



**ABOUT THE COVER:**

Hip-Hop and the Urban Working Class, a second-year course in the Department of Labour Studies, introduces students to hip-hop culture from around the world and the resistance to the status quo that often comes with it.



# A message from the Dean

As the highlights in our annual Faculty of Social Sciences Review demonstrate, our students, faculty, staff, and alumni continue to excel and inspire. Whether contributing to innovative research and scholarship, developing community-engaged teaching and learning experiences, or empowering and leading positive change in the wider world, they showcase the spirit of Social Sciences and of Brock University.

We are excited to be joined this year by new faculty, staff and students in our ongoing celebration of excellence. And we are enormously grateful to our departing colleagues for their significant and lasting contributions to the Faculty.

**Ingrid Makus**, Dean  
Faculty of Social Sciences, Brock University

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# Faculty updates 2017-18

5,164 students

4,836\* undergraduate

329\* graduate

50 post-graduate

157 faculty members

## Welcome to FOSS!

### New faculty

Jessica Blythe, Environmental Sustainability Research Centre

Miguel Cardoso, Economics

Andrew Lee, Applied Linguistics

Valdeep Saini, Applied Disability Studies

Sabrina Thai, Psychology

Erin White, Child and Youth Studies

### New Limited Term Appointments (faculty)

Alison Cox, Applied Disability Studies

Paul Gray, Labour Studies

Nicole Luke, Applied Disability Studies

### New permanent and interim staff

Arlene Arch, Administrative Assistant, Applied Linguistics

Anneka Bosse, Academic Advisor, Experiential Learning Coordinator, Communication, Popular Culture and Film

Lindsay Grifa, Graduate Administrative Coordinator, Psychology

Jeannie Mackintosh, Communications Officer, Internal Relations, Dean's Office, Faculty of Social Sciences

Milica Petkovic, Communications Officer, External Relations, Dean's Office, Faculty of Social Sciences

Lindsay Shaw, Academic Administrator, Sociology

## Farewell, with our thanks!

### Departing faculty

Stefan Brudzynski, Psychology

Dorothy Griffiths, Child and Youth Studies

Murray Knuttila, Sociology

Anthony Shaw, Geography and Tourism Studies

### Departing staff

Viola Bartel, Sociology

Loris Gasparotto, Geography and Tourism Studies

Desirae Stack, Communication, Popular Culture and Film

Linda Pidduck, Psychology

The Faculty of Social Sciences and the wider University community were saddened by the sudden passing of Professor **Zopito Marini** of the Department of Child and Youth Studies.



\*full-time equivalent





## Big Year for the Department of Psychology

This year, the Psychology graduate program celebrated some important milestones, including its 25th anniversary.

The 50th PhD student and 150th MA student also walked across the stage at convocation in June!

**Ashley Hosker-Field** completed her BA and MA in Psychology at Brock, and became the program's 50th PhD when she successfully defended her dissertation.

# Research highlights

Experience, process and both social and ecological outcomes are at the heart of new research out of the Environmental Sustainability Research Centre (ESRC) on effective environmental governance in UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in Canada and Sweden.

The study is co-authored by **Ryan Plummer, Julia Baird, Angela Dzyndzyak** and others.



Angela Dzyndzyak, Julia Baird, Angela Mallette, Brooke Kapeller and Ryan Plummer review findings.

## Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

### SSHRC Insight Grants

Nicole Goodman, Political Science

Thomas O'Neill, Child and Youth Studies

Rebecca Raby, Child and Youth Studies

Larry Savage, Labour Studies

### Insight Development Grant

Dawn Zinga, Child and Youth Studies

### Connection Grant

Dawn Zinga, Christine Tardif-Williams, Rebecca Raby, Shauna Pomerantz, Voula Marinos, Child and Youth Studies



**Danielle Sirianni Molnar**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Child and Youth Studies, looks at how perfectionism is related to health and well-being in adolescents.



Recent PhD graduate in Psychology, **Michael Logue** pursued his degree at Brock while also working as an officer with the Hamilton Police Service. Logue wants to help law enforcement officials be as efficient and effective as possible. His research suggests using verbal cues, rather than body language, can help police detect whether someone is lying.

### Natural Sciences and Engineering Council (NSERC)

#### NSERC Discovery Grant

Karen Campbell, Psychology

Michael Pisaric, Geography

Elizabeth Shulman, Psychology

#### Discovery Development Grant

Stefan Brudzynski, Psychology

### Inaugural Faculty of Social Sciences Research Awards

#### Distinguished Researcher Awards, 2018

Charles Conteh, Political Science

Larry Savage, Labour Studies

#### Untenured Researcher Award, 2018

Caitlin Mahy, Psychology

Danielle Sirianni Molnar, Child and Youth Studies



**Cornelius Christian**, Assistant Professor of Economics, examined weather, agricultural output, political stability and economic well-being in ancient Rome, to confirm a relationship between rainfall and the assassination of Roman emperors.

### The Faculty's own Council for Research in the Social Sciences (CRISS) Awards funded

20 research projects

10 research-related events



*"CRISS funding played a key role in advancing my research to better understand the link between collective bargaining structures and collective bargaining outcomes for contract academic faculty.*

*The grant enabled me to hire a student research assistant and ultimately provided leverage to win an external SSHRC Insight grant to bring the project to the next level."*

**Larry Savage**, Labour Studies  
2017 CRISS recipient

# Faculty recognition



**Tony Volk** (Child and Youth Studies) was awarded the Brock University Chancellor's Chair for Research Excellence for 2018.

The Chancellor's Chair for Research Excellence recognizes active scholars who have demonstrated excellence and who will continue to make significant contributions to the advancement of their field.



**Kendra Coulter**, an Associate Professor in the Department of Labour Studies, was one of 70 scholars chosen by their peers to be a member of the Royal Society of Canada's (RSC) College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.

**Danielle Sirianni Molnar** (Child and Youth Studies) and **Caitlin Mahy** (Psychology) received Ontario Early Researcher Awards.







**Julia Baird**, Assistant Professor, Environmental Sustainability Research Centre, was named Canada Research Chair in Human Dimensions of Water Resources and Water Resilience.

**Livianna Tossutti**, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, received the 2018 Faculty of Social Sciences Award for Excellence in Teaching.



## Several faculty members produced or contributed to books this year, including:

**Phillip Mackintosh**  
(Geography and Tourism Studies)

**Barry Grant**  
(Communication, Popular Culture and Film)

**Larry Savage**  
(Labour Studies)

**Rebecca Raby**  
(Child and Youth Studies)

**Thomas Farrell**  
(Applied Linguistics)

**Robyn Bourgeois**  
(Women's and Gender Studies)

**John Sorenson**  
(Sociology)



Applied Linguistics Professor **Tom Farrell** recently published two books and one edited volume.

# Student success



The Brock Model United Nations team had a successful run during the conference in New York City in 2018.

**Aniqah Zowmi**, Social Justice and Equity Studies, was among ten students from across the University honoured with a President's Surgite Award. The award is presented to a student leader who has made significant contributions to Brock University or the wider community.



**Meghan Birbeck**, Master of Sustainability student (ESRC), one of two named Brock's 2018 Co-op Student of the Year.



### Faculty of Social Sciences Student Research Award

Twenty-nine students from eight departments were presented with the inaugural Faculty of Social Sciences Student Research Award.

### Graduate Student Research Writing Award

Four students were recognized for excellence in research writing:

**Devon Coutts** (Communication, Popular Culture and Film) won for the Best Course Paper. **Connor Dingle** (Geography and Tourism Studies) won for Best MRP.

**Megan Earle** (Psychology) won for Best MA Thesis. **Xiaomei Zhou** (Psychology) won for Best PhD Thesis.

Master of Sustainability Science student **Dana Harris** made the Top 20 in the national photography contest for her submission featuring the cells of jack pine trees. The Science Exposed competition is offered by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).



### Thesis Defences

Students from eight departments defended a total of 51 theses.



# Events around Brock

Brock faculty and staff organized various events around campus, including:

Conceptualizing  
Childhood and Youth

Development 2018: A Canadian  
Conference on Developmental  
Psychology

15th annual International Seminar  
of the Network of Leave Policies  
and Research

International  
Women's Day events

Living Legacies of Russia's Socialist  
Revolution

Niagara Social Justice Forum

Summer Institute for  
Peace in Civil Society

Thinking About Animals



**Margot Francis**, Associate Professor in the Centre for Women's and Gender Studies, co-organized this year's International Women's Day events.

The inaugural Summer Institute for Peace in Civil Society was held in July at Brock's Hamilton campus.

About 160 community-minded researchers, scholars and grassroots advocates came to share their expertise on youth gangs and conflict resolution.



Attendees of the 2018 Summer Institute for Peace in Civil Society, including lead organizer **Tamari Kitossa**, Associate Professor of Sociology (third from left).





# Alumna profile

Taylor Book didn't just leave her mark on Brock University: she left a trail of vegan icing and doughnut crumbs so we could follow her on her path to success.

Taylor graduated Brock in 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts. From the early stages of her undergraduate career, Taylor understood the value of being an engaged student. She used extracurricular activities to fully embrace the student experience and to build a network of hundreds of people who proudly support her growing business. Now the co-owner of the world-famous Beechwood Doughnuts, Taylor credits much of her professional success to the experiences she had on campus.

Taylor's studies in the field of social justice and equity strongly influenced her business model, helping her create unique ways to give back to the community. Beechwood Doughnuts donates \$1 from every cinnamon sugar doughnut sold to YWCA Niagara Region, an organization that supports women and families living in poverty. She also offers discounts to customers who bring their own reusable containers and encourages customers to pre-purchase coffee and doughnuts for others.

In 2016, Taylor and her team at Beechwood Doughnuts accepted the Future Leader Award presented by the City of St. Catharines, as well as the Reader's Choice

Award from the St. Catharines Standard for best doughnut. However, Taylor's success spans more than just local connections. Beechwood Doughnuts has earned world-wide recognition for its products, earning multiple titles from the Toronto Veg Awards. Known as one of the most delicious desserts in Canada, Beechwood Doughnuts is now recognized internationally as one of the top ten doughnut shops in the world.

Beechwood Doughnuts' popularity shows no signs of slowing down, selling between 1500 and 3000 doughnuts daily with lineups spilling out onto the sidewalk. With the business's ever-growing reputation, Taylor has developed a love for both marketing and innovation. She puts just as much care into engaging customers through her website and social media channels as she puts into the creation of her large variety of doughnut flavours – a dedication that doesn't go unnoticed by her supporters.

Taylor has exceeded expectations in her business endeavours and demonstrates how experience in Brock's Faculty of Social Sciences can translate directly to success after graduation.

**Taylor Book  
(BA '14)**

**2018 Faculty of Social  
Sciences Distinguished  
Graduate Award**

# In the community



Associate Professor **Richard Mitchell** (Child and Youth Studies) and PhD student **Nabin Maharjan** engaged in field research on the rights of children in Nepal.

Students in the Hip-Hop and the Urban Working Class course, offered by the Department of Labour Studies, took their learning to the streets of downtown St. Catharines.

Providing diverse experiential opportunities to link students with the community is a key focus of the University's Experiential Education team.





## Faculty of Social Sciences

### Departments and Centres

Applied Disability Studies

Applied Linguistics

Child and Youth Studies

Communication, Popular Culture and Film

Economics

Environmental Sustainability Research Centre

Geography and Tourism Studies

Labour Studies

Political Science

Psychology

Sociology

Social Justice and Equity Studies

Women's and Gender Studies

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