**1.**

**PSCI 495 Research Apprenticeship**

**Faculty Supervisor/email/office no:** Veronica Kitchen, vkitchen@uwaterloo.ca

**Term:** Winter 2025

**Project Title:** Discourses about Research Security

**Project Description:** The threat to ‘research’ is emerging in national security discourses in Canada, with new directives for universities to develop policies about research security. In this project, we gather documents, speeches, and debates about research security to investigate how the threat is actually identified.

**Time breakdown:**

5 hours: Review existing documents in the Zotero folder (grey literature)

30 hours: Document collection. Collect documents to include policy documents, political speeches, and parliamentary debates on the topic of research security.

Analyse these documents to understand how the threat to research is defined.

Write a report summarizing findings. Output will be a collection of documents accompanied by a Zotero library containing references, and a report summarizing findings for each province and territory.

5 hours: reflections and check-ins with Dr. Kitchen

**2.**

**PSCI 495 Research Apprenticeship**

**Faculty Supervisor/email/office no:** Dr. Alexander Lanoszka (alexander.lanoszka@uwaterloo.ca, HH 318)

**Term:** Winter 2025

**Project Title:** Literature Review on Disinformation: Causes and Solutions

**Project Description:** The last ten years has seen social scientists produce a massive literature on the use of deliberately deceitful information—that is, disinformation—by hostile actors. The conventional wisdom is that hostile actors engage in disinformation campaigns against democratic societies because it is a relatively cheap way to influence international outcomes to their liking, and that fact-checking and improved social literacy are necessary for pushing back against such bad faith actions. The literature review that the research assistant produces will inform a short monograph I hope to publish on disinformation with a Canadian press.

**Role of Research Assistant:** The research assistant will use Google Scholar to identify and to collect leading articles on the problem of disinformation. The relevant scholarship will mostly be in communication studies, international relations, and comparative political behaviour. The research assistant will then write a literature review that summarizes the key findings made by scholars as well as the body of evidence used to detail the scale of the problem as well as the effectiveness of possible solutions.

**Time breakdown:**

Background reading of scholarly resources 4 hours

Article collection and reading 24 hours

Write annotated report 12 hours

**3.**

**PSCI 495 Research Apprenticeship**

**Faculty Supervisor:** Dr. Veronica Kitchen (vkitchen@uwaterloo.ca) and Dr. Sandra Biskupski-Mujanovic (sbiskups@uwaterloo.ca)

**Term**: Winter 2025

**Project Title:** News Media Analysis: Culture Change in the Canadian Armed Forces

**Project Description:** For the past few years, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) have been in crisis on numerous fronts, including with regard to sexual misconduct, racism, and discrimination. The CAF have responded by establishing Chief Professional Conduct and Culture to unify and integrate all culture change activities across the CAF in order to create a culture that is more welcoming and inclusive. However, with increasing geopolitical insecurity, controversy about defence spending, and social polarization increasing, it is important to understand how news media is shaping conversations around military culture change. This project seeks to understand how CAF Culture Change Initiatives are portrayed in the news and how they are understood.

**Role of Research Assistant:** The research assistant (RA) will collect news articles from a diverse set of media sources (newspapers and magazines) from 2021-present on the topic of culture change in the Canadian Armed Forces and report on trends and themes of what has been captured and how it has been understood.

**Time Breakdown:**

Meetings and check-ins: 3 hours

Written reflections: 3 hours

Background reading of news media: 20 hours

Writing of news media analysis: 14 hours