

Virtual Research --- day 2021

March 30, 2021
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Via Zoom – Links below

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Schedule

12:15-1:15 PM EST: Welcome and Introductions, Prof. Shaun Ross

Panel #1: Health, Biology, and Technology

Presenters: James Yuan, Benjamin Bangjie Ding, Jessie Wang, Mia Feldman, Hailey Marleau

1:15-2:00 PM EST: Panel #2: Practises and Investigations

Presenters: Zelyn Lee, Leila Tjiang, Elizabeth Wing-Yee Chan, Carlin Henikoff, Zoë Golay

2:00-2:45 PM EST: Panel #3: Communities and Identities

Presenters: James Hannay, Omar Kassam, Para Babuharan, Yana Sadeghi, Maya Blumenthal

2:45-3:30 PM EST: Panel #4: Stories and Communication

Presenters: Ernest Leung, Sukhmani Khaira, Britney Best, Mollie Sheptenko, Elizabeth Coulter, Sherry Li

4:00-5:00 PM EST: Panel #5: Northrop Frye Centre Undergraduate Fellows

Presenters: Cheryl Cheung, Lana Glozic, Ori Gilboa and Kate Schneider

7:00-8:30 PM EST: Panel #6: Undergraduate Research during COVID-19

Presenters: Elly Chen, Cheryl Cheung, Maia Harris, Victoria Ngai, Sarina Nikzad and Christine Sutcliffe

Panel #1: Health, Biology, and Technology

12:30-1:15 PM EST

[Event link here - password: Victoria](#)

James Yuan

Using executable files to convert from local to online testing

Online experimentation is a valuable alternative to lab-based experimentation in behavioral research, and experimenters may wish to transition lab-based tasks to an online form for reasons such as time efficiency, broader sampling, or safety. However, the dominant, browser-based paradigm for online testing can be poorly suited to the goal of converting already existing behavioral experiments to an online format. We propose and describe a novel paradigm of online experimentation that is based on executable files, which facilitates the transition from local to online testing while retaining the primary advantages of online testing. We applied this method in a case study to develop a behavioral task which tested visual memory of shapes and colors, replicating a well-known set size effect and identifying novel effects. We successfully disseminated the task in an executable file format, running it in both one-by-one and simultaneous sessions with participants. Given these findings, we suggest that executable-based testing is a valuable and sufficiently powerful alternative to browser-based testing in online experimentation.

Benjamin Bangjie Ding

Towards A New Class of Photoactive Materials for Organic Light-Emitting Diodes

Currently, photoactive organic molecules are widely studied due to the potential for integrating them in new types of electronic devices. In particular, organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs) have enjoyed commercial success for manufacturing screens for computers and smartphones due to their simple production, bright colors and good mechanical properties. They differ from traditional LEDs in that the thin electroluminescence film is constructed from carbon-based compounds instead of metalloids. However, current commercial devices still suffer from relatively low lifetimes and low efficiencies. In this project, we will explore a new class of photoactive organic molecules - compounds which fluorescence when excited with UV light - via synthesis. The idea of this mainly experimental project is to explore new classes of photoactive materials by first synthesizing variants of azaphenalenone - a well-known fluorescent molecule. This will be followed by sequential syntheses of other photoactive molecules in the laboratory and then characterizing their photophysical properties using numerous analytical techniques such as UV-Vis absorption and emission to characterize the exact colour of light emitted, photoluminescence lifetime to measure the length of time for which the molecule fluoresces, and pump-probe excited state measurements to gauge features of the emitter once it absorbs the light.

Jessie Wang

The role of mycorrhizal fungi in plant-rhizobia mutualisms under drought stress

Mutualisms are interactions or relationships between two or more species (symbionts) in which all parties benefit. Each species involved receives benefits to their survival and reproductive success (their fitness), and this acts to reinforce the mutualistic relationship. These associations are commonly viewed as bipartite systems between two symbionts, predominantly in isolation from other organisms. One such pairwise mutualism occurs between legume plants and nitrogen-fixing bacteria, rhizobia. This study system is well-documented in the literature. However, legumes are also known to associate with mycorrhizal fungi, despite apparent costs to their fitness. It is imperative to study multipartite mutualisms and the network of interactions that can occur between mutualistic partners to unlock understanding of the evolutionary dynamics and the stability of mutualisms. In this study, I examined the fitness consequences of the presence of mycorrhizal fungi in conjunction with rhizobia in the legume plant *Medicago truncatula*. I investigated the effects of an additional microbial partner under drought conditions to uncover context-dependent fitness benefits under conditions of environmental stress. These potential benefits could counteract the costs of mycorrhizal associations experienced under ambient conditions, helping explain the discrepancy between the prevalence of multipartite mutualisms and the apparent fitness costs.

Mia Feldman

Why do heart failure patients get readmitted to the ER?

Re-admittances to the ER shortly after initial admissions are extremely costly, and a large burden to an already overburdened health care system in Canada. Further they indicate poor treatment and health of a patient. The goal of this research project was to provide a root-cause analysis of re-admittance to the ER within 28 days of initial admittance for patients with heart failure. This study focused mostly on preventable readmissions, particularly readmissions caused by inefficiencies in the healthcare system, such as miscommunication between pharmacists and cardiologists, and limited testing capacity for certain vitals. Thus, the goal of this research was to provide suggestions that would improve healthcare workers' treatments of patients with heart failure. The health charts of patients at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto were analyzed and compared to extract key data and make observations about their experience in the hospital. The study concluded that the cause of many patients' readmission to hospital can be linked to medication. In some cases, medication prescribed to treat heart failure resulted in dangerous side effects. Other times, a lack of medical adherence caused readmission.

Hailey Marleau

The Healthy Pregnancy Project - Reaching Hard-to-Reach Mothers in Rural Guatemala

My research with the Reach Alliance focuses on the Healthy Pregnancy Project (HPP) - a Canadian-funded maternal health intervention in rural Guatemala which aims to decrease the

high maternal mortality ratio for rural and remote Indigenous women. HPP equips local nurses and community health workers with portable ultrasound machines, blood and urine test strips, and cell phones. This equipment allows local health personnel to conduct antenatal check-ups on local pregnant women, and the cell phone allows them to contact urban healthcare professionals to clarify test results and arrange urgent patient pickups. HPP successfully provided at least one antenatal care appointment to 9,503 women in the provinces of Alta Verapaz and San Marcos, with a reduction of over 50% in the maternal mortality ratio as compared to national data. My research focuses on determining the barriers preventing rural Indigenous women from accessing maternal healthcare and uncovering the specific success factors behind this project. My team is looking into factors such as the provision of culturally competent care and technological innovation to see what role each factor played in HPP's overall success. We are also assessing the sustainability of HPP's model, and the prospects for potentially expanding this project to other regions.

Panel #2: Practises and Investigations

1:15-2:00 PM EST

[Event link here - password: Victoria](#)

Zelyn Lee

A trip down memory lane: Investigating long-term memory in *C. elegans*.

Long-term associative memories (LTAM) form the cornerstones of our identities, but the molecular processes by which they are formed and maintained in the brain remain unclear. My research investigates the mechanisms of LTAM in the popular neuroscience model, the nematode worm *Caenorhabditis elegans*. Previous research suggests that LTAM is possible in *C. elegans* through spaced learning, where worms are exposed to periods of training interspersed with rest, however, the techniques used have been too laborious to allow extensive characterization. My objective is to develop an olfactory-starvation learning protocol that can produce aversive LTAM to the scent benzaldehyde, while being amenable to high-throughput genetic experiments. To achieve this, animals are exposed to alternating periods of benzaldehyde with no food (trained group) or no food alone (naïve group), followed by period of rest on food (*Escherichia coli* bacteria), over a span of 7 hours. Following training, worms are given a 16-hour recovery period after which memory is evaluated using a chemotaxis assay. Preliminary results suggest that the trained group shows greater aversion to benzaldehyde than the naïve group. This research presents the worm as a powerful model to clarify both the fundamental neuroscience underlying LTAM and therapeutic approaches to memory pathologies.

Leila Tjiang

Deforestation Dynamics in Cropland-Forest Assemblages

Shifting cultivation (also referred to as swiddening or slash-and-burn) is an agricultural system commonly practiced in tropical and subtropical regions and that can be spatially represented by a

banded crop-forest assemblage. This research examined the boundary dynamics of deforestation in an area under shifting cultivation using Complex and Organized Behaviour Within Environmental Bounds (COBWEB), an agent-based modelling software. A model was developed to demonstrate how rates of deforestation would shift with various system changes, namely crop yields and human population growth. Simulations revealed that humans are inextricably dependent upon trees, as there will always be a non-zero rate of deforestation present, but the ability to extract energy from crops does not necessarily remove reliance upon energy derived from trees if human population growth is high. As such, the rate of human population growth is a better indicator of deforestation than crop yields, and under the particular parameters and design of this model, shifting cultivation is found to be sustainable. While deforestation dynamics in shifting cultivation systems have been extensively and robustly modeled in related scholarship, this research provides a simplified, agent-based approach to modelling that can be adapted to further explore system changes.

Elizabeth Wing-Yee Chan Happiness shapes U.S. electoral outcomes

The 2020 United States presidential election between Biden and Trump was one of the most divisive presidential campaigns in recent history. Supporters of these candidates had overwhelming differences on a wide range of issues. The election also took place just months after the COVID-19 pandemic and the Racial Justice Movement. In arriving at a decision about who to vote for, citizens may not only evaluate the economic situation but also assess the quality of their lives. Nonetheless, many electoral studies have neglected the role of happiness in shaping electoral outcomes. We examined how changes in happiness since the 2016 United States presidential election impacted who people voted for in the 2020 United States presidential election using territory-wide data from the Gallup-Healthways Well-being Index ($N = 439,133$). The results indicated that areas in which people became less satisfied over time tended to experience a 1.4% increase in votes for Biden. Reduced positive affect also predicted 8.1% greater votes for Biden. In other words, unhappy people were more likely to vote for Biden – to vote for change. Establishing a link between happiness and electoral outcomes has the potential to re-align the priorities of policymakers with what truly matters to their constituents.

Carlin Henikoff Conditional Authority Delegation

Division of epistemic labour is a central feature of scientific communities, as well as other epistemic communities. Authority delegation was identified in 2017, as a relationship permitting one epistemic agent to delegate expertise to another epistemic agent (Overgaard & Loiselle, 2017). But how does the scientist determine who the experts should be? Is this relationship a conditional one? Patton's 2019 reformulation implicitly presupposes that all authority delegation is unconditional -- which strikes us as implausible. We will, therefore, explicitly define conditional authority delegation, undertake an investigation of whether or not it actually occurs, and consider the nature of the conditions under which it occurs. The existence of CAD is first

shown theoretically via an analysis of hierarchical authority delegation, yielding the theorem of delegated conditional acceptance. Then, examinations -- of the art market, the climate wars, and the age of the Earth -- provide empirical support for the existence of authority delegation relations that are conditional by nature. In light of this, we suggest the Scientonomy community should: accept the proposed definition of CAD, accept that CAD exists, and accept the theorem of delegated conditional acceptance.

Zoë Golay Ethics and Methods

The role of normative theories is not well elucidated in Scientonomy, especially concerning their effect on methods. The influence of ethics in scientific history is important, and by understanding the ways in which this influence occurs in the scientonomic framework, we are able to draw a more holistic and complete picture of science. I distinguish between norm employment and norm use in order to distinguish between the various ways in which norms are brought into science. Additionally, I specify the Law of Norm Employment, which suggests that a normative theory becomes employed only when it is deducible from some subset of other employed norms and accepted theories, whether they be normative or descriptive, of the time. When considered in tandem with the definition of a method, the 3rd Law of Method Employment follows naturally. Finally, I identify three mechanisms by which ethical and normative propositions affect scientific change.

Panel #3: Communities and Identities

2:00-2:45 PM EST

[Event link here - password: Victoria](#)

James Hannay Crowding-In Funding or Hegemony in Climate Finance? An Assessment of the Global Environment Facility's Orientation Towards Private Actors

This presentation examines the public-private partnerships (PPP) that are proliferating under the guidance of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), especially examining how GEF projects are leveraging private capital and the influence of the private sector on GEF approved projects. This paper utilizes existing scholarly studies and information provided in GEF documents to investigate the role of marketization and performance-based criteria which serve to attract private sector engagement. This paper draws on critical theory, including neo-Gramscian theory and theories of transnational capitalism to investigate the effects of private sector engagement; marketization, the exposure of resources to market forces; and financialization, the incorporation of goods into financial markets. The studies find that the effects of these forces on climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, are potentially problematic. Private sector-led projects return a low performance rate in GEF reports and may include taking on projects considered

“low hanging fruit.” The marketization and financialization of climate change projects are problematic because these processes abstract the physical nature of these projects, creating harmful externalities and promoting profit-seeking behaviour that is not compatible with radical climate action.

Omar Kassam

Canadian Nationhood: The Realization and Role of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Over the past four decades, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms has redefined Canadian society, identity, and nationhood. It is today a manifestation and exhibition of Canadian self-identity for both Canada and the world, and its impact goes far beyond what is often envisaged in the popular imagination. Pierre Trudeau’s personal affinity for the constitutional protection of rights— influenced by his experiences in Quebec and abroad—was central to the Charter’s realization in 1982, but others’ contributions were also vital, though underappreciated. The Charter does not merely guarantee Canadians’ basic rights against government intrusion—it has reshaped Canada’s federal character, judicial rights, and collective values. Enacting binding national standards, enhancing interprovincial mobility and language rights, and limiting parliamentary supremacy for the first time, the Charter fundamentally altered the notion of legislative jurisdiction. Additionally, giving a greater political role to the courts, the Charter opened up new avenues through which to pursue rights—resulting in seismic societal and national shifts that continue to reverberate. Through its enshrinement of an enduring values-based vision of Canada, the Charter has come—and will continue—to lie at the very heart of Canadian nationhood.

Para Babuhran

Cultivating a Middle Class: The Cheap Repository Tracts (1795–1800) at the Convergence of Revolution and Evangelicalism

The Cheap Repository Tracts were religious pamphlets in the 1790s produced for the lower and middle classes in England. They were spearheaded by Hannah More, an evangelical writer, in response to the “pernicious” ideas of the French Revolution and the “vulgar and licentious” literature popular with the lower class. The Cheap Repository Tracts aimed to reform all levels of society, particularly the burgeoning middle class. Against the backdrop of apparent moral decline, they stressed the importance of domesticity, industriousness, inner piety and social immobility. They provide an important glimpse into the issues of religion, class, gender, literacy and superstition. This presentation will argue that the writers attempted to chart a path distinct from the lower and upper classes on these issues, based on new middle-class values.

Yana Sadeghi

War, Who is it Good For? Rewriting the Narrative on the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

In my research project, I investigate how the geopolitical interests of different states actors have exacerbated the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia in 2020. My analysis is conducted using “elite theory” as conceptualized by C. Wright Mills, to understand each state actor and their position on the conflict, and more pointedly, how the conflict furthers their own interests. I consider the following types of elites in my paper and the way in which their interests intersect: military, corporate, and political. This approach differs from the common narratives which characterize the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War as an ethnic conflict. I account for this in my research and discuss the social issues relating to the conflict as a discursive strategy used by elites to advance their position in the region; this constitutes “practices and tactics employed in discourses to achieve a particular social, political, psychological or linguistic goal.” I also elucidate on the history of the region in my introduction, contextualizing it within the post-Soviet era, as it led to the formation of new state elites and interstate alliances. The state actors most heavily involved in the conflict — Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Turkey, the United States, Iran — are each examined.

Maya Blumenthal

Truth Be Told: A Study of Adjectives of Truth and Reality across Languages

I study the patterns for adjectives pertaining to truth and reality across languages, such as the English “true”, “real”, and “right”. This is done using parallel translation data (the same texts translated into many different languages) taken from almost 3000 TED talks, which are analysed with statistical machine translation tools. The results show a pattern that align with previous studies by Wierzbicka and Tognini-Bonelli , but add insight into the nature of cross linguistic variation. I present a semantic map of the true/ real domain, which shows patterns in how the languages studied group the different uses of real and true. The results demonstrate the value of using translation data as a method to study cross-linguistic variation in abstract semantic domains, as well as the value of considering the functions of words in discourse, beyond the labelling function.

Panel #4: Stories and Communication

2:45-3:30 PM EST

[Event link here - password: Victoria](#)

Ernest Leung

On the Appeals to Emotions by Anti-Mask Views and Messaging During COVID-19

In Canada, cities such as Toronto and Montréal have made face masks mandatory in public-indoor spaces. While many Canadians follow this practice, some have resisted and protested against the use of face masks. These protests created the social movement known as the “anti-

mask movement,” and their supporters are commonly referred to as “anti-maskers.” Employing a rhetorical approach, this paper will examine the messaging used by anti-maskers with the aim of exploring how they persuade Canadians to join their movement. Rhetoric is the study of an object’s persuasiveness. I will first review two prominent rhetorical theories: pathos (appeal to emotions) and the theory of affect. I will then apply these theories to understand the persuasiveness of anti-mask messaging used during various anti-mask protests. In doing so, this paper will argue that anti-mask messaging persuades people by appealing to not only negative emotions and feelings, such as doubt, fear, and inferiority, but also positive emotions and feelings, such as righteousness, happiness, and love. Afterward, I will compare anti-mask messaging with pro-mask messaging to show why anti-mask messaging is much more persuasive. Gleaning insight from this analysis, I will discuss what society can do to address the concerns and/or misinformation held by anti-maskers.

Sukhmani Khaira

Relationship between Student Perceptions and Performance in an Inquiry-Based STEM Education Performance

At the University of Toronto, Discovery is an inquiry-based STEM education program engaging science students from local partner high schools in Toronto. Students from different schools across the range of aggregate cohort socioeconomic status show varied interest in the continued pursuit of STEM despite similar academic performance*; this leads us to wonder if their likelihood to persist in STEM education or careers may be based on perceived levels of access or self-efficacy, rather than actual ability. This project examines differences in student attitudes towards the Discovery program, their individual performance in the classroom and their group performance in the Discovery program.

Student data was collected in the form of regular individual classroom grades and Discovery group deliverable grades. Qualitative data examining the student’s underlying interest in STEM, level of preparedness for the final deliverable and perceived value of Discovery experience was collected using entrance and exit surveys. We analyzed the relations between metrics of academic performance and attitudes towards STEM and examined the possibility of cohort effects determining how students who identify confidently with their STEM abilities will perform individually and in group.

Britney Best

Hugh Segal and The Guaranteed Annual Income.

The honourable Hugh Segal has dedicated his life and career to addressing poverty in Canada and advocating for a Guaranteed Annual Income as the best way to do so. Segal’s determination and passion for this cause are not only reflective of his upbringing and experience growing up on the edge of poverty, but reflect a sense of Canadian nationhood and echo his views on what it means to be a Canadian and his particular brand of Tory nationalism. Hugh Segal’s contribution to Canadian nationalism and his commitment to a Guaranteed Annual Income, can be compared to that of universal health insurance and other social policy developments that have been

instrumental in nation-building and fostering national values. Additionally, Segal's work in the Senate and his advocacy for the poor highlight a key theme in Canadian nationhood – the representation of minority interests as a critical function and value of Canadian democracy. Lastly, Segal himself is a nationalist and with that he brings a deep sense of responsibility to make the country a better place for all Canadians and the Guaranteed Annual Income is one way to do this, as it provides equality of opportunity, fairness and freedom for individuals. But he also makes the case that a Guaranteed Annual Income would improve our nation more broadly by fostering social inclusion and regulating the costly outcomes of poverty on national systems such as healthcare and policing. All in all, Segal's vision for Canada is reflected in his Guaranteed Annual Income project as a way to promote social inclusion for all Canadians and to pave the road towards a more fair and productive nation.

Mollie Sheptenko

The Countess v. Crow: The Storyville Enterprise of Willie Piazza and Her Landmark Suit Against Ordinance 4118

The Countess v. Crow seeks to answer multiple questions regarding downtown Storyville - the red-light district of New Orleans, Louisiana - and one of its most famed (and notorious) madams, Miss Willie Piazza, also known as "The Countess." Throughout this presentation, I will explore the depths of the New Orleans demi-monde, explicating how Piazza capitalized on the geopolitical location of Storyville to reap massive profits and how her positionality as a madam of colour influenced the legal proceedings in her suit against Ordinance 4118, which sought to racially segregate the Storyville districts.

Elizabeth Coulter

Once Upon a Time Under the Taliban...'The Breadwinner' (2017): A Story for Children?

Upon its release, The Breadwinner sparked discussion as to whether it is suitable for children. Although it is a story of children, being based on the real experiences of young girls in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, the film asks its Western audience whether it can be a story for children since it deals with such heavy themes. The director Nora Twomey believes it can and hoped that it would be a film that parents would watch with their children; after all, the film is based on Deborah Ellis' Breadwinner Trilogy, written and marketed for children to huge success. The film feels radically different from the usual animated film as a result of the seeming dichotomy between medium and content; animation in the West typically suggests that a film is for children, yet the story arc that The Breadwinner follows does not fit comfortably into the story formulas laid out by animation studios. The representation of the reality of children in a country very different from the West begs such questions as whether we are talking down to children too much with the stories we have become comfortable labelling as "for children".

Sherry Li

Effects of Video Calling vs. Texting on Online Discourse

Societies guided by democratic values rely on social deliberation to reach sophisticated conclusions on political topics. As the internet becomes increasingly prevalent in our lives as a communication tool, it is relevant to investigate how the online platform can affect how conversations and discourse occur. It is the goal to have a platform that supports productive discussions where people on opposing sides are willing to listen to each other and come to a mutual agreement. The current study aims to consider how two different online platforms (namely video calling and texting) contribute to productive discourse. Participants read a paper on economic regulation and discussed the topic with another participant over Zoom video or Zoom messages. We analyzed the degree of attitude converge (how much participants' opinions on the matter moved to resemble each other's before and after the discussion) between video and text conditions. Results are still preliminary but will be discussed.

Panel #5: Northrop Frye Centre Undergraduate Fellows**4:00-5:00 PM EST**[***Event link here***](#)

Cheryl Cheung

Follow the Money: Understanding the Effect and Implications of American Presidential Campaign Ads on Facebook

Cheryl Cheung's analysis of Trump and Biden's campaign ads on Facebook reveals a sharp disparity in the tone and identities of the Facebook pages publishing sponsored advertisements. Whereas Trump's campaign funding has been funneled to sponsor posts published by Facebook pages run by his campaign (e.g. Team Trump, Pennsylvania for Donald Trump 2020), Biden's campaign funds have supported news outlets' posts in his support (e.g. Buzzfeed's Tasty, GQ Magazine). This suggests a precedent for digital advertising that has not previously been explored. Most journalistic coverage on Facebook ads leaned toward the power and implications of microtargeting, but Cheryl's research suggests there is not extreme variation in ad copy across targeted demographics. Instead, what is more troubling is the proliferation of campaign funds into non-partisan news outlets. In this presentation, she will present a model for Trump and Biden's Facebook advertising strategy, and present the possibilities for future Facebook ads published according to each model.

Lana Glozic

Quotations and Revelations: Clement of Alexandria's Eclecticism

This presentation is a brief recap of the research that I have been doing on Clement of Alexandria with Professor George Boys-Stones. Clement, one of the church fathers, is generally a lesser-known figure in Ancient Philosophy. The eclecticism in his work makes him somewhat of a cipher, and he is often seen as useful only in theology or for fragments of lost ancient works.

Many of the existing English translations are stilted and archaic. Therefore, to renew scholarly interest in Clement as a philosopher, we have been working on a modern translation and commentary of Clement's *Second Stromata*. I will explain my methodology in tracking down Clement's philosophical and literary sources, and how my research progressed over time to an investigation of his Aristotelian influence. His varying methods of quotation make for a surprising revelation: There are certain philosophical figures whose influence he is proud to demonstrate – but he downplays the role that other figures play, an act which is most likely deliberate.

Ori Gilboa

The banality of evil? On the depiction of criminal motives by prosecutors at the International Criminal Court

How do prosecutors at the International Criminal Court present the criminal motives of the accused during trial? How does this differ (if at all) from popular, collective narratives concerning the motives of persons tried at the Court? And, finally, how can we begin to explain the characterization that the prosecutors choose to pursue? Drawing on the opening statements made by prosecutors during the trial phase of proceedings, I show that in most cases prosecutors portray the defendant's motivations as rooted in financial or political interests. This is in contrast with the more prevalent narrative that depicts war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and aggression as driven by extraordinary motives. In the process, I offer four explanations that may clarify the prosecutorial approach.

Kate Schneider

Following Decisions and Online Clout: The Influence of Canadian Political Leaders on Twitter

The increasing centralization of influence towards party leaders and away from backbenchers in political parties and parliamentary institutions has been a long-documented trend in Canadian politics. This study considers whether these trends have expanded beyond formal political institutions and are now seen on the popular social media platform Twitter. It provides a look at the publicly available follower data of Canadian politicians during June and July 2020, comprising 9,654,596 following relationships and 6,000,238 unique users. The findings of this study suggest that "frontbenchers", especially party leaders, tend to dominate over backbenchers in the online sphere, albeit with some variations among the political parties. Overall, this paper offers a look at trends visible in Canadian politics on Twitter to a scale not previously studied, with the hopes that future research will help to illuminate the exact causes behind the observed patterns.

Panel #6: Undergraduate Research During COVID-19**7:00-8:30 PM EST****[Event link here - password: Victoria](#)**

Panelists:

Elly Chen is a fourth-year student double majoring in Human Biology and Sociology, minoring in Mathematics. With a strong interest in community research and extensive volunteering experiences at hospitals and student organizations, she was very excited to take VIC435Y1 to deepen her understanding of societal needs and strengthen her appreciation for participatory action research.

Victoria Ngai is a fifth-year Victoria College student majoring in English with minors in History and Renaissance Studies, she will be entering York University's Consecutive Education program for the Primary/Junior level next year.

Maia Harris is a senior University of Toronto student. This spring she will graduate with a double-major in Literature and Critical Theory and Peace, Conflict and Justice Studies and a minor in Political Science. Her research focuses on literature, absurdism, and existential philosophy.

Sarina Nikzad is a fourth-year student in health & disease, physiology, and physics. She is interested in the application of electronics in medical sciences and that is why she decided to do her research with the medical imaging team at UHN

Cheryl Cheung is a third-year student majoring in political science and minoring in American studies and visual studies. She is working under the supervision of Dr. Ryan Hurl to better understand political communications in the digital age. The project focuses on the patterns in ad content and microtargeting strategies of Republican and Democratic ads leading up to the US 2020 election.

Christine Sutcliffe is graduating from the University of Toronto in June with majors in Art History and Music. Christine's research focuses on the intersections of classical and contemporary music with digital media. Her research has been sponsored by grants including the Laidlaw Foundation. In her research and professional work, including at the Canadian Opera Company, Christine aims to build audiences in the arts.

Research Day Prizes

DEAN OF STUDENTS SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD (\$150): Awarded to a project demonstrating potential for positive social impact.

E.J. PRATT LIBRARY PRIMARY SOURCES PRIZE (\$150): Awarded to projects involving the study of "primary sources" as defined in the humanities and social sciences (i.e. a primary source is a document that was created at the time of the event or subject you've chosen to examine and authored by people who were observers of, or participants in, that event, topic, or creation. Some examples are personal correspondence/letters, diaries, speeches, official memos/dispatches, newspaper or magazine articles, memoirs, autobiographies or one-of-a-kind objects created at a particular time period).

INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE PRIZE (\$150): Awarded to a project of original research that contributes to a deeper understanding of some important aspect of science, technology, engineering, or medicine through the use of humanistic modes of analysis, such as historical investigation, philosophical inquiry, or cultural interpretation.

VICTORIA COLLEGE STUDENT CHOICE AWARD: Selected by event attendees

Accessing Research Day presentation recordings for Panels 1-4: (after the synchronous event on March 30th):

1

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(we’re aiming to have the videos posted on April 1st but at the latest, on April 5th before noon)

Vic_Virtual_Research_Day > Modules

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Modules

4

Research Day Information

Program: Vic Virtual Research Day 2021

Panel 1: Health, Biology, and Technology (recordings from 12:30-1:15pm, Mar 30th)

Using executable files to convert from local to online testing - James Yuan
1 pts

Towards a New Class of Photoactive Materials for Organic Light-Emitting
1 pts

Panel 2: Practices and Investigations (recordings from 1:15-2pm, Mar 30th)

A trip down memory lane: Investigating long-term memory in C. elegans -