

# Political Science at X

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Winter 2009

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## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

As I slip on the ice coming to work this January, I reflect on how a year ago in Tucson the only hazard I faced walking into my spacious office at the University of Arizona was the occasional small lizard or road-runner. Oh, I almost forgot! It rained ... twice, in the five months I was there. But there were compensations for this hardship of not seeing snow (except on the mountains): a huge, stimulating PS department with several specialists in IR, a chance to audit a course on logistic regression analysis, a large theatre and music department with free symphony and concert band performances every weekend. And there were the usual sabbatical benefits of a chance to get caught up on my reading and research. Now I'm back, refreshed and ready for the challenges of the Chair-ship and teaching this academic year.

## NEWS OF THE DEPARTMENT

There are ongoing changes in the personnel of the department. Somewhat belatedly, we send best wishes to Professor Xu Yichong who extends indefinitely her sojourn to Australia. Likewise we warmly thank Professors Marat and Regina Akopian as they move on to new lives in Calgary and Georgia. We welcome back Professor Dossa from sabbatical and Professor Stan from a two-year academic leave. We also congratulate Professor Stan for accepting the prestigious posting of Editor of the PS Newsletter! We warmly welcome Professor Cho Youngwon who is helping me cover the IR courses in our programme this year. Professor Grenier is away this year on sabbatical in Toulouse, France, which reminds me of a little joke to end this column. Did you hear about the two French Painters who ran in the marathon? The one who came in first waited for the other to cross the finish line and shouted "Eh, Tu lose la trek!" (Actually, a very little joke.)

STEVE HOLLOWAY

**MODEL UN TEAM HEADING FOR BOSTON.** Once again, StFX is sending a delegation to the Harvard Model UN conference in Boston on 12-15 February. The team of 10 students is led by Political science honors student, Matt Bernard, with faculty advisor, Dr Holloway. This year we represent "Ireland" and tackle issues such as Illicit Drug Trafficking, Migration Policy and Movement of Labor, Rape as a Weapon of War, the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and UN Resolution 242, and Health Care as a Human Right.

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**NEW FACULTY IN THE DEPARTMENT** - This year, Profs. Peter Dockwrey and Youngwon Cho joined us. Here are their thoughts on their experience at StFX so far:

### AN INTERVIEW WITH PROF. PETER DOCKWREY

**What do you most enjoy about teaching?** I come from a race of teachers--my father taught classics in an English private school at Sixth Form level concurrently teaching arithmetic to the "dummies" D class Third Form in a secondary modern school. I recall in wonder how he used to refer to the two experiences in the same tone of voice and with equal pleasure and fulfillment. My aunt taught English and needlework for 32 years in a rough North of England secondary school. What I carry from their examples is that teaching is always teaching, whatever the context--Kindergarten or post-graduate seminar in quantum physics. It is a privilege to teach at university level where, in theory, students have chosen to learn. The best reward from teaching is that it is far and away the best way of learning.

**What classes do you teach?** In the past ten years I have taught courses at StFX in US, European and Canadian Politics. Currently I teach an introductory section together with courses on Global Issues, Democratization, and Comparative Nationalism. I have long thought of myself, perhaps immodestly, as the consummate generalist so this scope and range of teaching suits me well. So much so that there might be a danger of recycling precisely the same content and material in each of the courses-- a temptation happily that cannot be indulged owing to the habit of some pesky students insisting on taking several of my courses at the same time. In such ways do one's students keep one honest.

**What is your area of scholarly interest?** An educated man knows everything about something and something about everything. I know everything there is to know about the influence of the Scottish Enlightenment on French political thought in *one narrow aspect* the brief vogue for Adam Smith's Theory of Moral Sentiments during the Revolution. As for the everything I know something about, on the assumption that Benjamin Constant was right to opine that striving for freedom was *everything* in modern politics, I know something about those who yearned for it in vain since his time--Madero, Attaturk, Kerensky, Azana, Masaryk, and other forgotten tremors and after shocks of 1789. There is always something to be added to that collection of discarded pebbles on the beach.

**Where did you study?** I matriculated at Christ's College and did a BA, MA and doctorate in history at Cambridge University. In those years it was not possible to do a course of studies at Cambridge in political science or social science generally! The best one could do was to focus on the political thought component in the History Tripos and, in particular, its famous "Theories of the Modern State" paper-- quite unaltered since the days of T H Green and Bosanquet! Fortunately those were the years when the subject was being transformed by fondly recalled teachers like John Dunn and Quentin Skinner. Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive but to be young....! I also had Prof Sir Herbert Butterfield briefly as a thesis supervisor--even at the time it felt like being part of an apostolic succession, a laying on of hands reaching back to F H Maitland, Lord Acton, and Thomas Babington Macaulay!

**How do you like Antigonish?** I have known Antigonish well since 1967 when I helped a friend move to residence at StFX in his first year. I have visited him and his family for at least a week here every year since then. I have a tremendous affection for the place as a place to visit. Now I am living here I learned that familiarity does not breed contempt. I have gained an unfeigned admiration for the campus, its atmosphere of "collegiality" well beyond the norm I have experienced teaching elsewhere in Canada and the UK, and the justified fondness of students and alumni. Ten years ago I was asked by Dr Peter Clancy, then head of the Political Science Department, how "I would feel about offering a night course on US Politics." At the time I "didn't feel much" about it at all. But I wasn't doing much else at the time. Glad I took him up on his offer. Never regretted it for a moment.

### AN INTERVIEW WITH PROF. YOUNGWON CHO

Dr. Cho comes to StFX from Queen's Centre for International Relations, where he was a Research Associate. Prior to this, he taught courses at Trent, McMaster, and Queen's.

**What is that you most enjoy about teaching?** The profoundly humbling idea that I am given an opportunity to leave something in the minds of so many young people, some of whom might actually remember it even in their old ages, long after I am gone. To me, no other aspect of teaching is more exciting and more fearsome than this. On the one hand, I am given a chance to shape the minds of my students; on the other hand, this chance is not something that I can take lightly. The former is immensely rewarding, while the latter is immensely fearsome. Teaching, in this sense, is like a rollercoaster ride to me: the combination of gratification and fear makes every class an irresistible venture.

**What classes do you teach?** I teach PSCI 350 World Politics, PSCI 370 Third World Politics, PSCI 354 IPE, and PSCI 451 IR Seminar. All of my courses except the survey course on IR have a relatively small class size, ranging from 12 to 14, which allows me to get to know my students well. StFX students are quieter than my past students in Ontario. I am unsure if this is particular to StFX, the region, or just something unique to the students that I've had this year, but it is a puzzle that remains unsolved.

**What is your area of scholarly interest?** I work on several areas straddling the fields of international political economy and comparative development. I am fascinated by money and finance and their international dimension. Global financial markets, like God, work in mysterious ways, sometimes with traumatic if not catastrophic consequences, as witnessed by a seemingly never-ending series of financial crises in the developing world, and the current global credit crisis. I am not interested in discovering these mysterious ways, but in their political foundations and impact. For instance, my doctoral work examined financial globalization and its impact on the so-called "emerging markets," a euphemism thrown around by fund managers and investment bankers marketing investment opportunities from developing countries. My areas of interest are East Asia and Latin America: 1) the relationship between capital account liberalization in the developing world and the imbalance in the global reserve system; 2) monetary cooperation in East Asia; 3) politics of neo-liberal reforms in South Korea.

**Where did you study?** In three different countries spanning over three different continents under four different educational systems. This is a very long story. I spent my first 8 years of formal education under the infamously draconian educational system of South Korea, where students faced, at least in my days, not only an intense pressure for academic performance but also a constant threat of corporal punishments for any number of reasons, including giving one too many wrong answers in the exam. I have spent more than my fair share of time in school, but I must admit that I never studied as hard as I did in my 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade years, and that includes my years of graduate studies. I moved to Bolivia around the time I turned 14, and attended a Bolivian school for a year, learning very little of substance except some algebra as I could not understand a word of Spanish. So, I went from one extreme to another, from the pressure cooker of Korea to not having to learn anything. This was disturbing to my parents, but I didn't mind much as I was only too happy to get more than six hours of sleep a day. The gravy train ended when my parents put me in an American boarding school located on a remote hill in the Andes. This occurred just when I was finally getting a handle on Spanish, but I now had to acquire another language. As a result of this upbringing I am trilingual, but the irony is that I speak no language accent-free. When I speak English, my Korean accent kicks in; when I speak Spanish, my gringo accent kicks in; and when I speak Korean, both my English and Spanish accents get in the way. After graduating from high school, I took a year off in Korea before coming to Canada for post-secondary education. I started off as a Commerce student at Carleton, specializing in International Business, but the intro IR course captured my imagination. Politics was more fascinating than accounting (on a tangential note, in a Freudian twist I ended up marrying a bean counter). Over my parents' objection, I changed my

major in my fourth year, writing my honors thesis over the summer and graduating with a BA in Poli Sci. Then went on to Queen's for graduate studies, getting my master's and PhD from there.

**How do you like Antigonish?** It is a big change from Toronto. To be honest, I am not exactly in love with the town, but much of it has to do with the fact that I am here by myself. My wife could not move with me as my current position at StFX is only for a year; if she had, I am sure I would have found Antigonish much more pleasant. There are many nice things about the town even if you are by yourself; all the usual charms associated with a small town are there, not to mention the magnificent ocean; and I am a huge fan of outdoors despite my geeky appearance, which does make Antigonish all the more appealing to me. I am of the belief that where you live doesn't really matter. What matters is who is with you. StFX could be smack in the middle of Manhattan, but I would still feel out of place if I were by myself. So, Antigonish is just fine by me; all that it needs is my wife.

## FACULTY NEWS

**DR. JIM BICKERTON** is the coordinator of the StFX Development Studies program, in which capacity he teaches DEVS200 "Introduction to International Development: Canada". This commitment has reduced his teaching in the Department of Political Science to 6 credits in the 2008-09 academic year, and only 3 credits of PSCI220 in 2009-10, due to a half-sabbatical beginning in January 2010. His research continues to focus on Canadian politics: regionalism, regional development, party politics. In June 2008, he delivered a paper on "Equalization, Regional Development and Political Trust: The Section 36/Atlantic Accords Controversy" to the CPSA meeting in Vancouver. This was published in *Constitutional Forum*. Also in 2008 a journal article and book chapter were published, with another book chapter on "Political Parties and Democracy in Canada" to appear in 2009. Dr. Bickerton and his co-editor are preparing the fifth edition of his text *Canadian Politics*, due for release in spring 2009. His upcoming sabbatical will be spent at McGill University, where he has accepted the Eakin Visiting Fellowship in Canadian Studies.

**DR. DOUG BROWN** teaches Canadian Politics (220), Federalism (321), Atlantic Canada (322), Public Administration (341) and Public Policy (342). His research interests are in Canadian and comparative federalism, with a focus on Australia, and on economic and fiscal relations between governments. Over the past five years, Doug has done collaborative research (he calls it the 3B project) with Herman Bakvis at the University of Victoria and Gerry Baier at UBC. Their work has been published in several books and journals, covering such topics as Senate reform, asymmetrical federalism, the democratic deficit, intergovernmental effectiveness, and the general state of federalism in Canada. His work on these themes led Doug to St John's, NF, Canberra, Australia, Vancouver and Toronto (the latter usually when the Blue Jays were playing). Doug's most recent research preoccupation is "East-West versus North-South? The Changing Politics of Canadian Economic Integration". He has gathered data on how the political discourse portrays our economic links across Canada, and the consequences for its growth or decline for regional sharing, sense of community and the maintenance of national standards.

Among the new courses **DR. PETER CLANCY** developed in 2008 was a seminar on the Politics of Climate Change in Canada (to return in Jan. 2010). In 2007-08 he supervised Honors theses on impacts of the Anti-Terrorism Act, political devolution in Yukon, carbon trading schemes, and provincial government strategies on climate change. His research projects include a book manuscript on the politics of petroleum management on the Scotian Shelf, a comparative study of resource management in six global offshore oil and gas basins, and a monograph on freshwater politics in Canada. Over the past year he presented conference papers at the International Association for Society and Natural Resources, the

Atlantic Provinces Political Science Association, and the Centre for Regional Studies Conference on Rural Studies. In April 2009 he will present at the British Association of Canadian Studies conference in Oxford, UK. Over the past year several refereed articles were published: “Offshore Petroleum Politics: A Changing Frontier in a Global System” in *Canada’s Resource Economy in Transition* (2008); “Chasing Whose Fish: Atlantic Fisheries Conflicts and Institutions” in *Canadian Water Politics* (2009); and “The Last Pre-Modern Premier?” in *Acadiensis* (2008). His half-year sabbatical, postponed last year, will be taken from July to December 2009.

**DR. FRANK HARRISON** has decided to take up the option of teaching one more year before retiring. He will teach PSCI100 and two courses in Political Philosophy during the 2009-2010 academic year. He also continues his research interests in both Russian Politics and Anarchist Political Theory.

**DR. YVON GRENIER** is on sabbatical, at the Centre National de Recherches Scientifiques at the Université de Toulouse, France, where he conducts research on the politics of culture in Mexico and Cuba. He will return to Canada in July 2009 to resume his teaching duties.

Since returning to StFX, **DR. LAVINIA STAN** has offered PSCI 100, 210 and 452. In Spring 2009, she will offer PSCI 292 Religion and Politics as a distance, internet-based course, while in 2009-10 she will teach 100, 361 East European politics, 295 Human Rights, and 452. PSCI 345 Women and Politics will be offered in Spring 2010 as a distance course. She recently published *Religion and Politics in Post-Communist Romania* (Oxford University Press, 2007, with her husband), edited *Transitional Justice in East Europe* (Routledge, 2009), and obtained contracts for a book on church-state relations in new EU members (OUP) and a gigantic *Encyclopedia of Transitional Justice* (Cambridge University Press).

## ERE NEWS

**LARS HALLSTROM**, Canada Research Chair in Public Policy and Governance, returned from a much-needed sabbatical. Since 2006, Dr. Hallstrom has served as the Acting Director of the National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health, NCCDH, but chose to step down in December 2007 to spend more time on his research and teaching activities, and enjoy the second half of his sabbatical. As Acting Director of the NCCDH, Dr. Hallstrom oversaw a series of knowledge translation activities and reports, and sat on a number of national and international committees, such as the Canada Reference Group on Social Determinants of Health, the Canadian Heart Health Strategy and Action Plan, and the Director’s Committee for the National Collaborating Centres for Public Health. He also participated and presented at several national and international conferences and workshops (the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Public Health Association, the International Union for Health Promotion and Education, and the Health and Public Policy Association) and smaller events hosted by the NCC-Aboriginal Health, the Calgary Health Region and Grenfell College, Memorial University in Corner Brook.

Dr. Hallstrom continues to work and publish in the areas of comparative politics, environmental politics and public policy. Since 2006 he has written a number of chapters on topics ranging from the TV show “The Simpsons” to environmental politics to social policy in Canada as a determinant of health. He continues working on local forestry issues with Dr. Roberto Martinez-Espineira, as well as working with faculty from across Canada on issues of environment, health and science in public policy. He presented a paper titled “Comprehending Culture, Recursivity and Policy Change: Thoughts from Canadian Public Health and Policy” at the 8th International Conference on Knowledge, Culture and Change in Organizations in Cambridge, UK, and is now working on an edited volume in this area focused on modernization, new social movements and the linkages between environment, health and public policy. He was recently awarded a small Centre for Regional Studies grant to conduct a comparative analysis of

watershed regulatory regimes in Nova Scotia and Illinois. 2007 and 2008 saw Dr. Hallstrom expand his collaborative portfolio - he is now working with Drs. Todd Boyle and Tom Mahaffey of the Schwartz School of Business on regulatory and management issues pertaining to errors and error reporting in community pharmacies. This project was the recipient of a \$79,000 Outreach Grant from SSHRC, involving the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacies and faculty from Dalhousie. He is a collaborator on a \$2.1 million SSHRC Research Cluster housed at Carleton University, and most recently joined the Board of the Network for Ecosystem Sustainability and Health (NESH).

In the field of teaching, Dr. Hallstrom was the Canadian lead on a \$400,000 project awarded to several universities in Canada, the US and Mexico in 2008. As part of the Human Resources and Social Development of Canada's North American Mobility Program, this project is a student and faculty exchange program centered on the environment, sustainability and community development. The first students will be exchanged in fall 2009. Dr. Hallstrom is also implementing a new service learning component in his PSCI 442 Seminar in Public Policy, offered in Spring 2009. On a personal note, Dr. Hallstrom continues to work on the renovations and landscaping of the family home in Antigonish County, which will truly become a "family" home in June 2009 with the addition of a new baby!

**DR. DOUG BROWN CO-AUTHOR OF NEW BOOK ON FEDERALISM.** In February 2009 Oxford University Press releases *Contested Federalism: Certainty and Ambiguity in the Canadian Federation* by Herman Bakvis, Gerald Baier and Douglas Brown. The book analyzes the interactions between the components of Canada's governance system—federal, provincial, local, Aboriginal—and the tensions, conflicts, and adaptations they have given rise to. The authors offer a detailed overview of the system's structure, institutions, and processes. They also examine the way policy-making is affected by competing interests and needs in a federation where the Quebec agenda looms large and one size rarely fits all. *Contested Federalism* is the first comprehensive critical study of Canadian federalism in two decades. Look for it in the St FX bookstore...especially if you're going to take PSCI 321!

**ATLANTIC PROVINCES POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES DEMOCRACY 250.** St Mary's hosted the annual APPSA meetings in Halifax in October. The program theme was "Democracy's Shifting Shorelines: Representation, Citizenship and Governance". Highlights were the opening session featuring Lloyd Axworthy, Alexa McDonagh, Kevin Devereaux and Arthur Donahue debating the health of global democracy, a Saturday evening reception in Province House hosted by NDP MLA (and St Mary's political scientist) Len Preyra (boy, those House of Assembly seats are pretty small), and dinner at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic with guest speaker Jane Jenson from the Université de Montreal. The APPSA is attended by political scientists from across Canada and the USA. StFX was well represented with Profs Holloway, Clancy and Brown attending. Clancy talked on "Offshore Petroleum and the Aboriginal Challenge," and Brown on "Cooperative vs. Competitive Outcomes and Consequences of Intergovernmental Relations on Climate Change Issues in Canada".

## PRIZES

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS:

**Mr. Mathew Alexander Edmonds** is the winner of the 2008 Dr. John B. Stewart Scholarship for Political Science

**Mr. Jonathan Paul Adams** is the winner of the 2008 Dr. Walter Kontak Prize in Political Science

## WHY AM I STUDYING POLISCI?

We asked several of current our students to tell us why they are here:

I plan to do journalism following this degree. I think that having a firm understanding in politics is perfect for journalism as media tends to have lots of coverage on political issues. Further more, doing a thesis continues to aid me in expanding my research abilities, which is also very beneficial for journalism. **Alice Fudge**, 4<sup>th</sup> year student

I am studying Political Science because politics plays such a powerful role in shaping human activity and framing how people think. Politics encompasses the whole realm of human social organization, which literally defines how a person lives their life in a community. This is easily one of the most practical, and critical, subjects to study for anyone who wants to understand the nature of human organization and interaction. **Travis Roulston**, 4<sup>th</sup> year student

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### WORD FROM A GRADUATE

My time at X was the most influential, memorable and fun experience I have ever had. I owe much of this to the excellent political science department. Its incredibly supportive faculty made getting my degree a very comfortable and motivating venture. I wouldn't have even considered continuing my education at the graduate level if it hadn't been for their sincere motivation and genuine desire to help me succeed. Application deadlines, thesis-writing, X-ring and graduation excitement all kept me pretty busy during my last year at X. Through all of the craziness though, it was the department's faculty and excellent group of students that inspired me to love what I study, and want to continue my work. I am now pursuing a Master's degree in political science at the University of Victoria. I feel so lucky to have made it here, and realize that I could never have done it without the department's support. Former StFX student **Carly Wignes**, MA student at the U of Victoria

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**Dr. Holloway in Arizona**

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**Dr. Brown in his office**

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**Dr. Clancy in England**



Former student **Martha Black** with  
Ontario Premier **McGinty**



\* **Dr. Youngwon Cho**



\* **Dr. J. Frank Harrison**



## KONTAK PRIZE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Prize Value: \$ 500.00

The Kontak Prize is awarded annually to a senior student (graduating) paper prepared for a 300 or 400 level course in PoliSci at StFX. Paper may be submitted by a Professor or by a student who is enrolled in the Major, Advanced Major or Honors program in Political Science. Papers should be of a First Class ("A") standard. A clean copy (i.e., original printing) of the paper should be submitted. In length, papers should fall in the 10-15 double-spaced page range. The papers will be judged by a panel of two Faculty members, to be nominated by the Chair of the Department.

Papers should be sent by **April 9, 2009** to:  
Dr. Steve Holloway, Chair,  
Department of Political Science.

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## POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY

**James Bickerton** (PhD Carleton): Canadian federalism and regionalism; party and electoral politics.

**Douglas Brown** (PhD Melbourne): Canadian and comparative federalism, intergovernmental relations, fiscal federalism, and regional development.

**Youngwon Cho** (PhD Queen's): international relations, international political economy, global finance and emerging-market crashes, late industrialization

**Peter Clancy** (PhD Queen's): resource management, business politics, economic policy, legal politics.

**Peter Dockwery** (PhD Cambridge): History of Political Economy, the Left in Britain and France, the "liberal revolutionary" in the 20th century

**Shiraz Dossa** (PhD Toronto): Political theory (classical and contemporary), Third World and development studies, liberalism and multiculturalism.

**Yvon Grenier** (PhD Laval): Latin American politics, comparative politics, art and politics.

**Lars Hallstrom** (PhD Purdue): Comparative politics, European politics, public policy, and American politics.

**J. Frank Harrison** (PhD Dunelm): Political theory and Russian politics.

**Steven Holloway** (PhD Ohio State): International political economy, Canadian foreign policy, International Law and the UN, and East Asian politics.

**Lavinia Stan** (PhD Toronto): Comparative politics, religion & politics, human rights, East European politics.

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## HOW TO CONTACT US:

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