

NEWSLETTER



We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.



A NEW APPROACH TO INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE

IGOV is currently in the process of submitting program changes for approval by the university's Senate Committee on Planning and Senate Committee on Curriculum. The approved program changes will be available upon publication in the university's May 2021 academic calendar. The revitalized program will build on the program's strengths and take a more holistic approach to governance that is responsive to current issues within the context of local, national and global Indigenous resurgence.

The Indigenous Governance program continues to build on traditional strengths, dedicated to Indigenous ways of knowing and being, innovative scholarship and teaching methods. IGOV embodies a thorough understanding of the current political realities of Indigenous communities in an enriched program with greater emphasis on:

- Indigenous feminist and gender perspectives;
- Indigenous health and wellness;
- critiques of power production and use;
- strong connections with local community, languages and the land;
- deeper engagement with land-based curriculum, community governance projects and theses;
- enhanced academic cultural supports for students to navigate being good visitors in this territory; and
- engaging Indigenous governance from the perspective of sustainable development and water security during an era of climate change.

RECRUITING OUTSTANDING NEW FACULTY

We're excited to announce that we recently received approval to recruit two new faculty members, an Assistant Professor and an Associate Professor.

All members of the recruitment committee are Indigenous senior academics who have strong Indigenous scholarship in governance, health and wellbeing, feminism, gender and sexuality, masculinities, oralities and disabilities.

IGOV has also applied for an additional Assistant Professor position and will hear back about this request within the next few months. If we get this extra position the program will have a complement of two associate professors, two assistant professors and a range of affiliates from other partner programs.

OUR WORK OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS

Since spring 2017 we have:

- supported IGOV graduate students to complete program requirements;
- visited local community Elders and leaders;
- taken professional development courses and workshops;
- offered two HSD Faculty level courses;
- hosted visiting scholar Dr. Kim Anderson that included a book launch, a series of speaking engagements and offered ideas to the IGOV team on potential ways to move the program forward;
- visited with international Indigenous partners from New Zealand, Hawai'i, Australia and developed new partnerships in South Africa and Malawi;
- consulted with national Indigenous scholars, IGOV alumni and current students; and
- the distinguished and respected Elder, knowledge keeper and academic, Dr. Lorna Williams, guided and directed us through a culturally rooted process as we responded to recommendations as outlined in reports and processes.



Dr. Lorna Williams
Photo: Indspire

OUR TEAM

Devi Dee Mucina

is an associate professor and director of the program. He joined the IGOV team from Mount St. Vincent University in 2016. Devi is an Indigenous Ubuntu from the Chewa, Ngoni and Shona people of southern Africa. His academic interests are Indigenous governance and community wellness as embodied through the mask, African philosophies, decolonizing Indigenous Masculinities and using Ubuntu oralities to understand the social memory of Indigenous peoples.



Dr. Heidi Kiiwetinepinesiik Stark

(Turtle Mountain Ojibwe) is the Director of the Centre for Indigenous Research and Community-Led Engagement (CIRCLE) and the Indigenous Nationhood Graduate Certificate Program. Heidi has been affiliated with the IGOV program for many years as a crosslisted faculty member. Heidi received her PhD in American Studies from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, in 2008. Her doctoral research focused on Anishinaabe treaty-making with the United States and Canada.



Marla Sampson

is the program assistant and assistant to the director. Marla not only plays a crucial role in supporting students, but plays a key leadership role in deeply grounding the program in local traditional protocol and relations. Marla joined the IGOV team in August 2015 when she moved to the local territory from her home community of Stz'uminus First Nation.



Shawna McNabb

is the academic administrative officer. She joined the IGOV team in November 2017 and provides support and leadership in developing and implementing program initiatives, academic program planning and student support. Shawna is Mi'kmaq and Irish decent and has been a visitor on Coast Salish territory since 1996 when she moved from the territory of the Qalipu First Nation.





Black Excellence Panel at Royal Roads University

Dr. Devi Mucina:

- hosted, in collaboration with the School of Social Work, the Decolonial Solidarity Relations Panel that took place on the grounds of the BC Legislative building during the Wet’suwet’en Solidarity Protest;
- facilitated and hosted an anti-racist workshop at Pearson College with School of Child and Youth Care faculty member Dr. Sandrina de Finney;
- hosted a Black Excellence Panel at Royal Roads University and was featured on CBC All Points West about approaches to cultural education;
- participated on a panel at the Regional Black Canadian Forum in Victoria; and
- hosted an Indigenous and Black Allied Panel and Indigenous governance film screening.

LOOKING FORWARD

Advisory Council

IGOV has been working with local community collaborators to provide guidance throughout the process of revising the program. An Advisory Council will be reinstated to provide ongoing advice and guidance to the program.

We’ll be calling upon Council members to guide us on the continued work of program updates and new program developments such as a formal PhD program, community engagement and a clear vision and mission, with periodic review to ensure the program is attentive to current Indigenous political, environmental, health and wellbeing realities.

IGOV is in the process of seeking members for the Council from among our alumni, current students, community leaders and distinguished academics to keep the program moving forward in a good way.

We anticipate the Council will meet annually, but may meet more frequently as we redesign and relaunch the program.

Gathering

A celebration will be planned in the near future that will allow us to celebrate our past, present and future. We look forward to connecting with all of you once it is safe to gather in person again.



GENERAL INQUIRIES

✉ igov@uvic.ca 📞 250-721-6438 📠 250-472-4724 🌐 uvic.ca/igov

Indigenous Governance

University of Victoria, PO Box 1700 STN CSC Victoria BC V8W 2Y2, Canada

ALUMNI

Nicholas XEMFOLTW Claxton

graduated from the MA program in 2003 went on to complete his PhD (2015) in Educational Studies. He is Chief of Tsawout First Nations and an assistant professor with the School of Child and Youth Care who made headlines in 2015 coordinating the first SXOLE fishery on Canadian waters in 100 years. Nick has worked on campus for more than 10 years as an advisor and liaison for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students on cultural issues, protocol and Indigenous ways of knowing.



Erynne Gilpin

is a mixed Cree-Metis, Filipina and Celtic educator, researcher. Erynne, a graduate of the Indigenous Governance PhD program, was named Top 25 Storyteller in SSHRC’s 2020 Storytellers competition. Her winning submission was based on her doctoral thesis—Land as Body: Indigenous Womxn’s Leadership, Land-based Wellness and Embodied Governance.

Photo Credit: Janelle Paciencia



Nikki Sanchez

is a Pipil/Maya and Irish/Scottish academic, Indigenous media maker and environmental educator. Nikki earned her MA in Indigenous Governance and is currently a PhD candidate. Nikki is one of four editors of a new book, *Spirits of the Coast: Orcas in Science, Art and History*, released by the Royal BC Museum.

