“Providing resources for capable and committed individuals to follow their instincts leads to the best of all discoveries, the totally surprising, the most unexpected, and the most useful ones.”

DR. MICHAEL SMITH
NOBEL LAUREATE, PETER WALL INSTITUTE
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR 1994-2000
GRANTS DISTRIBUTED
$1.2M

GRANTS AWARDED
70

EVENTS HOSTED
132

ARTS-BASED INITIATIVES
9

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ROUNDTABLES
6

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANTS
136

VISITING RESEARCHERS FROM OTHER UNIVERSITIES
138

VISITING RESEARCHERS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES
63

DIVERSE DISCIPLINES IN RESIDENCE
26

2560 tickets sold

FALL AND SPRING WALL EXCHANGE LECTURE SERIES

Andrew Feinstein

NOVEMBER 7, 2018
THE SHADOW WORLD OF THE GLOBAL ARMS TRADE

Feinstein drew back the curtain on the shadow world of the global trade in weapons — its systemic corruption, highly technical nature, and the pervasive secrecy in which deals are conducted.

Ali Velshi

MAY 16, 2018
THE WEAPONIZATION OF CULTURE

Ali Velshi examined the phenomenon and spread of culture wars, and culture’s role in both curbing and spreading populist ideals.

Reflections of Canada

To mark the 150th anniversary of Canadian confederation, we published Reflections of Canada: Illuminating Our Opportunities and Challenges at 150+ Years. This collection of essays brought together Canada’s leading writers, researchers, and thought leaders to offer commentary on what Canada is and what it must become.

322 photos

322 photos were submitted to our Re-Imaging Canada Photo Contest, and were judged by renowned photographer Rob Atkins. We received contributions from across Canada, from Haida Gwaii to Yellowknife to Bloor Street in Toronto.
FOUR CORE PROGRAMS

Wall Scholar Research Award

Fostering sustained and transformational intellectual engagement among UBC researchers and visiting scholars

The Wall Scholar Research Award provides the opportunity for outstanding full-time UBC faculty members to engage in intellectual risk-taking and high-impact, innovative research, while immersed in an interdisciplinary environment with UBC colleagues and international visiting scholars. The award is expected to have a significant and long-term impact on the scholarship of leading UBC faculty members across disciplines and rank.

We selected ten UBC Wall Scholars for the 2017-2018 academic year:

Michael Brauer, Professor
SCHOOL OF POPULATION & PUBLIC HEALTH

William Cheung, Associate Professor
INSTITUTE FOR THE OCEANS AND FISHERIES

Kalina Christoff, Professor
PSYCHOLOGY

Xiaonian Lu, Associate Professor
FOOD SCIENCE

Heather McKay, Professor
ORTHOPAEDICS AND FAMILY PRACTICE

Walter Alinda, Professor
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Sebastian Prange, Assistant Professor
HISTORY

Sara Strieder, Associate Professor
ANTHROPOLOGY

Lynn Slothens, Professor
UROLOGIC SCIENCES

Shannon Walsh, Assistant Professor
THEATRE AND FILM

“THE PETER WALL INSTITUTE ALLOWS US TO ENGAGE, CHALLENGE, EXERCISE, AND STRETCH THE WAY WE THINK, AND ACTUALLY FIND NEW CONNECTIONS AND SOLVE PROBLEMS ALONG THE WAY.”

HEATHER MCKAY
2017 WALL SCHOLAR

International Visiting Research Scholars

Fostering global interdisciplinary academic exchange and catalyzing new research directions

In partnership with UBC faculties, departments, and research centres, this award brings some of the world’s best scholars to the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies for an extended stay. Awardees are exceptional scholars who have achieved the highest levels of distinction in their fields, and have demonstrated their commitment to working across disciplinary boundaries.

2017-2018 International Visiting Research Scholars:

Subhrendu Pattanayak
Environmental and Energy Policy, Duke University, Durham, United States
UBC HOSTS
- FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
- ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS

Carmel Mavor
Cognitive Neurology, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom
UBC HOSTS
- PHYSICAL THERAPY
- PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW

Mary Gabein
Development Studies, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa
UBC HOSTS
- INSTITUTE OF RESOURCES
- ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
- INSTITUTE FOR GENDER, RACE, SEXUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
- GEOGRAPHY

Josh Eagle
Environmental Law, University of South Carolina, Columbia, United States
UBC HOSTS
- INSTITUTE FOR THE OCEANS AND FISHERIES
- PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW

David Lubans
Priority Research Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition, School of Education, University of Newcastle, Callaghan, Australia
UBC HOSTS
- KINESIOLOGY
- ORTHOPAEDICS AND FAMILY PRACTICE

Tung-Yi Ho
Computer Science, National Tung Hua University, Hsinchu City, Taiwan
UBC HOSTS
- COMPUTER SCIENCE
- ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Ann Jones
Journals, Harvard University, Cambridge, United States
UBC HOSTS
- POLITICAL SCIENCE
- JOURNALISM

Somalatha Srinivas
Theoretical Biology, Indian Institute of Science Education Research (IISER), Mohali, India
UBC HOSTS
- MATHEMATICS
- SCHOOLS OF POPULATION & PUBLIC HEALTH

Kylie Thomas
Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice, University of the Free State, Cape Town, South Africa
UBC HOSTS
- ENGLISH
- GEOGRAPHY
Wall Solutions Initiative

Harnessing high-level research to find creative solutions to our most pressing and complicated problems

The Wall Solutions Initiative provides opportunities for UBC researchers, community organizations and partners to work collaboratively towards solutions. Some examples of issues being addressed include: impacts of climate change, wildfires, sanitation in refugee camps, health care delivery, and challenges in indigenous communities.

Active Wall Solutions Projects:

- **Developing a Portable Dynamic Vision Test for the Aging Population**
  - **Mirror Steering**
  - **Optimization and Visual Science, UBC**
  - **Partner organization: Vision Rehabilitation Program, Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver, Canada**

- **Our Future Community: Engaging Youth on Climate Solutions with a Place-Based Video Game**
  - **Stephen Sheppard**
  - **Forest Resources Management, UBC**
  - **Partner organization: Energy and Sustainability, Vancouver School Board, Vancouver, Canada**

- **Wildfire 2017: Community-Based Solutions to a Wicked Problem**
  - **Lon Daniels**
  - **Forest and Conservation Sciences, UBC**
  - **Shannon Hagaman**

- **After the Ink is Dry: Strategies and Best Practices to Support Durable Implementation of Complex Multi-Party Agreements**
  - **Lindsey Richardson**
  - **Sociology, UBC**
  - **Partner organization: PHS Community Services Society, Vancouver, Canada**

- **Turning Points: An Empowerment Connection Project for Indigenous People with Alcohol Dependence**
  - **Peter Klein**
  - **Journalism, UBC**
  - **Partner organization: A New Day Men’s Healing Program; First Nations Emergency Service Society; BC Community Forest Association, British Columbia, Canada**

- **What’s Up? Fostering Communication Skills for Children with Autism Using a Virtual Reality Game**
  - **Lori Daniels**
  - **Psychology, UBC**
  - **Partner organization: PHS Community Services Society, Vancouver, Canada**

- **Children with Autism Using a Virtual Reality Game**
  - **Peter Klein**
  - **Social Justice, UBC**
  - **Partner organization: Committee for the Rights of Victims of Bhopal, India**

- **EXHIBITIONS AND REBURIAL IN COLOMBIA: STRENGTHENING EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE**
  - **Pilar Riaño-Alcalá**
  - **Sociology, UBC**
  - **Partner organization: Committee for the Rights of Victims of Bhopal, India**

- **Evaluating the Impact of Alternative Income Assistance Timing on Drug-Related Harm**
  - **Amanda D. Rodewald**
  - **Sociology, UBC**
  - **Partner organization: PHS Community Services Society, Vancouver, Canada**

- **From Villain to Virtuoso: The Role of Spontaneous Thought in Science and Society**
  - **Tal Jamer**
  - **Classical, Near Eastern and Religious Studies, UBC**
  - **Partner organization: Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, BC Children’s Hospital, Vancouver, Canada**

- **After Mass Violence Memory and Civic Responsibility During and After Mass Violence**
  - **Lindsey Richardson**
  - **Social Justice, UBC**
  - **Partner organization: Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, BC Children’s Hospital, Vancouver, Canada**

- **Assistance Timing on Drug-Related Harm Evaluating the Impact of Alternative Income Assistance**
  - **Lindsie Richardson**
  - **Sociology, UBC**
  - **Partner organization: PHS Community Services Society, Vancouver, Canada**

- **At the Cornell Lab of Ornithology: “THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE AS AN INCUBATOR AND CATALYST TO BRING NEW VOICES AND PERSPECTIVES TO THE CONSERVATION FINANCE DIALOGUE.”**
  - **Amanda D. Rodewald**
  - **Director of Conservation Science at the Peter Wall Solutions Initiative**

- **Looking for Lunch by Norm Prince**

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**International Research Roundtables**

Catalysing collaborative research between scholars from UBC, Canada and around the world

International Research Roundtables provide scholars, community leaders, artists, policy makers and others the opportunity to explore a theme, create the foundation for innovative research, prompt important advances in science and society, and have a significant impact on the discovery of solutions to important problems.

**2017-2018 International Research Roundtables:**

- **Promise and Peril: Conservation Finance Models for Biodiversity Conservation, Well-Being and Sustainability**
  - **Hosts: UBC, Canada and around the world**
  - **Partner organizations:**
    - **Pacific Institute for Isotopic and Geochemical Research (PCIGR), UBC**
    - **LiU Institute for Global Issues, UBC**
    - **Department of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, UBC**
    - **National Institute for Forestry and Forest Resources Management, UBC**

- **Active Wall Solutions Projects:**
  - **After the Ink is Dry: Strategies and Best Practices to Support Durable Implementation of Complex Multi-Party Agreements**
    - **Hosts: Social Justice, UBC**
    - **Partner organizations:**
      - **BC Children’s Hospital, Vancouver, Canada**
      - **Energy and Sustainability, Vancouver School Board, Vancouver, Canada**
      - **Vision Rehabilitation Program, Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver, Canada**

- **What’s Up? Fostering Communication Skills for Children with Autism Using a Virtual Reality Game**
  - **Hosts: Psychology, UBC**
  - **Partner organizations:**
    - **Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, BC Children’s Hospital, Vancouver, Canada**
    - **SUNY Health Science Centre at Brooklyn, USA**

- **Children with Autism Using a Virtual Reality Game**
  - **Hosts: Psychology, UBC**
  - **Partner organizations:**
    - **First Nations Emergency Service Society and BC Community Forest Association, British Columbia, Canada**
    - **University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada**

- **After Mass Violence Memory and Civic Responsibility During and After Mass Violence**
  - **Hosts: Sociology, UBC**
  - **Partner organizations:**
    - **Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, BC Children’s Hospital, Vancouver, Canada**
    - **BC Children’s Hospital, Vancouver, Canada**

- **Assistance Timing on Drug-Related Harm Evaluating the Impact of Alternative Income Assistance**
  - **Hosts: Social Justice, UBC**
  - **Partner organizations:**
    - **Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, BC Children’s Hospital, Vancouver, Canada**
    - **University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada**

- **At the Cornell Lab of Ornithology: “THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE AS AN INCUBATOR AND CATALYST TO BRING NEW VOICES AND PERSPECTIVES TO THE CONSERVATION FINANCE DIALOGUE.”**
  - **Hosts: UBC, Canada and around the world**

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**Looking for Lunch by Norm Prince**

**Wall Solutions Initiative**
In partnership with the Consulate General of France in Vancouver, this program brings French scholars with a proven track record of academic excellence and innovative research to UBC. French scholars invited to lecture at UBC during the 2017-2018 academic year came from the following disciplines: philosophy, neuroscience, taxonomy, literature, and geochemistry.

This program provides scholars from a range of disciplines, and from around the world, the opportunity to come together for a few days to develop and further research agendas on cutting edge topics. Wall Colloquia Abroad are held at one of our partner institutions.
The Wall Scholar Research Award fosters an environment that encourages collaboration across disciplines. As a result, many former Wall Scholars, as well as Wall Associates and international visitors, have come together to work on interdisciplinary research projects that have led to surprising, unexpected, and useful results.

Some examples of interdisciplinary research projects that have resulted from this program:

- **Hallie Marshall**
  - THEATER AND FILM, UBC
  - 2016 Wall Scholars Hallie Marshall and Anne Murphy co-organized a seminar series that used theatre and film to build connections between departments, provide cross-cultural opportunities for students, and enhance cultural diversity at UBC.

- **Anne Murphy**
  - ASIAN STUDIES, UBC

- **Kalina Christoff**
  - PSYCHOLOGY, UBC

- **Walter Mérida**
  - MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, UBC

- **Ben Shneiderman**
  - COMPUTER SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

- **Sondatta Sinha**
  - BIOLOGY & MATHEMATICS, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH MOHALI

2017 Scholars Kalina Christoff and Walter Mérida, and international visitors Ben Shneiderman and Sondatta Sinha, developed a project that will enable a deeper understanding of the brain network dynamics underlying cognition, with strong potential for direct clinical relevance. This project will facilitate a deeper dialogue between network neuroscience and complex systems research to understand brain function.

- **Shannon Walsh**
  - THEATER AND FILM, UBC

- **Mary Berbee**
  - BOTANY, UBC

- **Steven Hallam**
  - MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY, UBC

- **Suzanne Simard**
  - FORESTRY, UBC

2017 Scholars Shannon Walsh was working on a feature length documentary, Illusions of Control, which explored the mushroom harvesting industry in degraded secondary forests in the B.C. interior. During this time, she was introduced to Mary Berbee, Steven Hallam, and Suzanne Simard, which led to the submission of a proposal to create a short virtual reality piece examining the forest floor ecosystem. This project will provide a radical new way to visualize the interconnecting web of chemical, physical, and biological processes that tie together one of the largest carbon reservoirs on Earth.

“Down from me, Walter Mérida is looking at autonomous vehicles and alternative energy. We started the conversation talking with an individual who happened to be a guest for lunch. I didn’t know that I would be talking with Walter about how autonomous vehicles might be adapted to meet the transportation needs of older people but we did have that conversation on a walk, and since then we have applied for and received a grant to study that.”

HEATHER MCKAY
2017 WALL SCHOLAR
The Peter Wall Institute first supported Hallie Marshall’s research through an Arts-Based Initiative award in 2015 which allowed her to bring UK-based scholar and theatre practitioner Helen Eastman to UBC to explore ideas about the ancient Greek chorus in the modern world. As a 2016 Wall Scholar, Marshall organized a workshop that led to a partnership with UBC Law Professor Janis Sarra and Eastman to create a performance piece which used a Greek chorus to explain complex ideas about modern financial markets and their regulation. Intended originally for performance at a conference in Montreal, their show The Foreclosure Follies has toured five cities in four countries (Vancouver, New York, London, Oxford, and Athens).

Helen Eastman
THEATRE AND FILM, UBC

Janis Sarra
PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW, UBC

The work merges their expertise in clean energy and healthy aging. They will be hosting a workshop at UBC to develop a broader proposal that will be presented to CIHR in Ottawa. After discussions with his Wall Scholar cohort, Mérida has incorporated experiential and architectural components into a project that was originally envisioned as an engineering research platform only.

Walter Mérida
ORTHOPAEDICS AND FAMILY PRACTICE, UBC

HEATHER MCKAY
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, UBC

2017 Wall Scholars Heather McKay and Walter Mérida received a 2018-2019 CIHR Grant for a project titled Creating Connections: Innovative Transportation Solution for Older Adults. The work merges their expertise in clean energy and healthy aging. They will be hosting a workshop at UBC to develop a broader proposal that will be presented to CIHR in Ottawa. After discussions with his Wall Scholar cohort, Mérida has incorporated experiential and architectural components into a project that was originally envisioned as an engineering research platform only.

Madjid Mohseni
CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING, UBC

George Belliveau
LANGUAGE AND LITERACY EDUCATION, UBC

Madjid Mohseni’s time as a Wall Scholar enabled him to develop an interdisciplinary lens through which to examine drinking water issues in Indigenous communities through the Res/tau WaterNet program. He worked with fellow 2016 Wall Scholar George Belliveau to employ theatre techniques to engage health professionals with water engineers, science policy experts, industry partners and end-user communities, seeking innovative solutions for Aboriginal drinking water systems.

This collaboration led to a successful NCE-KM grant application of $1.6M plus additional matching funds from industry and government agencies, as well as a successful UBC Research Cluster grant of $100,000.

This isn’t the only project that incorporates research-based theatre as a methodology. Since his time at the Institute, Belliveau has been able to test this new methodology in five collaborative projects where connections were forged through the Peter Wall Institute.

Hallie Marshall
THEATRE AND FILM, UBC

Janis Sarra
PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW, UBC

Helen Eastman
GREEK AND ROMAN DRAMA, OXFORD

Joseph Dahmen
MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY, UBC

Steven Hallam
SCHOOL OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, UBC

Joseph Dahmen
SCHOOL OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, UBC

2016 Wall Scholars Steven Hallam and Joseph Dahmen initiated a collaboration to explore new approaches to the design of environmentally sustainable building materials. They led a group of students who designed a composting toilet for refugee camps made of biodegradable biocomposite mycelium. The project won the top prize out of 500 entries from around the world at the 2018 Biodesign Challenge at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

George Belliveau
2016 WALL SCHOLAR

Madjid Mohseni
2016 WALL SCHOLAR

Helen Eastman
2016 WALL SCHOLAR

“Madjid Mohseni’s time as a Wall Scholar enabled him to develop an interdisciplinary lens through which to examine drinking water issues in Indigenous communities through the Res/tau WaterNet program. He worked with fellow 2016 Wall Scholar George Belliveau to employ theatre techniques to engage health professionals with water engineers, science policy experts, industry partners and end-user communities, seeking innovative solutions for Aboriginal drinking water systems.”

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Heather McKay
2016 WALL SCHOLAR

Madjid Mohseni
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Heather McKay
2016 WALL SCHOLAR

Madjid Mohseni
2016 WALL SCHOLAR

“2017 Wall Scholars Heather McKay and Walter Mérida received a 2018-2019 CIHR Grant for a project titled Creating Connections: Innovative Transportation Solution for Older Adults. The work merges their expertise in clean energy and healthy aging. They will be hosting a workshop at UBC to develop a broader proposal that will be presented to CIHR in Ottawa. After discussions with his Wall Scholar cohort, Mérida has incorporated experiential and architectural components into a project that was originally envisioned as an engineering research platform only.”

Heather McKay
2016 WALL SCHOLAR

October 29, 2017 Building a Better Canada A virtual audio tour down the length of an Antarctic ice core developed by scientists and artists from the University of British Columbia, Stanford University, and University of California, Berkeley.

May 8, 2018 M.C. Escher and the Droste Effect A public talk held at the Banting Centre for Arts and Creativity by Hendrik Leistra, Mathematician and Cryptographer. Co-sponsored by the Banting International Research Station (BIRS) and the Banting Centre for Arts and Creativity.

The Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of British Columbia provides opportunities for world-class scholars to engage in innovative research questions in a vibrant, collegial community spanning all disciplines. Our programs draw together scholars from UBC and around the world to engage in deep and uncontrained research into some of the most profound questions and challenges facing humanity.

DIRECTOR
Philipp Turell

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Bernadette Math

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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW
The Institute is fully endowment-funded. The Peter Wall Endowment comprises Peter Wall’s original gift of 6.5 million Wall Financial Corporation shares made on April 12, 1991. Peter Wall was a visionary Vancouver property developer responsible for the iconic Wall Centre in the downtown area. Dividends from the shares support programs, lease of space, and a major portion of the Institute’s administration costs. Interest from the Hampton Endowment, a fund dedicated to the Institute in 1994, also supports the programs.

PETER WALL INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES (THEREOF OF CANADA)
“We come together to ponder big ideas in an interdisciplinary and creative environment. This is a space where you can enjoy the benefits of time and engage socially and intellectually with scholars from around the world.”

PHILIPPE TORTELL
DIRECTOR