



# ICSI IMPACTS

16-17 OCTOBER 2009  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

*A conference to measure the impact that the 'International Canadian Studies Institute' has had on the Fellows, their students, universities, and communities*

With the assistance of the  
Government of Canada

Sponsored and supported by  
The Pacific Northwest Canadian Studies Consortium  
[www.pnwsc.org](http://www.pnwsc.org)

and

The Canadian Studies Center  
The Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies,  
University of Washington



The ICSI Impacts Conference took place in the UW's Walker-Ames Room in Seattle, WA, and was attended by nearly 70 faculty and ICSI Fellows.



From left: **Victoria Choe**, Canadian Studies Center; **Michael Treleaven**, Pacific Northwest Canadian Studies Consortium; **Kevin Cook**, Canadian Consulate General Seattle; **Greg Shelton**, University of Washington; and **Sim Hinman Wan**, Canadian Studies Center



**Michael Robinson-Dorn**, University of Washington, speaks during a panel discussion of 2009 ICSI Fellows.



THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER  
DOWNTOWN SEATTLE

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The International Canadian Studies Institute (ICSI) Impacts Conference commenced with an evening reception on Thursday, October 15, at Seattle's Arctic Club Hotel. This was an opportunity for the Fellows and other conference attendees to meet each another. For those who participated in the program during the same year, it was also an opportunity for a reunion. **Father Michael Treleaven, SJ**, Executive Director, Pacific Northwest Canadian Studies Consortium; **Peter Lloyd**, Consulate General of Canada, Seattle; and **Eric Pelletier**, Director, North America Outreach and Mission Liaison, Department of Foreign Affairs Canada, greeted the Fellows. Dinner was served as part of the event.

**FRIDAY, 16 OCTOBER**  
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE CAMPUS

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All conference attendants gathered at the University of Washington in Seattle. **Michael Treleaven**, Executive Director, Pacific Northwest Canadian Studies Consortium, welcomed attendees to the conference.

**Nadine Fabbi**, Associate Director, Canadian Studies Center, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, introduced the Center and elaborated on its involvement with the ICSI Institute. **Daniel Hart**, Chair and Director of the Canadian Studies Center, and **Stephen Hanson**, Vice Provost of Global Affairs, also spoke.

**Stephen Hanson** stressed that the University of Washington recognizes and supports international intellectual relations between the United States and Canada. He noted that the Canadian Studies Center is one of the most active international studies centers within the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies. Hanson concluded his greeting by touching on issues of global warming and geopolitical conflicts, commenting that strong diplomacy between the two nations has global implications that transcend North America's boundaries.

## SUSTAINABILITY, THE NORTH, AND HEALTH

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*Learning From Canada through the World Urban Forum:  
Models for Effective Governance and Sustainability in Global Planning and Action*

**Dick Winchell**, Washington State University

Professor Winchell discussed Canada's holistic view toward urban planning, observable in a city like Vancouver, British Columbia. He emphasized the collaboration in the city between the public and private sectors. The result is an example of successful shared governance, as opposed to the traditional understanding of government as a hierarchy that separates those who are governed from those who are governing.

*North by 2020:  
Global Perspectives for Sustainable Development in the North*

**Amy Lauren Lovecraft**, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Professor Lovecraft examined the idea of a socio-ecological system, or the relationship between the human and the natural domains. Using the Yukon-Alaska region as a focus, Lovecraft contrasted the two nations' policies on the same ecological systems, such as polar bear habitats. The message was that rather than perpetuating a competitive attitude between Canada and the United States, both nations could look to the other from a comparative perspective in order to learn about ecological policies.

*Comparative Analysis of Historical Experiences with  
Alcohol and Current Alcohol Policies in Northern Canada and Alaska*

**Mary Ehrlander**, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Professor Ehrlander's research on alcoholism and Native communities in the Yukon-Alaska region looks at some of the possible causes and consequences of alcohol consumption, including the societal marginalization of indigenous populations, high suicide rates, and child welfare. A suggested remedy to the problem is community cohesion, or the need for community members to enforce social norms and maintain their own welfare.

### Questions

Questions from the audience followed the presentations. Colleagues of the presenters were interested in the research methods and strategies employed. A suggestion was to consider the same topics from a more interdisciplinary angle. For example, climate change and similar environmental issues could be a contributing factor to alcoholism among northern Natives due to disruptions in traditional ways of life and the social norms that have been allied with hunting.

## BORDER, FOREIGN POLICY, HOMELAND SECURITY, EMERGENCY PLANNING, AND MANAGEMENT

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*The 'Other' North American Border:  
Prospects for Renewing the 'Special' US-Canada Relationship*

**James Loucky**, Western Washington University

Professor Loucky traced the implementation of national security policies to perceptions of nationalism. After mentioning the changes that occurred along the Canada-United States border after September 11, 2001, he juxtaposed Canada's identity as an immigrant and multicultural nation with the notion of "homeland security" in the United States. Arguing that the latter is a paradoxical attitude toward the diversity that exists in North America, he advocated for the possibility of United States policy makers learning from the Canadian position on security and identity.

*Foreign Policy:  
Canadian Reaction to New Developments in US Diplomacy*

**Tom Murphy**, Seattle University

Father Murphy spoke about the history of the Canada-United States border. Cross-border topics and issues are not unique to our times. Canada and the United States differ historically in their handling of international affairs, and there is already a body of knowledge gained from the past that could be helpful to contemporary policy makers. It is valuable for contemporary policy makers to appreciate each other's national and historical aims and issues regarding border questions.

*Homeland Security and Emergency Management:  
Required Cross-Border Collaborations*

**Teresa Carlo**, Pierce College

Professor Carlo offered perspective on security without political borders. Carlo also brought up the value of educating and training civilians in emergency management. The authority might be responsible for public safety, but it was advised that a greater portion of the population ought to be equipped to ensure the community's well-being, in both the United States and Canada.

### Questions

The questions for this panel discussed border communities. Conference members asked if border communities are subject to the laws of both nations, or, if in some cases, are bound to the policies and laws of neither country. The curiosity here reflected the conference participants' awareness of the significant interconnectivity between Canada and the United States, which they had become familiar during past Institutes and from subsequent research and teaching.

## ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE ARCTIC

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### *Searching for Truth:*

#### *Connecting Science to Environmental Policy Making in Canada and the USA*

**Ross Burkhart**, Boise State University

Professor Burkhart asked if the natural and environmental sciences are actually “borderless.” Policy makers, according to Burkhart, tend to consult with scientists for “objective” solutions to what are often politically fraught challenges. However, if researchers could make decisions for the government and the people, it would not make sense for legislators and other administrators to even exist. The presentation warned that, as a result, governmental officials tend to seek out scientists and scientific findings that support their agendas, and that attempts to exclude political issues by consulting scientists, while attractive in both countries, is not effective for the Canada-US relationship.

### *Collaboration for Energy and*

#### *Environmental Technologies between Canada and the USA*

**Deben Das**, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Professor Das stressed the importance of developing sustainable energy and alternative power sources for nations that have the highest figures in energy consumption. Canada is generally more favorable toward wind, hydro, and geothermal technologies, and the United States should follow its neighbor’s lead. As part of his presentation, Das shared his research on gas hydrates and their potential as a sustainable means to generate energy.

### *Arctic Energy Resources and Arctic Sovereignty:*

#### *The International Dispute over Who Owns the North*

**Greg Shelton**, University of Washington

Global Trade, Transportation, and Logistics Studies at the University of Washington is increasingly involved with questions regarding the Arctic region and Arctic waters. There is a diverse range of students who are engaged in this multidisciplinary and professionally oriented program. The program is involved with the University of Washington’s recent “Arctic Sovereignty Lecture Series,” offered on the main Seattle campus.

### **Questions**

Conference participants and panel members agreed that the colleges and universities in the Pacific Northwest Canadian Studies Consortium, as well as other non-member schools, should put great stress on the value of collaboration. The ICSI Impacts conference demonstrated the worth of individual research projects, several noted, but the follow-up steps of enabling collaboration, effecting good communication about research and findings, and advancing to further investigations all need to be continually supported, both institutionally and financially.



## LUNCH AND ROUNDTABLE

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During lunch, ICSI Fellows from all nine years of the program were asked to speak about their experiences. The research that they conducted in Canada covered a range of disciplines and topics, including forestry products, the political image of women, early childhood education, the prison system, media law, activism, and Arctic environmental and transportation matters. There was a consensus that the ICSI program has had a profound impact on pedagogies, research methodologies, the participants' outlooks on their respective fields, and even on personal lives. Several speakers also stated that Canada-related interests and new avenues for research and teaching, not previously appreciated, have become steady, significant aspects of professional lives.

### *Three Documentaries:*

Building Connections: Reclaiming Lost Narratives of the Alcan Highway

Illicit Exchanges: Canada, the US and Crime

Promise of Plenty: Immigration and the Allure of North America

**Robert Wells**, Pacific Lutheran University

**Melissa Campbell** and **Kelsey Liddle**, PLU MediaLab students

Professor Wells presented an excerpt from an earlier media project, *Building Connections: Reclaiming Lost Narratives of the ALCAN Highway*. This documented the history of the 65-year old Alaska-Canada Highway and its worth to Canada and the United States as a legacy from World War II. Melissa Campbell's *Illicit Exchanges: Canada, the US and Cross-Border Crime* explores the rise in the drug trade, gun distribution, and gang activities in Vancouver, British Columbia, as well as how the community can team up with the police authorities to reduce violence. *Promise of the Plenty: Immigration and the Allure of North America* is a work by Kelsey Liddle that examines immigration as one of the most misunderstood subjects in both Canada and the United States. The earlier two projects have each received several awards and have been broadcast on PBS.

### *Cascadia-Region Urban Cultural Planning and Development*

**Patricia Dewey**, University of Oregon

Professor Dewey's research confirms that, while there are important relationships in thriving cities between the arts, the creative sector, and sustainable economic well-being for a city or community, communication of those benefits remains challenging. The Cascadia region, encompassing parts of British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon, does not have any regional policies on cultural planning and development, even though the region has elements of a unique cultural life when compared to the rest of Canada and the United States. Her research indicates that there are helpful benefits to be gained from Canadian-American collaboration in culture policy and economic development in the Pacific Northwest and western Canada. Several of the major cities in this region already have cultural development commissions, but tend to operate in isolation from one another.

### *Creating New Courses for Teaching about Canada*

**Sammy Basu**, Willamette University

**Ann Fulton**, Portland State University [unable to attend]

Professor Basu argued for new approaches to the incorporation of Canadian content in university courses. Offering some of his experiences in teaching American undergraduates about their neighboring country, Basu suggested that courses might begin by highlighting images of "otherness" by way of caricature maps that demonstrate North Americans' misconceptions of their own continent. The awareness of Canada, economically, socially, with respect to public policies in health care, law enforcement, the major role of Canada's army, in Afghanistan, and in matters of trade and security, even among the educated population in the United States, is minimal. Thus, change should begin in the classroom, where the United States' future leaders are currently being educated.

## REFLECTIONS AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

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**Michael Robinson-Dorn**, University of Washington

**Becky James**, University of Alaska, Anchorage

**Robert Young**, University of Oregon

**Dean Panttaja**, University of Idaho

**Gavin Keulks**, Western Oregon University

**Christina Keppie**, Western Washington University

**Veronica Dujon**, Portland State University

The 2009 ICSI Fellows were invited to speak about their experiences in Alberta. They commended the ICSI for being the best implemented program of its kind. In addition to gaining international field experience, the Fellows found the opportunity to interact with scholars and researchers from other disciplines to be the most valuable help the Institute provided to them. Fresh off the 2009 Institute these recent Fellows indicated in several ways strong plans for incorporating Canadian topics, issues, and perspectives into their courses, and even for launching new courses. Some panel members indicated that their own research plans are being adjusted to better incorporate Canadian topics.

## HOW ICSI HAS IMPACTED THE CANADIAN PARTNERS

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**Marc Arnal**, Dean, Campus Saint-Jean, University of Alberta

**Marv Schneider**, Director, the United States Section, Alberta Ministry of International Relations

**Glenn Anderson**, Member, Washington State House of Representatives

Professor Arnal said that the concepts of teaching, research, and service should be replaced with goals of learning, discovery, and citizenship. Knowledge is for the progress of an entire population, not just academics. As Canada and the United States can have very different strategies to tackle the same issues, there are many situations in which one country can learn from the other. In addition, the diversity and uniqueness of minority perspectives can help each nation improve and refine its agendas.

Mr. Schneider sees his own work, in part, as that of a mediator between academic and political worlds. He said that “excellent ideas” had been provided to him from his meetings with the wide range of researchers who have been involved in past Institutes. These ideas have been incorporated into some of the work with which his section is engaged, and to the benefit, he thinks, of Alberta’s interests.

The Honourable Glenn Anderson, a member of the State of Washington’s House of Representatives and former president of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) spoke to the “PNWER-Academic Partnership,” and he noted that there is an imbalance in Canada’s and the United States’ efforts to maintain their relationship. PNWER and the PNWCSC are instruments that help sustain and enhance the complex Canada-US connections when, at times, the political systems of both countries and their provinces and states are distracted by campaigns, elections, or immediate party conflicts.

## CLOSING

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**Father Michael Treleaven, SJ**, Pacific Northwest Canadian Studies Consortium

Father Treleaven concluded the conference by saying that ICSI Institutes are ultimately about the exploration of territories and the sorts of communities and values we build together, across, and within our borders. Because of the past Institutes, Canadian Studies in Alaska, Washington, Idaho, and Oregon are strong and vital to many of the region's universities. New faculty colleagues have made innovative, insightful contributions to research, curriculum programs, and to public knowledge. Without such programs, Canada's impacts in the academic world would quickly diminish. The Institutes have been successful in every respect and have continuously had the support of many colleagues and friends in western Canada. On behalf of the 47 colleges, universities, and organizations in the PNWCSC, he thanked all ICSI Fellows who attended, particularly those who presented on their work and research, and he noted that Canadian Studies in our region has developed strong work on social, economic, environmental, and cultural interests. He also offered the Consortium's thanks to the Government of Canada and the many supporters of past Institutes in British Columbia, the Yukon Territory, and in Alberta, for their years of support. A formal dinner to celebrate the day's success was held at the Women's University Club in downtown Seattle that evening.

*The International Canadian Studies Institute was conceived, created, and organized by the Canadian Consulate General of Seattle in 2001 to identify and recruit university professors and administrators to participate in a Canadian Studies Institute – alternating between Alberta and British Columbia / Yukon. More than 100 professors from Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington have participated. The ICSI Impacts Conference aimed to measure some of the valuable impacts of the nine past Institutes. Impacts were especially assessed in areas of teaching, research, scholarly and professional writing, and in cross-border scholarly and professional relationships. Also considered were impacts upon students for internships, studying in Canada and about Canada, in various fields. And Institute Fellows were asked to consider impacts upon their universities in terms of colleagues, seminars and conferences with Canadian content or focus, Canada Days events, Canadian guest speakers, and cross-border exchanges and academic collaboration, as well as on their local communities, the cities in which their institutions are to be found. – Michael Treleaven, Executive Director*

*This report was written by Sim Hinman Wan, a graduate student in the College of Built Environments and research assistant for the Canadian Studies Center at the University of Washington in Seattle.*