How do Territorial and Power Configurations Affect Constitutional Transitions?
Thursday, November 28, 2019, 2:30pm—4:00 pm
Mackintosh-Corry Hall, Room D216

About the Roundtable: Constitutional transitions, when major changes to a regime are in question, can create challenging politics. They can be influenced by preceding conditions (violent, as in Nepal and Ethiopia; relatively peaceful as in Bolivia and Spain), and by the emerging power configuration (clear victor, Nigeria; standoff, Kenya). The pattern of territorial and other cleavages will influence the design options considered (federal, special autonomy, power-sharing), but outcomes are not foreordained. The panelists all contributed to a new volume Territory and Power in Constitutional Transitions (OUP), edited by Anderson and Choudhry.

George Anderson
After a career as a federal official, including as a deputy minister, George Anderson became CEO of the Forum of Federations and then served as a member of the UN mediation unit’s team of stand-by experts. He has consulted on political regimes in over 20 countries and is the author and editor of books on federalism.

Sujit Choudhry
Sujit Choudhry is an internationally recognized authority on comparative constitutional law, and is a leading expert on the Canadian constitution. He has been an advisor to constitution building, governance, and rule of law processes for over two decades, including in Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Myanmar, Nepal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Ukraine and Yemen.

John McGarry
John McGarry is a professor of Political Studies at Queen’s University and specializes in ethnic conflict and conflict resolution, and particularly on how power-sharing and federalism can be used to promote peace, stability and prosperity in deeply divided polities. McGarry has worked on several deeply divided polities, including Northern Ireland, Cyprus and Iraq.

Marie-Joëlle Zahar
Marie-Joëlle Zahar is professor of Political Science and Director of the Research Network on Peace Operations at the Université de Montréal. A Senior non-resident fellow at the International Peace Institute, she specializes in the study of non-state armed actors and is currently working on the impact of changes in the global landscape of conflicts on UN mediation.

Margaret Moore (Moderator)
Margaret Moore is a professor of Political Studies at Queen’s University. She has a wide range of interests in contemporary political philosophy. Her interests include territorial justice, global distributive justice, just war theory, historical injustice, democratic theory, rights, nationalism, multiculturalism, immigration, and selected theorists in the history of political thought.