“Peter Wall realized that there was an opportunity to create a university-based institute for advanced research which doesn’t exist anywhere else. He made it clear from the outset that the money had to be used to generate new ideas and initiatives that wouldn’t happen otherwise.”

UBC PRESIDENT
DAVID STRANGWAY (1991)
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In 2018-2019, the Institute supported 40 research scholar awards, representing 42 unique disciplines; hosted 154 visiting researchers, and presented 76 events through its core programs.
WALL SCHOLARS
INTERNATIONAL VISITING RESEARCH SCHOLARS
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ROUNDTABLES
WALL SOLUTIONS INITIATIVES
THE WALL EXCHANGE
THEME DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS
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ARTS-BASED INITIATIVES
2018-2019

Wall Scholars

The Wall Scholars program offers UBC tenure-track faculty from all disciplines and career stages a year-long residence at the Institute to exchange and conduct research that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries and explores innovative ways of thinking and knowing.
ANNA CASAS AGUILAR
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR | FRENCH, HISPANIC AND ITALIAN STUDIES; FACULTY OF ARTS

During her tenure as a Wall Scholar, Anna Casas Aguilar advanced two interrelated projects. She conducted research for a new book manuscript titled *Images of Difference: Regionalism and Tourism in Spain, 1960-2017*. Through analyses of films, photographs, advertisements, as well as government and citizens’ initiatives, including anti-tourism protests, this project addresses the central place of tourism in Spain from the 1960s to the present and its role in reimagining Spain and its regions. She also completed final revisions on her first book, *Fatherhood in Spain after Dictatorship*, which examines how numerous authors who grew up in Catalonia during Francisco Franco’s dictatorship confronted and reconstituted the regime’s model of fatherhood and masculinity during the transition to democracy.

JESSICA DEMPSEY
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR | GEOGRAPHY; FACULTY OF ARTS

As a Wall Scholar, Jessica Dempsey focused on the question of why the decimation of nonhuman life continues apace, despite growing scientific, political, and legal attention to the crisis. Biodiversity loss seems to have a kind of momentum, or even a life of its own. But, Dempsey asks, from where does this momentum stem? During her time at the Institute, she began a multi-year and multi-site research project called *Cheap Natures of Canada* that aims to understand the devalued position of nonhumans like the woodland caribou — species ostensibly “protected” yet still facing ongoing habitat loss. Currently supported by a Hampton grant, the project intends to build empirically based, political-economic theorizations of biodiversity loss, tracing how wild natures are kept in devalued, or “cheap” positions by laws, policies and economic systems.

MALABIKA PRAMANIK
PROFESSOR | MATHEMATICS; FACULTY OF SCIENCE

During her term as a Wall Scholar, Malabika Pramanik pursued and expanded her research program in singularity theory, several complex variables and geometric restriction phenomena. She explored connections between her research and other disciplines, aiming to apply her expertise to other basic and applied sciences where analytical methods can be useful. She also engaged with scholars from the humanities to better understand socio-cultural challenges encountered by minorities when entering STEM fields. To tackle this challenge, Pramanik founded the Diversity in Mathematics Summer School, which offers workshops aimed to inspire students, primarily those who identify as female, non-binary, and/or two-spirit, to believe in their abilities and view a career in mathematics as a viable option.
JONATHAN GIRARD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR | SCHOOL OF MUSIC; FACULTY OF ARTS | DIRECTOR OF THE UBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

As a Wall Scholar, Jonathan Girard worked on a graphical score for orchestra and commissioned new orchestral works that explore sonic expressions of climate change. He collaborated with Deborah Carruthers, a Peter Wall Institute Artist in Residence, on slip-pages, an interdisciplinary performance about glaciers and climate change. He is currently working on a collaborative project with PWIAS Director Philippe Tortell and Chris Chafe (Stanford University) that will merge earth science and artistic performance to produce a major new musical work, entitled Earth Moment 86/50. The original musical score will be composed by Chris Chafe and Jonathan Girard, using a process of sonification to convert environmental data into musical tones.

EVAN THOMPSON
PROFESSOR | PHILOSOPHY; FACULTY OF ARTS

At the Peter Wall Institute, Evan Thompson focused on philosophical investigations of the human experience of dying and death. His project examines dying as a “transformative experience” that changes how you perceive yourself and your relations to others in ways you cannot fully grasp before it happens. Dying is the ultimate transformative experience, not only in being final, inevitable, and all encompassing, but also in having fundamental significance. A consideration of dying brings an important perspective to the philosophy of death, while offering insights for physicians, nurses, hospice workers, and family members who care for dying loved ones. Thompson aims to reconnect modern philosophy to one of the key guiding impulses of ancient philosophy, which is to prepare ourselves for death, whenever it may come, and to live our lives accordingly.

SARA MILSTEIN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR | CLASSICAL, NEAR EASTERN, AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES; FACULTY OF ARTS

As a Wall Scholar, Sara Milstein turned to the murky origins of biblical and Near Eastern law, a body of perplexing precepts that continue to have reverberations today. Her project, titled Making a Case: The Emergent Legal Mind in the Ancient Near East (Oxford University Press), is bound to be of interest to anyone who is fascinated by legal history or intrigued by the roots of the modern legal imagination. Milstein probed the rich collection of practical legal documents from Mesopotamia—available in the form of trial records, legal letters, “model court cases,” and more—to gain fresh insight into the emergence of biblical and Near Eastern law. Making a Case has benefitted from support from the Killam Foundation and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).
LEILA HARRIS
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR | INSTITUTE FOR RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY; FACULTY OF SCIENCE | THE SOCIAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE; FACULTY OF ARTS

During her Wall Scholar residency, Leila Harris worked on a book manuscript related to water access, governance, and narrative in underserved communities of Accra, Ghana and Cape Town, South Africa. The book, entitled *Human Right to Water: Lived Experience, Narrative and Democracy in the Context of Inequality*, is the culmination of a multi-sited and multi-year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) funded project, and will address the politics and consequences of the uneven implementation of the human right to water. The work considers linkages between uneven water access and quality, linking such patterned inequity to a range of socio-political concerns, including theoretical considerations concerning inequity and democracy. A second focus of her residency was to advance a newer project on non-material dimensions of household water insecurity (HWI), with particular interest in the relationship between HWI and broader socio-political considerations, including community engagement.

IAN WILLIAMS
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR | CREATIVE WRITING; FACULTY OF ARTS

During his residency at the Peter Wall Institute, Ian Williams promoted his first novel *Reproduction* and worked on a grammatically preoccupied poetry collection that reinvigorates our contemporary syntax, emerges intelligently from the history of English, borrows from French and Latin, acknowledges the Canadian debt to Indigeneity, and finally embraces the permanent digital reformations to our language — all of this to represent our distinctly contemporary feelings of omnipresent low-grade anxiety.

GUY DUMONT
PROFESSOR | ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING; FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE

While in residence at the Peter Wall Institute, Guy Dumont initiated the development of BrainSteer, a novel closed-loop transcranial electrical stimulation system with integrated sensors for feedback from personalized biomarkers of response. The system is meant to help personalize treatment for patients suffering from major depressive disorder.

WATCH THE 2018 WALL SCHOLARS TALK ABOUT THEIR PROJECTS AND THEIR YEAR IN RESIDENCE HERE: PWIAS.UBC.CA/NEWS/VIDEOS
As a member of the Canadian Mathematical Society and a conference organizer, I am always looking for ways to attract both eminent mathematicians and early-career researchers, preferably from as many different corners of the globe as budgetary constraints will allow.

You can imagine my incredulity, followed by sinking dismay, as I sat at a seminar recently listening to a presentation facilitated by fellow Peter Wall Institute Scholar Jessica Dempsey from UBC's geography department.

Seth Wynes and Simon Donner, also from UBC's geography department, laid out their findings from a recent study titled “Addressing greenhouse gas emissions from business-related air travel at public institutions: A case study of the University of British Columbia,” published by the Pacific Institute of Climate Solutions.

To say that I was stunned — even horrified — would be an understatement. Climate change, greenhouse gas emissions and eco-friendly initiatives are a common point of discourse these days. I thought I had done my tiny bit by cutting down on plastic, sorting the garbage, composting religiously, turning off switches before leaving the house and supporting the carbon tax.
Guilt had been confined mainly to driving my car. Aware as I was of mathematicians engaged in exploring the consequences of climate change, I had never imagined that my own research activities could have any bearing on the future of the planet.

Yet, the findings are sobering and unequivocal. Air travel emissions resulting from professional travel, predominantly to conferences, are significant.

Wynes and Donner estimate that business-related air travel emissions at UBC total 26,333 to 31,685 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year, equivalent to 63 to 73 per cent of the total annual emissions from the operation of the Vancouver UBC campus.

The research looked at emissions by department. The psychology department, for example, had emissions from business-related air travel that were similar to the emissions from heating and powering its building for a year.

In the case of the geography department, which recently switched to a more efficient heating system, business-related air travel emissions were 30 times greater than emissions from the building.

For the entire university, annual business-related air travel emissions are 1.3 to 1.6 times greater than the total UBC emissions target for the year 2020.

Put another way, the emissions per UBC traveller in this study are equivalent to 10 to 13 per cent of the greenhouse gas footprint of the average Canadian — and 16 to 21 per cent the emissions of the average B.C. resident.

This means that the average person in this sample produced, simply through air travel, at least 16 per cent of the emissions that someone in B.C. creates in their entire annual footprint, including flying, home heating and driving a car.

The study, which analyses business-related air travel emissions using data from 4,804 UBC travellers, found that the average emissions of a professor are three times higher than the average graduate student.

UBC trips are short (median length of five nights), and the most common purpose of trips was for conferences and meetings.
Simple mitigation measures, including eliminating higher class travel (which shrinks the number of passengers per flight) and cutting brief, long-haul trips, could have reduced emissions by 11.7 per cent while also saving money.

The presentation focused only on UBC. But the problem most definitely is not organization-specific. Curiosity led me to probe a bit more into the environmental impact of large-scale conferences.

Unsurprisingly, evidence was everywhere, once I knew what to look for. In an article titled “Sustainable Science?” published in Ethnobiology Letters, authors Alexandra Ponette-González and Jarrett Byrnes found that travel to a single meeting can generate about 11,000 tonnes of CO2.

Ponette-González and Byrnes notes these numbers are at odds with the values of scientists who are concerned about climate change. Like Wynes and Donner, they also talk about the necessity of a cultural shift within academia.

What would such a cultural shift look like? Right now, virtual meetings and large-scale web conferences seem unworkable substitutes for in-person interactions. Especially with the inevitable technical glitches, the lack of interactivity, audio lag, poor video quality and dropped connections.

While the aviation industry races to replace fossil fuels and explores green alternatives such as battery-powered flights, do we sit back and wait for technological innovation to catch up with our expectations?

Or should conference organizers initiate cultural shifts that are within reach, like emphasizing regional participation, while using venues with enhanced information and communication technology for remote collaboration?

But the real issues go deeper. Even assuming that technology breakthroughs for virtual meetings are around the corner, how does one balance the demands for an ethical approach to climate change with the reality that promotion and tenure can depend in part on the number of invitations to speak at international conferences?
Malabika Pramanik is a 2018 Wall Scholar and Professor in Mathematics at the University of British Columbia. She is currently working with fellow scholars Jessica Dempsey (Geography), Anna Casas Aguilar (French, Hispanic and Italian Studies), and Sara Milstein (Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies) to engage the broader academic community, within and outside UBC, on conversations surrounding academic aviation emissions.

Additionally, any academic institute or organization that unilaterally aims to incorporate progressive environmental policies into its broader infrastructure risks being at a competitive disadvantage in the current academic environment, at least in the early stages.

Socially conscious academic organizations, such as the Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies in Sweden and the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research in the U.K. have already stepped up to the plate with strategies to reduce travel emissions.

But these remain tiny drops in a giant bucket. There is a pressing need for larger deliberation within the academic community that could lead to global academic policy changes.

Our lives are complex, for the most part a tightrope walk of balancing priorities. Our planet, that supports these lives, is more complex still. Ironically, the benefits to one often seem to conflict with the other. Yet the end goal is clear; the planet must thrive, so that we can. The way to change seems partly obscure at the moment. But change we must.
Stories from past Wall Scholars

The Peter Wall Institute’s academic programs have influenced the work of many UBC scholars, creating new research directions, generating major external funding, and stimulating new modes of collaboration across disciplines.

**JONATHAN GIRARD**  
2018 WALL SCHOLAR  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC, UBC

**DEBORAH CARRUTHERS**  
ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Seeing sound had been on Deborah Carruthers’ mind for years. Her research finally materialized in *slippages*, an interdisciplinary performance about glaciers and climate change that was originally envisioned during her time as an Artist in Residence at the Peter Wall Institute. The performance was a collaboration with 2018 Wall Scholar and Orchestra Director Jonathan Girard, who conducted the UBC Symphony Orchestra in its musical interpretation of Carruthers’ graphic score.

Read more about *slippages*, an interdisciplinary exercise in seeing sound here:  
[pwias.ubc.ca/wall-papers/seeing-sound](http://pwias.ubc.ca/wall-papers/seeing-sound)

**PETER KLEIN**  
2015 WALL SCHOLAR  
JOURNALISM, UBC

During his 2015 Wall Scholar residency, Peter Klein met fellow Wall Scholar Mary O’Connor (Zoology, UBC). O’Connor has since become a co-investigator in the Hidden Costs SSHRC project, which aims to reveal the consequences of global supply chains — research has found that 25 million people are victims of forced labour around the world, and corruption costs countries, businesses and consumers trillions of dollars. In addition, the environmental and climate effects of global trade are growing. Hidden Costs brings together journalists and scholars to research and report on the complexities of global trade. The project includes a collaboration with 2017 Wall Scholar Xiaonan Lu (Land and Food systems, UBC) to test fish collected in China.
Renisa Mawani began a collaboration with Anver Emon, Professor of Law at the University of Toronto, a scholar she met at a workshop organized by fellow 2016 Wall Scholar Ayesha Chaudhry, which was hosted by the Peter Wall Institute. The project, which is titled “Between the Straits: From Gibraltar to Malacca,” will be devoted to unearthing the rich and diverse histories of commerce, capitalism, and economic thought from the earliest days of Islamic expansion in the Arabian Peninsula to contemporary movements of trade, money and people across the Mediterranean and the eastern and western Indian Ocean arenas.

Corporations and individuals can fish in the high seas without oversight, often leading to undeclared catches and mislabeling. This issue brought Wall Scholar alumni together to work across disciplines in an effort to improve transparency of the seafood supply chain and reduce mislabeling and seafood fraud. During their residency, Xiaonan Lu and William Cheung found that their work was seamlessly interconnected since Lu focuses on the traceability of seafood fraud and Cheung’s research is on seafood sustainability in relation to global changes. Using funding from the Wall Scholars program, Cheung and Lu were able to partner with Peter Klein, who led a group of students on a project focused on seafood supply chains.

Read our Wall Paper about improving transparency of the seafood supply chain here:

pwias.ubc.ca/wall-papers/seafood-supply-chain
Aaron Boley is a Canada Research Chair in Planetary Astronomy and co-founder of UBC’s Outer Space Institute (OSI), which brings together an interdisciplinary crew of lawyers, business experts, sociologists and planetary scientists, some of whom Boley met at the Peter Wall Institute, to ensure the sustainable development of space. The Peter Wall Institute has played an important role in supporting and hosting public events organized by OSI, including the 2018 OSI Conference, a public forum to discuss the medical challenges of human habitation in space featuring NASA astronaut Dr. Serena Auñón-Chancellor, and an upcoming Peter Wall Institute International Research Roundtable scheduled for the 2020 academic year.

Read about how 2016 Wall Scholar Aaron Boley wants to clean up Earth’s orbit – and why our future in space depends on it here:

▶ pwias.ubc.ca/wall-papers/clean-space

Sebastian Prange’s book, Monsoon Islam: Trade & Faith on the Medieval Malabar Coast, won the 2019 American Historical Association’s John F. Richards Prize. Released in April 2018, Monsoon Islam was Prange’s project during his residency as a Wall Scholar. The book is about the development of Islam within the trading world of monsoon Asia, a development that was shaped by merchants and itinerant mystics rather than by sultans and scholars, and which spread through commercial interaction rather than by conquest. Prange has also been awarded special projects funds to advance a new book project entitled Outlaw Economics: A Rogue History of Capitalism, which he says was inspired by ongoing group discussions among his Wall Scholar cohort.

Read more about Monsoon Islam here:

▶ pwias.ubc.ca/wall-papers/monsoon-islam
The Networks of Centres of Excellence is providing funding of $1.6 million over four years for the RESEAU Centre for Mobilizing Innovation, a multi-disciplinary strategic network that connects Canada’s First Nations communities with organizations that can help resolve the prevalent drinking water problem through an innovative community circle model. Mohseni is the Scientific Director and Chair of the Networks’ impact management committee, but he credits the Wall Solutions Initiative award he received in 2013 as the reason his team was able to mobilize with non-academic partners to formulate and develop the project.

Read more about Mohseni’s project here:
 pwias.ubc.ca/wall-papers/lifting-boil-water-advisories

Alireza Nojeh was one of the organizers of the Nanoscale Thermal Transport and Heat Localization workshop at UBC, which took place at the end of August 2018. The event attracted 10 high-profile international speakers and about 50 local participants from multiple departments. The seed fund for the workshop was provided by the Peter Wall Institute as part of a special projects fund to Nojeh, and was organized with additional support from the Stewart Blusson Quantum Matter Institute. Several possibilities of new collaborations emerged from the workshop.

The ability to control the flow of heat is often crucial in electronics. Alireza Nojeh was one of the organizers of the Nanoscale Thermal Transport and Heat Localization workshop at UBC, which took place at the end of August 2018. The event attracted 10 high-profile international speakers and about 50 local participants from multiple departments. The seed fund for the workshop was provided by the Peter Wall Institute as part of a special projects fund to Nojeh, and was organized with additional support from the Stewart Blusson Quantum Matter Institute. Several possibilities of new collaborations emerged from the workshop.

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Read more about Mohseni’s project here:
 pwias.ubc.ca/wall-papers/lifting-boil-water-advisories

Staging data: Research stories brought to life through theatre, hosted at the Peter Wall Institute in the spring of 2019, showcased two interdisciplinary studies of research-based theatre, an emerging methodology aimed at stripping down systematic research projects and communicating participants’ experience and emotion through theatre. The first project, titled Treading Water, highlighted the obstacles faced by Indigenous water system operators when delivering clean and safe water to small and rural Canadian communities, and the second, Alone in the Ring, explored disabilities in the medical profession.

Read our Wall Paper on Staging data: Research stories brought to life through theatre here:
 pwias.ubc.ca/wall-papers/staging-data
International Visiting Research Scholars

The International Visiting Research Scholars program builds and sustains long-term research connections between UBC scholars and the global academic community. The Institute partners with UBC faculties, departments and research centres to bring scholars from across the world to spend time at the Institute and to give a public talk during their visit. Visiting scholars are hosted by at least two UBC faculty members from different disciplines.
PUBLIC EVENT
March 19, 2019 | The Politics and Possibilities of Girl-led and Youth-led Arts-based Activism to Address Gender Violence

“One of the most important things that we learned at this international event is that violence is not just happening in our community.” Slight variations of this same statement were made by Indigenous girls and young women from across Canada who participated in an international art-making conference called Circles Within Circles in 2018, they were joined by young women from Sweden, South Africa and Russia. What was most notable in this work, besides the art-making itself (collage, photography and cellphilm production), was the recognition on the part of participants of the significance of having more stakeholder support, something that became key to a ‘girlfesto’ produced at Circles Within Circles. This lecture explored the question: What can we learn about new forms of activism and how might this work contribute to deepening an understanding of young people’s leadership and engagement?

PUBLIC EVENT
February 27, 2019 | The Health of Young People in the Justice System

Children and adolescents involved with the criminal justice system are distinguished by poor health and health risk behaviours, often set against a backdrop of trauma and entrenched, intergenerational disadvantage. In his lecture, Stuart Kinner provided an overview of what is known about the health of young people involved in the youth justice system, and focused on recent research using data linkage to examine patterns of mortality among young people exposed to the youth justice system in Australia.
HARRIET FRIEDMANN  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, CANADA

UBC HOSTS  
Hannah Wittman; Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, Faculty of Land and Food Systems  
Loren Rieseberg; Department of Botany, Faculty of Science

PUBLIC EVENT  
March 6, 2019 | We all live from the land: Seeds of recognition, recognition of seeds

Drawing on the history of ideas about nature from the 19th century, especially Humboldt and Darwin, and Latour’s revisioning of how governing human society might adequately respond to the Gaia hypothesis, Harriet Friedmann focused on seed governance at the interface of society, culture, and ecology. Seeds of recognition lie in new ways of understanding humans as a species at once like other species — in that humans change ecosystems to get food — but also unique in its capacity to reflect and change its practices. Foundational area selection, saving, changing, and planting seeds. Recognition of seeds is crucial to changes in governing ourselves as part of nature.

SHIN’ICHIRO MATSUO  
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, UNITED STATES

UBC HOSTS  
Victoria Lemieux; School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, Faculty of Arts  
Chen Feng; School of Engineering, Faculty of Applied Science, UBC-Okanagan

PUBLIC EVENT  
June 13, 2019 | G20 meets G-20: Blockchain Multi-stakeholder Workshop

As permissionless blockchain and distributed ledger technology (DLT) platforms evolve and mature, there is an urgent need for multi-stakeholders to engage in their planning, development, roll-out, and operation, in order for innovation of a wide variety of financial applications to proliferate and become mainstream. Thus far it has been mainly developer and startup communities which are driving these protocols, platforms, and applications for this new era of computing. New standards and design patterns are evolving and need input from a variety of perspectives. There is a growing trend towards decentralized computing systems in which distributed ledger technologies are a fundamental component. These systems are designed to be global computing systems; they will likely form the basis of new financial services and businesses including a distributed Financial Market Infrastructure.
BEN SHNEIDERMAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, UNITED STATES

UBC HOSTS
Lorne Whitehead; Department of Physics and Astronomy, Faculty of Science
Heather McKay; Department of Orthopedics, Faculty of Medicine
Walter Mérida; Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Applied Science

PUBLIC EVENT
March 5, 2019 | A Primer on Data Visualization
The goal of visualization is insight, not numbers. Interactive data visualization tools provide researchers with remarkable capabilities to support discovery from Big Data and Small Data resources. Users can begin with an overview, zoom in on areas of interest, filter out unwanted items, and then click for details-on-demand. Data Science initiatives and commercial success stories, plus widespread use by prominent media, business, medical, and other websites have made visualization a key technology that empowers users to explore multi-dimensional, temporal, hierarchical, and network data. This talk offered many examples and closed with eight Golden Rules for data visualization.

JONATHAN SCHOOLER
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL AND BRAIN SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA BARBARA, UNITED STATES

UBC HOSTS
Kalin Christoff; Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts
Evan Thompson; Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts

PUBLIC EVENT
September 18, 2019 | Harmonizing the mind: Combining expectancy, brain stimulation and multimedia to produce non-ordinary experiences that foster openness to experience
Jonathan Schooler’s presentation with Amanda Gregory (Santa Barbara Center for Arts Sciences and Technology) described the development of an intervention that combines sound, visuals, brain stimulation, and expectancies to induce non-ordinary mystical-like experiences without pharmaceuticals. They hypothesize that such states may enhance openness to experience and thereby facilitate enduring changes in assorted human virtues. This lecture was accompanied by a musical performance that illustrated an initial example of the musical element of this project.
“My interaction with Wall Scholars was an unexpected treat. As I have (with embarrassment) told many colleagues since my return, I had more interactions with faculty in the humanities and social sciences during my four months at UBC than I have had in my 28 years at Berkeley. I really enjoyed the workshops at which Scholars worked out ideas on topics such as water rights in Africa, the many faces of Saul in the Old Testament, or the impact of university travel on UBC’s carbon footprint.”

RICHARD IVRY

OPHÉLIE RONCE
CNRS INSTITUT DES SCIENCES DE L’EVOLUTION, UNIVERSITÉ MONTPELLIER II, FRANCE

PUBLIC EVENT
May 5, 2019 | Way Cool Biodiversity Series: Can biodiversity adapt to climate change?
In this illuminating talk, Ophélie Ronce illustrated existing mechanisms of adaptation to climate change through examples in animals and plants. She talked about their limits and how modelling sheds light on the many uncertainties about the future of biodiversity in altered climates. She also discussed how to facilitate adaptation to climate change.

RICHARD IVRY

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, UNITED STATES

UBC HOSTS
Alan Kingstone; Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts
Lara Boyd; Department of Physical Therapy, Faculty of Medicine

PUBLIC EVENT
Richard Ivry’s public event was postponed to 2020.

UBC HOSTS
Sarah Otto; Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science
Sally Aitken; Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences, Faculty of Forestry
MARIA WILLS
CENTRO NACIONAL DE MEMORIA HISTÓRICA,
UNIVERSIDAD DE LOS ANDES, COLOMBIA

UBC HOSTS
Pilar Riaño Alcalá; The Social Justice Institute, Faculty of Arts
Erin Baines; School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, Faculty of Arts
Michelle LeBaron; Peter A. Allard School of Law

PUBLIC EVENT
April 30, 2019 | The battles over Memory in Colombia: Patriotic or Democratic Memories for the Future?
Maria Wills discussed the unprecedented characteristics of Colombia’s historical memory-building process and its contentious dynamic: The historical memory work started amidst the armed conflict well before the signing of the Peace Accord between the Santos government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. As the historical memory building processes unraveled, the field became increasingly polarised between different actors, and the State security sector performed a surprisingly active role. The lecture looked to answer the questions: Why has historical memory work become part of the role the Security Forces have to perform? Why have historical memory narratives become so contentious? What is at stake?

May 3, 2019 | Colombia: Unfinished Peace, Memories in Tensión
Four leading Colombian intellectuals reflected on the Peace Agreement signed in 2016 between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. They discussed the transitional justice system created as a result of the agreement, and the historical clarification process and battles around memory and their relationship with the current political climate in Colombia.
International Research Roundtables provide UBC faculty an opportunity to host a diverse, international group of 25 to 30 participants in a workshop setting over two to five days. Roundtables convene scholars, students, community leaders, artists, and policy makers from around the world, providing them with the opportunity to explore new themes, create foundations for innovative scholarship, and seek important advances in science and society.
Levelling the Playing Fields: Developing strategies to promote outdoor play in schools and communities

SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2018
Eva Oberle, Mariana Brussoni & Martin Guhn;
School of Population and Public Health, Faculty of Medicine

Free outdoor play — such as jumping in a pile of leaves, and climbing trees — is a child’s right and has a wide range of benefits. It is active, fosters creativity, teaches children about their natural environment, and promotes positive cognitive, social, and emotional development. But over the past decades, outdoor play has declined sharply while sedentary activities have increased steadily. This trend is linked to serious health problems, including childhood obesity and mental health problems. Scholars and child’s rights activists globally are concerned and have called for action to offset this trend. The goal of this roundtable was to develop a (research) strategy for systematically creating opportunities for outdoor play in schools and communities in Canada.

PUBLIC EVENT: SEPTEMBER 28, 2018
Pop-Up Playground
The organizers of this International Research Roundtable partnered with Spare Parts Adventure to host a pop-up playground for kids of all ages at Old Barn Community Centre at UBC. Pop-up playground gave children the opportunity to use “spare parts” such as fabric, PVC pipes, boxes, and tires to build their own playground – be it a fort, boat, or tire swing!
Beyond Borders and Walls: Collaborating for change in international prison health research

APRIL 24-26, 2019
Ruth Elwood Martin; School of Population and Public Health, Faculty of Medicine

The health of individuals with incarceration experience is impacted by systemic challenges: Incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals suffer vast health inequities compared with the general population, and Indigenous peoples and other racialized people are over-represented at all levels of the criminal justice system, regardless of country of origin. These systemic challenges relate to the intersection of race, class, gender and sexuality and are rooted in criminalization and institutional policies that arise from colonial structures. This is of particular significance in the Pan American countries where incarceration affects large and growing numbers of people. The United States currently ranks as the world’s largest prison population and Brazil ranks as the world’s third, the largest in South America.

Community-based participatory health research (PHR) engages community members as partners in all aspects of the research process. This roundtable engaged in interdisciplinary collaboration using PHR approaches to address these systemic challenges from the ‘ground up’, thus seeking unique advances in knowledge to improve the health of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals. The main objective was to explore how participatory approaches address the systemic challenges that impact the lives of individuals with incarceration experience in Pan American countries.

PUBLIC EVENT: APRIL 25, 2019
Leading Transformations in Prison Health

This event featured an interactive conversation to showcase innovations in prison health featuring Stuart Kinner (University of Melbourne), Nel Wieman (Mental Health and Wellness on behalf of First Nations Health Authority), and Lynn Pelletier (Mental Health and Substance Use Services on behalf of Provincial Health Services Authority). Presentations were followed by a panel discussion and Q&A with Gerald Kematch (Indian Residential School Survivor Society) and Wendy Sproule (RainCity Housing).
Responding to Crisis: A human rights and public health approach to legal regulation of currently prohibited substances

**MAY 13-17, 2019**

In North America we are experiencing the after-effects of a prohibition market in the opioid overdose epidemic, which is largely attributed to supply of street drugs tainted with adulterants such as fentanyl. It is estimated that there were over 4,000 opioid-related deaths in Canada in 2017, of which 72 percent are attributable to clandestinely-produced fentanyl.

Jurisdictions across the globe are increasingly experimenting with alternative legal and policy frameworks that aim to reduce the harmful effects of prohibition, including the legal regulation of, religious and medical cannabis, decriminalization of drug possession, and expansion of harm reduction services such as supervised consumption and injectable opioid agonist treatment. While superior to absolute prohibition, each of these legal and policy shifts offers only a partial solution to the unregulated market that flourishes in every part of the world.

**PUBLIC EVENT: MAY 15, 2019**

Systems Change: Envisioning a Canada Beyond Prohibition

This event featured a panel of experts from Canada and abroad who discussed how to get beyond prohibition and how substance use could be impacted. The participants talked about principles and models for regulating and controlling substances that are currently illegal, with an aim to promoting public health, human rights, and social inclusion of people who use drugs.

Moderated by writer, award-winning broadcaster, and activist Garth Mullins, the event featured the following panelists:

Steve Rolles, Senior Policy Analyst, Transform Drug Policy Foundation (UK)
Akwasi Owusu-Bempah, Assistant Professor, Sociology, University of Toronto (Canada)
Suzanne Fraser, Professor, Public Health, Curtin University (Australia)
Zara Snapp, Co-founder, Instituto RIA (Mexico)
At the Edge of Assisted Dying

MAY 28-29, 2019
Ellen Wiebe; Family Practice, Faculty of Medicine

In February 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada released a landmark decision that, for the first time, gave Canadians the legal right to access Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) in certain circumstances. In 2016, the Canadian government passed Bill C-14 and created new legal eligibility criteria for MAiD. However, the ambiguous nature of the current MAiD eligibility criteria has resulted in some clinicians refusing patient requests for MAiD when other clinicians will choose to provide. Under threat of disciplinary and/or criminal sanction, some clinicians are careful to avoid any risk of investigation, while others find themselves working “at the edge” of the law in order to honor their patient’s wishes and rights.

Jurisdictions outside of Canada that have legalized medically assisted dying face similar interpretive problems, with MAiD assessors and providers finding themselves working “at the edge”. This Roundtable included the participation of Canadian and international clinicians who assess for and/or provide MAiD, lawyers, activists, patients, family members, and researchers from the fields of medicine, nursing, law, ethics, social work and anthropology.

PUBLIC EVENT: MAY 29, 2019
At the Edge of Assisted Dying
Canada legalized medically assisted dying (MAiD) two years ago, but continuing interpretive challenges often lead to MAiD assessors/providers working “at the edge.” This MAiD panel discussion hosted by André Picard, health reporter for the Globe and Mail, presented the experiences of practitioners working “at the edge” and invited discussion about whether and/or in what ways the law should change in Canada, and how clinical practice at the edges should be monitored.

Panelists:
Jocelyn Downie, Professor of Law, Dalhousie
Ellen Wiebe, Physician and MAiD Provider
Daniel Ouellet, Husband of woman who had MAiD
Shanaaz Gokool, CEO of Dying with Dignity Canada
André Picard, Journalist at the Globe and Mail
Occupying Big Data: Systematizing links between food security and biodiversity conservation through citizen science

MAY 29-31, 2019
Hannah Wittman; Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, Faculty of Land and Food Systems
Loren Rieseberg; Botany, Faculty of Science

Two of the most pressing challenges of the twenty-first century are to improve global food security and to more effectively conserve biodiversity. Food security and biodiversity conservation are intimately connected through agriculture, which is widely recognized as a driver of biodiversity decline. However, the multi-scalar relationships affecting the achievement of both food security and biodiversity conservation are still not fully understood, and assessment frameworks often assume that food security and biodiversity conservation are ‘competing goals’ that must inherently trade-off. This Roundtable assessed and advanced a synthesis and research agenda focused more specifically on innovations for agroecosystem monitoring at the intersection of food security and biodiversity.

PUBLIC EVENT: MAY 30, 2019
Knowledge from Agroecological Experience

Agroecology has received considerable attention in the last five years on global and regional levels. As such, governments are now requesting evidence-based analysis on how Agroecology performs compared to other “sustainable agriculture” systems. In the context of providing a rapid review of this information to support the ongoing Committee on World Food Security High Level Panel of Experts project report on Agroecology, this event explored methods to facilitate better capturing of local experiences and impacts that ultimately reflect larger patterns, and expanded observations and inferences from individual case studies beyond their spatial and temporal boundaries.
The Truth Machine: Exploring the social, records and technical potential and pitfalls of blockchain and distributed ledger technologies

**JUNE 10-13, 2019**

Victoria Lemieux; School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, Faculty of Arts
Chen Feng; School of Engineering, Faculty of Applied Science, UBC Okanagan

Blockchain is a distributed ledger technology (DLT) where confirmed and validated sets of transactions are held in blocks that are chained together to make tampering difficult and render records immutable. Its design and networked, distributed, autonomous and global operation address the problem of trust by promising transparency; security; disintermediation; ‘trustless’ collaboration; privacy; and immutable proof of facts. This unique potential of blockchain technology establishes it as an emerging technology with social, political, economic and technical implications that far exceed most other emerging technologies.

Much of the blockchain/DLT research to date naturally focuses on the technical aspects of this emerging technology. In addition, there is research focusing on the social, economic and political transformative potential of the technology.

Very little work has been done at the intersections of these aspects of blockchain/DLT. By bringing researchers, industry and community partners from diverse backgrounds together, this roundtable helped unpack relationships and interdependencies among the social, data/records and technological “layers” of blockchain technology which are, at present, not fully appreciated and understood, and helped to assess the potential net benefit for humanity of this important emerging technology.

**PUBLIC EVENT: JUNE 13, 2019**

**G20 Meets G-20: Blockchain Multi-Stakeholder Workshop**

This workshop was designed to provide multi-stakeholders an environment for the understanding, exploration, and discussion of distributed ledger technologies.

**Keynote talks:**

‘Security Token Offerings, CBDCs, Standards, Adoption’ by Robert Schwentker, President of DLT. Education and Founding President of Blockchain University

‘Implications on Regulation and Governance of Blockchain-based Finance’ by Yuta Takanashi, Georgetown University

‘G20 Seminar: Blockchain Specific Outcomes’ by Shin’ichiro Matsuo, Georgetown University and PWIAS Visiting Scholar
Visual Literacy: 
Seeing, making and reading images across the disciplines

OCTOBER 23-25, 2019
Tara Mayer; History, Faculty of Arts
Dominic Lopes; Philosophy, Faculty of Arts

Within the humanities, a new visual literacy is important not just to better understand and use existing images within our research, but also to create new types of images that can point us towards fresh avenues of research or communicate our findings more effectively. As the use of “big data” has opened up new opportunities in the sciences, the visual representation of this data has become as important a concern as its collection and computation. As a result, scientists have developed careful practices around using images as means of communication, which makes them especially sensitive to the power and pitfalls of visual language. Combining such insights with the questions, tools, and priorities of humanities research holds the promise to provoke new methods and ideas on all sides. This round-table explored how scholarship from within and beyond the humanities can combine to develop and promote a new visual literacy that responds to the challenges and opportunities of this new, visual information revolution. Its central question was how a more holistic and informed engagement with images can open up new avenues of research.

PUBLIC EVENT: OCTOBER 23, 2019
What Do Pictures Want: The Photographs of Sheila Pree Bright

The award-winning American photographer and activist Sheila Pree Bright is forging new visual narratives about African American communities and individuals. Her work explores the rise of a new generation of activists, examines diversity and its potency in changing political processes, reveals truthful yet uncommonly depicted domestic scenes of middle-class African American suburban life, critiques Western ideals of beauty, and probes notions of manhood and lifestyle within Hip Hop culture. In this rare public talk, Sheila Pree Bright reflected on her artistic practice, her recent work that connects activists from the Civil Rights and Black Lives Matter movements, and the evolving role of visuality in contemporary society.
The Wall Solutions Initiative enables UBC faculty members to work with end-users and community partners and develop or implement innovative research solutions. These projects address a diverse range of community challenges, such as environmental issues, language and literacy, social justice, health care delivery, poverty alleviation, and population health and wellness.
Anti-mosquito recycled paint for economically feasible malaria prevention in impoverished nations

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:**
Kevin Golovin; School of Engineering, Faculty of Applied Science, UBC-Okanagan
Mark Rheault; Biology, Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences, UBC-Okanagan

**COMMUNITY PARTNER:**
Loop Recycled Products, communities in Ghana, Nigeria, and the Dominican Republic

Malaria ranks as one of the deadliest diseases worldwide. One promising method for combating malaria is the development of chemical additives that kill or deter the mosquitoes that transmit the disease. However, many impoverished nations facing a malaria epidemic cannot afford the carriers of these additives. The most striking example is paint. This project will develop an anti-mosquito technology fabricated from inexpensive, recycled paint. Researchers at UBC Okanagan have teamed up with Loop Recycled Products, an Ontario-based paint company that recycles unused, stagnant paint, and re-sells it at low cost worldwide. Loop recently secured exclusive rights to use Kyzox, an anti-mosquito additive, in North America. The team will optimize the repellency of the anti-mosquito recycled paint, distribute the paint to community partners in Ghana, Nigeria, and the Dominican Republic, and assess its efficacy at curtailing malaria in real-world conditions. All community partners will receive the anti-mosquito recycled paint for free.
Wildfire 2017: Community-based solutions to a wicked problem

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:  
Lori Daniels; Forest and Conservation Sciences,  
Faculty of Forestry  
Shannon Hagerman; Forest Resource Management,  
Faculty of Forestry

COMMUNITY PARTNER:  
Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), First Nations  
Emergency Service Society and BC Community Forest  
Association, British Columbia, Canada

The wildfire season of 2017 was the worst in British Columbia’s history. In response to Firestorm 2003, the previous devastating wildfire season to affect communities, the B.C. government introduced the $78 million Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative to counter fire risk. As of 2015, only half of B.C.’s communities had engaged with this initiative and a mere 10 percent of the 1.6 million hectares of identified hazardous fuels had been treated—most communities remain highly vulnerable to wildfire. This project is collaborating with the two key groups facilitating B.C.’s Wildfire Prevention Initiative (Union of B.C. Municipalities and First Nations’ Emergency Services Society), as well as the group conducting many community-level fuel treatments (B.C. Community Forest Association). Its objectives are to: identify the barriers to community participation in wildfire prevention and to co-develop with project partners, provincial leaders and community members potential solutions to increase participation in preventative wildfire management throughout B.C. This project is in its second year.
Water to Bricks:
Harnessing fungal mycelium for sustainable biosolids architecture

**Principal Investigators:**
Steven Hallam; Microbiology And Immunology, Faculty of Science
Joseph Dahmen; School of Architecture
And Landscape Architecture

**Community Partner:**
Campus and Community Planning, UBC and Metro Vancouver Utilities Residuals Management, Canada

This project addresses two interrelated areas of industrial ecology, using biosolids produced by wastewater treatment plants as a resource from which to produce biocomposite-based structural building materials. Mycelium biocomposites, composed of mushroom root structures and cellulose, offer similar performance to polystyrene foams but require little energy to produce, cause no harmful emissions to air or water, and are fully biodegradable. This project aims to develop a system for producing mycelium biocomposites cultivated on biosolids from wastewater treatment operations and to explore new compression technologies to produce structural building materials from biosolid samples. Based on biocomposite assessment results, the team shifted its focus in the second year to designing a compostable toilet for use in limited resource settings, eg. refugee camps. Their design was selected for the 2018 Biodesign Challenge top award. A working model is in development. This project is in its second year.

Exhumations and Memorialization in the Pacific Region of Colombia: Fostering healing and strengthening community-driven knowledge transfer

**Principal Investigator:**
Pilar Riaño-Alcalá, The Social Justice Institute

**Community Partner:**
Committee for the Rights of Victims of Bojayá, Colombia

During and after mass violence, how do you advance the proper exhumation, identification and reburial of dead bodies in ways that draw on the knowledge of Indigenous communities and are respectful of their worldviews? This project takes place in Colombia, where between 2006 and 2016 alone, 5,267 mass graves were found and 60,699 persons were identified as missing. A disproportionate number of these victims were from Indigenous and Black communities. Today, leaders from these communities are leading processes on the rightful ceremonies and practices to exhume, identify, and rebury their dead, at times clashing with forensic scientific teams. This project proposes an innovative approach towards a better understanding of locally grounded meanings and practices surrounding exhumations. UBC researchers will work with the Committee for the Rights of the Victims of Bojayá and the National Center for Historical Memory to document the process of exhumations and reburial, collect information on lessons learned, and produce a best practices toolkit and knowledge transfer outputs (life histories and video letters) to be disseminated at local, regional, national and international levels. This project is in its second year.
Our Future Community:  
Engaging youth on climate solutions with a place-based video game

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:  
Stephen Sheppard; Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science, Faculty of Medicine
Dinesh Pai; Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science

COMMUNITY PARTNER:  
Energy and Sustainability, Vancouver School Board, Canada

Without urgent action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, young people face a challenging and more dangerous future. Research shows that most people have little knowledge of local climate change impacts and schools are not providing substantive education on climate change solutions. Researchers at UBC’s Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning have demonstrated that an educational place-based video game on climate change (Future Delta 2.0) can improve climate change literacy and motivate action among students. These findings will be applied to enhance teaching practices on climate change by: Co-developing an innovative educational video game template (Our Future Community) that schools can use and customize to their community, exploring local solutions to climate change challenges. And by working with teachers to test the game and produce a practical, replicable game package to support wider uptake by teachers and motivate student engagement. This project is in its second year.

Developing a portable dynamic vision test for the aging population

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:  
Miriam Spering; Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science, Faculty of Medicine
Dinesh Pai; Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science

COMMUNITY PARTNER:  
Vision Rehabilitation Program, Vancouver General Hospital, Canada

Vision loss among the elderly is a multidimensional challenge and a major health care problem. In Canada, the direct cost of vision loss is the highest of any disease category. Regular eye examinations are important to help correct visual acuity, and to prevent and treat eye diseases. However, standard vision tests do not measure sensitivity to moving objects, an ability that is critical for everyday tasks such as driving. Dynamic vision tests exist in the research laboratory, but they are lengthy and complicated, and not suitable for use in older adults. This project will develop new technology enabling easy and quick assessment of motion sensitivity, using instinctive eye movement responses. This test will be accessible to the aging population regardless of language ability, cognitive, or motor deficits. It will promote vision health literacy, and empower users to be proactive about vision health, thereby boosting an active lifestyle, increasing mobility, and independence. This project is in its second year.
Honey bees as bioindicators of environmental pollution

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**
Dominique Weis; Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, Pacific Institute For Isotopic and Geochemical Research (PCIGR)

**COMMUNITY PARTNER:**
Hives for Humanity, Vancouver, Canada

Urban farming, including community gardens and hobby beekeeping, is quickly gaining popularity as cities densify and demand grows for fresh, local and sustainable food. However, along with this urbanization comes increasing pollution from cars, tankers, and construction. This study will determine the levels of potentially harmful metals (e.g. lead, arsenic) in honey from beehives throughout the Lower Mainland and through time. In addition to establishing the health and safety of the honey, this project will investigate the power of the honey bee as a key bioindicator species to trace the sources and impacts of environmental pollution. Because bees forage in a relatively small area (a three-kilometer radius), each hive represents a sample of its local environment. This study will develop a new and innovative geochemical tool and will constitute a case study that can be expanded to other cities worldwide, promoting the use of hives, bees and honey to monitor urban environmental conditions. This project is in its second year.
Turning Points: An empowerment connection project for Indigenous people with alcohol dependence

**Principal Investigator:**
Peter Klein; School of Journalism, Faculty of Arts

**Community Partner:**
A New Day Men’s Healing Program; Tree of Peace Friendship Centre, Yellowknife, Canada

Turning Points is a crowd-sourced digital portal for individuals coping with alcohol dependence. Through a mobile and desktop platform, people from Indigenous communities across the Canadian Arctic can connect, share their experiences, and tap into storytelling traditions that have been used to connect and heal people for centuries. Ultimately, Indigenous Peoples in remote communities across the Arctic, who have been disenfranchised and without adequate resources to address alcohol dependence, will now have voices and access to a shared community that they can turn to for support when facing challenges, for encouragement towards positive change, and for reassurance that they are not alone in their experiences. The project is led by Peter Klein in collaboration with William Greenland, an Indigenous counsellor from the Gwich’in First Nation. This project continued into its third year for knowledge mobilization activities.
What’s Up? Fostering communication skills for children with autism using virtual reality game

**Principal Investigator:**
Lindsey Richardson; Sociology, Faculty of Arts

**Community Partner:**
PHS Community Services Society, Vancouver, Canada

Children with autism have difficulties with communication and socio-emotional skills, and current behavioral interventions addressing this problem are costly. Complex problems require creative solutions—an innovative and promising virtual-reality platform that can be used to complement health services. Existing technologies such as computer-based programs are usually touch-based, and raise a long debate on the generalization of learned skills. Touch-less systems enable interacting via natural ways in a simulated environment and may help develop transferable skills. This project aims to develop a low-cost, novel touch-less virtual-reality technology (using Kinect), via simulation of the real world, to improve socio-emotional skills among children with autism. This project continued into its third year for user testing.

Evaluating the impact of alternative income assistance timing on drug-related harm

**Principal Investigator:**
Lindsey Richardson; Sociology, Faculty of Arts

**Community Partner:**
PHS Community Services Society, Vancouver, Canada

Coordinated monthly social assistance payments, while seeking to alleviate poverty, can have negative and unintended impacts, particularly among people who use illicit drugs (PWUD). Observational research has identified escalations in drug-related harm coinciding with assistance payments, such as overdose, treatment interruption and hospital admissions. This project varies the timing and frequency of social assistance disbursement through Pigeon Park Savings (PPS), a Vancouver-based community bank, and evaluates whether varying social assistance disbursement reduces drug-related harm coinciding with coordinated social assistance. Conducted among 273 PWUD, participants will be allocated for six social assistance cycles to a control of one of two intervention arms. Intervention arm participants will receive their social assistance through PPS: Monthly on a day different from government cheque issue; or semi-monthly on days different from government cheque issue. The intervention will be evaluated using qualitative and quantitative methods for its impact on drug use and related harms. This project extended into its fourth year for evaluation activities.
When it comes to supporting maternal health, Patricia Janssen, a Peter Wall Institute Early Career Scholar and Wall Solutions awardee, believes it takes a village. In the fifteen years since she first worked with the Institute, she has collaborated with scholars in such disparate fields as genetics, biomedical engineering and business, all with the goal of creating better health outcomes for mothers and babies in British Columbia and around the world. “That’s what the Peter Wall Institute is all about,” she says. “Bringing different disciplines together.”

A professor and co-lead of the Maternal Child Health Theme at UBC’s School of Population and Public Health, Janssen is a perinatal epidemiologist with a clinical background in obstetrical nursing, as well as a trained midwife. So it made sense that the first funding she received from the Peter Wall Institute was for a luncheon for people who study violence against women, her particular research interest being violence during pregnancy. To her surprise, among that group were geneticists studying possible genetic links to patterns of violent behaviour in mice.

Helping hands, thriving families
The conversations turned into a paper entitled “Of Mice and Men,” which was published in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, and which would go on to provide the basis for a 2006 Exploratory Workshop – a Peter Wall Institute program that is no longer active, and which provided support to UBC faculty to meet and discuss collaborative research projects, themes, and research funding proposals (similar to the currently active International Research Roundtable program). Along with the implications around violence against women, Janssen saw the genetic research as an opportunity to lessen the blame on parents and find new ways to treat violent behaviour in children and adults.

As a 2007 Early Career Scholar, a program that has since been folded into the Wall Scholars Research Award, Janssen had even more opportunities to meet and share knowledge. One such meeting was with Andrew Macnab, a physician and professor in the department of pediatrics at UBC who was at the time a Distinguished Scholar in Residence. The two met at a dinner organized by the Institute where Macnab spoke of his work with near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS), a technology that measures blood oxygenation levels in tissue.
Hearing him speak, Janssen was inspired by Macnab’s passion and ability to “think outside the box.” She approached him after his presentation and together they began to imagine ways to apply this non-invasive technology in her own field.

“When a fetus is in trauma, the mother’s body does everything it can to preserve that fetus and to add to the fetal brain and heart,” Janssen explains. These preservation mechanisms make it nearly impossible to measure the true health of a fetus until it is too late. “If we could pick up more subtle changes that give us more of a window, then we might have a chance to prevent stillbirth.”

The resulting clinical trials of NIRS technology brought together specialists in fields such as fetal physiology, maternal fetal medicine, and biomedical engineers, to name a few.

One of the most recent of these groundbreaking collaborations is SmartMom, a program that grew out of a partnership between the Northern Health Authority and Optimal Birth BC, an organization Janssen founded to help health authorities evaluate the evidence around medical interventions into birth such as cesarean sections.
SmartMom is a tool that uses text messages to reach women in rural communities who struggle to access the kind of prenatal education that improves health outcomes in both mothers and children. Optimal Birth’s consortium of 25 academic clinicians worked together to develop the messages. They then engaged the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Agency to lobby cell phone carriers to deliver the messages for free.

With the support of a Wall Solutions grant, the program launched in 2017. An expectant mother can sign up on the SmartMom website, input her due date, and receive three messages a week relevant to her stage of pregnancy. With five thousand expectant mothers enrolled and 500 more joining each month, user data shows SmartMom is hitting its target audience, particularly Indigenous communities in the North.

And the program is expanding. Fraser Health Authority has already launched a version while Vancouver Coastal Health and the Northwest Territories will be joining in 2020. Authorities on Vancouver Island and in Saskatchewan have also expressed interest.

Meanwhile, Janssen has fielded requests from Cyprus, Uganda and Cameroon, all places where women struggle to get evidence-based education around pregnancy. “Today, I was on the phone with an obstetrician representing a group in India that wants to work with us,” she recounts. “Yesterday, I was on the phone with midwives and obstetricians from Pakistan.”

Starting in 2019, an additional Wall Solutions grant will be supporting her next big project. SmartParent will build on the success of SmartMom to reach out to parents of children up to one year of age through similar means.

According to Janssen, these collaborations and many others would not have been possible within traditional funding bodies who expect tested partnerships with guaranteed outcomes. “the Peter Wall Institute is much more imaginative,” she says. “They’re interested in ideas, interested in moving into new areas and breaking new ground. And that suits me very well because that’s what I try to do.”
The Wall Exchange

The Wall Exchange features lectures by prominent scholars and public intellectuals that are open to the public and held in downtown Vancouver in the spring and fall of each year. These events are held in partnership with local and national media. During their visit to UBC and Vancouver, Wall Exchange speakers engage with Wall Associates and the broader community.

Emotional intelligence in a brave new robotic world
NOVEMBER 5, 2018

Rosalind Picard, founder and director of the Affective Computing research group at the MIT Media Lab and faculty chair of MIT’s MindHandHeart Initiative
Moderated by Nora Young, host of the CBC’s Spark
Media partners: The Tyee and the Georgia Straight

Rosalind Picard delivered an engaging talk on the exciting advancements in emotionally cognizant Artificial Intelligence and the ways this field is transforming the way we live.

Drug use for grown ups
MAY 23, 2019

Carl Hart, neuropsychopharmacologist and Chair of the Department of Psychology at Columbia University
Local perspective provided by Caitlin Shane, staff lawyer at Pivot Legal Society
Moderated by Garth Mullins, host of Crackdown Podcast
Media Partners: The Tyee and the Georgia Straight

Carl Hart showed how society is constantly misled about drugs, and how those misconceptions lead to countless preventable deaths. He explored the myths and social forces that shape our views on drugs and drug policy.

WATCH VIDEO RECORDINGS OF BOTH EVENTS AT PWIAS.UBC.CA/NEWS/VIDEOS
Theme Development Workshops

The Institute provides support to UBC researchers to meet and develop proposals for potential International Research Roundtables or other funding programs and proposals involving multiple academic disciplines or faculties.

**Integrating Multi-omics for Heart and Lung**  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2018  
**Fabio Ross** Biomedical Engineering, Faculty of Applied Science

**The Frail Young: care for children with complex illnesses, their families and communities**  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2018  
**Hal Siden** Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine

**UBC research-based theatre interdisciplinary collaborative**  
OCTOBER 26, 2018  
**George Belliveau** Language and Literacy Education, Faculty of Education

**Exploratory Workshop in Bioengineering and Spinal Cord Injury**  
JANUARY 8, 2019  
**John Madden** Electrical and Computer Engineering, Faculty of Applied Science

**Trans-disciplinary studies in global interdependence**  
JANUARY 17, 2019  
**Vanessa Andreotti** Educational Studies, Faculty of Education

**Developing a Xinjiang Documentation Project**  
JANUARY 24, 2019  
**Timothy Cheek** Institute for Asian Research, Faculty of Arts

**Real-Time Regulation of the Environment**  
FEBRUARY 6, 2019  
**Karen Bakker** Geography, Faculty of Arts

**The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Town Hall: The science behind quantifying the value of nature**  
MARCH 29, 2019  
**William Cheung** Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries, Faculty of Science

**Grass ROots Organization for VisionarY (GROOVY) Science**  
MARCH 29, 2019  
**Malabika Pramanik** Mathematics, Faculty of Science  
**Philippe Tortell** Earth and Ocean Sciences & Botany, Faculty of Science

**Biomedical Imaging and Artificial Intelligence**  
APRIL 17, 2019  
**Tim Salcudean** Electrical and Computer Engineering, Faculty of Applied Science  
**Peter Zandstra** Biomedical Engineering, Faculty of Applied Science

**Planning Meeting for International Critical Suicide Studies Roundtable**  
APRIL 18, 2019  
**Seth Abrutyn** Sociology, Faculty of Arts
Trustees Initiatives

The Trustees of the Peter Wall Institute directly funded the following initiatives.

Wall Opera Research Project “Does opera training sculpt the brain to learn?”
This three-year project, led by Nancy Hermiston, Director of the UBC Opera Ensemble, UBC School of Music, is the first study of its kind in North America, and will integrate leading researchers in opera, neuroscience, language sciences and linguistics, education, medicine, kinesiology, and the humanities to assess not just brain changes, but opera’s potential applications in education, rehabilitation, and preventative health.

UBC Opera Program
The Trustees Initiative also funded a direct contribution to the UBC Opera Program under the direction of Nancy Hermiston, Director of the UBC Opera Ensemble, UBC School of Music.
Arts-Based Initiatives

The following arts-based projects explored research questions and disseminated research findings to diverse audiences.

September 18, 2018 | The Singer Behind the Song: Renée Fleming
Concert performance co-sponsored by The Sonya and Charlotte Wall Arts Fund, The Yulanda Faris Opera Coach Fund, UBC Opera and the Faculty of Arts.

October 5, 2018 | slippages
Collaboration between Wall Scholar and Orchestra director Jonathan Girard and visual artist and past Peter Wall Institute Artist in Residence Deborah Carruthers. This event had the orchestra performing Caruthers’ graphic score slippages, which is an interpretation of her research on glaciers done at UBC.

December 5, 2018 | The Singer Behind the Song: Angela Meade
Concert performance co-sponsored by The Sonya and Charlotte Wall Arts Fund, The Yulanda Faris Opera Coach Fund, UBC Opera and the Faculty of Arts.

February 19, 2019 | The Singer Behind the Song: Eric Owens
Concert performance co-sponsored by The Sonya and Charlotte Wall Arts Fund, The Yulanda Faris Opera Coach Fund, UBC Opera and the Faculty of Arts.

April 24, 2019 | Staging data: Research stories brought to life through theatre
Event showcasing two UBC interdisciplinary projects that emerged out of the Peter Wall Institute where theatre is used to translate vivid and compelling research stories:

- **Treading Water.** Based on over a decade of research in delivering clean water in B.C. rural and Indigenous communities, this play tells the story of water operators and research partners. Madjid Mohseni; 2016 Wall Scholar, Chemical and Biological Engineering, UBC.

- **Alone in the Ring.** Emerging from a project exploring disabilities in the health professions, this play brings to life poignant narratives of clinicians and students with a disability. Tal Jarus; Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, UBC.

2018-2019 | The Institute has partnered with the UBC Chan Centre for the Performing Arts to invite artists to interact with the UBC community. 2018 visiting artists included Cristina Pato, musician and educator, Chair in Spanish Culture and Civilization, New York University; and Kealoha, Poet Laureate of Hawaii.
Visitors from International Partner Institutions

Through its partnerships with other institutes for advanced studies, the Peter Wall Institute facilitates exchanges of outstanding scholars and hosts jointly supported seminars and Wall Colloquia Abroad.
Collège de France

Since 2008, the Peter Wall Institute has had an active partnership with the Collège de France in Paris. This agreement supports international scholarly exchanges, jointly hosted seminars and Wall Colloquia Abroad.

DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR - UBC

PHILIPPE SANSONETTI
PROFESSOR AND CHAIR, MICROBIOLOGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES, COLLEGE DE FRANCE

PUBLIC EVENTS:
November 13, 2018 | Infectious Diseases of the Future: no crystal ball, just watching and thinking
November 14, 2018 | Gut microbiota as a driver of epithelial physiology

BARBARA ROMANOWICZ
PROFESSOR AND CHAIR, PHYSICS OF THE EARTH’S INTERIOR, COLLÈGE DE FRANCE

PUBLIC EVENT:
January 17, 2019 | Mantle plumes rooted at the core-mantle boundary: evidence from seismic waveform tomography

ÉTIENNE GHYS
CNRS DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE

PUBLIC EVENTS:
May 2, 2019 | The Geometry of Snowflakes
May 3, 2019 | PIMS Colloquium - Singularities of planar analytic curves
May 3, 2019 | Café des Sciences - La géométrie des grands réseaux

VISITING PROFESSOR TO COLLÈGE DE FRANCE

JAMES STEWART
PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW, UBC

PUBLIC EVENTS
May 31, 2019 | La justice des vaincus: les procès pour crimes de guerre après la Première Guerre mondiale
June 6, 2019 | Les tribunaux de Nuremberg et de Tokyo comme volte-face
June 12, 2019 | Cours ad hoc et tribunaux hybrides après la Guerre froide
June 18, 2019 | Place à la Cour pénale internationale
Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study

Since 2009, the Peter Wall Institute’s partnership with the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study in South Africa (STIAS) has supported exchanges of UBC scholars to STIAS, Wall Colloquia Abroad, and in 2018 the Institute hosted its first two South African scholars in residence from the STIAS Iso Lomso Fellows (early career scholars) program.

UCHENNA OKEJA
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, RHODES UNIVERSITY, STELLENBOSCH INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

UBC HOSTS
Bonny Norton; Language and Literacy Education, Faculty of Education
Handel Wright; Educational Studies, Faculty of Education
Margot Young; Peter A. Allard School of Law

PUBLIC EVENT
November 26, 2018 | Decolonize This!
International theorizing and praxis of decolonization
This Symposium brought together faculty and graduate students from Rhodes University, UBC, and the University of Toronto who work in the area of decolonizing in the fields of the arts, community building, and higher education nationally and internationally.
“As with STIAS, I found it extremely enriching to be in a community of people who came from wildly different disciplines. Having the balance of being immersed in my own project and then engaging with topics far outside my scope was very stimulating. At my first weekly lunch, we ended up speaking about the gendered experience in STEM fields. By the end of that, I had made a connection with (2018 Wall Scholar) Malabika Pramanik and am excited to be returning to teach on her PIMS Diversity in Mathematics Summer School”

MALEBOGO NGOEPE

UBC HOSTS
Jimmy Feng; Chemical and Biological Engineering & Mathematics, Faculty of Applied Science
Dana Grecov; Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Applied Science

PUBLIC EVENT
January 14, 2019 | Computational model of clot development in cerebral aneurysms
The study of cerebral aneurysm thrombosis on a per patient basis can be achieved by coupling flow, biochemistry and front-tracking methods. Different porosity and permeability values are assigned to the clot field, making it possible for the clot to have an impact on the flow field and vice versa. In this talk, Malebogo Ngoepe detailed the development of this model and highlighted some of the key questions that remain.
French Scholars Lecture Series

In partnership with the Consulate General of France in Vancouver, the Peter Wall Institute jointly sponsors the French Scholars Lecture Series, creating connections between French Scholars and UBC faculty.

**FRANÇOIS BOUCHET**
INSTITUT D’ASTROPHYSIQUE DE PARIS, CNRS & SORBONNE UNIVERSITIES-UPMC

September 14, 2018 | Our Amazing Universe: Astronomical Revelations and New Mysteries
Françoi Bouchet described current observations that constrain the nature of the Cosmos in which we live, leading to radical ideas for the origin of the structures within it. Touching on questions such as: How did the Universe originate? What is it made of? Why is it the way that it is? What is the nature of the Dark Matter and Dark Energy that dominates the Universe? And what are the new mysteries that our observations are revealing?

**BRIGITTE OUVRY-VIAL**
LETTRES ET SCIENCES HUMAINES, LE MANS UNIVERSITÉ & INSTITUT UNIVERSITAIRE DE FRANCE

September 27, 2018 | New Media, New Challenges for the Book Industry
Surveys suggest that there is a generational and social gap in the use of digital reading devices, but also a shift from reading for knowledge to reading for well-being. Brigitte Ouvry-Vial discussed the challenges faced by today’s bookish actors and industries of meeting the users’ expectations in changing societies and media cultures.

**FRANÇOIS BONNETBLANC**
LIRMM LABORATORY, UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTPELLIER

October 4, 2018 | Awake Neurosurgery: The Naked Brain
The use of electrical stimulation during the removal of brain tumors on conscious patients allows medical professionals to monitor essential functions such as language and vision remain intact. François Bonnetblanc discussed his work on mapping the brain by studying the effects of electrical stimulation on its different areas, how it works and how it can be used to create new therapy strategies.
BRUNO AMABLE
ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA
February 12, 2019 | Political Crisis: The Changing Model of French Capitalism
In the 2010s, France was in a situation of systemic crisis; the impossibility for political leadership to find a strategy of institutional change, or a model of capitalism that could gather sufficient social and political support. In this talk, Bruno Amable examined the various attempts at reforming the French model since the 1980s, when the left tried to orient the French political economy in a social democratic direction before changing course and opting for a more orthodox macroeconomic and structural policy direction.

CHRISTOPHER CARCAILLET
LAB FOR ECOLOGY OF HYDROSYSTEMS, EPHE, PARIS LETTRES SCIENCES UNIVERSITÉ
April 9, 2019 | Long-term Fire and Biodiversity Dynamics in Sub-alpine Forests in the Alps
Christopher Carcaillet’s lecture summarized the highlights of 25 years of research in the French and Italian Alps. It introduced the functional and phylogenetic similarities between Alpine and Rocky Mountain ecosystems, presented the biological proxies selected for vegetation dynamics research, and provided reconstructions applying paleoecological and ecological inferences to improved, and more sustainable, management of forest ecosystems.

NICOLAS PERRY
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, ARTS ET METIERS BORDEAUX, INST. DE MÉCANIQUE ET D’INGÉNIERIE BORDEAUX
April 30, 2019 | Life Cycle Engineering and the Circular Economy: Design for Recycling and Recycle-Based Design
Nicolas Perry discussed his research on electrical and electronic equipment waste materials, innovative recycle-based design, and evaluation of waste or by-product management. And how the combination of different approaches, like linking industrial ecology and Life Cycle Thinking, can address these major environmental challenges.

SIHEM AMER-YAHIA
CNRS LABORATOIRE D’INFORMATIQUE DE GRENOBLE (LIG), UNIVERSITÉ GRENOBLE ALPES
November 20, 2018 | Human Factors in the Design of Virtual Marketplaces
Virtual marketplaces have become the preferred way to hire people online. But with a growing number of workers and occupations, the use of algorithms to match tasks and candidates is becoming necessary. Sihem Amer-Yahia discussed how human factors affect algorithm design and how an adaptive optimization accounts for evolving human factors. The talk concluded with a discussion on the need to study algorithmic fairness on virtual marketplaces.
Associate Forums and Special Events

September 13, 2018 | Joint Book Launch and Reception
2015 Wall Scholar Renisa Mawani, *Across Oceans of Law: The Komagata Maru and Jurisdiction in the Time of Empire*

October 22, 2018 | An Informed Vote: Panel on Electoral Reform
To explore the issues raised by the referendum and help inform voters, the Pacific Chapter of the Royal Society of Canada partnered with the Institute to bring together Ken Carty (Professor Emeritus of Political Science at UBC) and Richard Johnston (Professor of Political Science at UBC and Canada Research Chair in Elections and Representation) for a panel on the referendum.

October 24, 2018 | To the Bone: Some Speculations on the Question of Touch
Hortense Spillers, Department of English, Vanderbilt University. Hortense Spillers is an American literary critic, Black Feminist scholar and the Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor at Vanderbilt University.

November 14, 2018 | Public Salon
Short presentations by Vancouver’s leaders and thinkers that entertain, educate and provoke the audience. Wall Associate Lara Boyd spoke about educational neuroplasticity.

November 14, 2018 | How typhoid vaccination saved WW1
Associate Forum presented by Distinguished Visiting Professor Philippe Sansonetti, Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Collège de France.

October 24, 2018 | The Emotions: A non-linear history
Part of the French, Hispanic, and Italian Studies research seminar organized by 2018 Wall Scholar Anna Casas Aguilar. Presenter Jo Labanyi is a Professor of Spanish and Portuguese at New York University.

November 16, 2018 | The OSI Conference 2018
A team of international experts convened to address two immediate near-term challenges in the sustainable development of space: space mining and orbital debris. The Outer Space Institute is co-directed by Wall Scholar alumnus Aaron Boley.
November 2, 2018 | Storybooks Canada Launch
To help children maintain their home language, as well as learn an official language, a UBC team in the Department of Language and Literacy Education led by Wall Associate Bonny Norton, developed a powerful interactive website called Storybooks Canada.

The African Storybook is a website and literacy initiative that provides openly licensed picture storybooks for early reading in the languages of Africa. Since being introduced in 2013 at a Peter Wall Institute Colloquium Abroad at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study in South Africa, the project has grown from pilot sites (Uganda, Kenya, and South Africa) to over 150 languages and over a thousand Storybooks. Bonny Norton is the research advisor for Storybooks Africa and research lead for Storybooks Canada, which was launched in November 2018 with funding and in-kind support from the UBC Language Sciences Initiative, a UBC Community University Engagement Support grant, Education without Borders, a Mitacs Accelerator grant, UBC Studios, the UBC Faculty of Education, and the Peter Wall Institute.

Read our more about the African Storybook project here: pwias.ubc.ca/wall-papers/storybooks-canada

November 8, 2018 | Memory Book Launch
November 11, 2018, was the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, a time of remembering and linking past events to the world we live in today. Taking this moment as a catalyst, the essays in this book ask readers to think creatively and deeply about notions of memory - its composition and practices - and the ways that memory is transmitted, recorded, and distorted through time and space.

December 10, 2018 | morph: Memory
In partnership with the Vancouver Public Library and their exhibition morph, which looks at telling and retelling, naming and renaming, demolishing and rebuilding, constructing and reconstructing how we see and experience the environment. This panel with contributors from the Peter Wall Institute’s book, Memory, navigated how our memories of Vancouver and British Columbia will shape our shared future.

June 6, 2019 | Roundtable on Memory at UBC Congress 2019
The roundtable featured contributors from the Memory book, a collection of 26 essays published by the Peter Wall Institute that discuss memory across such contexts as law, astrophysics, molecular genetics, digitization of data, Indigenous oral history, literature, and the natural world.

Watch what editors Mark Turin and Margot Young, as well as collaborators Shannon Walsh, Wade Davis, Ian Williams, Kalina Christoff and Anthony Farrell say about the Memory book and their respective essays here: pwias.ubc.ca/videos/memory-book
January 17, 2019 | **The Whole-Body Microbiome Book Launch**
Associate Forum celebrating the launch of Brett and Jessica Finlay’s new book [*The Whole-Body Microbiome: How to Harness Microbes—Inside and Out—for Lifelong Health*].

January 23, 2019 | **Giant earthquakes and tsunami: why, where and ...how?**
Associate Forum presented by Distinguished Visiting Professor Barbara Romanowicz, Chair of Physics of the Earth’s Interior, Collège de France.

January 24, 2019 | **Reproduction Book Launch, Ian Williams**
2018 Wall Scholar Ian Williams book launch of [*Reproduction*] at the Vancouver Film School.

February 9, 2019 | **The mind in your pocket:**
*On the neuroethical implications of smartphones as extensions of our minds*
Peter B. Reiner is a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at UBC. Part of the AI & Society Seminar Series, co-sponsored by the UBC ICICS Centre for Artificial Intelligence Decision-Making and Action (CAIDA).

February 25, 2019 | **AI and Moral Intelligence: Preserving Humane Thinking in a Machine Age**
Lecture delivered by Shannon Vallor who is a Regis and Dianne McKenna Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Santa Clara University. Part of the AI & Society Seminar Series, co-sponsored by CAIDA.

March 4, 2019 | **Algorithmic Accountability: Designing for Safety**
Lecture delivered by International Visiting Research Scholar Ben Shneiderman. Part of the AI & Society Seminar Series, co-sponsored CAIDA.

Eva-Lynn Jagoe discussed the limits and possibilities of different genres as they attempt to narrate anthropogenic environmental devastation. Organized by 2018 Wall Scholar Anna Casas Aguilar.

March 13, 2019 | **Human Habitation of Space**
A moderated public forum to discuss the medical challenges of human habitation in space. The talk featured NASA astronaut Serena Auñón-Chancellor (recently returned to Earth from the ISS) and radiation physicist Jeffrey Chancellor. The Outer Space Institute is co-directed by Wall Scholar alumnus Aaron Boley. The conference was sponsored by the OSI, the Salt Spring Forum, UBC Department of Physics and Astronomy, and RASC-Vancouver.
March 13, 2019 | Let them Eat Dirt: The Hunt for our Kids’ Missing Microbes Documentary Screening, VIFF at Vancity Theatre

March 27, 2019 | Thinking about the Anthropocene as Ecologies of Social Difference
Juno S. Parreñas is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Ohio State University. Her ethnographic research speaks to feminist science studies, environmental humanities, critical development studies, and global political economy. Organized by 2018 Wall Scholars Jessica Dempsey and Leila Harris in collaboration with Juanita Sundberg and Rosemary Collard.

March 27, 2019 | Alumni Dinner
Celebrating the leadership, accomplishments and achievements of the Peter Wall Institute under Philippe Tortell’s directorship from 2016-2018.

April 2, 2019 | Book Launch of News From Germany: The Competition to Control World Communications, 1900-1945
Celebrating Heidi Tworek’s new book *News from Germany: The Competition to Control World Communications, 1900-1945*. This discussion led by Tworek on the major themes of her book featured Eagle Glassheim (Department Head, UBC History) and Mary Lynn Young (UBC Graduate School of Journalism) who offered their thoughts on Tworek’s book followed by a Q&A.

May 14, 2019 | “Is it safe to rebuild the gumba?” The politics and practice of landslide risk management in post-earthquake Nepal
Drawing on findings from a project on landslide risk mapping, Katie Oven, Geography at Durham University, UK, provided a critical overview of landslide risk management in Nepal, including the role of science and technical expertise, and how this intersects with local knowledge, politics, power and agency within local government and communities. Co-sponsored by the Institute of Asian Research, and the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs.

May 30, 2019 | Biodiversity and Forests: From Local to Global Concerns
The French American Climate Talks – Biodiversity (FACT-B) is a new series of high level conferences bringing together French and Canadian speakers from academia, government agencies, NGOs and think tanks. The goal of FACT-B is twofold: to raise public awareness in France, the United States, and Canada, as well as to reinforce exchanges between scientists and experts on biodiversity issues. 2018 Wall Scholar Jessica Dempsey was one of the panelists.
Organizational Structure of the Institute

DIRECTOR AND STAFF

Philippe Tortell, Director (May 2016 - November 2018)
Kalina Christoff, Interim Director (June 2019 - Present)
Emma MacEntee, Program Manager
Bernadette Mah, Program Manager
Mel Ingram, Financial and Facilities Clerk
Nicole Smith, Grants Coordinator (March 2019 - March 2020)
Aurora Tejeida, Communications and Events Coordinator
Katie Stannard, Student, Communications Assistant

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS

Brett Finlay, Michael Smith Laboratories, Departments of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and Microbiology & Immunology
Derek Gregory, Department of Geography

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Judy Illes, Neurology, and Director, Neuroethics Canada, UBC
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Richard Kurth, School of Music, UBC
Rena Sharon, School of Music, UBC Catherine Soussloff, Art History, Visual Art & Theory, UBC

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE
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Leila Harris, Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability & Social Justice Institute, UBC
Merje Kuus, Geography, UBC
Sally Otto, Zoology, UBC
Michelle Stack, Education, UBC

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Carole Blackburn, Anthropology & Sociology, UBC
Ayesha Chaudhry, Social Justice Institute & Classical, Near Eastern and Religious Studies, UBC
Chris Harley, Zoology, UBC
Harvey Richer, Physics & Astronomy, UBC

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Derek Gregory, Wall Distinguished Professor, Geography, UBC
Carole Blackburn, Anthropology & Sociology, UBC
Ayesha Chaudhry, Social Justice Institute & Classical, Near Eastern and Religious Studies, UBC
Chris Harley, Zoology, UBC
Harvey Richer, Physics & Astronomy, UBC