

POLITICAL SCIENCE AT X

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Winter 2010

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Letter from the Chair

Welcome everyone to 2010! Thank goodness we're back to years that are easy to say, "TWENTY TEN!" First, let me catch-you-up on the personnel changes in the department since last year. We all profoundly regret the decision of Professor Hallstrom to move on to greener pastures in Alberta and we wish him great success in his future endeavors with the University of Alberta. Next, we welcome Professor Bonnie White who is teaching PSCI 100 and European Politics with us this year. And we welcome back Professor Youngwon Cho who is returning to the department this year in a tenure-track position.

We also welcome back from sabbatical Professor Grenier who was at Toulouse University in France for 2008-9 and Professor Clancy who was at Cambridge University in Britain for this past fall term. Professor Bickerton is away on sabbatical this winter term at McGill University in Montreal.

Next, we want to congratulate this year's winner of the John B Stewart Scholarship, Kristen Stallard. The prize of \$2,000 towards tuition is awarded every year to the Political Science Senior with the highest average. Also this March, the department will be visited by a pair of external reviewers as part of the normal accreditation process all departments and universities face. A meeting to elicit feedback from some of our senior students with these reviewers will be organized later in the term.

The department has been busy with several major administrative developments this past Fall term. Most important of these, was our decision to continue the on-going process of shifting from six credit to three courses which is becoming the norm across Canadian universities. This conversion will give students more choices and flexibility in designing their academic programs and greatly assist students transferring credits to and from other universities. Starting next year, nearly all our third year courses will be 3 credit, as will some of our important second year classes such as Comparative Politics 210 (which becomes 211 and 212) and Canadian Politics 220 which becomes 221 and 222. Almost as confusing as the new room numbers, eh?! In addition a totally new course, 335 Human Rights and International Justice, will be added. For more information on all these exciting developments, keep your eye open for that hot, best-seller "the STFX Academic Calendar 2010-11" when it becomes available later this year.

Prof. Steve Holloway

How To Contact Us:

Visit our website at <http://www.stfx.ca/academic/political-science>.

Email us at: **POLISCI @ STFX.CA**

or Phone us at: **(902) 867-5085**

An interview with Dr. Bonnie White

This year, Prof. Bonnie White joined us. Here are her thoughts on her experience at StFX so far:

What do you enjoy most about teaching? - My father always encouraged and indulged my curiosity and the multitude of questions that came with it, but he also taught me to find the answers for myself and to formulate my own opinions. He always said that he had no idea what question was next, or even what topic I would be curious about on any given day. It is this unpredictability that I particularly enjoy about teaching. Students come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences and approach the course material in a myriad of ways. This presents innumerable challenges for instructors, but it also means that there is a constant dialogue with students, colleagues and the wider academic community. The unpredictability of the university classroom encourages us to never stop learning.

What classes do you teach? - Over the past few years I have taught a variety of courses from early modern Germany to sexual politics in Victorian Britain to social and cultural histories of the First World War. Although formally trained in twentieth century IR, I like to think of myself more as a Europeanist with interests beyond European diplomacy. At St. FX I taught the first half of PSCI 100 and European Politics PSCI 310. Small class size allows me to get to know my students, but I have noticed that students at St. FX seem to be much quieter than students in Ontario and Calgary. I am not sure if this is specific to St. FX, the region, or just my classes. I will certainly keep this last possibility in mind!

What is your area of scholarly interest? - I work generally in the field of modern European history, but specialize in modern British social history. My primary period of interest is the early- to mid-twentieth century, 1900 to 1945. My doctoral work, for example, examined the county of Devon in southwest England and its response to the difficulties presented by the First World War. I was primarily interested in how the citizenry reconciled national appeals and expectations for self-sacrifice with the inevitability that individual sacrifices could never be equal. Since then my interests have shifted to examining the politicization of newspaper advertisements in interwar Britain and the extent to which gendered language and/or images were employed to appeal to newly enfranchised female voters.

Where did you study? - I did a BA (Honours) at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, MA at the University of New Brunswick (Fredericton) and PhD at McMaster University in Hamilton, ON. When I first entered university I was determined to major in sociology. I had liked it in high school and history, my first love, seemed more like an interesting pastime than a career. At SMU I met several fascinating professors and from them my passion for history grew. I learned as much as possible about the discipline and what professional historians actually do. I was sold! I will always be grateful for my time at Saint Mary's, but it was graduate studies that solidified my desire to teach at the university level. Engaging with students as a teaching assistant at McMaster was a rewarding experience and provided the practice and guidance I needed to develop my own teaching skills and techniques.

How do you like Antigonish? - I have been familiar with Antigonish for most of my life having grown up just down the road in Stellarton. During my undergraduate years I spent part of my summers in the library at St. FX doing research or reading newspapers. It was my father who encouraged my love of learning and the forty-minute drive from Antigonish to Stellarton provided the perfect opportunity to share what I had learned and to ask questions about the things that were still unclear. After spending the past six years in Hamilton and Calgary, perfectly fine cities in their own right, it is nice to finally come home.

Faculty News

Dr. Jim Bickerton is the coordinator of the StFX Development Studies program, as well as the Canadian Studies program. His research continues to focus on aspects of Canadian politics: regionalism, federalism, party and electoral politics. In 2008, he delivered a paper on “Equalization, Regional Development and Political Trust: The Section 36/Atlantic Accords Controversy” to the annual CPSA meeting that was subsequently published in *Constitutional Forum*. Also published in 2008 was an article on regional development in the journal *Acadiensis* and a book chapter on “Regions”. In spring, 2009 the fifth edition of his co-edited text *Canadian Politics* was released, including his own chapter (co-authored with A. Gagnon) on “Regions and Regionalism”. Another book chapter on “Political Parties and Democracy in Canada” is scheduled to appear in spring 2010. His sabbatical (January-June 2010) is spent at McGill University Institute for the Study of Canada, where he accepted the Eakin Visiting Fellowship in Canadian Studies. During this period he is scheduled to present papers at two conferences in Canada and one in Spain.



Drs. Brown, Harrison, Clancy, Bickerton, Grenier, Hallstrom and Holloway, Summer 2009

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 with Herman Bakvis at the University of Victoria and Gerry Baier at the 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. The culmination of this

collaboration is the publication in February, 2009 of the co-authored book *Contested Federalism: Certainty and Ambivalence in the Canadian Federation* (Toronto: Oxford University Press). Doug's most recent research preoccupation is "East-West versus North-South? The Changing Politics of Canadian Economic Integration" which is the title of a SSHRC standard research grant proposal submitted in October 2009. 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.

Dr. Youngwon Cho's research areas are financial globalization, financial crises in emerging markets, and post-crisis restructuring. Over the past year he presented papers at the Canadian Asian Studies Association conference and the International Studies Association conference. He has two journal articles under review, one at the *Journal of Contemporary Asia* and another at *Third World Quarterly*, and is currently revising his dissertation for monograph publication

Dr. Peter Clancy's 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. In recent years, 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). Dr. Clancy was on sabbatical in Fall 2009.

Dr. Shiraz Dossa's recent publications include 'Lethal Muslims' in the *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs* (UK) (August 2008), "Colonial Logics: Genocides and 9-11," Institute of Peace Research Publication, Ljubljana, Slovenia (September 2008), and Slicing 'Up' Development in the Third World Quarterly (June 2007). His book *Liberals and 'Savages': Political theory and the 'natives'* is forthcoming (University of Toronto press, 2010-2011).

Dr. Yvon Grenier recently published (with Maarten van Delden, Hispanic Dept., UCLA) *Gunshots at the Fiesta: Literature and Politics in Latin America* (Vanderbilt University Press), as well as two chapters and an article. He is a contributing editor of *Literal, Latin American Voices*, a bilingual Spanish and English magazine available at www.literalmagazine.com.

Dr. Frank Harrison has decided to take up the option of teaching one more year before retiring. He teaches 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 Steven Holloway spent the first half of 2008 on sabbatical at the University of Arizona where he upgraded his statistical capabilities (audited a course on logistic regression), worked on his UN voting project and the upgrade of his recent text *Defining The Canadian National Interest* for a new edition. Back at StFX as department chair, he has completed a book review for the *International Journal* and presented a paper at the Canadian Political Science Association annual conference last May, which analyses recent data from his ongoing IR Survey of student attitudes.

During 2009-2010, **Dr. Lavinia Stan** has offered PSCI 100, 292, 361, and 452. In Spring and Summer 2010, she will offer PSCI 295 Religion and Politics and PSCI 345 Women and Politics as internet-based courses. She recently edited *Transitional Justice in East Europe* (Routledge, 2009) and is currently in the advanced stages of preparing the manuscripts for *Church, State and Democracy in the Enlarged Europe* (with Lucian Turcescu, on contract with Oxford University Press) and the two-volume *Encyclopedia of Transitional Justice* (edited with Nadya Nedelsky, on contract with Cambridge University Press). In 2009, she wrote the "National Report on Romania" for a larger project commissioned by the Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security of the European Commission, and was appointed Editor for Europe for the *Women's Studies International Forum*.

Model United Nations Society at StFX

Model United Nations Society at St. F.X., a group of students and their faculty advisor, will travel to Boston on 11-14 February to participate in the Harvard National Model United Nations (HNMUN). The Harvard Model UN is the largest and most extensive conference of this nature in the world. Students attend from universities around the world as delegate teams representing the various actual UN member states. A Model UN simulates the activities of the United Nations in proposing, debating, and voting on resolutions on major global issues. On the agenda for this HNMUN annual session are issues such as "Nuclear Terrorism," "Militaryization of the Arctic," "the Rights of Refugees," "Ending World Hunger," and "The Feminization of Poverty." StFX will send a team of 14 students lead by Issam Rizvi and including Ryan Blood, Hilary Feltham, Gabrielle Fiore, Michael Greguol, Brigitte Hartt, Philip Jones, Christine Krause, Rory MacDonald, Natalie MacLean, Christopher Millar, Brendan Riley, and Ellen Wiken. Professor Steven Holloway is the faculty advisor. This year the team will role-play a delegation from Egypt: they will try to represent that country's positions on the various committees and organizations of the UN and research how Egypt would vote on the issues. The experience each student receives at the conference increases their awareness of the global issues that world leaders face. Students who participate learn a great deal about specific issues, methods of resolution, and international cooperation. The students participating will do so of their own initiative and are rewarded accordingly with the amount of effort they put forth. The conference is not simply an exercise, but also a competitive event with awards granted to top delegates on an individual basis, and also to top delegations, granted to the institution they represent.

Professor Holloway, Faculty Adviser, MUN StFX

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 7, 2010 to:

Dr. Steve Holloway, Chair,
Department of Political Science.



Copenhagen Summit Visitor

Rod Janssen, an energy consultant based in Paris, visited the Department recently to discuss developments at the Copenhagen Climate Conference. Mr. Janssen works with a network of African and Asian NGOs on matters of climate change mitigation and adaptation. He has attended the last six COP conferences under the UN treaty regime and was in attendance for the full two weeks in Copenhagen. He spoke at Professor Clancy's 422 seminar class on 14 January and met with students for another session the following day.

The Department of Sociology
Co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science, the Dean of Arts,
Development Studies, the Department of History and the
Department of Economics presents:

Robert J. Brym

The Seven Lessons of Suicide Bombers: What the Middle East Can Teach Canada

Monday, February 8, 2010

7:00 PM

**Conference Rooms A, B and C
Keating Centre
St. Francis Xavier University**

Robert J. Brym is Professor of Sociology at the University of Toronto, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, winner of the Northrop Frye Award for innovation in teaching and conveying the importance of research to students, and former editor of *Current Sociology*, the *Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology* and *East European Jewish Affairs*. He has published widely on political conflict in Canada, Russia and Israel/Palestine. He is currently engaged in SSHRC-funded research on suicide bombers, the results of which have been published in *Social Forces*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, *International Sociology* and the *Canadian Journal of Sociology*. For more information on Robert J. Brym, visit <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/brym/>.

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