

# The Social

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Recognizing our outstanding faculty



Message from the Dean, Robert Andersen

This was yet another exciting year for the Faculty of Social Science. Our plans for faculty renewal, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our academic programming, and increasing our research profile are now well in place. In fact, they have worked even better than expected. A more vibrant research culture is emerging, and as the We Speak workplace satisfaction survey suggests, morale among full-time faculty and staff is excellent. The outside academic world has also noticed. In just two years, our QS world ranking has shot up 57 points, from #148 in 2015 to #91 in 2017. Just as telling, we received more than 1,200 applications for the tenured/tenure-track positions that were advertised this year. The full effect of this strategic plan will not be realized until several years after the project of faculty renewal has been completed, but it is clear that it has already dramatically altered how the world sees us.

Perhaps nowhere is our renaissance more evident than in the DAN Department of Management & Organizational Studies. We plan to hire 11 tenure-track hires into DAN Management over the next few years. Aubrey Dan continues to be a strong supporter, donating \$5 million to the Department this year to match his original \$5-million gift a decade ago. Along with matching funds from the University, this new \$5-million gift will endow research chairs in the areas of Corporate Governance (joint with the Faculty of Law), Consumer Behaviour, and Change and Innovation. We are fortunate to have Aubrey on our side.

Spurred by the generous gift from Aubrey Dan, and in cooperation with the Faculty of Law, DAN Management is currently developing a new module in Management and Legal Studies. The new endowed Chair in Corporate Governance is expected to play a central role in this module. There are also other new and exciting developments across the Faculty. Under Janice Forsyth’s leadership, we continue to move forward with the creation of a new Department of First Nations Studies. Spearheaded by Terry Sicular, a new inter-disciplinary program in Politics, Philosophy and Economics will begin offering courses in the September 2018. Finally, under Vicki Esses’ leadership, the new Institute for Social and Economic Policy will officially open in the spring of 2018.

I invite you to look closely at this newsletter to learn about some of the other exciting initiatives in our Faculty.

Sincerely,

Bob Andersen  
Professor and Dean



A strategic partnership to consider the future of manufacturing

A new provincially-funded organization has set-up shop in the Social Science Centre, with the goal that the collaboration goes beyond just being neighbours.

The Trillium Network for Advanced Manufacturing is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting the growth of Ontario manufacturing. The organization is funded through the Ontario government. Working with its partners, Trillium connects, convenes and collaborates with like-minded individuals and organizations to support the growth of Ontario manufacturing.

Trillium’s offices are hosted on the sixth floor of the Social Science Centre. Paul Boothe, Managing Director of the organization, foresees that Trillium will be able to work closely with members of the Faculty.

“I think we’ll find it a great place to be based,” said Boothe. “It’s all about talent. One of the things that encouraged us to move was to have access to that talent, and a lot of the research talent in Social Science overlaps with the interests of Trillium.”

Boothe has spoken with the Chairs of each of the Social Science departments, and has hired students from the Faculty to assist with the work.

Trillium, Boothe said, can help facilitate connections between researchers and CEOs, “so researchers can hear what CEOs are doing to prepare for Industry 4.0.” These connections are important, said Boothe, to give people outside the university insight into how social science research can improve their approach to business.

As an example, Boothe points to the sociology of work, with consideration of how the evolution of existing and development of new industries will impact workers, and change approaches to training them.

Boothe feels these collaborations do not need to be limited to business oriented disciplines, such as Economics and DAN Management. History students could help businesses with research or writing, he said, or Geography researchers could support mapping or GIS-related projects.

Changes in manufacturing, said Boothe “have big implications, and there are all sorts of different perspectives to bring to it.”

Boothe completed his BA in Economics at Western in 1976. He then completed a PhD from the University of British Columbia in 1981.

After graduation, Boothe spent many years working between academia and the public service, including four years as an economist with the Bank of Canada, three years as Deputy Minister with Saskatchewan Finance and two years as Deputy Minister with Environment Canada. Before taking on role of Managing Director of Trillium, Boothe was a Professor in the Richard Ivey School of Business and Director of the Lawrence National Centre for Policy and Management.

In December 2016, Boothe was named as a Member of the Order of Canada. He was invested into the Order in November 2017. His citation notes that he “helped bridge the gap between economic theory and the practical realities of policy implementation,” and states “he is best known for his leadership promoting fiscal reform in Saskatchewan and for supporting the Canadian auto industry during the financial crisis.”





## Walk a mile in my klompen

They are an iconic item, a distinctly Dutch shoe, but wearing wooden clogs, or ‘klompen’ may have also resulted in a distinct pattern of damage to Dutch farmers.

New research from Andrea Waters-Rist, Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology, and her colleagues suggest that the population of a 19th-century rural farming community from the Netherlands had dramatically increased rates of bone lesions, Osteochondritis Dissecans (OD), specifically located in the feet.

In modern populations, the OD bone lesions occur primarily in athletes and generally are found in knee, elbow, ankle, hip, shoulder and/or wrist bones. They are rarely found within the foot, either in modern populations or among other archaeological examples. Waters-Rist, along with Irene Vikatou and Menno Hoogland from Leiden University examined skeletal remains from the Middenbeemster area of the Netherlands, and found that 12.9% of the people had bone chips in foot bones.

As a community centred on cattle farming, the Beemster population would have been involved in extensive outdoor activity, increasing the risk of repetitive trauma in the foot. This stress would have been exasperated by the footwear of choice, the hard, inflexible wooden clog.

Waters-Rist said that for the farmers, the clogs would have been very useful shoes, as they were affordable, kept their feet dry and if stuffed with straw, quite warm. As such, they would have been worn for most uses. As the clogs have a stiff sole, they could have amplified the stresses associated with farm work and travelling by foot.

Even in present-day Beemster, “some people, especially the older generation, still wear clogs on a semi-regular basis,” said Waters-Rist.

The remains were excavated from a cemetery-site beside a church, which was expanding. Waters-Rist was lead osteoarchaeologist on the project and said the investigation was fully support and aided by the Historisch Genoostchap Beemster, a local historic society, who helped clean the bones and provided archival research.

“These were the living descendants of the people we were examining,” said Waters-Rist and they were very interested in the information that could be obtained from the skeletal remains, which could provide a better understanding of Dutch society.

Waters-Rist said that bio-archaeology provides insight into the lives of populations that are often not captured in the historic texts.

From the paper: “Archaeology is always looking for new and better ways to reconstruct past human behaviour, and the occurrence of pathological lesions in the foot may be a valuable indicator of activity, trauma, and as will be presented, footwear, in this case the wooden clogs, ‘klompen’, commonly worn in the Netherlands in the Medieval and post-Medieval periods. The main aim of this study is the examination of a high prevalence of foot lesions in a post-Medieval population from the Beemster polder of the Netherlands, in order to illuminate aspects of past activity and behaviour.”

Waters-Rist hopes the research can also help spur additional research into the effect of footwear choices on our bodies, impacts that are still important today.

“Osteochondritis Dissecans of skeletal elements of the foot in a 19th century rural farming community from The Netherlands” was published in the *International Journal of Paleopathology*, Volume 19

## Understanding our place in the world, through community engagement

Anthropology students were provided with first-hand opportunities to learn more about refugees, through a new community engagement initiative.

Students in ANTH 2283F, Refugees and the Displaced: An Anthropological Approach to Forced Migration, taught by Randa Farah volunteered at programs offered by the South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre, to develop a better understanding of the newcomer experience.

The course “covers many aspects of involuntary displacement,” said Farah, “People can be displaced by environmental factors, or for reasons of poverty. There are also internally displaced people. It is not just refugee status, which is a legal term.”

**It’s a very good opportunity to understand where the university is centred, within the city, and the responsibility we have to the community, and how we can contribute.**

**- Randa Farah  
Associate Professor,  
Department of Anthropology**

“The community connection gives students a chance to learn something in theory and then actually meet people, and be better able to see the links and understand how policy affects people,” said Farah. “They can see if or how centres respond to the needs of newcomers.”

Farah chose to work with the centre because it provides services to many different groups, including refugees, other newcomers and established Canadians.

“The centre provides a broader range of experiences, and is more of a connected space and reflective of the actual community,” said Farah.

Students first travelled to the Centre, learned about the programs offered and how it was funded. They were given the opportunity to volunteer with different community programs, and asked to reflect on their experiences.



Tiffany Ma is a Health Sciences student, minoring in Anthropology. She said volunteering helped personalize the refugee experience. “The community interaction helped me take into consideration the lived experience of refugees, and see their culture and history,” Ma said. “It helped show them not as their status, but as people.”

Danielle Frinton is completing her Honors Specialization in Anthropology with a minor in Refugee and Migration Studies. She volunteered with a group of 11 and 12 year old girls.

Frinton said the girls she worked with had trouble with marginalization when they arrived in Canada, due to language and religious differences. Frinton said they also were often seen as their status, and not as individuals.

“They were always talked to by people outside the centre as if they were hurt,” said Frinton. “They felt people would talk to them for the rest of their lives like that.”

Catherine Gallant is completing her Honors Specialization in Anthropology. Through her experience, she found that for many school age refugees, “there was no group support or support within school for learning the language.”

“Engagement is really important,” said Gallant. “It’s good to start this in 2nd year, and it’s good to step out of the classroom and interact with the world.”

This was the first time Farah has offered the community-engagement aspect of the course, but she wants to continue to develop relations with the centre.

“The experience gave an opportunity to apply our knowledge, and apply our social skills,” Frinton said. “It also gave a chance to learn how to approach research in an ethical way and get informed consent. This experienced was the best thing she (Farah) could have done.”

“It’s a very good opportunity to understand where the university is centred, within the city, and the responsibility we have to the community, and how we can contribute,” said Farah.





## Study unlocks why public appeals may fall flat with some would-be donors

It has long puzzled fundraisers why, in any appeal, some people will eagerly jump in with the throng while others equally passionate about the cause will reject the same pitch.

Now research led by Bonnie Simpson, Assistant Professor in the DAN Department of Management & Organizational Studies is nearer to figuring out why some people are — and aren't — motivated by public appeals, and how fundraisers might better tailor requests.

**The lesson isn't that public or private appeals work better, but that organizations should be willing to change the language of the 'ask'... which may ultimately change response rates.**

**- Bonnie Simpson  
Assistant Professor,  
DAN Management**

A new paper, "When Public Recognition for Charitable Giving Backfires: The Role of Independent Self-Construal" online in the *Journal of Consumer Research*, says people whose self-definition includes a strong streak of independence will sometimes balk because appeals seem too much like following the crowd.

"They see public appeals as social pressure calling them to be like everyone else who gives in a certain way and at a certain time. They see themselves as resisting the influence to act as others might expect them to," said Simpson. "It's not that they don't want to give. They want to give, but more privately."

The study is co-authored by Katherine White, professor of Marketing and Behavioural Science at the Sauder School of Business at University of British Columbia; and Juliano Laran, Professor of Marketing at the School of Business Administration, University of Miami.

"If asked to donate at a grocery-store checkout, for example, people with a greater sense of independence may decline. By contrast, people who place a high value on interdependence will often respond positively," said Laran: "They think, 'other people are giving, I want to be part of that movement, I want to help.'"

The study asked people a series of questions about how they view themselves and about their giving patterns. And it found that sometimes the difference between someone's willingness to give, or not give, was in how the question was worded.

"For individualists who believe they are resistant to others' influence, the 'ask' may need to be phrased differently. This group is more likely to give if we tell them it's their choice, that not everyone is doing it and that they can be quiet leaders for the cause," Simpson said.

"By encouraging people to give through their own free will, they are more likely to donate even when public recognition is involved," said White. "The lesson isn't that public or private appeals work better, but that organizations should be willing to change the language of the 'ask' based on interdependence or independence traits among donors, which may ultimately change response rates."

## DAN Management study-abroad opportunity "a new model for Western"

**Radboud Universiteit**



For 17 students in the DAN Department of Management & Organizational Studies, the Winter 2018 term will be an experience unlike any other.

The students will travel to Radboud University, in Nijmegen, a city located near the Dutch border with Germany, for a four-month, faculty-led, study abroad experience.

Maria Ferraro is organizing the trip. She said that, due to concerns about cost, and available elective space, DAN Management students do not generally do exchanges. For many, going on an exchange would result in adding a fifth year to their undergraduate studies.

Along with organizing the trip, Ferraro is travelling to Radboud and will teach three DAN Management courses: Operations Management, Fraud Examination, and Management Accounting.

"It's a new model for Western," said Eunice Isidro, Faculty-Led Study Abroad and Safety Abroad Coordinator, with Western International. "This is a unique offering. It is a faculty-led study abroad program, and Ferraro will be travelling with the students, teaching Western courses."

"We chose those courses because they are applicable to all streams," said Ferraro. "We tried to design it so students can get the experience of an exchange, while

completing their DAN Management course, and not have to take another term."

Students can choose two courses at Radboud, which will count toward their elective. The Fraud Management course will also be offered to students at Radboud, opening more opportunities for integration and cultural exchange.

Radboud University is a research-focused university and is home to the Nijmegen School of Management. The school, Ferraro said, has a strong focus on exchange programs and all courses available to Western students are taught in English.

"Radboud is a strategic partner and Western would like to increase collaboration and broaden our engagement with them," said Isidro.

"The Netherlands is centrally located in Europe and English is widely spoken," said Ferraro, "so there should not be a culture shock for students."

While 17 students are taking part in the first offering, Ferraro expects interest in the program will grow. Forty-five students submitted applications for the 2019 offering, and Ferraro said she could see the number of applicants continue to grow in the future.

Students are required to pay their own accommodation, flight and living expenses, along with an administration fee, but Ferraro said there is future consideration of obtaining money to open the opportunity to students who might not otherwise have the means to participate.

## New hires will expand research capacity of DAN Management

The DAN Department of Management & Organizational Studies will be expanding its research capacity with plans to hire eight tenured-track faculty members within the next two years.

Four new faculty members will start in July 2018, with an additional four planned to start in July 2019. The department will also be hiring senior faculty members to fill three endowed research chair positions, funded through a donation from Aubrey Dan.

The eight tenure-track positions were created through a reallocation of resources, including moving from part-time faculty to full-time faculty.

"We've had a very successful hiring campaign. It's very exciting," said Mitch Rothstein "We had to redesign the

program slightly, and saw some classes increase in size. It's a plan that was offered by the faculty, and we made it work."

Rothstein said the new faculty will allow the department to consider expanding its offerings, including the possible development of a graduate program.

As tenure-track faculty, the new hires will include a research component.

"With these eight, and the endowed chair, the department will double the ability to produce research," said Rothstein. "We are going to create more visibility in the university and beyond."









## DAN Management receives transformative \$5-million gift

The Faculty of Social Science has received a \$5-million gift from Aubrey Dan, funds that will help re-shape and expand the DAN Department of Management & Organizational Studies.

This is the second gift Dan has made to the department, following a \$5-million gift in 2006. The most recent investment will be used to establish three endowed research chairs, and two endowed distinguished lectures.

“This will really help catapult the department to the next level,” said Aubrey Dan. “It is very transformative and exciting.”

Research chairs will be established in the fields of: Corporate Governance; Consumer Behavior; and Change and Innovation. All three research chairs will carry the Dancap Private Equity name.

**Every single level at the University – the President, Provost, the Dean, the Departments and the students – are thoroughly open to continued new changes. That is truly inspirational as a former alumni to help collaborate to improve university.”**

**- Aubrey Dan  
President,**

**Dancap Family Investment Office**

Each chair is supported by a \$1.5-million gift, and with matching funds from the University, there will be a total endowment of \$9-million for these chairs.

Two endowed lectures - the DAN Management Distinguished Lecture in Consumer Behavior and DAN Management Distinguished Lecture in Corporate Governance - have also been created.

“DAN Management is undergoing a renaissance like never before,” said Bob Andersen, Dean of the Faculty of Social Science. “We plan to add new faculty members in the department over the next few years, which will contribute significantly to our research capacity, and to our international reputation.”

“This donation is fantastic, it’s a great opportunity in a number of ways,” said Mitch Rothstein, Chair of DAN Management. “In a research intensive university, the department needs to be research intensive and this gift gives us a big step forward with three research chairs. It allows us to recruit three senior researchers with long-established records. This will help make the department known in academia and in the wider public.”

“In general, the current faculty in DAN Management is younger,” said Rothstein. “Having senior people in the field will give them the opportunity to work with them. It will be a great source for potential collaboration and for future research.”

Dan, BACS’85, is a Tony Award-winning producer, and president of the Dancap Group of Companies, including Dancap Global Asset Management and Dancap Private Equity Inc.

In 2006, Dan provided a \$5-million gift in support of the Management and Organizational Studies program, which was renamed the Aubrey Dan Program in Management and Organizational Studies. In 2013, the Management and Organizational Studies program was named a department within the Faculty of Social Science, and in June 2017, the department was renamed the DAN Department of Management & Organizational Studies.

Speaking at the gift announcement, Western University President Amit Chakma noted that Dan has been an active part of the department, attending students networking and career events, and awards ceremonies.

“Aubrey’s enthusiasm for Western is contagious and students are inspired by him, his business accomplishments and his philanthropy,” said Chakma.

Dan said he is inspired to continue giving because he sees “such incredible positive changes of being part of creating the future leaders of Canada and around the world.”

Dan is also inspired by the University’s commitment to growth. “Every single level at the University – the President, Provost, the Dean, the Departments and the students – are thoroughly open to continued new changes,” said Dan. “It is truly inspirational as a former alumni to help collaborate to improve the university.”

“When an organization is on the rise, smart people want to contribute,” said Andersen. “Aubrey Dan’s \$5-million investment will make us even better.”

Located in Western’s Faculty of Social Science, DAN Management takes a people-centric approach to management education that embraces change and innovation.

DAN Management is home to nearly half of all Social Science students. The department offers a Bachelor of Management and Organizational Studies (BMOS) degree in six areas of study: Accounting; Commercial Aviation Management; Consumer Behaviour; Finance; Human Resource Management; and Public Administration.

Through the support provided by Aubrey Dan, DAN Management will establish three endowed research chairs, in the fields of Consumer Behaviour, Change and Innovation, and Corporate Governance.

Mitch Rothstein, Chair of DAN Management, said the focus of the endowed research chairs were decided upon through discussion between the Department, the Faculty of Social Science and Aubrey Dan.

“We identified areas that were most in line with the existing research clusters, and which Aubrey Dan felt good about supporting,” said Rothstein.

### **Dancap Private Equity Chair in Consumer Behaviour**

The holder of this chair shall have a proven research record in the field of consumer behaviour from the standpoint of the consumer, society, and/or management. This field of study comprises interdisciplinary theoretical perspectives, drawing from marketing, psychology, economics, and other social sciences, to investigate the antecedents, processes, and outcomes of consumer, social and managerial behaviours; examining, for example, how consumer behaviour is being shaped by globalization, culture, institutions, media, social influences, resource constraints, and/or environmental stimuli.

### **Dancap Private Equity Chair in Change and Innovation**

The holder of this chair shall have a proven research record in the general area of understanding organizational change and innovation. This field of study comprises multiple and interdisciplinary perspectives that may include the managing of change and innovation at any level or stage of organizational development, managing consumer attitudes, developing and introducing new consumer products, implementing organizational sustainability and improved environmental practices, or managing change in corporate governance policies, procedures, or structures.

### **Dancap Private Equity Chair in Corporate Governance**

A joint appointment with the Faculty of Law, the home Faculty of the chair will be the Faculty of Social Science. The holder of this Chair will have a proven research record in the field of corporate governance from both management and legal perspectives. This includes domestic, comparative and emerging approaches to the regulation of the rights, obligations and relationships among corporate stakeholders; evaluation of the extent to which different governance structures facilitate the financial and other goals of the corporation; the role of markets and government regulators; and the availability of legal recourse against corporate officers and directors by both internal and external stakeholders.





## Janice Forsyth named Director of the First Nations Studies program

Janice Forsyth has joined the Faculty of Social Science as the new Director of the First Nations Studies program.

Forsyth comes from a position in the Faculty of Health Science. Forsyth researches the history of Indigenous physical culture, and how it can be used to understand the history of Indigenous-settler relations in Canada.

Her current research is a SSHRC-funded project on physical culture in the Indian Residential School system. “Residential schools may have provided physical activity for purpose of teaching health but students may have approached it as a means of fostering cultural identity and survival,” said Forsyth.

This is reflective of the different values Indigenous people place on sport and recreation, said Forsyth. Improving the understanding of why Indigenous people participate, or do not participate, in sport can increase their involvement by showing where the barriers are in the dominant sport system.

Sports and recreation can tie into bigger issues facing Indigenous people, said Forsyth, - access to clean water, fresh food, recreation facilities, educational attainment - as well as recognizing who they are as distinct people. This makes sports and recreation an important facet of Indigenous lives, said Forsyth, who also is a member of the Fisher River Cree First Nation. “For Indigenous people, sport has always been tied to who we are as people. It’s tied to land and to identity and to culture.”

The First Nations Studies program is designed to provide a holistic understanding of topics relevant to Indigenous peoples’ realities by immersing students in an educational culture that fosters critical thinking and problem solving.

“Professor Forsyth’s move to Social Science is an excellent development for both the First Nations

program and the Faculty of Social Science generally,” said Robert Andersen, Dean of the Faculty of Social Science. “Her leadership will be integral to helping us grow the program, with the ultimate goal of developing it into a full department. We’re thrilled that Janice has joined us.”

“I’m really excited about what the program can be,” said Forsyth, “I like the idea of being involved in something from the ground up, and I’m excited to work with a strong group of people to do this, and a lot of graduates who can provide support, and who can help shape the future. It’s a good stable base on which to build the program.”

When Forsyth came to Western as an undergraduate student in the early 1990s, very few Indigenous students self-identified as Indigenous, and she felt that she was going through a university system that did not reflect her experiences. She found that Indigenous Services was able to provide a space for her to speak with others who could understand what she was going through. Since then, Forsyth has seen some changes on campus, primarily around how people understand Indigenous issues.

“When I speak about Indigenous issues on campus, in the classroom for instance – there might be few Indigenous students in the audience, but there is more willingness to listen and acknowledge and work from Indigenous ways of knowing, and more awareness of how those perspectives are critical if we want to address the issues that are important to Indigenous people and to many Canadians,” said Forsyth. “Now, I don’t have to fight to be heard, students are more willing to learn.”

But, Forsyth said, “there is still a long way to go, but Western is ready to move forward with more fundamental changes on campus, and the changes being made to the First Nations Studies program is one indication of that readiness.”

## Labatt virtual exhibit highlights work of public history students

Students in the Department of History played a major role in a new project highlighting the 170-year history of one of London’s biggest companies.

A new virtual exhibit, the Labatt Brewing Company Collection, includes hundreds of digitized images, audio interviews, and radio and TV ads, telling the history of Labatt, and the events that shaped Canada.

Five students in History 3813: Public History worked with Robin Keirstead, University Archivist at Western Libraries, to help develop the interactive website. The students were each given a portion of the 170-years, were asked to identify significant events in Canadian history, and select items from the archive to represent those events.

The resulting project provides an interactive and interesting overview of the history of Labatt, the city of London, and Canada more widely.

Mike Dove, acting director of the Master’s program in Public History at Western, taught the undergraduate course. He said the collection and project highlights many aspects of history, including labour, economic, environmental and social and cultural history.

“This project helps to bring everyone’s attention to a rich treasure-trove of materials,” said Dove. “It will hopefully draw in other researchers. Canada does not have a lot of collections like the Labatt collection.”

The history, Dove said, points to Labatt’s continuing connection to London, and to Western. John Labatt was a major contributor to the university in its early days, and his descendants continued to donate to Western, including the donation of the corporate archives in 2011.

Corporate histories “have the possibility of not being

objective,” Dove said, but access to the Labatt archives provides insight to show how business decisions are more in historic context, and allows researchers to go in and make their own decisions. The archives provides opportunity for many more “research questions that can be asked of the collections,” said Dove.

MacKenzie Brash was one of the students who worked on the project. Brash said the class discussed issues of corporate history, and how the companies often want to be portrayed in the best light, with some companies working to remove their history. “Labatt avoided doing this,” said Brash. “They have been a pillar of the community for so long, and are proud of their past.”

Dove felt the opportunity was great for students, giving them a chance to work with an extensive archival collection available at Western. It also gave them an opportunity to give consideration on how they would reach the public, while providing a practical and tangible result for their work.

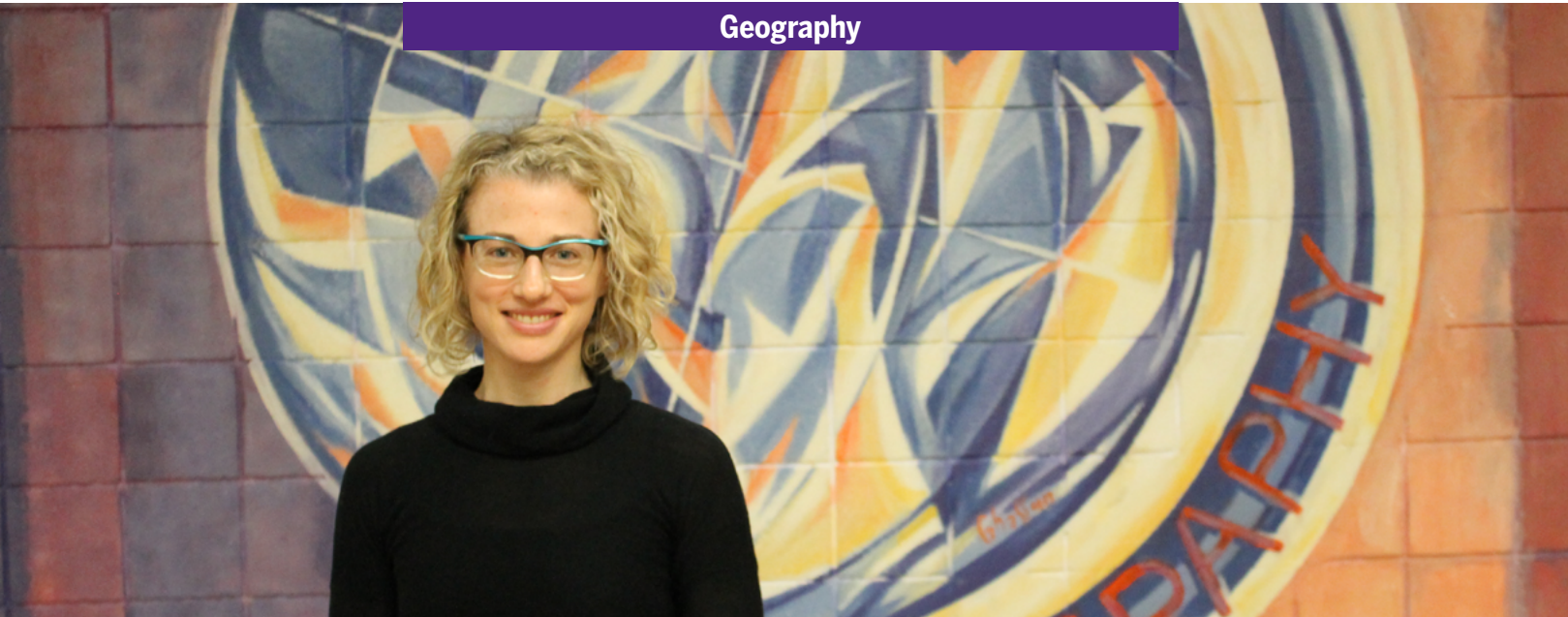
Brash said she was excited to work with the Labatt collection, and found the work to be more difficult than she had originally anticipated. She is now completing her MA in Public History at Western.

“It was great that an undergraduate course introduced us to public partners and gave us hands on experience,” Brash said. “It’s not something you get out of every undergraduate course. And It’s cool to say I worked on a Labatt project.”

The five students who worked on the project were MacKenzie Brash, Matthew Espey, Marie Frise, Leigha King, and Andrew Pacheco.

The virtual exhibit can be found at <https://labattheritage-admin.lib.uwo.ca/>





## How does gender impact how we use the gym?

Are there typically masculine or feminine activities in a gym? Is weight-training only for men? And cardio only for women? Or is it more complex?

Stephanie Coen, a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Geography, examined how activities and spaces within gyms become gendered. What happens on the gym floor that includes or excludes people from participating in the full range of potential physical activity opportunities?

In Coen's study, participants reported feeling intimidated when trying to use certain spaces or equipment. Many participants felt they could or could not do specific exercises because they were viewed as 'not normal' for their gender, such as intensive weight training for women, or stretching and cardio for men. Coen found that for many gym users, men and women alike, the presence of people perceived to express a particular masculine image could impact how comfortable they felt while using the gym.

Coen was interested in gyms because they are viewed as everyday places, and she wanted to "look at environments and how they can be implicated in shaping gendered behaviour." Coen argues that remedying gender disparities in physical activity requires examining the places where such differences may become routinized and taken-for-granted.

As women are less likely to meet the minimum levels of physical activity recommended in Canadian guidelines, it is important to consider why people may not feel welcome or comfortable in common spaces like gyms.

"We talk a lot about just getting people more active, but we have to talk about creating more equitable opportunities," said Coen. "If you just focus on activity, inequality may still persist and people may miss out."

Making gyms more inclusive places requires re-defining the gender relations governing use of gym space to benefit everyone involved, while taking care not to inadvertently exclude some people or some gender expressions, Coen said. This could include drawing attention to commonalities and shared experiences among women and men, or even reconsidering the conventional layout of gyms to intersperse traditionally gendered activities throughout the gym.

For her next research project, Coen intends to focus on the role of different everyday environments (e.g., around home, neighbourhood, school) in how physical activity participation becomes gendered among youth. "Girls' physical activity tends to drop off during adolescence," said Coen. "I want to engage youth to talk about how they think gender matters in terms of physical activity."

Other research shows that boys and girls use areas of play differently, especially as it relates to structured and unstructured play. Coen intends her study to be highly participatory, asking youth how they think about gender, and using creative methods, such as co-created comics and collage, to create a dialogue to explore their views.

Coen said she "uses creative expression as it allows people to approach or answer a question in another way. Things like gender roles can become so accepted that it can be difficult to see unless you step back."

As a postdoctoral associate, Coen is working for the Human Environments Analysis Laboratory (the HEAL), under the direction of Professor Jason Gilliland. Coen said she enjoys working in the HEAL, because "it's able to bring a lot of different types of research together under the same umbrella." Through her role, she has been able to collaborate on a variety of projects and "see a lot of different perspectives."

## Department of Geography named Esri Canada Centre of Higher Education Excellence



The Department of Geography recently signed on to become the 11th Esri Canada Centre of Higher Education Excellence (ECCE). The ECCE program is intended to give recognition and special status to qualifying departments within post-secondary institutions in Canada that educate students in Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc (Esri) Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology.

ECCE centres have "a critical mass" of GIS expertise, said Jamie Voogt, Chair of the Department of Geography, including relevant courses, enrolments, number of graduate students and Faculty members specializing in GIS.

The ArcGIS software is widely used in industry and research, and training on this software provides important hands-on experience for our students.

Western has a campus-wide site licence for ArcGIS from Esri for faculty and graduate students. Undergraduate students can access a limited number of one-year Esri student licences.

"Before we used ArcGIS in our courses we had a lot of student demand for it," said Voogt.

Geography has been using ArcGIS within its GIS courses now for several years, and with the current development of a new teaching computer laboratory and faculty renewal in the area of Geographic Information Science beginning this year, the department felt the time was right to join the ECCE program.

At Western, research and teaching on Geographic Information Science (GISci) is focused in the Department of Geography in three core areas of GISci: GIS, remote sensing and cartography.

GIS research and teaching include: exploratory spatial data analysis, spatial modelling, spatial statistics, multi-criteria analysis, and visualization methods. The GIS-based approaches are applied to answer research questions and to analyze spatial planning/policy-related problems in the areas of: health and health care, urban land use, sustainable development, water systems, and landscape studies.

Remote sensing methods (such as pattern recognition, feature detection and extraction techniques) address specific topics with an emphasis on environmental issues with local and global significance including: natural resource management and earth surface processes such as vegetation patterns, river channel form, and urban surface temperatures.

Cartography complements the two main teaching and research interests in GISci. This research strand centres on history of cartography, historical maps, and lunar and planetary cartography and mapping.

As an ECCE, the Department of Geography will be looking for up to six student associates on an annual basis to represent Western, participate in an App Challenge held by Esri and contribute regularly to a blog. These students will receive coaching and training in custom software application development on the web and on mobile computing platforms.

Student associates will be entitled to receive an ArcGIS Developer Premium Subscription, free registration at local Esri Canada user conferences, have free access to Esri instructor-led training courses, and have access to Esri Canada Higher Education staff for developer/technical support.

The student engagement with the program is intended to help promote communication and collaboration between schools and amongst disciplines on campus that use GIS technology. The program will help improve students' career networking, education and practical training and their contributions to the program will build capabilities in GIS software for other users. Geography looks forward to becoming the newest ECCE in Canada.





## Western student Levi Hord awarded prestigious Rhodes Scholarship

Levi Hord has become the 23rd Western student to be awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, considered one of the world's most prestigious post-graduate honours.

Named for the British mining magnate and South African politician Cecil John Rhodes, the scholarship offers two years of all-expenses-paid postgraduate study at the University of Oxford. Its 110-year tradition includes three Nobel Prize winners, as well as former Ontario Premier Bob Rae, former Canadian Prime Minister John Turner and current Minister of Global Affairs, Chrystia Freeland.

**I am absolutely thrilled. I can't wait. There's no other group of people in this world who could push my thought forward or challenge it. I want my thought to be challenged—that's the only way we can move forward.**

**- Levi Hord  
Rhodes Scholar and Women's  
Studies & Feminist Research Student**

Hord is a fourth-year student in Sexuality Studies, School for Advanced Studies in Arts & Humanities (SASAH) and Scholar's Electives.

"Getting to be in the best humanities university in the world with people who are just as engaged as I am, I am absolutely thrilled. I can't wait. There's no other group of people in this world who could push my thought forward or challenge it. I want my thought to be challenged —

that's the only way we can move forward," said Hord, who has a passion for furthering transgender academia and theory.

Hord's research has focused on the use of gender-neutral language in transgender communities, as well as mechanisms of contemporary identity formation and the renegotiation of gendered meanings amid proliferations of transgender identities. Hord uses the neutral pronouns "they/them."

Hord also led a team of students at Woodland Cemetery in London last summer as they unearthed, documented and restored hundreds of gravestones that had been all but lost to history.

At Oxford, Hord plans on doing a double master's — two one-year degrees, the first in women's studies and the second either in political theory or with the Internet Institute at the university — while also continuing with advocacy work.

Being a Rhodes Scholar isn't just a personal accomplishment but an acknowledgment that sexuality studies and the humanities are worthwhile, Hord said. "It's work that needs to be done."

Just two Rhodes Scholarships are awarded to Ontarians every year, among the 11 awarded annually in Canada. Western has helped to support 23 successful candidates over the years; the most recent, before Hord, in 2013.



## Understanding how the brain makes sense of it all

Ryan Stevenson wants to understand how the brain makes sense of all the information it receives.

Stevenson, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology, received both a NSERC Discover grant, valued at \$150,000 and a SSHRC Insight grant, valued at \$308,000 to investigate questions related to sensory integration.

The projects, while related, will view different aspects of the process.

The NSERC funded project, Development and Neuroplasticity of Multisensory Integration, will focus on the development of a typically-functioning brain's ability to manage multiple sensory inputs.

Using MRI scans, Stevenson will look at how the human brain learns to use statistical regularities to make sense of sensory cues, learning to process the information we perceive.

The SSHRC funded project will look specifically at sensory integration and sensitivity in people with autism, how they impact social situations and symptomatology.

"It's the same underlying cognitive process of sensory integration, but one project focuses on typical development the other is when something goes awry," said Stevenson.

Many symptoms of autism are exhibited as a lack of social awareness, or even development delays, when they could be due to perception issues.

One example is the presence of repetitive behaviour. Repetitive behaviour can may be used as a sensory soothing behaviour, or a coping mechanism in high-sensation environments, said Stevenson.

"Sensory sensitivity levels are highly predictive of repetitive behaviour in kids with autism," said Stevenson. "In general, the higher the sensitivity, the stronger repetitive behaviour is."

The project will work to separate sensory responsivity from sensory hypersensitivity. Through detection tasks and object identification, Stevenson will try to physically measure sensitivity in kids with and without autism.

Clinical research relating to people with autism often relies on parent reporting, but Stevenson says, parent reporting cannot track sensory sensitivity without it being conflated with over-responsivity. Sensitivity is specifically how sensory inputs are perceived and processed, both physiologically and psychologically, whereas reactivity is a child's behavioural response to that perception.

Stevenson plans to conduct a longitudinal study to relate sensory issues and behavioural symptomatology, including social development.

"I'm particularly happy to be able to do a longitudinal study, which the five-year grant will allow," he said.

Stevenson categorizes the NSERC projects as basic research, and the SSHRC project is more specific. "I want to see a combination of basic research and clinical work in the same lab, and that's what makes the lab unique," said Stevenson. "Both projects will be highly informative of the other."



## Salim Mansur awarded for efforts to promote interfaith understanding



Salim Mansur, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, was awarded a Senate 150th Anniversary Medal for his work to promote interfaith understanding.

The award ceremony took place in the Senate Chamber, Parliament of Canada, on November 29 and was presided by the Honourable George J. Furey, Speaker of the Senate.

The award citation for Mansur noted, “Salim Mansur has done extensive work promoting interfaith understanding, particularly Jewish-Muslim reconciliation. An author, columnist and professor at Western University, he is a founding member of the board of directors for the Centre for Islamic Pluralism based in Washington, D.C.”

Mansur researches international and comparative politics with a focus on South Asia and the Middle East.

He also speaks widely on interfaith relations. Mansur had a syndicated column in Sun Media newspapers, and has spoken widely on the topic of interfaith relations, including appearing as a witness in parliamentary committee hearings in Ottawa.

“There are a few Muslim voices in Canada taking leadership in this arena of interfaith communication,” said Mansur, “and I was identified among those involved. Until and unless we can reconcile Jewish-Muslim relationship as people sharing common religious values, the conflict between Muslim countries and Israel will fester, and the Muslim world will continue to regress in terms of freedom and democracy.”

The Senate 150th Anniversary Medal is intended to celebrate the achievements of Canadians who have made significant contributions to their community and commemorates the 150th anniversary of the first sitting of the Senate on November 6, 1867.

“Through the creation of this medal, senators sought to honour Canadians whose generosity, dedication, volunteerism and selfless service have meant so much, to so many,” a Senate statement explained. “On this day, senators have the privilege of recognizing those people who embody the values that bind us together and make Canada a caring and compassionate country.”

### Political Science/Sociology

## Western Faculty named to College of New Scholars

Members of the Faculty of Social Science have been named to positions within the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists of the Royal Society of Canada, a prestigious group of emerging scholars.

Joanna Quinn, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science has been selected as President-Elect of The College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists of the Royal Society of Canada.

“It’s an honour to be asked to serve as President of The College. I look forward to working with Canada’s emerging intellectual leaders to connect College members in useful and innovative ways that showcase the depth and breadth of our collective research.”, said President-Elect Joanna Quinn. Her two-year term as President of the College will begin in November 2018.

Laura Huey, Professor in the Department of Sociology was among the 2017 inductees as a member of the College of New Scholars. Huey is a leading internationally known researcher in the areas of criminology, policing,

surveillance and homelessness. A highly regarded leader of policing research in Canada, she is acknowledged to be an international influence in the field of public security.

Huey’s research is praised for its theoretical and methodological rigour and her early work on surveillance is widely regarded as a classic foundation on which research in the field continues to build.

Those named to the College represent the emerging generation of scholarly, scientific and artistic leadership in Canada.

Other Faculty members previously named to the College include:

- Bipasha Baruah, Women’s Studies and Feminist Research (2015)
- Joanna Quinn, Political Science (2015)
- Chantelle Richmond, Geography (2015)
- Daniel Ansari, Psychology (2014)
- Isaac Luginaah, Geography (2014)



## Sociology hires add to strength in Population Dynamics and Inequality

The Department of Sociology has hired two new Assistant Professors, adding more strength to its research capacity in Population Dynamics and Inequality.

David Calnitsky will join the department in January 2018. Calnitsky completed his PhD in Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Calnitsky’s research focuses on work, poverty, and class, as well as social policy and theory. His most recent publications focused on the “Mincome” experiment conducted in Dauphin, Manitoba in the 1970s.

Among Calnitsky’s findings were changes in the behaviour in perception of residents; “I found some qualitative evidence for weakened social stigma, especially relative to people’s views of traditional social assistance,” said Calnitsky. “In a separate not-yet-published paper, I have some suggestive evidence showing declines in domestic violence.”

Calnitsky said it is difficult to say whether Mincome was a success or a failure. A “problem with the question of the success or failure of experiments is that there is rarely some agreed upon criteria, determined in advance, that can be used to evaluate it; and that’s because different people have different goals with respect to what is seen as a desirable outcome,” said Calnitsky. “Without prior agreement on what is acceptable or unacceptable it becomes hard to judge the experiment’s success or failure.”

Sean Waite joined the Department in July 2017. Waite completed his PhD at McGill University.

Waite’s research focuses on labour market stratification and wage inequality, with a particular focus on gender and sexual orientation. Waite is interested in how gender and sexual orientation shape labour market experiences.

Waite has researched sexual minority wage gaps in Canada, the self-employment choices of gay men and lesbians, postgraduate wage premiums and the gender wage gap for university graduates.

“People seem to think labour markets are unbiased and everyone is treated equality, but lots of evidence seems to suggest otherwise,” said Waite. “As a gay man, I was interested in how labour markets might be stratified by sexual orientation and how sexual orientation may influence the education and employment choices of the LGBTQ community.”

Waite’s current project, LGBTQ at Work, is a mixed-method study of the labour market experiences of Canada’s LGBTQ community. Working with Nicole Denier, a Postdoctoral Fellow in Sociology at Colby College, this project aims to bring sexual orientation and gender expression into the labour market literature. This includes quantitative data analysis and interviews with LGBTQ people across Canada regarding employment preferences and experiences.

Waite completed his undergraduate degree at King’s University College and is excited to return to Western.

“I chose to do a doctorate at McGill with hopes of being able to return to Western to teach,” said Waite.

“I’m thrilled to be coming to Western,” said Calnitsky. “My colleagues are brilliant, and they have all been extremely welcoming. I’m really excited to get started!”



# Recognizing our outstanding faculty

The strength of the Faculty of Social Science comes from the expertise of our faculty members. Congratulations to our award winning faculty members.



## **Dean Robert Andersen awarded for contribution to field of sociology**

Robert Andersen, has been awarded the Outstanding Contribution Award by the Canadian Sociological Association (CSA). The award honours those who have significantly contributed to Sociology in Canada, recognizing exceptional scholarly merit. The contribution should extend beyond the specialization(s) in which the candidate has primarily worked and their scope should be widely recognized within the Canadian sociological community. The award provides recognition of outstanding scholarly contributions, and will normally be awarded to scholars at an advanced stage in their career, with a well-established record of multiple contributions throughout his or her career.

Andersen has made major contributions to the understanding of quantitative research methods, including publishing *Modern Methods for Robust Regression*, from SAGE Publications.



## **Chris Ellis recognized for outstanding contribution to archaeology**

Chris Ellis, a Professor in the Department of Anthropology, was awarded the Smith-Wintemberg Award for his contribution to the field of archaeology at the 2017 annual meeting of the Canadian Archaeological Association. The Smith-Wintemberg Award is presented to honour professional members of the Canadian archaeological community who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the discipline of archaeology and knowledge of the archaeological past of Canada.

While he has produced theoretical work, Ellis feels his lasting contribution is the detailed substantive reports produced, documenting in detail specific sites. Ellis, a specialist in the analysis of older preceramic sites that date in excess of 3000 years ago, has produced detailed reports on almost every site he has worked on.



## **Gordon McBean honoured for work in meteorology and climatology**

The World Meteorological Organization honoured Gordon McBean, professor in the Department of Geography, with the sixty-second IMO Prize for his outstanding work in meteorology and climatology and his leadership as a scientific researcher.

Named after the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), it is awarded every year by WMO Executive Council to individuals in recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of meteorology, hydrology, climatology or related fields. Professor McBean received the IMO Prize for his outstanding contributions to meteorology as an atmospheric and climate scientist and a leader of international and national scientific research programmes, most notably the World Climate Research Programme from 1988 to 1994.