Impactful Research for a Changing World

From research chairs to groundbreaking projects, our innovative faculty are responding to the questions and challenges of today.
On the cover: Co-curators of Norval Morrisseau: Medicine Currents, Danielle Printup and Dr. Carmen Robertson, seated in front of (left to right) Morrisseau’s ‘Shaman Astral Guide I’ (1978), ‘Shaman Astral Guide II’ (1978), and ‘Shaman with Medicine Turtle’ (c. 1985) at the Carleton University Art Gallery. This exhibition explores and celebrates Anishinaabe artist Norval Morrisseau’s rich storytelling vocabulary through paintings, drawings, and objects.
The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada offers 38 areas of study at the undergraduate and graduate level.

Home to outstanding multidisciplinary faculty, research, and innovative teaching, our Faculty provides students with a collaborative and experiential learning environment that promotes creative ingenuity and the critical thinking and communication skills required for the modern workforce.

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University of Toronto Press
Ottawa International Film Festival
A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

SPRING 2023

As I write this introduction to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences’ (FASS) first-ever Research Review in 2023, it strikes me that academic research has never been so important. Together, we continue to experience the lingering consequences of the global pandemic. Through this crisis, there has been a series of critical reorientations about how we understand and navigate the world we share.

From an intensifying demand for racial equity and social justice to a heightened compassion towards mental health, to an accelerated focus on environmental sustainability, these are but some of the pressing issues that FASS scholars pursue in their award-winning research.

One of the great privileges of completing a term as the Dean of FASS these past five years has been the constant reminder that I work amongst truly gifted colleagues who challenge conventional wisdom with deep intelligence, care, collaboration and resistance — and at a complex time that desperately requires their astute insights.

Curated by our outstanding Associate Dean (Research and International), Dr. Carol Payne, and her extraordinary Research Support Team of Darlene Gilson (Research Facilitator) and Dr. Kristin Bourassa (Research Facilitator — Early Career), this inaugural FASS Research Review presents a curated sample of this crucial scholarship.

I wish you happy reading and hope the Review leaves you as excited as I am for what will come next from the world-class Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Carleton University.

L. Pauline Rankin
Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (2018-2023)
WELCOME TO THE INAUGURAL EDITION OF THE FASS RESEARCH REVIEW

This publication celebrates research excellence in Carleton University’s Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS).

FASS research is dynamic, innovative and interdisciplinary. It ranges from human rights research about health outcomes to music creation; from literary analysis to developmental psychology; and from geomatics to digital humanities. Similarly, FASS researchers are committed to participating in scholarly debate while also contributing to the communities with which they engage. They communicate about their work through publications, media outreach for the general public, musical compositions, and exhibitions that can speak to both experts and non-experts alike. In developing the FASS Research Review, we wanted to capture a sense of the compelling multidisciplinary approach to scholarship that our faculty exemplifies.

Fittingly for a publication about research, the FASS Research Review is itself the product of a research project. Our team contemplated research priorities, accomplishments and future directions by actively listening to FASS researchers and strategically advocating on their behalf. We listened intently when researchers described their work and advocated for them through the development of an extensive database of FASS research outputs that our newest team member, Kristin Bourassa, conceptualized and created.

The FASS Research Review draws its information from this database, which you can see some statistics from on page 6 and 7 of this document. The database shows the full breadth and depth of FASS research knowledge mobilization — that is, the ways that researchers work with their varied audiences in and outside academia. The database makes visible, documents and celebrates FASS research on its own terms, supplementing existing research metrics and indicators to provide a more comprehensive view of what we do here in our unique faculty. Many thanks to Kristin for developing this FASS-specific tool and leading this initiative.

In the pages that follow and through the information we have gleaned from the database, you will read about an exciting variety of FASS research innovations and accomplishments.

We have organized them around FASS’s four-part framework in order to highlight central themes, interdisciplinary connections, and the vast range within FASS: Identities, Communities and Social Justice; Mental Health and the Mind; Sustainable Futures; and the Power of Creative Expression.

We hope you enjoy exploring FASS Research as much as we do!

Carol Payne
Associate Dean, Research and International

Darlene Gilson
Research Facilitator

Kristin Bourassa
Research Facilitator (Early Career)
In the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Carleton University, our faculty members generate a uniquely diverse array of research outputs. To document these remarkable knowledge creation practices, we created an extensive database capturing a wide array of impactful research produced between 2015 and 2021.

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In the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Carleton University, our faculty members generate a uniquely diverse array of research outputs. To document these remarkable knowledge creation practices, we created an extensive database capturing a wide array of impactful research produced between 2015 and 2021.

**Media Contributions**
(e.g. op-eds, newspaper articles, magazine articles, blogs, blog posts, media interviews, podcasts)

- **622**

**Creative Outputs**
(e.g. exhibitions, catalogues, fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, plays, film series, screenings, musical compositions, recordings, performances, CD liner notes)

- **491**

**Reviews**
(e.g. book reviews, game reviews, software reviews)

- **230**

**Stakeholder Outreach**
(e.g. reports, multimedia, datasets, short videos for specific audiences, open letters, web pages)

- **160**

**468**

number of externally funded research projects (2015-2021)

**+800K**

total reads of articles by FASS researchers in The Conversation

**BY THE NUMBERS**

- Journal articles (including conference proceedings)
- Book chapters (including conference proceedings)
- Encyclopedia entries
- Dictionary or language resources
- Scholarly editions and translations

Number of externally funded research projects (2015-2021):
- **468**
- **160**
- **230**
- **491**
- **622**

Total reads of articles by FASS researchers in The Conversation:
- **+800K**
RESEARCH CHAIRS
“Indigenous epistemologies have not been thought about clearly in art history. Today, we are looking at art from within our communities, within our teaching, within different ways of thinking and different ways of knowing.”

Carmen Robertson is a Professor jointly appointed between the School for Studies in Art and Culture, the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, and the Institute for Comparative Studies in Literature, Art and Culture.

Robertson is a Scots-Lakota art historian whose research centres around contemporary Indigenous arts and constructions of Indigeneity in popular culture.

She is a renowned scholar of Anishinaabe artist Norval Morrisseau, publishing widely on the painter’s life and work, including two books — *Mythologizing Norval Morrisseau: Art and the Colonial Narrative in the Canadian Media* and *Norval Morrisseau: Life and Art*.

In 2018, Robertson was awarded a substantial grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to lead a team of 14 researchers from across Canada in an investigation of all aspects of Morrisseau’s life and work from 1955 to 1985 — the first study of its kind of a contemporary Indigenous artist in Canada.

In her role as a Canada Research Chair, Robertson also conducts research around Indigenous art theory and contemporary Prairie beadworkers — such as Ruth Cuthand, a Cree-Scots artist who beads the spread of pathogens through colonialism as a form of commentary, and Métis artist Katherine Boyer, who uses beadwork to revitalize stories and knowledges around trapping and living on the land.

Robertson is also an independent curator. In the Fall of 2023, Robertson worked with co-curator Danielle Printup to launch *Norval Morrisseau: Medicine Currents* at the Carleton University Art Gallery. This exhibition spotlighted the iconic Norval Morrisseau, a self-taught Anishinaabe artist best known for innovating the Woodland School style in contemporary Indigenous art. The co-curators highlighted Morrisseau’s use of divided circles that displayed a vision of balance, good and evil, day and night, and heaven and earth. A photo of Robertson and Printup is featured on the cover of this Research Review.

She also has an upcoming co-edited collection titled *Bead Talk: Indigenous Knowledge and Aesthetics from the Flatlands* that is set to debut in Spring 2024 with the University of Manitoba Press.
“The permafrost’s thaw brings serious, new, rapidly growing, and often surprising challenges that Canada is currently not well prepared to meet. This research will lead to tools that inform forward-looking permafrost decision-making.”

Stephan Gruber is a Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies.

An expert in permafrost and the impacts of its thaw, Gruber is the scientific director of NSERC PermafrostNet — a network of scientists coordinated by Carleton University in collaboration with Indigenous communities, industry partners and government agencies.

The network was established in 2019 courtesy of a $5.5 million grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and brings together researchers from a dozen universities all striving to understand where and when permafrost thaw is occurring and the hazards associated with this phenomenon.

More recently, in 2023, Gruber and a team of researchers received an additional $1.65 million from NSERC to support research and training in the area of permafrost, climate change and sustainability.

A celebratory conclusion to Gruber’s decade-long tenure as the Canada Research Chair in Climate Change Impacts/Adaptation in Northern Canada, this project will bring together investigators from seven Canadian universities, including Carleton, and provide a collaborative and integrative approach to help Canada’s North plan for the future by training students and postdoctoral fellows, while also developing practical solutions for the adaptation of climate change effects to Canada’s permafrost.
MARIA ROGERS
Canada Research Chair in Child and Youth Mental Health and Well-Being

“By deepening our knowledge about child and youth mental health and its associated educational impacts, we can fundamentally divert negative trajectories and reduce the suffering of some of our most vulnerable citizens.”

Maria Rogers is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology. Her research endeavors to understand how relationships impact the educational and emotional development of children and youth, with the goal of helping nurture their success at school and beyond.

By combining two important areas of study for children and youth — mental health and education — and examining the relationships at the centre of children’s lives — teacher-student, parent-child and even teacher-parent relationships — Rogers hopes to develop solutions to encourage more supportive and nurturing relationships for at-risk children.

For instance, as more children are missing school than ever before in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Rogers and her research team are studying the links between chronic absenteeism in children and teens and its associations with family mental health, youth learning and emotional development.

Additionally, with support from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, her team is following a Canada-wide sample of children and families affected by ADHD in order to understand the impact of the pandemic on this population over the coming years.

A practicing clinical psychologist, Rogers specializes in supporting Indigenous children and youth in their school and learning endeavours.

A member of the NuntatuKavut community of southern Labrador, she works with families and educators, both on reserve and in the Ottawa-Gatineau area, bringing a culturally sensitive approach to her sessions with young clients.
JOHN ANDERSON
Canada Research Chair in Cognition and Wellness

“I’m hoping to uncover the set of circumstances that enable older adults to have the best possible cognitive ability.”

John Anderson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Cognitive Science. His research examines how contextual factors (e.g. time of day, caffeine, sleep deprivation, food) and lifelong experiential factors (e.g. exercise, bilingualism, education) collectively delay age-related cognitive decline.

In studying the effects of these factors and their resulting long-term effects on the brains of older adults, Anderson hopes to define and promote a series of best practices or circumstances for adults to consider following as guidelines, in order to improve our mental acuity and help maintain a higher level of cognitive functioning as we enter our twilight years.

Anderson is spearheading this research as the director of the new Cognition and Neuroscience of Aging Lab (CANAL Lab) at Carleton University.

The lab brings together Anderson and student researchers interested in using behaviour and neuroimaging techniques to study aging, attention and memory — and how things like circadian rhythms or learning a second language can affect them.

Three research projects being undertaken at the CANAL Lab currently include important and pressing inquiries into how depression affects grey and white matter microstructure in the brain, how older adults may have better cognitive function in the morning, and how bilinguals may weather aging better than people who only speak one language.

Across a spectrum of projects, Anderson is contributing to shaping a future that better understands and is better equipped to respond to issues of human cognition.
“It’s incredible that in the 21st century, half of the world’s population are still treated as second-class citizens. We need to understand why this history of inequality is so profound in so many different countries, in so many different institutions, in so many different ways.”

Shireen Hassim is a Professor in the Institute of African Studies.

Through her work as a Canada 150 Research Chair, Hassim applies an interdisciplinary lens to the study of governance and governmentality and ways that gender and sexualities are constituted in Africa.

Hassim is an internationally renowned expert in feminist theory, politics, social movements and collective action. Her research facilitates new ways of thinking about linkages between North and South in late capitalism, and disrupts conventional geographical boundaries in scholarship.

Hassim is the convenor of the “Knowing Africa Seminar Series”, which foregrounds important new books on Africa and by Africans. Now in its third year, the Series brings together scholars across the globe in conversation on cutting-edge themes in African Studies.

She is the author and editor of several books, including No Shortcuts to Power: African Women in Politics and Policy Making and Go Home or Die Here: Violence, Xenophobia, and the Reinvention of Difference in South Africa.

Most recently, in 2020, Hassim published Voices of Liberation, a biography on prominent anti-apartheid activist Fatima Meer.

The book brings together a detailed recounting of the trailblazing South African intellectual’s life and impact, penned by Hassim, alongside an extensive selection of Meer’s own illuminary writings on politics, race and gender.
“Music and sound are thoroughly social phenomena, but they often play in the background. I think that paying close attention to these ubiquitous phenomena is key to understanding who we are and imagining how we want to be together.”

Ellen Waterman is a Professor of Music in the School for Studies in Art and Culture. Waterman is a music and sound studies scholar and flutist whose socially engaged research involves collaboration with other scholars, artists and community groups. She helped build the field of critical improvisation studies through the International Institute for Critical Studies in Improvisation and was a founding co-editor of Critical Studies in Improvisation/Etudes critiques en improvisation.

At Carleton, Waterman is the director of Music, Sound and Society in Canada (MSSC), an interdisciplinary research centre exploring the complex ways that music and sound are shaped by, and help to shape, our society. Launched in 2021 and committed to community-engaged scholarship and research-creation for social transformation, the MSSC brings together a large and diverse cohort of research fellows, collaborators and community members. This list includes Carleton Music Professor Jesse Stewart, recently named a member of the Royal Society of Canada’s College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, and Film Studies Professor Kester Dyer, who produced an Indigenous Media Making Summer Institute with Wapikoni Mobile and the MSSC in 2023.

Through the MSSC, Waterman is the Principal Investigator on two major research projects: The Resonance Project and Expanding the Music Circle. The Resonance Project explores the nature of interdisciplinary collaboration in the arts, as professional and community musicians work together to co-create music in response to two group exhibitions at the Carleton University Art Gallery. Meanwhile, the Expanding the Music Circle project seeks to develop a networked musical improvisation pedagogy in collaboration with orchestra musicians, special music educators and adults with exceptionalities.
2SLGBTQIA+ musicians unite in creative harmony on the stage of the Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre in celebration of the Baroness Elsa Project hosted by the Carleton University Art Gallery and as part of the MSSC’s Resonance Project. Photo by Mélanie Mathieu.
The Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre is our beautiful arts, performance and learning centre, offering unique programming and event opportunities to the Carleton and greater Ottawa communities.
Located in the St. Patrick’s Building on Carleton’s sprawling campus, the Carleton University Art Gallery brings people together to explore and activate the ideas that shape contemporary society.
IDENTITIES, COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
EMPOWERING THE DISEMPOWERED THROUGH RESEARCH

XUAN THUY NGUYEN
Associate Professor
Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies

Xuan Thuy Nguyen examines how girls and women with disabilities in the Global South are overcoming societal barriers to claim their rights and build a more inclusive world.

Nguyen leads the Transforming Disability Knowledge, Research, and Activism (TDKRA) project, which aspires to bridge gaps in knowledge on girls with disabilities through the promotion of inclusive education and human rights.

She also heads the Decolonial Disability Studies Collective (DDSC) at Carleton. The DDSC puts theory and praxis from distinct Global South spaces into conversations with North American and Western Eurocentric disability studies by building relationships, knowledge, and agency with Disabled People’s Organizations (DPOs), disabled academics and activists, as well as young people with disabilities, including women and girls in colonial and neo-colonial spaces in the South.

Nguyen’s interest in social justice research stems from her experiences as an inclusive education teacher and educational administrator in Vietnam. After graduating from a teacher education program from Hue University in the late 1990s, she began doing volunteer work with disabled youth in an Association of the Blind in the Thua Thien Hue province — a group that she ended up partnering with for the TDKRA project.

“The experience of working with disabled students has taught me how to recognize the various institutional barriers which they faced, including access to education.”

Women and girls with disabilities in the Global South became the key participants in Nguyen’s research due to their absence from research across social sciences and humanities — in fact, data about disability in the Global South has been historically produced by the Global North.

Not only do disabled women and girls face systemic barriers to inclusion due to discrimination against their disability, gender, ethnicity and nationality, but the lack of attention to their intersectional barriers have reinforced their invisibility and exclusion.

“How can we create spaces for disabled women and girls to envision inclusion from their own perspectives? How can we build connections among disabled women and girls who share some similar and yet distinctive experiences with inclusion and exclusion? My research is an effort to counter the dominant narratives which have silenced them.”

Nguyen has been participating in this research and activism for nearly twenty years and she believes that legislators are finally beginning to consider disability rights, development and inclusion on both local and global levels.

In her 2015 book, The Journey to Inclusion, Nguyen presents progressive, critical takes on what living with a disability means in a neo-liberal, neo-imperialist and neo-colonial global context. She argues that we must challenge Eurocentric/Western-centric assumptions about what disability is and instead think about disability as a space for transformation.

“How can we decolonize this structure of power which has excluded, erased, or marginalized the experiences of disabled people from other parts of the world? How can we reclaim such inclusive spaces for knowledge production? How can critical disability studies be more reflexive about knowledge which privileges particular ways of knowing from the Global North?”

Nguyen is currently the Project Director of the ENGAGE Partnership Development Project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council within a Partnership Development Grant [2021-2024]. The project facilitates decolonial spaces for young women and girls with disabilities to develop their leadership skills and encourage activism for their inclusion. In June of 2023, the project organized a transnational workshop called the Youth Leadership Circle (YLC), in Hue City, Vietnam. Her research continues to explore what alternative possibilities can exist to foster more inclusive and transformative knowledge that tackles systemic forms of oppression in colonial and postcolonial contexts and which approaches, theories and methodologies we can use to engage them.
Kelly Fritsch’s academic work is primarily situated in critical disability studies, but also draws on feminist science and technology studies, political economy and critical criminology.

Fritsch is Co-Director of the Disability Justice and Crip Culture Collaboratory, a research lab at Carleton that brings together disabled scholars, activists, artists and designers working at the convergence of crip and disability arts, technoscience and justice.

She is also a Co-Principal Investigator on the New Frontiers in Research Fund project “Frictions of Futurity and Cure in Transplant Medicine: Re-Thinking Central Challenges Through Feminist/Crip Science and Technology Studies.”

“I strive to mobilize futures that are more accessible; futures that allow disabled people to thrive. Part of my work is imparting the joy and ingenuity of disabled life.”

As part of this mixed-methods project, Fritsch collaborates with heart, liver, and kidney transplant patients and surgeons, artists — as well as project partners Tangled Art + Disability, a non-profit arts organization, and the University Health Network in Toronto — to creatively probe the ways medical utility and technoscientific possibility can be at odds with the lived experiences of heart, liver, and kidney transplant recipients.

In 2021, Fritsch and co-authors Anne McGuire (University of Toronto) and graphic designer Eduardo Trejos published We Move Together, an empowering exploration of our individual distinctions and the potential of collective care.

Aimed at children ages four to ten, the colourfully illustrated book is designed to be a resource for families, schools, libraries and community groups endeavouring to promote discussion on accessibility, disability and social justice.

Fritsch is currently Principal Investigator of Mapping the Development and Transformative Impact of Disability Justice in Canada, a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council supported project. Mobilizing a community-engaged and collaborative approach, this project analyzes the historical and unfolding ways disabled people challenge and transform ableist social relations and intersecting forms of oppression in Canada.

“Most books we encountered did not include diverse disabled characters or engage with disability as a social justice issue. The books we found were more about how sad or tragic disability is, depicting disability solely as a medical issue, or as a problem experienced by one individual. Our frustration fueled our desire to create something better.”

Fritsch and her co-authors created a website for the book which features an open-access learning guide, including lesson plans, discussion prompts, printable templates and activities for use by primary school educators and community groups. The trio also developed accessible tools to support book readers, including image and audio descriptions, ASL interpretation and a text-to-speech enabled ebook.

Fritsch’s latest book, Disability Injustice: Confronting Criminalization in Canada, is a co-edited collection bringing together original work from scholars and activists who explore disability in the historical and contemporary Canadian criminal justice system.

“Incarceration and institutionalization is dangerous and deadly for disabled people.”

Published in 2022, Disability Injustice highlights the importance of fostering different futures for disabled people and contributes its research to contemporary abolitionist movements that seek to abolish not just criminal justice systems, but also other forms of disabled incarceration like congregate care.
In 2021, Professor Kelly Fritsch co-authored a book, *We Move Together*, with Professor Anne McGuire (University of Toronto) and graphic designer Eduardo Trejos.
TRACING HISTORIES OF PERSONAL AND POLITICAL IDENTITIES

JENNIFER EVANS
Professor
Department of History

Jennifer Evans is the primary investigator of Populist Publics, a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council supported research group at Carleton that explores how populist narratives enter and circulate in public discourse on social platforms.

Through Populist Publics, faculty and student researchers work together to understand how harmful speech about immigration, multiculturalism, gender equality and LGBTQ+ rights is circulated by far-right groups to become normalized as legitimate discourse within the Canadian mediascape.

In her career as a researcher, Evans’ projects have always focused on what people can and are doing to counter the spread of hateful ideas.

Much of her time has been spent analyzing the role of social media as a series of platforms where people might raise consciousness, hone organizational skills, acquire and spread knowledge and come together in virtual — and later in real communities — to voice outrage and opposition to these groups.

With her crowdsourced project, The New Fascism Syllabus: Exploring the New Right Through Scholarship and Civic Engagement, Evans used history as a tool to help understand past and current models of right-wing fascism.

“History teaches us to be careful of how terms are used. It is one reason we labelled our syllabus this way: to spur discussion about the differences between populist, fascist, and authoritarian regimes and how they work.”

Evans developed The New Fascism Syllabus alongside her colleague Lisa Heineman (University of Iowa) and with the help of graduate students Meghan Lundrigan (Carleton University) and Brian Griffith (University of California, Santa Barbara). The syllabus is an online crowd-sourced collection of writings on the history of fascist, authoritarian, and populist movements and governments during the 20th and 21st centuries. It is intended to serve as a popular entryway into the scholarly literature for those seeking deeper insights into how past societies gravitated towards and experienced varieties of right-wing authoritarianism.

Evans’ research interests also extend to the history of sexuality and sexual revolutions. She identifies an important existing correlation between the study of fascism and sexuality — specifically, that a research focus on sexuality (that is, on what a particular group claims are normal, desired, traditional or dangerous) allows us to see how these groups create insider and outsider groups to mobilize support among their base.

“The history of sexuality, as a field, looks at the gendered ways in which power is shaped. This is a vital lens for understanding the appeal of the far right, for example to young, disaffected college students seeking the homosocial bonds of alt-right groups intent on unmaking multiculturalism.”

Evans’ forthcoming book, Queer Life After Fascism: Kinship and the Queer Art of History, takes up the question of respectability politics in queer and trans* organizing, art and remembrance in late 20th and 21st century Germany, and argues for kinship as a category of historical analysis.

“The symbols people choose to help make their point, the rhetoric, the appeal to history — all these cultural iconographies are important pieces of the puzzle, and they need to be interrogated critically.”
Professor Jennifer Evans (bottom left) collaborated with artist Benny Nemer on the keynote “Queer Paths into Queer Libraries or Performing Kinship in Dangerous Times”, part of the programming for the G19 Swedish Conference for Gender Studies. Her collaboration with Nemer also included participation in a workshop he led for the Göteborg Konstmuseum, exploring the diverse ways that feelings, sexuality, and identity shape the way we encounter art. Photo by Hossein Schatljou.
XIAOBEI CHEN
Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Research expertise
Childhood • diaspora • immigration • multiculturalism • racism

Selected publications


SHAWNA DOLANSKY
Associate Professor, College of the Humanities

Research expertise
Biblical Studies • Israel and the ancient Near East • Hebrew Bible, gender and feminist studies of the Bible and Western religions • The Bible in Western culture

Selected publications


JULIE C. GARLEN
Professor, Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies

Research expertise
Childhood • early childhood education • popular culture • cultural curriculum studies

Selected publications


DAN IRVING
Associate Professor, Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies; Feminist Institute of Social Transformation

Research expertise
Transgender studies • critical men and masculinity studies • critical labour studies • human rights • sexuality studies

Selected publications


SONYA LIPSETT-RIVERA
Professor, Department of History

Research expertise
Gender violence in Latin America • masculinity in colonial Mexico • environmental and social history • gender and family • popular culture and violence

Selected publications


UNDERSTANDING MIND AND ACTION THROUGH PHILOSOPHY

MYRTO MYLOPOULOS
Associate Professor
Department of Philosophy;
Department of Cognitive Science

Myrto Mylopoulos is a philosopher of cognitive science, the mind and action. Mylopoulos traces her interest in studying philosophy of mind — i.e. the ontology and nature of the mind and its relationship with the body — and action — i.e. the processes that lead to willful movement of the body — back to when she was first introduced to the problem of free will as an undergraduate student.

At the time, she recalls being especially intrigued by the tension between arguments in favour of skepticism towards the idea of free will versus the everyday lived experience of feeling as though we exercise control over our decisions and actions.

“Even if determinism is true, it still seems subjectively as though at any given time when I’m deciding among different courses of action, the choice of which one to pursue is up to me.”

This seeming contradiction grew to become Mylopoulos’ main research interest: Where exactly does that experience of control come from? What are its psychological underpinnings? How can we best understand it and other conscious experiences that relate to the exercise of our own agency, such as the experience of making decisions?

These questions, which are asked across disciplinary lines by philosophers, psychologists and neuroscientists, resulted in her current scholarly explorations into the psychology of agency and its various connections to consciousness.

“I accept that the mental is part of the physical world, but this still leaves open important and difficult questions concerning how we, as agents, exert causal control over our physical bodies by way of our psychological faculties and what is the nature of that control.”

Cross-appointed between the Department of Philosophy and the Department of Cognitive Science at Carleton University, Mylopoulos has conducted research and published on topics including consciousness, metacognition, agentive phenomenology, cognition-action interface, motor representations and skill.

In 2020, she co-edited the third edition of *Philosophy of Mind: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*, which included a section of essays responding to a critical question that is increasingly pertinent to our day-to-day lives as citizens of the hyper-connected 21st century: Can machines have minds?

“Philosophy, with its emphasis on critical thinking and conceptual clarity, has an important role to play in helping us navigate difficult questions, especially those that address uncharted territory, like the ones we’re currently facing with recent advances in artificial intelligence — for instance, what kind of intelligence is AI capable of and how does it compare to human cognition?”

Mylopoulos is also the co-editor of a 2021 special issue of *the Review of Philosophy and Psychology* on the subject of skilled action control — exploring what sets skilled action apart from unskilled action and allows someone to excel in certain domains, but not in others.

Currently, Mylopoulos is working on an ongoing project examining the psychological processes that underlie motor control, in order to better understand and explain the various forms of skill and expertise that rely on it.

This project represents an exciting new foray by Mylopoulos and fellow philosophers of cognitive science into an important area of study that has up until now been primarily led by psychologists, neuroscientists and AI researchers.
SOLVING THE EQUATION FOR HOW CHILDREN LEARN MATH

JO-ANNE LEFEVRE
Chancellor’s Professor
Department of Cognitive Science;
Department of Psychology

“T’m interested in what parents do at home to help their children learn about math.”

Under LeFevre’s leadership, students at the undergraduate, master’s and doctoral level have been involved in the lab’s many research projects. One such project was Count Me In, a multi-year study funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) on how teaching basic counting and number skills to children at a young age can be beneficial in the long term development of mathematical knowledge.

The study was particularly interested in when and how number concepts are first introduced in child care settings, and gathered information about early numeracy and literacy knowledge, practices and beliefs from a large sample of early learning and child care practitioners.

LeFevre also leads the Language Learning and Math Achievement (or LLAMA) project, which seeks to better understand whether the language a child speaks at home influences how they learn math at school and recognizes that many children in Canada learn mathematics in a second language.

This SSHRC-funded project is a collaboration between researchers from Ottawa, Montreal, Winnipeg and Northern Ireland.

“An important difference between math and reading is that numbers are not language-specific, they’re very general. Essentially everyone in the world uses the same digits, even though spoken words are different across languages.”

In her expansive research into numerical cognition, LeFevre explores topics ranging from the types of mental codes used to solve arithmetic problems, to the role of working memory in mental arithmetic, to the development of early numeracy skills in preschool and kindergarten children.

She frames and focuses her academic inquiries around real-world applied questions like “Why do some people find arithmetic harder than other people?” and “What should parents do at home to help their children learn about reading and arithmetic?”

Most recently, LeFevre has been working with educators to support high-quality and inclusive math education. In May of 2023, LeFevre and her colleagues Rebecca Merkley and Heather Douglas hosted a meeting of the AIM Collective. The AIM (i.e., Assessment and Instruction for Mathematics) Collective is a SSHRC-funded partnership between researchers from four universities and educators from school districts across Canada who share the goal of identifying and testing evidence-based assessment and instruction for mathematics.

In 2019, LeFevre co-organized the first-ever Mathematical Cognition and Learning Society (MCLS) conference in Canada, with Carleton playing host to 250 researchers from North and South America, Europe and Asia who shared their knowledge through presentations in 30 symposia sessions and four sessions featuring 140 research posters.

“Many of the society’s members are studying questions that will help educators find better ways to teach math to kids. They are trying to understand mathematical thinking from a scientific perspective and to extend their findings to real-world situations like math class.”

Jo-Anne LeFevre is Director of the Math Lab within the Centre for Applied Cognitive Research — an interdisciplinary research centre bringing together students and faculty members from Carleton’s Cognitive Science, Human Computer Interaction, Linguistics, Philosophy and Psychology programs.

The Math Lab is dedicated to conducting research into the various cognitive processes involved in our numerical and mathematical abilities across different ages and cultures.
Professor Jo-Anne LeFevre and Carleton colleagues Rebecca Merkley (left) and Heather Douglas (right) with several of their students. Photo by Brenna Mackay.
MAKING MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH A PUBLIC RESOURCE

JOANNA POZZULO
Chancellor’s Professor
Department of Psychology

Joanna Pozzulo is the Director of the Mental Health and Well-Being Research and Training Hub (MeWeRTH) at Carleton University.

Launched in 2020 and housed within the Department of Psychology, MeWeRTH brings together faculty members, external researchers, students, practitioners and community organizations all dedicated to making mental health research more accessible to the general public.

The timing of the hub’s launch could not have been better. In 2020, as extended periods of social distancing to try to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic already began to take a toll on people’s minds, many sought solutions on how to address a growing global mental health crisis.

“There is a lot of great research happening, but there can be a bottleneck in getting it out to the public. Research often is shared in the academic community, but we don’t always do a great job at translating research in a way that people can use it.”

Some of the many projects that FASS researchers are developing at MeWeRTH include Rachel Burns’ inquiries into the links between depression and diabetes; Chad Danyluck’s work on how perceived discrimination among Indigenous people relates to indicators of bodily stress; Katie Gunnell’s study of the effects of screen time on the emotions of young adults; Johanna Peetz’s research into the financial factors that impact mental health; Nassim Tabri’s assessment of the role of overvalued ideation in relation to health-compromising addictive behaviours like disordered eating, gambling and substance use; and Michael Wohl’s examination of how addiction substitution played into how gamblers responded to the closing of casinos and COVID-19 lockdowns.

“We’ve always studied mental health in the Department of Psychology. As the subject has become more prevalent, we’re seeing more faculty members embrace the area of mental health and well-being as part of their research.”

Recently, in 2022, MeWeRTH announced its newest initiative: the Psychology Wellness Centre, organized in partnership with Health and Counselling Services and the Student Affairs Office at Carleton University.

Through the Centre, Psychology graduate students enrolled in the Master’s program’s capstone course get the opportunity to act as peer wellness coaches, sharing their expertise and advice with students across the Carleton community.

The program is specifically designed to help students seeking non-urgent assistance with goal-setting, time-management, support to improve wellness goals, and information on other available wellness services at the university.

“MeWeRTH’s ultimate goal is to share research that can make a positive impact in people’s lives.”

Beyond her interests in mental health and well-being, Pozzulo’s own research lies at the intersections of psychology and criminology.

Her 2019 co-authored book, Familiarity and Conviction in the Criminal Justice System: Definitions, Theory and Eyewitnesses Research, written with Drs. Chelsea Sheahan and Emily Pica, is a helpful resource on psychological research about the types of relationships between eyewitnesses and perpetrators — ranging from complete unfamiliarity (i.e. a total stranger) to someone well-known to the victim.

In addition to MeWeRTH, Pozzulo also runs the Laboratory for Child Forensic Psychology, where her research seeks to better understand face memory and the factors that influence identification accuracy in children who are eyewitnesses to alleged crimes.

One of the goals of this project is to help develop best practices when dealing with young eyewitnesses that law enforcement can apply in order to reduce wrongful convictions.
Carleton’s Mental Health and Well-Being Research and Training Hub (MeWeRTH) is composed of researchers, students, and community partners with a shared interest in mental health, well-being, and resilience, and offers mentorship opportunities for students.
CRAIG BENNELL
Professor, Department of Psychology

Research expertise
Evidence-based policing • police de-escalation and use of force • police responses to people in crisis • psychologically-based investigative techniques • policing in schools

Selected publications


ANN CVETKOVICH
Professor, Feminist Institute of Social Transformation

Research expertise
Affect theory • feminist and queer studies • LGBTQ archives • public histories of trauma • cultural approaches to mental health

Selected publications


ADELLE FORTH
Professor, Department of Psychology

Research expertise
Psychopathy and gender • psychopathy and youth • intimate partner violence • toxic relationships

Selected publications


CHERYL HARASYMCHUK
Professor, Department of Psychology

Research expertise
Well-being in relationships • passion in romantic relationships • relational boredom • dating and marriage • friendship in adulthood

Selected publications


CHRIS HERDMAN
Professor, Department of Cognitive Science; Department of Psychology

Research expertise
Human perception and cognition • advanced human-machine systems • flight simulation • virtual reality • cognitive health screening

Selected publications


SUSTAINABLE FUTURES
BRINGING HERITAGE INTO THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONVERSATION

SUSAN ROSS
Associate Professor
School of Canadian Studies;
Azrieli School of Architecture & Urbanism

Susan Ross is a registered architect with a passion for the conservation of urban landscapes, modern and industrial heritage, and sustainability.

Her wide-ranging research interests include projects on critical landscapes of water infrastructure, the greening of urban heritage districts, conservation of modest/moderne-style architecture in apartment buildings and the heritage of Ottawa-based school buildings.

Ross led the Waste Heritage Research project, which explored how heritage values were addressed in sustainable rehabilitation projects, as well as the sustainability of modern wood heritage in Canada.

Through publications, presentations, a 2018 symposium hosted at Carleton University and a 2020 special issue of the Journal of Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development, the project considered how heritage policies and practices not only ignore questions of materials waste, but may contribute to creating it, suggesting alternate approaches and ethical perspectives when thinking about deconstruction, salvage and reuse.

“The heritage planning is all about managing change for the better, and now we need to prepare for even more radical change.”

Ross’ research expertise was pivotal to Carleton’s landmark decision to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Climate Heritage Network in 2021 to help protect the world’s arts and cultural heritage sites — bringing to the academic forefront the importance of heritage when it comes to both adapting to climate change and further mitigating its effects.

The MOU states that, “arts, culture and heritage (including sites and landscapes, institutions and collections as well as creativity, intangible heritage, traditional ways of knowing and practices) constitute an invaluable resource to help communities reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen adaptive capacity, even while the risks to those resources from climate impacts must also be addressed.”

The cross-faculty initiative built on existing links between heritage and conservation programs in Carleton’s School of Canadian Studies, the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and the Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism.

“Climate action requires collaborations from scientists to artists, from children to Indigenous Elders, and the Climate Commons has created a very engaged and diverse space for critical discussion.”

Carleton was only the third Canadian post-secondary institution — and the first in Ontario — to partner with the Climate Heritage Network, after Athabasca University in Alberta and the Université de Montréal in Quebec.

Through Ross’ efforts, Carleton joined a sweeping research and advocacy network of arts, cultural and heritage organizations all focused on tackling climate change, further cementing the university’s status as a leader in heritage, conservation and climate change studies.

Together with universities across this network, in 2022, Carleton hosted the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) University Forum on “Knowledge Areas for Climate Adaptation” to support teaching development around themes like vulnerability, adaptation, resource reuse and climate justice in heritage.

Ross is also a member of the Carleton Climate Commons, a working group initiated through the Department of English Language and Literature that connects faculty, staff and students from across the university who share research and advocacy interests in climate work.

Climate Commons members meet regularly to discuss climate change issues in relation to the humanities and social sciences, as well as share academic work, ideas and articles.

“We need to make climate a much more central part of our teaching. We are living now in a climate crisis, and we all need to focus together to act now.”
CULTIVATING
COMMUNITY RESEARCH IN THE NORTH

CHRIS BURN
Chancellor’s Professor
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies

Chris Burn is an expert in permafrost and ground ice research. In 1982, he began working in Mayo — a village nestled between the Stewart and Mayo Rivers in the Central Yukon — and has visited the village every year since.

Collaboration with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (FNNND) has proven invaluable to Burn’s research projects, with members often assisting in data collection or suggesting problems to work on.

“Given everything we know about the history of scientists in the North, it’s time that we started to work more closely, carefully, and collaboratively with First Nations communities.”

Burn helped lay the groundwork for a community partnership between Carleton and the FNNND that became formalized in 2020 with the university’s signing of a seven-year Memorandum of Understanding with the First Nation.

The agreement centres around the importance of co-creation of knowledge, emphasizing that the FNNND will identify community-driven research priorities, determine how best to involve local people and serve as a repository for the research results.

“This is an organic partnership, not a contract. We want to work together for the common good, respecting each other’s expertise.”

Burn is one of several FASS researchers dedicated to the study of northern environments and societies, and the policies that are developed to govern them.

Other critical Northern Studies initiatives led by FASS researchers include: Emilie Cameron on critical northern geographies; Danielle Dinovelli-Lang on the co-production of nature and difference in colonial situations in Southeast Alaska; Karen Hébert on environmental politics in the subarctic; Elyn Humphreys on soil-plant-atmosphere interactions in tundra and peatland; Derek Mueller on the indicators and impacts of climate change in the cryosphere North; Peter Pulsifer on geospatial data interoperability in conjunction with Inuit and other Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic; and Murray Richardson on Northern watershed ecosystems.

As Program Supervisor for the interdisciplinary Northern Studies graduate program which he helped found, Burn works regularly with MA and PhD students in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, such as Trevor Anderson and Astrid Schetselaar.

Trevor Anderson leads a project tracking wind speeds in “Hurricane Alley”, a stretch of the Dempster Highway near the Yukon and Northwest Territories border prone to local winds of up to 130 kilometres per hour — hurricane force. It is the main road connecting the western Arctic to the rest of Canada, and is commonly closed for a quarter of the winter due to these winds and blowing snow. Anderson’s team is working with the Yukon government, and especially the road foreman, Cathy Brais, to improve forecasting and monitoring of the winds so that highway staff may alert and inform travellers of conditions, and advise them, sometimes, to stay away.

Anderson’s team is working with the Yukon government to better alert travellers when to stay off the road and avoid the area.

Astrid Schetselaar is examining how transportation networks in the North are becoming increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Schetselaar’s team has documented how costs associated with climate-related maintenance on Yukon’s highway network — such as snow clearing, icing control, washout repair and landslide removal — have risen by $4.8 million in 1994–2022, taking climate-related activities from 22 to 43% of the territorial highway maintenance budget.

In 2022, Burn was recognized by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS), who awarded him the Martin Bergmann Medal for Excellence in Arctic Leadership, and in 2023, he received the Award for Scholarly Distinction of the Canadian Association of Geographers, the most senior recognition by the discipline in Canada.

“It has given me considerable joy to think of the many people I have worked with in the North, the happiness we have shared when bringing projects to fruition, the friendships formed, and the encouragement we have given each other to advance our understanding of a wonderful part of the world and the commitment to foster responsible development, guided by those for whom the North is home.”
Seasonal changes at the cabin on Garry Island in the Northwest Territories where Burn and his team conduct some of their field research.
SUPPORTING ENDANGERED LANGUAGE COMMUNITIES

ERIK ANONBY

Professor
School of Linguistics and Language Studies; Department of French

Erik Anonby is an expert on languages of the Middle East, including Kumzari, the Persian-Luri-Kurdish continuum and Gulf dialects of Persian.

His research maps the contributions of linguistic diversity to individual human experiences, collective heritage and survival.

As a recipient of the Humboldt Foundation’s Fellowship for Experienced Researchers, Anonby leads an international 60-member research network in the Atlas of the Languages of Iran (ALI) project: an interactive language atlas bringing together insights from linguists in Iran and beyond, statistical and demographic publications, and — most importantly — speakers of the country’s many languages and dialects.

Rather than communicating a single view of Iran’s languages and dialects, the Atlas’ searchable map allows users to enrich their own perspectives on language distribution with location-based language data that highlight patterns in the phonology (the sounds of language), morphosyntax (grammar) and lexicon (words) of Iran’s languages.

Users can explore the rich and varied linguistic landscape of Iran by accessing, contributing and commenting on language data, which are organized in reference to each of the country’s some 60,000 towns and cities.

“For all Iranians, this map provides an opportunity to showcase the country’s linguistic heritage, and for the first time, members of minority language communities that account for over half of the country’s population will see themselves represented in a way that accounts for their extent and diversity.”

Through this project, Anonby is the first linguist to use the Nunaliit Atlas Framework for language mapping.

The Nunaliit Framework is a multi-modal, community-based digital tool that lets researchers use maps as a central way to connect and interact with data, helping them tell stories and highlight relationships between many different forms of information from a variety of sources.

Notably, the Framework itself was born out of multidisciplinary research led by Distinguished Research Professor Fraser Taylor, the Director of the Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre in Carleton’s Department of Geography and Environmental Studies.

Anonby’s focus on language sustainability — working towards ensuring that endangered languages are documented and revitalized for the good of all — is apparent throughout his research endeavours.

“Minority language communities, with their unique arts, knowledge, and history, hold a key place in understanding what it means to be human.”

In addition to the ALI project, he is the Co-Facilitator of the “Endangered Language Knowledge and Technology” (ELK-Tech) research group, alongside Professor Kumiko Murasugi from the School of Linguistics and Language Studies.

Spanning several FASS departments and schools, the group includes Lev Blumenfeld, Christopher Cox, Marie-Odile Junker, Donna Patrick, Peter Pulsifer, Jaffer Sheyholislami and Ida Toivonen, whose collective linguistic expertise includes the languages of Plautdietsch (the traditional language of the Dutch-Russian Mennonites), the languages of the Algonquian family (such as Cree, Innu and Atikamekw), Inuit languages, Kurdish, Micronesian languages (such as Nauruan), and Finno-Ugric and Scandinavian languages.

“I’ve devoted my life to nurturing linguistic diversity, which carries the seeds of the past into the future and is essential for a future where all people thrive.”

In 2021, Anonby was elected to the Royal Society of Canada (RSC)’s College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists in recognition of his role in the emerging generation of Canadian intellectual leadership.

Most recently, in 2022, Anonby received the Marston LaFrance Fellowship, the senior research achievement award offered by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.
Professor Erik Anonby’s research team documenting endangered languages and cultures of communities in the Alborz Mountains of northern Iran. Photo by Mahsa Atakhorrami.
RESEARCH AT A GLANCE: SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

PATRICIA BALLAMINGIE
Professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies

Research expertise
Just and sustainable food systems • food policy and governance • environmental conflict • deliberative democracy • community environmental sustainability

Selected publications

LAURA HALL
Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Research expertise
Decolonializing methodologies through arts and land-based learning • settler colonial studies • Indigenous environmental theory • decolonial social welfare studies • Indigenous anarchist and feminist theories

Selected publications
SHERYL-ANN SIMPSON
Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies

Research expertise
Migration, place and citizenship • environmental justice • health and well-being • spatial analysis • urban health

Selected publications

JOHN ZELENSKI
Professor, Department of Psychology

Research expertise
Happiness • emotions • personality • social behaviour • connection to nature • sustainability

Selected publications

PAUL MKANDÀWIRE
Associate Professor, Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies

Research expertise
Public health and human rights • political ecology • geographic spread of infectious diseases • current and historical responses to pandemic outbreaks • politics and global health policy

Selected publications


THE POWER OF CREATIVE EXPRESSION
CONDUCTING RESEARCH THROUGH THE CRAFT OF STORYTELLING

NDUKA OTIONO
Associate Professor
Institute of African Studies

Nduka Otiono is a writer and the current Director of the Institute of African Studies at Carleton University. The author and co-editor of several books of creative writing, poetry and academic research, Otiono’s interdisciplinary focus looks at popular urban narratives in postcolonial Africa and how they travel across multiple popular cultural platforms such as news media, film, popular music and social media. Fascinated by storytelling and drawing extensively from his background as a notable journalist and cultural activist in Nigeria, his research also explores the political relevance of “street stories” (i.e. rumours, urban myths or legends) and how everyday people speak to power through such informal channels.

“My career, research, writing and the courses I teach are filled with stories that the streets have told me. The street is the quintessential location for understanding our humanity — and in postcolonial Africa, the warm climate transforms public spaces into theatres of sorts.”

In 2019, Otiono co-edited Polyvocal Bob Dylan: Music, Performance, Literature, an edited collection bringing together an interdisciplinary series of scholarly essays that explore the powerful cultural impact of Dylan’s music, writing, aesthetic and persona. In the book, Otiono decrypts and illustrates the border- and culture-transcending spell of Dylan in Africa — particularly amidst members of his writer’s circle in Nigeria, who anointed Dylan as their “patron saint.” He suggests that Lagos, for him and his creative compatriots, deeply corresponded to the New York evoked by Dylan, both cities a “metropolitan beast where artists armed only with their talents and dreams struggled to find the muse and direction in life.”

“My concern with the marginalization of African Studies as a discipline in western academia prompts me into doing work with the capacity of reaching beyond the restrictive traditional spaces that African Studies inhabits or circumscribed in circulation.”

Otiono’s creative writing publications include the short story collection The Night Hides with a Knife, which won the Association of Nigerian Authors Spectrum Prize; Voices in the Rainbow, a finalist for the Association of Nigerian Authors Cadbury Poetry Prize; and Love in a Time of Nightmares, for which he was awarded the James Patrick Polinshue Memorial Scholarship in Creative Writing.

In 2021, he published his newest book, DisPlace: The Poetry of Nduka Otiono. The collection includes poems from both Voices in the Rainbow, and Love in a Time of Nightmares, as well as several previously unpublished new poems.

DisPlace was short-listed for the 2022 Archibald Lampman Award, which recognizes an outstanding collection of poetry by a National-Capital area author. The collection also won the African Literature Association’s Book of the Year Award, an annual tribute that acknowledges an exceptional book of African literature in the form of a creatively written novel, non-fiction prose, play, or poetry.

“My concern with the marginalization of African Studies as a discipline in western academia prompts me into doing work with the capacity of reaching beyond the restrictive traditional spaces that African Studies inhabits or circumscribed in circulation.”

Alongside African Studies colleague Christine Duff, Otiono is co-Editor-in-Chief of Nokoko, an open-access academic journal promoting dialogue, discourse and debate on Pan-Africanism, Africa and Africana. Housed in the Institute of African Studies, Nokoko — a Ga word that means something new, novel, surprising and interesting — offers a space for emerging and established scholars to publish and engage in discussions about their work on Africa and the African diaspora.
Laura Horak, a professor of film studies at Carleton, works from a framework of intersectional feminist digital humanities to create new digital tools to connect her scholarship with a diverse trans community.

She is the director of both the Transgender Media Lab and Transgender Media Portal at Carleton University. Launched in 2019 and housed in the School for Studies in Art and Culture, the Transgender Media Lab investigates the aesthetic, political, and cultural work of audiovisual media created by transgender, Two Spirit, nonbinary, intersex, and gender-nonconforming filmmakers and artists.

“Ever since I started doing archival research in trans history, I’ve been amazed by what I found in terms of the diversity of representation.”

Among the Lab’s many affiliated scholars are FASS researchers Dan Irving, who recently completed a study of transgender and Two-Spirit individuals’ experiences of unemployment and underemployment, and Julia Sinclair-Palm, whose work considers how conceptualizations of children and youth are tied to concerns about violence, risk, and mental health often at the exclusion of more complex narratives of identity, gender, and belonging.

A key project of the Transgender Media Lab is the Transgender Media Portal, a collaborative online database and website highlighting the innovative work of trans filmmakers over the past half-century. Combining features of IMDb and Wikipedia and housing over 1,500 records and counting, the portal’s goal is to enable new ways of analyzing trans film production and distribution by sharing information with educators, students, festival programmers, artists, activists, and film-lovers alike.

“In the last 30 years, trans filmmakers have made thousands of films — they’re just hard to find because they don’t receive the same amount of marketing and distribution. This is what the Transgender Media Portal is trying to preserve. We think people should be able to see these films.”

Scheduled to open for public access in Summer 2024, the Transgender Media Portal will serve as a vital database where anyone can search for films by themes, genres, actors, directors, and locations, as well as find information about where and how to view them.

Horak’s research investigates the history of transgender and queer film and media in the United States, Canada, and Sweden — such as her 2016 book, *Girls Will Be Boys: Cross-Dressed Women, Lesbians, and American Cinema, 1908-1934*.

She is adamant that trans people in particular should have better access to this existing, if obscured, history of artistic thought and activism around gender identity and sexuality.

“My students often argue that all media is sexist, racist, and poorly represents trans people. While that’s true of mainstream film and television, there are so many other lesser-known works out there, a secret canon spanning literal decades, that’s already telling the stories they wish they were seeing. The only difference is visibility.”

To that end, she worked with University of Minnesota professor Maggie Hennefeld and Amsterdam-based archivist Elif Rongen-Kaynakçi to co-curate *Cinema’s First Nasty Women*, a rare digital collection of movies from the silent film era featuring audacious female protagonists.

Spanning 1898 to 1926, the four-disc DVD box set includes 99 movies — an extraordinary effort, given that an estimated 90% of all silent films are lost due to lack of conservation — and includes rare footage establishing that women were being cast as on-screen action stars from the very start of Western cinema.

Selections of the collection’s films have been screened across North America, including as part of the 2023 International Film Festival of Ottawa.
Audience members at the Mayfair Theatre in Ottawa enjoying a special screening of *Cinema’s First Nasty Women*, March 2023. Photo: International Film Festival of Ottawa.
ILLUSTRATING KNOWLEDGE AND ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELDWORK

MARIE-EVE CARRIER-MOISAN
Joint Chair in Women’s Studies, Carleton University/University of Ottawa (2023-2025)
Associate Professor
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

An anthropologist and graphic novelist, Marie-Eve Carrier-Moisan studies and teaches about the politics and political economies of sex and gender.

Working within the fields of feminist anthropology, visual/multimodal ethnography and feminist materialist studies, Carrier-Moisan has conducted extensive ethnographic research on sex tourism in Natal, a city in northeastern Brazil.

Through this ethnography, she posed important questions around the racialized, gendered political economy of love, practices of transnational mobility and intimate negotiations between Brazilian women and European men against a backdrop of social inequalities.

“When we do our PhDs, we’re often trained to share our research with very limited and specialized audiences. I wanted more people to be able to engage with my work, and to put my research in conversation with the activists who are involved in campaigning against sex tourism.”

Wanting to find new, more accessible forms of knowledge sharing and inspired by books like Art Spiegelman’s *Maus*, Marjane Satrapi’s *Persepolis* and Alison Bechdel’s *Fun Home*, Carrier-Moisan transformed her research into a graphic novel.

To do so, she worked with William Flynn, a colleague in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, who adapted her notes and findings into a visual story, and Débora Santos, a Brazilian illustrator familiar with the region where Carrier-Moisan completed her ethnography.

“In making the graphic novel, the challenge we faced was how to create a story out of a series of conversations.”

Published in 2020 in English and Portuguese, *Gringo Love: Stories of Sex Tourism in Brazil* shares the different experiences of women in Natal as they negotiate the terms of their intimate relationships with foreign tourists (i.e. *gringos*) in a situation often referred to as “sex tourism.”

The story is set against a backdrop of deep social inequality and increasing state surveillance leading up to the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil. By following the stories of multiple women, the novel shows how tourism can transform a city and the tensions that arise when public spaces like beaches become increasingly privatized and inaccessible to locals.

Carrier-Moisan herself is featured in the graphic novel as the book’s narrator. She and her collaborators felt it was important to visualize the anthropologist in the story, to accurately depict the research process and how knowledge is always mediated by who we are and how we’re positioned.

The graphic novel takes a progressive approach to talking about sex tourism and touches on important contemporary issues, including sexual economics, transnational mobility, romantic imaginaries, gender representation, and race and inequality.

“There are a lot of sensationalist images about sex tourism that circulate. I wanted to dispel certain ideas that people held about sex tourism, especially those about women as necessarily and exclusively sexualized victims, and for the graphic novel to tell different, affective visual stories where we see the complexity of women’s circumstances and life choices.”

For her next project, Carrier-Moisan is working with Carleton post-doctoral researcher Laurence Simard-Gagnon to study the role of school transportation in facilitating access to schooling for autistic students in the Québec City region. Carrier-Moisan continues to explore different ways of doing and telling about research in her collaborative research project with Simard-Gagnon, including through the development of narrative cartographies. During her mandate as Joint Chair in Women’s Studies, Carrier-Moisan will propose various events on the theme of “Multimodal Scholarships and Feminist, Public Knowledges.”
Excerpts from Carrier-Moisan’s 2020 graphic novel *Gringo Love: Stories of Sex Tourism in Brazil*. Illustrated by Debora Santos. Images courtesy of University of Toronto Press.
SARAH PHILLIPS CASTEEL
Professor,
Department of English Language and Literature;
Comparative Studies in Literature, Art and Culture

Research expertise
African and Jewish diaspora literature and culture • global Holocaust studies • memory studies

Selected publications


MALINI GUHA
Associate Professor,
School for Studies in Art and Culture (Film Studies)

Research expertise
Migration • cinema and media • world cinema • cities in cinema • race/representation in cinema and media

Selected publications


MING TIAMPO
Professor,
School for Studies in Art and Culture
(Art & Architectural History)

Research expertise
Transnational modernisms • global art history • post-war Japanese art • contemporary diasporic art in Canada • post-imperial histories of the UK and France • Decolonial Digital Humanities

Selected publications

CAROLYN RAMZY
Associate Professor,
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Research expertise
Feminist and anti-racist ethnomusicology • Egyptian Coptic Christian music • popular musics of the Middle East and connected diasporas • politics of citizenship and belonging • decolonizing music scholarship

Selected publications

MICHELINE WHITE
Associate Professor,
College of the Humanities; Department of English Language and Literature

Research expertise
Katherine Parr • sixteenth and seventeenth-century religious writing • women’s writing and literary networks • reformation studies • digital humanities

Selected publications


LOOKING FORWARD...

Dynamic researchers who recently joined the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

**FADY SHANOUDA**
Assistant Professor  
Feminist Institute of Social Transformation

Professor Shanouda is a Critical Disability Studies scholar whose research examines disabled and mad students’ experiences in higher education. His scholarly contributions lie at the theoretical and pedagogical intersections of Disability, Mad, and Fat Studies and include socio-historical examinations that surface the interconnections of colonialism, racism, ableism/sanism and fatphobia. He has published scholarly articles on disability/mad-related issues in higher education, Canadian disability history, the anti-fat bias in medicine, and community-based learning.

**KYLA BRUFF**
Assistant Professor  
Department of Philosophy

Professor Bruff specializes in 19th and 20th century German and French social and political philosophy. Her research investigates the metaphysical and historical roots of ideological orientations. She is currently focused on understanding the concept of nature in today’s ecological crisis through the lens of critical theory. Professor Bruff mobilizes philosophy in the public sphere and has contributed to policy debates and public discussions on nature, sustainable industry, and climate change in Newfoundland and Labrador and Sarapiquí, Costa Rica.

**KIRK LUTHER**
Assistant Professor  
Department of Psychology

Professor Luther’s research interests encompass two primary domains. First, he conducts research to advance trauma-informed and culturally competent investigative interviewing practices, as well as techniques for interviewing in cold cases. Second, Professor Luther is committed to protecting legal rights for both adults and youth. His research in this area seeks to establish a comprehensive theoretical framework that sheds light on increasing an individual’s comprehension of complex information, such as their legal rights.
EVELYN NAMAKULA MAYANJA
Assistant Professor
Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies

Professor Namakula’s interdisciplinary research focuses on mineral resource-based wars/armed conflict and the extraction of the minerals for green/renewable energy in Africa. Her work centres on the struggles of those marginalized by colonial and neocolonial capitalist systems of oppression and exploitation.

DIPTO SARKAR
Assistant Professor
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies

Professor Sarkar’s research is situated at the crossroads of geographic information science, human geography and digital geography. His primary research interest is to model interactions in a spatial context. To achieve this, he has developed a suite of methods and applied them on a variety of scenarios ranging from digital geography and urban geography to biodiversity conservation and ecology.

TAMARA SORENSON DUNCAN
Assistant Professor
School of Linguistics and Language Studies

Professor Sorenson Duncan’s research investigates language and literacy development in diverse populations, including children from immigrant and refugee backgrounds, children with developmental language disorders and children with autism spectrum disorder. Her current projects examine bilingual development among children with language- and literacy-based disabilities, tackling issues such as inclusion in French immersion programs and the impact of COVID-19 and related school closures on children’s language and literacy development.