



ACADEMY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES  
DIVISION OF ARTS

DIVISION COMMITTEE FOR THE SELECTION OF NEW FELLOWS  
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE - 2022

Date: March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Summary of top ranked files for the 2022 new Fellow selection process**

**Chair:** Ken S. Coates

**Committee members:** Elizabeth Sheehy, Candace Kruttschnitt, Andy Knight, Nicholar Blomley, Wendy Craig, Pratima Bansal, Trevor Bell, Less Jacobs

**Summary of the Top-Ranked Nominees**

Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger is a pioneering international scholar and jurist in sustainable development law and governance, comparatively analysing legal innovations to address climate change, biodiversity loss, pandemic recovery and other critical global challenges and interactionally informing international treaty regimes implementation and compliance. Her ground-breaking scholarly volumes include the textbook Sustainable Development Law (OUP 2004, 2023); Athena's Treaties (OUP 2021) and her influential Implementing Treaties for Sustainable Development series (CUP 2008-2022). She has a remarkable publication record that is matched by the quality of her ideas and the scholarly impact of her work. The committee was deeply impressed with the number and variety of high-level engagements with leading international organizations.

Jennifer Welsh holds the Canada 150 Research Chair in Global Governance and Security at McGill University. She was previously Professor and Chair in International Relations at the European University Institute and Professor in International Relations at the University of Oxford, where she co-founded the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict. Her research focuses on humanitarian intervention, the evolution of the notion of the 'responsibility to protect' in international society, the UN Security Council, and Canadian foreign policy. The committee noticed her inspired leadership of the Centre for International Peace and Security Studies, her invitation to produce the Massey Lectures, and her exceptionally large number of invited lectures and fellowships.

Dr. Sasha Tsenkova is a globally prominent researcher in urbanism, focusing on the nexus of planning, design and policy. She is the leading Canadian scholar on housing and planning policies in Eastern Europe, and an internationally recognised expert on comparative urban and housing research. Her innovative and impactful work on resilience focuses on housing and planning strategies to develop future forms and design solutions for sustainable, livable and equitable cities. She has produced over 170 academic publications and some 19 academic books which have produced an international following for Dr. Tsenkova's work. She has an impressive set of awards, many visiting professorships, and professional engagements around the world.



Dr. Greenwood is the most important scholar in institutional theory in Canada with an outstanding international reputation. He elaborated a theory of organizational change within institutional theory that showed how organizations adopt new organizational forms and practices through dynamic internal processes by both reacting to, and shaping, institutional pressures. He reinvented the study of professional and knowledge-based organizations as central actors in a knowledge-based society and economy. His work has been widely recognized with the scholarly and professional communities alike and has published numerous highly regarded articles that have been credited with altering the direction of academic research in his field.

Linda Peake is world-renowned for feminist and anti-racist analyses of the formation of urban places. Working through the lens of women's everyday social worlds—and in a model of engaged, inclusive, and transnational scholarship—she shows how spatialities of power inform urbanism and urbanization. Her award-winning scholarship and leadership have had global impacts upon urban and social geography and urban studies, and have promoted equity and diversity in the academy. Dr. Peake's resume included much evidence of scholarly achievement, including numerous well-reviewed books and many articles, but the committee was particularly convinced by the intellectual courage and professional determination that she has shown over her career.

Dr. William Fisher is an internationally recognized scientist whose work has profoundly affected the health of men and women worldwide. Dr. Fisher's research concerning the promotion of health behaviour change is pioneering and his Information-Motivation-Behavioural Skills (IMB) model has reshaped the science of prevention. The IMB model is applied by the world's foremost public health agencies in health promotion efforts including recent focus on vaccine acceptance and sexual consent. His accomplishments include securing over \$19 million in NIH funding, more than 200 academic articles and almost 170 invited addresses.

Dr. Chambers is an internationally recognized leader in children's pain management. She spearheaded Solutions for Kids in Pain, a national network dedicated to putting research into practice, and champions research supporting the well-being of children as Scientific Director of CIHR's Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health. Identified as one of Canada's Most Powerful Women, she is passionate about research impact and patient and public engagement in health research. Her widely-cited work has appeared in almost 190 peer reviewed papers and more than 20 book chapters. She has been recognized by numerous organizations, including receiving the Dennis Drotar Distinguished Research Award in 2021.

Steven J. Hoffman is a world-leading authority on global health law and the global governance of health threats that transcend national borders. He has achieved important intellectual breakthroughs by combining law and epidemiology to address challenges faced by the numerous governments and United Nations agencies that rely on his advice. He is a leading voice in public health, a champion for evidence-informed policymaking, and a frequent contributor to news media. His remarkable interdisciplinary career has resulted in more than 220 publications, over 300 presentations and more than \$26 million in grants as a PI. Particularly impressive is his work on the WHO's Framework



Convention on Tobacco Control which established a widely-adopted approach for scientifically evaluating normative instruments.

Susanne Soederberg's innovative research has advanced understandings of the influence of policymaking on social inequalities at overlapping scales from the local to the global. Her internationally-recognized work—aimed at producing societal knowledge based on principles of equity, diversity and inclusion—has transcended disciplinary boundaries rendering Professor Soederberg one of the world's most influential political economists working on pressing issues in contemporary capitalism across the global North/global South divide. Dr. Soederberg has secured over \$3.7 million in grants from a wide range of scholarly and governmental authorities. Her pathbreaking work *Debtfare States and the Poverty Industry* has won major accolades and challenged fundamental assumptions about North-South relations.

Dr. Sunera Thobani's ground-breaking studies of race and coloniality have opened up new approaches to theorizing the relation between state and citizen, sovereignty and subjectivity. Her early linking of globalization and migration to settler colonialism continues to inspire a new generation of Canadian Critical Race and feminist scholars. More recently, Professor Thobani's scholarship of engagement has reinvigorated debates about the relationship of women's and social movements to national and global governance. While her scholarly work has, on its own, been transformational, she has provided remarkable intellectual and professional service through the development of networked intellectual communities, including the Researchers and Academics of Colour for Equity (RACE, 2001) and the Deadly Intersections of COVID-19, which connected researchers from Canada, Australia, Bangladesh, India, China, Germany, UK and the US.

Kai Li is a leading expert in empirical corporate finance research. Her ground-breaking critical analysis of corporate governance and innovation has transformed research on executive compensation design, shareholder monitoring, and corporate innovation. Her research on human capital and technological synergies incorporate takeovers has profound policy implications for fostering creative breakthroughs, while her pioneering approach to measuring organizational cultures has reinvigorated research on their influence on business decision-making. She has given numerous professional presentations, 27 Visiting professorships, and 9 keynote speeches at major academic events. Dr. Li has made exceptional efforts to reach out to the public, appearing regular on television and radio. She has secured an impressive list of professional and academic awards.

Professor Celia Haig-Brown's exceptionally timely and ground-breaking research with Indigenous peoples and communities has transformed Canadian education, from compulsory schooling to university life and to its major historical task, namely education for truth and reconciliation. Her classic work on residential schools through to her engagement with contemporary education has consistently helped to open doors for new scholarly explorations dedicated to meaningful social change and learning from Indigenous ways of knowing. She has shifted her work in creative ways, expanding her international contacts, using multi-media to present her ideas, and engaging



extensively with the public to build public understanding of Indigenous affairs and Indigenous residential schools.

Professor Stephen McAdams is a top researcher in the cognitive dynamics of musical listening. Canada Research Chairholder in Music Perception and Cognition at McGill University since 2004, he is exceptionally gifted at bridging the disciplines of the arts, humanities, and social sciences. His research has revolutionized the role of cognition within music scholarship, through collaborations with theorists, composers, performers, and music technologists. His track record is truly impressive, supported by major research grants and marked by numerous awards, including a Killam Research Professorship. He played a crucial role in the management of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology (CIRMMT) and helped enhance the Centre's global reputation for innovation in music and technology.

Dr. Kelli Stajduhar is Professor of Nursing at the University of Victoria. Internationally renowned, she works across academic and health care systems levels, and with governments, non-profits and community advocates to envision, develop, test and integrate better ways of delivering care to people who are dying, their caregivers, and those who are marginalized by substance use or mental illness or vulnerable to structural inequities such as poverty and homelessness. Dr. Stajduhar has been an advisor to numerous governments and health systems. Her scholastic achievements are formidable, including over \$9 million in PI/Co-PI research awards, an extensive publication record, with numerous articles in the top academic and professional journals.

Dr. Michael Masson is Professor of Psychology at the University of Victoria. He developed one of the first neural network models of the influence of semantic context on word reading and has conducted innovative research on the unconscious influences of learning and memory on skilled reading. His recent work on embodied cognition provides ground-breaking evidence regarding action representations and their contributions to the identification of objects and to language comprehension. He has published over 110 peer reviewed articles, many of which have attracted a large academic following. He was elected as fellow in the American Psychological Association, the Association for Psychological Science, and the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science. In 2018, he received Donald O. Hebb Distinguished Contribution Award, which recognized his enduring impact on the field of cognitive science.

Ito Peng's ground-breaking research on gender, care and migration policies and the global care economy established her as an internationally acknowledged thought leader on issues of gender equality, care work, transnational care migration, and the multidimensional and interlocking dependencies between the Global North and South through the work of care and the migration of care workers. Backgrounded by the pandemic, her work is now in critical demand. Dr. Peng has had a direct impact on policy making and business development related to the caring economy, with an important series of collaborations and consultations with East Asian governments and health authority that helped raise the profile of the caring sector.

Professor Dana Lepofsky explores the long-term, dynamic relationships between Indigenous People and their environment, situating these relationships in current social and ecological contexts. Her research brings together diverse knowledge holders to build meaningful partnerships with the descendent communities whose past she is privileged to study, reinforcing the connections between people and ecosystems through time. She has an impressive publication record, with over 70 scholar articles and 23 book chapters, in addition to a great deal of community outreach and professional engagement. That she is a key leader in the field is shown by her election to the Presidency of the Society for Ethnobiology and the Editorship of the Journal of Ethnobiology.

Payam Akhavan is the architect of the enforcement of the United Nations Genocide convention and one of the world's best thinkers on international human rights. His work has broken patterns of impunity. He is the conscience of international law, seeking to reflect the intimate realities of injustice throughout the world, give voices to the victims and deter leaders from engaging in mass murders and ethnic cleansing. Dr. Akavan has an impressively diverse professional profile, including widely cited scholarly article that helped create a define several fields of academic inquiry, direct engagement at the highest international levels in the pursuit of justice and safety for the marginalized and disadvantaged, and key appointments to panels and agencies charged with protecting the rights of the oppressed.

Barbara Arneil is a world-renowned scholar of identity politics, feminist theory, and the history of political thought. Her research has forged innovative and enduring insights into the political consequences of imperialism, colonialism, and liberalism. Her pathbreaking research has exposed discrimination and oppression in Canada and the world by deepening the understanding of how and why so many people are excluded from politics based on gender, disability, age, ethnicity, and indigeneity. The committee was immense impressed with Dr. Arneil's intellectual creativity and courage and noted the degree to which her major publications have transformed the field of Political Science.

Van Proosdih's innovative research is updating understandings of how coastal ecosystems respond to climate change and build resilience. As one of Canada's leading coastal geomorphologists, she advises provincial and federal governments, international agencies, and NGOs in assessing coastal erosion and flood risk. Her work with coastal communities in designing nature-based adaptation strategies has restored over 320 hectares of tidal wetland habitat. This candidate stood out for her interdisciplinary work, her engagement with communities and the practical application of her work. While Dr. Van Proosdih is fully deserving of this recognition based on her impressive career, the committee was pleased to note that she was one of the few applicants from a smaller Canadian university.

### **Policy Notes**

**Conflicts of Interest – (for RSC leadership to consider)**





The committee beseeches (using this strong word deliberately) the Royal Society of Canada to do everything that they can to encourage institutions to look more carefully at questions of Conflict of Interest. We encountered numerous instances where one or more referees were too close to the applicants. Individuals had served as collaborators, supervisor, departmental colleagues, etc. It is vital that nominating institutions appreciate that the letters are essential in our evaluative processes. They provide – or should provide – arm’s length verification of the accomplishments of the nominee and the (appropriately) laudatory career summary provided by the institution. Several promising candidates fell out of contention in the deliberations because of conflicts of interest with the letter writers. We worked hard to get around these self-created barriers, but it was impossible in several instances. This was the only blemish on an otherwise outstanding process.

### **Recommendation for Consideration by a Separate RSC Committee**

The committee devoted a great deal of time to the nomination of Dr. Alice Aiken of Dalhousie University. The group was truly impressed with your professional achievements and wide-ranging activities. In the end, the committee determined that her RSC-worthy contributions rested in administrative and organizational activities and not in purely academic enterprises. The committee urges the RSC, if it can do this by itself, to consider her under the special category, for we agreed unanimously that she would be a fine member of the Royal Society. If that is not possible in this round, we would urge Dalhousie University to nominate her in the other category in the next round.

### **Workload**

I write this in my capacity as Chair and not on behalf of the committee. The group this year, as always, was remarkable in their attention to detail, commitment, and devotion of the ideals of the Royal Society of Canada. I worry about the workload, however. Our group examined some 80 files. They did so extremely well and with no complaints. There are two issues here: the workload for committee members (which can be addressed, in part, by adding more members) and the ability of the committee to manage such a large and diverse group of superb nominations. I do not offer a quick solution as the number of nominations depends on individual and institutional interest. But I flag this for future consideration. I would note, by the way, that the committee noted the amount of work, did not complain about it and, without exception, consider it an honour to serve.