

2015 - 2016

KIAS ANNUAL REPORT



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
KULE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY





The Kule Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS) is a major endowed research institute based at the University of Alberta, in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. KIAS supports research in the Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts at the University of Alberta, focusing on research with the potential for national or international recognition.

DIRECTORS' MESSAGE



This reporting year has been full of creative energy. KIAS has supported a steady stream of Dialogue and Research Team grants. We are delighted and honoured to announce four Research Cluster grants, all of which reach out beyond the academy to a range of interested communities; the topics, moreover, reflect pressing, culturally pertinent concerns. Joohong Min (Human Ecology) combines Statistics Canada data and applied consultations to explore the changing dynamics of family structures and the elements of a good old age. Sally Rice (Linguistics) is creating an expandable digital archive of the immense variety of Dene languages. Stephen Slemon (English and Film Studies) brings together researchers from many universities and Indigenous communities to create and pursue questions and practice about sustaining mountain cultures. Natalie Loveless (Art and Design) collaborates with colleagues across the campus and the country to mount events and symposia highlighting the challenges of an era of anthropogenic change.

Among the innovations this year was the launch of the Creating Research Archives for Tomorrow (CRAFT) grants jointly sponsored with the University of Alberta Libraries and the Arts Resource Centre, an experiment to test interest in archiving research. The response (fourteen impressive, fundable applications) was overwhelming. With additional funding from the Faculty of Arts we have supported five CRAFT projects. For the first time, we also collaborated this year with Arts for the research celebration,



“Thinking Communities,” in which five KIAS-funded researchers joined with five researchers from Arts to share how they learn from and with the publics they benefit and serve. KIAS is responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report by announcing the availability of a designated Team grant and Cluster grant pursuing topics related to Indigenous research.

The smooth functioning of the Institute is the result of the engaged, generous response of colleagues, on campus and beyond, who serve on our committees. We take this opportunity to cite periods of transition on various groups, and to thank and welcome those who have served and continue to serve to ensure the exciting vitality of KIAS. On the Research Committee, we welcome Carrie Smith-Prei (replacing Stephen Slemon), Makere Stewart-Harawira (replacing Karen Fox), and Kimberly Tallbear-Dauphine (replacing Naomi Krogman). On the Advisory Council, we welcome Svitlana Krysh from MacEwan (replacing Roman Petryshyn), Serhii Plokhii from Harvard (replacing Dominique Arel), Roger Epp (replacing Frank Tough), and Olenka Bilash (replacing Natalie Kononenko). On the Administrative Board, we welcome Randy Goebel (replacing Roger Epp), Lise Gotell (replacing Lesley Cormack during her sabbatical) and Heather Zwicker (replacing Mazi Shirvani).

Patricia Demers, *Interim Director (January–July 2016)*
Geoffrey Rockwell, *Director*

KIAS RESEARCH FUNDING PROGRAMME

Our funding programme features Dialogue Grants, Research Team Grants, and Research Cluster Grants.

DIALOGUE GRANTS

Kule Dialogue Grants support research meetings, networking, outreach, and conferences to help researchers organize, present, or disseminate research. Networked dialogues can raise the visibility of research using the internet and digital tools. Flexible support available, generally \$2000. Applications are accepted all year.

RESEARCH TEAM GRANTS

Research Team Grants support the formation of interdisciplinary research teams that have the potential to achieve national or international recognition for research. Teams are prioritized for further funding. Flexible support up to \$7500. Applications are accepted all year.

RESEARCH CLUSTER GRANTS

Research Cluster Grants support sustained activities of an interdisciplinary research team that can raise the team to the level where it has a national or international research impact. Flexible support available, up to \$100,000. Annual call for short proposals.

“ This reporting year has been full of creative energy.”

2016 RESEARCH CLUSTERS



STEPHEN SLEMON (English and Film Studies):
Sustaining Mountain Cultures in the Canadian West

Sustaining Mountain Cultures in the Canadian West brings together scholars from the U of A's Faculties of Arts, Physical Education and Recreation, and Science, from Augustana Campus in Camrose, and from the University of Victoria in order to advance the presence of humanities and social science research within a new, large-scale, collaborative, cross-university and community-intensive interdisciplinary research initiative now being led by the University of Alberta: the Canadian Mountains Network. The participants in this research team, most of them members of the U of A's Canadian Mountain Studies Initiative (CMSI), share a passion for mountain places and peoples, a concern about their ecological and cultural sustainability, and a commitment to engaging with the challenge of sustainability in interdisciplinary and intersectional ways. Our organizing question for this KIAS-funded research project is this: how can university-centred research from the humanities and social sciences, in alliance with mountain-based research in the natural and applied sciences and our community partners, have impact now, and in the future, on mountain cultures and societies in Western Canada.



SALLY RICE (Linguistics): Documenting the Dene Diaspora: Toward a Living Digital Archive of Dene Languages and Cultures

Dene (or Athapaskan) peoples constitute the largest and most geographically widespread Indigenous group in North America. For both scholars and Dene people, however, there may be uneven knowledge of the magnitude of the greater Dene Nation, both geographically and historically. This project seeks to amalgamate linguistic, ethnographic, and material culture knowledge as preparation for the development of a single, searchable, and expandable on-line database documenting the scientific story of Dene peoples as well as the traditional and historical knowledge of the Dene themselves. This living archive will be housed at the University of Alberta and could well serve as a model repository that is accessible to both community members and diverse scholars, especially since the need is great for documenting the languages and lifeways of other First Peoples in Canada.



JOOHONG MIN (Human Ecology): Health, Wealth and Happiness: Dynamics of Families and a Good Old Age?

Population aging is one of the most pressing global challenges we face and families are expected to play a starring role in meeting those challenges. Yet families are increasingly diverse and complex because of such trends as higher rates of divorce and remarriage, delayed marriage and parenthood, childlessness, lower fertility rates, same sex marriage and changing employment situations. Despite these profound changes, families continue to be the key social institution in which individuals are embedded, cared for, and supported – especially in later life. But the effects of major family transitions may accumulate – as advantage or disadvantage – over the life course, intensifying their impact on later life well-being. This innovative cluster project will build an international interdisciplinary team, deepen community partnerships, and test the capacity of Canadian data to understand how differences in family life course paths affect older adults' health, wealth and happiness.



NATALIE LOVELESS (Art & Design):
The Research-Creation and Social Justice CoLABoratory – Arts and the Anthropocene

The *Research-Creation and Social Justice CoLABoratory* is made up of an interdisciplinary group of researchers from across the U of A's many faculties, as well as a select group of national and international researchers. The cluster's 2016-2017 research theme is "arts and the anthropocene." In alliance with feminist and decolonial critiques, as well as emerging critiques at the intersection of critical disability studies and the anthropocene, the team asks: (1) How does debate on the anthropocene (and related though not equivalent concerns with climate change) shift how one engages in meaningful arts practice and theory today? (2) How might non-human exceptionalist and decolonial approaches to our environment offer particularly potent ways forward in the face of anthropogenic climate change? (3) What can research-creation, as an epistemological and methodological intervention, contribute to these debates through its combination of practice and theory? Together the research cluster is most interested in how research-creation practices can spark intellectual and affective shifts, not only helping us understand social injustices but also moving us to imagine and enact substantial change.

2015 RESEARCH CLUSTER UPDATES



IMRE SZEMAN (English and Film Studies): *After Oil*

After Oil is a research partnership designed to explore, critically and creatively, the social, cultural and political changes necessary to facilitate a full-scale transition from fossil fuels to new forms of energy. KIAS support this year has helped the After Oil group to apply successfully for a SSHRC Knowledge Synthesis Grant (2015-16), to develop a new website (afteroil.ca) and to submit an application for a major SSRHC Partnership LOI grant. It has also enabled After Oil to stage two highly successful public events: *What Comes After Oil?* in August 2015 and *After Paris* in January 2016. Held at the Art Gallery of Alberta, both events attracted large crowds intent on discussing Alberta and Canada's energy transition strategies and policies. In conjunction with the August 2015 public event, the After Oil group organized an intensive, weeklong workshop attended by 30 members of its team. One outcome of this workshop was *After Oil*, a collectively written book to be distributed by West Virginia University Press and available as a free PDF from the After Oil website.



NATALIE KONONENKO (Modern Languages and Cultural Studies): *Sanctuary – The Spiritual Documentation Project*

The *Sanctuary* project has now documented nearly 600 endangered Ukrainian churches and their contents in the Canadian prairies. Kononenko and her team spent the month of June 2015 in Eastern and Southeastern Saskatchewan doing fieldwork. Their itinerary included over 40 churches, plus interviews with the families of leading icon painters. Since returning to Edmonton, the team has been working on the digital asset management system that will house the audio-visual materials at the UAlberta Libraries' Peel's Prairie Provinces collection. Kononenko showcased a demo of the system's visual media component as part of her *Sanctuary* presentation in Saskatoon in early 2016. A sound file system component is under development, with all of the audio records from 2015 already indexed. The index is using the International Ethnographic Thesaurus for knowledge organization, which Kononenko hopes to amend by developing a set of Slavic categories that the thesaurus currently lacks.

FAR LEFT Book cover design by Jonathan Dyck

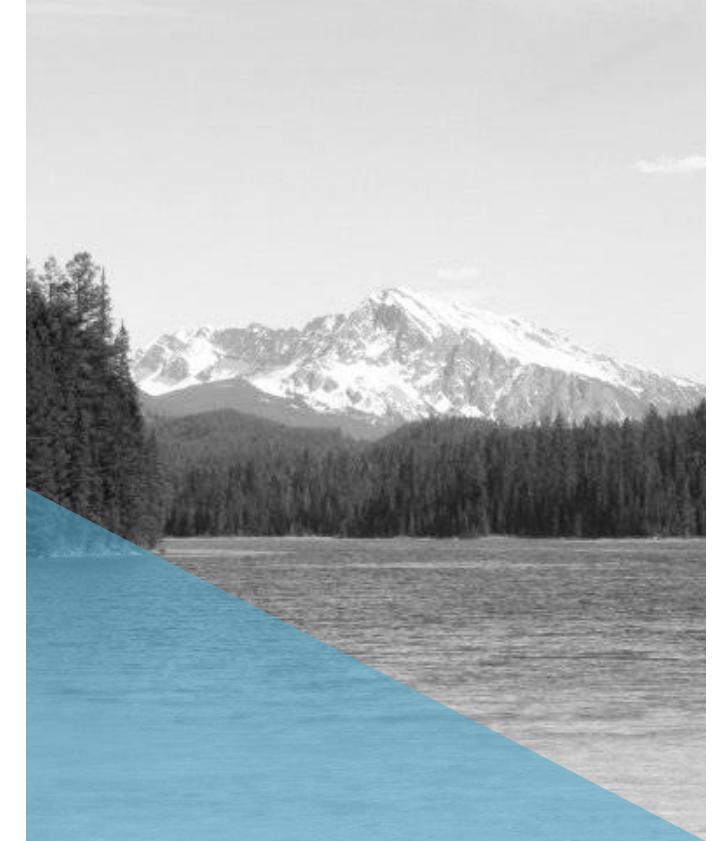
LEFT Ukrainian Catholic Church in Willowbrook

BELOW Fieldwork photos from the Canadian Rockies
Photo by Makere Stewart-Harawira



MAKERE STEWART-HARAWIRA (Educational Policy Studies): *Intersections of Sustainability: A Transdisciplinary Research Network for Climate Change, Water Governance and the Futures of Communities*

This network was established in 2015 with the objective of advancing the work of the U of A in the area of water governance, climate change and sustainability. The goal is to facilitate the positioning of the University as a leader in this area. Towards this the network collaborates across multiple disciplines including Science, Health, Arts, Law, Planning, Engineering, Education and the Office of Sustainability. KIAS support in the last 12 months has helped the group to submit a CIHR grant application and a Canadian Water Network grant application. Two Connections Grants and a UAlberta-ASAS Collaboration Grant application are in progress. *Intersections* presented at the Keepers of the Athabasca annual conference at Bushe River in August 2015, staged two public symposiums related to the UN Conference on Climate Change; the first, "UAlberta Contributions on the Road to Paris", in November 2015 and the second, *After Paris*, in January 2016. A workshop on conducting research with Aboriginal communities for U of A researchers and faculty was hosted in conjunction with Treaty Eight in February 2016. *Intersections* has presented to the Athabasca Watershed Council annual conference on March 12th and has staging a major public event for UN World Water Day on March 22nd.



ABOVE Fieldwork photos from the Canadian Rockies
Photo by Leonardo Galindo

BELOW Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Wroxtton
Photos by Peter W. Holloway



BELOW LEFT Participants of the RIDRU Cluster seminar in November on language and society. Photo by Oleksandr Pankiev

BELOW The 21st Century Tools for Indigenous Languages research cluster at work



OLENKA BILASH (Secondary Education): Democratic Reform of the Government of Ukraine

The *Research Initiative on Democratic Reform in Ukraine (RIDRU)* brings together scholars of social sciences, social theory and policy analysis to critically discuss and explore three unfolding reforms in Ukraine, namely those in higher education, language and society, and anti-corruption. KIAS support this year has helped RIDRU to support building graduate student research capacity in four local departments and at one university in Ukraine (which has never been done before), apply successfully for a Faculty of Education conference grant to expand the online conferences planned for Fall 2016 into a larger five-day symposium that brings together lead researchers from three continents, and offer summaries and video recordings of 16 knowledge capacity building talks that feature both U of A expertise and team experts abroad on the project website (<http://ridru.artsrn.ualberta.ca/>). The research cluster's sphere of influence and membership have expanded due to a number of meetings held in Ukraine in Fall 2015, and several colleagues have had chapters accepted for publication while others have presented papers at the international conferences of the *Comparative and International Education Studies and Language Diversity* in March. The team continues to apply for additional grants.

ANTTI ARPPE (Linguistics): 21st Century Tools for Indigenous Languages

21st Century Tools for Indigenous Languages is a partnership that aims to bring together field linguists and computational linguists to develop computational models and software tools to support the revitalization or maintenance of Indigenous Canadian languages, and researchers and Indigenous communities, so that the tools can be developed to be of the most use to these communities. These tools include intelligent electronic dictionaries, spell-checkers, intelligent computer-aided language learning applications, and text-to-speech synthesizers, that are designed to deal with the typically complex word structure of Indigenous languages. Links to the latest current versions of these tools can be found on the project website: altlab.artsrn.ualberta.ca. During 2015, KIAS support enabled the team to hold a number of workshops at the U of A and at partner locations for initiating or expanding the development of computational models for Algonquian languages (Plains Cree, East Cree, Ojibwe), Dene languages (Tsuu T'ina), Iroquoian languages (Cherokee), and Northern Haida. Altogether, they organized 7 workshops in 2015 with all 24 participants from Canada, United States, Norway and Finland. In addition, throughout 2015 the group has been working together with Miyo Wahkohtowin Education (www.miyo.ca) and native Cree speakers in Maskwacis, AB, to create a spoken version of the Maskwacis Cree Dictionary.



JAN SELMAN (Drama): Telling Old Stories in New Ways

Telling Old Stories in New Ways has had an exciting first year. Working across sectors and continents has many challenges – geographic, cultural and more. Selman's cluster worked to build the interdisciplinary researcher and community-based performer teams, and to link the two. Three creation workshops in Kenya explored methodologies and themes; the group asks questions of old (resonant) stories, and tries to answer these questions on their feet, with new theatrical characters, stories, styles, scenes, and transformations from then to now. A new book chapter documents and interrogates the first of these and U of A researchers are working on an article using their multiple disciplinary starting points to ask how theatre can tap traditional stories and contribute to relevant change. The team continues the international exchange with monthly "skype ins," sharing fruits of a monthly workshop. Coming up: *The Encounter*, where Canadian and Kenyan researchers and artists work face to face on ways to make embedded, resonant stories reach out across time, language and ideas to make a difference in contemporary Kenya.



ABOVE *Old Stories in New Ways* Kenyan Team; Exploring Stories on our Feet
Photos by Roy Okello

KULE RESEARCH TEAM PROJECTS

MINN YOON (School of Dentistry): “See me, hear me, heal me...”: Exploring Patients’ Experiences with Head and Neck Cancer

Head and neck cancer patients face a myriad of emotions as they undergo treatment and recovery ranging from highly negative feelings of fear, anxiety, and depression, to positive emotions of hope and joy. This complexity and depth of emotions can often transcend everyday language, particularly for patients who are already facing challenges communicating due to treatment and the various degrees of disfigurement and dysfunction that can result. Creative practice and visual art are uniquely positioned to take on these challenges as they employ metaphoric language that can speak much more effectively to the shifting, subtle, layered, and conflicting experiences of cancer patients. On October 29th and 30th KIAS funded an interdisciplinary workshop in partnership with Alberta Innovates Health Solutions (AIHS) and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, led by Drs. Minn Yoon and Pamela Brett MacLean. The workshop brought together an overall project team comprised of patients, families, health care providers, researchers from multiple disciplines, and a national group of artists. Through the use of an arts-based method, image theatre (facilitated by David Diamond, the managing director of Theatre for Living), the complexity of living with and recovering from illness was shared in a more nuanced, multivalent discourse that stands in contrast to the clinical language of the health sciences. The body of visual art developed (curated by Dr. Lianne McTavish, Department of Art & Design) as a result of the engagement process will be exhibited in two shows (dc3 Art January 5–28th, 2017 & McMullen Gallery June 22–August 8th).

BUKOLA SALAMI (Faculty of Nursing): Interrogating the Impact of Recent Changes to the Canadian Temporary Foreign Workers Program Policy on Temporary Foreign Workers in Alberta

In the year 2012, there were around 70,000 temporary foreign workers in Alberta. Following a peak in the Canadian Temporary Foreign Workers Program in 2013, several changes have been made to the program in 2014 and 2015. These changes include a limitation on the length of time temporary foreign workers are allowed to remain in Canada and more restricted rights for low skilled migrant workers. Salami and her colleagues sought to examine the impact of recent policy changes of the Temporary Foreign Workers Program on these migrants in Alberta. They conducted three focus groups with 35 temporary foreign workers in Alberta. Interviews were transcribed verbatim and thematically analyzed with the aid of an NVivo 10 qualitative data analysis software. Findings from the focus groups indicate that the recent changes to immigration policy have created a burden for employers and temporary foreign workers, intensified exploitation of migrant workers, and contributed to a high level of anxiety and poor mental health among migrant workers. Participants were motivated to participate in a study that would attend to their rights in Canada. Upon completion of their study, the group organized a research team meeting with researchers, service providers and a policy maker to review the findings of the study and propose future action. Based on this discussion, they are currently planning to submit a proposal for the SSHRC Insight Grant in October 2016 to conduct a participatory action research project that will address the rights of temporary foreign workers in Alberta and improve their well-being.



RIGHT Exploring Patients’ experiences with head and neck cancer
Photo by Nicole Schafenacker

FULL LIST OF KULE RESEARCH TEAM GRANTS AWARDED IN 2015–16 REPORTING PERIOD:

NAME (DEPARTMENT)	PROJECT TITLE
Isabel Altamirano-Jimenez (Political Science)	Health of the Land, Health of the Body
Laura Beard (MLCS)	The Role of Academics in Creating Spaces for Change: The Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women in Canada
Laurier Fagnan (Campus Saint-Jean, Music)	The Systematic Application of Bel Canto Vocal Principles to Alleviate Vocal Problems in the Speaking Voices of School Teachers
Anna Kirova (Elementary Education)	Constructing the Roma as Europe’s Other: Investigating the Interplay of Global and Local Factors in the Balkan Region
Linda Laidlaw (Elementary Education)	International Perspectives on Children’s Digital Media Practices
Sourayan Mookerjee (Sociology)	Toxic Media Ecologies: Critical Responses to the Cultural Politics of Planetary Crises
Bukola Salami (Nursing)	Interrogating the Impact of Recent Changes to Canadian Temporary Foreign Workers Policy on Canadians and Temporary Foreign Workers in Alberta: Developing a Research Team
Minn Yoon (Dentistry)	Fine Arts Research/Creation and Patient-Oriented Research: “See me, hear me, heal me”...Exploring Patients’ Experiences with Head and Neck Cancer

DIALOGUE GRANTS

NAME (DEPARTMENT)	PROJECT TITLE
Vic Adamowicz (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences)	Land Use 2016 Conference
Sandeep Agrawal (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences)	Human Rights and Municipal Planning
Anne Bissonnette (Human Ecology)	Stitched Narratives exhibition
Siobhan Byrne (Political Science)	Ethnicity and Gender in the Borderlands
Marie Carriere (English and Film Studies)	CLC Research Seminar: Canadian Writings in Conversation
Sarah Carter (History and Classics)	Presentation of Research into The Pass System through Film Presentation and Panel Discussion
Anne Commons (East Asian Studies)	Waka Workshop
Alex Da Costa (Educational Policy Studies)	Reimagining Creative Economy
Michael Frishkopf (Music)	Applied Ethnomusicology: Global Studies, Local Connections
David Goa (Augustana)	Capacity within Major World Religious Traditions to Speak About Public Life, Responsible Citizenship and Healthy Religious Communities
Donna Goodwin (Physical Education and Recreation)	North American Symposium on Adapted Physical Activity
David Gramit (Music)	North American Victorian Studies Association Conference 2017
Jana Grekul (APRIL)	Faculty of Arts Project Outreach Teams
Lars Hallstrom (Augustana)	2015 Rural Alberta Innovation Learning Commons
Tanya Harnett (Art and Design)	Two Circles: Narratives where Western and Native American Science Meet
Janice Huber (Elementary Education)	Experiences in Early Childhood: Building Relational Communities
Juhani Jarvikivi (Linguistics)	Discourse Expectations (DETEC)
David Kahane (Political Science)	Workshop on Public Involvement and Systems Change

NAME (DEPARTMENT)	PROJECT TITLE
Natalie Loveless (Art and Design)	Mapping the Maternal
Mojtaba Mahdavi (Political Science)	The Unfinished Project of the Arab Spring
Rob McMahon (Extension)	Engaging Remote Indigenous Communities: Using Appropriate Online Research Methods
Paul Messinger (School of Business)	Canadian Marketing Strategy Symposium
Lucie Moussu (English and Film Studies)	Energizing (Writing Centres) Communities
Philomina Okeke-Ihejirika (Women's and Gender Studies)	Creating Gender Spaces for African Immigrant Families' Successful Transition and Integration into the Canadian Society II: Men's Experiences
Carla Peck (Elementary Education)	Thinking Historically for Canada's Future
PearlAnn Reichwein (Physical Education and Recreation)	Tipton Playground Exhibition
Chris Reyns (MLCS)	Vienna: 1900: Brussels
Hassan Safouhi (Campus Saint-Jean)	Open Scholarship Workshop Series
Carolyn Sale (English and Film Studies)	Shaping the Post-Neoliberal University
Stephen Slemon (English and Film Studies)	Thinking Mountains 2015
Carrie Smith-Prei (MLCS)	Coalition of Women in German Annual Conference
Lin Snelling (Drama)	Rewriting Distance Practice
Christine Stewart (English and Film Studies)	Writing Revolution in Place Collective's Stigmergic Works: A Poetics of Health
Makere Stewart-Harawira (Educational Policy Studies)	Connecting our Waters: A UN World Water Day Panel Discussion
Nora Stovel (English and Film Studies)	Swan Lake and Popular Culture
Shannon Stunden Bower (History and Classics)	Climate and Change: Making Sense of the Dustbowl Years on the Canadian Prairies
Imre Szeman (English and Film Studies)	After Paris 2015 Symposium
Chloe Taylor (Women's and Gender Studies)	Decolonizing Critical Animal Studies, Crippling Critical Animal Studies
Frank Trovato (Sociology)	Workshop on Migration, Health and Survival - International Perspectives
Thomas Wharton (English and Film Studies)	Writer-in-Residence 40th Anniversary Celebration



KULE COLLABORATIONS

RAPID RESEARCH RESPONSE PROJECT – Migration Views

Migration Views was a rapid research response project jointly led by KIAS, the European Union Centre of Excellence and the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies at the University of Alberta that aimed to facilitate a critical dialogue around the Syrian refugee crisis while showcasing U of A researchers working on topics related to migration. The project website (migrationviews.ualberta.ca) houses over 30 video and paper contributions from researchers working on various aspects of migration, citizenship, identity, security and conflict, from ambassadors of countries affected by the crisis and from individuals with personal experiences to share. The website brings these perspectives together to highlight the connections between the rich range of academic work on campus on migration and voices from the broader community.

The project team in collaboration with the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers also hosted a public roundtable with government, community and academia to discuss responses to the refugee crisis. Finally, the Wirth Institute and the Canadian International Council organized a public talk with Vice-Admiral Glenn Davidson, former Ambassador of Canada to Syria and Afghanistan, who shared his personal insights about Syria and the country's descent into civil war.

LEFT Migration Views project image

BELOW Panelists of the public roundtable Responses to the Refugee Crisis held on January 20, 2016
Photo by Karolina Dzimira-Zarzycka



The *Migration Views* project and its researchers were featured over 15 times in the media, including CBC News, Global News, Edmonton Journal, Alberta Primetime, and Metro News. The website attracted 3,141 page views from 1,397 unique page visitors from 69 different countries, 338 cities and 5 continents in its first month. The roundtable was attended by approximately 150 guests, including members from all three levels of government, media and the broader community.



AROUND THE WORLD 2015 – Big Data

The *Around the World* forum, organized for the third time this year, is an experiment that brings together scholars from around the globe to talk about digital culture without the environmental cost of traditional conferences. Institutes and researchers are invited to participate either through presenting or by joining in the discussion. The conference is live-streamed world-wide and archived after the event.

This year's theme was Big Data and the conference streamed live for 12 hours on April 30th, 2015. The benefits and challenges presented by working with Big Datasets continue to push the parameters of what constitutes meaningful and ethical research. KIAS helped bring together a conversation on Big Data and its impact on research and culture from universities around the world: 49 panelists from 12 countries across 5 continents participated, including speakers from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, and the United States. An equivalent on-site conference would have required over 40 flights in and out of Edmonton from cities as far away as Sydney, Kyoto, Tel Aviv and Rio de Janeiro. All of that air travel would have released hundreds of tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. "It allows for much more international participation."

Many colleagues outside North America can't afford the time to go to conferences in Edmonton or the costs. This lets us hear from people whom we typically cannot," explains Geoffrey Rockwell, KIAS Director.

The symposium website attracted 973 unique visits from 39 countries and 179 cities, and the official hashtag of the event (#UofAWorld) trended on Twitter at #1 in Edmonton on the day of the conference. The archived videos can be viewed on the project website at <http://aroundtheworld.ualberta.ca/>

ABOVE U of A panel at ATW2015

BELOW ATW2015 behind the scenes
Photos by Trevor Chow-Fraser





ABOVE Students presenting their projects at *TIN: Connecting Communities* event



RIGHT TOP Susan Hamilton (Associate VP Research) speaking at the *Open Minds* event
Photo by Angelique Rodrigues



RIGHT *Open Minds 2015* speakers
Photo by Epic Photography

TOMORROW'S IDEAS, NOW: Connecting Communities

The 2nd *Tomorrow's Ideas, Now!* social and cultural innovation hackathon organized by the Undergraduate Research Initiative took place in November, as part of the 3rd annual Festival of Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities. This year's theme was connecting communities. The event opened with a keynote address by Rylan Kafara (Boyle Street Community Services & the Bissell Centre in Edmonton) about the intersections of punk music, notions of community and social movements. The next day, a dozen energetic students from across disciplines came together to design and pilot projects that could address a social or cultural issue of importance to communities, break down silos, challenge stereotypes, and help foster new connections in communities on- and off-campus. Among the winning ideas was a living bulletin board to be set up in the students' union building that is populated and curated by students on a thematic basis, and a social networking app that aims to help students connect on campus for tangible social experiences.

OPEN MINDS 2015

In celebration of talented and innovative humanities and social sciences colleagues, the Office of the Vice-President (Research) and the Kule Institute for Advanced Study co-hosted *Open Minds* – a celebration of research in the social sciences, humanities and fine arts at the University of Alberta. A total of nine researchers funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) gave lightning talks to showcase the importance of their work in tackling major social, cultural, political, technological, economic and environmental issues. Presentations covered topics such as growing resilience among sexual and gender minority youth, energy transition in Canada, using art and creative practices to commemorate and help the public in understanding difficult times in Aboriginal history from residential schools to post-war hospital programs in Canada, the impact of social concerns on business, culture and institutions, and the complexities of watershed governance.



TOP LEFT Bryson Dietz presenting at *Falling Walls Lab UAlberta*
Photo by Epic Photography



BOTTOM LEFT The winners of *Falling Walls Lab UAlberta* (Gem Shoute, Joshua Lee, Lian Willetts) with VPR Lorne Babiuk (L) and President David Turpin (R)
Photo by Epic Photography

FALLING WALLS LAB UALBERTA 2015

In September, the U of A hosted its second *Falling Walls Lab* organized by the Office of the Vice-President (Research). 16 high-calibre researchers selected through a two-stage competitive process presented their innovative ideas in front of over 350 guests, including a distinguished jury consisting of representatives from academia, government, business, media and the entrepreneurial community in Alberta. The evening was hosted by Dr. David Turpin, newly elected president of the U of A. The winning ideas showcased breakthroughs in bendable wireless electronics, genetic medicine and cancer metastasis detection. The three winners of the KIAS-supported UAlberta lab advanced to the international finale in Berlin, where post-doctoral fellow Lian Willetts (Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry) took second place with her presentation on prostate cancer metastasis.

COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH & LEARNING SYMPOSIUM

Community Service-Learning at the U of A hosted this two-day event in March to explore community-based research and learning partnerships with distinguished guest speakers Budd Hall (Professor of Community Development and founding director of the Office of Community-Based Research at the University of Victoria) and Rajesh Tandon (Founder, Participatory Research in Asia), UNESCO Co-Chairs in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education. The goal of the event was to provide an opportunity for university staff and community-based organizations and social innovators to network and examine approaches to construct research and learning partnerships with community partners as equal participants. Among the many topics discussed were the teaching and learning of CBR practices, the contributions of community-based participatory research to learning citizenship in everyday life, and the multiple sites of knowledge and the struggle for its democratization.



BOTTOM President Turpin with the speakers and organizers of the CBR Symposium (from left to right: David Peacock, Jan Selman, Patricia Makokis, Budd Hall, Rajesh Tandon, and David Turpin)

KULE EVENTS



WHAT MAKES THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA ONE UNIVERSITY?

Robert Gibbs, Director of the Jackman Humanities Institute at the University of Toronto and member of the KIAS Advisory Council, visited the U of A campus and gave a public talk in which he explored the tension between the ideas of freedom and responsibility as they relate to the meaning of university. While much of the debate we hear about the university focuses on the liberal arts, or the humanities itself, and higher education institutions often brag most about their PhD programs as the keystone of the research university, there is a much older part of the university, the professional schools.

Gibbs considered professional students and why they belong to the university; he examined the way each profession negotiates its own balance between the free inquiry of the scholars and the call for qualification in a specific profession. He explored three questions: 1) What is education for a profession, 2) What makes the university more than a sum of different faculties, and 3) How will we understand the university's responsibility to society?



LEFT Photo design by Emilie St. Hilaire

ABOVE Stephen Slemon presenting his Kule Research Cluster project on mountain cultures
Photo by Angélique Rodrigues

THINKING COMMUNITIES: CELEBRATION OF RESEARCH IN KIAS & ARTS

This year our annual Kule Celebration was held in conjunction with the Faculty of Arts' research celebration event in March. Building on the success of last year's event, this year's *Celebration of Research* featured fast-paced, three-minute presentations from some of the most exciting researchers in the Faculty of Arts and KIAS (including researchers from the Faculties of Medicine and Education), who discussed how they learn from, collaborate with and benefit the publics they serve. The presentations were followed by a musical performance by Blues singer Kat Danser, a doctoral student in Music and award-winning artist. As part of the program, Lorne Babiuk (VP Research) announced the successful 2016 Kule Research Clusters, two of whom were also presenters. The Institute's visionary benefactors, Peter and Doris Kule, along with Chancellor Ralph Young, and Associate Vice-President (Academic

& Research) and KIAS Administrative Board chair Randy Goebel, were on hand for the announcement. Alberta's Minister of Advanced Education Marlin Schmidt also sent a letter of acknowledgment to the Institute.

KULE INITIATIVES



NEW SCHOLARS' SEMINAR IN DIGITAL HUMANITIES

In collaboration with the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI), centerNet and Western Sydney University (UWS), KIAS co-organized a pre-conference seminar for new scholars interested in the digital humanities immediately preceding the DH2015 conference at UWS in June 2015. The purpose of the seminar was to give an opportunity for new scholars (graduate students and recent PhDs) from around the world to meet and develop research collaborations in the digital humanities. The agenda for the unconference was set by the participants, and Geoffrey Rockwell (KIAS Director) and Rachel Hendery (Senior Lecturer, UWS) facilitated the discussions. As part of the program, senior scholars (including Jeffrey Schnapp from Harvard University) also shared their experiences and talked about the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for young scholars as digital humanists. 18 participants were selected, including two KIAS-sponsored graduate students from the U of A (John Battye, PhD student in Performance Studies, and John Montague, MA student in Humanities Computing).



FAR LEFT Geoffrey Rockwell facilitating the New Scholars Seminar
Photo by Sylvia K. Miller

LEFT Some of the NSS participants on the Parramatta-Sydney ferry
Photo by Sylvia K. Miller

ALBERTA-SASKATCHEWAN RESEARCH COLLABORATION GRANT

KIAS and the Interdisciplinary Centre for Culture and Creativity (University of Saskatchewan) announced a joint research team building opportunity for teams at both the Universities of Alberta and Saskatchewan. This opportunity was designed to encourage the formation of research teams spanning both universities. The 2015 award went to *Prairie Sexualities: Theories, Archives, Affects, Communities*. This project convenes a multidisciplinary team from the Universities of Alberta and Saskatchewan championed by Susanne Luhmann and Marie Lovrod to focus on queer and sexuality studies on the prairies. The team aims to explore questions of place and practice, such as how queer-positive scholarly initiatives fare in prairie contexts and what conditions shape queer lives in Indigenous, urban and rural communities. The goal of the project is to develop sustainable and transdisciplinary research collaborations among experts in the field of queer and sexualities studies across the prairies to support more regionalized local, national, international, and transnational research in this field.

DIGITAL RESEARCH ARCHIVE GRANTS

KIAS, the University of Alberta Libraries and the Arts Resource Centre jointly announced CRAFT (Create Research Archives for Tomorrow), a digital research archive grant opportunity for U of A faculty who want to gather, digitize, enrich, document and deposit an innovative archive that will support research. Faculty can use the funds to digitize the records of an important local organization or to gather

a web archive around a contemporary issue. The response rate to the call for applications was overwhelming, and the following **5 projects received funding out of 14 applications:**

NAME (DEPARTMENT)	PROJECT TITLE
Michael Frishkopf (Music)	Sounds of Islam
Michael McNally (SLIS)	Establishing the Digital Communities Portal and Repository
Andriy Nahachewsky (MLCS)	Local Culture Research Archive
Yoshi Ono (Linguistics)	Miyako Spoken Discourse Archive
Steve Patten (Political Science)	Patriation Archive Digitization

KULE GOVERNANCE

KIAS is guided by a strong governance model consisting of Research Committee, Advisory Council and Administrative Board. We are deeply indebted to the wonderful people who serve on our committees.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

- Dr. Geoffrey Rockwell (Chair), KIAS Director and Professor, Philosophy and Humanities Computing, ex officio (on sabbatical January 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016)
- Dr. Patricia Demers (Chair), KIAS Interim Director and Professor, English and Film Studies, ex officio (January 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016)
- Mr. Aidan Rowe, Associate Professor, Design Studies
- Dr. Carrie Smith-Prei, Associate Professor, Modern Languages and Cultural Studies
- Dr. Makere Stewart-Harawira, Professor, Educational Policy Studies
- Dr. Kimberly Tallbear-Dauphine, Associate Professor, Native Studies
- Dr. Adam Dombovari, KIAS Program Coordinator, ex officio

ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Mr. Gerald Beasley (Chair), Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian
- Dr. Olenka Bilash, Acting Director, Ukrainian Language Education Centre, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, and Professor, Secondary Education
- Dr. Heather Coleman, Professor and Director, Research Program on Religion and Culture, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies
- Dr. Patricia Demers, KIAS Interim Director and Professor, English and Film Studies, ex officio (non-voting) (January 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016)
- Dr. Roger Epp, Director, UAlberta North and Professor, Political Science
- Dr. Robert Gibbs, Director, Jackman Humanities Institute, and Professor, Philosophy, University of Toronto
- Dr. Lise Gotell, Acting Dean of Arts, and Professor, Women's and Gender Studies
- Mr. Andrew Hladyshesky, Q.C., Partner, Dentons Canada LLP
- Dr. John (Jack) Ives, Director, Institute of Prairie Archeology, and Professor, Anthropology
- Dr. Volodymyr Kravchenko, Director, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, and Professor, History and Classics
- Dr. Svitlana Krys, Kule Chair in Ukrainian Studies and Director, Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre, and Assistant Professor, English, MacEwan University
- Dr. Bohdan Medwidsky, Professor Emeritus, Modern Languages and Cultural Studies
- Most Reverend David Motiuk, Eparchy of Edmonton
- Dr. Serhii Plokhii, Director, Ukrainian Research Institute, and Professor of Ukrainian History, Harvard University
- Dr. Geoffrey Rockwell, KIAS Director and Professor, Philosophy and Humanities Computing, ex officio (non-voting) (on sabbatical January 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016)
- Dr. Adam Dombovari, KIAS Program Coordinator, ex officio (non-voting)

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

- Dr. Randy Goebel (Chair), Associate Vice-President (Academic) and Associate Vice-President (Research), and Professor, Computing Science
- Mr. Gerald Beasley, Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian (non-voting observer)
- Dr. Patricia Boechler, Associate Dean (Research), and Professor, Educational Psychology
- Dr. Patricia Demers, KIAS Interim Director, and Professor, English and Film Studies, ex officio (non-voting) (January 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016)
- Dr. Lise Gotell, Acting Dean of Arts, and Professor, Women's and Gender Studies
- Dr. Trevor Harrison, Director, Parkland Institute, and Professor, Sociology, University of Lethbridge
- Dr. Natalie Kononenko, Kule Chair in Ukrainian Ethnography, and Professor, Modern Languages and Cultural Studies
- Dr. Geoffrey Rockwell, KIAS Director and Professor, Philosophy and Humanities Computing, ex officio (non-voting) (on sabbatical January 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016)
- Dr. Irene Sywenky, Professor, Modern Languages and Cultural Studies
- Dr. Heather Zwicker, Vice Provost and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, and Professor, English and Film Studies
- Dr. Adam Dombovari, KIAS Program Coordinator, ex officio (non-voting)



ABOVE KIAS is grateful for the support of Drs. Peter and Doris Kule

KIAS VISION

To fund in perpetuity an interdisciplinary and comparative research institute that fosters an innovative intellectual environment for the study of major modern and historical, political, social, economic, and cultural issues and, therein, advances society and global polity in a manner consistent with the high humanitarian ideals of the founding benefactors.

KIAS MISSION

To facilitate transformational interdisciplinary and comparative research at the highest level nationally and internationally, guided by the ideals of Peter and Doris Kule, the legacies of Ukrainian history, and the purpose of research and learning at the University of Alberta, as articulated by President Henry Marshall Tory in 1908: “the Uplifting of the Whole People.”

KIAS GOAL

To establish KIAS as a globally recognized institute of interdisciplinary and comparative research excellence within five years of inauguration, by linking University of Alberta undergraduate and graduate student researchers and professors, and distinguished visiting researchers from around the world, in and across disciplines so as to stimulate original ways of thinking, initiate new lines of inquiry, and incubate innovative ideas for the advancement of humanities and the lifting of the human spirit.

