Austerity and its Alternatives

Dr. Stephen McBride's SSHRC-funded project aims to understand why evidence that challenges the conventional wisdom that austerity is the appropriate response to economic and financial crises has tended to be ignored or marginalised. The project also aims to develop strategies for how countervailing evidence and expertise that outlines alternatives to austerity might be better mobilised and integrated into policy deliberations.

Electoral Integrity and Digital Democracy in East and Southeast Asia

Dr. Netina Tan's SSHRC-funded research examines the intersection of new media and the quality of democracy in East and Southeast Asia, and she would like to supervise PhD students interested in comparative electoral, party politics and digital politics in both authoritarian and democratic regimes. Prospective students should specify a country or regional area of specialization, as well as background or interest to be trained in qualitative (e.g. QCA, NVivo, content analysis) or quantitative (e.g. survey; data mining, social network analysis) research skills.

Ethnic Quotas and Political Representation: A Global Study

As part of their on-going research collaboration, Drs. Netina Tan and Karen Bird would like to recruit PhD students who aim to do research in comparative politics, electoral design for ethnically divided societies, and the political representation of ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples. Prospective students should specify a country or regional area of specialization, as well as any foreign language skills. For information and funding opportunities, see Ethnic Quota Project.

Numbers in Transnational Governance

Traditionally communications and rules in transnational governance primarily relied on words, such as treaties, propaganda, commercial contracts, or the articulation of global norms. Dr. Tony Porter's SSHRC-funded research explores the ways that numbers are displacing or complementing words, as with numerical rankings and indices, risk models, algorithms associated with Big Data, Radio Frequency ID tags (RFID), and digitization more generally. Dr. Porter is eager to work with PhD students interested in these issues and the theories that are useful in analyzing them, such as actor-network theory.

Social Policy, Attitudes, and Sexual Behaviour

In collaboration with sociologists Tina Fetner and Melanie Heath, Dr. Michelle Dion would like to recruit PhD students interested in the ways in which social policies, attitudes, and sexuality (e.g., sexual orientation, gender identity, sexual practices) intersect. Their SSRHC-funded project includes surveys and interviews with Canadians in coordination with United States collaborators. They plan to expand their comparisons to European and Latin American countries.

The Other Diplomat: Canadian and Cuban Encounters in Tourism
Dr. Lana Wylie's SSHRC-funded project hypothesizes that many Canadian tourists visiting Cuba engage in interactions that have political and diplomatic significance because they mobilize understandings of national identities and purposes. She will investigate whether Canadian tourists in Cuba and the Cubans they encounter engage in diplomatic practices such as negotiation of difference, communication, representation, and the management of relationships between the two societies. She would like to recruit a PhD student with research interests in Cuba and/or the diplomatic significance of tourism. Spanish language skills are preferred, but not necessary.

Varieties of Austerity: Identification, Interpretation, Implications
Austerity policies have been the standard response to the economic and financial crisis and have been actively promoted by international and national elites and experts. Dr. Stephen McBride's SSHRC-funded project seeks to understand to what extent variation in austerity packages can be found at national and subnational levels, what explains these variations, and what impact such variations might have.