

# FPA Voices

**Challenging  
Over-Incarceration:  
Indigenous Stories  
in the Courtroom**

**Repairing Fractured  
Food Systems**



Sebastien Malette,  
Assistant Professor, and  
Jane Dickson, Associate  
Professor, Department of  
Law and Legal Studies



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# Message from our Dean



It seems as if we were just beginning to celebrate Carleton's 75th anniversary in 2017 and here we are at the end.

The year 2017 was marked by reminiscences and celebrations. It offered us the opportunity to reflect on just who we are in the world, whether as the Faculty of Public Affairs, as Carleton or as individuals.

Figuring out “who we are” often starts with a reflection on where we started. Carleton began in 1942 with a mission to offer higher education to service members returning from the Second World War. The university's first graduates were in Journalism and Public Administration, two programs of study that are now part of the Faculty of Public Affairs.

With that mission of service as our guide, Carleton continued to grow in size and expand its academic offerings. Today, Carleton is home to more than 27,000 students— with more than 7,000 of those in the Faculty of Public Affairs.

Here at FPA, we celebrated Carleton's 75th anniversary in a number of ways:

- We hosted a student research competition called *CU75 POPS: Water*. (POPS stands for Policy Options and Problem Solving). The competition included undergraduate and graduate teams with students from across the university who had to solve a real-life environmental problem.
- We also hosted a very successful two-day conference entitled *Visions for Canada 2042*. It included researchers and students from all of our units—along with public servants, NGO staffers, alumni and more—to discuss Canada's future in 2042.
- We launched the *75 for the 75th* project to honour 75 of our most inspiring graduates for Carleton's 75th anniversary. We told the stories of five new alumni each month over 15 months, culminating

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Front Cover: Sebastien Malette, Assistant Professor, and Jane Dickson, Associate Professor, Department of Law and Legal Studies, in Carleton University's Gladue Laboratory.

in June 2017. Thirty-nine of those alumni returned to campus for a special reception in their honour in September.

### Looking Ahead to 2018

I'm pleased to say that the success of these anniversary projects have inspired new plans for the coming year.

Following up on our *Visions for Canada 2042* conference, we asked our faculty to select a theme for an interdisciplinary conference in the new year. Themes were proposed and a vote was held. The outcome was a decision to host a conference focused on *Visions for Equality*, which will be held on March 8, 2018.

We're also launching an exciting new alumni series called *Generation FPA*. Each month, we'll be featuring two FPA alumni who graduated within the past decade and are thriving in their careers. We're looking forward to sharing their stories and their

advice for students who are looking ahead to the future.

Those stories and much more will be shared here, in *FPA Voices*. Thank you for being part of the Faculty of Public Affairs family and, as always, don't hesitate to get in touch if you have suggestions or questions for us.

All the best,

André Plourde  
Dean, Faculty of Public Affairs  
Carleton University



# FPA People

**Jane Dickson, Associate Professor,  
Department of Law and Legal Studies**

*In 1999, the Supreme Court of Canada formally recognized that the number of Indigenous people in prison far outweighed their numbers in the population. In response, the Court required judges to consider “the unique background and circumstances of Aboriginal people” in sentencing hearings.*

*Since then, the application of these so-called “Gladue requirements” has been notably inconsistent. With the help of a four-year grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Jane Dickson is looking at how Indigenous people are actually being represented in Canada’s courtrooms.*

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## ***Professor Dickson, when did you first become aware of the over-representation of Indigenous people in Canadian prisons?***

It was the Fall of my third year as an undergraduate at Simon Fraser University. I went to Whitehorse and clerked for a provincial court judge. It was a real awakening for me because I wasn’t aware of the magnitude of over-representation of Indigenous people in the correctional system. From that point forward, I was committed to working with Indigenous people on criminal justice.

## ***What steps did you take?***

I was doing my master’s research on what happens when orally retained legal traditions are committed to writing. It affects the way the rules are communicated, enforced and updated as a society moves forward. My research

caught the attention of the Mohawk nation of Kahnawake and I ended up doing my PhD with them as they created a justice system based on Mohawk and Iroquois traditions.

For the past 20 years, I’ve worked with the Department of Justice and Correctional Services of Cree Nation Government in Northern Quebec. I wrote my first Gladue report for a Cree person in that region and then went on to write more than 70 Gladue reports for Indigenous offenders.

## ***What is a Gladue report?***

These reports are often made up of 25 or more single-spaced pages that describe the life experiences of an Indigenous offender. They’re named for the Supreme Court case that made them a legal requirement when sentencing Indigenous offenders, *R v. Gladue*, and are a source of background information for judges. The Court’s decision required judges to pay attention to the unique background and circumstances of Indigenous offenders when determining a sentence, and to consider alternatives to incarceration that are reasonable under the circumstances.

Some provincial and Superior courts offer recommendations on the structure, information and tone that should be used in a Gladue report. But there is no national standard or training for writing them and the results are incredibly uneven. At the same time, we are hearing anecdotally that legal counsel and judges are insufficiently educated about what should be in them.

## ***How will your research project address that?***

We’re hoping to document how Gladue requirements are met across Canada, and understand how judges receive and use Gladue information in the sentencing

process. In addition to these goals, we've set up a 'Gladue Lab' which will not only house our research, but provide access to information, resources and support to those working with Gladue. We will also have a website and a blog that connects to the huge database of research available. Plus, we're creating online resources for the courts to ensure judges have access to good cultural and historical information, such as the effects of historical trauma and the current realities of Indigenous people.



***It sounds like you're hoping to standardize the Gladue process.***

Well, to the degree that one can standardize a process that must capture a wide variety of cultural, historical and personal experiences, which is what Gladue reports must do. I think that we are trying to ensure that those who are responsible for providing Gladue information to the courts are able to access the education and knowledge that is necessary not only to meet the legal requirements, but also to respect both Indigenous culture and history, and the needs and realities of the courts. As far as we have been able to discern, Carleton University is the first university in Canada

to offer training on writing Gladue reports as part of its Graduate Diploma in Conflict Resolution. I'm also partnering with a nonprofit group in British Columbia that is creating online training materials directed at Indigenous community members and others who wish to become certified Gladue writers.

To secure the point of view of judges, our research assistants are conducting telephone interviews to try to determine how they most commonly receive Gladue information, the sufficiency of that information and how they incorporate it into the crafting of fit sentences. We want to know the quality of it and how they use it. My co-investigator and colleague in the Department of Law and Legal Studies, Assistant Professor Sebastien Malette, will ensure the integrity of the French translation of the content.

***How will this eventually help Indigenous offenders?***

The Supreme Court has been clear that the purpose of Gladue reports is to remedy the over-incarceration of Indigenous people in Canadian correctional institutions, but Gladue has not proven able to affect this sort of change. We want to know why, and we want to work with Indigenous people and the courts to remedy our approach to Gladue so that we can, in turn, maximize the remedial impacts of Gladue.

We also want to make it as easy as possible for those who qualify for Gladue reports to actually get one, and ensure that the report they receive meets the legal standards, and is comprehensive and well-written. This is the contribution we hope to make, and we hope it will make a real difference in the lives of those whose paths cross with Gladue.



# Bringing Research to Life

[www.carleton.ca/fpa/research-month](http://www.carleton.ca/fpa/research-month)

#FPAResearchMonth



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2018 Faculty of  
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FPA  
RESEARCH  
MONTH

FEBRUARY 24 -  
MARCH 24

Join us as we explore new frontiers and innovative solutions during FPA Research Month, an event series that includes public lectures, research symposia, panel discussions, and the best of graduate and undergraduate student research.

## 2018 FPA Research Excellence Award Symposium

Monday, February 26  
1:00 - 5:00 PM

## 2018 Bell Lecture Presented by the Honourable Jean Charest

Tuesday, February 27  
7:00 PM

## Visions for Equality Conference

Thursday, March 8  
8:00 AM - 5:30 PM

## FPA Connects Research Month Undergraduate Showcase and 180 HRE

Wednesday, March 21  
4:00 PM





From the Foreign Service to foreign correspondents, FPA alumni lead fascinating and inspiring lives.

In honour of Carleton University's 75th anniversary in 2017, we profiled 75 of the Faculty of Public Affairs' most inspiring alumni. Read more about the paths they took in their careers.

[carleton.ca/fpa/75-75](http://carleton.ca/fpa/75-75)



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# Career Paths

*Navsharan Singh, Senior Program Officer in the Women's Rights and Citizenship Program of International Development Research Centre (IDRC)*

*Master of Arts, Political Economy  
PhD, Political Science*

When you ask Dr. Navsharan Singh how she came to be a prominent advocate for women's rights throughout south Asia, she recalls an incident from her childhood in the northern Indian province of Punjab.

"I had a friend on my street who was married when she was 16. Six months into

her marriage, she was burned alive for not having a large enough dowry. That trauma had a profound impact on me," recalls Dr. Singh.

As she matured, Dr. Singh says she wanted to understand what in the region's history and politics allowed millions of women to fall victim to violence. Rapes, abductions and murders were commonplace during the first partition of the subcontinent in 1947, the second partition in 1971, and in India's Kashmir and the Northeast. Violence was also commonplace in Sri Lanka.

"I wanted to know," recalls Dr. Singh, who went on to join women's rights groups at a local university, "what explained the impunity the perpetrators enjoy - be it the men in uniform or ordinary men in homes and in communities?"

But she says it was her Commonwealth Scholarship, which brought her to Carleton University, that exposed her to the systematic study of the feminist question and ideas that enabled her to challenge the treatment of women in South Asia.



Navsharan Singh





“I came from a small town and a small university, and I was interested in how macro policies affected the people on the ground,” recalls Dr. Singh, who remembers the supportive community of graduate students and professors at Carleton. “While I was at Carleton, gender became the lens for a lot of my work. I’ve focused on questions of women’s rights and rape and violence in conflict zones ever since.”

Initially, Dr. Singh considered studying Economics, but she switched to Political Economy and its emphasis on field research because “that was where my heart was. I was set on questions that I saw as life and death for women.”

Today, Dr. Singh spends much of her time on research and advocacy for understanding and overcoming women’s marginalization in economy, polity and society. She travels through India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and neighbouring countries documenting and speaking out about the challenges faced by women in South Asia, as a senior program specialist for the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

“In the work that IDRC supports, we keep asking why we are so immune to what

happens to women in South Asia,” says Dr. Singh. “There are gaps in the law, in medical practice, in state willingness to apply laws, and in social sanctions. Large scale violence that women endured in the region at the time of conflicts remains a festering wound in the region’s body politic.”

Dr. Singh’s efforts have contributed to bringing positive effects to the lives of women and marginalized people in the region: she works with several women’s research and advocacy NGOs that have successfully created standard operating procedures for police departments dealing with sexual violence in Mumbai; another is campaigning against the 35-day limitation period for reporting a rape in Nepal; and another has created medical protocols for gathering evidence when a rape victim is brought to a hospital.

“Many questions remain and there’s a need to lobby for better policies and changed attitudes. My hands are quite full,” she acknowledges. “But I am hopeful because women in South Asia are so resilient—even when all odds are stacked against them. They’re fighting for justice and dignity and they have very strong survival instincts.”





## Field Notes

Irena Knezevic is an Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Studies in the School of Journalism and Communication.

In some of Canada's urban neighbourhoods, there are no grocery stores. In rural areas, you might only find a gas station stocked with potato chips and pop. And in Canada's North, climate change is affecting residents' ability to access food sources.

Assistant Professor Irena Knezevic has worked with researchers around the world to identify fractured food systems in many regions. In her new book, *Nourishing Communities: From Fractured Food Systems to Transformative Pathways*, she and others offer many examples of people who struggle to feed themselves in Canada, as well as ideas to address the problem.

"People don't realize that the numbers of farms and farmers are steadily declining in the country, while nearly 13% of all Canadians and nearly half of those living in the North have inadequate or insecure access to food," she says.

Knezevic started her work ten years ago, when a colleague at Wilfrid Laurier University organized a workshop for researchers around the country interested in the topic. They created the [Nourishing Communities Research Network](#) and began applying for grants in collaboration with community groups. They currently hold a prestigious Partnership Grant from the

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

"This is the product of more than a decade of collaborative work by a network of scholars, community-based partners and practitioners interested in constructing more sustainable and just food systems," she explains.

Knezevic adds that developing research questions with community groups is essential to their work.

"The people on the ground are the experts; they understand the issues of food systems in many ways better than the academics," says Knezevic, who is collaborating with Ottawa non-profits Hidden Harvest and Just Food. "It's not just about us studying these initiatives, but about us learning through and documenting their experiences."

In her fourth-year course on communications and food, Knezevic's students create a policy brief and communications materials for grassroots organizations. She finds food studies fits well within the study of communication.

"Food is another form of language in some ways," she says. "We learn a lot about social relations, political systems and all kinds of social and environmental issues through food."





# ***Visions for Equality***

***Imagining a world that challenges inequality and celebrates diversity***

***March 8, 2018***

After the success of the 2017 conference, *Visions for Canada 2042*, the Faculty of Public Affairs will be exploring a new topic in the new year: *Visions for Equality*.

This one-day conference will feature interdisciplinary panel discussions on topics such as:

- Perspectives of Gender and Equality
- Because it's 2018: Feminism, Law and Equality in the Trudeau Era
- It's Still Cold in Here: Visions for Campus Equality
- Revolutionary and Post-Revolutionary Visions of Equality
- Equality in Our World: Global or International Approaches?
- Building Equity or Inequality? International Development in Theory, Practice and Education
- The Shadow Side of Equality

[www.carleton.ca/fpa/visions](http://www.carleton.ca/fpa/visions)



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# Events

**SPPA:** “Can the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Energy and Climate Change Really Deliver?” featuring Dave Sawyer, SPPA Fellow and co-leader of Decarbonization Pathways Canada.

**November 21** | [More information here](#)

**NPSIA:** Distinguished Speakers Series—Ambassadors of Poland and Croatia

**November 23** | [More information here](#)

**FPA:** World Energy Outlook 2017 Canadian Launch, featuring Paul Simons, Deputy Executive Director of the International Energy Agency.

**November 24** | [More information here](#)

**NPSIA:** Ambassadors Speakers Series—High Commissioner of India

**November 28** | [More information here](#)

**Communication and Media Studies:** “Rise of the Far Right in the Trump/Brexit Era: Lessons for Political Communication in Canada,” with author Warren Kinsella.

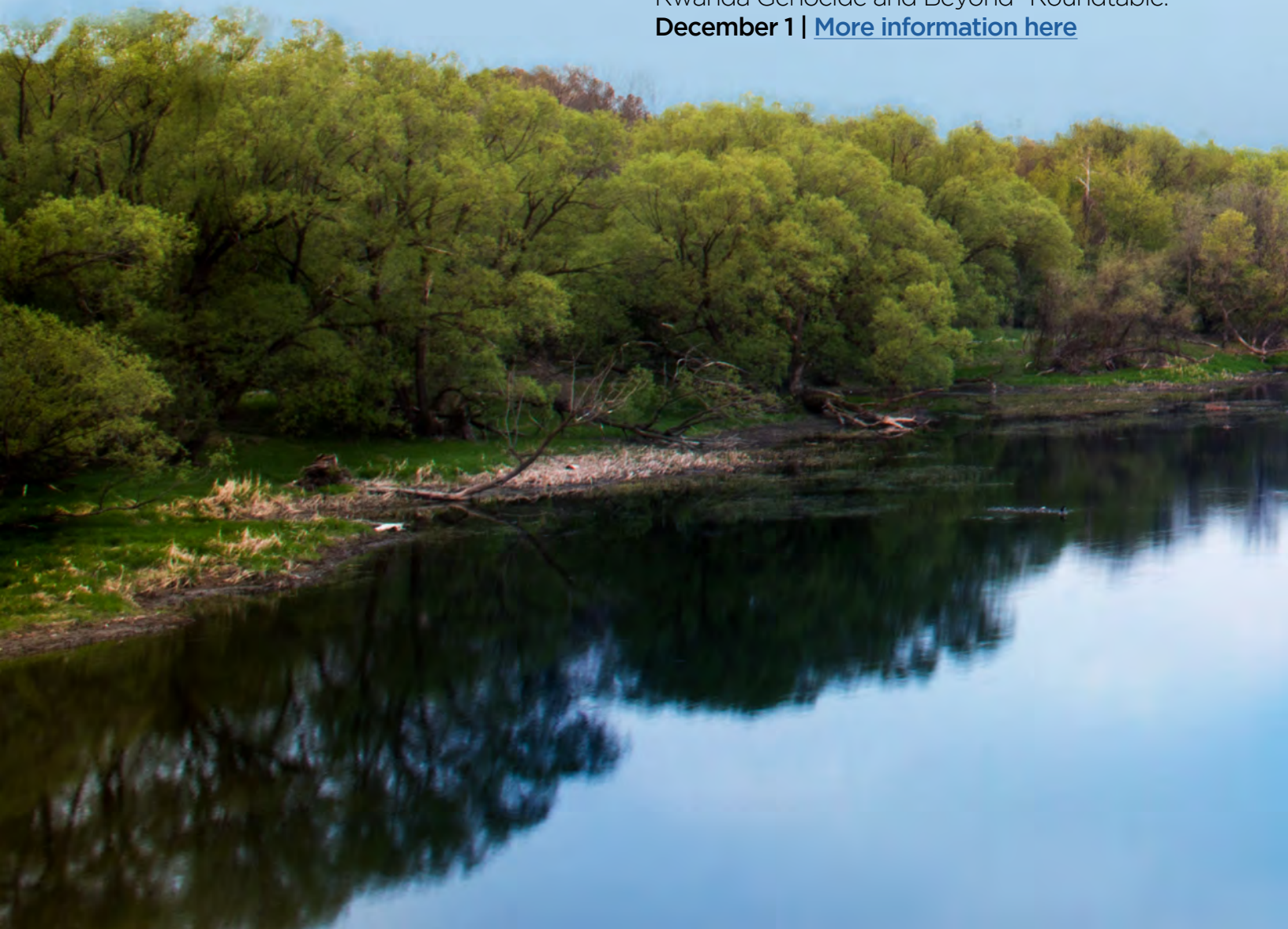
**November 30** | [More information here](#)

**Political Science:** “Our Climate is Nuclear.” Political Science Speakers Series featuring Scott Hamilton, Balsillie School of International Affairs.

**November 30** | [More information here](#)

**Journalism:** “Media and Mass Atrocity: the Rwanda Genocide and Beyond” Roundtable.

**December 1** | [More information here](#)





**NPSIA:** Year Ahead Conference, Centre for Security Intelligence and Defence Studies.  
**December 7 | [More information here](#)**

**Political Science:** “Queering International Relations.” Political Science Speakers Series featuring Jaz Dawson, University of Melbourne.  
**December 8 | [More information here](#)**

**Global and International Studies:** “Sound and Listening in the Global Arena,” with Michael Mopas, Carleton Department of Sociology and Anthropology.  
**December 8 | [More information here](#)**

**Global and International Studies:** “Smooth Cities: The Ethical Implications of Digital Urban Design Techniques” with Jill Wigle, Carleton Department of Geography and Environmental Studies.  
**January 19 | [More information here](#)**

**FPA:** Author Meets Readers with Philip Kaisary, Assistant Professor, Law and Legal Studies.  
**January 25 | [More information here](#)**

**FPA:** Dean’s Honour List Reception.  
**January 29 | [More information here](#)**



[Faculty units can submit upcoming events here](#)

# FPA Voices

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