

# The Social

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## Message from the Dean, Robert Andersen

Our Faculty is moving into exciting times. Working together, over the past year, we made great progress towards our goal of increasing our profile. Our programs are becoming more efficient, our research agendas made great strides, and we have begun the process of substantial faculty renewal. All of our Chairs, Associate Deans, faculty and staff have done outstanding work to make this happen.

In just one year we reduced the number of our course sections we offered by 194 and saw 20 full-time faculty retirements. Combined with other cost-saving initiatives, we have become more efficient, opening resources for re-investment in Faculty renewal. Over a four-year period dating back to last year, we plan to make approximately 50 tenure-track hires in the Faculty of Social Science. Some of these new hires are featured in this magazine. These hires—all of which will be done in research clusters strategically determined by our faculty members—will be spread across our eight departments.

We are also proud to announce the officially renamed DAN Department of Management & Organizational Studies, in recognition of the support from businessman and alumnus Aubrey Dan. Another important development was the opening of our new Student Reading Room in January. The room was busy through the remainder of the school year, prompting us to explore additional ways to improve student space in our building, including upgrading labs, teaching spaces and common areas.

A new Institute for Social and Economic Policy (official name yet to be decided) will also open this year, with Professor Victoria Esses as its first director. This initiative should produce research synergy between many of our existing research centres, and help strengthen our research output. Next year we also have plans for a new department to house our First Nations Studies program. Janice Forsyth, formerly in the Faculty of Health Sciences, has joined the Faculty of Social Science to help spearhead the development of the new department. This is an important development that lines up closely with Western's Indigenous Strategic Plan.

I look forward to the years ahead as we work together to build a stronger faculty. Our future is looking very bright.

Sincerely,

Bob Andersen  
Professor and Dean



## Celebrating 100 years of considering the past

2017 marks Canada's 150th anniversary. It also marks a Century of History at Western.

In 2017, Western's Department of History will mark a century of research, teaching and service to the community while its MA Public History Program will celebrate 30 years of putting history to work in the world.

Among the numerous events planned for the year is the staging of both online and physical exhibits, a written history of the History Department, a formal gala evening, and an October symposium on the theme of commemoration, with a particular emphasis on how Canadian history has been taught and understood over the past 150 years since Confederation.

"In the early 20th century, history was taught at Western by a small number of men who had completed doctorates in the United States, and who mostly taught on a part-time basis," said Francine McKenzie, Chair of the Department of History. "Today, there are more than thirty full-time historians in the department, evenly divided between men and women (one of a few history departments in Canada to achieve gender parity), trained in Canada, the United States, Britain, France and Germany."

A centenary celebration will be held on October 27, featuring keynote speaker Bob Rae.

Other events will include a round table on history, how it has evolved, and how the study of it has changed, and a three-minute pitch competition to find "The Greatest (Dead) Canadian."

Along with celebrating the past, the Department of History reached out to the next generation of history students, to change how high school students think about the past.

In May, the History Department welcomed more than 200 high school students from across the London area to expand their idea of what it means to study history,

showcasing history as an interactive and engaging field of study.

The "*History: It's About Time!*" conference was dedicated to giving students a glimpse of what studying history is like, highlighting it as an active, and interactive, process. The conference featured mini-lectures, campus tours, and hands-on workshops.

"We want students to think about how interesting and useful history is, and how fascinating it is to 'do history'-- that is, to ask questions about historical events, texts and artifacts, to inquire and weigh evidence, and to seek answers," said Nancy Rhoden, Undergraduate Chair for the Department of History.

"It's a good way to engage in history, and to make students think about history as a course of study," she said. "We want to show them why it would open doors, and why it would be interesting."

"There are clichés about how understanding the past is a way to ensure that we do not repeat its mistakes. Alas, history is not a guide to best practice, but it does deepen our understanding of how current conditions have developed," said McKenzie. "We can make more thoughtful and better informed decisions when we understand the past. Our understanding of the past also informs individual, societal, national and global views, norms and values. History is a source of legitimacy in relation to the present and as a result it can be politicized, to serve purposes rooted in the present. We have to understand the past to ensure that it is not misrepresented and that its legitimating power is not misused. At a time when alternate facts are accepted as truth, we need people with historical training to question contemporary narratives and demand that they be based on a rigorous examination of the historical record."

Events recognizing a Century of History at Western are supported through Western's Canada 150 Faculty/Staff Fund.



## Money Man

Stephen Williamson joins Department of Economics as Stephen A. Jarislowsky Chair in Central Banking

The Faculty of Social Science and the Department of Economics at Western University are proud to welcome Stephen Williamson as the Stephen A. Jarislowsky Chair in Central Banking.

Williamson is an expert in monetary policy, and most recently held the position of Vice President in the Research Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

The Stephen A. Jarislowsky Chair in Central Banking was established through a \$2-million donation from The Jarislowsky Foundation and matching funds from Western. It is intended, in part, to build on Western's traditional strength in the field of monetary economics. From the late 1970s to the 1990s, led by the work of Jeremy Greenwood, Peter Howitt, Gregory Huffman, David Laidler, Michael Parkin, Bruce Smith, and others, Western was the destination for training in central banking.

"We are very thankful for the contribution from The Jarislowsky Foundation," said Bob Andersen, Dean of the Faculty of Social Science. "Bringing in a prominent scholar like Stephen Williamson is a great opportunity for the Faculty as we move our research agenda forward."

"This position has allowed us to attract at a high level, bringing back prominence of the Department in this field," said Audra Bowlus, Chair of the Department of Economics. "It provides a monetary perspective we haven't had in a while, and strengthens our connection to policy makers in this area."

Graduates from the Economics Department have gone on to hold key appointments in central banks around the world. Carolyn Wilkins, Tiff Macklem and Paul Jenkins are all current or former senior deputy governors of the Bank of Canada. Stephen Poloz is the current Governor of the Bank of Canada, and Glenn Stevens is the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia.

"Western has had a long history of graduating students serving central banking roles in Canada, and elsewhere in the world, at all levels," said Williamson. "I hope to help build on that strength by promoting research in central banking by faculty members and students at Western, and by channeling time and resources into academic conferences on central banking topics."

Williamson's career includes time spent at universities in the US and Canada, the Bank of Canada, and several Federal Reserve Banks across the United States. From 2014 to 2017, Williamson has been a Vice President at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

**"Bringing in a prominent scholar like Stephen Williamson is a great opportunity for the faculty as we move our research agenda forward."**

**- Dean Robert Andersen**

"We are extremely excited to appoint someone of Williamson's caliber as the first person in this position," said Andersen. "It's a great coup for the Department and the Faculty to bring him back from the US and his position with the Fed."

"Landing Stephen exceeded our expectations," said Bowlus. "He has instant name recognition in the field. He will become a senior leader of the macroeconomics group here at Western, will be a leader at the Bank on policy matters, and a leader on the Canadian macroeconomics scene. That's all great for the Department and Western."

Bowlus said Williamson's connection to central banks is great for the Department. "When working on models,

The Faculty of Social Science has received a \$2-million donation to establish the Stephen A. Jarislowsky Chair in Central Banking in the Department of Economics.

The donation, from The Jarislowsky Foundation, will be matched by Western University and will encourage excellence in teaching, mentorship and research in areas essential to central bank policy and decision-making.

The Jarislowsky Foundation, based in Montreal, was founded by Canadian businessman and philanthropist Stephen Jarislowsky in 1991. Since then, it has established 29 chairs in Canada in a number of fields, including education, medicine and art.

it is very important to understand how monetary policy is made and works to be able to give advice. You can't do that without being connected to central bankers and policy makers. Without that, you are working in a vacuum and people won't listen to your advice," said Bowlus. "Leaders at the Bank of Canada know Stephen and he knows how monetary policy in Canada works. Hopefully, his links with central banks will help with the Department's policy connections, as well as with the placement of our graduates in policy-related positions and with younger faculty members as they begin to establish themselves in the policy community."

His position at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis connected Williamson's research to the policy decisions of central bankers.

"At the St. Louis Fed, we have a lot of freedom to pursue our own research interests. In terms of my research activities, there is little difference from academia. I go to the same conferences, publish my work in the same academic journals, and go about my research in the same way as if I were working at a university," said Williamson. "But working at the Fed exposes me to monetary policy issues on a daily basis, and that is very exciting. I even occasionally get to accompany the St. Louis Fed President to the FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting in Washington, D.C. Policy work here is an important input into my research, and I've learned a lot doing it. I'll miss that when I leave here. But, I'm looking forward to interacting with students again after a three-year hiatus. That's also very stimulating, and I've missed it."

Many graduates from Western's Department of Economics have gone on to key roles in central banks around the world, or to academic positions focused on central banking or monetary policy:

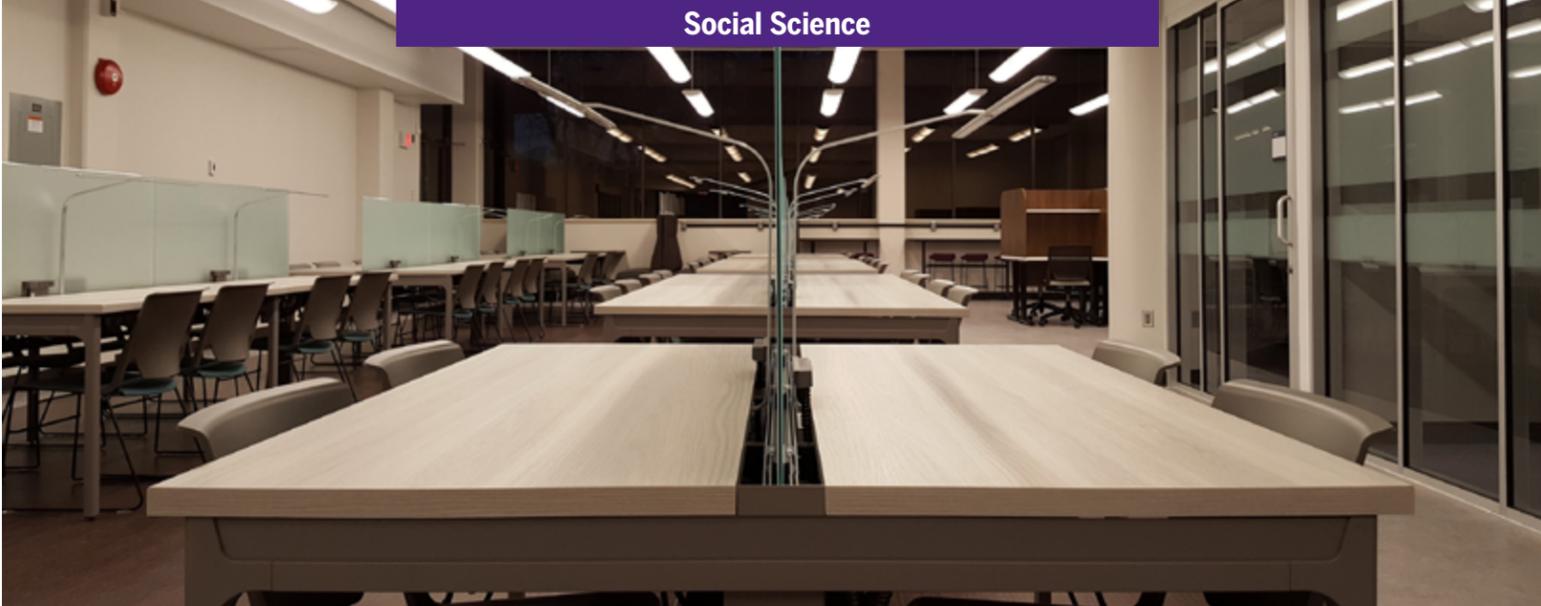
- David Andolfatto (PhD'94)
- Paul Gomme (MA'87, PhD'92)
- Paul Jenkins (BA'71)
- Timothy Lane (PhD'83)
- Enrique Mendoza (MA'86, PhD'89)
- Tiff Macklem (MA'84, PhD'89)
- Doug Porter (MA'84)
- Stephen Poloz (MA'79, PhD'82)
- Angela Redish (PhD'82)
- Glenn Stevens (MA'85, LLD'14)
- Carolyn Wilkins (MA'88)

Williamson was born in Canada, completing his BSc and MA at Queen's University prior to pursuing doctoral work in economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He worked at the Bank of Canada, Queen's, and Western early in his career before taking on academic positions in the US.

**"Western has had a long history of graduating students serving central banking roles in Canada, and elsewhere in the world, at all levels. I hope to help build on that strength."**

**- Stephen Williamson,  
Stephen A. Jarislowsky Chair  
in Central Banking**

"I have not lived and worked in Canada for 25 years. I'm coming home, but to a country that has changed a lot since I left," said Williamson. "I'm very excited to have the opportunity to contribute again to the Department of Economics at Western, to the University, and to Western students, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels."



## New Reading Room a signature space for Social Science students

The Faculty of Social Science and the Social Science Students' Council have come together to provide students in the Social Science Centre with a new, quiet modern space to study and collaborate.

The Social Science Reading Room officially opened on Monday, January 16, with an opening ceremony. The Reading Room is open to students from 7 am to 11 pm, with controlled access through the use of their student cards.

"This was a truly collaborative effort. The Dean's office, the Provost's office, and the Social Science Student Council all came together with the common goal of creating a beautiful space for our students," said Robert Andersen, Dean of the Faculty of Social Science. "We are committed to creating innovative spaces that both enable students to realize their academic goals and improve the general Western experience."

To meet these goals, the Faculty has renovated SSC 1051, formerly home to the Map Library, to create the Faculty of Social Science Student Reading Room. The Student Reading Room is a quiet study space consisting of soft seating areas study carrels and several partitioned study rooms for students to collaborate and complete group project work. All spaces are equipped with the latest technological capabilities.

The vision is that the Student Reading Room will become a signature space to build the Western student experience. The Social Science Students' Council has pledged \$200,000 towards renovation of the space. The offices of the SSSC will be relocated to space in the new reading room.

Former SSSC President Brandon Palin said he promoted the idea as there was a distinct need for more student space. Palin felt the space would be a distinct

and tangible representation of what money from the student donation fund can do for students.

Speaking at the event, Western University President Amit Chakma said the project was a great example of working together, and taking on leadership roles. He said Western is committed to building new student study space as a focus on the Western student experience, and this is a deliberate consideration whenever a building is renovated or built.

Along with the Reading Room, the Faculty has a focus to improve teaching areas, to encourage collaborative and interactive learning.

SSC 1004 has already had technology updates, and has been redesigned to allow students to learn in a traditional classroom configuration as well as work collaboratively and share media easily. Primarily used for Geography classes, other Departments are able to book SSC 1004 as well. Other teaching, research and common area redesigns are also planned.

Dan Shrubsole, Assistant Dean, Special Project in the Faculty, said Social Science has high aspirations for its space planning initiatives. "As stated in the Campus Master Plan, we recognize the need for our spaces to be flexible enough to accommodate current and future research, learning and technological innovations. They must also be accessible to all users. Contemporary learning at leading universities is fostered in rooms that promote a sense of place and interactions among people. We hope to effectively and efficiently achieve these two goals in our renovations within the Social Science Centre."



## New Anthropology hires add to bioarchaeology strength

The Department of Anthropology at Western University has hired two new faculty members, providing additional strength in the field of bioarchaeology.

Andrea Waters-Rist will join the department in the summer of 2017 as an Associate Professor. Jay Stock will initially join the department in the summer of 2017 as an Adjunct Research Professor as he completes a multi-year research project. In the summer of 2019, Stock will join Western as a Professor.

Waters-Rist is currently at Leiden University in the Netherlands, where she helped develop the Human Osteoarchaeology program. Her main research interest is the interrelationship of health and diet in past peoples through stable isotope analysis and the use of synchrotron light technology. Along with her research, Waters-Rist has received a university-wide teaching award at Leiden, and has a strong track record of graduate-level supervision.

Stock is a Reader at the University of Cambridge. His research primarily concerns the mechanisms which drive the biological diversification of our species, with a particular interest in the relationship between natural selection and the origins of human plasticity. Stock has a strong record of international and interdisciplinary collaboration.

"Jay Stock is considered one of the top bio-archaeologists at his career stage," said Andrew Nelson, an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology and an expert in Biological Anthropology & Archaeology.

It is a homecoming of sorts, as both Stock and Waters-Rist are from Ontario and completed their education in Canada. Waters-Rist completed her undergraduate degree at Western, and Nelson and

Department Chair Kim Clark recall teaching her in the Introduction to Anthropology course, in their first year at Western.

"Both are Canadian, so we are bringing back to Canada two scholars who have very good positions in well-respected European universities," said Clark. "They are both people who chose Western when they had other options."

"The opportunity to be in a four-field Anthropology department was a strong attraction for both," said Clark. "Western's department is one of the most balanced Anthropology departments in Canada across the four sub-fields (archaeology, biological anthropology, linguistic anthropology and sociocultural anthropology). This allows for different kinds of collaboration in the department and through the graduate program, as well as with interdisciplinary research groups across campus."

Along with their work in the Department, both Waters-Rist and Stock will collaborate with research colleagues in centres and faculties across the university, including the Bone and Joint Institute, the orthopaedic biomechanics group and the Laboratory for Stable Isotope Science.

The two new hires are part of a transition in the department, with several faculty members retiring.

"Transition can be scary but this hiring process showed us there are exciting times ahead for the Department," said Clark. "We will be saying goodbye to a wealth of experience, and the Department will certainly be changing. We had a strong pool of applications and we were excited to see the outcome."

## Digital project to bring cultural artifacts back to Inuvialuit

“This project is a way to help give back something that was taken away from Inuvialuit communities, and involve them in the process,” said Lisa Hodgetts, Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology.

Hodgetts has received a \$312,000 SSHRC grant, to support Co-creating Inuvialuit Digital Archaeology and Heritage.

Inuvialuit are the Inuit of Canada’s western Arctic. The grant will be used to digitize collections of artifacts and items removed from the Inuvialuit region and stored in distant repositories. Hodgetts and her project partners will work with Inuvialuit elders and knowledge holders, and “have them tell us (academics) how their story should be told,” said Hodgetts.

Hodgetts has worked in the region for the last decade, researching land-use change since people first settled in the area, around 3,600 years ago. In her time there, Hodgetts has established relationships with members of the Inuvialuit community, and developed a community-based approach to archaeological research in the region.

**“We want to frame it as much as possible in Inuvialuit ways of seeing world, which will set it apart,”**

**- Professor Lisa Hodgetts**

“We want to find ways to portray Inuvialuit ways of thinking and what it means to be Inuvialuit, online,” said Hodgetts. “It’s going to come back to the land. Tools are made from the land, used on the land. These items are important for Inuvialuit people because they embody their ancestors’ knowledge of being on the land.”

The project brings together many elements of a changing understanding and approach to cultural heritage.

Inuvialuit tradition says people should not disturb archeological sites. Despite this, generations of archaeologists have removed artifacts and other objects from Inuvialuit territory, often completing research that was never made available to the Inuvialuit community.

The Inuvialuit people are also dealing with a loss of some aspects of traditional knowledge and dwindling numbers of native Inuvialuktun speakers due to the lasting effects of the residential school system and other colonial processes.



Beverly Amos, Merin Joe, Jean Harry and Bridget Wolki examine artifacts at Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

Recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People recognize the right to self-determination as it relates to cultural heritage.

By digitizing existing collections, and building an interactive system, the project partners want to help create a tool to strengthen and share the Inuvialuit culture.

“We want to frame it as much as possible in Inuvialuit ways of seeing world, which will set it apart,” said Hodgetts.

“There is so much in museums that hasn’t been looked at, and with community feelings against digging, there is a lot to be gained from working on these collections,” said Hodgetts.

Decisions on what will be digitized and shared, and how, will be made by Inuvialuit, with some items, such as traditional sewing patterns, not being shared with the outside community.

“We want to hear from Inuvialuit what they want to share about their culture and heritage, what it means to be Inuvialuit,” said Hodgetts.



Jean Harry with worked antler at Head Hill archaeological site.

“It is a very interesting time to be doing this,” said Hodgetts. “The Government of Canada, the Northwest Territories and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation have signed a self-government agreement in principle. Our work will allow us to provide policy input to Inuvialuit, Federal and Territorial heritage managers on the potential role for digital heritage in Inuvialuit self-government initiatives related to archaeology and cultural heritage.”

The project partners hope that making the collection available online will encourage interaction from people across the Inuvialuit region.

“There has been massive social change since Europeans arrived, but Inuvialuit culture is alive and well,” said Hodgetts. “We want to harness that energy.”

Hodgetts is working with partners across Canada, including: co-investigator, Natasha Lyons, Adjunct Professor in Archaeology at Simon Fraser University; Chuck Arnold, Retired Director, Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre; Sarah Carr-Locke, Director, Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre; Kate Hennessy, School of Interactive Arts and Technology, Simon Fraser University; Mervin Joe, Inuvialuit Knowledge Holder, Parks Canada, Inuvik; Sharon Thompson, Parks Canada, Winnipeg; and the Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre.





## Examining the impact of student loans on student success

How do student loans affect the success of students, the choice of major and the equity of education?

These are some of the questions considered by Lance Lochner, Professor in the Department of Economics. On December 2, Lochner was named as the Tier 1 Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Human Capital and Inequality. While he has been working in the area for some time, the CRC position will move his research beyond the theoretical and move to quantify some of the issues, providing data to determine how important the concerns might be.

**“Everyone is trying to think around this but policy has been a bit paralyzed in place because they don’t have quantifiable data. This Chair is a great opportunity to push the research forward.”**

**- Professor Lance Lochner**

Lochner’s area of expertise is human capital and education issues, and financing human capital investments, specifically how the design of student loan programs affect students during and after their education, and the labour market risk of loans.

How student loan programs are designed can impact more than just students following graduation.

Post-secondary financing and loan repayment options are important for equity, said Lochner. “Deciding how we fund education can determine who goes to university, what they study and what they do in the labour market.” The design of programs can also affect inter-generational movement and financial situations.

“In the U.S. the relationship between parents’ income and college attendance has gotten stronger,” said Lochner. “Student loan programs were designed when the cost of education was lower and the labour market outcomes were less risky.”

Following decades of changes to post-secondary education, including increased tuition costs, and changes to the labour market, with fewer job prospects and less job security for recent grads, the existing loan systems may not work.

There are more concerns around whether people can even go to school, or whether they can repay the loans when they are completed. There has been an increase in loan defaults, notes Lochner, and this shows the system is not working, and may need a re-design.

“How do we design programs to consider the risk of students not being able to re-pay?” asked Lochner.

“Ideally we would like to provide some form of insurance, whether income-contingent loans or repayment, but too much of this could reduce incentives in terms of the types of jobs people take or even what they study.”

Lochner has worked with the Canada Student Loan Agency, as well as officials in the U.S. to discuss the issue, and he believes his research has been influential in how they think about the issues.

“Everyone is trying to think around this but policy has been a bit paralyzed in place because they don’t have quantifiable data,” said Lochner. “This Chair is a great opportunity to push the research forward.”



## Study says wind energy plans should generate more equitable benefits to neighbours

The more a community is involved in wind energy planning – including getting direct benefits from nearby turbines – the more likely it is that a development will have local support, says research from Western University.

The study by Chad Walker and Jamie Baxter of the Department of Geography examines communities living with wind turbines in Southwestern Ontario and Nova Scotia. Their paper, “It’s easy to throw rocks at a corporation: Wind energy development and distributive justice in Canada,” is published in the *Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning*.

Through interviews and surveys, local residents criticized the top-down, corporate-led pattern of development in Ontario– in stark contrast to the more positive reflections about similar projects in Nova Scotia, where there are more profit-sharing, community-based initiatives.

“The general lack of financial benefits and opportunities to invest in local wind projects in Ontario may be added to the long list of things responsible for intense pushback to development in the province over the past decade”, says Walker. “In Nova Scotia, support for local wind projects was three times higher and perceptions of health effects were three times lower.”

Those living closest to wind turbines in both provinces believe that the amount of local benefits is too low, but they have even stronger feelings about the fair local distribution of those benefits. Government efforts to site new projects should focus on local fairness, said Walker and Baxter, who suggested the provinces consider novel compensation measures. For example, 75% of all survey respondents (and 83% of those opposed to their local project) supported the idea of electricity rebates for

turbines’ nearby neighbours. In Ontario in particular, reducing hydro bills in wind-rich, rural areas may make wind energy a bit more palatable. Ontario is home to more than 6,000 turbines, the vast majority of them owned by corporations outside the communities where they are located.

The study also sheds light on community-based ownership – a development strategy meant to keep benefits and control in the hands of locals. “Past research has painted community-based development with an idyllic brush, but those living near wind turbines often were not aware of opportunities to invest in their projects” says Walker.

Although Nova Scotia’s approach has been relatively successful in generating local support, most residents still had concerns, including fears that the majority of “local” investors may live hundreds of kilometers away and be far removed from the realities of rural wind development.

Walker and Baxter’s research is also outlined in a “Toolkit for Turbines” document, on the Communities Around Renewable Energy Projects website, which contains recommendations for policy changes and was shaped by discussion during a workshop held in December, 2016. Walker and Baxter focus attention on more equitable and sustainable planning processes – but they emphasize that “financial benefits are not a replacement for proper mitigation” of issues such as noise and sleep.

Along with researchers from Dalhousie University in Halifax and Queen’s University Belfast (UK), Baxter has recently received federal funding to continue studying community-based renewable energy development and new ways to improve siting processes.

## Department of Geography chair sees student unfamiliarity with Geography as a chance for renewal and rebranding

Many incoming undergraduate students are not familiar with Geography, and this represents a challenge for Western University's Department of Geography, as well as a chance for renewal and rebranding, said Department Chair, Jamie Voogt.

Voogt, an Associate Professor, is the new Chair of the Department of Geography, starting his five year appointment in January 2017. Voogt earned his PhD from the University of British Columbia, focusing on climatology and atmospheric science. He joined the Department of Geography at Western in 1995.

Voogt's primary research focus is urban climatology, studying how cities affect atmosphere and surrounding areas. Voogt is particularly interested in improving how surface temperatures are measured in cities using remote sensing techniques. This is complicated since the three-dimensional geometry of the city means that no single view position can capture the full surface temperature variability and thus all measurements have some bias.



"Increasingly, we are seeing undergraduates come in who may not have taken Geography in a while, or who may associate the study of it with different areas or different terms," he said.

Along with these challenges, the Department of Geography could see a change of about a quarter of its core faculty over the next four years. This represents an opportunity for the Department to refocus, and show a wider picture of what Geography is.

Voogt said the Department may be able to expand its focus under the theme of Urban Environment, which can incorporate the three core elements of Geography—the social science, the physical science and the technical science—as well as build on established programs such as Urban Development and existing links to the Centre for Environment & Sustainability.

"The work we do is good in and of itself, and we can now build on this and build strength under that theme," Voogt said.

Voogt feels there may be a social disconnect from the environment in general, and questions whether the general population is cognizant of the environment and geography in the same way they were in the past. "But", he says "everyone has access to Google Earth, so maybe we've all seen more of the Earth than ever before."

As Chair, Voogt looks forward to being able to represent what other people do in their research. "It's nice to give someone else's elevator speech," he said.

**"Increasingly, we are seeing undergraduates come in who may not have taken Geography in a while, or who may associate the study of it with different areas or different terms."**

**- Professor Jamie Voogt**

His work also examines how modifications to city surface properties that affect their temperature, such as implementing 'white' and 'green' roofs, can impact climate. Understanding these influences is important to both adapting cities to larger scale climate change and mitigating their influence through reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Along with his position as Chair, Voogt is President of the International Association for Urban Climate.

As the incoming Chair, Voogt sees opportunities and challenges for the Department of Geography.

Voogt feels Geography as a discipline faces some image and recognition issues. While Geography is the original discipline that focused on studying the environment, Voogt said there is now some question into how Geography fits into how environment is taught.

## 'A better sense of identity: Student finds self, culture in First Nations language and arts



Photo by Eddy Lawrence

For Frazer Sundown, learning the Oneida language and performing traditional powwow music has helped define his identity – and his plans for the future.

A student in the First Nations Studies program at Western, Sundown is a member of the Turtle Clan of the Oneida Nation of the Thames. Learning the Oneida language has helped him develop a better sense of self and has inspired him to complete his teaching degree and teach the language – one that has a mere few dozen surviving speakers today – to the next generation.

"When people learn their language, they have a better sense of identity, and become more confident in the world," said Sundown. "They experience a closer connection to the world."

While he learned some of the language growing up, taking language courses has given him a deeper understanding of its implications and its cultural significance. "The Oneida language is a verb-based language, so when we say something, it has much more meaning," Sundown said.

Sundown, who is also an artist, creates traditional powwow music and visual arts, both of which have taken him on performances around the world, helping him define his cultural identity along the way. He has collaborated with other artists to expand and redefine the understanding of Indigenous music. Among the collaborations, Sundown worked with DJ Shub, formerly of a Tribe Called Red and cellist Cris Derksen, who mixes traditional powwow music with orchestral instruments. He was featured on Bryden Gwiss Kiwenzie's album *Round Dance & Beats*, which was nominated for a Juno

Award for Indigenous Music Album of the Year. He partnered with his father on an album and has released a solo album, *Love is a War Dance*.

Powwow step and other expansions of the music are a doorway for people to develop a better understanding of their own Indigenous culture, Sundown noted.

"I'm happy the new form of music has come about in the mainstream," he said. "There are a lot of people who don't understand the traditional ways because they may not have access to music. As an Indigenous person in the city, they can get drawn away from their roots. Traditional music mixed with mainstream opens doors to find out more about tradition."

"History has made us put up a shield around our ways and teaching," Sundown continued. "Our culture has been stripped from and us, and we work to protect that. With the DJs, the shield has been taken down from our identity."

**"When people learn their language, they have a better sense of identity, and become more confident in the world. They experience a closer connection to the world."**

**- Frazer Sundown**

Sundown is careful to respect the purpose of a song. "There is a line in the music I create – some (music is) ceremonial, and others for social gathering. The ceremonial music doesn't get put out there for remixing," said Sundown. "I want to be authentic by not putting out too much, and to keep what is sacred, sacred."

At the end of the day, however, the music he creates is about bringing people together.

"We live in times where we don't gather the way we used to. Songs are meant for everybody, people of all traditions and backgrounds," he said, adding music could help others discover and define their identity too.

"If that music is heard, it could spark an interest into looking into who they are, and could open their minds to find someone who carries that knowledge," said Sundown. "We're in a new era, where there is more interaction with all people. Creativity is good; It creates a sense of belonging."

## New Sociology faculty member examines health impacts of education



Anna Zajacova has joined the Department of Sociology at Western University as Associate Professor.

Zajacova completed her PhD in Sociology and Demography at Princeton University. Her primary research area is social determinants of health; she focuses on education and health among adults in the United States.

“Education and health are the biggest decisions faced by many families when it comes to their kids,” said Zajacova. “It’s one of those interesting areas that we know a lot about but we still haven’t gathered enough in-depth information to understand how social factors get under the skin and how changes in the social climate impact young people in particular.”

She is currently researching the health outcomes of sub-baccalaureate adults in the United States, the subset of the population that attended college but did not complete it. “This is the largest educational-attainment group in the United States,” said Zajacova

“and we don’t know how their considerable investment in education impacts their health.”

This particular population group have not been studied in detail previously, said Zajacova. Most research has focused on people with lower education levels, or has looked at the entire education spectrum and focused on the health ‘gradient’ across this spectrum, in which case sub-baccalaureate adults were generally grouped in with those who have completed high school, or those with college education.

“They seem to do better in the labour market, but not necessarily for health outcomes. We want to see if this is the case and understand why,” said Zajacova. This research is funded by the National Institutes of Health.

While Zajacova has focused her research on health outcomes in the US, she sees the opportunity to tap into resources and data sources in Canada, and foresees the possibility of comparative research.

“The two countries share many cultural and socio-economic factors, but are very different in terms of social welfare conditions, and that could be very informative,” she said.

### History

## History Professor helps tell the story of Dr. Oronhyatekha

It’s “a story that had to be told” and one that the authors hope will be an inspiration to many.

Michelle Hamilton, Associate Professor in the Department of History, worked with First Nations researcher, writer and educator Keith Jamieson to publish *Dr. Oronhyatekha: Security, Justice and Equality*.

Telling Dr. Oronhyatekha’s story had been a goal of Jamieson’s for two decades, and while Jamieson had been working on the book for several years, he reached out to Hamilton to help him complete the work. Hamilton built on Jamieson’s work, focusing on online research, and looking through 1,000 articles for additional information.

Born in 1841, Dr. Oronhyatekha was the founding leader of a major insurance company, a rifle champion and one of the first First Nations medical doctors in Canada. Oronhyatekha was a Mohawk of the Six Nations near Brantford. While he faced hardships and adversity faced by First Nations in 19th-century Canada, Oronhyatekha became a doctor, practiced medicine and helped build

the group that would become Foresters Financial, the first organization to offer life insurance to the average family. He also actively lobbied for the vote for Indigenous peoples.

From the London Free Press: “I knew the story and felt it was a story that had to be told,” said Hamilton. “It’s just so fascinating. It was so hard for First Nations people to have success in those days because the deck was so stacked against them.”

“He kept that part of his world close to his heart,” said Jamieson, who hopes Oronhyatekha’s story is an inspiration for First Nations people, especially children. “You don’t have to be a Dr. Oronhyatekha. You don’t have to achieve what he did. But you have to try your best, be the best that you can and don’t dwell in all the negative, don’t live there.”

Along with publishing the book, Hamilton helped share the story of Oronhyatekha through Western University’s Classes Without Quizzes lecture series.

## Department named in honour of Aubrey Dan

The Faculty of Social Science is proud to announce the newly renamed DAN Department of Management & Organizational Studies.

DAN Management provides a unique interdisciplinary approach to the study of management, emphasizing the social science and evidence-based foundations of management education.

The department is named in honour of Western Alumnus Aubrey Dan. Dan, BACS’85, is a Tony Award-winning producer, President of the Dancap Group of Companies, including Dancap Global Assets Management and Dancap Private Equity Inc.

Dan attributes his success to his education at Western University. “I really enjoyed going to Western,” said Dan. “I enjoy the fact that skills sets I learned then I still use on an everyday basis in business today. I took that learning experience and the education and have transformed it to every aspect of my life today.”

“It’s a privilege to have Aubrey’s connection to the Department and the Faculty,” said Robert Andersen, Dean of the Faculty of Social Science. “The renaming reflects the importance of his input and support.”

In 2006, the Management and Organizational Studies program was renamed the Aubrey Dan Program in Management and Organizational Studies, in recognition of a \$5-million gift from Dan. That gift continues to support faculty and students through



endowments for professorships, faculty fellowships, a research fund and student awards.

In 2013, the Management and Organizational Studies program was named a department within the Faculty of Social Science. The revised name bring the previous recognition to the department level.

The change in name also reflects a connection Aubrey Dan feels with the department and the Faculty of Social Science.

“I was schooled in Faculty of Social Science, and the most relevant component in how to deal with people is people management,” said Dan. “I run a family investment office, and when I make an investment, the number one criteria, I always look at who are the management and how are they trained. I see such incredible positive changes of being part of creating the future leaders of Canada and around the world.”

### Political Science

## Western University approves Centre for Urban Policy and Local Governance

Western University has approved a new research centre in the Faculty of Social Science.

The Centre for Urban Policy and Local Governance will bring together faculty and researchers who conduct local and urban research with a focus on policy implications.

“Western has had extraordinary strength in local government, multi-level governance, and urban research, largely – but not exclusively – centred in two departments: Geography and Political Science,” said Martin Horak, Associate Professor in Political Science and Director of the Local Government Program. Horak is a principal member of the Centre.

“The Centre will create a unified venue for intersecting across departments, since work in this area is often interdisciplinary in nature,” said Horak.

There are currently 19 faculty members signed up as prospective Faculty Associates with representation from across the university, with the expectation others will express interest.

Once established, Horak expects the Centre will provide a platform for people to engage in national policy debates. He would like to see the Centre become a significant player in Canadian debate on place-based policy.

“There are a number of centres in Canada focusing on particular local and urban issues, but none that focus squarely on how our cities and communities are governed, and this will be the niche of the Centre,” said Horak.

Faculty member interested in more information can contact Martin Horak.



## Bringing big data to Political Science

Dave Armstrong is working to bring big data to political science.

Armstrong has joined Western University's Department of Political Science as an Associate Professor. He completed his PhD at the University of Maryland, and was a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for more than seven years.

Armstrong's research focuses on methodology, statistics, and quantitative analysis in political science. Looking at analytical methods and tools used in other disciplines, Armstrong develops new tools to help people understand politics better, with an aim to give political scientists better methods to conduct their research.

**“Models are only as good as the measures that animate them. If we can improve the way we measure variables and their effects, we can improve state of knowledge across all disciplines.”**

### - Professor Dave Armstrong

“Political science has evolved over the past twenty years, pushing people in direction of developing rigorous and well-thought out models from which a set of precisely-specified hypotheses can be derived and tested,” said Armstrong.

But the rise of big data has changed how people approach many problems, including political science.

New models and the focus on big data, says Armstrong “make doing these things unnecessary; theory development becomes unnecessary, and it changes

enormously the nature of inquiry.”

“The focus on new data has switched from hypothesis testing to prediction – this is a fundamental shift in focus of analyses, and it is not, necessarily, all to the good,” said Armstrong.

He is interested in building a bridge between big data predictive modeling and the conventional practice of hypothesis testing, and his upcoming research projects will increase understanding of how tools for big data can be used in political science research. “We are trying to merge these two approaches,” said Armstrong. “How can we harness the power of predictive modeling, but retain our ability to make statements about the effects of concepts on political phenomena?”

While he pulls tools from other disciplines, Armstrong says his work can extend beyond political science.

“Models are only as good as the measures that animate them,” he said. “If we can improve the way we measure variables and their effects, we can improve state of knowledge across all disciplines.”

In coming to Western, Armstrong enhances the quantitative research and teaching profile of the Department of Political Science. Armstrong says Canadian departments across the social sciences are starting to invest in quantitative training and research. Western's investment across the social sciences puts it among the top institutions for quantitative social science in the country.

“It (Western) seems like an exciting place to be,” said Armstrong. “Across Social Science, they seem to be bringing together interesting people doing good work, and I'm excited to be part of that.”



## Psychology expands research capacity with new faculty

The Department of Psychology has expanded its research capacity in the fields of developmental and social psychology, hiring two tenure-track faculty members.

Rachel Calogero completed her PhD in Social Psychology at the University of Kent and has joined the Department as an Associate Professor. Calogero researches the objectification of women and other relevant gender-related issues, including the experience of body image and the prevention of eating disorders, the social stigmatization of bodies, and support for social justice and equality.

“I am interested in how gender shapes our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors in ways that both help us and hurt us,” said Calogero. “Gender is a complex dynamic, and gender relations are anything but straightforward, so there is plenty to investigate.”

Calogero is currently investigating the link between internalized objectification and women's engagement in gender activism, as well as other social consequences of being objectified.

“Everyone's lives are constrained to varying degrees by gender rules, and the backlash for violating gender rules is harsh for anyone who does so” said Calogero. “This research is important because it brings social psychological science to bear on fundamental social problems, many of which are intricately related to gender, and their solutions.”

“There seems to be a genuinely positive energy from the students, faculty, and staff around what is happening at Western right now and the direction the university is moving in, and I feel immensely fortunate to be part of it,” said Calogero.

Ryan Stevenson completed his PhD in Psychological and Brain Science at Indiana University and has joined the Department as an Assistant Professor.

Stevenson's research is in developmental psychology with a focus on how the brain combines sensory information from multiple senses to perceive it as one unified signal.

He applies this specifically to people with different developmental delays, in particular children with autism.

“A lot of people with developmental disabilities have sensory processing issues, which can present as clinical or cognitive issues, but are often perception issues.”

Stevenson was not originally focused on working with people with developmental disabilities, but came to it through his other research.

“I started more interested in sensory process in general, but during my first post-doc, I worked with kids with autism,” Stevenson said. “It was a really rewarding experience and it was nice to see how the research makes an impact.”

Stevenson's latest project focuses on temporal processing of stimuli. As children develop, their brain determines which stimuli to put together and what to keep separate in order to perceive stimuli in an understandable way. This is a learned process, based on information around children as they develop. Children with autism do not adapt the ability to put together different stimuli in the same way their peers do, which results in a “world that can be very crowded,” Stevenson said. “The core symptoms of autism reflect this.”

## Grant fuels research into family challenges

As populations across the Europe and North America age, governments are faced with a changing set of challenges.

Sociology professor Rachel Margolis is part of an international team receiving an almost \$1.4-million grant funding a project titled, Care, Retirement and Wellbeing of Older People across Different Welfare Regimes.

Margolis is partnering with researchers from five other institutions in four other countries, including The Netherlands, Belgium, Italy and Spain. Margolis will receive \$225,000 over three years to examine two issues: patterns of caregiving and their impact on the wellbeing and social participation of older adults, as well as the increasing population of adults aging without close kin.

When considering caregiving, Margolis will look at how care-giving affects the physical and social well-being of people as they age.

“We want to examine how the landscape of caregiving is changing as demography is changing,” she said. “This includes studying how common it is for adults to be caring for grandchildren, their parents or in-laws, or other family members. We will examine the variety of ways in which social policies support those who provide care for family members.”

Older adults providing grandchild care is fairly common practice in parts of Europe, Margolis said, and there is a fair amount of variation across the continent. The picture is quite different in Canada.

“Intergenerational family dynamics are under-studied in Canada,” she said.

In considering people aging without close kin, Margolis’ research examines how demographic and social changes in families are shifting the numbers of types of kin that are available in older age. Childlessness is increasing, as is the divorce rate among older people in some countries. Together, these trends mean more older people will be aging without children or a spouse, the two types of kin who provide most of the care to older adults.

Margolis will examine a variety of types of kin and how kinship networks are likely to change in the future in different contexts. As people age, the level and strength of relationships people can rely on can affect the type of support they have, and whether they may depend on public support.



**“We want to examine how the landscape of caregiving is changing as demography is changing. This includes studying how common it is for adults to be caring for grandchildren, their parents or in-laws, or other family members.”**

**- Professor Rachel Margolis**

For both topics, she will examine differences among Canada and Europe.

Margolis said there is incredible variation in demographic change, social policies and how the two different areas collect information related to the field. While there is considerable survey data available for Europe “there is not as much harmonized data available in Canada, so a big challenge for us will be to compare what we learn about Canada to what we see in Europe,” said Margolis.

The grant is provided through the Joint Programming Initiative More Years, Better Lives – The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change, funded by European bodies, and by Canadian Institutes of Health Research/ Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. The initiative seeks to enhance coordination and collaboration between European and national research programs related to demographic change.



## Building gender equality in post-conflict Liberia

What are the prospects and challenges for gender equality in a post-conflict society?

This is one of the questions Erica Lawson, Associate Professor in the Department of Women’s Studies and Feminist Research, intends to research.

Lawson was recently awarded a \$110,000 grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to research Peace Huts, Gender Equality, and Women’s Post-Conflict Aspirations in Liberia.

Lawson was drawn to the topic through the documentary “*Pray the Devil Back to Hell*”. The film documents the role of women to end the Liberian Civil War (1989-2003). Mass protests led by Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace played a major role in encouraging peace talks, and eventually putting an end to the war.

Following the war, many of the women in the organization continued their advocacy and community leadership roles. One focus of this was the development of Peace Huts, supported by UN Women. Women who run Peace Huts in counties across Liberia mediate disputes, domestic violence, and abandonment, among a number of other issues, to reach a resolution. Through this work, women are invested in building a national culture of conflict resolution, peace, and security rooted in gender equality.

Lawson was interested in the role of the Peace Huts in supporting equality goals, but after discussion with her research partner, Ms. Vaiba Flomo, a peace activist and trauma counselor in Liberia, Lawson decided to expand her research to include women in other leadership and political roles who are focused on gender equality policies.

“Women were instrumental in the election of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who made gender equality a major part of her platform,” said Lawson. Elected in 2006, Sirleaf is the first elected female head of state in Africa.

Women have also played major roles in resisting logging companies who exploit natural resources, and provided support during the recent Ebola outbreak, which resulted in many women losing their lives.

“There isn’t much social infrastructure to support communities, so women in Peace Huts take on these roles,” said Lawson. While the peace huts build on a pre-conflict tradition of group discussions to resolve disputes, Lawson said women in Liberia took up the role to sustain the peace they want.

“In Liberia, women speak strongly of their motivation for peace because they are biological and social mothers,” said Lawson. “They care for children, the elderly and the community. They seem to have different aspirations for peace than men.”

“It will be very interesting to see what Liberia looks like 10 years from now,” said Lawson. “Women in Liberia have made significant progress. They elected a female president, but scholarly literature indicates that they have not made a lot of economic progress and they are working hard to change this.”

Lawson’s research will include considerations on how the findings from Liberia reflect the situation in other post-conflict societies with similar gender equality goals.

# 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.

## Faculty Scholars



**Mark Cleveland**  
DAN Management



**Laura Huey**  
Sociology



**Robert MacDougall**  
History

The Faculty Scholars Award recognizes significant recent scholarly achievements in teaching or research. Nominated by faculty deans and selected by the Faculty Selection committee chaired by the Provost, the recipients have an international presence in their discipline and are considered all-round scholars.

## Award of Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching



**Anton Allahar**  
Sociology

Co-presented by The University Students' Council, The Bank of Nova Scotia and the Western Alumni Association, to recognize, celebrate and award excellence in undergraduate teaching.

## Marilyn Robinson Award for Excellence in Teaching



**Dan Bousfield**  
Political Science

The Marilyn Robinson Award for Excellence in Teaching recognizes a continuing member of full-time faculty who is appointed either as Limited Term or Probationary at Western University.

## Vice-Provost Award for Excellence in Collaborative Teaching



**Andrew Walsh**  
Anthropology

The Vice-Provost (Academic Programs) Award for Excellence in Collaborative Teaching recognizes instructors whose exemplary collaborations in university teaching enhance student learning.



**Ian Colquhoun**  
Anthropology

## Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching



**Lisa Hodgetts**  
Anthropology

The Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching recognizes full-time faculty members who fosters critical thinking and inspires students to engage in the quest for knowledge as a value and a skill.