



University of Toronto
Department of Political Science
Fall 2023



Ryan Balot

Chair, UTSG

Against the backdrop of tragic conflict in foreign countries, the Department continues to do the all-important work of describing, analyzing, and explaining political life both at home and abroad. Having conducted a self-study this year, we can better appreciate the transformative impact of our recent curricular reform, both in increasing enrolment and in diversifying our students' experiences. We are offering our students an extraordinary academic and co-curricular experience. Of great assistance in that effort is our work to expand our faculty complement: we are currently conducting searches in Canadian Politics, International Relations, Black Political Thought, and Liberal Democratic Theory, and we have heard a range of stimulating lectures from our job candidates this fall. We continue to pursue our focus on liberal democratic politics and inaugurated our speaker series in that area this fall with a visit from Professor Helena Rosenblatt of CUNY. We are looking forward to continuing our momentum in the new year.



Steven Bernstein

Chair, UTM

There's been much to celebrate at UTM this fall. Alison Smith's book, *Multiple Barriers: The Multilevel Governance of Homelessness in Canada*, won the *American Political Science Association's* 2023 'Seymour Martin Lipset Best Book Award', given annually by the Canadian Politics Section to honour a significant contemporary contribution to the scholarship on Canadian politics. Meanwhile, David Wolfe received UTM's Desmond Morton Research Excellence Award, recognizing his outstanding career research achievements in innovation policy and local and regional governance. We've also been fortunate to recruit an outstanding PhD student, Han Kang, as part of the inaugural cohort of the UTM International PhD Scholarship Program. It brings exceptional students into our tri-campus Graduate Program who will contribute to graduate activity at UTM. Han will be working with Professor Menaka Philips and other colleagues on liberal theory and cultural concepts of gender. We're also excited to welcome our new Departmental Manager, Alex Zaranek.



Christopher Cochrane

Interim Chair, UTSC

UTSC welcomed alumni back to the Department this fall for a reception honouring student award recipients for service and exceptional research papers from the previous year. The Law Society of UTSC Student Group (LSOU) hosted a successful moot competition in November, attracting undergraduate students across southern Ontario and Quebec. The competition was judged by lawyers from the GTA, as well as professors Andrew McDougall and Irma Spahiu. The Department also welcomed new colleagues and celebrated recent research achievements. Nicole Bernhardt joins us as Assistant Professor of Political Science and Public Policy. Titilayo Soremi also began her new role as Assistant Professor (Teaching stream) in Public Policy of the Global South. Filiz Kahraman's forthcoming book, *Labour in Hard Times: Legal Mobilization of Workers at the European Court of Human Rights*, was workshopped in September. Andrew McDougall's book *Sleeping Dogs: Quebec and the Stabilization of Canadian Federalism after 1995* (U of T Press) was recognized at a book launch early in the fall. Finally, the Department completed a successful external review of its proposed new Major in Public Law, which we expect to launch in 2025.



Theresa Enright

Graduate Director & Associate Graduate Chair, UTSG

Margaret Kohn

Tri-Campus Graduate Chair, UTSG

We are very proud of the many accomplishments of our graduate students who continue to win national and international prizes: Dr. Meaghan Williams was awarded the 2023 Governor General's Gold Medal for Academic Excellence, which is the highest academic honour available to graduate students in Canada. Her dissertation examined the pathways to a reconciliatory future in which treaties are respected and Indigenous peoples' aspirations for holistic self-determination are grounded in both self and shared rule. Daniel Luna won the Best Graduate Student Paper at the Latin American Studies Association meeting. Roberta Rosania Gerevasi and Logan Gates were recognized with departmental awards for 'Best Teaching Assistant.' Madalyn Hay was selected as one of the inaugural Connaught PhDs for Public Impact Fellows. Aside from that, graduate student life is thriving. The fall has seen the return of research clusters, workshops, reading and writing groups, and social events. Finally, a new student-led mentoring initiative promises targeted support and mentoring for women and non-binary students.

Meet our Students

Updates from our scholars



James Jiang
undergraduate student

Why did you decide to study Political Science (specialist)?

In my first year at U of T, I was clueless about what I wanted to devote four years of my life to. I took random courses, ranging from economics, astronomy, history and philosophy of science, psychology, and most critically, political science. The other auxiliary courses bored me, but my political science courses were gems. They taught me how to think, argue, and write. Every lecture and assignment honed skills that would extend beyond my university years, transforming me into an articulate and informed person. In this vein, I knew that I wanted to study political science.

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

As a U of T student, I thought I would have to power through four tough years of undergrad with no friends, surrounded by ambitious, GPA-fanatic classmates. The reality though, is that everyone, both peers and professors, are friendly and nice. Moreover, they hail from diverse backgrounds, with unique personalities and eccentric ways of thinking. Beyond pure academics, I learned how to interact with a whole gamut of personalities – how to be open to different people and expand my social bubble.

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

My most challenging experiences were getting my foot in the academic and extra-curricular door. Initially, I struggled academically and was met with multiple rejections in my extra-curricular applications, making me feel like my intellect and accomplishments were mediocre and inadequate. Pushing through these feelings by grinding away academically and socially was very challenging. My most rewarding experience is knowing that my efforts have paid off. I have been honoured to receive awards, like the U of T Excellence Award and the Charles Stephen MacInnes Scholarship for high academic achievement. My extra-curricular efforts also eventually came to fruition. Currently, I'm the president of the Canadian Asian Student Society, an opinion columnist for *The Varsity*, the Editor-in-Chief of APSS's *POLIS*, and a Managing Editor of ASSU's *Arbor* journal. Most importantly, I'm a peer tutor for the Methods Lab, a position where I tutor students and younger versions of myself in POL222 and POL232.

What do you plan to do after graduation?

I'm currently applying to law schools and Master's programs in Canada and the United States. No matter the outcome, I plan to continue my academic journey and am excited to do so!

"Beyond pure academics, I learned how to interact with a whole gamut of personalities."



Samuel Henderson
graduate student

Please explain your research and its main findings thus far.

My research examines the development of national orphan drug policies in Canada and Australia to study factors that constrain and enable policy transfer. Under regular market conditions, drugs for rare diseases, known as orphan drugs, are underdeveloped due to small patient populations and unprofitability. Policies have been adopted to incentivize drug development and create separate regulatory pathways that consider the challenges associated with orphan drug development and evaluation. While most developed countries have adopted a national policy using the American Orphan Drug Act as a guide, including Australia in 1997, Canada has not, despite several attempts to develop one since the 1990s. I argue that the spread of national orphan drug policies constitutes a case of policy transfer, with Australia representing a positive case and Canada a negative one. Preliminary findings suggest that policymaking has been plagued by debates regarding how best to facilitate orphan drug development and evaluation. Strong federal government leadership, the use of formal venues for intergovernmental collaboration, and the presence of cooperative norms in pharmaceutical policymaking have assisted Australian policymakers in overcoming these challenges, while their absence in Canada has prevented this, leading to divergent transfer outcomes.

Why did you decide to research this particular area and what impact do you hope your research will have? Any surprising findings?

I was introduced to the world of orphan drug regulation when I had the opportunity to work on the Standing Committee on Health's 2019 report to the House of Commons on barriers to access to treatment for Canadians with rare diseases. The fact that Canada remains one of few developed countries without a national policy intrigued me. While several previous governments have argued a Canadian policy is unnecessary, many experts strongly disagree, and governments continue to consider adopting a national policy. The Canadian government is currently developing a national strategy for orphan drugs, and others, including Australia, are working to update existing policies. My hope is that by understanding the factors that have facilitated and constrained policy development in the past and in other countries, policymakers and other experts will be better able to navigate policymaking in this complex policy area.

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

The most challenging aspect of the project has been dealing with information gatekeeping by government and a surprising reluctance by politicians to discuss policymaking in this area. Thankfully, I have had great support from bureaucrats, advocates, and other experts, which has helped overcome this.

Future plans post PhD?

At this point, I'm keeping my options open. My plan is to pursue a career in academia, but I'm considering other careers as well.

Research Wise:

Jacques Bertrand on his recent overseas fellowship which turned out to be the best of both worlds



Stanford University



NUS

The Lee Kong Chian NUS-Stanford Fellowship is a prestigious visiting appointment located at both Stanford University and the National University of Singapore (NUS). This collaborative visiting fellowship provides an opportunity to pursue research in two of the highest ranked universities in the world. Visiting scholars experience two very diverse, yet complementary academic communities and its flexibility allows scholars to adapt their experience to their stage of research and leverage the respective locations, which each have their own strengths and opportunities.

I had several objectives: first, finalize a manuscript on nationalism in Southeast Asia for the Cambridge Elements series; second, deepen the conceptualization and empirical strategy of an exciting multi-year collaborative project, the main thrust of the Post-Conflict Reintegration Lab that I co-direct; third, participate in fieldwork in the south of the Philippines; and fourth, socially engage with both scholarly communities.

Both locations were tremendous environments to pursue some intensive writing, while enjoying highly stimulating social and academic engagement. At Stanford, I was located in the 'Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center' (APARC), which holds a large number of weekly events. It was really enjoyable to meet a diverse group of APARC visitors and fellows from all over Asia, and to participate in the broader intellectual activities of the 'Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies' that houses not only APARC, but the 'Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law.' The exciting intellectual activity combined with Stanford's idyllic environment was clearly a highlight. I also fully espoused the California lifestyle. I biked to campus daily, became a regular among the runners at Stanford's challenging "Dish", went on numerous hikes along the coast and explored Californian wines.

In Singapore, NUS offered a highly engaging intellectual environment with a stronger regional focus. It has a very high concentration of scholars working on Southeast Asia, in a variety of disciplines and on themes that are close to mine. I enjoyed numerous opportunities for events, lunches, and dinners with colleagues, sharing broad regional and thematic interests. It was equally exciting to have the opportunity to do so with many colleagues who were "dropping by" Singapore, given its role as a regional hub. I took advantage of engaging in fieldwork in Mindanao for a relatively short period, without experiencing a long flight and jet lag! I also explored Singapore more deeply, given my own frequent experience of usually stopping briefly on my way elsewhere in Southeast Asia. This time I came to appreciate the many hidden gems of Singapore, particularly its incredibly cosmopolitan nature as well as its obsession with food, from highly rated international cuisine to the not to be missed hawker stalls!

Community Land Trusts: Are CLTs the answer to Toronto's housing crisis?

Graduate student Madalyn Hay discusses her research and how receiving a Connaught PhDs for Public Impact Fellowship has influenced her work

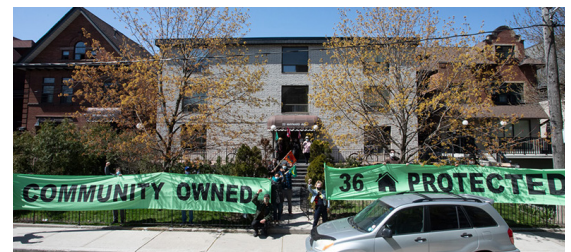


My research is on 'trust' based governance. Trusts are a legal structure whereby an asset is held and managed by the trustee in the best interests of another group, called the beneficiary. As a form of governance, trusts introduce important questions about how power is wielded by the trustee, and how 'the best interest' of the beneficiary are understood and implemented. 'Trust' based governance has enjoyed a lengthy, if not well-known history, dating back at least to Locke's *Second Treatise of Civil Government* where he introduces a 'trustee' model of governance. My research is concerned with unearthing this model from within the political theory tradition and showing that it is more familiar, and complex than we think. It also seeks to learn from real life examples of 'trust' based governance as found in Community Land Trusts (CLTs).

CLTs are community-based organizations that hold land in trust for the broader community, removing it from the speculative market and subjecting its use to local democratic governance. This structure allows CLTs to lease the land for exceedingly long terms to community partners or to develop it for a much lower cost, making them excellent at providing affordable housing in urban centers. CLTs can be legal trusts, charities, or non-profits, however regardless of legal structure, they are run by a Board who makes decisions on

behalf of the broader community as to the best use of the land. Most CLTs in Toronto exist to preserve affordable rental housing or commercial space for the community in rapidly changing neighbourhoods like Kensington Market or Parkdale.

There is presently little research on their governance practices, or the potential social and democratic benefits of CLTs, which is what I will be researching. Receiving the Connaught fellowship has been a massive confidence boost for me professionally and personally. As a political theorist, deciding to do field work, especially publicly engaged field work, has felt a bit like a gamble, so receiving support from the Connaught program both in terms of validating my research and providing training has contributed massively to my confidence. Their funding has also allowed me to expand the scope of my research outside of Toronto. As well, being able to talk with other scholars in different disciplines doing publicly engaged research has been incredibly helpful. I feel like I now have a community of scholars to rely on and learn from.



Tenants and members of Parkdale's Neighbourhood Land Trust celebrate the acquisition of a 36 unit building at 22 Maynard Avenue as affordable housing. **Photo credit:** Courtesy of the Parkdale Neighbourhood Land Trust.

The Road to Rhodes: Political Science Student Tierrai Tull on her path to Oxford University

Oxford University beckons for political science senior Tierrai Tull. For the first time in seventy-five years, four University of Toronto students, including Tierrai, who is already on a full scholarship as an international student, have been selected for a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship in a single year. Here, she tells us about her journey to one of the most eminent, and oldest, scholarships in the world.

What was your first reaction upon learning you had received a Rhodes Scholarship?

When I got the call, I was on my evening walk in Bermuda. The sun was setting, and the water was calm, and I was actually thinking about the interview, which was difficult, and how I would have clarified my answers. When the National Secretary called me to tell me the selection committee would trust me with the scholarship, I remember feeling grateful, shocked and excited. Now, I'm back in Toronto, preparing for final exams. I hope my professors are patient with me because the Rhodes process demanded a lot of me - I feel barely sentient!

What are you hoping to gain from this experience?

Much of my work and study at U of T has been largely theoretical, and I'm excited to bridge the gap between theory and practice in gender, politics, and other humanities-related fields in a master's degree. I'm in the process of applying to Oxford now, so my academic trajectory depends on placement. I'm looking forward to connecting with other Rhodes scholars and the global Rhodes community. I already feel so lucky to have access to these networks.

Did you learn anything from the lengthy application process? What advice would you give to students considering applying?

I learned a lot about myself, my journey and my plans for the future. I left the Rhodes process much clearer about my goals and am now more self-confident. I'd encourage potential applicants to refrain from self-disqualifying. Yes, Rhodes is intimidating, but nothing worth having won't scare you initially. To young girls especially I'd say dare to dream and dare to achieve, and always remain flexible so that your values and principles will continue to guide you even if things don't work out according to plan. Also, seek connection with others. Football and life are like that; you're not playing alone, and other people can be your defense.

Professor **Matthew Walton**, who has worked with Tierrai said: "I've had the pleasure of working with Tierrai as a student in two courses and as a supervisor for a collaborative independent study project. Not only is she an impressive scholar, with strong grounding in a range of fields, she is one of the most thoughtful students I have taught, in the way that she reflects carefully on what she learns, strives to ensure full understanding, and deploys new ideas in creative and insightful ways. Whether writing a well-argued essay that contextualizes John Locke's views on property alongside archival records documenting slavery compensation, or working with colleagues to explore the dynamics of cultural appropriation in the health and wellness sector, she brings a critical eye, attention to detail and a welcome emphasis on addressing persistent inequities and injustice. Oxford is truly fortunate that she will be joining them as a Rhodes Scholar."



Learning and Earning: Heard about the Arts and Science Internship Program? Read on to learn how U of T's office of Experiential Learning and Outreach Support is upskilling Political Science students



Libby West

Associate Director,
Student Learning & Professional Development
Faculty of Arts and Science

The Faculty of Arts & Science is committed to ensuring every student has the opportunity to participate in a quality experiential learning opportunity. To support this goal, the office of Experiential Learning & Outreach Support was created in 2019. Among the office's initiatives was the development of the Arts & Science Internship Program (ASIP) which launched in 2021, and currently includes 49 different programs across Arts & Science, including the Political Science Major and Specialist programs, which joined this year.

ASIP combines 12 to 20 months of full-time paid work experience with specialized professional development training. Participating in co-op provides an opportunity for Political Science students to deepen their academic knowledge by applying it to real work, gain critical experience to help ensure their success after graduation, and to discover the broad range of careers open to them, whether that be pursuing advanced studies or a career outside of academia. Critical to a student's career journey is the opportunity to learn from people who have been where they are now, and have insights into what the post-graduation 'real world' looks like. There are many ways to connect with Political Science students, ranging from one-time mentorship events to the hiring of co-op students.

Interested in Hiring a Co-op Student? Hiring Co-op students is a great investment for those looking to inject fresh perspectives and innovative ideas into their workplace. It's a dual investment: while you gain accomplished contributors, you're also shaping the next generation of professionals in your field. Hiring timelines and work term durations are flexible and there are often wage subsidies available for hiring a co-op student. To learn more about connecting with Political Science students, to either share your insights and experience or to fulfill your staffing needs, contact asip@utoronto.ca.

What a Difference Fifty Years Make:

Looking back on a career that began in the early seventies with Clifford Orwin



Clifford Orwin



Walter F. Berns



Alan Bloom

I arrived in Toronto in the fall of 1973 with no prospects of staying beyond two years. Now, it's already been fifty years and counting. I had declined a tenure track position back in the United States in favor of a two-year contract here at U of T. That decision wasn't as crazy as it sounds. While even back then, a tenure track offer was nothing to sneeze at, they were much more common in those days. I figured if I had received one, I would likely receive another. Toronto's allure for me was intensely personal. While I had never visited the city and knew next to nothing about it, the Department, the University, or Canada itself, I knew that my two best teachers as an undergraduate now taught here: the late Allan Bloom and the late Walter F. Berns.

While they would remain here just five more years after my arrival, their mentorship anchored my success both in the Department and in broader society. The Department back then was vastly different to what it is today. It was a Department of Political Economy, harboring programs in political science, economics, and commerce. It was much more British, meaning among other things, laxer. An active research profile was optional. It was almost impossible to be denied tenure, and I doubt that anyone would have rated us twelfth or wherever we're reputed to rank globally now. There were outstanding exceptions, such as Brough McPherson who exercised with Bloom, a condominium over the political theorists. Still, there was no denying that we were rather pokey.

Back then, the department was run by old Canadians, the kind whose families owned not just cottages but islands in Georgian Bay. Anti-Americanism was at its peak in Canadian intellectual circles, but none of my colleagues (not even those active in that campaign) ever made me feel personally unwelcome. The mantra of the Department was pluralism and it meant it. I was welcome here for the same reason as the then large Marxist contingent was, because I contributed to a true diversity of perspective. Still, it surprised even me that when midway through my first year, I received another tenure-track offer from the States which I declined in favor of the Department's counteroffer. I would return home someday, I told myself, but not just then.

And so, I have deferred every such subsequent opportunity. At this stage, I must qualify as a Canadian nationalist myself: *Ut incepit fidelis sic permanet*. Should you ever consider leaving, do give me a chance to talk you out of it.

Remembering Ronald Scott Blair (1935-2023)



Few in the present-day Department will have known Ron Blair, but those who do, remember him fondly. Ron, who passed away in August aged eighty-seven, grew up in Paisley, Scotland and came to Canada shortly after completing an MA in History at the University of Glasgow. After teaching at a private school, he joined the new Journalism program at Ryerson Institute of Technology (now Toronto Metropolitan University) before coming to the Department of Political Economy in 1963. When Scarborough College (now UTSC) opened in 1964, Ron was one of its first faculty where he soon established himself as an outstanding teacher, specializing in Canadian politics. Adept at administration, he was the Chair of Social Sciences in the 1970s and 1980s. He retired in 1998.

Ron often said that holding an MA in political science without a PhD (not uncommon for those hired in that era) and with few publications to his name, he'd never be hired these days. No doubt he was right but passing him over would have been a great loss. A gifted teacher whose lectures combined erudition with dry wit, he was fearfully well-read, especially in Canadian and British politics. His conversations were sprinkled with insightful, if often obscure references ("Of course Lord Haldane argued that the BNA Act ...") proffered in an offhand manner that assumed everyone was as well-informed as he was. Ron was of the generation of political scientists who knew

politicians and backroom movers and shakers, much to the benefit and enjoyment of his students who learned not just theory but real-life politics in his classes. His practical knowledge of politics animated the *TVO* program he co-hosted with *Toronto Star* journalist Sally Barnes.

Among Ron's special interests was Parliament, so it was natural that the *Canadian Political Science Association* tapped him to be founding Academic Director of the Ontario Legislature Internship Program in 1976. It was no sure thing that the program would survive in Queen's Park's hot-house atmosphere, but Ron's guidance set it on the road to success and it continues to thrive today.

A wonderful raconteur, he could bring those around him to paroxysms of laughter as he held forth on his misadventures, displaying only the slightest hint of a smile. Very much a family man, Ron was devoted to his three children and to his wife, Margaret, who spent much of her childhood in Japanese-occupied Shanghai during World War Two.

Ron's teaching inspired generations of Scarborough students. He was truly one of a kind and in the words of a long-time staff person, "a lovely man".

- Graham White, Professor Emeritus

Classrooms of the Future

What will teaching look like twenty years from now?

Two of our alumni give us some insight into an ever-evolving profession



Peter Chang, System Superintendent
Toronto District School Board
BA, 1992

Christina Tsirakis, Secondary School Teacher
Halton District School Board
BA, 2008

Why did you decide to pursue a degree in Political Science and East Asian studies?

The two programs of study were a perfect synergy of my long-standing interests in student involvement, the wish to serve a bigger purpose, and the desire to reclaim my Korean heritage. I was involved in student politics throughout high school and university so getting a degree in Political Science made sense. East Asian Studies gave me a chance to relearn about East Asian cultures and politics.

Describe your role at the TDSB.

I have served as a teacher, principal and superintendent for over thirty years. As a superintendent, I've worked with hundreds of schools, their staff, students and communities to improve student achievement, mental health and well-being, and provide equitable access to quality education for K-12 learners. Currently, I'm the system superintendent of Continuing Education, secondary alternative schools, and heritage months. This means that I lead a dedicated team of educators and professionals who coordinate programs for curious learners from 18 years old to senior citizens across the city. It's an exciting portfolio that blends my passion for public education and community service. In addition, I'm pursuing my PhD at OISE/UT so I'm still a student as well as an educational leader!

How has teaching changed over the years?

Nowadays there are greater complexities to teaching, driven largely by advancements in technology, globalization of education, and shifts in career opportunities. Teachers today play varied roles in the classroom and are pivotal to helping students develop the 21st century skills that they need to be critical thinkers and creative collaborators.

What advice would you give a student considering going into education?

You must love working with students of all ages, from all walks of life. Education is the belief in humanity. Some people go into education thinking that their knowledge will make them successful teachers. Having worked with hundreds of teachers and principals, the one element that successful educators share is their ability to connect with students. If students don't feel they're respected, valued, and cared for, they will not be open to learning. It's not about what the teacher can provide, it's about what the student needs.

What do you predict the future of teaching will look like and what did the pandemic teach you about education?

The pandemic showed us how important it is to be connected to each other. Students and staff are struggling with mental health challenges because the pandemic kept us isolated and severed deeply embedded social patterns. I think the next big opportunity in education is how we will harness the potential of artificial intelligence in education, similar to how the internet became a ubiquitous tool in classrooms.

Why did you decide to pursue a degree in History, Political Science and Sociology?

I've always enjoyed learning about the world around us. Specifically, learning about how people lived from a historical and political perspective. I often found myself questioning the decisions and functions of society. Pursuing a degree in History, Political Science and Sociology just made sense! My degree also helped develop my abilities of perception and judgement, as well as creative and critical thinking.

How has teaching changed in the past fifteen years since you began teaching?

The world of teaching has certainly changed. Most notably, there is now a very student-centred approach to education where students have more choice and say in the way they learn and how they demonstrate their learning. I've found that with this approach, students take more ownership in the overall classroom experience and the work that they produce. Learning now appeals to their individual and personal interests.

What advice would you give a student considering becoming a teacher?

Teaching is a career that can be very rewarding for someone who enjoys education, loves working with children and young adults and excels in their field of expertise. It's not always easy and there will be some very difficult days, but despite that, there's a great opportunity to explore creative teaching approaches, collaborate with colleagues, participate in valuable professional development, and change the lives of the students who enter your classroom!

What do you enjoy most and least about your job?

I love working with students and seeing their daily successes, big or small. Knowing that I'm making a difference in the life of even one student is extremely satisfying. At the same time, navigating the different personalities and behaviours in the classroom can sometimes be very challenging. On those more challenging days, it's important to remember that every student has a history and that some students will try to challenge you by testing boundaries.

What do you predict the future of teaching will look like?

I believe that personalized learning will be the norm with teachers tailoring learning experiences to suit the needs and preferences of individual students. There will be more focus on empowering students to take ownership of their learning, which will be done by providing them with a flexible learning environment that is both innovative and challenging.

"I think the next big opportunity in education is how we will harness the potential of artificial intelligence in education."

Events



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1. PhD Isabela Dos Santos at her research site, Wahat al-Salam-Neve Shalom in Israel. **2.** (L-R) Faculty Tommaso Pavone, author Andrew McDougall and Connor Ewing celebrate the book launch of *Sleeping Dogs*. **3.** Alumnae Jessica Brcko (L) and Isabel Freire pictured with Robert Vipond at a 'Campus to Careers' event, where they discussed their careers in government and consultancy. **4.** Fall Campus Day open house 2023 saw an increase in both registration and attendance. Pictured: APSS's Joy Chan, Grace Yang (L-R front), Chaitri Shah and Joshua Perez. **5.** Menaka Philips with her book *The Liberalism Trap* at her book launch. **6.** Ziibiing Lab celebrates their one-year anniversary! Pictured are (L-R) PhD student Indira Quintasi Orosco, staff member Joanna Louis and postdoctoral fellow Sardana Nikolaeva. **7.** Pictured at the book launch of *Community Economies in the Global South* are (L-R) Sergio Montero (UTSC), editors Caroline Shenaz Hossein and Christabell P.J. (U of Kerala) and Beverly Mullings (UTSG). **8.** C. Shah, K. Whetstone (back row), A. Boisvert (front row), L. Ghernaout (back row), G. Parkinson (Canadian Club Toronto President), The Hon. Greg Rickford (Speaker), R. Phillips (Moderator), A. Bhatti, S. Mohammad, V. Yao and M. Lowe at a Canadian Club of Toronto event.

Reports: Undergraduate, Graduate and PhD Job Placements



APSS
Association of Political
Science Students
Grace Yang, President

The APSS has been busy since the summer planning for the 2023–2024 academic year. In September, we hosted our annual orientation picnic to kick off the semester. We also held a successful pub social with the History Students' Association in October and co-hosted a trivia night with the International Relations Society. We held our first academic panel in November, "Canada's Role in the Changing World Order," featuring professors in the areas of international relations, global governance, and diplomacy. We discussed Canada's role in a changing global political landscape due to climate change, economic and military tensions, technological advancements, and more. The undergraduate political science mentorship program is well underway, which pairs lower-year students with upper-years who offer advice and guidance to mentees. In addition, the new editorial board for the 10th edition of *POLIS*, the Undergraduate Journal of Political Science, is working on publishing compelling and diverse student essays related to Canadian politics, development studies, international relations, political theory, and comparative politics. The team is dedicated to bringing more exciting opportunities to the undergraduate community so look out for the annual Political Science Undergraduate Research Conference, the *POLIS* launch party, and more socials and panels! Find us on [instagram.com/utapss](https://www.instagram.com/utapss) or <https://utapss.wixsite.com/apss> to keep up with us.



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

A new academic semester brings new opportunities, new events, and new interactions. This semester, GASPS engaged in a variety of both social and academic related programming. We've already hosted some social events to welcome new graduate students to our graduate community. Recently, we established and funded seven student-led research clusters including The New Horizon: Global South Research Cluster and the Critical Security Studies Reading Group. Some research clusters have also made a return, such as the Comparative Autocracy Research Group and the Quantitative Methods Reading Group. *Otherwise*, an e-magazine created last year, continues its agenda to uplift and elevate BIPOC women's experiences and voices in the department. This year, their plans include a live poetry and music event to commemorate and recognize BIPOC women's experiences. Another new project, the Women in Academia Mentorship project, has begun. This special project offers mentorship between female faculty members and graduate students. Lastly, the Transition to Industry group focuses on expanding graduate students' career pathways beyond academia. We anticipate seeing everyone in the winter semester!



Report
Academic job market
Geoff Dancy & Menaka Philips
PhD Job Placement Coordinators

Our role as placement directors is to prepare PhD students for the academic job market. To that end, we organized a series of workshops that focused on different aspects of professional development. This fall, we held several information sessions on writing in the 'hidden genre' of market materials – including CVs, cover letters, and research statements. We also hosted seven practice job talks for students currently on the market, or who are preparing to enter it soon. Over the next year, we hope to supplement these regularly planned events with other workshops and information sessions concerning different aspects of academic professionalization. In all, as placement directors our aim is not only to give graduate students needed professional assistance, but also to foster a culture of departmental support and peer feedback among graduate students at all levels. A recent beneficiary of these practice job talks has been Chengmin Xu, who recently secured a tenure-track position at Smith College. "The constructive feedback I got during my session, specifically how to structure my talk, tailor it to the audience, and sell a compelling story of myself, really helped. Through this series, I engaged in realistic practice and gained confidence in presentation. I recommend everyone on the job market to take advantage of this opportunity – it truly makes a difference!"

Contributors: I Younan An, Ryan Balot, Nicole Bernhardt, Steven Bernstein, Jacques Bertrand, Peter Chang, Christopher Cochrane, Geoff Dancy, Theresa Enright, Lailatul Fitriyah, Alejandro Garcia Magos, Madalyn Hay, Samuel Henderson, James Jiang, Margaret Kohn, Sarah Lachance, Shane Littrell, Jaby Matthew, Erjola Muco, Clifford Orwin, Menaka Philips, Matthew Polacko, Titilayo Soremi, Irma Spahiu, Christina Tsirakis, Tierra Tull, Libby West, Graham White, Grace Yang, Alexander Zaranek.

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

Books & Bites

All the latest faculty and student news, awards, accolades and publications



BOOKS: 1. *The Liberalism Trap: John Stuart Mill and Customs of Interpretation* - **Menaka Philips** - Oxford University Press. 2. *Sleeping Dogs: Quebec and the Stabilization of Canadian Federalism after 1995* - **Andrew McDougall** - University of Toronto Press. 3. *War, Work, and Want: How the OPEC Oil Crisis Caused Mass Migration and Revolution* - **Randall Hansen** - Oxford University Press. 4. *We Are in Charge Here: Inuit Self-Government and the Nunatsiavut Assembly* - **Graham White** - University of Toronto Press. 5. *We, the Data: Human Rights in the Digital Age* - **Wendy H. Wong** - The MIT Press

Faculty

Ryan Balot was elected a new Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC).

Jessica Green was elected a new Member of the RSC College.

Ran Hirschl was appointed the David R. Cameron Distinguished Professor in Law and Politics.

Rebecca Kingston was appointed Associate Chair - Undergraduate.

Peter Loewen was appointed the Robert Vipond Distinguished Professor in Democracy.

Uahikea Maile received, along with his Censure U of T colleagues, the Milner Memorial Award.

Maria Mendez received a Connaught New Researcher Award.

Kanta Murali was appointed Associate Chair (without portfolio).

Lynette Ong received two book awards from the *American Sociological Association* (ASA): the 'Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship in Political Sociology', (Co-Winner) and 'The Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Book Award.' She also received a 2023 Dean's Research Excellence Award.

Tommaso Pavone received two book awards from APSA: 'The C. Herman Pritchett Book Award' and the 'European Politics and Society Best Book' award.

David Quayat advanced to the rank of Sessional Lecturer II.

Semra Sevi received a SSHRC Talent Award.

Alison Smith was awarded APSA's 2023 Seymour Martin Lipset Best Book Award.

Linda White was reappointed Associate Chair - Faculty Research and Awards.

We wish all the best to **Grace Skogstad** who retired this summer!

Students

New PhD's: Amanda Arulanandam, Jonah Goldberg, Michael Motala, Binfan Wang, Erfan Xia.

Ontario Graduate Scholarship (Domestic PhD): Salam Alsaadi, Thomas Bergeron, Marc Calabretta, Etienne Cardin-Trudeau, Christian Elliott, Alexandre Fortier-Chouinard, Thomas Galipeau, Madalyn Hay Kellar, Samuel Henderson, Hamza Ahmed Khan, Laila Khoshkar, Erica Kunimoto, Emmanuel Osei, Matthew Palynchuk, Jenna Quelch, Ashley Splawinski.

Canada Graduate Scholarship (Doctoral): Taylor Jackson, Charles Buck.

Canada Graduate Scholarship (Masters): Rachel Gurney.

SSHRC (Doctoral): Mher Mamajanyan, William O'Connell, William Gregson.

Connaught International Scholarship: Joel Cantó Roche, Nellie Kamau.

Connaught PhD for Public Impact Fellowship: Madalyn Hay Kellar.

Beattie Fellowship: Iddan Sonsino.

Climate Positive Energy Graduate Scholarship: Marc Calabretta.

SGS Inclusive Excellence Admission Scholarship: Elisha Rose.

Recognition of Excellence Award: Magdalee Brunache, Nellie Kamau, Zerihun Kinate.

New Faces

Introducing the latest faculty, staff,
postdoctoral fellows, and visiting professors



Nicole Bernhardt (PhD, York University) joins UTSC as Assistant Professor. Her research assesses the promise of human rights policy and law for combating social inequalities and racism. Her work has appeared in the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, *Economic and Industrial Democracy*, and *Teaching in Higher Education*. Her doctoral research was awarded the Abella Scholarship for Studies in Equity.



Jaby Matthew (PhD, University of Toronto) joins UTM as Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream (CLTA). His primary research and teaching interests are modern political thought, democratic theory, post-colonial theory, and Indian politics. Previously, he was a SSHRC postdoctoral fellow at Columbia University and has taught at the University of Western Ontario and the University of British Columbia – Okanagan.



Irma Spahiu (PhD, York University) joins UTSC as Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream. Her current research takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of politics, especially in the areas of Law, Technology and the Internet. Irma teaches law related courses in the Public Law Program.



Erjola Muco joins UTSC as Undergraduate Assistant and Teaching Assistant Coordinator. Erjola works across three Departments: Political Science, Human Geography and Global Development Studies. She is responsible for hiring and processing the payments of Teaching Assistants, Sessional Instructors, and Invigilators. She has a diploma in Business Administration and Project Management from George Brown College.



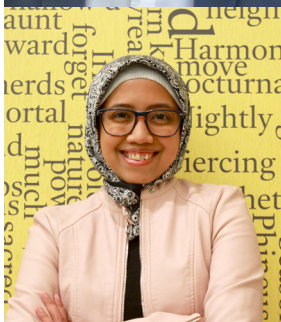
Titilayo Soremi (PhD, University of Exeter) joins UTSC as Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream. Her research interests include global public policy, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the use of policy narratives. She has previously published articles in the *International Review of Public Policy*, *Policy Design and Practice*, and the *Canadian Journal of African Studies*.



Alejandro García Magos (PhD, University of Toronto) is an Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream, at UTM specializing in authoritarianism, democratization, and democratic backsliding, with a primary focus on the Spanish-speaking world. His work has been featured in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Latin American History* and major Latin American media.



Alexander Zaranek joins UTM as the department manager. He completed his Bachelor of Commerce from the U of T and earned his CPA designation in 2021 while working as a Financial Officer for Budget, Planning & Finance at UTM. He previously worked in the Finance department at Trillium Health Partners.



Lailatul Fitriyah (PhD, University of Notre Dame) is currently a visiting Professor at UTSC. An Assistant Professor of Interreligious Education at the Claremont School of Theology in Los Angeles, her research interests center on religion and gender. She is working on her first book project on the religious lives of female migrant workers.



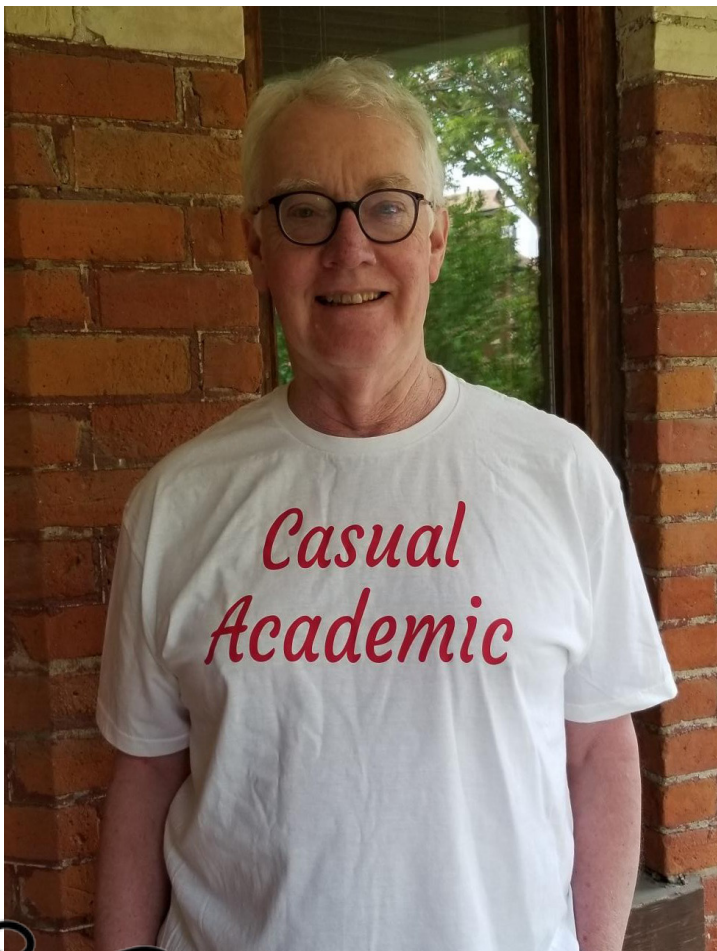
Shane Littrell (PhD, University of Waterloo) is a cognitive psychologist and postdoctoral fellow at the PEARL Lab at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. His research focus is on uncovering the socio-cognitive processes crucial for rational thinking and decision-making, with a particular focus on identifying factors that underlie the spread of misleading information and political conspiracy theories.



Matthew Polacko (PhD, University of London) joins UTSG as a SSHRC postdoctoral fellow working with Michael Donnelly. He was previously a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM) and an economics fellow with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. His research interests focus on political economy and political behaviour, particularly class politics and the consequences of inequality on political behaviour.



Sarah Lachance (PhD, University of British Columbia) joins the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy as a postdoctoral fellow working with Professor Peter Loewen at the PEARL lab. Her work focuses on political psychology and political behaviour. Her main research focus is the influence of institutions on the decision-making process of elites and voters.



The Department of Political Science continues to benefit from the generosity of our donors in establishing new awards and scholarships for our undergraduate and graduate students.

Currently there are fifty seven awards and scholarships, including the Robert C. Vipond Graduate Scholarship in Political Science, where students' excellence is recognized.

If you're interested in establishing an award or scholarship in your name, or contributing to the Department's Scholarship Fund, please reach out to the Chair, Professor Ryan Balot (ryan.balot@utoronto.ca). By creating new awards and contributing to the Department Scholarship funds, we can continue to recognize the outstanding achievements of our students.

Left: Professor Emeritus Robert Vipond enjoying his retirement



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