Scholar Award. Uahikea Maile received the Student Union's Terry Buckland Award for Diversity and Equity in Education. Lynette Ong was shortlisted for the *CPSA* Prize in Comparative Politics, Diana Fu received a John H. McArthur Research Fellowship from the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada while Semra Sevi was appointed as a Schwartz Reisman Institute fellow. Our liberal democracy initiative has thrived this spring, with a provocative lecture by Professor Ian Shapiro of Yale University. We have many new faces in the Department, from students of Platonic philosophy to scholars of energy justice and more. Meanwhile, we lament the passing of one of our most eminent colleagues, Professor Emeritus Peter Russell, whose contribution to the study of Canadian constitutionalism and sovereignty remains the world's gold standard.



**Steven Bernstein**

Chair,  
UTM

Spring is when the Hollywood North film crews and deer return to the UTM campus, in the pause between the end of term and our vibrant slate of summer courses. It's also a perfect time to spotlight just a few recent highlights. Among them, Spyridon Kotsovilis received a 2023-2024 Cheryl Regehr Early Career Teaching Award, which recognizes exceptional teaching at the University of Toronto, while Alison Smith is a finalist for the 2024 *CPSA* Prize for Teaching Excellence. Meanwhile, among the many publishing highlights from our faculty, we celebrated the launch of Menaka Philips' new book, *The Liberalism Trap: John Stuart Mill and Customs of Interpretation*, which has been shortlisted for the *CPSA* C.B. Macpherson prize. Andrea Olive also published a new book, *Protecting the Prairies: Lorne Scott and the Politics of Conservation*. We also saw record student engagement at our annual UTM Public Affairs Lecture, which featured Professor Roland Paris - an architect of Canada's Foreign Policy under Justin Trudeau - speaking on "Making Sense of Chaos: Canada in a Fragmenting World." With mixed feelings, we celebrated the many contributions to academic and public life of David Wolfe, who will be retiring this summer. We wish him, and our amazing graduating students, the best in whatever comes next.



**Christopher Cochrane**

Chair,  
UTSC

There is much faculty news from UTSC. Congratulations to Phil Triadafilopoulos, who was promoted to full professor. Chadwick Cowie was a member of the first delegation in over 160 years representing the Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg to the United Kingdom. Aisha Ahmad was awarded the *ISA* International Security Studies Emerging Scholar Award. Filiz Kahraman received an honourable mention for the Best Article Award from the *APSA* Law and Courts section. Carla Norrlöf's expert testimony to the US House Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy was acknowledged for contributing to the committee's work on Alternative Payment Methods and National Security. Nicole Bernhardt received a Black Research Network Ignite Grant to support her work on the Ontario Human Rights Commission's enforcement of anti-racism policies in policing. Lucan Way was awarded the title of Distinguished Professor of Democracy. His book, *Revolution and Dictatorship: The Violent Origins of Durable Authoritarianism* also received the Juan Linz Best Book Prize from the Democracy & Autocracy section of the *American Political Science Association*.



**Theresa Enright**

Graduate Director &  
Associate Graduate Chair,  
UTSG

**Margaret Kohn**

Tri-Campus  
Graduate Chair

We would like to congratulate all our award winners, including Yojana Miraya Oscco and Jenna Quelch, who are recipients of the Connaught PhD for Public Impact Fellowship and Madalyn Hay Keller and Samuel Henderson, who were awarded SSHRC Fellowships. In the past year, eleven students have received their PhDs. After graduation many of our alumni take up SSHRC post-docs or tenure-track jobs and this year placements included institutions such as Penn State, University of Winnipeg, Université de Montréal and Smith College. We have wrapped up our PhD admissions process, and we are pleased to welcome an excellent cohort of twenty-six incoming doctoral students. Among these are four Recognition of Excellence Award winners and one Jackman Junior Fellowship recipient. In the MA program, we have a new class of twenty-three students, selected from an applicant pool of 175. Most of the students are Canadian, although we also succeeded in recruiting students from China, India, the US, the UK, and France. The entering class includes winners of two RBC awards, one Harney fellowship, one OGS award, one CGS-M award, and two Inclusive Excellence awards.

# In Memoriam

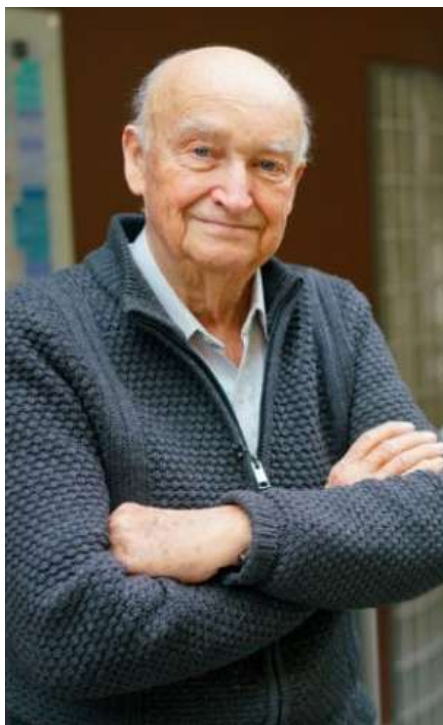
Remembering University  
Professor **Peter H. Russell**, CC, FRSC.

Our esteemed colleague left us on January 10, at the age of 91. Peter joined our predecessor department, Political Economy, in 1958. He remained deeply engaged in the life of our community throughout his long life. Just a couple of months before his death, he attended a departmental seminar led by a distinguished visiting professor. As usual, he asked a penetrating question that stimulated a lively and illuminating debate.

Originally appointed on a political theory line, over the course of his career Peter rose to the very top of several related fields of study within Canadian politics. He was a pioneer in the study of Canadian courts considered as political institutions. His book *The Judiciary in Canada: The Third Branch of Government* (1987) instantly became the authoritative account in the field. That interest in the judiciary connected seamlessly with his larger interest in constitutional politics, and during the thirty-year “mega constitutional” era in Canada, Peter became the country’s chronicler-in-chief. His *Constitutional Odyssey: Can Canadians Become a Sovereign People?* – first published in 1993, then twice updated – remains definitive. The sequel – *Canada’s Odyssey: A Country Based on Incomplete Conquests* (2017) – was widely recognized as his finest work. It is a magisterial narrative of Canadian constitutional history, the first to give equal standing to all three “pillars” of the Canadian political community – French, English, and Indigenous.

Peter’s inclusion of Indigenous people in Canada’s “odyssey” was the product of long engagement with Indigenous questions. In 1974, the Dene nation asked him to help them understand the bewildering and oppressive provisions of the Canadian constitution. This encounter propelled him down another scholarly path that led to Australia (*Recognizing Aboriginal Title* – 2005) and back to Canada in a comparative context (*Sovereignty: The Biography of a Claim* – 2021).

Peter was also both a scholar and advocate of parliamentary democracy. The title of his 2008 monograph – *Two Cheers for Minority Government* (a revised edition just published posthumously) – telegraphed one aspect of his contribution to understanding Canada’s central political institution.



(L-R) U of T President (1972-78) John R. Evans, Robin S. Harris, Shelly Sinukoff and Peter at a sod turning ceremony at Innis College on September 14, 1973.

Although his spectacular record of research and publication inevitably brought him great academic honours, Peter worked hard to actually apply the lessons learned in the policy world. He was one of the founders of the Canadian Law and Society Association and its second president (1985-87). He also played an important role in transforming Ontario’s judicial appointments process. Later, having gained the trust of several Indigenous nations, he helped build vital bridges with governments of the day.

In addition, he worked with the McDonald Commission in holding the RCMP accountable for its security and intelligence operations. Finally, and over many decades, his discreet advice was sought by numerous Governors-General when they faced difficult decisions.

With the support of his spouse of sixty-five years, Sue Jarvis, Peter was a generous and wise mentor to colleagues in the department as well as across the University. And when invited to serve—whether as long-time member of the Manuscript Review Committee of the University of Toronto Press, principal of Innis College, graduate director in our department just before he “retired,” or co-founder of Senior College in the years after he “retired”—he never declined.

“His students were at the core of his life’s work. He loved and inspired them.”

Over the coming year, Peter’s colleagues will be working to ensure that his memory endures. They will make their own contributions, but they will need some help to do justice to the cause. His students were at the core of his life’s work. He loved and inspired them. Perhaps they will now help us raise an endowment in his name to support in perpetuity the study of Canada’s federal system and its implications for a rapidly changing world. Peter certainly earned such a tribute, and the Canadian story he did so much to interpret and explain deserves continuing attention, and not only in Canada. As Peter himself put it in *Canada’s Odyssey*, “What we have learned about living well together could be of value to all of humankind. Multinational, multicultural Canada might offer more useful guidance for what lies ahead for the peoples of the planet than the tidy model of the single-nation sovereign state.”

– Professors Louis W. Pauly & Robert Vipond

## Meet our Students – *Updates from our Scholars*



Cathalyn Francis,  
Undergraduate Student



Valerie Kindarji,  
Graduate Student

### **Why did you decide to study Political Science and Urban studies?**

I always knew I wanted to study political science! I have always enjoyed learning about politics and as someone who is highly curious, I thought studying politics would help me to understand the world better, as power is embedded everywhere. I chose urban studies because I wanted to understand the city I lived in and the role the localities play in comparison to politics at the federal level. It complimented political science nicely while introducing me to courses and experiences I would not have otherwise had.

### **What have been the most rewarding and challenging experiences during university thus far?**

The most challenging part has been learning how to be a concise and articulate writer! However, this has also been the most rewarding as I have really enjoyed writing long-form research papers. The process of bringing together research, identifying gaps in literature, coming up with a research question, and following it through feels like a great accomplishment. I'm particularly proud of a paper I wrote for a class on race and privilege, examining the concept of ethnic privilege and whether it applies to the context of Sri Lanka. My parents immigrated to Canada from Sri Lanka, and it felt like a full-circle moment for me.

### **What did you learn at university that you did not expect to?**

Starting university, I did not expect to learn this much about myself! From working with peers, study habits, intrinsic motivation, and what restores my energy, I understand myself so much better now. While I'm lucky to have met some of the kindest and most intelligent people during my time at university, a lot of my learning experiences have been as an individual. I also did not expect to learn (or enjoy!) quantitative politics, but it has been a true joy! I currently work as a methods peer tutor for the department, and it has been a great part of my final year.

### **What do you plan to do after graduation?**

After graduation, I'm planning to take some time to rest, which I feel very privileged to do - hopefully to travel and spend some time with family and friends! During that time, I hope to apply to law school and master's programs and see what opportunities are waiting for me!

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The process of bringing together research, identifying gaps in literature, coming up with a research question, and following it through feels like a great accomplishment.”

### **Please explain your research and its main findings thus far.**

I'm interested in how disordered information and digital technologies impact democracy, and how democracies respond to these challenges. I have found that democracy's inherent characteristics become its main vulnerabilities in the digital era. For instance, liberal democracies which prioritize the free market must grapple with mixed incentives and face the incompatibilities between democracy and capitalism. Democratic governments often fund and emphasize digital innovation, whereas this same innovation often impedes on fundamental democratic necessities, such as citizens' access to high-quality information. In parallel, I also research the ways in which democracies are responding to threats in the digital era, more particularly in the form of e-government and digital literacy initiatives.

### **Why did you decide to research this particular area and what intrigues you the most about it? What impact do you hope your research will have? Any surprising findings?**

Formerly a civil war researcher, I became interested in disinformation in the wake of the 2016 U.S. election. The pandemic also fueled my interest. I observed so much anger fed by inflammatory information online, and it tore at the fabric of our society, impacting relationships with family and friends, worsening existing schisms. Initially, I was only interested in how disinformation impacts democracy, but I realized that at the end of my dissertation, I will have highlighted this big problem democracies are facing... but what can we actually do about it? This led to my interest in what governments could do to combat these threats to democracy in the digital era, in the form of e-government and digital literacy initiatives. I was surprised to discover that North America was performing poorly in this space (with poorly funded libraries and NGOs doing the work governments should be doing), while Baltic and Scandinavian states were pioneering these initiatives. My genuine wish is to help pave the way for a national-level digital literacy strategy in Canada, in partnership with the provinces. With some lessons learned from our neighbours across the Atlantic, we can build a more resilient democracy.

### **What has been the most challenging aspect of pursuing a PhD?**

The most challenging aspect of the PhD was the sudden drop in structure after the third year which was worsened by the pandemic. My extroverted nature struggled without in-person interaction with my colleagues, and while I made the best of it by keeping in touch, it simply wasn't enough, and I fell behind. Beyond the intellectual challenge, pursuing a PhD will challenge you in unexpected ways; because the project is so personal, you need to make concerted efforts to separate it from your own self-worth! Imposter syndrome will really sneak up on you.

### **Future plans post PhD?**

I'd love to continue researching and teaching. Despite the "PhD fatigue" I feel, I'm still fascinated by my topic, and I love meeting others in my field curious about the same ideas. I'm open to working in academia with a postdoc, or in a research institute dedicated to the study of technology and democracy.

## Highlighting Women's Memory within Archives of War

Maria Mendez Gutiérrez on curating 'Embroidering Absence,' an exhibition exploring how Salvadoran women, forced into exile during the civil war (1980 - 1992), harnessed the power of embroidery to confront and heal from the traumas of conflict. The project was selected for inclusion in the Jackman Humanities Institute (JHI) Program for the Arts 2023-2024.



Teresa Cruz and Maria Mendez (R) with some of the work on display at the exhibition.

**The idea behind the JHI program is to raise the profile of the Arts at U of T. What was your purpose, both professionally and personally, in bringing this exhibition and the speaker, Teresa Cruz, cultural promoter at MUPI, to U of T?**

The idea of curating an exhibition and inviting Teresa Cruz to U of T was sparked by my participation in the SSHRC-funded "Surviving Memory in Postwar El Salvador" initiative. This international

**What do you hope exhibition visitors and lecture attendees took away from 'Embroidering Absence'?**

My aim was to highlight the importance of women's memory within archives of war often dominated by male perspectives and to give visitors insight into the transformative and subversive role of women's memory work in reclaiming the past and fostering healing.

Attendees who visited the exhibit reported making profound connections to their own experiences of war and to other sites of violence. For example, a student, upon learning how Salvadoran women smuggled embroideries into the United States in the dirty clothes of humanitarian workers, drew a parallel to enslaved women in the Americas who used braids to encrypt messages and hide escape maps.

I also hoped that attendees would see a new perspective on war through the lens of women's experiences. As Teresa Cruz shared in her lectures, the embroideries featured in the exhibition go beyond depicting the hardships of conflict. These embroideries capture everyday life in refugee camps, showcasing community activities like gardening, carpentry, drawing, and hammock workshops, conveying the resilience and coexistence of Salvadorans during the conflict.

Ultimately, my goal with 'Embroidering Absence' was to invite attendees to explore a rich emotional landscape, highlighting moments of hope, joy, compassion, friendship, and generosity that transcend the pain and suffering of war. The embroideries of women refugees serve as a reminder that while war is a part of human experience, it does not define all aspects of our lives.

*With special thanks to Professor Martha Balaguera, Dr. Tia Sager, Mariel Rivera, and MUPI (the Museum of Word and Image) for their support.*

collaboration involves survivors, scholars, artists, lawyers, and grassroots organizations dedicated to documenting and commemorating the history of the Salvadoran Civil War from the perspective of those often marginalized from memorialization efforts. During my research in El Salvador, I encountered powerful "unprivileged memories" in the embroideries created by Salvadoran women refugees during the civil war. These artworks vividly narrate the lived experiences of conflict. Motivated by the compelling narratives conveyed through these embroideries, I felt a strong calling to bring this exhibition, 'Embroidering Absence', to Toronto, especially given the significant Salvadoran diaspora in the city. Additionally, against the backdrop of a political climate in El Salvador and elsewhere, where memories of war are being suppressed, the exhibition serves as a poignant response to historical amnesia, fostering dialogue and reflection on silenced histories.

## Sharing research with Canada's top public servants: at the Canada School of Public Service in Ottawa

## Jonathan Craft on his time as a visiting scholar

I jumped at the chance to serve as the Jocelyn Bourgon Visiting Scholar with the Canada School of Public Service (CSPS). It is a wonderful opportunity for research and to connect with Canada's brightest public servants. As an undergraduate I read a series of books published by the CSPS precursor - the Canadian Centre for Management Development - that left a lasting impact on my understanding of Canadian governance and policy making. They took stock of big changes in the governing environment and examined how well governments were responding. They engaged with big questions in pragmatic and applied ways. I could see a lot of parallels to our current context. The pandemic and other disruptions were playing out and interrupting calls for new ways of doing public policy. I saw the CSPS role as a chance to engage with these issues.

With Evert Lindquist (UVIC) I started work on an edited book comparing Canadian experience in governing during turbulent times. We recruited twelve leading Canadian scholars and partnered them with an international scholar on various topics. We met in full-day workshops in Ottawa with the CSPS helping get the right public servants in the room. About forty officials joined the scholarly sessions. The conversations were outstanding. We spent a lot of time listening to officials and unpacking today's biggest challenges and what was distinctive about Canada's experience. The chapters are in progress. I think it served to better connect academics and public servants on important issues too. I shared my own work on systems of advice and policy modernization in other events too. Having previously lived in Ottawa, I reconnected with friends and public servants I know well. I managed to get a few final interviews for another book project on modern approaches to policy making in Westminster systems.

My role culminated with my keynote address where I reflected on Canada's mixed record on policy modernization. There are many lessons learned from our own experiences and what other jurisdictions are doing. My view is that strengthening capacity and reform needs to be ongoing, with a firmer institutional home for that work underway with clear senior leadership and sufficient resources to ensure that Canadian policy practice remains fit for purpose. The visiting scholar role let me share research with the public service. I look forward to integrating their insights into my own work and bringing them back to our students to shed light on how policymakers are responding to our most pressing policy challenges.



Jonathan and his dog Winston

**The Elite Africa Project:** Dickson Eyoh and Antoinette Handley on building an online hub of information that showcases the creativity, expertise, talent and power that is flourishing on the continent.



**The Elite Africa Project launched in February. Can you tell us about its conception and how the idea came about?**

The project, which started about two years ago, was motivated by the observation that both in the academic study of Africa and in much public discourse, African elites are often understood very narrowly (operating mostly in the political or economic domains) and with a strongly pejorative lens (to put it crudely, depicted as either corrupt and self-serving or as the puppets of stronger international forces). We felt that while these characterizations accurately described some elites in Africa (or, more accurately, how some fraction of elites across the globe behave), they missed a great deal. If we understand elites as those who exercise disproportionate decision-making and agenda setting capacity, this allows us to adopt a more multi-dimensional and capacious view of both elites and the kinds of power that they wield and generate: that the category of elites can include counter-elites such as those challenging the status quo; that it can - and should - include powerful women, not just men, and that our frame should be broadened to include those at the forefront of every domain of human endeavor, including the artists, writers, religious/spiritual leaders and civil society activists.

Clockwise from top left: Antoinette Handley, Dickson Eyoh, Sean Hawkins, Nakanyike Musisi, Thomas Kwasi Tiekou, Landry Signé, Peter Lewis and Gerald Bareebe (photos courtesy of Elite Africa Project)

We are not adopting an overly rosy or purely benign view of elites - but we do see the need for some balance. The simple act of focusing on elites immediately and necessarily raises the question of inequities in access to power and influence - but it should not close off a fuller consideration of where power sits, what power looks like, who wields it and to what ends.

**What is the goal of the project and what do you hope it will achieve? Do you have an ideal target audience in mind?**

We want to kickstart a new kind of academic conversation about Africa's elites, so some of our activities are directed at our academic colleagues. The database is a great resource for someone who wants to begin doing research in this area, and a way of highlighting existing work. We're also interested in reaching a broader public audience and we use our social media platforms for that.

For a more in-depth look at this project, visit: <https://www.eliteafricaproject.org/about>

**Emerita Profile:** Sylvia Bashevkin - Embracing the continuous adventure of learning

I have the good fortune to be living a retirement that dovetails the best parts of my career in political science. Since I remain intrigued by the impact of social movements, I've continued to present conference papers and publish articles. This work builds on the contributions of many, many University of Toronto students at all levels who served as my research assistants beginning in the 1980s. It's a delight to follow their growth in Canada and internationally, and to help each one who reaches out along life's path.

I entered the discipline in an unusual way - I'd thought about graduate work in history but was convinced by my undergraduate professors at Tel Aviv University to apply instead to political science. Even during the 1970s, job prospects for history PhD's were far from promising. Only at the point that I began doctoral work at the University of Michigan did I grasp the program's decidedly electoral, quantitative and US focus. I then moved to York University, at the time an intellectually lively environment for students of comparative politics, Canadian politics and social science methodology. I secured a SSHRC post-doctoral fellowship afterwards, and began teaching at what's now UTM after a course instructor left partway through the fall term in 1982.

Each of these serendipitous twists along the way highlights how important it is to embrace learning as an adventure. I've benefited enormously from the valuable insights offered by colleagues and students in each phase of my development, including when I taught introductory undergraduate offerings at the University of Toronto. Because I prepared dozens of different courses over the decades, I became familiar with varied literatures. Students raised many important, often unanswered questions that set me off on my own journeys of discovery. In short, the curiosity and ferment that characterize an inquiring classroom directly nurtured my research career. I remain convinced that in a top-ranked academic institution, committed teaching and excellent scholarship fit together well.

Since retiring, I've built a busy non-profit that ferries my grandchildren around Toronto. I've also travelled, joined a few rock bands as a keyboard player, and volunteered with the New Israel Fund of Canada. I've even had the pure adrenaline high that comes from offering guest lectures in courses, and then leaving the classroom without having to look after grades or other details.

It's all very fulfilling! As we say in letters of reference, I recommend a creative retirement in the strongest possible terms.



# Alumni Dispatches

## A deep dive into careers in communications and consulting



Marie Cook, BA 91  
Director of Marketing and  
Communications,  
C100



Isabel Freire, BA 89  
Strategy Consultant,  
IAG (International Application group) Services

### Why did you decide to study political science, English and Labor Management Relations?

I studied Political Science because I was curious about how the world works and I wanted to learn about places beyond Canada's borders. If I was going to be an optimist that the world can be a better place, I needed to understand it better. Labour Management Relations seemed like something I could study to help me find a job after graduating and it fit with my view of the world at that time - I like the idea of everyone having a voice. My English minor was simply a nod to my love of reading - my parents instilled that in my brothers and sisters.

### What advice would you give a graduate considering a career in communications?

If you love to write, read, listen, and network, then communications is a good career choice. But for me, communications is all about making connections between what you see, hear, observe, predict, and then mapping how to harness what's going on with your customers, the media, and the world, to achieve your business goals. I always mention to people when asking about careers in communications to lean into the power of storytelling. No matter how data focused your narrative is, it will be more memorable, and likely to be picked up by your audience, or media, if there's a good story at the heart of it.

### Can you tell us a little bit about the career transition to the tech sector from *World Vision* in terms of the learning curve?

I have never experienced such a steep learning curve! Going from the humanitarian sector which was focused on advocacy into the world of tech and startups was tough. *BenchSci*, the company I went to (it actually started at U of T!), works at the intersection of biotech and machine learning, both of which were a total mystery to me. The communications craft is industry-agnostic, so I was able to apply my skills and expertise, and lean on first principles thinking, to develop the communication strategies that mapped to *BenchSci*'s business objectives. Moving to *C100* a year ago was another challenge and I still feel like I'm learning new things every day.

### Can you describe your current role and what qualities you feel are essential to being a communications leader for *C100*?

Leading marketing and communications at *C100* requires ruthless prioritization, agility, a growth mindset, and the ability to make connections - with people, issues, trends, etc. Canadian tech companies need *C100* to connect them to the network, capital and talent in Silicon Valley, and my communication strategy plays a key role in achieving that. Because communications is tightly intertwined with all other business functions at *C100*, the ability to get along with others is key!

### What do you enjoy most and least about your job?

I love meeting tech entrepreneurs, learning their stories and mapping how I can use comms to help strengthen the Canadian tech ecosystem, making it easier and faster to build globally competitive companies in Canada. I also love building thought leadership for the *C100* brand and working for a boss who understands the value of communications in achieving business objectives. It's hard to find something I like least, but I guess it would be when I've prepared an announcement for months and the run of play is set, then something out of my control happens to hijack it - that can be frustrating!

### Why did you decide to study Political Science, History, and Spanish?

I visited Europe frequently when I was young to visit relatives so I had a lot of exposure to history and different languages. I also loved to watch the news, which led to my political engagement as a teen. That all made the choice of what to study obvious.

### The term 'consultant' is very broad. Can you describe your current role and what qualities/qualifications you feel are essential to it?

At its core, it could be described as offering a specialized skillset to help with a specific function. Management consulting involves hiring an objective third party to help you solve a problem or guide you on the best way forward. That's done through data points, like the consultant's own expertise, research, best practices, and interviews with people internally and externally that know your business. Ideally, as an initially skeptical client told me at the end of a project, "I couldn't see the forest for the trees... you helped with that." Completing an MBA also helped me understand business fundamentals.

### With over two decades of experience as a strategy consultant in the tech and telecom industries, what advice would you give a graduate considering a career in this area?

I'd say that unless you are already focused on a specific industry, just be open to seeing what interests you. To me, strategy made sense because when I took my first course during my MBA, it seemed like a very natural next step. Also, it was similar to what I enjoyed most about political science: picking apart a problem, engaging in critical thinking, analyzing behaviors and the effect of pulling different levers on outcomes. It's ultimately about passion and knowing you can do it well.

### What do you enjoy most and least about your job?

I love using my skillset, and I enjoy always having different problems to solve. Also, the travel is great. What I like "least" is when the client doesn't implement your solution. But that only happened early in my career when you take things more personally. You learn that strategy and execution are sometimes two different things (like in Political Science) also known as "the best laid plans..."

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If you love to write, read, listen, and network, then communications would be a good career choice. But for me, communications is all about making connections between what you see, hear, observe, predict, and then mapping how to harness what's going on with your customers, the media, the world, to achieve your business goals.”

# Events



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**1.** UBC's Michael Byers proudly introduces his former student, Alison Smith at a discussion on the Canada-wide housing crisis. **2.** Undergraduate students meet with mayor Olivia Chow at Toronto's Canadian Club. (Back: L-R) L. Ghernaout, J. Chan, W. T. Hollis, B. Lee, C. Zhang, D. Crispano. (Front: L-R) O. Chow, C. Shah, V. Santana, B. Adhikary. **3.** (L-R) Jacques Bertrand, David Rayside and Neil Nevitte at the end of term party at the faculty club. Photo by Sari Sherman. **4.** Elizabeth McCallion (L) with Jeanette Ashe (R) and Tracey Raney at the Canadian Study of Parliament Group's conference. **5.** PhD students Magdalee Brunache and Aidan Kerr at the launch of the second issue of *OtherWise* at Hart House. **6.** Post-doctoral Fellow Sardana Nikolaeva with Ziibing Lab's inaugural research project 'Indigenous Diamonds'. **7.** Undergraduate student Ricky Miller in a game versus MoGen (molecular genetics) which resulted in a victory for the Political Animals.



## Reports: Undergraduate, Graduate and PhD Job Placements



**APSS**  
Association of Political  
Science Students  
**Grace Yang, President**

This semester, the APSS held further events to foster student engagement. To boost morale during midterms, we held a 'de-stressing' social and pub night. Following that, our annual career panel explored careers beyond law such as journalism and public affairs for professionals with a BA in Political Science. We held our undergraduate research conference in March, which featured six student essays and was attended by Professors Cheng Xu and Christopher Greenaway. During APSS elections, we hosted office hours to encourage students to chat or ask questions about participating in the APSS. Our final academic event of the year was a panel about gender and intersectionality featuring Professors Linda White and Elizabeth McCallion. In April, we hosted an end-of-year semi-formal to celebrate student success. We're looking forward to distributing print copies of the tenth edition of *POLIS*, the Undergraduate Journal of Political Science, titled "Nexus." Please visit us on Instagram [@utapss](https://www.instagram.com/utapss) or send us an email at [president.utapss@gmail.com](mailto:president.utapss@gmail.com) for questions or information!



**GASPS**  
Graduate Association of  
Students in Political Science  
**I Younan An, Chair**

GASPS has been busy! Earlier this year, we established a base funding coalition which aims to work with the university and department leadership to find ways to increase base funding for our graduate students. In addition, our representatives from different area groups and research clusters have been very active. In February, e-magazine *OtherWise* hosted an open-mic event at Hart House, inviting students to showcase their talents including poetry, singing, dancing, and filmmaking. In addition, the Women's Caucus hosted a series of events including crochet-making sessions and a self-defence class. Making a return, the annual 'Canadian Graduate Colloquium' took place in late April, providing opportunities for graduate students to present their research work in the field of Canadian politics. We also organized various sessions on prepping for PhD field exams for first- and second-year students, set to take their exams in May and August. We are grateful to all our graduate students and faculty who have been supporting the work of GASPS for the past year. We look forward to seeing everyone in the Fall semester. Have a great summer!



**Report**  
Academic Job Market  
**Geoff Dancy & Menaka Philips**  
PhD Job Placement Coordinators

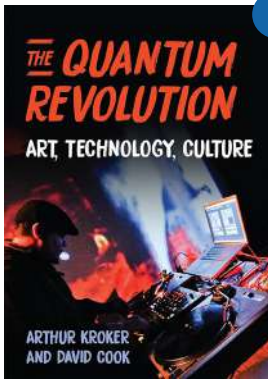
This year, the Graduate Placement series consisted of five 'how to' professionalization workshops—from applying for academic positions and postdocs, to crafting an effective presentation. We also ran eight practice job talks featuring graduate students both actively on the market and those who will be soon. The workshops benefitted from great student and faculty engagement throughout. Since becoming placement directors in the fall, our aim has been to give students some tools for professional development, and to foster a culture of departmental support and peer feedback among graduate students at all levels. From William O'Connell (2024 Postdoctoral Associate, Columbia University): "The academic job market is perhaps where knowing the 'hidden curriculum' is most important, and Professors Philips and Dancy did an excellent job demystifying it in their placement workshops. We covered everything from writing application materials, preparing talks, and navigating the lengthy and often variable interviewing process. These sessions were invaluable not only for my job search, but also in clarifying crucial elements of my dissertation to speak to a wider audience." We look forward to continuing the series in the fall!

**Contributors:** I Younan An, Ryan Balot, Myrthe Bartels, Sylvia Bashevkin, Steven Bernstein, Christopher Cochrane, Marie Cook, Jonathan Craft, Geoff Dancy, Theresa Enright, Dickson Eyoh, Cathalyn Francis, Isabel Freire, Antoinette Handley, Valerie Kindarji, Margaret Kohn, Maria Mendez Gutiérrez, Patricia Mockler, Louis Pauly, Menaka Philips, Caleb Pomeroy, Shardul Tiwari, Robert Vipond, Grace Yang.

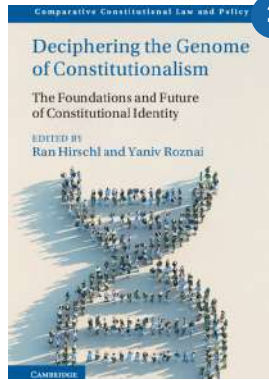
**Front Cover Photo:** Created by Brian Pel, "One Way to Study", (1980) Courtesy of University of Toronto Archives.

**POLITICS**

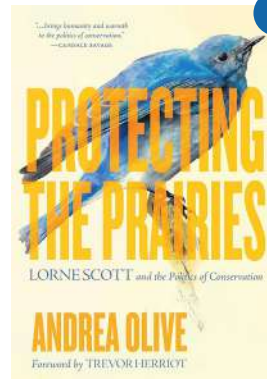
**Editors:** Jennifer O'Reilly, Julie Guzzo, Elizabeth Jagdeo  
**Design and front cover:** Puneet Parhar



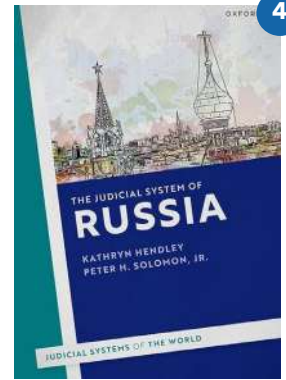
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**BOOKS:**

**1.** *The Quantum Revolution: Art, Technology, Culture* - **David Cook** and Arthur Kroger - *University of Toronto Press*. **2.** *Deciphering the Genome of Constitutionalism: The Foundations and Future of Constitutional Identity* - Edited by **Ran Hirschl** and Yaniv Roznai - *Cambridge University Press*. **3.** *Protecting the Prairies: Lorne Scott and the Politics of Conservation* - **Andrea Olive** - *University of Regina Press*. **4.** *The Judicial System of Russia* - **Peter H. Solomon, Jr.** and Kathryn Hendley - *Oxford University Press*.

## faculty

**Aisha Ahmad** received the 2023-2024 *International Studies Association (ISA)* Emerging Scholar Award in International Security Studies.

Professor Emerita **Sylvia Bashevkin** was shortlisted for the *CPSA Jill Vickers* prize.

**Nicole Bernhardt** received a *Black Research Network (BRN)* Ignite Grant.

**Diana Fu** received a John H. McArthur Research Fellowship from the *Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada*.

**Antoinette Handley** was appointed Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science, from July 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

**Ran Hirschl** was appointed University Professor, the University's highest and most distinguished academic rank.

**Filiz Kahraman's** article, "What makes an international institution work for labor activists?" received an honorable mention for the 2023 Best Article Award from the *APSA Law and Courts* section.

**Spyridon Kotsovilis** received the 2023-24 Cheryl Regehr Early Career Teaching Award.

**Uahikea Maile** received the 2023-24 Terry Buckland Award for Diversity and Equity in Education from the Arts and Science Students' Union (ASSU).

**Lynette Ong** was shortlisted for the 2024 *CPSA* prize in comparative politics.

**Ato Onoma** received a Chancellor Jackman Faculty Research Fellowship in the Humanities (2024-2025).

**Louis W. Pauly** was appointed Acting Chair of the Department of Political Science effective July 1, 2024 for a one year term.

**Tommaso Pavone's** book *The Ghostwriters: Lawyers and the Politics Behind the Judicial Construction of Europe*, received a certificate of merit in a specialized area of international law from the *American Society of International Law (ASIL)*. He also received the Carolina de Miguel Moyer Young Scholar Award from the *Council of European Studies*.

**Menaka Philips' book** *The Liberalism Trap: John Stuart Mill and Customs of Interpretation*, was shortlisted for the *CPSA C.B. Macpherson* prize.

**Kent Roach's** book, *Wrongfully Convicted: Guilty Pleas, Imagined Crimes, and What Canada Must Do to Safeguard Justice*, was nominated for the Donner prize.

**Semra Sevi** was appointed as a Schwartz Reisman Institute fellow.

**Caroline Shenaz Hossein** received a 2024 100ABC (Accomplished Black Canadian) Women Award.

**Alison Smith** was shortlisted for the 2024 *CPSA* prize for teaching excellence.

**Phil Triadafilopoulos** was promoted to full professor.

**Lucan Way** was awarded the position of Distinguished Professor of Democracy. His book, *Revolution and Dictatorship* also received the Juan Linz Best Book Prize from the Democracy & Autocracy section of the *APSA*.

Professor Emeritus **Graham White** was shortlisted for the *CPSA Donald Smiley* prize.

Sessional instructor **David Zarnett** advanced to Sessional Lecturer II.

We wish all the best to **David Wolfe** as he retires this summer and to **Ludovic Rheault** and **Peter Loewen** in their new career ventures!

## students

**New PhDs:** Dr. Salar Asadolahi, Dr. Timothy Berk, Dr. Christian Elliott, Dr. Reut Marciano, Dr. Mary Johanna Macdonald, Dr. Catherine Ouellet.

**U of T Student Leadership Award Recipients 2024:** Soban Atique, Catherine Dumé, Lydia Sara Ghernaout, Tariq Harney, Maarib Kirmani Haseeb, Nisha Iqbal, Zindiswa Claire Malanca, Ciara Rose McGarry, Frances Simone Tao Tao Northeast, Sommer Pesikan, Gazinajni Naher Sultana.

**Undergraduate Awards and Scholarships 2022-2023:** Mohamed Ahmed, Jacob Christopher Buchan, Shiu Shu Joy Chan, Woosuk Chun, Juliana Diradour, Ana Francesca Djordjijevic, Emily Downing, Sarp Egemen, Itay Elkoubi, Cathalyn Francis, Celina Fratzscher, Jolie Gan, Eathan Gohringer, Petek Gorduysus, Samantha Guevara, Elowyn Javor, Yu Huan Jiang, Mercy Kim, Lawrence Vincent King, Spencer James Lambert, Yujin Lee, Longxi (Lindsay) Liu, Elliot Francis Mohammed, Emily Moore, Hyewon (Isabelle) Park, Alazne Qaisar, Zoe Annika Reichert, Matthew Remedios, Karen Reyes Henriquez, Elisha Rose, Aasfi Sadeque, Luis Sanchez Blanco, Keah Sharma, Emily Yinchang Shi, Robert Joseph Smith, Adrian Tam, Terrai Tull, Jack Van Oord, Oanh Tu Vu, Jun Ying Wen.

PhD candidate **Anika Ganness** was shortlisted for the *CPSA Jill Vickers* prize.

PhD candidate **Khalil Al-Wazir** was named a Schwarzman Scholar.

# new faces

**Myrthe Bartels (PhD, Leiden University)** joins the department as a postdoctoral fellow working with Ryan Balot. Her research focuses on ancient Greek political thought. Her current project examines how Plato conceptualizes the philosopher's loyalty to his city and the common good. Previously, she was a postdoctoral fellow at Durham University and at the University of Pisa. She also held a Junior Core Fellowship at the Central European University. She has published a book, *Plato's Pragmatic Project: A Reading of Plato's 'Laws'*; several book chapters and journal articles, and has contributed a chapter to the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Ancient Greek Political Thought*.



**Shardul Tiwari (PhD, Michigan Technological University)** joins UTSG as a postdoctoral fellow working with Kate Neville on the CANSTORE energy research project. As an interdisciplinary researcher, his work studies energy transition through an energy justice lens while looking at the intersection of energy policy, economics, and justice. He has over eight years of experience formulating and implementing renewable energy and energy efficiency policies in South Asia, Europe, and North America. He has previously engaged in energy efficiency and demand-side management projects for electrical utilities.



**Patricia Mockler (PhD, Queen's University)** joins UTSG as Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream. Her research interests include political participation, deliberative democracy, and democratic innovations. Her work focuses on heterogeneity in political participation in the Canadian context, with an emphasis on non-electoral forms of participation. Previously, she was a postdoctoral fellow at Western University and the Canadian Opinion Research Archive.



**Caleb Pomeroy (PhD, The Ohio State University)** joins UTSG as Assistant Professor, with a joint appointment at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. He researches the psychology of power in international relations, notably the effects of relative state power on human thought and behaviour. His work is published or is forthcoming in the *American Political Science Review*, *International Organization*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Peace Research*, and *Security Studies*. He previously held fellowships at Stanford University and Dartmouth College.





**Celebrating Success:** The top ten graduating undergraduate students are celebrated at a faculty club lunch in early April. Left (back to front): Alexander Trachsell, Asha Mior, Chair Ryan Balot, Conor Fei, Ciara McGarry and James Jiang. Right (back to front): Daniel Corredor Llorente, Akshay Goodrich Dua, Daniel Crosner, Professor and Undergraduate Director Rebecca Kingston, Cathalyn Francis and Nima Ashtari.

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