

AT A GLANCE

DISCIPLINES

Anthropology
City Studies
Geography
Health Studies
International Development Studies
International Studies
Political Science
Public Policy
Sociology

RESEARCH STRENGTHS

The planning and governance of cities; tourism, recreation and world heritage sites; political ecology, forms of environmental knowledge and governance; equity, gender, and rights; ethnic diversity and multiraciality; epidemics and the history of health care in Latin America and Eastern Europe; transnational religious movements; failed authoritarian states; teenage gangs; the ethics of ordinary life; international development; local issues, ranging from foster parenting and citizenship, to regional planning and greenbelts.

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Think: *Global*

Social Sciences





In 2008, Leslie Campbell (pictured left and on opposite page) worked as an Agricultural Program Assistant in Thailand through CUSO/VSO Canada for his IDS placement. He helped the organization's local partner there, Network for Environment and Economic Development (NEED), to develop a model farm and an environmental and agricultural curriculum.

At the University of Toronto Scarborough's Social Sciences Department, we prepare students to become effective, enlightened global citizens poised to face the challenges of the future. With a range of program choices, we develop their conceptual tools in order to obtain a nuanced understanding of complex issues and make an impact on the processes of socio-political change.

Social sciences are fundamental to a well-rounded education. These disciplines prepare tomorrow's leaders with the tools to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century – globalization, international migration and cultural diversity, increasing urbanization, inequalities both local and global, and environmental sustainability.

A strong social sciences department begins with outstanding faculty. Every tenure-stream faculty member of our Social Sciences Department has a strong international reputation. Many are working internationally and making significant contributions to debates in global governance, civil society, international migration and the ethics of ordinary life.

Over the past year, Social Sciences faculty have been developing plans to strengthen the balance of disciplinary and interdisciplinary programs and facilitate new academic initiatives. Looking ahead, the department will continue to build programs in emerging disciplines and increase experiential learning. There will be a major renewal over the next five years in our department, with as many as 31 new faculty appointments in an anticipated surge of replacements and new hires.

This department promotes scholarship at the confluence of four disciplines: Political Science and Sociology, our largest single-discipline programs, and Anthropology and Human Geography. At the intersections, are programs in City Studies, International

Studies, Health Studies, Public Policy and International Development Studies, a program which attracts outstanding international and Canadian students and involves a year working in countries such as Zambia, Bolivia, Thailand, and Ghana.

City Studies, one of our newest interdisciplinary fields, further exemplifies our department's approach to emerging issues in research and programming. Launched in 2003, City Studies now has 175 students enrolled. The program is developing a new experiential service learning component, in a blend of academic programming and partnerships with local communities that we believe does not exist elsewhere [see story on page 43].

Other initiatives include a new gateway course, Society in Mind, which will introduce students to the thinkers and ideas that have shaped the development of the social sciences and will challenge traditional ways of thinking about the world. The Centre for Canadian Ethnography will be reinforced by new faculty hires that will position UTSC as a leading centre for research in socio-cultural anthropology and cultural diversity.

Social Sciences has the potential to foster cross-disciplinary teaching and research. We aim to support the insights and intellectual strengths associated with traditional disciplines and then combine them with innovative, cooperative teaching and research across disciplines and curricula. •

Sustainable solutions for global health

Students in Professor Anne-Emanuelle Birn's course, *Issues in International Health*, highlight UTSC International Health Week by creating interactive displays that raise awareness of a diverse range of issues, from human-organ trafficking to prenatal care, delivery and infant health.

With her comprehensive research into the history of public health in Latin America, Professor Anne-Emanuelle Birn has emerged as an expert on international health policy. In her study of child health in early-20th-century Uruguay, for example, she was able to show an unequivocal relationship between infant mortality and social factors, such as inequality.

At UTSC, Birn helps students understand global health challenges through her introductory course, *International Health Policy Analysis*, and her advanced course, *Issues in International Health*. Meanwhile, her classroom experience has enhanced her work as lead author of Oxford University Press's *Textbook of International Health: Global Health in a Dynamic World*, for publication in February 2009. "In writing the book," notes Birn, "I had the learning experience of UTSC students in mind."

Among her most noteworthy recent engagements was a critique, published in the prestigious medical journal *The Lancet*, of Grand Challenges in Global Health, an initiative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. According to Birn's article, which received extensive media coverage, the Grand Challenges initiative ignores social science in sole favour of technical innovations, giving priority to technological quick fixes over preventive approaches. Any real impact on global health, Birn argued, must integrate socio-political and scientific solutions.



When climate change crosses borders

When global environmental problems such as climate change rose to prominence in the 1980s, it was assumed that governments would solve them through international negotiations – a conventional wisdom that has since been challenged over the last decade.

The stagnation of such negotiations is what motivates Professor Matt Hoffmann's current research on global climate governance. His interest in global environmental politics began with an undergraduate program in environmental engineering, and during his doctoral studies he researched the dynamics of multilateral environmental negotiations. According to Hoffmann (pictured left), we need creative, new ways to deal with climate change. In a book he is currently writing, he analyzes how the world is responding to a stalemate in multilateral climate negotiations through various initiatives from local communities, cities and provinces, as well as corporations.

Working with researchers in Ottawa and the U.S. and at the University of Toronto St. George, Hoffmann has applied for a federal grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) to study environmental initiatives, including emissions trading, where eager student volunteers have offered to assist with his research.

He is also planning a Summer Scholarship program on behalf of the department to better integrate top undergraduate students into faculty research projects. Students hired for the 10-week summer program, to be capped with a student conference, will be selected for the quality of their proposal and its synergy with the faculty supervisor's research agenda.

Reconciling cultural and national identity

Immigration has transformed Toronto. With nearly half the city's population born outside Canada, multiculturalism is part of Toronto's identity. In such a diverse society, what are the fundamental rules and values that define us as

Torontonians — or as Canadians? How, for example, do the votes of new citizens influence the outcomes of the democratic process?

Such questions are central to the research of Political Science Professor Phil Triadafilopoulos (pictured below, centre), who believes that Toronto and UTSC — the most diverse campus he has ever experienced — provide an ideal base for seeking answers. "There's no better place in Canada, or perhaps [even] North America or Europe," he says. "Students here have a thirst for anything relating to these issues because they relate to their lives."

Bolstering his perspective was the significant student turnout for 2008's Snider Visiting Lecturer, Professor Tariq Modood, an authority on ethnicity and founding director of the University of Bristol's Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Citizenship.

Triadafilopoulos adds his own level of support. "The students here are...like me, often the first in their family to go to university.... It's nice to be able to encourage them to push their intellectual horizons because I share that background."



"Many of our students grew up in our catchment area," says Professor Andre Sorensen, "so their volunteer work will improve their own neighbourhoods. But for many it will bring a very different perspective on the largely unseen institutions that make cities work."

Building great cities, first-hand

Cities are now home to more than half of the world's population, which has sparked global questions about how to make cities work.

Known for his research on urbanization in Japan, Professor of Urban

Geography Andre Sorensen (pictured left) has recently widened his focus, looking at the impact of civil society organizations on processes of urban change. According to Sorensen, such groups introduce important new methods and values to the city-building processes. Two examples are evident in Toronto – non-profit organization Evergreen's reshaping of the Don Valley Brickworks and Artscape's transformation of the historic Wychwood Barns.

It's a concept that is integral to the innovative City Studies program at UTSC, which offers two new courses in 2009-10. One involves fieldwork in East Scarborough, with students conducting joint research with local community organizations such as Action for Neighbourhood Change and East Scarborough Storefront. The other course provides service learning, with students volunteering at local agencies to learn about community development.



Canada's most distinctive program in international development

In 1985, UTSC introduced the International Development Studies (IDS) Co-op Program – a first for Canada. Several years later, the university added a Major option to the successful program, followed by a Minor and, recently, a Specialist stream. More than 400 students are currently enrolled in IDS, which combines an international development (ID) focus with other disciplines, such as environmental science, human geography, political science and history. It fosters cross-cultural

sensitivity and an analytical understanding of vital issues, including social justice in developing countries.

Long recognized as a flagship program for UTSC, the Co-op section of IDS will mark 25 years of operation in 2010, making it one of the longest-running and best-recognized programs in Canada. The IDS Co-op is unique for its requirement that students must complete a one-year overseas placement in their fourth year. It is taken as a five-year BSc or BA, both combining physical and social sciences to reflect the two paradigms of development. Often in remote field settings, ID practitioners need to be versed in both the hard and soft aspects of development, ranging from practical concerns such as water resources to complex cultural and political issues. While working abroad, students devote a percentage of their placement time to their own primary research.

Some placements are in rural development projects; others are in head offices in regional capitals. Both types of placements let students grapple first-hand with diverse issues, ranging from soil management to AIDS orphans. Among UTSC's ongoing partners are CARE Canada, World University Service of Canada and Médecins Sans Frontières.

Sonya Silva, for example, was placed in the Shinyanga region in Tanzania, working with the Presbyterian World Service & Development and a local partner, the Africa Inland Church. Silva lived in a small rural town, helping the local church to monitor and evaluate its community programs in food security and water supply. Her work included field visits

and writing reports and proposals. Silva is currently finishing a specialist program in IDS, with a focus on socio-cultural anthropology.

IDS Co-op admits 20 students per year, 25 percent of them from outside Canada, including China and India. The highly selective program attracts exceptional students, with entry averages above 85 percent.

Organizations such as the Canadian International Development Agency and CUSO have sought out IDS graduates as employees. A 2004 report documented our alumni in 18 countries on 5 continents, with more than half of them pursuing further degrees.



“In my 10-month IDS placement with the Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition,...[not] only did I learn the professional aspects of development, it was a personal growth experience.”

– Courtney Strutt, fifth-year student, International Development Studies

**Rhodes Scholar
making a
difference as
a global citizen**

International Development Studies (IDS) alumnus Wojciech Gryc (pictured at right) was drawn to UTSC exclusively for its IDS Co-op Program. And although he switched to the non-Co-op Major in his third year, following a job offer from IBM in New York, he credits his co-op experience with providing the information, connections and skills to launch his own ID projects.

In 2005 Gryc made it to the “Top 20 Under 20” list of Youth in Motion, a Toronto-based charitable organization. In 2006 he travelled to Chad to teach young adults how to use computers, and then in 2007 he worked in the slums of Nairobi in Kenya training young adults to use computers in order to produce a community newspaper. For Gryc, a highlight of IDS was the quality of its people – faculty willing to listen to ideas and share their extensive networks with strongly committed students.

Currently completing a Master’s in mathematical modelling and scientific computing at the University of Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship, Gryc continues to collaborate with former classmates at UTSC. His Oxford degree doesn’t mean he is abandoning international development: “I am studying mathematical modelling to solidify my knowledge, so I can apply its tools to social problems and public policy.”



In 2008, IDS student Jenika Wong (below) worked for WUSC/Uniterra as an institutional capacity building officer in Lilongwe, Malawi, where she assisted a local youth-counseling organization with its strategies and programs.

