THE POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY BOAST NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY-RENOUNED SCHOLARS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS.

FACULTY MEMBERS HAVE PRODUCED

- **42 Authored Books**
- **45 Edited Books**
- **377 Refereed Journal Articles**
- **377 Book Chapters**

**OVER 2,667**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS ALUMNI WORLDWIDE**

**ALUMNI FIELDS**

- Lawyers
- Politicians
- Entrepreneurs
- Economic Development
- Government Positions

**7 FACULTY MEMBERS**

Have received faculty-level awards for outstanding contributions to research, teaching, or service.

**13 FACULTY MEMBERS**

Have served on editorial boards for scholarly journals or research centres.

**ARTS YOUNG ALUMNI AWARDS: 5**
**ARTS ALUMNI AWARDS: 5**

**QS Rankings:**

**8th in Canada**

Among only 9 in the country to rank in the Top 200 for Politics and International Studies (all of the departments ahead of us are larger).

**FEMALE TO MALE FACULTY RATIO IS 10:11**

**15 GRAD STUDENTS : 21 PROFESSORS**

Upper Year (3rd and 4th Year)
Average class size is 26 students

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MESSAGE FROM
THE INCOMING CHAIR

PROF. JOHN RAVENHILL

I’m very pleased to be starting as Chair of the Department of Political Science at the University of Waterloo. I have lived and worked all over the world – the UK, the US, Australia, and most recently as Director of the Balsillie School of International Affairs here in Waterloo – and the faculty and students here at the University of Waterloo are among the best I’ve encountered.

This is important, because now more than ever we need to educate our students about a rapidly changing world, and give them the skills to be the problem solvers of this generation. The norms governing international relations are being challenged, economies are in upheaval, and governments are struggling to maintain policies are been expected by their citizens. Our students are asking critical questions, such as how do we analyze the political players, systems, and conditions in which decisions over the lives of others are made? Whose interests rise to the top and why? How does a policy change from the other side of the world impact business and trade here in Canada? How can we ensure the stability of liberal democratic regimes in an era of artificial intelligence that can undermine the media and challenge truth?

Our department is committed to our students and their learning environment so that their questions can lead to answers. Through lectures, seminars, simulations, reflections, research talks, events, and projects, students in Political Science become thoughtful, caring citizens of the world. In our co-op programme, students are able to apply their classroom skills and knowledge to a professional environment by accessing up to five work terms throughout their undergraduate degree. There are also many other “hands on” experience opportunities available, through participation in international exchanges, international field courses, directed research assistantships, and undertaking voluntary community placements, among other things. Our students are encouraged to make connections between theory and practice, to hone important skills, and to develop critical insights.

I’m very proud of our faculty members who spearhead the classroom experience. We have award winning researchers and teachers, some of whom are members of the Royal Society of Canada, Trudeau Fellows, and Killam Prize recipients. In QS World Rankings of Departments of Politics, no comparably-sized political science department in Canada ranks higher. We are also lucky to be a relatively young department, which gives us the potential for even better performance in the future.

Drawing on this teaching and research talent, we make sure that students will primarily be taught by full-time faculty members in their courses, from first year through to fourth year. Even our most senior professors teach at the first and second year level! The average class size in third year is just 34 students, and that is reduced to 18 by fourth year. Our faculty members know their students well, and this enhances success in the classroom.

Getting to know colleagues over the last six years, I’ve been impressed not just by their teaching skills and research productivity, but also by their collegiality. The community they have built is one in which faculty and students alike can thrive, and I am looking forward to my term as Department Chair of Political Science.
RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

VERONICA KITCHEN: HEROISM AND GLOBAL POLITICS
The rhetoric of heroism pervades politics. Political leaders invoke their own heroic credentials, soldiers are celebrated at sporting events, ordinary citizens become state symbols (or symbols of opposition), and high profile celebrities embody a glamorized, humanitarian heroism. But how do heroes and heroism help to shape political community?

We argue that heroism is socially constructed and relational, and demonstrate that heroes and heroic narratives always serve particular interests in the ways that they create and uphold certain images of states and other political communities. Studying the heroes that have been sanctioned by a community tells us important things about that community, including how it sees itself, its values and its pressing needs at a particular moment. Conversely, understanding those who are presented in opposition to heroes (victims, demonized opponents), or who become the heroes of resistance movements, can also tell us a great deal about the politics of a state or a regime. Heroes are at once the institutionalization of political power, and yet amorphous—one can go from being a hero to a villain in short order.

EMMETT MACFARLANE: POLICY CHANGE, COURTS, AND THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION
Policy Change, Courts, and the Canadian Constitution aims to further our understanding of judicial policy impact and the role of the courts in shaping policy change. Bringing together a group of political scientists and legal scholars, this volume delves into a diverse set of policy areas, including health care issues, the regulation of elections, criminal justice policy, minority language education, citizenship, refugee policy, human rights legislation, and Indigenous policy. Multidisciplinary in its approach to examining policy issues, this book focuses on specific cases or policy issues through a wide-ranging set of approaches, including the use of interview data, policy analysis, historical and interpretive analysis, and jurisprudential analysis.

ALEXANDER LANOSZKA: ATOMIC ASSURANCE
What role, if any, do defensive military alliances like NATO play in curbing interest in nuclear weapons among their members? The conventional wisdom is that these alliances deepen the security of their members, thereby discouraging them from going nuclear. If members of defensive alliances do seek their own nuclear weapons, then their more powerful patrons like the United States will leverage their security and economic ties to enforce nuclear nonproliferation. Drawing on archival materials and case study research, Atomic Assurance challenges this conventional wisdom by arguing that military commitments best deter allies’ interest in nuclear weapons but if such interest does emerge, patrons will experience profound difficulties in going about nuclear nonproliferation.

BESSMA MOMANI: WHAT’S WRONG WITH THE IMF AND HOW TO FIX IT
The IMF stands at a crossroad. Derided as increasingly irrelevant in the first decade of the new millennium, the Fund has had its power and prestige restored by the fallout from the 2008 global financial crisis. But will the resurgent IMF assert a more just and sustainable macroeconomic model and provide a voice for poor and marginalized people around the globe? Or will enduring weaknesses within the IMF mean it fails to address these issues?

In this book, Bessma Momani and Mark R. Hibben dissect the variables and institutional dynamics at play in IMF governance, surveillance, lending, and capacity development to expose the fundamental barriers to change. Identifying four areas that could “fix” the IMF, they show how these genuinely workable solutions can give the IMF the effectiveness and legitimacy it needs to positively shape twenty-first-century global governance and push back against volatile and regressive forces in the international political economy.

ERIC HELLEINER: GOVERNING THE WORLD’S BIGGEST MARKETS
Despite the global importance of derivatives markets, they remain mysterious and obscure to many. When these markets played a major role in triggering the 2008 global financial crisis, however, they assumed a prominent place on the international public policy agenda, with policymakers in the leading economic powers committing to improve their regulation. Bringing together experts from around the world, this book analyzes why significant and lasting reform has been so difficult politically to implement.
We hit the ground running with the Fall 2018 term! To start we had a Professor Mixer at the Bomber with many students and professors networking and sharing stories. Our Trick and Talk event was as spooky as ever chatting about the terrors of politics and sweet treats. Our Fall highlight was the U.S. Midterms Election Panel and Viewing party. We hosted a panel consisting of Drs. Boychuk, Cooper, and Hunt sharing their thoughts about the 2018 U.S. Midterms. We also hosted a viewing party in the PSCI lounge to watch the livestream of the results! The ‘DE stress and Dessert’ event was a hit with students coming in to make de-stress crafts and grab a slice of cake. Our last event was Pizza and Prof, where we enjoyed pizza while having an intimate chat with PSCI professors about final exams, life goals and politics.

The PSSA was far from hibernating this winter, as we ran 5 really successful events! We started the winter off by having our second iteration of our ‘meet the profs’ event. Despite the date being pushed back due to a snow cancellation, we had some great conversations! The PSSA was also honoured to team up with the Canadian International Council in February to host a talk about global energy policy. Finally, in March, the PSSA hosted local MP Bardish Chagger for a conversation on the campaign and the office.

We also remained heavily focused on representing PSCI students throughout the winter. We represented undergrad PSCI students in various departmental events and initiatives, such as in first-year information panels. In addition to representing students, we ran a few events to help them out, like our “How to Ace your Essay” event in late March. Beyond academics, we also ran two de-stress events: a valentine’s day event where we wrote valentines to profs, and an end-of-term de-stress event where we ate cake.

Despite the busy winter, we still found time to start planning a few things for the Spring and Fall terms! Check out our events – it’s always a great way to meet other students and get to know your department!

UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS
› PSSA SWAG FOR THE FALL (WE HAVE HOODIE DESIGNS FINALIZED!)
› MEET THE PROFS EVENTS
› PANEL TALKS CONCERNING RELEVANT POLITICAL HAPPENINGS
› FEDERAL ELECTION VIEWING PARTY

PAST EVENTS
› PSSA GENERAL ELECTIONS
› DE-STRESS EVENTS
› ELECTION VIEWING PARTIES
› GUEST VIEWING PARTIES INCLUDING MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT
› DISCUSSION PANELS ON RELEVANT EVENTS
MEET SOME OF YOUR PROFESSORS

DR. ALEXANDER LANOSZKA

Dr. Lanoszka’s work focuses on the politics of defensive military alliances like NATO. His book Atomic Assurance: The Alliance Politics of Nuclear Proliferation (Cornell University Press, 2018) challenges the conventional wisdom that alliance treaties per se reduce states’ appetites for nuclear weapons and that the United States effectively used its security ties to get aspiring proliferators to renounce their interest in nuclear weapons.

His research also explores how relatively small states can improve their military posture vis-à-vis their more powerful adversaries without nuclear weapons while minimising their dependency on stronger allies like the United States. His co-authored policy monograph Conventional Deterrence and Landpower in Northeastern Europe (Strategic Studies Institute, 2018) assesses what the U.S. Army could do to contribute to local defence and deterrence efforts in the Baltic region. Another co-authored policy monograph of his, A Question of Time: Enhancing Taiwan’s Conventional Deterrence Posture (Center for Security Policy Studies, 2018), analyses how Taiwan can best obtain self-sufficiency in its defence planning.

Dr. Lanoszka often provides expert commentary on issues that pertain to East Central Europe. He has written op-eds that have been published in War on the Rocks, Defense One, and The Washington Post, in addition to making appearances on such TV shows as CTV’s Your Morning.

RECENT COURSES TAUGHT:

- PSCI 150: INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL POLITICS
- PSCI 355: RUSSIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS
- PSCI 481: INTERSTATE WAR
DR. HEATHER WHITESIDE

> **PROFESSOR WHITESIDE IS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR WHO TEACHES IN THE GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS STREAM, AND A FELLOW AT THE BALSILLIE SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. HER RESEARCH FOCUSES ON ASPECTS OF CANADIAN, COMPARATIVE, AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY SUCH AS PRIVATIZATION AND PUBLIC–PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS, ALONG WITH FINANCIAL AND FISCAL DEVELOPMENTS FACING THE STATE AND ECONOMY.**

Dr. Whiteside’s recent research and writing centre on theories and practices of privatization, financialization, and fiscal austerity. This includes publication in journals such as *Urban Studies, Economic Geography, Studies in Political Economy,* and *Health Sociology Review,* and three books entitled *About Canada: Public-Private Partnerships, Purchase for Profit: public-private partnerships and Canada’s public health care system,* and *Private Affluence, Public Austerity.* She also has three new books in the works: *Canadian Political Economy* (as editor), *Capitalist Political Economy* (as sole author), and *Varieties of Austerity* (as co-author).

Currently a co-investigator on two SSHRC grants focused on the theory and practice of austerity (*Varieties of Austerity* and *Alternatives to Austerity*), Dr. Whiteside also contributes op-eds and provides interviews to news outlets such as *The Toronto Star* and *The Globe and Mail,* particularly in relation to issues surrounding public infrastructure, public services, health care, and public finance in Canada.

In addition to teaching and research, Dr. Whiteside is co-coordinator of the Waterloo Political Economy Group (WatPEG), Associate Editor of the journal *Studies in Political Economy,* and an International Corresponding Editor with the journal *Urban Studies.*

**RECENT COURSES TAUGHT:**

- **PSCI 231** GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS
- **PSCI 300** FOUNDATIONS OF POLITICAL ECONOMY
- **PSCI 428** STATE AND ECONOMIC LIFE
- **PSCI 403** THE UPS AND DOWNS OF CAPITALISM

**DR. WHITESIDE SUPERVISES UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE LEVEL STUDENTS INTERESTED IN ISSUES OF POLITICAL ECONOMY, PUBLIC POLICY, AND CANADIAN POLITICS. RECENT EXAMPLES INCLUDE PROJECTS ON SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUNDS IN OIL AND GAS, AND NEOLIBERAL POLICIES IN CANADA.**

h2whiteside@uwaterloo.ca
WELCOME PROF.
ALANA CATTAPAN

DR. ALANA CATTAPAN

Alana Cattapan will be joining the Department of Political Science as an Assistant Professor in July 2019. Dr. Cattapan's research focuses on gendered inclusion in public policy making, examining relationships between the state, the commercialization of the body, and reproductive labour. In addition to her academic research, she is a Board Member of the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women and part of the organizing group of Rise Up! A Digital Archive of Feminist Activism. She has a doctorate in political science from York University, a Master's degree in women's studies and political science from the University of Toronto, and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Ottawa.

Dr. Cattapan is joining the faculty following two years as an Assistant Professor at the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Saskatchewan, where she was also an Associate Member of the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology. Prior to that appointment, she was a CIHR Postdoctoral Fellow at Novel Tech Ethics in the Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University, focusing on interest group organizing for infertility care, and the governance of reproductive tissues.

Dr. Cattapan's research is organized around three related lines of inquiry: on the limits of theorizing the sale of blood, tissues, organs, and reproductive tissues as labour; on the increasing prevalence of the concept of “women of childbearing age” in biomedical research and public health campaigns and; on notions of expertise, gender, and inclusion in contemporary health policy making. Her work has been funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Canadian Blood Services, the Brocher Foundation, the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation, and the University of Saskatchewan.

She has published peer-reviewed articles in Studies in Political Economy, the Canadian Medical Association Journal, Public Affairs Quarterly, the Canadian Journal of Women and the Law, and the Journal of Medical Ethics among others. She is also the co-editor of Surrogacy in Canada: Critical Perspectives in Law and Policy (Irwin Law, 2018).
POLITICAL SCIENCE
FIELD COURSES

The PSCI 493 course, offered in Spring term, critically examines the role of the IMF and World Bank in the global economy. Students received a unique opportunity to travel to Washington, DC to attend the annual Spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in April of 2019. The conferences were headlined by world experts who spoke on various topics related to global economic issues, poverty, climate change, gender inequality and gender-based violence, IMF and World Bank policies, and much more.

The students participated as non-resident junior fellows at the New Rules for Global Finance. They were given opportunities to interact and network with other NGOs and participants in the Annual Meetings. Students were encouraged to publish blogs and articles on their experiences in outlets such as Huffington Post and OpenCanada.

ONE STUDENT, JENNY TANG, HAD THIS TO SAY ABOUT HER EXPERIENCE:

“The PSCI 493 field course offers valuable opportunities to see practical applications of concepts taught within the classrooms. Traveling to Washington, D.C. to attend the IMF and the World Bank meetings provided us students with a greater understanding of the diverse functions and interests of these organizations. It allowed us to critically question the validity of how these international organizations have a hand in effecting change on a variety of political, social and economic concerns on a global scale. For instance, the IMF and the World Bank are major actors in areas such as transparency in governance and sustainable agricultural production. As a political science student, I found value in engaging in respectful discourse with individuals who carried multiple perspectives that have either challenged my own world views or helped strengthened my opinions.”
DID YOU KNOW THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE IS THE HOME OF FOUR CAREER-RELEVANT MINORS? STUDENTS ENROLLED IN ANY DEGREE PROGRAM MAY PURSUE A MINOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE.

MINOR IN:

POLITICAL SCIENCE
Designed to foster a deeper understanding of politics across the world at multiple scales (domestic, regional, global) while also allowing students to develop the analytical and professional skills required for success.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
Study transnational connectedness as related to contemporary global issues such as environmental sustainability, global poverty, economic development and protection of human rights.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE
Study the exchange of goods and services across borders, and the far-reaching socioeconomic and political implications.

PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION
Study political institutions within specific countries as well as specific courses on public policy and public administration in Canada and elsewhere.

IF YOU ARE MAJORING IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (REGULAR OR CO-OP STREAM) YOU CAN CHOOSE AN OPTIONAL SPECIALIZATION TO ENRICH YOUR DEGREE:

SPECIALIZE IN:

POLITICS AND BUSINESS
Study the relationship between politics and business, states and markets, economics and politics, and power and wealth.

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE
Study global responses to complex problems including conflict and peace-building, humanitarian crisis, global economic inequality, and environmental change.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Offered jointly with History, the specialization in International Relations combines a strong grounding in international relations theory with courses in the history of inter-state relations.

CANADIAN POLITICS
Study Canadian institutions, Canada's constitutional framework, the development and implementation of public policy in different areas, political party organization and electoral competition, and issues affecting Canada's indigenous people.

LEARN MORE AT:

uwaterloo.ca/political-science/undergraduate/majors-minors-specializations
GRADUATE STUDIES

MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH
Our MA program offers training in all major fields of the discipline, including Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics, Gender and Politics, International Relations, Political Economy, Political Theory, and Public Policy.

With 21 faculty members in our department, our program offers courses, and graduate research supervision across a range of topics and contemporary issues, including:

- American Politics
- Canadian Political Institutions
- Chinese Politics
- Climate Change
- Constitutional Law/Politics
- Counter-Terrorism
- Courts
- Democratic Theory
- Democratization
- Development
- Diplomacy
- Elections and Campaigns
- Environmental and Resource Politics
- Federalism and Multi-Level Governance
- Feminist Theory
- Foreign Policy
- Indigenous Politics
- Inequality
- International Organizations
- International Political Economy
- International Security
- Local Government
- Middle East Politics
- Migration
- Political Marketing
- Political Parties
- Provincial Politics
- Public Administration
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Regime Change
- Rights
- Social Policy
- South Asian Politics
- Trade
- War

GRADUATE STUDENT EXPERIENCE
The MA in Political Science is designed to foster a deeper understanding of politics across the world at multiple scales (domestic, regional, global) while also allowing students to develop analytical and professional skills.

Students in our program have the opportunity to gain professional experience through our co-operative education option, and through teaching and research assistantship positions. They also hone their academic and research skills through organizing and hosting the Department’s annual Political Science Graduate Student Conference, producing the annual graduate student journal Inquiry & Insight, and attending our numerous Speaker Series presentations.

We are proud of our graduate students and their unique achievements, both inside and outside the classroom. Our students are talented researchers, skilled communicators, and engaged individuals who contribute to a thriving and dynamic department culture.

Read more about the Graduate Student Experience at:

uwaterloo.ca/political-science/graduate/student-stories

YOU CAN COMPLETE AN MA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (REGULAR OR CO-OP STREAM) THROUGH THE MASTER’S RESEARCH PAPER OPTION OR THE THESIS OPTION. OUR CO-OP STREAM ENABLES STUDENTS TO COMBINE THEIR ACADEMIC STUDIES WITH PRACTICAL WORK EXPERIENCE IN POSITIONS RELATED TO THEIR PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTORS.

Typical Political Science Master's funding packages:
- 2 terms of paid teaching or research assistantships
- Various scholarships in each term of study
- Total: $15,000 minimum

LEARN MORE AT:

uwaterloo.ca/political-science/graduate
WHAT ON CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN?

One of the things I love about the University of Waterloo is the amount of stuff that is always going on. In the past few years, I’ve been involved with things such as student politics, model united nations, and model parliament. I even had a really interesting part-time job last semester where I was the electoral and reform officer for student elections. In that position, I was responsible for monitoring the student elections throughout that term. It taught me a lot about campaigning and electoral procedure.

However, by far the most valuable extra-curricular activity I’ve been involved in is the Political Science Student’s Association. Currently serving as President, I’ve been involved with the Association for the past few years. During that time, I was able to help organize events with notable guest speakers, build valuable friendships with peers from my PSCI classes, and build great relationships with my professors. This has really helped me build my skills and land a few great co-op jobs.

WHAT PSCI COURSE STOOD OUT TO YOU THE MOST?

While I enjoyed my 100- and 200-level courses, I really love the in-depth look into subjects that my 300- and 400-level courses offer. One example would be a course I took last spring, PSCI 490: US Foreign Policy, taught by Dr. Ettinger. In this course, we examined in detail how US foreign policy has changed since 9/11, and what caused these changes. What stood out especially for me from this course was how much I took away from each week. While I initially thought that most US foreign policy could be explained by looking at events like 9/11, the close look at different theses by numerous scholars was very informative in unraveling this era, and expanding my knowledge. Also, if you take Political Science, all your family and friends will ask you about American politics – and this course certainly taught me what to say to sound smart to them.

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE ABOUT BEING PART OF THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT?

What I’m going to take most from the Political Science Department is certainly how to find employment. Being part of the co-op program, I’ve learned how to craft a compelling resume and cover letter to the employers in my field, as well as knowing how to ace their interviews. If I were not going to UWaterloo PSCI, I don’t think I would have been able to craft these professional skills, and these skills have led me to some great opportunities – for instance, for my first co-op I worked in a private school in Switzerland. From there on, I’ve worked at the Writing Centre at the University of Waterloo, and this summer I am working at a Risk Analysis firm in Toronto. The technical focus of the department has really helped me to find and seize these opportunities to the fullest extent possible.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO INCOMING PSCI STUDENTS?

Something that really made my first few years in PSCI special was being involved in extracurricular activities. While you meet some people through classes, you start really making lasting friendships and connections through extracurricular stuff. Political Science itself is a discipline, which I find really requires participation outside of the classroom to get the most out of – be it volunteering for a political party, helping with student elections, participating in political simulations, or just watching elections with friends. I’ve always found that the UWaterloo environment gave me the opportunities for me to excel both inside and outside the classroom.
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UNDERGRADUATE CO-OP STUDENT PROFILE

MICHELLE GONZALEZ GOMEZ

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO MAJOR IN PSCI?
I had not seriously considered a major in Political Science prior to commencing my undergraduate studies; that’s why I advise anyone going into university to be incredibly open minded with your studies. I took PSCI 100 out of sheer curiosity and ended up doing really well in it, so I took that as a sign that I should continue it into my second semester. Then I took PSCI 150 and it was my lowest mark that term. I attribute this to pure test anxiety and the difficulty of transitioning from creative writing to academic writing. I highlight this because it’s important for incoming students to not be discouraged by things that can be improved upon, and to not let it hold them back from pursuing something that piques their interest. PSCI sparked a passion in me that I didn’t know I had. It opened my eyes to dynamics in the world that are unseen to those outside of the major. I love engaging in conversation with people about the subjects I continue to learn, and I find that more often than not, people really appreciate the perspective we bring to the table.

WHAT CO-OP POSITIONS HAVE YOU HELD?
I was a Copyright Intern for the Trust & Safety team at Wattpad Technology Inc., a Junior Business Advisor at the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, a Customer Experience Intern at Flipp Corporation, and I am currently a Legislative Learner with the Procedural Services Branch at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. I will continue this last non-partisan role into my final co-op term, however, I will be placed with a party caucus.

WHAT WAS YOUR BEST CO-OP EXPERIENCE?
It’s tough to say which my best co-op experience was because they’ve all been such distinct experiences in the way that they attributed to my personal and professional growth. Holistically, my first co-op position with Wattpad taught me the most. I think what everyone expects from their co-op is the technical experience, and while hands down I got the most from Wattpad, it wasn’t what I valued the most from that co-op. There I learned what it means to have a manager that is invested in your professional and personal development as a student; what it means to work as part of a team; the diverse professional opportunities that there are beyond what’s typically highlighted to students; that a balanced work life is possible in the right environment; and finally, that when you love your job and believe in the work you’re doing, you will naturally excel at it.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO INCOMING POLITICAL SCIENCE CO-OP STUDENTS?
The single most important piece of advice I give the incoming Political Science students is to not let yourself get discouraged and persevere – when one door closes, another one opens. It’s easy to feel intimidated or inferior because of the competitive nature that is job hunting. Avoid comparing yourself to your peers. Don’t be afraid to ask for advice – I’ve gone to professors, the CECA centre, fellow students, and former co-workers for advice on my resume, interview skills, cover letters, etc. Everyone has always been happy to help. Finally, mix it up and keep an open mind about different jobs. Co-op has been great for figuring out what I liked and didn’t like. The jobs that I thought I’d like the most ended up being my least favourite. Your aspirations will either shift along the way or become more cemented, and the experience is as terrifying as it is enlightening.
GAIN PRACTICAL RESEARCH SKILLS

JEREMIAH JOHNSON
Worked with Dr. Eric Helleiner

WHAT WERE YOUR RA DUTIES?
As an RA, my tasks revolved around conducting literature searches, discussing key concepts and preparing research briefs. In addition to these responsibilities, I met with Dr. Helleiner every few weeks to discuss core concepts and ideas he was writing about in his draft manuscripts.

I also assisted Dr. Helleiner with the preparation of his draft manuscript, which was in its final stages. This involved reading the manuscript, as well as providing comments and insightful criticism regarding core concepts, ideas, and theories.

WERE THERE ANY SPECIFIC SKILLS YOU LEARNED WHILE WORKING ON THE PROJECT?
As an RA, it is extremely important to have strong analytical and research skills, although I had extensive research experience, I learned how to synthesize broad topics into more narrow key ideas. I also learned how to conduct a historical review, which was something I had very little experience with prior to my RAship with Dr. Helleiner.

WHAT WAS/IS THE BEST PART OF YOUR RA?
There are many really great enjoyable things about being an RA. I really enjoyed the research I was doing, because Dr. Helleiner was also my MRP supervisor, we shared a common interest in Political Economy which made the research topics I was examining that much more enjoyable. In addition, I was able to use my RA position to advance my own MRP by linking some of the work Dr. Helleiner was doing to my own MRP interests and research, which I found very helpful. Lastly, I gained important insight into the academic profession. I learned about the academic rigor and duties involved in academic research, and the importance of time management.

On a personal level, I really enjoyed working with Dr. Helleiner, and I would highly advise incoming students to seek out faculty members and see if RA positions are available. At its core, being an RA can add a wealth of research experience to your resume, and give you a better idea of the duties and responsibilities professors deal with on a daily basis.
JACQUELINE HARBER

Project Title: Judicial Amendment of the Constitution

WHAT WERE YOUR RA DUTIES?
My duties included researching the topic of “Judicial Amendment of the Constitution”. I had the privilege to work with Dr. Emmett Macfarlane on this project where I was responsible for exploring the current literature on this topic. I also had to pay close attention when reviewing potential articles and sources as the topic is unique and I had to avoid confusing it with judicial review or interpretation. Overall, I assisted with finding sources to help conceptualize what judicial amendment to the Constitution would look like in a Canadian perspective.

WHAT SKILLS DID YOU GAIN WHILE UNDERTAKING THE RESEARCH PROJECT?
Working for Dr. Macfarlane was an incredibly rewarding experience. Conducting research outside of my coursework was something I had never done before and I was grateful for this opportunity to try something new and learn from it. The main skill I gained in this role was research skills, which goes hand in hand with organization. For this project, I had to organize my research based on themes and countries. I also had to adapt to different search engines and work at reframing search phrases to find different results. As well, as a graduate student with other deadlines, time management was key. I had to stay on top of my schedule with my coursework and hours for research while meeting deadlines. Finally, this role strengthened my self-initiative as I scheduled meetings with librarians and Dr. Macfarlane to ensure I was doing everything I could as a Research Assistant, along with motivating myself to think critically about a new topic.

As a graduate student, all of these skills will now help me with writing my own Major Research Paper.

WHAT WAS THE BEST PART OF YOUR RA?
The best part of this research opportunity for me was to pursue my other interest in the discipline of Political Science – Canadian Politics. My research interests as a graduate student focus on international relations and international human rights, which is why I took courses on those topics. However, during my undergraduate degree I really enjoyed the subfield of Canadian Politics, thus I was happy this opportunity allowed me to explore this interest again. Also, working with a professor is a great opportunity to network and to learn from their experiences in their role while expanding my own skillset. It was a pleasure to work with Dr. Macfarlane.
LEEN QADER

The University of Waterloo was amongst my top choices for graduate school. Coming to Waterloo, I was keen on meeting my supervisor Dr. Bessma Momani and other faculty members. I found that every professor I had met with was very approachable and helpful in terms of asking for guidance on our courses or potential MA topics. My particular interest in pursuing graduate school stemmed from my desire to continue in the academic sector. This is particularly why I liked that Waterloo gave me the chance to work as a teaching assistant. Having the opportunity to lead tutorials allowed me to experience teaching and discussion facilitation first-hand. During the fall semester of 2018, I was assigned as a TA for PSCI 100, which was taught by Profs. Macfarlane and Esselment. As a TA, I had to lead discussions, mark assignments and exams, and allocate office hours for students. I found that I enjoyed teaching students and engaging in discussions about assigned readings and relevant themes.

In the winter semester, I was assigned as the Head TA for PSCI 150 with Profs. Ettinger and Lanoszka. I found that being the Head TA was also a great experience that taught me more about managing discussions and grades and it allowed me to engage more with students in terms of requests and general enquiries. It was particularly fun engaging with students during office hours and helping them with their questions because it gave me more teaching experience. But perhaps the best part about being a TA was the ability to hear the opinions of young minds and share their perspective on global affairs while contributing to their learning. I was also quite happy that because I enjoyed teaching, I did not find myself struggling between keeping up with my courses and being a TA. It actually allowed me to focus more on my topic through connecting me with more people and allowing me to consult with them on my topic. Professor Ettinger has been particularly helpful and guiding in both regards, being my second reader and the professor for PSCI 150 (thank you for always keeping your door open!). During the summer, I will continue to work on my MRP to deliver a promising paper on the ineffectiveness of the Saudi-led blockade on Qatar, a topic that is particularly interesting to me, and one that I am keen on exploring and analyzing. Overall, I am happy to be a part of the graduate cohort at the University of Waterloo and a TA for courses that help me develop my research interests further.
Professor Daniel Henstra's research and teaching centre on public policy (courses of action governments choose to address societal problems) and public administration (how governments are organized to carry out policy decisions). His courses incorporate hands-on learning through group-based activities in which students apply concepts and techniques to real-world scenarios. Course assignments, such as briefing notes and policy analysis papers, are designed to simulate professional public service work, in order to teach students skills relevant for both public sector and private sector careers.

In his research, Daniel studies complex social problems that require policy responses by federal, provincial and local governments and that demand coordination with the private sector. For instance, in his current SSHRC-funded project, “Multilevel Governance and Climate Change Adaptation Policy in Canada,” he and his team are investigating how governments are preparing for the impacts of climate change in cities. In another project, “Effective Flood Risk Governance in a Changing Climate,” he and his team are studying the governance of flood risk management in Canada. Funded by the MEOPAR Network, this project aims to identify strategies to strengthen urban flood resilience.

Students play an important role in Daniel’s research projects. Their capabilities with specialized methods have enabled his team to pursue new avenues of inquiry and their ideas and creativity have enriched both the research questions and data analysis. Involvement in Daniel’s research projects has equipped students with transferable skills such as defining research questions, specifying propositions, collecting and analyzing evidence, and disseminating results through scholarly articles, policy briefs, conference papers, and project reports.
My first position following graduation (Professional Skills Communications and Events Specialist) and my current role (Graduate Student Experience Specialist) may seem an unconventional career trajectory following a Master of Arts in Political Science; however, the skills and experiences provided to me during my MA were crucial in both securing and succeeding in these rewarding and intellectually engaging positions.

Part way through my first term, my MA cohort was informed of our responsibility to organize the annual Political Science Graduate Student Conference and publish the next copy of the graduate student journal, Inquiry & Insight. A conference committee was formed, and together we were responsible for all aspects of the conference – from selecting presenters and finding a keynote speaker to booking rooms and ordering catering! While I did not think much of this opportunity at the time, my current manager indicated that my involvement on this conference committee – and having experience organizing this event – played a significant role in selecting me for an interview, and the job!

My TA roles were also significant in preparing me for my current position. As a TA, I learned how to facilitate engaging conversations (with help from workshops offered to graduate students from the Centre for Teaching Excellence!), gained skills in giving feedback and had opportunities to provide advice and mentorship to undergraduate students. These opportunities prepared me to supervisor and mentor a co-op student, deliver workshops, and provide constructive feedback to co-workers on collaborative projects.

Finally, while the topic of my research has no direct links to the work I am now doing, I still conduct literature reviews, review data, and perform qualitative analysis of survey responses to ensure that the work that I am doing reflects best practices from the research. The experience conducting a Master’s Research Project set me up to be successful in these projects.

I am thrilled with where my MA in Political Science has taken me so far and am excited to see what other career opportunities unfold as a result of the skills and experiences obtained throughout my degree!
Life brought me a full circle from the field to academia and back to the field. The most exciting part of my academic journey at the Department of Political Science at the University of Waterloo is to connect the dots between what I do in the field, apply it to academia, and then share it with my communities.

My journey at the Political Science Department is one of personal enrichment and a greater calling in life, where I believe in mentoring communities across the globe. I spent almost 12 years of my life in the field in Asia working with the United Nations, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, the World Trade Organization, and the Pakistani civil service. I worked across Asia on Reefer Supply Chain Management, Trade & Transport Facilitation, learning about on the ground pressing human development issues, like child labor, women’s abuse, and girl’s education in world’s biggest shanty towns such as Orangi and Baldia in Karachi. These experiences gave me the chance to navigate through complex rural and urban political power struggles, supply chains controlled by feudal lords and illiberal democracies controlled by military forces.

After coming to Waterloo, I felt that my field experiences needed to be enriched by understanding politics and government, so that I can share what I know and learn from others in an academic research setting. Two people were instrumental in my decision to join political science. One day I ventured to the third floor of Hagey Hall and knocked on the door of the then chair of political science, Professor Richard Nutbrown. We got into one of the best value-added discussions about my past, present, and future life plans. He inspired me to join the political science department, with the promise that political science is fun and that I can do research in my area of interest, praetorian regimes and illiberal democracies. The second person is my mentor, Dr. Sonny Lo, whom I met at a conference and who agreed to be my MRP supervisor. Dr. Lo ignites a student’s passion by giving confidence and constructive criticism. He was instrumental in defining the roadmap, which took in consideration how closely I understood the concept of praetorianism. He gave a true meaning to what an advisor should be, by first understanding and learning my experiences as a former Pakistani civil servant, who trained with the Pakistani army units, its police services, and the air force.

In September 2018, I completed my doctorate degree from University of Western Ontario in Educational Leadership, with my research work on “Reducing marginalization of girls in primary education systems in rural Asia”. During my doctorate research, I realized how important of a role the Political Science department at Waterloo had played in my journey. My MA MRP concentrated on the praetorian state regime under my advisor: Dr. Sonny Lo and my MPS Major Team Project was analyzing Canada’s engagement in Afghanistan under my advisor: Dr. Gerard Boychuk. Both fed directly into my doctorate, as they created that strong base for me to navigate the political, social, and religious stigma attached to girl’s education.

Today, I continue to work in the Waterloo region with students, newcomers, refugees, marginalized, interfaith groups, and women communities, carrying on that greater calling in life that political science and its professors taught me. Their hard work with me has brought me awards like the 2014 University of Waterloo Distinguished Teacher Award and 2019 Region of Waterloo Volunteer Action Centre Community Mentorship Award. These are great learning lessons in life where I can understand relationships underlying global and national political events and conditions. This gives me the ability to customize solutions for various groups and give back to the community I belong to. My firm belief is when a person has achieved certain milestones that they have set in their life, it is time to return to the grassroots and give back to our communities. Not only does this spirit of giving back enrich our societies, but also makes us happy, fulfilled individuals.