
Foreword

Dear Reader,

Despite navigating these strange times coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are excited to be able to introduce you to this delayed but much anticipated edition of *On Politics*. This edition is the product of countless hours of cumulative effort amongst two completely different generations of the *On Politics* editorial team, in addition to the volunteer readers from the University of Victoria, the Victoria Branch of the Canadian International Council, and of course—the five contributing authors.

This issue begins with a study on the Republic of Ireland’s successful 2018 referendum to repeal the Eighth Constitutional Amendment restricting access to abortion. Anna-Elaine Rempel, Q Roxas, and Jenna Hrechka apply a historical institutionalist perspective to interpret their findings in the analysis of the dominant issues informing Irish public opinion towards abortion over time. In their study, they conduct a discursive analysis of newspaper publications from 1992 to 2018 and observe the shift in Irish public opinion towards liberalizing abortion and repealing the Eighth Amendment.

Megan Switzer examines hip hop culture as an agent of black expressionism and collective strength in the fight against systemic racism in America. Looking through a Saussurean linguistics lens, Switzer examines the function that hip hop culture serves in Spike Lee’s film, *Do the Right Thing* while addressing the context of contemporary justice/injustice, and the longstanding presence of police brutality and violence against people of colour across the United States of America.

Emily Hiser draws on both anti-colonial theory and surveillance studies to critically examine the realities and implications of historical and ongoing settler colonial surveillance assemblages. With a focus on the paradoxical nature of settler state surveillance, Hiser argues that surveillance functions as a tool of the colonial project. Ultimately, unsettling the ways in which systems of surveillance, containment, and categorization have been, and are being, taken for granted and naturalized.

Climate change is an ever-pressing issue in our world. After years of international climate action gridlock and domestic target failures, a major part of addressing this issue is national emissions accountability. Emily Lowan addresses and examines a peer-reviewed case study of Canada's first emissions accountability legislation, Bill C-12. In the case study, Lowan analyzes the interests, institutions, and political context that enabled Bill C-12's passage, arguing that "while Bill C-12 was strengthened through the amendment process, the final legislation remained significantly weaker than the "gold standard" UK Climate Change Act (2008)".

This issue closes with Lena Price's examination of the neoliberalization of extractive and border infrastructures by the Canadian settler-state and its relationship to transnational extractive capital. Price argues that "the Canadian settler-state selectively securitizes pipeline and border infrastructures to facilitate the flow and accumulation of transnational extractive capital as a means of self-legitimation that relies on normative imaginings of a white Canadian nationhood". This relies upon racial capital that is ultimately constructed by white supremacy, colonialism, and hetero-patriarchy.

Lastly, this issue marks the retirement of our predecessors and the beginning of our time as the new co-Editor-in-Chiefs of the undergraduates of political science journal at the University of Victoria. The works within this issue were inherited from our predecessors and re-imagined by us. In the future, we hope to continue to explore a diverse mix of theoretical, national,

international, and comparative political viewpoints amidst this transnational world. We are excited for the opportunity to expand our content regarding international relations/affairs through the continuation of our partnership with the CIC. To quote our predecessors: the partnership between CIC Victoria and *On Politics* is “an important intergenerational link of knowledge building,” one that we are excited to develop further in future issues.

On Politics exists to provide political science undergraduate students at the University of Victoria an outlet for expressing matters of politics. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with *On Politics* and would like to thank everyone who has been involved in bringing this edition to life.

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