

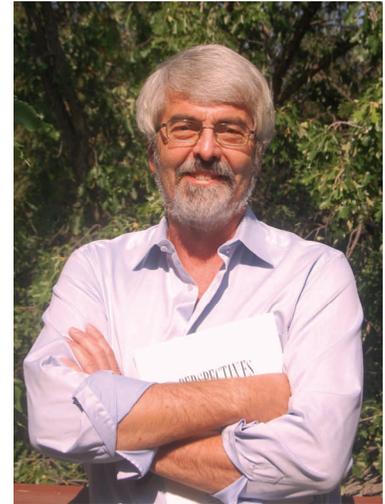


NEWSLETTER

Message from the Chair

"Building upon its historic strength in producing highly relevant empirical research, the [Sociology] Department has undertaken a prolonged period of creative renewal that makes it unique in Canada for its embracing of new theoretical currents ... The Department engages with the local, national and international communities, attracts excellent faculty and graduate students, and is poised to meet the challenges of globalization. In certain respects, it now stands as the pre-eminent Sociology Department in the country, and is certainly among the top two or three overall." [Sociology Unit Review External Evaluators' Report, March 31, 2009]

This strong endorsement of our department was provided by the three-person team of external evaluators that reviewed our extensive Self-Study Report and then visited our department in January 2009 to meet with students, staff and faculty, as part of the University of Alberta's five-year process of department / unit reviews. The Evaluators' Report goes on to highlight our department's exceptional interdisciplinary focus and identity, its well-trained and dedicated non-academic staff, the excellent teaching provided by Sociology faculty members and contract instructors, and our department's very strong and exciting graduate program. The Report also describes the remarkable research record of faculty and graduate



students, and the extensive service provided to both the academic and the broader community by Sociology department members, individually

(Continued on page 2)

Message from the Graduate Students Association

With over eighty members the sociology graduate students are not surprisingly a diverse group. Active bloggers, yoga enthusiasts, Juno-nominated guitarists, mystery-fibre knitters, bike-nuts and even a fashion-conscious martial artist characterize just a few of the activities we engage in outside of the Tory walls. However, despite this diversity, sociology graduate students appear united on one front: high regard for one another.

This past year, sociology graduate students were invited to comment on their program experiences. Offering opinions on everything from the intellectual climate of the program to student funding to space/resource allocations and finally supervisory quality, all tolled, students reported a high level of satisfaction with the program. However, the highest-ranking aspects of the department emergent from the student survey are the collegial atmosphere between students and the intellectual quality of the student body.

In one student's words:

The intellectual discussion with other graduate students has been incredible. I am very impressed by the quality and diversity of students and professors that I am able to engage with. It has been very exciting.

Taking stock of graduate student accolades over the past academic year, it is appreciable that we are an intellectually determined group. As mentioned in later sections of this newsletter, a number of students participated in and were integral to the organization of a 'Theory as Practice' retreat, an event held last November at the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation. And, this past spring, graduate students hosted the 5th Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference securing Dr. Jodi Dean as a guest speaker.

**Co-Presidents 2008-09 term:
Laura Templeton Bryan Sluggett**

Inside this issue:

Messages from Chair, Graduate Student Co-Presidents	1
Criminology Program	2
Population Research Lab (PRL)	3
New Sociology Department Faculty	4 & 5
Graduate Student Conference Recent PhD Completions	5
Award Winners Fall Gathering pictures	6 & 7 7
Books Published by Department Members	8

(Chair's Message con't from Page 1)

but also through the BA Criminology Program, the Population Research Laboratory, the Parkland Institute, the Alberta Centre on Aging, and the Community Service Learning Program.

We would like to provide you with more details about our department's stellar programs and exceptional people, and have chosen to do so via a new department Newsletter. In the following pages (and in subsequent issues), you will read more about research being conducted by graduate students and faculty members, about newly hired colleagues, about teaching and learning activities and events, about our research centres and our public engagement. Welcome to the Department of Sociology at the University of Alberta.

Harvey Krahn, PhD
Professor and Chair

Meet our new Placement Coordinator for the BA Criminology Program

Jessica Thomson, BA
jessica.thomson@ualberta.ca

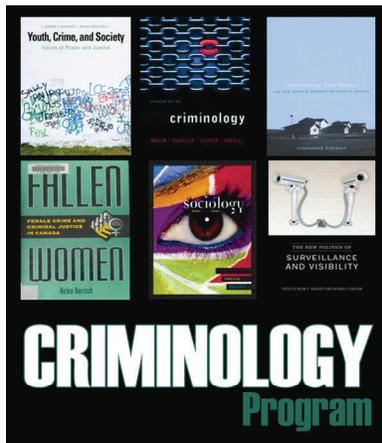


I am thrilled to be back at the University of Alberta as the Placement Coordinator for the BA Criminology Program. After completing

my undergraduate degree in Criminology at the U of A, I worked as a Probation Officer with the Alberta Solicitor General where I learned more about the fine balance between supporting offenders in the community and ensuring community safety. It is my goal to increase the community's awareness of the Criminology Program and continue to recruit students invested in learning about criminology, as well as placing them in meaningful placements.

Bachelor of Arts (Criminology) Program

One of the first University of Alberta programs to emphasize University – community partnerships, the Bachelor of Arts (Criminology) Program, begun in



1982, was developed in response to the growing criminal justice system demand for University-trained professionals. Combining theoretical training with practical experience this quota program (maximum enrolment of 45 students) graduates students who have strong academic backgrounds combined with active field experience in a variety of criminal justice related settings.

Student engagement with the community is complemented by partnerships that bring the community to the University in the form of public lectures and forums hosted by the program. This past year, Canada's Correctional Investigator Howard Sapers and Alberta Chief Justice Allan Wachowich each provided our students and interested members of the public with presentations. On another occasion the Hobbema Community Cadet Corps performed for students and the public. Following the drill performance, they engaged audience members in a candid discussion about challenges they face as First Nations youth living in an area marked by high rates of disorder and crime. In partnership with the Community Solution to Gang Violence we hosted a public

forum featuring Canada's leading gang expert Michael Chettleburgh and Police Chief Mike Boyd. Most recently, along with the Alberta Press Council and the Edmonton Journal, the Criminology Program hosted a panel discussion and public forum – "Youth, Crime, and the Media: Are Readers Getting the Whole Story?" - mediated by Lynda Steele from Global News. Engagement with the international community occurred recently when one of our students spent six weeks during the summer volunteering with a youth restorative justice program in South Africa.

As we strengthen and continue to build our bridges to community, our grads report satisfaction with the program. In the words of one student: "What I like about the criminology program is that the theoretical knowledge is supplemented with community experience. This combination enables us to have a better appreciation of classroom material and prepares us for finding employment upon graduation." Over 90% of our students have jobs secured prior to graduation; many go on to work in probation, with the Edmonton Police Service, the RCMP, the National Parole Board, the Youth Restorative Action Project, the Correctional Service of Canada, Forensic Assessment and Community Services, and the Elizabeth Fry Society. Others work as private investigators, researchers with criminal justice related agencies (for example, a former student currently works for the Alberta Relationship Threat Assessment and Management Initiative as an analyst) or continue on with their studies in law or graduate studies. A sure sign of the program's success is the increasing number of community placement supervisors who themselves are grads of our program!

Jana Grekul, PhD
Assistant Professor
Directory, BA Criminology Program

Population Research Laboratory (PRL)

The Population Research Laboratory (PRL) is a centre for social science research based in the Sociology Department at the University of Alberta. The lab's research services include: research design, development of survey instruments, administration of computer-assisted telephone interviews, web and mail surveys, focus groups, population projections, data processing and analysis, report writing and presentations.



PRL potluck picnic, July 3, 2009

In 2009 the PRL initiated a research seminar series to highlight some of its recently completed projects. The first of these—"Community Knowledge of Child Development"-- was presented by Shivani Rikhy from the Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research. The PRL administered a provincial survey for the Centre to determine what Alberta adults, particularly parents and child caregivers, understand about child development, parenting, and parent-relevant policies [a link to the study can be found on the PRL website].

The second seminar will be held in fall of 2009 and will feature Dr. Tanya Berry of the UofA Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation presenting results from a longitudinal project examining the relationship between the built environment, physical activity and social factors within Edmonton. This was a follow-up study to the 2002 population health survey in the Capital Region. Watch for the specific details in September.

Data collection for the annual Alberta Survey was completed in

the spring. This year's survey featured question sets on population health and injury control, impaired driving, children in the labour force, neighborhood disorder and social control, and health ethics and disabilities. Results were released to the participating researchers in July 2009 and will be publicly available on the PRL's website in February 2010. Graduate students may be interested in analyzing some of these data for papers or theses—consult the PRL Executive Director for further information. Among other projects completed during the summer was a survey of Francophone Albertans for Dr. Kimberly Noels of the Psychology Department. This study probed issues of language, acculturation and identity.

Currently the PRL is conducting the *Shadow Population Project*, a study directed by Dr. Michael Haan of the Sociology Department and PRL Research Analyst Dave Odynak, which examines temporary populations of foreign and domestic migrants to Alberta and methods of estimating their presence at different levels throughout the province. Among other projects currently underway is a study for the Alberta Centre of Child, Family and Community Research on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) involving focus group sessions concerning possible community initiatives targeted at FASD prevention.



Dim Sum for incoming and outgoing PRL Directors, August 26, 2009

Meet our new Executive Director



Gillian Stevens

PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison
MA, Carleton University
BA (Hon), Carleton University
gillian.stevens@ualberta.ca

After completing my undergraduate and Masters degrees at Carleton University in Ontario, I moved south of the border to earn my PhD in Wisconsin, U.S. where I first thought that the residents spoke with a southern accent. But when I moved even further south to take up a faculty position at the University of Illinois, I learned from my colleagues in Linguistics that most residents of Illinois spoke with a standard American accent, while the speech of Wisconsinites was marked by Canadian-isms. Now back in Canada, I am finding that Albertans sound very Canadian. I am a social demographer and have published several dozen articles and several monographs on processes of acculturation and integration among immigrants and their children in American society. A recent focus of this research has been facets of second language acquisition and language loss, (including the acquisition, loss and perception of accents) and how these linguistic features affect how immigrants and their families fare in a society still dominated by the English language. I have also published articles on demographic and social science research methods.

I am very pleased to join the PRL staff as well as the Sociology Department and look forward to facilitating social science research projects of my new colleagues.

New Sociology Department Faculty



Zohreh Bayatrizi

PhD (University of British Columbia, 2005)
 MA (University of British Columbia, 2000)
 BA (Honors) (University of Tehran, 1995)
bayatrizi@ualberta.ca

I came to the University of Alberta from Saint Mary's University in Halifax, where I taught from 2006-2008. Prior to that, I was a part-time instructor at the University of British Columbia, where I also earned my master's and doctoral degrees. Before fully committing to academic life, I worked as a part-time journalist in Iran (1991-1997), which partly overlapped with my undergraduate studies in Social Sciences at the University of Tehran. My research interests include History of Sociology; Social Studies of Science; Knowledge and Power; Law and Society; Sociology of Death and Dying; Sociology and Social Policy



Dominique Clément

PhD (Memorial University)
 MA (University of British Columbia)
 BA (Hon) (Queen's University)
dominique.clement@ualberta.ca
www.HistoryOfRights.com

Before arriving at the University of Alberta I was a visiting scholar at the University of Sydney (Australia), University of Birmingham (U.K.) and University of Victoria (Canada). My training is in History and Sociology, and my work also draws heavily from Law and Political Science. I'm franco-Ontario, and I've lived all over Canada, from Newfoundland to British Columbia. My primary research areas are social movements and human rights, mainly in a Canadian context, although I've done some transnational work. I also work extensively with new technologies; I'm involved with numerous professional associations; and recently I've sat on several national publishing awards committees.



R. Paul Datta

PhD (Carleton University 2008), University Medal
 MA (Queen's University 2000)
 BA (Honors) (Trent University 1994)
 B.Th. (EPBC)
rpaul.datta@ualberta.ca

Prior to arriving at the University of Alberta, I served as Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Windsor, specializing in contemporary social theory and the sociology of law. My research interests are in classical and contemporary social theory, focusing in particular on metatheory and conceptions of politics, the sacred and justice. I enjoy engaging with a variety of theoretical discourses from the Durkheimian and Marxian traditions, to poststructuralism and the philosophy of social science. I am currently working on two projects: a Batailleian analysis of sacrifice and the phenomenology of capitalist futures; and another on realism, nominalism and sociological conceptions of justice after Foucault.

(New Sociology Department
Faculty con't)



Robyn Braun

PhD, Carleton University, 2007
MA, Carleton University, 2002
BA (Hon), University of Victoria,
1999

robyn4@ualberta.ca

My research interests include social studies of science and knowledge, historical epistemology, histories and theories of biopolitics and the philosophies of Hannah Arendt, Georges Canguilhem, Michel Foucault and Gilles Deleuze.

My current research concerns the discovery of the vitamins. The site for this investigation is the collaborative efforts of British nutritional scientists as organized by the British government throughout World War One. I suggest that in this context the vitamins, even before their isolation as biochemical objects, were stabilized and developed as bio-political objects. I have empirical expertise in the historical sociology of biochemistry, nutrition science, nutrition practices in the Western world, the history of Canadian nutrition policy and League of Nations' nutrition policies and programs. I am particularly interested in how that which is beyond human agency affects and effects developments in science as well as social and political life.

Sociology Grad Studies Conference a Success!

The 5th annual Interdisciplinary SGSA Graduate Student Conference, held May 1–3, 2009, was a grand success! It featured over 20 graduate student papers and held sessions chaired by 6 faculty members from the Departments of Sociology, Philosophy and elsewhere.

The conference was generously sponsored by the Department of Sociology and the Faculty of Arts Professionalization Fund 2008-9. With the addition of funds provided this year by the Faculty of Arts, the conference organizers were able to enhance the profile of the conference by attracting international scholar Dr. Jodi Dean, Professor of Political Theory at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York.

Jodi Dean's keynote address held on Friday May 1st was met with a large audience of students and faculty from across the University. The keynote and reception set the tone for the weekend, discussing the emergence of biopolitics as an arena of academic study in the context of the broader turn to neo-liberal governance and globalization more broadly. Papers throughout the weekend addressed various critical approaches to thinking and engaging community at our own particular conjuncture. Many papers attempted to think about community as it pertains to the role of the Academy in various contexts. Dominant themes emerged throughout the weekend, some of which addressed the limits and expressions of organization, violence, identity, abstraction, responsibility, nostalgia, policy, and social ethics.

We would especially like to thank the graduate students, faculty members of the Department and University community, and the administration whose generous support made *Engaging Communities* possible in the first place. The graduate students look forward to hosting another conference of this caliber in 2010.

Co-chairs: Barret Weber (Ph.D. Student) Andriko Lozowy (Ph.D. Student)



Recent PhD Completions

CAMPBELL, Craig. Agitating Images [Supervisors: Elena Siemens and Derek Sayer]

COLE, Stephen. Sound Judgements: An Aural Critique of Jean Baudrillard [Supervisor: Raymond Morrow]

GANNON, Shane. Translating the Hijra: The Symbolic Reconstruction of the British Empire in India [Supervisor: Sourayan Mookerjea]

ROZANOVA, Julia. Social engagement and aging well for older rural Canadians: Constraints on choice [Supervisors: Herb Northcott and Susan McDaniel]

SWIFFEN, Amy. Law, Ethics and the Biopolitical [Supervisor: George Pavlich]

Faculty, Staff, and Graduate Student Award Winners

Over the past year, a large number of Sociology faculty, staff, and graduate students have won major University of Alberta and other provincial and national awards. Congratulations to each of them!

Dr. Dominique Clément: Canadian Sociology Association (CSA) John Porter Book Prize 2009

Dr. Sara Dorow: Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA) Distinguished Academic Early Career Award 2009

Dr. Alison Dunwoody: Bill Meloff Memorial Teaching Award 2009

Donna Fong: University of Alberta Support Staff Recognition Award 2008

Paol Hadden: University Teaching Services (UTS) Graduate Student Teaching Award 2009

Dr. Kevin Haggerty: Faculty of Arts Research Award (Associate Professor) 2008; University of Alberta Martha Martha Piper Research Prize 2008

Dr. Steve Kent: Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Graduate Student Supervisor Award 2009

Dr. Harvey Krahn: Canadian Sociology Association (CSA) Distinguished Contribution Award 2009

Ondine Park: Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Community Involvement Award 2009

Dr. Rob Shields: Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Academic Staff Award 2009

Laura Templeton: University Teaching Services (UTS) Graduate Student Teaching Award 2009

University of Alberta Media Recognition Award

By *Jamie Hanlon*
Express News Story, April 20, 2009

Paul Joosse's expression could be described as somewhere between shock and surprise as University of Alberta President Indira Samarasekera interrupted a class he was lecturing in recently.

The president was on hand to award Joosse for his significant work with the media. Joosse, in addition to responding to numerous media inquiries on last fall's Encana bombings, also engaged media through writing editorial opinion articles that were published in the *Calgary Herald* and *Vancouver Sun*.

In addition to her personal thanks, President Samarasekera provided the class with some background of his personal and academic accomplishments before presenting him with a gift card and letter of appreciation.

Joosse was the first recipient of the media recognition award, an ongoing initiative of Office of the

President that recognizes professors whose exceptional work with the media brings recognition to the University of Alberta.

Paul Joosse is a 4th year doctoral student in the Sociology Department.



Paul Joosse receives award from President Indira Samarasekera; Harvey Krahn, Chair, Department of Sociology looks on.

Contact Information:

Department of Sociology
University of Alberta
5-21 HM Tory Building
Edmonton, AB T6G 2H4

Ph: 780-492-0472
Fax: 780-492-7196
beverley.wald@ualberta.ca

Department Chair: Harvey Krahn, PhD

Editors: Harvey Krahn, Chair
Curtis Champagne, Assistant Chair

Editorial Assistant: Beverley Wald

Visit our website at:

www.ualberta.ca/sociology/

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please email: beverley.wald@ualberta.ca and request to be put on our mailing list.

Undergraduates in the News

Governor General medal winner celebrates with music

by Jamie Hanlon
Abridged from ExpressNews Story, June 9, 2009

How does Amy Macdonald, honours graduate in Sociology and a Governor General's Silver Medal winner, plan to celebrate the completion of her degree? She's going to cut an album, of course. "I'm in the process of recording a split EP (disc) right now with another local artist, and I'm hoping to begin recording a full-length album of my own," said Macdonald, who performs under the name Bronze Leaf.

This isn't surprising to those who know the University of Alberta graduate, who received her parchment Wednesday. Macdonald, 21, has come to be known for her energy as much as for her work ethic and her "great genius," as one of her professors described her.

In fact, it was her impressive 4.0 average - having achieved an A plus in more than 90 per cent of her classes and settling for As in the remaining classes - that earned her the Arts Faculty nomination for her award . . . Looking at a list of her accomplishments is enough to understand what made her one of only three recipients on campus. Macdonald participated in a graduate-level class for her honours study course. She co-organized a session at the annual Canadian Sociological Conference in 2007 and became a presenter at the same conference the next year. She also wrote a book review for the journal Space and Culture and co-authored a paper that has been submitted for publication . . .

McDonald also found time to volunteer with Oxfam and became involved in their Sustainable and Ethical Environmental Purchasing (SEEP) policy. "My involvement helped me get a sense of the ways that the choices that we make in a place like Edmonton can really affect a lot of things that happen globally in a lot of positive ways," she said.

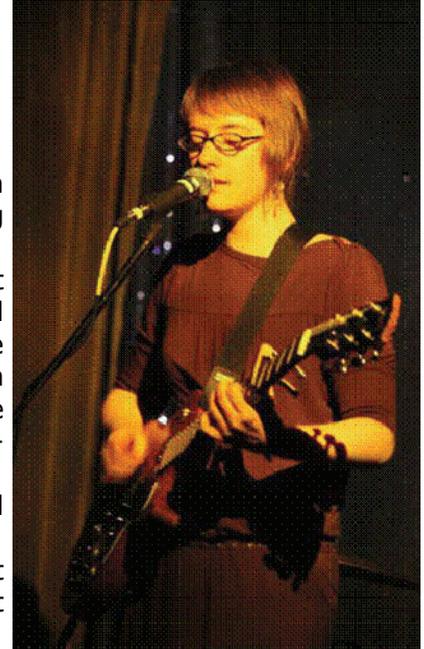
And the global theme is one that is on her mind currently. Macdonald is working with the U of A Faculty of Extension's City Region Studies Centre before travelling to Europe to do some city-studying of her own next year . . .

Macdonald is considering grad school, but for now she says she is simply going to enjoy the experience of obtaining her first degree and then take some time to figure out what to accomplish next.

For now, her horizon is filled with the sound of music, and perhaps one day, so will her academic work.

"I'm incredibly passionate about music, I think music and school are the two things that I enjoy doing the most," said Macdonald. "I'd love to be able to find a way to do them - working music and academics - together."

[Listen to Amy's music here:](http://www.myspace.com/bronzeleaf) <http://www.myspace.com/bronzeleaf>

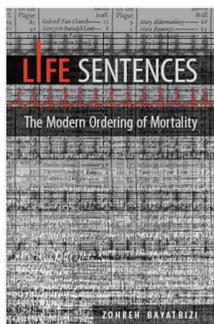


2009 Sociology Department Fall Gathering



Photos from left to right: Dr. Harvey Krahn, Chair, presents 2009 Bill Meloff Teaching Award to Dr. Alison Dunwoody; PRL Executive Director with staff members; Associate Chair Dr. Karen Hughes with graduate students.

Books Recently Published by Department Members

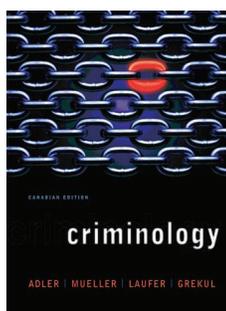
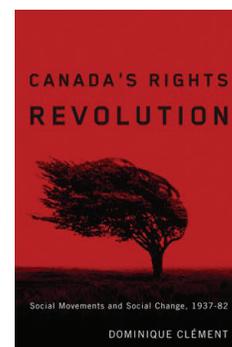


BAYATRIZI, Zohreh *Life Sentences: The Modern Ordering of Mortality*, University of Toronto Press, 2008.

A study of how death became a 'problem' for politicians and a 'problematic' for scientists, starting in the 17th century. Modern societies are obsessed with making death orderly, as manifested in efforts to objectively understand, prevent, postpone, and regulate various forms of "disorderly death", including violent death, premature death, suicide, and undignified death.

CLÉMENT, Dominique *Canada's Rights Revolution: Social Movements and Social Change, 1937 – 1982*, UBC Press, 2008.

In the first major study of postwar social movement organizations in Canada, Clément provides a history of the human rights movement as seen through the eyes of two generations of activists. The book explores the most infamous human rights controversies in Canadian history, and considers key themes in social movement studies, including national mobilization, state funding and ideological conflict

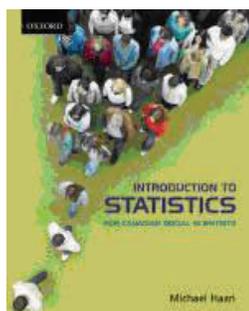
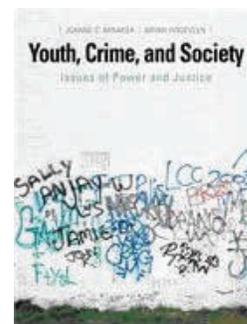


GREKUL, Jana *Criminology Canadian Edition*; Freda Adler, Gerhard O.W. Mueller, William S. Laufer, Jana Grekul, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 2009.

Criminology fosters critical thinking about the role of sociological factors in the production of criminal behaviors. The text recognizes that in some ways criminals are not all that different from 'non criminals'; like links in a chain, we are all interconnected by our humanity.

HOGVEEN, Bryan Bryan Hogeveen and Joanne Minaker, *Youth, Crime, and Society: Issues of Power and Justice*, Pearson, 2009.

This Canadian text adopts a critical contemporary focus on the connections among youth, crime, and society discussing the way in which the problem of youth crime is constructed, understood, and considered, and the need to address inequalities that are (re)produced by unequal class, race, and gender relations in society.



HAAN, Michael *An Introduction to Statistics for Canadian Social Scientists*, Oxford University Press, 2009.

A statistics text that uses Canadian scholarship and examples to teach the universal language of statistics. SPSS and STATA lab manuals are also available.

TROVATO, Frank *Canada's Population in a Global Context: An Introduction to Social Demography*, Oxford University Press, 2009. This text situates Canada's population in a global context, providing students with a balanced picture of population dynamics in Canada and the world.

