



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY



Greetings from the Chair's Office

Welcome to 2019. This is a year for reflection on the vibrancies and contributions of UAlberta Sociology, especially as we enter into a departmental self-study. Our research projects cover timely and meaningful social issues, from re-thinking class and tracking family change to understanding policing culture and analyzing the commodification of bodies. Our teaching engages students in case studies, data sets, community experiences, and new technologies. Our public scholarship is illuminating government funding streams, Indigenous governance, women's entrepreneurship, and beliefs about climate change. We have much to celebrate, even as we are always planning and preparing new endeavours.

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter [@UAlbertaSoc](#), and we welcome news from former students, faculty, instructors, and staff. Please send along a couple of sentences (and if you'd like, a photo) to socdept@ualberta.ca for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter and/or in our Twitter feed. - Dr. Sara Dorow

Thanks to our Donors



Currently we are encouraging donations to the following endowments:

[Charlene Marshall Award in Sociology](#) (for educational travel opportunities for undergraduates). Special thanks to **Melanie Marshall** and **Lynn Van Reede** for their dedication to moving the Charlene Marshall Award endowment forward toward the goal of \$25,000.

[Endowed Sociology Account](#) (for awards and grants for graduate students)

[Gordon Hirabayashi Graduate Scholarship](#) (annual award for graduate students with research interests in human rights, race and ethnic relations, social inequality, and social justice). Profound thanks to the [Edmonton Japanese Community Association](#) for a \$5,000 donation to the Gordon Hirabayashi Graduate Scholarship in 2018.

Distinguished Visitor
Dr. Mike Savage, Martin White
Professor of Sociology, London
School of Economics



Dr. Mike Savage is a leading expert on social class and inequality in the UK, and has spent years developing innovative ways to assess social class in terms of not only economic position, but also social ties and cultural tastes. In 2011, together with the BBC, Savage and a team of sociologists launched the Great British Calculator, an online survey that garnered over 150,000 responses. The results of the largest-ever study on social class revealed seven distinct classes with unique resources and tastes, a new grouping that Savage argues is key to understanding contemporary inequality. In September 2018, Savage joined the department for two weeks as a Distinguished Visitor.

During his visit, Savage gave a series of lectures and workshops that applied his insights on class to understanding pressing social issues like the rise of global inequality and white nationalism. In his first lecture, Savage argued that 20th Century sociologists focused almost exclusively on working class formation and politics, while today super elites are a crucial driver of class inequality, inhabiting a radically different social world from the majority of the population. Savage's second lecture countered the popular narrative that a left-behind working class is solely to blame for the rise of white nationalism that is often associated with the Brexit vote, shifting focus instead to how working class right-wing populism overlaps with elite interests in predicting political outcomes.

The two-week visit culminated with an interactive Town and Gown lecture on "The Great British Class Calculator". Savage described how the team developed the survey, which tapped into social class by asking about how much one earns and whether one likes hip-hop, among other

things ([try it!](#)). The results showed that social class is very much alive in the UK. But what about social class in Canada? **Professors Michelle Maroto and Zohreh Bayatrizi** want to answer precisely that question. At the end of the talk, they announced their project on the "Great Canadian Class Calculator" project, which will use innovative survey methods to assess how class lives in Canada. Stay tuned for updates by following [@ClassCanadian](#).

Introducing Graduate Advisor Patti Kim



With over nine years of experience advising undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education students in several postsecondary settings, **Patti Kim** has developed a passion for student concerns on many levels. She is excited that her current role in the department includes the facilitation of graduate supervisory relationships and processes, as well as assistance in coordination of research funding. In past positions at the Alberta College of Art and Design and the University of Calgary, Patti gained experience in the development of academic policies for graduate studies and in completing businesses processes and policy reviews. Patti received her degree in Sociology at UAlberta and later earned a Human Resources Management Certificate through the Faculty of Extension. Outside of work she is a “yoga freak” and a foodie – she’ll try anything once. Patti is happy to

be part of this wonderful department and looks forward to growing with the students and her colleagues.

Introducing Criminology Advisor Wendy Aujla



Wendy Aujla is an applied sociologist and criminologist with expertise in gender, domestic violence, qualitative methods, community-based research, and community-engaged pedagogies. This background serves her well in her new role, where she advises undergraduate students in the Criminology (BA) Program and coordinates field placements in the community. Wendy has always strived to make academic knowledge accessible and relevant to the public by actively engaging in the university and broader community. Currently she serves on the Ethno-Cultural Family Violence Committee and supports WIN House shelter services for women and children while also writing a dissertation exploring police responses to “honour”-based crimes and forced marriages. In her spare time (aside from reading), Wendy enjoys travelling, making bracelets, and watching hockey. As Criminology Advisor, she looks forward to supporting students and connecting with community partners in the criminal justice sector.

Graduate Student Profile (MA) Shaylyn Hunter



After completing her degree in Criminology at the University of Alberta, **Shaylyn Hunter** was thrilled to be accepted into the Master's program. She is interested in how Indigenous women have been criminalized and their involvement with precarious work and Indigenous gangs. Specifically, her research will focus on the experiences of Indigenous women who are involved in sex-work. Currently, Shaylyn is also a research assistant for the University of Alberta Prison Project, and for an Occupational and Health and Safety project with Edmonton/Calgary Police Services. During her undergrad, Shaylyn was a professional figure skating coach and a volunteer/staff member with the non-profit, Youth Restorative Action Project. Her favorite hobbies include building puzzles, watching 'Friends' re-runs, going for walks, and spending time with her family. She loves animals, and has a huge passion for rescue pets. She has a dog (Charlie) and a cat (Jasper).

Graduate Student Profile (PhD)

Jason Chalmers



Jason Chalmers' academic interests fall into two broad areas: genocide studies, and theories of knowledge. He considers the way collective memory is shaped by mythical narratives and power relations. Thus, he also has a special interest in the ways we construct, legitimise, and transmit knowledge. Jason explores these processes by focusing on decolonising, embodied, and arts-based methodologies. His research focuses primarily on the history and memory of genocide and other mass atrocities, including settler colonialism. In his Master's thesis, he examined the way Canadians remember the Holocaust and construct it as an aspect of national history. Jason's doctoral dissertation focuses on memorial networks in Canada, with a particular focus on three national sites: the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the National Holocaust Monument. He asks how Canadians reproduce national mythology at these sites and, alternately, how we can use memorial networks to resist settler colonialism. For his future research, Jason hopes to explore Jewish approaches to decolonisation.

Where Are They Now?



Dr. Candice Lys (BA Honours, Sociology, 2006)

After graduating from UAlberta in 2006, Candice Lys travelled the world for a couple of years before deciding to go back to graduate school. Her Master's degree in Health Promotion at Dalhousie University took her back home to the Northwest Territories to complete thesis research, and during her PhD program in Public Health Science at the University of Toronto she continued to work as a community-based researcher in the Canadian North. Now with Doctorate in hand, she is Co-Founder/Executive Director of [FOXY \(Fostering Open eXpression among Youth\)](#) and also leads the [SMASH \(Strength, Masculinities, and Sexual Health\)](#) program. FOXY and SMASH are peer-led, trauma-informed sexual and mental health programs that use the arts to facilitate discussion, education, and healing among Northern and Indigenous youth. In 2014, FOXY was the first organization to be awarded the entire \$1 million Arctic Inspiration Prize. Candice is recognized as a Fellow by Ashoka Canada (a social innovation organization) and has earned the Meritorious Service Medal (Civil Division) from the Governor General of Canada. Recently, the Royal Canadian Navy appointed her as an Honorary Naval Captain, and she is one of only a handful of women to hold this prestigious honour. Currently she lives in Yellowknife with her partner Remi and a rambunctious beagle named Maple – and is expecting her first child.

**Congratulations to
Professor Dominique Clément
Royal Society of Canada Scholar**



In Summer 2018, [Professor Dominique Clément](#) was elected to the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars. The appointment to Canada's highest National Academy recognizes Clément's exceptional work and expertise in social movements and human rights. His award-winning publications, including *Human Rights in Canada, Equality Deferred, Canada's Rights Revolution, Debating Dissent* and *Alberta's Human Rights Story*, document the development of human rights activism and legislation in Canada. Clément maintains two innovative websites: [HistoryOfRights.ca](#) and [statefunding.ca](#), which act as teaching and research portals. He has been a Visiting Scholar in Australia, China, and the United Kingdom. He also has worked with a diverse array of public agencies and NGOs such as the Canadian Human Rights Commission and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association. Clément's most recent book, *Debating Rights Inflation in Canada: A Sociology of Human Rights*, discusses the implications of human rights becoming the common vernacular for framing social problems. Clément is currently leading a SSHRC-funded project on the history and current state of public funding for Canada's non-profit sector.

**Welcome Dr. Julia Smith,
Banting Postdoctoral Fellow and**

Honorary Grant Notley Memorial Postdoctoral Fellow



Dr. Julia Smith (PhD, Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies at Trent University) is a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow and Honorary Grant Notley Memorial Postdoctoral Fellow (2018-2020) under the supervision of Professor Dominique Clément. Prior to coming to the University of Alberta, Dr. Smith was a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of History at Rutgers University. Her research examines the political economy of labour relations in Canada as well as past struggles related to women, work, activism, and social movements in order to shed light on contemporary issues and propose new intersectional strategies and approaches to address inequality. More specifically, Dr. Smith's postdoctoral work includes studying efforts to establish unions for bank workers in Canada as well as analyzing different politics, strategies, and experiences of women who attempt to advance gender equality through and within the Canadian labour movement in the second half of the twentieth century. She has published articles on feminist union organizing, labour relations in the child care sector, and the work experiences and labour militancy of flight attendants. Dr. Smith is currently working on revising her PhD work for publication.

**Welcome Dr. Richard Mailey,
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow**

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SOCIOLOGY



Dr. Richard Mailey joined the U of A from the University of Luxembourg, where he worked for four years as a research assistant and completed his PhD in law, specifically in legal and constitutional theory. Before that, he completed LL.B. and LL.M. degrees at the University of Glasgow, where he was awarded the law school's Theodore David Lowe prize in legal theory. He also had a short spell, between finishing his PhD and joining the U of A, working as a lecturer in English law and terminology at the University of Trier in Germany. Richard's fields of interest are legal, constitutional and political theory, with an emphasis on the constitutional. At the U of A, he is working as part of Professor George Pavlich's CRC team, addressing problems of criminalization from a constitutional perspective. More specifically, his current project looks at the way that the individual and social harms that stem from criminalization itself - as distinct from practices of imprisonment, for example - tend to attract little if any constitutional recognition, despite the fact that they constitute clear examples of state power weighing heavily on the constitutionally protected individual. In addressing this peculiarity, Richard is primarily interested in the role that conceptions of constitutional personhood might play in effectively legitimating and to some extent even erasing the harms of criminalization

Faculty Research Profile

Dr. Robyn Lee



[Dr. Robyn Lee](#) (PhD, York University) is an Assistant Professor in Sociology whose research intersects the topics of gender and labour. She examines human milk exchange, particularly as it occurs transnationally between the developed and developing worlds. Arguing that this exchange is consistent with what Rhacel Parreñas considers the “globalization of mothering”, Dr. Lee asks questions about the ethics of the commodification of bodily tissues and how human milk exchange can exploit women in developing countries as they struggle to maintain a standard of living. She examines what happens when milk, a symbol of maternal love and care, becomes an object of exchange, and how this exchange in turn transforms distinctions between human and nonhuman, body and commodity, as well as work and love. She is particularly interested in analyzing these issues from a queer perspective that emphasizes not only gay and lesbian families, but also fathers’ as well as trans parents’ participation in milk feeding. Ultimately, Dr. Lee argues that the commodification of bodies and bodily tissues reduces bodies to means of production and is particularly harmful to, and exploitative of, women in the developing world.

Welcome to Three New Adjunct Academic Colleagues

[Luca Berardi](#) is Assistant Professor of Sociology and Social Psychology at McMaster University with expertise

in criminology, ethnography, violence, victimization, and prisons.

Maryam Razavy is Assistant Clinical Professor of Family Medicine at the University of Alberta, with expertise in bioethics, religious extremism, and culture and healthcare.

Guillaume Durou is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Campus Saint-Jean, University of Alberta, with expertise in historical sociology, class structure and capitalism, and social theory.



Graduate Student Convocants 2018

Doctorate of Philosophy:

Kelly Struthers Montford: *Agricultural Power: Politicized Ontologies of Food, Life, and Law in Settler Colonial Spaces*

Mike Zajko: *Intermediation and Governance of Digital Flows: Canadian Internet Service Providers as Instruments of Public Policy*

Jon Simmons: *Atheist Identity and Lifestyle Among Activists in Edmonton*

Daena Crosby: *Creating Warm Places in Cold Cities: A Relational Youth Work Practice with Indigenous Youth*

Luca Berardi: *Shots Fired: Experiences of Gun Violence and Victimization in Toronto Social Housing*

Master of Arts:

Tim Riordan (course-based)

Savanah Hornbeck (course-based)

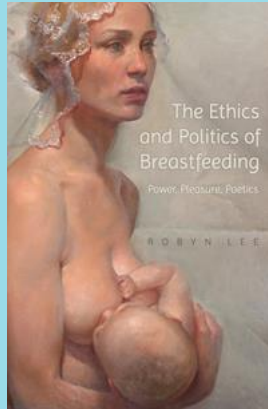
Solomiya Draga: *Does Data Matter? Exploring How*

Nonprofits Working with Abuse Victims in Edmonton Utilize Data to Inform Service Delivery

Amanda Evans: *An Ecological Habitus on the Oilfield? Environmental Concerns of Oilsands Workers and Their Lifestyle Social Practices*

Mitra Mokhtari: *Navigating and Resisting Barriers: Somali-Canadian Youth's Experiences in Edmonton's Public Schools*

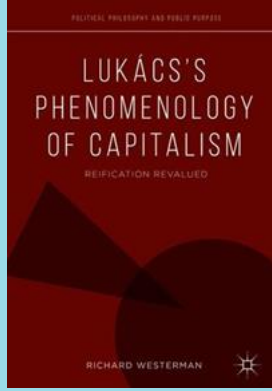
New Books in Sociology - 2018



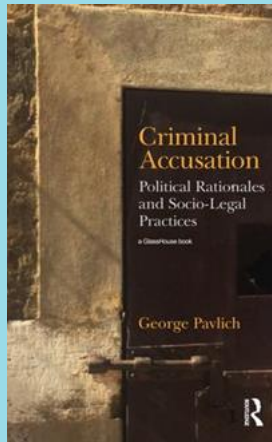
Dr. Robyn Lee's *The Ethics and Politics of Breastfeeding: Power, Pleasure, Poetics* explores breastfeeding as a skillful and effortful art rather than simply a natural or physiological process. In this way, Dr. Lee challenges dominant understandings of breastfeeding, instead conceptualizing breastfeeding as an “art of living”.



Dr. Dominique Clément's *Debating Rights Inflation in Canada: A Sociology of Human Rights* presents a paradox in relation to politics, law, and social practice whereby he argues that the increasing appropriation of rights-talk in the framing of any and all grievances ultimately undermines strategies to address systemic social problems.



[Dr. Richard Westerman's](#) *Lukács's Phenomenology of Capitalism: Reification Revalued* offers a radical new interpretation of George Lukács's *History and Class Consciousness* as stemming from the philosophy of art and a host of other unsuspected influences. Dr. Westerman seeks to revitalize Lukács's thoughts and show how they can speak to contemporary concerns.



[Dr. George Pavlich's](#) *Criminal Accusation: Political Rationales and Socio-Legal Practices* names, analyzes, and evaluates the powers of criminal accusation, and asks whether it is possible to decrease the number of people who enter the criminal justice system by understanding the powers of criminal accusation.

Did You Know...?

...our department was the second Department of Sociology in English Canada.

...it was established in 1961, although classes were already offered in the 1950s.

Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta

