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Open House Rescheduled—March 8th at 6:30pm
SFU Harbour Centre—Room 2400

Join us Thursday, March 8th at 6:30 pm for an informal open house. This is your opportunity to meet our faculty, current students and alumni as they share their experiences of completing a graduate degree in Liberal Studies at Simon Fraser University. Come with questions you may have about the curriculum, the application process, and the GLS culture.

Please rsvp to the GLS office: glsp@sfu.ca. Everyone is welcome to attend, and feel free to bring a friend. If you are interested in helping out, please let the office know.

Rediscover the world of ideas.

Are you curious about modern cultures and big ideas? If you enjoy classic texts and new perspectives on contemporary issues, consider an MA in Liberal Studies.

Graduate Liberal Studies is a small, close-knit program. We offer part-time, evening classes with full-time passion.

Thursday, March 8th at 6:30pm
June 2018 Symposium Call for Papers

Due March 14th to GLS
Students and alumni of West Coast programs are invited to submit proposals to present a paper at the 2018 Symposium.

Selected presenters will give a 20-minute presentation at the symposium followed by 10 minutes of Q&A. Sessions run concurrently throughout the day on Saturday and on Sunday morning.

Students and alumni should submit their 250-word proposals to the GLS office by March 14th. Gary McCarron will then be recommending proposals to be submitted to Stanford. Decisions on proposals will be released by mid-April. This is a great opportunity to present your work in front of a curious and supportive audience.

Due to the number of proposals submitted and our desire to create coherence in panels, not all proposal requests can be accommodated.

Proposals recommended need to be submitted electronically by March 21st: https://glssymposium.stanford.edu/presenters-attendees/call-papers

2018 West Coast Graduate Liberal Studies Symposium

June 22-24, 2018 hosted by Stanford University
All current students and alumni are welcome to attend the symposium, even if you are not presenting a paper. The 2018 Symposium will begin with a welcome reception on Friday evening from 6:00-8:00. We’ll begin Saturday morning with a continental breakfast and a brief welcome to everyone. There will be student and alumni presentations from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., followed by a lunch on campus, and then presentations from 1:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Students and alumni will have dinner on their own. Sunday will begin again with a Continental Breakfast, followed by presentations from 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Our closing session will be held from 11:15-11:30. For those who would like to (and we’d heartily recommend it!), there will be a no-host lunch at the café at the Cantor Art Gallery.

We have blocked rooms at the Sheraton Palo Alto (right across the street from the campus) at an excellent rate of $129 per night.

For more information about the Symposium, please click here: https://glssymposium.stanford.edu
Alumni News

Catriona Strang

Gave a reading of her work on March 1st at W.A.C. Bennett Library at SFU Burnaby. Vancouver poet and editor Catriona Strang is the author of the collections Low Fancy (1993), Corked (2014), and Reveries of a Solitary Biker (2016). Reveries of a Solitary Biker grew out of her work in GLS. She is co-author with the late Nancy Shaw of three additional collections and recently edited Shaw’s selected works, The Gorge, published last year by Talonbooks.

Tammy Theis

Tammy began working at SFU in 2013 in the Department of History and returned there in 2015 after a short stint in the Faculty of Education. She was hired in her second role as the department’s Communications and Events Coordinator while she was about ¾ of her way through GLS. She felt a transformation in her work – she was able to write better, was able to see the discipline of history in all its breadth and variety of critical lenses, and to “speak” this in her writing for what were some very different audiences: on social media to students, in email newsletters to alumni, and in annual reports publications to faculty. She was able to make more convincing arguments to faculty committees and communicate her ideas clearly. After completing her degree, she was seconded to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences’ Dean’s office to the role of Coordinator, Recruitment, Outreach, and Community Engagement, where she is tasked with communicating the value of an arts degree to a wide range of audiences. She needs present the possibilities in FASS to prospective students in many different disciplinary languages. The interdisciplinarity of GLS has enabled her to see the connections between the departments more clearly, and communicate this in different ways to faculty, parents and potential university students who have barely been exposed to the concept of critical thinking. Furthermore, her job requires her to connect with high school teachers who have had a very specific type of academic training and successfully articulate to them why the current university liberal arts experience is still valuable.

Janet Webster

Janet Webster M.A.L.S. (S.F.U.1999) and Gillian Sudlow M.E.T (UBC) have received a Creative Capital Fund Grant from Kwantlen Polytechnic University to conduct a feasibility study (Feb. 2018 - Feb 2019) of open education resources’ development and micro-credentialling of critical thinking skills in Developmental English writing courses at KPU. The goal of the study is to re-frame student learning to provide opportunities to develop and demonstrate critical thinking skills in academic writing with the potential for application to future post-secondary studies or the workplace. The study will explore the development of research-based online critical thinking tutorials and assessment rubrics with the potential of triggering associated micro-credentials offering students digital and portable recognition of a Conference Board of Canada essential skill beyond the classroom. Janet’s GLS degree and undergraduate work in philosophy and literature have sustained her educational interests in promoting students’ self-awareness of their critical thinking skills combined with their reading and writing capabilities. Despite finishing her GLS degree many years ago, the skills she gained have still proved to be invaluable in the workforce.
Are you using your GLS degree in an interesting way?

Please tell us about it—for newsletter items contact Jennifer Chutter at Jennifer_chutter@sfu.ca and for social media items contact Laura Anderson at llanders@sfu.ca

Current Student News

PhD Candidates Andrew Czink and Duane Fontaine both presented papers on March 3-4th as part of Symposium: Art, Labour and the Future of Work organized by the SFU Institute for the Humanities. Andrew presented a paper titled, “What Labour Musicking?” as part of a panel discussion on “Art, Labour, Utopia.” For his PhD, Andrew is studying the philosophy of musical experience as a situated, embodied, cognitive, sonorous, and prosthetic practice from the perspective of the composer/improviser/performer.

Duane presented a paper titled, “The UBI-subject: The New Proletariat or Forgotten Rabble” as part of a panel discussion titled “Free Associations.” For his PhD, Duane is studying the nature of work in contemporary society and is contrasting it with an examination of alternative visions for the future of work. The widespread application of robotics, automation and artificial intelligence into the productive economy threatens the future of work. Duane is revisiting the utopian quest for an Aesthetic State and how its emancipatory potential, combined with such transitional solutions as Universal Basic Income, might present an opportunity to redefine the very nature and purpose of work in a way that enhances meaning and freedom.