



Chester Ronning Centre
for the Study of Religion and Public Life

Annual Report

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019



Tenille Campbell, 7th Spirit of the Land Conference, Fall 2018

Prepared by:

Ian D. Wilson
(Director)

and

Diane McGall
(Administrative Assistant)



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Chris Hedges, "Religion and Public Life in Today's Global World"

Message from the Director

At the Chester Ronning Centre, the 2018-19 academic year was one of strengthening connections and fostering dialogue across divides. Over the course of the year, we partnered directly with the Augustana Alumni Office, the Augustana Indigenous Student Services Office, Camrose Public Library, Camrose & District Centennial Museum, the Jeanne & Peter Lougheed Performing Arts Centre, Norsemen Inn, and others, to deliver a robust slate of public programming. As you'll see in this report, much of our public programming focused



Dr. Ian Wilson, Director of the Chester Ronning Centre

on issues related to religion and government, specifically issues of politics and the law, some of the most divisive issues in our society today. We also worked with the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities at Augustana, with support from the Kule Institute for Advanced Study and the Rural Policy Learning Commons, to initiate nation-wide, collaborative and interdisciplinary research into building more inclusive communities in rural Canada.

These issues—religion and government as well as the related challenges of racism and intolerance in our society—were addressed with great nuance by our 2018 Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Dr. Molly Worthen of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Worthen was a visiting scholar of the Centre once before, in 2008, when she gave a talk in Camrose on the eve of Barack Obama's historic election as the United States' first African-American president. This past fall, she visited Alberta just before the U.S. midterm elections. But now, Donald Trump sits in the White House, a different political scenario indeed. In her talk at the Camrose Public Library, Worthen examined the oft-cited statistic that 81% of white evangelical Christian voters cast a ballot for Trump in 2016 (Trump continues to poll very favorably among this demographic). In the U.S., there is an undeniable alliance between evangelicals, the Republican Party, and Trump's politics. To compare, Worthen noted that, during Canada's 2015 Federal Election, only 50% of Canadian evangelicals voted Conservative. She argued, however, that these stats should not come as a surprise. In his campaign, Trump drew on narratives that are particular to American evangelicalism—for example, suspicion of and resistance to centralized authority—narratives that have their roots in the early British colonies and subsequent U.S. history. Canada's colonial history unfolded differently, of course. And thus the relationship between evangelicalism and politics in Canada has diverged from that in the U.S. In any case, Worthen clearly demonstrated how government and culture, religion and politics, have been and continue to be tightly intertwined in North America.

The boundaries between these categories blur, if they are there at all, a truth that affects (and effects) our everyday lives, regardless of one’s particular religious identity or affiliations.

This truth was reiterated by Mr. Chris Hedges, the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who visited the Centre and gave a public lecture at Camrose’s Cargill Theatre, in March. Hedges does not shy away from ugly realities in our society. In his lecture, he argued that, unless we can undo some of the social structures (including certain religious-political alliances) that have formed in North America (and elsewhere) in the era of global capitalism, human life as we know it faces death. “Hope” is not a word that Hedges likes to use, but if there is any hope for our future, Hedges argued, it is to be found in community-based organizations that resist the structures of power currently holding sway over our society. In conjunction with Hedges’ visit, the Centre hosted a public book club that read his latest work, *America, The Farewell Tour* (Knopf Canada, 2018). To be sure, not everyone agreed with Hedges’ prognosis of North American society and his suggested course of treatment for our social ills. But no one could deny that his work pushed us to think deeply about the real challenges our society faces, their root causes, and how we might address those challenges going forward.

Addressing issues of religion and politics is never without controversy, especially in an election year—indeed, these are the topics we’re told never to bring up around the dinner table. But despite the controversies and ever-present political divisions we see in our communities, we at the Centre sought to foster rich public dialogue about these issues in the 2018-19 academic year. And we will continue toward the goal of fostering impactful dialogue, supporting new research and offering public programming related to religion and public life, in the year to come. We thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you at Augustana in 2019-20.



University of Alberta – Augustana Campus

Centre News and Key Initiatives

Advisory Committee

The Chester Ronning Centre operates with the support of an active advisory committee. Members are invited by the Dean of the Faculty in consultation with the Director of the Centre. One new member, Dr. Paul Gareau, was appointed this year. The advisory committee's mandate is to support the work of the Centre and its Director, provide advice and community feedback, and assist in fundraising. Appointments are for a three-year term, renewable.

Current Advisory Committee Members:



Brandon Alakas, Ph.D. – Augustana Faculty (English) – Dr. Alakas teaches courses on classical and medieval literature. His long-standing interest in Latin literature in particular is fueled by his research on monastic culture. He has published on Latin historiography but his current work examines devotional literature written immediately before the English Reformation.



Paul L. Gareau, Ph.D., is Métis and French-Canadian from Bellevue near Batoche, Saskatchewan. He is an assistant professor in the Faculty of Native Studies and past Research Fellow for the Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research at the University of Alberta. His research is grounded in critical theory and methodology relating to the social, political, and cultural impacts of religion on identity formation. His academic publications and community research projects explore the Métis experiences of religion and Métis peoplehood, the influence of Catholicism on early and later modern identity, the legacy of colonial discourses on Indigenous and ethnocultural minorities, and the experiences of rural spaces. His research focuses on the Métis, Indigenous religiosity, youth, gender, la Francophonie, and rural Canada.



Daniel Sims, Ph.D. – Augustana Faculty (History/Indigenous Studies) – A member of the Tsay Keh Dene First Nation, Dr. Sims currently teaches History and Indigenous Studies at Augustana. Prior to joining the faculty at Augustana, he taught as a sessional at the University's North Campus in History and Native Studies. His research primarily focuses on native-newcomer relations in Western Canada, with a particular emphasis on the law, environment, and economy. Dr. Sims received his B.A. from Concordia University of Edmonton, and M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Alberta.



Gail Stolee is a graduate of the University of Alberta in Arts, Education and Library Science. She worked for the Edmonton Public School Board, for Camrose Lutheran College, where she was also a member of the Board of Regents, and for Augustana University College. Her community involvements include Rotary, Sahakarini (a local international development NGO), the Nordlys Film and Arts Festival, and Messiah Lutheran Church.



Nakita Valerio is an award-winning writer, academic, and community organizer. She completed graduate studies and work as a research assistant in History and Islamic-Jewish Studies at the University of Alberta in 2017, as well as a research fellowship on Islamophobia and anti-Semitism for the Tessellate Institute in 2018. She is currently working on a national study of the challenges facing Muslim youth in Canada as a research fellow with the Institute for Religious and Socio-Political Studies.



Joseph Wiebe, Ph.D. – Augustana Faculty (Religious Studies) – Dr. Wiebe teaches Religion and Ecology with an interest in ethics, imagination, and community. His ongoing research is on the ways land shaped Mennonite and Métis identities within different religious and political contexts. His first book, *The Place of Imagination* was recently published by Baylor University Press (2017).



Rev. Markus Wilhelm – Glory Lutheran Church, Sherwood Park – Rev. Wilhelm attended Camrose Lutheran College, has studied in Germany and served Lutheran congregations in British Columbia and in Calgary, Edmonton, and Sherwood Park, Alberta.

Chester Ronning Lecture on Religion and Diplomacy (supported by the Distinguished Visiting Fellows Endowment)

“Religion and Public Life in Today’s Global World: An Evening with Chris Hedges”

The third Chester Ronning Lecture on Religion and Diplomacy took place in March. This lecture, made possible by the Distinguished Visiting Fellows Endowment, focuses on contemporary issues in religion and international politics, honouring Chester Ronning’s diplomatic career and its legacy. This year’s lecturer was Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Chris Hedges, who addressed the importance of religion in an increasingly globalized world.

Hedges has written 11 bestselling books on morality, atheism, war, power, theology, and religion, among other topics. He currently serves as a visiting lecturer at Princeton University. His Princeton course is held at a state prison in New Jersey where half of the students are Princeton undergraduates and half are prisoners. While working for 15 years with the *New York Times* as a foreign correspondent in the Middle East and former Yugoslavia, Hedges shared a Pulitzer Prize with the paper’s editorial team in 2002 for its coverage of global terrorism. He also received the Amnesty International Global Award for Human Rights Journalism in 2002, and having received a master’s degree from Harvard Divinity School in the early 1980s, was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 2014.



Chris Hedges with Centre Director Ian Wilson

International Fellows Program and Postdoctoral Fellow

An initiative begun by former Director David Goa, and made possible by the Wendy Cassady Memorial Fund, the International Fellows Program aims to connect public intellectuals with students, faculty, and community members on local, national, and global levels. Every other year, the Centre will bring nationally and internationally recognized intellectuals to the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta for a conference, to engage students, faculty, and the general public. These guests will participate in outreach activities such as conducting lectures, seminars,

and workshops; and will prepare op-ed and briefing papers on current issues pertinent to the intersection of religion and public life. Their activities will engage the following communities:

- public and private universities (Canadian and international)
- various religious communities
- civic/governmental agencies and organizations
- journalists and other members of the media

The Centre employs a Postdoctoral Fellow to contribute to its International Fellows Program. The Fellow's primary task is to organize the biennial conference and to work toward publishing and disseminating research that emerges from the conference.

In addition, the Postdoc Fellow works closely with the Centre's staff to organize public lectures, workshops, student discussion forums, and similar events that will connect and engage interested persons from various arenas in the public sphere. The Fellow, too, aims to help strengthen and broaden the impact of the Centre's other initiatives, including our Distinguished Visiting Fellows program and online publication series. Rather than being a stand-alone initiative, the Fellow is thoroughly integrated into the Centre's research and programming agendas, expanding the Centre's influence provincially, nationally, and internationally.

In July 2018, the Centre employed its first Postdoc Fellow, Dr. Katharine Batlan. Dr. Batlan specializes in American religions and politics. Her teaching and research engages questions of religious pluralism and religion's relationship with the state. She came to the Ronning Centre after finishing her doctorate at the University of Texas at Austin. In addition to organizing the first International Fellows Conference and other Ronning Centre programming, she has been working on editing her first monograph, which analyzes the numerous attempts from 1863 to 1975 to add language about Jesus to the United States Constitution.



Dr. Katharine Batlan, Postdoctoral Fellow

“Religion and Law in Canada and the U.S.” – International Fellows Conference

In April 2019, the Centre brought together scholars of religion, historians, professors of law, and practicing lawyers for a conference on Religion and Law in Canada and the U.S. The event was organized and hosted by Dr. Katharine Batlan, the Centre’s Postdoc Fellow. The broad range of speakers—including keynotes Prof. Janet Epp Buckingham (Trinity Western) and Dr. Tisa Wenger (Yale)—discussed issues of religious liberty in North America, including ideas of religious accommodation and considerations related to marriage, among other topics.

Community Service Learning (CSL)

The Centre continues to work closely with Augustana’s CSL program. This year, through an Environmental Studies/Religion and Ecology course, 4 students completed a CSL placement with the Centre. Working alongside Diane McGall (the Centre’s Administrative Assistant), the students helped organize the seventh Spirit of the Land Conference, contributing to practical aspects of the event, including tech support, space set-up, and registration. More importantly, they facilitated round table discussions with community members, connecting their Augustana course content with visiting speakers’ presentations and local community interests.

Programming Highlights

Video recordings of Ronning Centre events can be viewed on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/ronningcentre



Chester Ronning exhibit at the Camrose & District Centennial Museum

Chester Ronning Exhibit Drop-in

From Fall 2018 to Summer 2019, the Camrose and District Centennial Museum featured an exhibit of artifacts from the life of the Centre’s namesake, Chester Alvin Ronning. Ronning was a distinguished educator and diplomat, and he served as Camrose Lutheran College’s principal from 1927-42. Research Assistants and Augustana graduates Gavin Wilkes and Dariya Veenstra organized and catalogued items from multiple locations around

Camrose. These items included a sculpture of Ronning, his High Commissioner for Canada in India Certificate, Air Force Certificate, personal briefcase, and Order of Canada Appointment, among other artifacts. In the Fall of 2019, the artifacts will be relocated to Founders' Hall at the Augustana Campus.

“Make Sure All of Your People Vote’: Donald Trump and the Complexity of Evangelicalism in North America” (supported by the Distinguished Visiting Fellows Endowment)

When 81% of white evangelical Americans voted for Donald Trump, observers were shocked that so many Christians could support a man who regularly flouts the teachings of Jesus. Yet this political alliance should come as no surprise. Trump’s message and leadership style are consistent with longstanding patterns in evangelical history, argued Dr. Molly Worthen of UNC-Chapel Hill. In her lecture, she demonstrated how Trump’s political success shows how American and Canadian evangelicals have diverged, despite their common roots. And yet evangelical Trumpism also reveals the enduring, and universal, conflict between religious ideals and political power. During her stay, Dr. Worthen also led a teaching seminar, at which Augustana faculty members discussed the state of liberal arts education today.



Dr. Molly Worthen, 2018 Distinguished Visiting Fellow



David A. Robertson

The 7th Spirit of the Land Conference: “Stories for Generations”

This year’s conference, co-organized by Augustana’s Indigenous Student Services Office and the Augustana Medium, explored themes of storytelling in connection to the land. Keynote speakers included Alice Major, writer of 12 collections of poetry and the first poet laureate of Edmonton; David A. Robertson, graphic novelist and writer from Winnipeg, and member of Norway House Cree Nation; and Tenille Campbell, Dene and Métis poet and photographer from English River First Nation. The three authors shared how their writing connects to land, ecology, and people. And they reflected on how their writing aims to impact future generations in relation to how we interact with the world around us.

“Marriage Law in Britain and the US”

In January, Prof. Rebecca Probert from the University of Exeter Law School visited the Augustana Campus as a University of Alberta Distinguished Visiting Professor. During her time at Augustana, she guest-lectured in a history course and gave a public talk alongside Dr. Katharine Batlan. At the Ronning Centre event, Prof. Probert discussed British family law myths, and Dr. Batlan discussed religious responses to marriage law changes in the U.S. Prof. Probert’s visit to the University was organized by Dr. Mélanie Methot (History, Augustana Faculty).



Prof. Rebecca Probert

“What if the U.S. Constitution was Christian? Jesus Amendments in the 1940s and 1950s”



Dr. Katharine Batlan

For over 100 years, a small group of American Protestants tried to amend the U.S. Constitution, to add a recognition of Jesus’s authority. In this public lecture, Dr. Katharine Batlan, the Centre’s current Postdoctoral Fellow, introduced these efforts and discussed how opposition to the amendments showed the limits of Christian-nation ideology in American public life. The event was co-hosted by the Augustana Alumni Office.

“Religious Freedom: The Contested History of an American Ideal”

Religious freedom is often presented as a timeless and self-evident American ideal. But this narrative masks a vibrant national discourse—one might call it “religious freedom talk”—that links this ideal to the politics of race and empire. In this lecture, Dr. Tisa Wenger of Yale University



Dr. Tisa Wenger

argued that, more often than not, religious freedom claims have supported white and Christian privilege in the United States. Yet at the same time, a diverse array of minority groups and colonized peoples have used this ideal to defend themselves and their ways of life. Dr. Wenger explored the prospects and paradoxes of religious freedom for Native Americans and for African Americans in the early twentieth-century U.S. Both groups invoked

this ideal to challenge racial and religious exclusions—and both found their identities and traditions subtly transformed in the process. This event was part of the 2019 International Fellows Conference, organized by Dr. Katharine Batlan and made possible by the Wendy Cassady Memorial Foundation.



Dr. Clark Banack speaking at the workshop

“Enhancing Inclusivity in Rural Canada”

This interdisciplinary academic workshop involved the participation of 14 scholars from across Canada. Participants discussed a variety of ongoing research projects that touch on the reality of cultural and religious diversity in rural Canada, with a focus on building more inclusive rural communities. The workshop was organized by Dr. Clark Banack, Adjunct Professor of Political Studies at the University of Alberta, and Senior Research Associate with the Chester Ronning Centre. The event was co-sponsored by the

Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities, Rural Policy Learning Commons, and Kule Institute for Advanced Study, with additional support from the Augustana Faculty.

Programming Details and Statistics

Total Events: 15

Total Attendance: 950

Distinguished Visiting Fellow Lecture (supported by the Distinguished Visiting Fellows Endowment)

“‘Make Sure All of Your People Vote’: Donald Trump and the Complexity of Evangelicalism in North America”

Dr. Molly Worthen, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Oct 18, 2018

100 attendees

3rd Chester Ronning Lecture on Religion and Diplomacy (supported by the Distinguished Visiting Fellows Endowment)

“Religion and Public Life in Today’s Global World: An Evening with Chris Hedges”

Lecture by and interview with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Chris Hedges

Mar 26, 2019

400 attendees

Conferences and Workshops

“Stories for Generations”

7th Spirit of the Land Conference

Oct 27, 2018

100 attendees

“Enhancing Inclusivity in Rural Canada”

Interdisciplinary Academic Workshop

Nov 1-2, 2018

15 attendees (invited)

“Religion and Law in Canada and the U.S.”

International Fellows Conference

(Supported by the Wendy Cassady Memorial Foundation)

April 12-13, 2019

15 attendees (invited)

Receptions, Discussions, and Book Clubs

Chester Ronning Exhibit Drop-in

Camrose & District Centennial Museum

Sept 23, 2018

40 attendees

Coffee and Conversation: The Work of Dr. Molly Worthen (1/2)

Oct 15, 2018

15 attendees

Coffee and Conversation: The Work of Dr. Molly Worthen (2/2)

Nov 26, 2018

15 attendees

Book Club: *America, The Farewell Tour* by Chris Hedges (1/2)

Feb 11, 2019

15 attendees

Book Club: *America, The Farewell Tour* by Chris Hedges (2/2)

Mar 4, 2019

15 attendees

Interview with Chris Hedges, for Augustana Students & Staff

Mar 26, 2019

40 attendees

Meet & Greet with 2019 Augustana Honorary Degree Recipient

Elder Sarah Jerome

June 3, 2019

40 attendees

Talks and Dialogues

“Marriage Law in Britain and the U.S.”

Prof. Rebecca Probert, Exeter Law School; and Dr. Katharine Batlan, Chester Ronning Centre

Jan 9, 2019

50 attendees

“What if the U.S. Constitution was Christian? Jesus Amendment Attempts in the 1940s and 1950s”

Dr. Katharine Batlan, Chester Ronning Centre

Feb 7, 2019

50 attendees

“Religious Freedom: The Contested History of an American Ideal”

Dr. Tisa Wenger, Yale Divinity School, Yale University

Apr 13, 2019

40 attendees

Part of the 2019 International Fellows Conference, “Religion and Law in Canada and the U.S.”

Select Grants and Funding for Special Projects

- Annual Grant from the Wendy Cassady Memorial Foundation, to support the International Fellows Program. \$70,000.
- Government of Alberta Anti-Racism Grant (2019-2020): “Building Inclusive Communities in Rural Alberta.” Primary Investigator: Dr. Lars Hallstrom (Director, ACSRC). Co-Investigator: Dr. Clark Banack (Senior Research Associate, Chester Ronning Centre and ACSRC). \$25,000.
- University of Alberta KIAS Cluster Grant (2019-2022): “Alberta Political Culture Project.” Primary Investigator: Dr. Jared Wesley (Political Science, UofA Faculty of Arts). Co-Investigator: Dr. Clark Banack (Senior Research Associate, Chester Ronning Centre and ACSRC). \$70,000.

Finances (as of 2019 Fiscal Year-End)

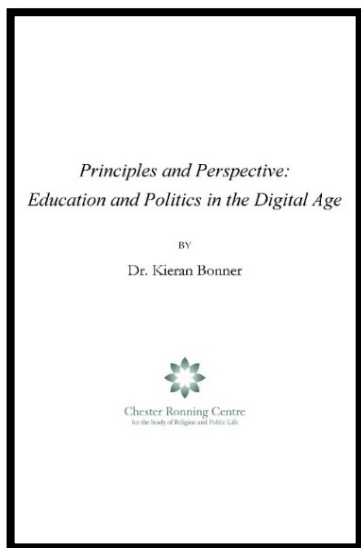
Current Funds	
<i>Centre Annual Fund</i>	\$30,635
<i>Spirit of the Land Program Funds</i>	\$13,383
<i>International Fellows Fund</i> (supported by the Wendy Cassady Memorial Foundation)	\$142,653
Endowment Balances	
<i>Distinguished Visiting Fellows Endowment</i>	\$723,766
<i>Hendrickson Memorial Endowment</i>	\$114,729
<i>Yang Endowment</i>	\$13,513

Publications, Presentations, and Ongoing Projects

The Centre's publications are accessible on an electronic, online and open access format. Anyone with internet access can download publications of our visiting scholars' lectures and essays, free of charge, at the following site:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/augustana/research/centres/crc/publications>

2018-19 Centre Publications



Principles and Perspectives: Education and Politics in the Digital Age
– Dr. Kieran Bonner

This new book represents two public lectures that Dr. Kieran Bonner gave in Camrose on October 4, 2016: the first at the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus, and the second at the Camrose Public Library. The text preserves the original tone of the lectures, including introductory comments and follow-up questions and discussion. Dr. Bonner's visit and the production of this publication were supported by the Distinguished Visiting Fellows Endowment and the Hendrickson Family Memorial Endowment.

2018-19 Staff Publications

Ian D. Wilson (Director)

2018. *History and the Hebrew Bible: Culture, Narrative, and Memory*. Leiden: Brill. (Simultaneously published as issue 3.2 of *Brill Research Perspectives in Biblical Interpretation*)

2018. "Spatial Frontiers." Review Essay. *Hebrew Studies* 59: 359–76.

2018. Review of *Finding Myth and History in the Bible: Scholarship, Scholars and Errors*, ed. Łukasz Niesiołowski-Spanò, Chiara Peri, and Jim West. *Review of Biblical Literature*. 6 pages (online). December 27.

Katharine Batlan (Postdoctoral Fellow)

2019. "One Nation Under Christ: US Christian Amendment Attempts and Competing Visions for America in the 1940s and 1950s," *Journal of Church and State*

<https://doi.org/10.1093/jcs/csz029>

2018-19 Staff Presentations

Ian D. Wilson (Director)

2019. On Chester Ronning and the Ronning Centre. Rotary Club of Camrose Daybreak meeting. With Dr. Katharine Batlan. June 18.

2019. "It will look great on your CV!" Professionalization panel at the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies Annual Meeting. University of British Columbia. June 1.

2019. Emcee and critical reflection/commentary on the films "Rhymes for Young Ghouls" and "Amazing Grace." Sahakarini Film and Speaker Festival. Camrose. January 11-12.

2018. "Remembering the Future: Prophetic Literature's Representations of Exile and Judah's Social Memory." Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting: Exile (Forced Migrations) in Biblical Literature Seminar. Denver, Colorado. November 18.

2018. "Hoaxing the Humanities," with Melaina Weiss. Augustana Humanities Café, University of Alberta. October 26.

Katharine Batlan (Postdoctoral Fellow)

2018. "Fish out of Water: Teaching the Bible as a Historian of US Religion." Society of Biblical Literature [SBL], Denver, CO.

2019. "Under What Authority? Religious Responses to Marriage Law Changes in the US." Chester Ronning Centre Dialogue on Marriage Law in Britain and the US with Distinguished Visiting Professor Rebecca Probert. University of Alberta, Augustana Campus.

2019. "What if the US Constitution was Christian? Jesus Amendment Attempts in the 1940s and 1950s." Chester Ronning Centre Dialogue/ Augustana Lunch and Learn Event. University of Alberta, Augustana Campus.

2019. "Proper Order for the World: US Christian Amendment Attempts and World Christian Citizenship Conferences in the Early Twentieth Century." Religion and Law in Canada and the US Conference. University of Alberta, Augustana Campus.

2019. "The Jesus Amendment," Alberta Early Career Legal Scholars Workshop, University of Calgary, Faculty of Law.

Clark Banack (Senior Research Associate)

2018. "Understanding Intolerance in Rural Canada," *Prairie Political Science Association Annual Conference*, Banff, AB. September.

2018. "Rural 'Coffee Senates' as an Avenue for Understanding Communal Attitudes Towards Minorities," *Enhancing Inclusivity in Rural Canada Workshop*, Camrose, AB. November.

2019. "Alberta's Provincial Election and the Evolving Party System," *Lunch and Learn*, Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta, Camrose, AB. February.

2019. "The Pattern of Government Support for Religious Education in Canada," *Religion and Law in Canada and the U.S. Conference*, Augustana Faculty, Camrose, AB. April.

2019. "Explaining Divergence in Provincial Support for Religious Education," *Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies Conference in Canadian Studies*, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem Israel. May.

2019. "Conservative Parties within the Context of Alberta's Evolving Party System," *Canadian Political Science Association Annual Conference*, Vancouver, B.C., June.

2019. "Women and Politics in Alberta under Alison Redford," *Canadian Political Science Association Annual Conference*, Vancouver, B.C., June.

2018-19 Ongoing Staff Research Projects

Clark Banack (Senior Research Associate)

The "Building Inclusive Communities in Rural Alberta" project, co-sponsored by the Chester Ronning Centre, includes an academic research project aimed at better understanding the causes and consequences of religious and cultural intolerance in rural Alberta as well as the implementation of "community conversations" across rural Alberta aimed at fostering cultural awareness and cross-cultural understanding.