Queen's UNIVERSITY Political Studies

Department of Political Studies Graduate Students Association 2023 Graduate Conference

Emerging Technologies in the Age of Digital Censorship, Surveillance, and Repression

Monday, June 26, 2023
9:00-5:30 PM (ET)
Robert Sutherland Hall | Room 202
OR via Zoom
138 Union Street, Kingston

The Political Studies Graduate Students Association
Graduate Conference Committee is very pleased to acknowledge
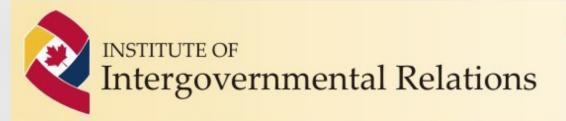the support and generous sponsorship of the following:

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**Department of Political Studies
Graduate Students Association
2023 Graduate Conference Program**

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Monday, June 26, 2023
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Each panel will consist of:
Four graduate student presentations (4 x 12 minutes),
12 minutes for Discussant, and a 30 minute Q&A session

If attending via Zoom, please click the link below to join the webinar:

https://queensu.zoom.us/j/95675124538?pwd=c0FFSGFtbjNZVFdjWit0a09rS3Z6dz09
Passcode: 727549

***The following program may be subject to modifications as required**

8:15-9:00AM | Arrival, light continental breakfast, and welcome

**9:00-9:15AM | Introductory Remarks and Welcome (Dr. Stéphanie Martel)
Opening Remarks (Dr. David Last)**

9:15-10:45AM | PANEL 1: *Digital Censorship and Governance* **(Discussant: Badriyya Yusuf)**

Paper 1 - *Steering innovations with meta-governance* - Intan Fitri Meutia and Devi Yulianti
Paper 2 - *The new face of techno-authoritarianism: How emerging economies are shaping the rules of international digital governance to their advantage* - Panthea Pourmalek and Danielle Youlan Luo
Paper 3 - *Digital authoritarianism, border control and contagion in Covid-19 crisis* - Lingyu Jing
Paper 4 - *Unpacking the "pre-event" in by-stander video of police militarization tactics on un-housed communities* - Chante Barnwell

10:45-11:00AM | Health Break

2023 Graduate Conference Program, continued...

11:00AM-12:30PM | PANEL 2: *Technology, Human Rights and Online Activism* **(Discussant: Amarnath Amarasingam)**

Paper 1 - *SubRosa's cyberfeminist practices: Visualizing the apparatuses of surveillance in reproductive health technologies* - Anna Douglas
Paper 2 - *The people of Facebook (sha'b al-faysbūk): Online Moroccan influencers simplifying politics on social media* - Hamdi Echkaou
Paper 3 - *Digital activism and the illusion of social change: An interrogation of the #EndSARS protest* – Dare Leke Idowu
Paper 4 - *Fighting from afar – technological distance and its influence on armed conflicts* - Katharina Storch

12:30-1:30PM | Noon-hour Keynote & Lunch | Keynote Speaker: Col. Ryan Jurkowski

1:30-3:00PM | PANEL 3: *Surveillance and Repression in a Digital Age* **(Discussant: Michael Murphy)**

Paper 1 - *Surveilling to secure? Exploring justifications for contemporary surveillance* - Amelia C. Arsenault
Paper 2 - *Caught between economics and espionage: Understanding Canada's delicate dance with China* - Anjana Balachandran and Yasmin Abdul Malik
Paper 3 - *Internal digital repression in Palestine* - Ghadir A. Awad
Paper 4 - *Surveillance and repression in a digital age: The rise of neoliberal retrenchment and the use of surveillance tools in social welfare in Ontario* - Sarah Arbaji

3:00-3:15PM | Health Break

3:15-4:45PM | PANEL 4: *Digital Technology and National Security* **(Discussant: Surulola Eke)**

Paper 1 - *Nigeria's cyber diplomacy in Africa: A new border approach?* - Olusola Ogunnubi
Paper 2 - *Reflections on the cyber guillotine; 'cancel culture' and epistemic hardening* - Abigail Bergeron
Paper 3 - *Harnessing digital technology in national security: An examination of Canadian Intelligence Services' adoption of emerging technologies* - Kip Ip

4:45-5:15PM | Closing Keynote | Keynote Speaker: Dr. Seva Gunitsky

5:15-5:30PM | Final Reflections & Closing of Conference

2023 Graduate Conference Participant Biographies

INVITED GUESTS

Amarnath Amarasingam is an Assistant Professor in the School of Religion, and is cross-appointed to the Department of Political Studies, at Queen's University in Ontario, Canada. He is also a Senior Fellow with the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation. His research interests are in terrorism, radicalization and extremism, online communities, diaspora politics, post-war reconstruction, and the sociology of religion. He is the author of Pain, Pride, and Politics: Sri Lankan Tamil Activism in Canada (2015), and the co-editor of Sri Lanka: The Struggle for Peace in the Aftermath of War (2016). He has also published over 40 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, has presented papers at over 100 national and international conferences, and has written for The New York Times, The Monkey Case, The Washington Post, CNN, Politico, The Atlantic, and Foreign Affairs. He has been interviewed on CNN, PBS Newshour, CBC, BBC, and a variety of other media outlets. He tweets at @AmarAmarasingam.

Surulola Eke is the latest Banting Postdoctoral Fellow to join the Department of Political Studies. Working with supervisor Dr. Andrew Grant, his research agenda focuses on the linkages between autochthony, natural resources, and conflicts in West Africa. Dr. Eke has published on these linkages and related security governance themes in several scholarly journals, including Third World Quarterly, Journal of Global Security Studies, Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs, Peace Research, and African Security Review. His high-impact scholarship has resulted in many academic awards and fellowships, including the University of Manitoba's most prestigious doctoral fellowship, which fully funded Dr. Eke's graduate studies. The importance of Dr. Eke's research agenda was further affirmed via the recipient of Canada's most prestigious postdoctoral award, the Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship, which recognizes scholarly excellence and leadership in academic settings.

Seva Gunitsky is an associate professor of political science at the University of Toronto. He is the author of Aftershocks: Great Powers and Domestic Reforms in the Twentieth Century (Princeton University Press), selected by Foreign Affairs as one of the best books of 2017. Some of his work has appeared in International Organization, International Studies Quarterly, International Theory, and Perspectives on Politics, as well as popular outlets like Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, The Washington Post, The New Republic, and others.

Colonel Ryan Jurkowski joined the Canadian Armed Forces as a Sapper in 1993 with 3 Field Engineer Squadron prior to receiving his commission and joining the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa. Colonel Jurkowski then proudly served with the Van Doos from 1997-1999 prior to changing his Regimental Affiliation to the PPCLI in 1999. Colonel Jurkowski is currently a Visiting Defence Fellow at Queen's University.In addition to national and international commendations, Colonel Jurkowski has been awarded the US Joint Service Commendation Medal, a Mention-in-Dispatch, and the Meritorious Service Medal. Colonel Jurkowski has a Masters in Defence Studies.

David Last teaches political science at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC). He is a graduate of RMC, NPSIA, the London School of Economics, and the US Army Command and General Staff College. He served for 30 years in the Canadian army including NATO and UN duties, and has been teaching at RMC and the Canadian Forces College since 1999. He was RMC registrar for three years, and has been program chair of Military Strategic Studies, Department Head of Politics and Economics, and academic advisor to the Noncommissioned Member Executive Professional Development Program (NEPDP). He is currently the Secretary to the International Society of Military Sciences (www.isofms.org). He researches conflict management and professional military education, teaches political science, and has published more than sixty chapters and articles on peacekeeping, professional military education and conflict.

Stéphanie Martel is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Studies, Scientific Director of the Centre for International and Defence Policy, and incoming Director of the Network for Strategic Analysis (Réseau d'analyse stratégique). She is also a Distinguished Fellow at the Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada. Her research is on multilateral diplomacy and regional security governance, with a focus on Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific. Dr. Martel's work has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as International Studies Quarterly, International Affairs, European Journal of International Relations, International Studies Perspectives, PS: Political Science & Politics, and The Pacific Review, among others. She is the author of Enacting the Security Community: ASEAN's Never-Ending Story (2022, Stanford University Press). Dr. Martel regularly represents Canada in various expert diplomacy mechanisms and policy dialogues on issues of Indo-Pacific security, including the ASEAN Regional Forum's Eminent and Expert Persons Group and the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific. She is a member of the Research Network on Women, Peace and Security.

2023 Graduate Conference Participant Biographies

INVITED GUESTS, continued

Michael Murphy is a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Political Studies. He completed his PhD at the University of Ottawa and received an MA in the Collaborative Political and Legal Thought Program at Queen's University. Michael's Banting Postdoctoral Fellow project, the Active Teaching, Assessment, and Evaluation in Political Science (ATAEPS) study, is the first large-scale research study examining assessment and evaluation practices in political science education. This research complements ongoing pedagogical debates related to curricular development as well as innovative teaching techniques. Michael's disciplinary research explores the intersection of international relations and political theory. He has published one book and over thirty peer-reviewed articles, garnering 1200 citations. He currently serves as section president of the Active Learning in International Affairs Section of the International Studies Association. His work can be found here.

Badriyya Yusuf is an academic and practitioner of international politics and international development. Building on her academic background, she has worked on diverse issues of sustainable international development such as gender, health, post-conflict reconstruction, and digital inclusion with non-profit and non-governmental organizations in Canada, West, and South Africa. This work is evidence-based. She is SSHRC recipient for her research. Her dissertation focuses on intersections between Internet governance and digital taxation. Badriyya's research focuses on diverse issues of sustainable international development such as gender, health, post-conflict reconstruction, and digital inclusion with non-profit and non-governmental organizations in Canada, West, and South Africa.

PRESENTERS

Yasmin Abdul Malik is currently a Juris Doctor candidate at the University of Ottawa. With a strong dedication to her academic pursuits, Yasmin has excelled in her studies of business and law, garnering recognition from the Dean of the Telfer School of Management for her exceptional performance as one of the top students. Yasmin's aptitude for legal research and writing was acknowledged through her recognition as the recipient of the best written factum award in the University of Ottawa Gowling Moot Competition. Furthermore, Yasmin's research and writing acumen shone through her published article in the Just magazine of the Ontario Bar Association, which was the culmination of her work during the Law Practice Program. During 1L, Yasmin started working in tax law. Prior to her tax law internship, Yasmin gained practical experience in a legal and advocacy environment while working at Independent Living Canada. Her responsibilities included conducting extensive research on disability rights. This experience fostered Yasmin's awareness of the legal frameworks in place to protect the rights of marginalized communities and furthered her commitment to promoting social justice through advocacy. She is currently working on research at the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa regarding different mediation and arbitration methods. Driven by a profound interest in the field of tax law, Yasmin aspires to embark on a fulfilling career as a tax lawyer.

Sarah Arbaji is a first year PhD student in the Political Science department at McMaster University based in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Her research focuses on the Ontario and Quebec Poverty Reduction Strategies and their scope and their trajectory since their establishment in the early 2000s. The impetus of this research is to analyze how social welfare policies are formed, and how this impacts their evolution over time, particularly through federal configurations at the subnational level. Prior to joining the Political Science department in 2022, she earned her Master of Arts in Public Policy and Public Administration at Toronto Metropolitan University in 2021 and worked as a junior analyst in the Ministry of the Attorney General for almost a year. Before that, she was a teacher in Toronto and the Middle East for over 10 years, which ignited her passion for learning.

Amelia C. Arsenault is a PhD student at Cornell University's Department of Government. Her research considers the effects of artificial intelligence on international politics, with a particular interest in the global proliferation of contemporary surveillance and smart city technologies. Recently, she has begun developing a project to analyze the factors that influence states' decisions to implement export restrictions on sensitive and emerging technologies. She has been published in the Canadian Foreign Policy Journal, International Politics, International Studies, and the Harvard Business Review, and has co-authored chapters in books published by Oxford University Press and Routledge.

PRESENTERS, continued

Ghadir Awad is a Ph.D. student at the School of Information, University of Michigan, specializing in researching digital media in Palestine. Her research focuses on shedding light on the challenges faced by voices expressing critical opinions in unique digital media contexts. She addresses issues such as internal digital repression, digital activism, algorithm bias, digital surveillance, and content moderation, bringing attention to the atrocities committed by both internal and external forces. Ghadir's research interests encompass Collective Intelligence and Organizational Technology, ICTs and Social Change, Privacy and Security, STS, Social Media, and Social Computing.

Anjana Balachandran is a rising senior at the University of Ottawa pursuing an Honors in Political Science. This summer, Anjana was chosen for the Sumita Dixit Internship for International Security at Global Affairs Canada, where she will be working in the Division for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. Anjana had recently completed an internship at Public Safety Canada. This month Anjana represented Canada at the NATO Youth Summit in Washington DC. Her experience also extended to international policy research through internships with the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania and the NATO Association of Canada. She contributed to Canada's peacekeeping initiatives as a Research Intern at the Rideau Institute. Selected for the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, her research focused on topics related to gun violence and gun control in the Canadian context. On campus, she actively contributed as a student mentor at the Faculty of Social Science. Anjana also ran a social enterprise addressing food insecurity in Ottawa's food deserts to address social and economic challenges in communities locally. Anjana received the 2023 Mayor Andrée P. Boucher Memorial Scholarship for young women in politics, Canadian Defence and Security Network Excellence Scholarship, HSBC Women's Entrepreneurial Scholarship, and Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers.

Chante Barnwell (She/Her) is a full-time Doctoral student in Socio-Legal Studies and a graduate teaching assistant in the Law and Society program within the Department of Social Science at York University in Toronto, Canada. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Public Policy and Administration and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Documentary Media, both from Toronto Metropolitan University. In addition, she obtained her Honours Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toronto, where she specialized in Art and Culture, majored in Studio Visual Arts and minored in Art History. Her research interests include cultural criminology, law and racialization, human rights studies, Canadian cultural policy, media and critical archival studies.

Abigail Bergeron I am a Queen's MA Candidate in Philosophy, having completed my undergrad in Philosophy at Trent University and my law degree at Swansea University. In September I will be starting my PhD in Philosophy and my Masters of Laws here at Queen's. My research interests include the philosophy of technology, Continental political philosophy and philosophy of law, particularly constitutional jurisprudence and freedom of speech. My current research for my Master's thesis is focused on technological determinism and the phenomenology and skill of driving as a focal practice.

Anna Douglas is an MA candidate in Art History at Queen's University. She holds a BAH in Art History from Queen's University and a BA in Gender and Women's Studies from Dalhousie University. Her MA research looks at the cyberfeminist art collective subRosa and their contributions to cyberfeminisms in the late-'90s and early-2000s. More broadly, her research explores feminist art practices, with an emphasis on internet activisms that are grounded in networked technologies and performance. Anna centres feminist, queer, and post-colonial theories in her research, exploring the uses of technology as a medium in art histories, and technology's relationship to alternative publics.

Hamdi Echkaou has joined Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane (AUI) in Morocco as an Assistant Professor of Communications Media in the Fall 2022. In 2018, Dr. Echkaou earned his Ph.D. in Humanities from Mohamed V University in Rabat. He studied Cyberspace Discourses of the Youth Movement. This academic year Dr. Echkaou is finalizing his dissertation in Communications Media and Instructional Technology doctoral program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) where he also was working as a Teaching Associate in the Communications Media Department.

Intan Fitri Meutia is an accomplished academic with a strong background in Public Administration and a notable career in the field of research and education. She completed her undergraduate studies in Public Administration at Lampung University in 2008, where she gained a solid foundation in the principles and practices of public management. Building upon her undergraduate degree, Intan Fitri Meutia pursued a Master's in Administration at the University of Indonesia, further deepening her knowledge and solidifying her understanding of administrative processes and their application in various contexts. In 2016, Intan Fitri Meutia took her academic journey to the next level by obtaining a doctoral degree in Human and Socio- Environmental Studies from Kanazawa University in Japan. Currently, Intan Fitri Meutia holds the position of associate professor and serves as the Chairperson of the ASEAN Study Center at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Lampung University. Her research interests are primarily centered around public management and policy. She has made significant contributions to the field through her extensive scholarly contributions, having published numerous research papers and articles in reputable international journals. Her work showcases a deep commitment to advancing knowledge and understanding in the realm of Public Administration, informing policy development and implementation.

PRESENTERS, continued

Kip Ip, a candidate for Master of Public Administration (MPA) at Queen's University, Canada, is a distinguished holder of a finance MBA from the University of Birmingham, England, and a Master of Science in Financial Economics from the University of London, England. He brings two decades of experience as a consultant at David Petrie Management Consultancy, Toronto, concentrating on Corporate Governance and Strategic Management. His credential as a Chartered Corporate Governance Professional from the Chartered Governance Institute of Canada elevates his expertise. His research delves into the captivating amalgamation of digital technology and national security, studying how Canadian intelligence services leverage emerging technologies, including AI, big data analytics, and biometrics. His insightful paper, "Harnessing Digital Technology in National Security: An Examination of Canadian Intelligence Services' Adoption of Emerging Technologies," was presented at the 2023 PSGSA Graduate Conference. Furthermore, Ip actively contributes to the PSGSA's edited volume, demonstrating his commitment to fostering knowledge and discourse in his field. His persistent research and work are indicative of his fervor for deciphering the complex domain of national security in the contemporary digital age.

Lingyu Jing is a first-year PhD student in political science at McMaster University. He holds a master's degree in political science (Cultural, Social and Political Thought Concentration) from the University of Victoria and a bachelor's degree in management from Dalian Maritime University in China. He specializes in the intersection of international relations and political theory. His research interest covers critical security studies, states of emergency, historical IR, history of political thought, Judeo-Christian political theology, political rituals and symbolism. His current PhD project is on the concept of state sovereignty from the perspectives of political theology and international law. It aims to investigate how the Westphalian international order was derived from the religious ideas of divine sovereignty, sacrificial violence, monotheism and eschatology.

Dare Leke Idowu is an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Bowen University Iwo, Nigeria where he is researching Cultural Diplomacy, the Soft Power of African States, Regional Power Dynamics, Armed Conflicts and Digital activism. His recent articles have been published in the Creative Industries Journal, Round Table Journal, and the Journal of Contemporary African Studies. He has also contributed chapters to books published by Routledge, Palgrave Macmillan, and Lexington Books.

Olusola (Shola) Ogunnubi (he/him) is a Doctoral Student at Queen's University, Canada. He is also a Teaching and Research Assistant in the same department and with the Centre for International and Defence Policy (CIDP). Before arriving in Canada for graduate studies, he was a lecturer at the School of Social Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa from 2011 to 2014. On different occasions, he was also visiting scholar at various universities in Canada including the Department of Political Science, Carleton University and the University of Victoria's Centre for Global Studies, as well as the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies Institute for African Affairs, Hamburg, Germany. His research interests include norm dynamics, resource governance, African agency, regional power studies, African diplomacy, and soft power politics. He has published several articles in scholarly journals including Politikon, South African Journal of International Affairs, Journal of Contemporary African Studies, Journal of Developing Societies, International Journal of Culture, Politics and Society, Politiea, and Insight on Africa. Olusola also holds an Advanced Diploma in Higher Education and previously worked as a political staffer with the Alberta UCP Caucus. The major theme of his doctoral research is African agency and resource governance norms in the extractive industry. His doctoral research is funded by SSHRC and the Robert Sutherland Fellowship.

Panthea Pourmalek is a Senior Research Officer and Specialist for the Middle East and North Africa at the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), and holds a Master of Public Policy from the University of British Columbia. Her research and professional interests lie in gender, peace and security, cybersecurity, and global tech governance. Her current research projects explore global governance of digital data and trade, documenting and archiving in conflict-affected contexts, and women-led peacebuilding in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Lebanon.

Katharina Storch (she/her) is a PhD student from the University of Tübingen/Germany, who is visiting Queen's University from May to the end of October, 2023. Usually, she is located at the University of Hagen, Germany, where she is teaching in the department of political science. As a research fellow, she contributes to the project CoVio, a joint research project on collective violence. With her dissertation she explores the intersection of social dynamics and democratic wars. Her research interests include democratic wars, warfare, genocides and dynamics of collective violence.

PRESENTERS, continued

Danielle Youlan Luo works at the nexus between geopolitics and financial markets. Her research primarily focuses on global tech governance, how data regulations can support both privacy protection and digital economies, geopolitical and political risk management. She earned a BA in Political Science and International Relations from the University of British Columbia.

Devi Yulianti is an accomplished academic in the field of Public Administration. She currently holds the position of associate professor at Lampung University in Indonesia. Her education journey began at Lampung University, where she obtained her Bachelor of Public Administration degree in 2007. After completing her undergraduate studies, Devi pursued a Master's program in Administrative Science at the University of Indonesia. She attended the program from 2010-2012, focusing on developing her expertise in administrative studies. Continuing her academic pursuits, Devi embarked on a doctoral degree at the College of Local Administration, Khon Kaen University in Thailand, in 2021. Her research focuses on her doctoral program in Public Affairs Management. She explores Advanced Public Policy Analysis, Governance and Public Affairs, and Political Economy. Her research pursuits and teaching experiences contribute to advancing the field and educating future public administrators.