

MARCH NEWS

FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE (FPAC)

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter!

Message from the Director

From Dr. Voula Marinos

Program Director of FPAC and Associate Professor within CHYS



Dear Students,

Congratulations in making your way to completing your first year of FPAC!

Although 2021/22 has been a unique year with virtual learning and a lockdown, we hope that you feel positive about your time at Brock so far. Year 1 of any university program is full of new beginnings- new content, routines, people, and expectations. Most students are transitioning in so many ways. We hope that our multiple communications, advising supports, student events, and speaker series have helped you through this transition.

We were excited to launch our Speaker Series in January 2022 and welcome our first speaker, the Honourable Justice Richard Schneider. His talk illustrated the multiple points in the criminal process at which mental illness and impairment can be considered. The criminal process can be complex and is certainly compounded when there are issues of "mental disorder" under the criminal law. A recording of his talk can be found on our FPAC website. Our next event will be about policing and will feature our very own Dr. Angela Book and a representative from the Niagara Regional Police. You can find more details on page two! Events like these will be held two to three times per year.

HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

1 - MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

2 - IMPORTANT INFO AND UPCOMING FPAC EVENT

3 - SPOTLIGHT FEATURE: DR. MATTHEW HENNIGAR, POLITICAL SCIENCE

As we enter the final exam period, I want to remind every FPAC student that you continue to be in a period of transition. Preparation for exams includes studying content and/or writing, but also organization, planning, time management, and self-care. We want to support you in the final stages of your Year 1 transition- feel free to reach out to Katie Thompson or me, or visit Brock University for supportive resources.

I hope that you enjoyed your first year. Note that as you enter Years 2 and 3, there will be more specific courses related to forensic psychology and criminal justice, and we can't wait for you to experience it all!

Very best wishes for your end of term, and a restful and sunny summer ahead!

Dr. V. Marinos

IMPORTANT REMINDER: **BOOK YOUR SPRING ADVISING SESSION!**

All FPAC students must meet with their Program Coordinator, Katie Thompson, ahead of Year 2 to discuss their program plan and Year 2 registration.

Please book an appointment with Katie over the months of April and May through the Appointment Booking system via your Student Portal.

Questions about your program? Connect with Katie via email at fpac@brocku.ca



INTERESTED IN TAKING SPRING/SUMMER COURSES?

- [CLICK HERE](#) to access the Spring/Summer 2022 timetables
- See a course you'd like to take? Connect with Katie to discuss how this will fit into your program plan

*Spring/Summer registration is **OPEN** for all students!

RESOURCES (CLICK TO ACCESS)

- [Mental Health and Wellness](#)
- [Personal Counselling Services](#)
- [Transfer Student Connect](#)
- [A-Z Learning Services](#)
- [Academic Integrity](#)

UPCOMING FPAC EVENT: **FORENSICS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT**

It's never too early to start thinking about your career!

Are you interested in leading research about police recruitment and the forensic system? Interested in learning more about policing and choosing this career path?

We'll be joined virtually by our very own, Dr. Angela Book, and Sergeant Rich Gadreau of the Niagara Regional Police to discuss the transferability of your education to policing and the opportunities for growth and continuing education while working in law enforcement. Further information about the value of a policing career, the requirements for the application, and the recruitment process will be discussed.

This event is exclusive to FPAC students so don't miss out!

WHEN: April 6, 2022 from 3:00pm to 4:00pm

WHERE: Microsoft Teams - a Meeting invitation will be sent to your Brock email address. Please accept to confirm your attendance!

SPOTLIGHT FEATURE: Q&A WITH DR. MATTHEW HENNIGAR



Dr. Matthew Hennigar is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, focusing on law, politics, and the courts. He is a founding member of the FPAC program and you can find him teaching undergraduate courses on the Canadian judicial system, rights protection, and criminal justice policy, and graduate courses on Canadian politics and research design.

What drew you to the field of Political Science?

A couple of things. I grew up during a period of high-profile constitutional politics in Canada: the adoption of the 1982 constitution, two failed amendment attempts, and two referenda on Quebec secession. I became bit of a politics nerd. Second, I took an introductory polisci course in university and fell in love with it immediately, as it combined so many different perspectives on how power is exercised and the ways in which we govern ourselves. Plus, what you study—politics—is always changing!

What research topics are you interested in?

The biggest one is the impact of rights and judicial review on public policy, which can be significant, especially for criminal justice—I've done research on gun control, youth justice, and medical assistance in dying, for example. During the COVID pandemic, I've been struck by the gap between how people opposed to things like vaccine mandates talk about rights, and how our legal rights actually operate. I'm also interested in why public policy changes, or doesn't, and my Brock colleague Prof. Tim Heinmiller and I have a forthcoming book on that topic (*Aiming to Explain*). As part of that, I'm curious about why social issues in Canada are often "criminalized" when we make policies to address them, and the consequences of that.

What do you want to achieve with your research?

It sounds trite, but better public understanding of how our political and legal systems actually work; Canadians have pretty poor civic literacy. I think this helps explain why my research has always directly informed my teaching and vice versa.

What is your favorite aspect of your research?

While I enjoy the process of research design—figuring out "how am I going to answer this question?"—I think it's getting to see how it plays out in the classroom.

What do you like to do when you aren't researching?

I read a lot of fiction (most of it not about politics or crime, curiously enough), play guitar, and watch tv and movies. In the winters I curl a lot (yes, the one on ice!).

Can you share a turning point in your work?

The biggest one came when I was an undergrad, and realized I rather focus on researching and teaching about law from a social science perspective than go to law school and become a practicing lawyer. Since then, I have had the good fortune to be influenced by professors, peers, and my grad students who guided my research in unexpected directions. The book with Tim Heinmiller is a good example, and I've also co-written a few editions of a book on the Canadian court system with two friends from grad school.

Can you give some advice to those looking to get into the legal field or politics?

Hustle, in the good sense of the word. Law school admissions are incredibly competitive, so keep your grades up. Getting work placements during and after law school, or if you are getting involved in politics, takes a lot of networking. Foster contacts, and take advantage of opportunities like university clubs, volunteering, internships, practicum, and work experiences. Impressing those you worked for during a summer job or internship can lead to employment after graduation, whether that be directly or through referrals. As for a life in politics, I encourage students to follow their passions, but I also urge them to be well-rounded people with "real-life" experience. Just being a political animal helps produce hyper-partisan politics, which aren't healthy.

If you have any questions regarding Dr. Hennigar's courses or area of research, please feel free to connect with him at mhennigar@brocku.ca