

Junior Fellow Speaker Series 2012/13

September 19, 2012

Yin-Ze Ma

"Probing the Cosmos and the Laws of Attraction"

September 26

Xing Chen, Electrical & Computer Engineering

"How the micro-world is changing your macro-world!"

a) Apple fans, do you know how your iPhones or iPads respond to your motions, such as sound, touch, and rotation? b) You will find the related technologies that make our modern automobile safer and smarter. c) Business folks - you can turn sand into gold! You will learn about the incredible, excessive profit from high-tech. d) Biologists - some microtools will be introduced regarding low-doses, and quick and convenient detection. e) Surgeons – I would like to share core technologies of blood pressure, capsule endoscope, and other emerging high-end fields. f) Finally, I will overview the applications of microtechnology in national defense. Xing will bring you into the amazing micro-world and you will discover how micro-technology is changing your daily life in ways you don't even realize.

October 2

Kairong Xiao, PhD Candidate, Sauder School of Business

"Finance for the Poor"

Popular opinion has come to regard finance as a game for the rich. Bankers, traders and financiers are regularly depicted as "fat cats" who do nothing but live off the work of others. The public's misperception of finance is deepened by the recent financial crisis, which is believed to be caused by the greed of Wall Street bankers.

In this talk, Kairong Xiao will shed light on the other aspect of finance: finance for the poor. Xiao will tell three real-life stories: a college student in Hong Kong who struggles against paying high tuition, a poor Bangladeshi woman who cannot even borrow one dollar to buy sewing tools, and a penniless young entrepreneur in the U.S. who wants to start his own firm. He will illustrate how finance can save them from the poverty trap and profoundly change their lives and discuss why the impoverished are consistently denied financial services in practice. Problems like adverse selection, moral hazard, and limited commitment not only explain the limited access to finance for the poor, but also address the root cause of the recent financial crisis.

October 16

Miriam Locher

"The interpersonal aspect of language use or why politeness matters."

October 23

Seku Catacoli

"When the Big One Hits SJC"

Did you know that we live in one of the most active seismic areas in the world?. Have you wondered if earthquakes are becoming more frequent in the last years?. So, attend this presentation and learn about the latest findings on Earthquake Engineering and see how they can help us to protect our lives. Also come and learn where are the best places to be in St. John's College in the case of an earthquake.

October 30

Si Hao, PhD Candidate, Law

How Historical Moments Influenced Environmental Disclosure Regulation

This talk is featured for its historical analysis of U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) as well as the social and political context of the agency, which provides a unique approach in dealing with the question how SEC gets involved in environmental protection and reluctantly became environmentalist. It will identify three notable phases of development in utilizing securities law for environmental protection purpose and explain why there still is a long way to go. In general the speaker will concentrate on the benefit of historical approach for social science research other than history.

November 20

Chunman Zhang, Master Candidate, Department of Political Science

"Chinese Communist Party's 18th Party Congress: Superpower Starts From Here"

China is rising under the leadership of Chinese Communist Party (CCP). To understand contemporary China, the key is to observe and analyze CCP and its development trajectory. That's why the world was relentlessly casting its attention to CCP's 18th Party Congress which just concluded several days ago. After this party congress, the new leadership of CCP has emerged. But several questions remain unanswered. What's new in this party congress? Why this time it is different? How will it shape China's future for the next 10 years?

In my talk, I will try to answer these questions by providing a comprehensive analysis of CCP's 18th Party Congress. I argue that the new leadership is not only a compromise of the faction struggles within CCP but also a productive and practical result of the leadership transition. The

new leadership is able to achieve the goals of China's modernization and China is very likely to become a superpower under the new leadership in 10 years

November 27

Juan Serpa

"In Search of the Perfect Voting System"

January 15, 2013

Guillaume Lefebvre

"Chocolate and material science... is there even a connection?"

January 29

Patrick Littell, PhD Candidate, Linguistics

"First Nations Languages of the Pacific Northwest"

The Pacific Northwest is one of the world's "language hotspots": a region with a large number of indigenous languages in imminent danger of extinction. For many of these languages, only a small number of elderly speakers remain who can still speak the language fluently. Linguists, both in universities and within aboriginal communities, are working with these elders to document as much as they can of these unique languages. These languages are highly complex and often exhibit rare or unusual features that make them both challenging and fascinating to learners and researchers alike. In this talk Patrick will give an overview of the Northwestern languages: what's interesting about them, who speaks them, why they are in danger, and what's being done about it.

February 5

Kateryna Melnykova, PhD Student, Mathematics Dept.

"Introduction to Image Processing: Compressed sensing"

Have you ever wondered why images have various formats options for being saved/stored (e.g., raw, jpeg)? Have you ever asked yourself how Photoshop works? The answers to these questions will be given during the talk. This talk is oriented for the general audience (including non-scientists). Kateryna will mainly focus on explaining the concepts and will briefly mention the underlying mathematical part.

February 12

Elena Cirkovic

Masters of Landscape Architecture Student (UBC); Instructor, Political Science (SFU) MA (Political Science) (U of T); PhD (Law) (Osgoode)

"Community, categories of citizenship, and possibilities for universal Global Governance"

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law (Universal Declaration of Human Rights (art 6) ... More than half a century after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the qualifications of the bearer of 'universal' rights, still remain unspecified. Is an individual recognized as a) universal and rights-bearing citizen independent of any communal membership; b) only as a member of a community (based on nationhood, ethnicity, race, gender, etc.); or c) if his or her existence or affiliation is found to be in violation of existing laws (criminal, terrorist, illegal alien)? I engage with the timely topic of statelessness and investigate the relationship between individual's communal affiliation and his or her recognition as a universal subject before international law. My research enters the scholarly debate the concept of 'global constitutionalism' and its normative potential. It provides a critical perspective from an analysis of decision making processes in the cases of "exception". In particular, this research centers on cases of conflict and failed states, which also often produce the 'stateless' or those who by a loss of communal affiliation also lose presence in law. My analysis focuses on the case *Sejdic and Finci v. Bosnia and Herzegovina* (BiH), decided in 2009 by the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). The ECtHR applied the general prohibition of discrimination in Article 1 of Protocol No. 12 to the European Convention with regard to electoral discrimination based on ethnicity. The plaintiffs, Jacob Finci and Dervo Sejdic complained of their ineligibility to stand for election in BiH on the ground of their respective Jewish and Roma origins, in accordance with the Constitution of BiH, and the corresponding provisions of the Election Act 2001. The Constitution is an Annex to the General Framework Agreement for Peace in BiH ('the Dayton Peace Agreement') initialled in Dayton on 21 November 1995 and signed in Paris on 14 December 1995. The House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly (the second chamber) and the Presidency of BiH are composed only of persons belonging to the three constituent peoples, i.e. Bosniaks, Serbs, and Croats, as is stipulated in the Dayton Peace Agreement.

February 19

Deepak Azad, M.Sc. Student, Computer Science

"Skynet is coming!"

February 26

Kamila Kolpashnikova MA, Interdisciplinary Information Studies (University of Tokyo) PhD Student, Sociology Dept.

"Cultural Capital or Why I Am So Darn Working-Class: The Unmitigated Bourdieusian Perspective" People develop their aesthetic sense in early childhood. The markers of social origin are betrayed unconsciously in behavioural practices, tastes, and preferences. The homophily of symbolic capital shapes social networks and, thus, social classes. Please, come to my talk to find out more and to throw questions, inter alia, at my closet elitism.

March 5

Matthew Galway, PhD Student, Department of History

"None Shall Sleep: An Introduction to Cambodian History, the Khmer Rouge, and the ECCC Tribunal"

On the 17th of April, 1975, large groups of armed peasants clad in black uniforms and colorful krama--many in their early teens--surrounded the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh. Their arrival and subsequent takeover, "like year one of the French Revolution," was to usher in "an entirely new phase of Cambodian history." The new regime referred to by the Cambodian Prince Sihanouk as the "Khmer Rouge" immediately exerted its radical doctrine with iron-fisted totalitarian governance and a mass exodus of all major cities. In the four year reign of the Khmer Rouge in the newly named People's Republic of Democratic Kampuchea, the economy and much of the country's infrastructure vanished, the regime targeted the upper classes for total obliteration, and nearly three million Cambodians of Khmer, Cham, Thai, Vietnamese, and Chinese descent were killed. All of these processes were guided by the party's premier official, the self-named Pol Pot, and his secretive "Organization" called the Angkar. Pol Pot's brutal vision of Cambodia's new future began from "Year Zero" in an arbitrary attempt to start the country's history anew and "wipe the slate clean." How did this happen? What prompted such a brutal and merciless human experiment to take place? Who was involved and why? Why do so few know of its occurrence? How do these events affect us? Why does it matter? Most importantly, what can be learned from Cambodia's experience? Please attend my brief introduction to Cambodian history to the present. The presenter, Matt Galway, will provide an introduction to this country's history--from zenith to nadir--and the challenges it has faced since the end of one of history's most masochistic regimes. Come see how Cambodia has come to transform the river of blood into a river of reconciliation--a river of responsibility.

March 12

Daniel Marshall

"Tuning the XBox Kinect: an introduction to technological application in music"

This talk is an introduction to basic ways that technology can be applied to enhance classical art music through such means as live manipulation of sound and the repurposing of technology that was not originally developed to control sound. Included will be a demonstration of my own

programming that turns the Xbox Kinect into a musical instrument through live video tracking and the performance of a brand new piece for piano, live processing, and Kinect.

March 19

Sarah Malta, MA Student, Curriculum & Pedagogy - Art Education

"Art from Within: An Encounter with Holocaust Art from the Terezin Ghetto"

The Terezin fortress located in what is now Prague, Czech Republic, functioned as a Holocaust ghetto for the incarceration of elite European Jews during WWII. Thousands of art pieces were produced inside the ghetto walls by deportees of varied ages mainly as a result of the children's art classes, and work assignments in the Drawing Office and the Art Workshop. With a focus on the artwork made between the period of 1942 and 1944, the cultural presence in wartime Terezin is explored and presented to discover the who, why, how, and the so what?!

March 20

Vanessa Barbosa

"Indigenizing research: community-based research in collaboration with First Nations peoples"

Primary coping strategies utilized by First Nations people living with arthritis involve the need for a holistic approach to healing, including use of traditional modalities and a preference to avoid medications; ignoring the pain and a reluctance to talk about pain; the difficulty listening to one's body and its limitations; the use of humour for emotional support; and the central role of family in providing support to people with arthritis in FN culture. As a research assistant, I facilitate the program development of a culturally relevant arthritis wellness program for First Nation communities.