



The Queen's Political Studies Graduate Student Association Presents
Governance in Crisis? The Politics of Participation & Polarization
Friday & Saturday, May 12th & 13th 2017
Queen's University, Kingston ON

Call for Proposals

Recent years have demonstrated growing concerns surrounding political, economic and social polarization. The effects of polarization are felt both materially and discursively, regarding issues such as socio-economic equality, human security and stability in governance. Despite the growing ability for citizens to participate in and communicate their ideas about political processes, there appears to be an increase in socio-economic divides between diverse identity groups and classes, alongside a contradictory tendency of voter apathy towards longstanding governance institutions. This year, the Queen's PSGSA invites graduate students to speak to the politics and lived experience of this issue area at its 2017 conference, entitled, "**Governance in Crisis? The Politics of Participation and Polarization.**" The conference will also hold a special panel on "**Canada 150,**" in honour of Canada's confederation anniversary.

How has polarization come to define governance in the current world order? How do we respond, domestically and internationally, to an apparent rise in elitism, reactionism, radicalism, and isolationism? What evidence for continuity or change does this discussion of participation and polarization present for broader questions of power, conflict, democracy, and governance?

Kenote Speaker - - Edward Koning, University of Guelph

We invite graduate students (master's and doctoral students), postdoctoral fellows, and recent post-secondary graduates to submit a 250-word abstract on topics that interpret the conference themes of crisis, polarization and participation as well as topics related to politics more generally.

The PSGSA also invites submissions to a **special session** on '**Canada 150**' in honour of the anniversary of confederation. Proposals should address Canadian content and are encouraged to speak to the direction of Canadian politics for the next 150 years. What are the foundations of Canada's political and social architecture? How have traditional divisions in Canadian politics contributed to contemporary issues facing governments today? How has the study of Canadian politics changed over time and what directions can we anticipate from Canadianists in approaches to the study of an increasingly diverse Canada? What social, economic, political, and constitutional challenges will Canadians face in the coming decades?

Melanee Thomas, University of Calgary, will deliver the Canada 150 Keynote Speaker Presentation on Women and Participation in Canadian Politics

Please email queens.psgsa.conference@gmail.com your **250-word abstract by February 20, 2017**. If you would like to be considered for travel and accommodation assistance or would also like to participate in the conference as a discussant or chair, please indicate this when you submit your abstract and we will contact you with further details. If you have a question regarding the suitability of a paper topic, or any other inquiries, please email the PSGSA conference for guidance.

Topics of concern which embrace the conference theme include **but are not limited to**:

- Forms of polarization across social, economic, identity, and other issue areas
- New challenges brought forth by goals of enhanced participation in politics, technology, social media
- Electoral politics, right-wing movements and radicalisation
- Local and global politics of gender empowerment and feminism
- Population growth and migration, refugee and diaspora populations
- Climate change, energy policy, and the environment and the politicization of science and technology
- (Human) Security and challenges in addressing global trends of civil and international conflict
- Issues of insularism and globalism in international relations and international security

The conference will be held over 1½ days, where researchers will present and discuss their papers in a panel format. Following the conference, a selection of papers and proceedings will be compiled for publication.

See <https://queenspsgsa.wordpress.com/> for updated information about the conference.

The conference committee is grateful for the support of the following organisations:

The Department of Political Studies | The School of Policy Studies | The Faculty of Law
The Centre for the Study of Democracy & Diversity | The Institute of Intergovernmental Relations
The Centre for International and Defense Policy | The Law Students Society | PSAC Local 901