

FISSSH TALES

Faculty of Indigenous Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities NEWSLETTER

The UNBC Faculty of Indigenous Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities is grateful to work and learn on the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. We take seriously our responsibility to live in good relation with the original occupants of this land.

Our Faculty is also committed to UNBC's values on equity, diversity and inclusion. We believe that social and cultural diversity is core to enriching the learning environment of a modern university. The confluence of diversity and respectful discussion stimulates creative thoughts, new ways of thinking, and new pathways of inquiry.

DEAN'S MESSAGE



Dr. Kriston Rennie

We recognised 122 graduates from our Faculty who convocated on May 31. In celebrating our students' achievements, I'd also like to acknowledge those whose continued efforts and contributions in the Faculty helped make their educational journeys a success. To our faculty and staff: your impact on students and their overall experience at UNBC is witnessed and felt in a variety of ways. When the dust settles at the end of another academic year, the imprint that you've made becomes even more evident. I see it, and I thank you.

Across the Faculty, we offered 112 courses in the Winter semester, with 22 more scheduled for Spring and Summer. Among this diversity of courses are Dr. Farid Rahemtulla's archaeological field school at Tse'K'wa (Charlie Lake Cave), and Dr. Sara Farhan's history and language course in Tunis, Africa. And I know there are other such courses in the making, which is exciting to consider in terms of increasing student mobility and the chances for students to gain experiential and international experience as part of their degrees.

It was a busy and productive semester at the program level as well. We welcomed two separate external review teams in April, for Political Science and Anthropology. We expect to receive their respective recommendations in the coming months, and we look forward to devising bold action plans for implementation over the next three years.

We also completed our hiring for the next academic year and look forward to welcoming new colleagues in Anthropology, English, and History.

As we look ahead to welcoming new and returning students after Labour Day in September, we will have a few new Chairs/Coordinators joining the Faculty leadership team. It will serve us well during orientation (Tuesday, Sept. 3) and during our first Faculty Council (Thursday, Sept. 19), to ensure that everybody is properly welcomed and introduced into their new roles at UNBC.

As always, I want to extend my appreciation to the organisers of and contributors to our Faculty newsletter. In the following pages you'll learn more about our faculty, our new Professors Emeriti, a host of events and news stories (and more) that define who we are and what we do as a Faculty. Happy Reading!

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. LUNA KC

Assistant Professor, Global and International Studies

Please tell us a little about yourself

I am Luna KC, an Assistant Professor at the Department of Global and International Studies, UNBC. I come from an International Development Studies and Feminist Security Studies background. My work is inherently interdisciplinary and focuses on gender, peace, and security—particularly women and armed conflict, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), the gendered dynamics of disasters, and critical approaches to cybersecurity. I'm interested in understanding the peace, security, and rights of women and girls, including marginalized and racialized groups, through an everyday lens and exploring methods where no one is left behind in this rapidly changing and globalized world. My specialty areas are South Asia and North America, and I have conducted extensive fieldwork in South Asia. Before joining UNBC, I was a postdoctoral fellow at the Research Network on Women, Peace, and Security at McGill University and a sessional lecturer at the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs at the University of British Columbia.



Dr. Luna KC

What are your current research interests? Why does gender matter in your research?

I am currently working on various research topics. Intersectional approaches to cybersecurity have been my research interest. My project, **"Developing a Women's Cyber Self-Defense Toolkit,"** was recently awarded a \$50,000 external grant from Mobilizing Insights in Defence and Security (MINDS), National Defence. I'm delighted to receive this grant. The project will develop a women's cyber-self-defense toolkit, podcasts, and policy briefs and offer an innovative methodology for reducing technology-facilitated harm against women. This project is designed to have practical, real-world consequences. Women are experiencing online harm, so this tool kit will be shared broadly so women and women's rights advocates can benefit.

I'm keen on investigating the significance of gender in armed conflict, peacebuilding, security, and disaster response. I have signed a book contract with Edinburgh University Press titled *"Conflict, Disaster, and Changing Gender Roles: Women's Everyday Experiences in Nepal."* The book

examines how women ex-combatants and non-combatants (women earthquake survivors and war widows) experienced shifts in their gender roles and relations during the Maoist armed conflict and earthquake of 2015 in Nepal and asks whether these changes persisted after the conflict and disaster to change the position of women structurally. It also shows how conflict and disaster aftermath experiences differ for women from low-caste and marginalized backgrounds. The finding addresses questions concerning changing gender roles, gender norms, gender (in)equality, caste identity, and intersectionality in the context of conflict, disaster, and crisis. Apart from these two key research projects, I am collaborating on multiple research projects. I just published a co-authored book chapter, *“Critical Perspectives on Cybersecurity: Feminist and Postcolonial Interventions,”* in Anwar Mhajne and Alexis Henshaw (Eds). Oxford University Press, 2024. This chapter discusses the relevance of ‘women, peace and security and cyberspace’ and calls for feminist analysis in cybersecurity. I have another co-authored chapter forthcoming, *“Women, Changing Gender Roles and Gender-Based Violence in Postwar Era,”* in Gayle Kaufman, Michael Stambolis, and Steven Roberts (Eds). *The Research Handbook on the Sociology of Gender*. Edward Elgar Publishing. Drawing on the case of Nepal and Sri Lanka, this chapter shows how peace deals offer opportunities for women to assert their rights and freedoms and argues how it also exposes them to the risks of gender-based violence during peacetime.

I’m also researching the gendered dynamics of COVID-19. I co-edited (with Prof. Megan Mackenzie) a forum, *“Postcards from the Pandemic: Women, Intersectionality, and Gendered Risks in the COVID-19 Era,”* which just got accepted in the *International Studies Review*. The forum analyzes multiple case studies, such as Burundi, Liberia, Sri Lanka, India, Yemen, and Canada, bringing diverse and grounded perspectives of women and girls. I engage the women, peace, and security (WPS) lens in my projects. I have co-authored the article *“Women, Peace, and Security: Digitalization and Cyber Feminist Solidarity Building in the Global South”* in the *Women’s Studies International Forum* (forthcoming 2024). The paper demonstrates how women use digital spaces to build agency, resistance, and solidarity. Additionally, I have resubmitted a revised manuscript titled *“Do Local Norms Affect Women Ex-Combatants Reintegration in Postwar Contexts?”* to the *Global Studies Quarterly*. It is part of a special issue (Localization and Responses in Conflict and Post-Conflict Settings). I am finishing my paper, *“Women Politicians Responding to Patriarchy in Postwar Era,”* for another special issue; I presented my initial finding last year in July at the international conference ‘Feminism in the Face of Failure,’ the National University of Mexico (UNAM). Building upon prior research, I plan to expand my work to South America, such as Colombia, and study the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) women ex-combatants and their reintegration experience after returning from active conflict. Further, I plan to apply for a larger grant to study feminist approaches to cybersecurity, examining women's cybersecurity experiences in conflict-affected areas.

FACULTY UPDATES

Dr. Karin Beeler was awarded the honorary title of Professor Emerita. **Drs. Ted Binnema** and **Jonathan Swainger** were awarded the honorary title of Professor Emeritus.

<https://www.unbc.ca/our-stories/story/unbc-recognizes-eight-distinguished-professors-emeriti>

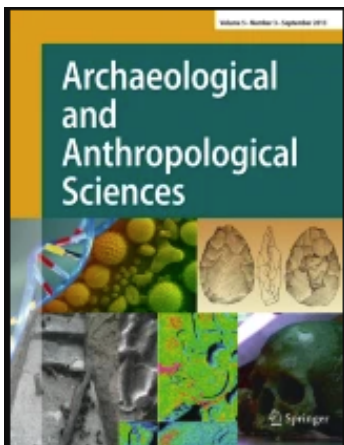


RECENT AND FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Jarvis, Douglas

The political science department just got published in The Hill Times with an op-ed titled "The Housing Crisis and the Municipal Heritage of Canadian Nationalism."

<https://www.hilltimes.com/story/2024/05/22/the-housing-crisis-and-the-municipal-heritage-of-canadian-nationalism/421997/>



Rahemtulla, Farid

Brandi L. MacDonald, Alexa Kuo, Farid Rahemtulla, Kwun Whess, and David Stalla. 2024. Materials Science Insights into Indigenous Rock Art Painters and Pigment Materiality at Babine Lake, Canada. *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences* (2024) 16:56. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12520-024-01953-2>

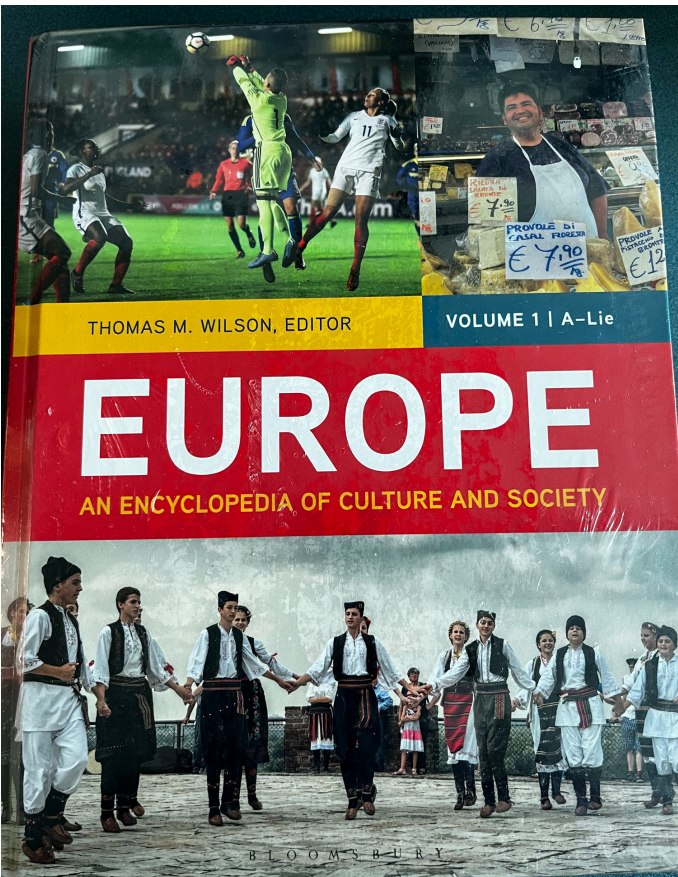
Sims, Daniel

Daniel wrote a piece discussing the nature of Bill C-53, which is currently before the House of Commons and if passed may result in treaties with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government (formerly Métis Nation of Alberta), Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, and Métis Nation of Ontario.

Daniel Sims, “Bill C-53 and the Métis,” *Intersections* (forthcoming)

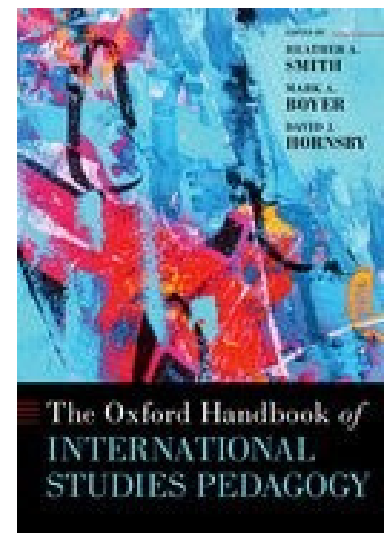
Smith, Angèle (2024) “Ireland”, *Europe: An Encyclopedia of Culture and Society* [2 Volumes]. Thomas M Wilson (ed.), Bloomsbury Academic.

This two-volume encyclopedia profiles the contemporary culture and society of every country in Europe. Each country receives a chapter encompassing such topics as religion, lifestyle and leisure, standard of living, cuisine, gender roles, relationships, dress, music, visual arts, and architecture. This authoritative and comprehensive encyclopedia provides readers with richly detailed entries on the 45 nations that comprise modern Europe. Each country profile looks at elements of contemporary life related to family and work, including popular pastimes, customs, beliefs, and attitudes. This encyclopedia considers many of the transformations connected to globalization, as well as traditions that still hold strong, to provide a complete assessment of the processes that make European societies and cultures distinctive.



Smith, Heather

A project she has been working on since January 2020, The Oxford Handbook of International Studies Pedagogy co-edited with David Hornsby (Carleton) and Mark Boyer (UConn) was just published! According to Oxford this is “First handbook to focus on pedagogical practice and future directions of teaching International Studies” The book brings together scholars from around the world to reflect on teaching and learning International Studies. More information can be found here: <https://academic.oup.com/edited-volume/56209>



Heather also just signed a contract with Palgrave for a co-edited volume on Critical Understandings of Canada in the World. The other editors are: David Hornsby (Carleton), David Black (Dalhousie) and Liam Midzain-Gobin (Brock).



Wilson, Gary

Karin Beland Lindahl, Gary N. Wilson, Christina Allard and Greg Poelzer. "To Approve or Not to Approve? A Comparative Analysis of State-Company-Indigenous Community Interactions in Mining in Canada and Sweden." *Environmental Management*. Published online in March 2024.

NEW MA STUDENTS

We welcomed these 25 students into our MA programs this academic year:

- Adebola Ajuwon, MA International Studies
- Adebimpe Akinkuotu, MA Gender Studies
- Eric Appau, MA Interdisciplinary Studies
- Abdelhafidh Boumaraf, MA English
- Rubi Briones Venegas, MA International Studies
- Joyce Cortez, MA International Studies
- Raegan Cote, MA English
- Wathsala De Silva, MA International Studies
- Vanda Fleury-Green, MA Political Science
- Minpreet Gobbi, MA Interdisciplinary Studies
- Kendall Halfnights, MA Gender Studies
- Uju Igboamauchey, MA International Studies
- Chukwudumebi Isichei, MA International Studies
- Mai Ito, MA Gender Studies
- Wing Man Lau, MA International Studies
- Eliane Lieder, MA History
- Humaira Mahmud, MA English
- Oyindamola Majekodunmi, MA International Studies
- Joel McKay, MA English
- Sanchari Mitra, MA English
- Valentina Odesanmi, MA International Studies
- Grace Opare, MA Gender Studies
- Nusrat Panna, MA Gender Studies
- Mohammed Ribhu, MA English
- Lorne Wilson, MA English

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Drs. Michel Bouchard, Shauna LaTosky, and Angèle Smith attended the Canadian Anthropological Association (CASCA) Annual Conference “Sedimented Histories/ Vital Trajectories”, May 15-18, 2024.

They delivered the following presentations:

- “Memeing the War: The Ethnography of War and Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine”, Michel Bouchard.
- “The Biocultural Importance of the Indigenous Fruit Tree 'lomay' (*Ximena americana*) for Maintaining Women’s Health and Social Wellbeing in Mursi (Mun), Southern Ethiopia”, Shauna Latosky.
- “Trans/national Liminal Spaces: A Legacy of Crises in Asylum Seeker Accommodation Centres in Ireland”, Angèle Smith.

LaTosky, Shauna

“Lip-plates in Ethiopia: Some plants and places vital to their success in Mursi.” CARTA, 9 Feb. 2024.

Without *girarri* (African wild olive), we are not Mun (Mursi): building a case for “cultural keystone place(s)” in South Omo, Southern Ethiopia. The 45th Annual Conference of the Society of Ethnobiology, 27 April.

Sims, Daniel

“Hail to the Chief: An Examination of Indigenous Leadership in Canada,” Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, 9 May 2024.

“It’s Not About Land: Bill C-53 and the Metis Land Claims in British Columbia,” Red River Retreat, 19 April 2024.

Daniel’s research team, presented on 5 April 2024 at the American Society for Environmental History. The panel was titled The Far Off Omineca and Beyond: Reconsidering the *Finlay-Parsnip*

Watershed of Northern British Columbia, 1860-1956. Daniel chaired the panel and presented a paper titled “What Does It Mean to be Tsek’ehne: The Story of a Nation.” The other presenters were from Florida State University, although Tyler McCreary is an adjunct of FNST at UNBC. This project and panel were supported by Daniel’s Insight Grant.

“The Economic Impacts of the Indian Act,” Public and Private Workers of Canada, Prince George, BC, 14 February 2024.

Four talks in December at the Maskwacis Cultural College, Maskwacis, Alberta

- 4 Dec. – Indigenous Research Methodologies
- 5 Dec.– Infinite Diversity in Infinite Complexity: Dealing with Exceptions When Teaching Indigenous Topics



RECENT EVENTS

FISSSH
Professorial Lecture
Dr. Angèle Smith
Mapping Meanings: Reflections on an Anthropological Journey



In this lecture, I will map out my journey through my anthropological research, scholarship and teaching. Whether studying the mapped landscapes of colonial power in 19th c. Ireland; examining the socio-spatial engineering of asylum seekers in Ireland today; or investigating the migration experiences of young adult tourism workers in Banff, Canada, I will reflect on my different research areas, and illustrate how they focus on the themes of place, belonging, identity, migration, precarity, and social in/justice.

Date: Tuesday, March 5
Time: 5:00 - 6:00 pm
Location: 7-238 Weldwood Theatre

A reception in the Charles J McCaffrey Hall Atrium will follow the formal lecture from 6-7pm

Please RVSP by February 29, 2024




UNBC UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA
 Faculty of Indigenous Studies, Social Sciences and Humanities

On March 5th, **Dr. Angèle Smith** presented the [4th Professorial Lecture](#), entitled **“Mapping Meanings: Reflections on an Anthropological Journey”**


“In this lecture, I will map out my journey through my anthropological research, scholarship and teaching. Whether studying the mapped landscapes of colonial power in 19th c. Ireland; examining the socio-spatial engineering of asylum seekers in Ireland today; or investigating the migration experiences of young adult tourism workers in Banff, Canada, I will reflect on my different research areas, and illustrate how they focus on the themes of place, belonging, identity, migration, precarity, and social in/justice.”

Photo Voice Exhibit (Dr. Fiona MacDonald) March 18th – March 22nd

The POLS 416/616, WMST 416 and GNDR 616 class launched the Photo Voice Exhibit on Monday, March 18th and had a successful turnout. The Photo Voice boards were on display down the Student Street the entire week for everyone to view.



Participants at Photo Voice event



Using Photo Voice to Build Community Through Caring Curriculum

Join POLS 416/616 and WMST 416 and GNDR 616 for their Exhibit Opening on:

March 18th, 2024 12pm – 2:30pm
 in the Bentley Centre
 co-sponsored by the UNBC Department of Political Science and the Department of Women's and Gender Studies

Snacks and refreshments will be served.

Fiona MacDonald
 Associate Professor of Political Science
 University of Northern British Columbia

As educators we can and should celebrate the diverse experiential knowledge our students bring into the classroom.

This project asks students to document their experience(s) of gender and/or sexuality in their everyday life. Students must identify an artifact (media, news, advertisement, product, person, door, object, experience, clothes, space, location, building, etc.) that illuminates a way that gender/sexuality is enacted/ constrained/ challenged in their everyday life.

Anthropology in Our Backyards | Department of Anthropology

War, Resistance and the Dream of Dignity and Liberation

Ten years ago the Russian Federation, waging a hybrid war, occupied and annexed Crimea and pushed into the Donbas of Eastern Ukraine. This hybrid war morphed into a full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022. However, instead of occupying "Kyiv within 3 days" and Ukrainians welcoming Russian troops with flowers, Russian invaders were confronted with Ukrainian resilience and resistance. Join us to understand how Ukrainians have been living during this protracted war. Russia invaded to quash Ukraine's desires to join the European Union, to be a fully independent state, and this desire to be truly European and democratic had fuelled the Revolution of Dignity (following the Euromaidan protests). Daria Antsybor was in Independence Square and witnessed the events that culminated with the ousting of the pro-Russian president and the return to the Constitution of 2004. She is also a witness to the war, an anthropologist analyzing the resistance from within.

Dr. Daria Antsybor PhD
Kyiv, Ukraine

Date: Saturday, March 9th
Time: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Location: 7-238 Weldwood Theatre
or Zoom Webinar

<https://unbc.zoom.us/j/65836366342?pwd=UEBjRlRhc05ZeXg3RC9mbUlnDQmZkdz09>
Webinar passcode: 260647

www.unbc.ca/anthropology

On March 9th, the Anthropology Department hosted the [Anthropology in our Backyards](#) Talk **“War, Resistance, and the Dream of Dignity and Liberation” by Ukrainian anthropologist, Dr. Daria Antsybor.**

“Ten years ago the Russian Federation, waging a hybrid war, occupied and annexed Crimea and pushed into the Donbas of Eastern Ukraine. This hybrid war morphed into a full-scale invasion on Feb. 24, 2022. However, instead of occupying “Kyiv within 3 days” and Ukrainians welcoming Russian troops with flowers, Russian invaders were

confronted with Ukrainian resilience and resistance. Join us to understand how Ukrainians have been living during this protracted war. Russia invaded to quash Ukraine’s desires to join the European Union, to be a fully independent state, and this desire to be truly European and democratic had fuelled the Revolution of Dignity (following the Euromaidan protests). Daria Antsybor was in Independence Square and witnessed the events that culminated in the ousting of the pro-Russian president and the amending of the Constitution of 2004. She is also a witness to the war, an anthropologist analyzing the resistance from within.”

Info Session

What to do with a degree in Global and International Studies?

Please join alumni, faculty and fellow students for this informal and interactive event where we help answer the question of 'What you can do with your degree in Global and International Studies?'. Take this wonderful opportunity to learn more about the many career options you have once you graduate from this program.

Monday, March 18th 2024
3:30pm - 5pm
6-205 Conference Centre
Pizza & Beverages will be provided

UNBC UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BRITISH COLUMBIA
Faculty of Indigenous Studies, Social Services and Humanities

For more information please contact Heather Smith at heather.smith@unbc.ca

RSVP by March 11th to internationalstudies@unbc.ca

What to do with a Degree in Global and International Studies? Event - March 19

Global and International Studies hosted an event for graduate and undergraduate students that focused on “What do you do with a Degree in Global and International Studies?”. We mixed alumni and current students together, ate pizza and learned from two INTS alums, Charelle Gribling and Melissa Bolster, about their experiences at UNBC. It was an informative and inspiring event.

The Feminist Collective, supported by the Dean’s One-Time Funding Initiative, hosted two events in March. These panels were amazing, thoughtful and powerful.

On March 4, 2024 we held a roundtable on “Feminist and Intersectional Teaching”. The roundtable were Dr. Sara Farhan, Dr. Gabrielle Daoust, Dr. Fiona MacDonald, and Ms. Viduri Dediya. This roundtable was co-sponsored by the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology.

On March 26, 2024, we held a roundtable on “Reframing Intersectional Research Conversations: Indigenous, Latin American, and Feminist Approaches”. This panel featured the brilliant insights of Dr. Luna K.C., Dr. Carolina Alday Mondaca, Dr. Rheanna Robinson, Dr. Jessie King, and Ms. Adriana Hurtado Bautista.

Thank you so much to the participants and to Tanya Work who supported the organization of the event. Please watch for more Feminist Collective events in 2024-2025.

FISSSH STUDENT FOR A DAY



PGSS Students

On May 14, 2024, FISSSH hosted 100 Prince George Secondary School students and teachers for a day-long “FISSSH Student for a Day” experience developed around the theme of “Environment”. The students began their day with a lecture on “Vikings and Climate Change” to introduce them to the type of material covered in a first-year World History course. As part of that “first-year” experience, the next part of their day divided them into small tutorial groups, each taught by a UNBC History graduate or undergraduate student, where the PGSS students learned how to critically read, analyze, and discuss historical sources related to the Vikings, including sections of a Viking saga and a Muslim diplomat’s travel narrative. After a tour of the university and lunch (the pizza was a big hit!), the afternoon sessions were taught by faculty in History (Dr. Sara Farhan), English (Dr. Christine Campana), and First Nations Studies (Dr. Jessie King). In those classes, students learned about the global history of malaria

and yellow fever, the use of water imagery in indigenous women’s poetry, and indigenous women you need to know about and why. Feedback from the PGSS students was enthusiastic and positive with many excited to become UNBC students in the future! Many thanks to Dean Rennie and Dennis Stark for supporting the event as well as everyone who participated.



INDIGENOUS STUDIES 101 - DANIEL SIMS

Conclusion of second year of workshop series. Highlights include a special guest talk by Shyla Elgie of the Métis Nation BC on 14 February 2024.

Currently preparing for a third year of the series, including identifying and confirming guest speakers. So far, we have Métis scholar Dr. Chris Andersen of University of Alberta lined up to speak.



**Indigenous Studies 101:
A Professional Development
Workshop Series**

Indigenous Studies 101 offers UNBC faculty, students, and staff the opportunity to explore Indigenous topics from an Indigenous perspective.

<p>2023</p> <p>September 13 What is Colonialism?</p> <p>October 18 Identity</p> <p>November 15 Indian Affairs</p> <p>December 6 Treaties and Claims</p>	<p>2024</p> <p>January 17 First Nations</p> <p>February 14 Métis</p> <p>March 13 Gender</p> <p>April 10 Inuit</p>	<p>Wednesday evenings, 5:00pm – 6:30pm (PST) Lhuluhwhezdel: The Gathering Place Room 5-123 and online.</p> <p>Attendance is free.</p> <p>Learn more about this series and how to participate.</p> 
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Indigenous Studies 101 is led by Dr. Daniel Sims, associate professor of First Nations Studies at UNBC. Born and raised in Prince George, Dr. Daniel Sims is a proud member of the Tsay-Kah-Dene First Nation.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE EVENT WITH DAITO BUKA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

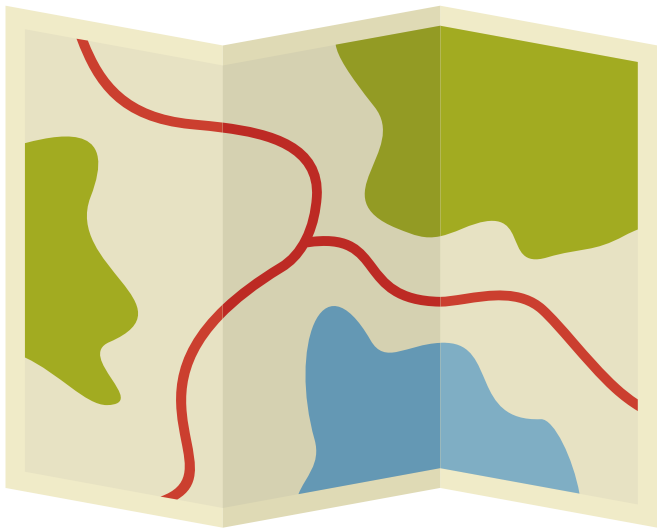
Approximately 25 students from Daito Bunka High School in Japan participated in a two-week exchange program with College Heights Secondary School, during which they visited our university to explore. In collaboration with our Japanese language class, 11 of our students volunteered to organize a Scavenger Hunt activity on March 18th from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM.

During the event, the participating students roamed around our campus, searching for various items and landmarks. It was heartening to see them engaging in communication in both English and Japanese, fostering meaningful cross-cultural interactions.

The Scavenger Hunt provided an excellent opportunity for our students to practice their language skills in a real-world setting while facilitating cultural exchange between students from different countries. We believe that such initiatives contribute significantly to promoting international understanding and cooperation.



UNBC and Daito Bunka Students



Mrs. Alison MacNeil, Japanese teacher at the College Heights Secondary School

ARCTIC CONGRESS – STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE, MADELEINE FISHER (NORTHERN STUDIES)

While it was strange to know my graduation ceremony was happening over 6000 kilometres away from me, I wouldn't change a thing. Attending the Arctic Congress and representing the Northern Studies program at UNBC has been an incredible opportunity, full of connection, adventure, and learning, as well as both old and new friendships. Scientists, researchers, policymakers, and leaders from across the planet shared their work through panels, presentations, and posters. Witnessing the passion and perseverance that these individuals have poured into their work has been incredibly inspiring. In my time in Bodø, Norway, I have participated in many academic sessions full of illuminating discussion. I have also taken part in Congress activities across this Arctic city, from hikes to networking events, and even a visit to Saltstraumen, one of the strongest tidal currents in the world. I am incredibly grateful for my time here and will never forget this vibrant experience.

Left to right - Madeleine Fisher (Geography/Psychology undergraduate student – graduate this year), Dr. Gary Wilson, Professor, Department of Political Science, Dr. Gail Fondahl, Professor Emerita, Department Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences and Nicole Fraser, Political Science graduate student.



Madeleine Fisher

FISSH RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

On March 22, 2024, the FISSH Research Committee teamed up with UNBC's Global Friday Speaker Series to host a one-day interdisciplinary FISSH Symposium. The Symposium consisted of an enlightening keynote address by Dr. Jenanne Ferguson (Anthropology, Economics and Political Science, MacEwan University) in a presentation on "The City as a New Language Stronghold? Sakha Language Practices in Yakutsk in the 2020s," plus two research panels and two roundtable discussions (see **Photos 1-5** below).

Photo 1. Jenanne Ferguson

The City as a New Language Stronghold? Sakha Language Practices in Yakutsk in the 2020s


March 22, 2024


This talk examines the shifting concerns speakers have regarding language maintenance and language practices for Sakha (an indigenous North Siberian Turkic language) in urban space of Yakutsk, in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). Yakutsk is one of the fastest-growing cities in Siberia and the Far East, populated by not only ethnic Sakha and members of other indigenous ethnicities from the region but by newcomers migrating from other parts of Russia and Central Asia. Considering research conducted with Sakha-language speakers over the last decade and a half, I focus in on current trends by which Sakha language is currently being made visible and audible in the city's public spaces, highlighting the linguistic landscape as well as the youth alternative music sphere. While in many ways the city presents a linguistic ecology in which an indigenous language is thriving, we must also consider the impacts of recent federal policy and planning on languages other than Russian, and the ways in which the other languages indigenous to the Republic (Evenki, Dolgan, Yukaghir, and Chukchi) are often erased completely from urban spaces.

When: Friday, March 22nd from 12pm to 1:30pm
Where: In person room 7-152

Presented by:

**Polar Days
Northern Studies
Global Friday**





Dr. Jenanne Ferguson
Associate Professor, Anthropology,
Economics and Political Science
MacEwan University

Photo 2. Panel I 'Being and Becoming' (left to right): **Raegen Cote** "Woman of the Shining Foam: Anna Jameson and St. Mary's River as a Site of Anti-Conquest," **Michel Bouchard** (Anthropology) "Memeing War: Online Skirmishes and Battles in the Face of the Continuing Russian Invasion," **Shauna LaTosky** (Anthropology) "The Vicissitudes of Marriage in Mursi: Women's performance, persuasive power and resilience," **Ekpeno John Ukut** (Global & International Studies) "Indigenous Theatre and Performance practices as catalyst for social change in Northern BC."



Photo 3. Roundtable I ‘Before BC Water Regulation’ (left to right). **Daniel Sims** (First Nations Studies) discussed the numerous ways waterways were used by the Tsek’ehne prior to the Williston Lake Reservoir as well as the numerous proposals to alter them prior to the W.A.C. **Max Hamon** (History) presented on the use of rivers and lakes as the means of trade and travel, exploring how these water routes were actively policed by various agents that took an interest in security and circulation of this traffic. **Nevada Hinton** (History) discussed the history of the impact of mega projects on salmon in the Nechako watershed from 1950-1985. **Farid Rahemtulla** (Anthropology) presented on the discussions initiated at UNBC in 2010 by the Lake Babine that led to a multiyear community-engaged archaeological research program.



Photo 4. Roundtable II Gender, Security, and the Everyday: a roundtable discussion (left to right): **Adriana Hurtado Bautista** (Global and International Studies), **Grace Lekwauwa** (Global and International Studies), **Luna KC** (Global and International Studies, Gender Studies), **Prapti Sarkar** (Gender Studies), **Heather Smith** (Global and International Studies) **Viduri Dediagala** (Global and International Studies), **Gabrielle Daoust** (Global and International Studies), **Piumi Denagamage** (Gender Studies).

Photo 5. Panel II ‘Resisting Homogenizing Forces. The Politics of Being and Remaining’ (left to right): **Fiona MacDonald and Matt Wood** (Political Science) “What the Truck? Political Polarization in Canada and Beyond,” **Gary N. Wilson** (Political Science) “An Historical Institutional Analysis of Indigenous Language Revitalization: The Case of Manx Gaelic,” **Douglas Jarvis** (Political Science) “Reflections on the Trump Revolution Through the Lens of 19th Century French Politics: Karl Marx and Maurice Joly as Historical Guides to North American Bonapartism,” **Nicole Fraser** (Political Science) “Northern Narratives and Neoliberal Realities.”



NEWS MEDIA

Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute and UNBC

"WWN, UNBC launch new degree in Nisga'a Language Fluency," (December 18, 2023), UNBC Stories. <https://www2.unbc.ca/newsroom/unbc-stories/exploring-energy-transition-arctic>



Dr. Gary Wilson and Will Hanlon

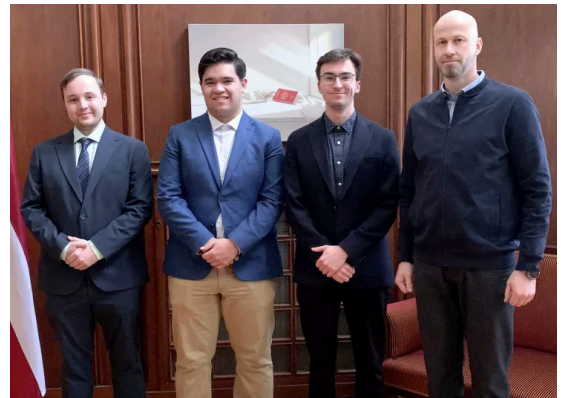
Political Science Professor and Student turn a research idea into a published paper

"From classroom curiosity to published paper," (January 5, 2024) UNBC Stories.

<https://www.unbc.ca/newsroom/unbc-stories/classroom-curiosity-published-paper>

FISSH Student delegates at Model NATO event in Germany

"Learning diplomacy on the fly," (February 7, 2024) UNBC Stories. <https://www.unbc.ca/newsroom/unbc-stories/learning-diplomacy-on-fly>



From left, German student Mark Hippenstiel, UNBC students Sean Robinson and Will Hanlon and Latvian Defence Attaché Lieutenant Colonel Rolands Millers.



Dr. Kevin Hutchings

Kevin Hutchings, English Professor

"Harmonizing words and melodies," (May 13, 2024)

UNBC Stories. <https://www.unbc.ca/our-stories/story/harmonizing-words-and-melodies>

Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Political Science graduate Will Hanlon is the valedictorian at Ceremony 2 during UNBC's 2024 Convocation

"Strong foundation for future learning," (May 24, 2024) UNBC Stories. <https://www.unbc.ca/our-stories/story/strong-foundation-future-learning>



Will Hanlon

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