

## In Memoriam and Dedication

The editorial team wishes to dedicate this Insights issue to the memory of **Dr. Tareq Y. Ismael**. Dr. Ismael had an impressive 55-year career at the University of Calgary, with his passion evident in the numerous awards he received, articles, and books he authored. For the editorial team, he also holds a special place in our hearts for assisting in creating the Political Science Association (PSA) during his tenure at the university. Dr. Ismael was always kind, supportive, and brave in his research and life. His research contributions, the challenge of dogma throughout his life, his unwavering commitment to justice in the Middle East, his encouragement for his students to do the same, and his incredible kindness and support will be sorely missed by students and faculty in our department.

*“Allah yerhamo”*

الله يرحمه

*“May God have mercy upon him”*

In Loving Memory of **Malcolm Torrance** - Political Science Student, Leader, and Friend.

We remember our friend, who, in a short time, achieved great success, admiration, and respect from his peers and professors. Malcolm's passion for politics was evident, leading him to become the President of the Campus Conservative Association (UCCCA) and a Parliamentary Assistant in the House of Commons. Malcolm was a lifelong student and learner, striving to learn from everyone he met by asking questions and staying curious about politics, history, and the social sciences. We miss him and remember him with respect and love. His absence will be felt by his loved ones, his friends, and the University of Calgary community. We remember his presence with gratitude and continue to be inspired by his leadership and dedication.

*Dedication written by:* Ismayil Imanli, Political Science Student, University of Calgary

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

From the Managing Editor ..... 2

Editorial Team ..... 3

### ARTICLES

**Narratives Of Nationhood: The Struggle For Separatism in Asia**  
AMITOJ HARI ..... 5

**The West Wants In: Conservative Christianity and Western Canadian Conservatism**  
LOGAN JASPERS ..... 16

**Bears and Dragons in the North: An Analysis of Sino-Russian Economic Relations in the Arctic**  
JORDAN LEE ..... 35

**Changing Geopolitical Landscape in the Asia-Pacific: Rise of China and The United States' Response**  
ETHAN MARKOWITZ ..... 53

**Does Freedom Require Good and Justice? An Examination of Mill's Account on Freedom**  
THU PHAN PHAN NGUYEN GIA THU ..... 71

**Private Military Companies in Iraq: An Analysis of Privatization in a Counterinsurgency**  
SOPHIA VITTER ..... 80

### Letter From the Managing Editor

I am beyond grateful to introduce the first issue of Insights Undergraduate Journal in Political Science! The editorial team is overjoyed with the support and the number of articles we received. We were incredibly impressed with the quality and original analysis of every article we reviewed. The passion and creativity we have been shown through the application process are incredible, and we are honoured to showcase the talent of undergraduate students here at the University of Calgary. I wanted to showcase my appreciation to everyone who supported this project.

I want to take this moment to acknowledge the land where this project was created. It is vital to understand the role of the land as our caretaker; it provides humans and non-human entities with the gift of breath and life and asks only for respect and care in return. Since time immemorial, the Treaty 7 nations have lived in relational partnership with the land as caretakers. The Treaty 7 Nations are made of the Siksikaitsitapi (Blackfoot Confederacy) which comprises the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai Nation. It is also the home of the Tsuut'ina Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda, including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and the Goodstoney Nation. It is also the place of life for Métis Nation of Alberta (Districts 5 and 6). The editorial team recognizes the traditional names of where we are situated, Moh'kins'tsis to the Blackfoot, Wíchîspa to the Stoney Nakoda, and Guts'ists'i to the Tsuut'ina. Robin Kimmerer calls for us to acknowledge that "It's not just land that is broken, but more importantly, our relationship to land." We call our readers to reframe their perspective of land acknowledgements from an obligation, but rather to reflect critically on our relationship with the land and the Nations whose lands we are uninvited guests on. It is important we remember that treaties require settlers to uphold our obligations within treaties, and we call on our readers to critically consider what they can do to uphold their obligations and become good treaty people.

I appreciate all who submitted their work for publication. It's no small feat to put your work out there for critique; it requires immense bravery and reflects your dedication to your pieces. Thank you for trusting us with your words. Editorial decisions are never easy, and many strong pieces were submitted. If your work wasn't chosen this time, it does not reflect its worth or your

potential as a researcher. I truly hope those who were not selected to be published in this issue will consider resubmitting their work for future issues. Every submission showcases and contributes to the high quality, skill, and research ability within the Department of Political Science's Undergraduate community. From the Editorial Team and I, we wish everyone the best in their undergraduate careers and congratulations to those who graduated this year!

## Editorial Team

*Insights Undergraduate Journal in Political Science* was developed and launched in partnership with the Department of Political Science and the Political Science Association (PSA). We are grateful for the support from Dr. Roberta Rice and Dr. Rob Huebert, who supported us along the way and believed in this project from the beginning. The feedback we received from the faculty and the PSA executives is vital to our ability to make this project a reality. The editorial team included Madeline Fleming (Co-Managing Editor), Dr. Rob Huebert (Department Sponsor), and me. The incredible Ryan Perks copyedited it; many thanks to you for guiding us through this process and being very patient with our questions! We are also thankful for the Journal Hosting team at the University of Calgary, particularly Gabriela Mircea, who supported us along the way! Lastly, I would also like to acknowledge and thank our peer review team for their hard work:

Andy Airey

Makda Habtegergesa

Aidha Chaudhary

Lauren Clavelle

Ismayil Imanli

Juan-Felipe Llanos-Salamanca

Fiona Frances Paul

Radoslav Visotski

The editorial team included Madeline Fleming (co-Managing Editor), Dr. Rob Huebert (Department Sponsor), and me. It was copyedited by the incredible Ryan Perks. This publication marks the end of a process that started as an idea in April 2024, after a year of planning, organization, and review. It also marks the end of my tenure as Managing Editor and as a student

at the University of Calgary. I leave this journal in the excellent hands of Madeline Fleming as Managing Editor of Insights. I look forward to participating in the peer review process of future Insights issues, and as a reader! I cannot wait to see where Madeline takes this project next. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with you all.

Go raibh maith agaibh,

*Hunter Holt-Barry*