



We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəḡən (Songhees and Xʷsepsəm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Ləkʷəḡən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

**& HER EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MARY SIMON,
GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA**



Photo: UVic Photo Services

REFLECTIONS ON 10 YEARS OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Her Excellency The Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada shared opening remarks last week at an emotional University of Victoria event to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission \(TRC\) Calls to Action](#). Simon touched on

her personal experience at the TRC when she shared stories about her childhood and education in Nunavik, and the children in her community who were sent to residential schools.

Simon remarked that “when the TRC report was released 10 years ago, most Canadians learned about what happened for the first time. And I remember people being horrified, saying ‘I did not know.’ Years later, the findings of unmarked graves of children at former residential school sites moved people even more.”

Under the stalwart leadership of the late former Senator Murray Sinclair, along with the dedicated and often difficult work of the TRC Commissioners, Survivors, and many others, the TRC has left an immeasurable impact on Canadian society. Today, the TRC continues to play a pivotal role in the daily lives of Canadians, shaping the path towards collective understanding of truth, reconciliation and the change called for within Canadian society,

In a recent [letter](#), Simon, who is also a UVic Honorary LLD, tells Canadians that she is “encouraged to see Survivors, Elders and so many people supporting each other as we work to recognize Canada’s true, national history.”

Alongside UVic faculty John Borrows (Law); Andrea Walsh, Smyth Chair in Arts and Engagement (Social Sciences); and Cary Newman, Impact Chair in Indigenous Art Practices (Fine Arts), Associate University Librarian – Reconciliation Ry Moran moderated a panel discussion to remind, encourage and inspire Canadians to think about actions past, present and future.

[Read the full story](#)

[Ha-Shilth-Sa Indigenous news](#)

[CBC Victoria](#)

[CHEK News](#)

& MESSAGE FROM UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN JONATHAN BENGTON



Photo:

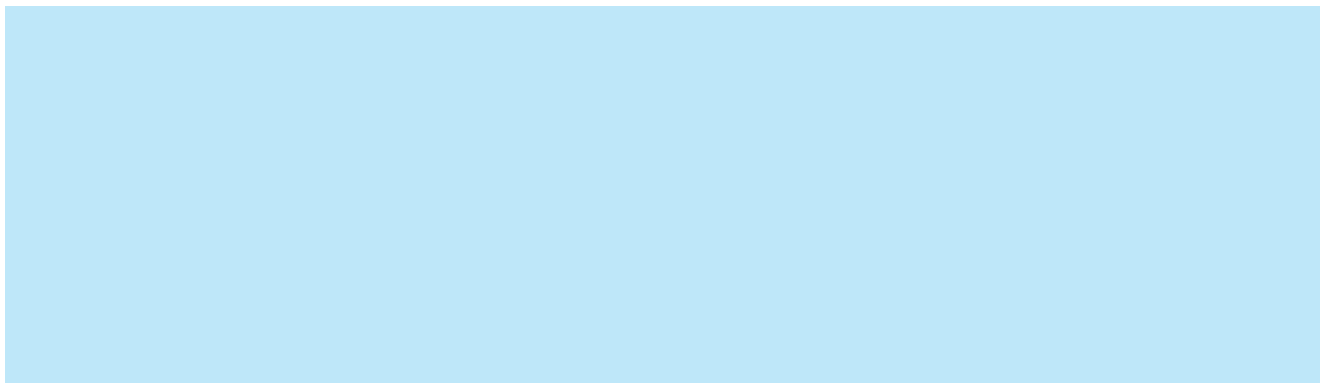
UVic Photo Services

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our first issue of *The Ampersand* in 2025. You will find a richly diverse range of stories illustrative of the Libraries and University Art Collection's impact on our campus and in our community. We also want to hear back from you as we strive to make this newsletter even better. Please take time to fill out the brief survey (link below) to share your ideas and thoughts on what stories you would like to see in the future.

Very best,

@ THE AMPERSAND SURVEY



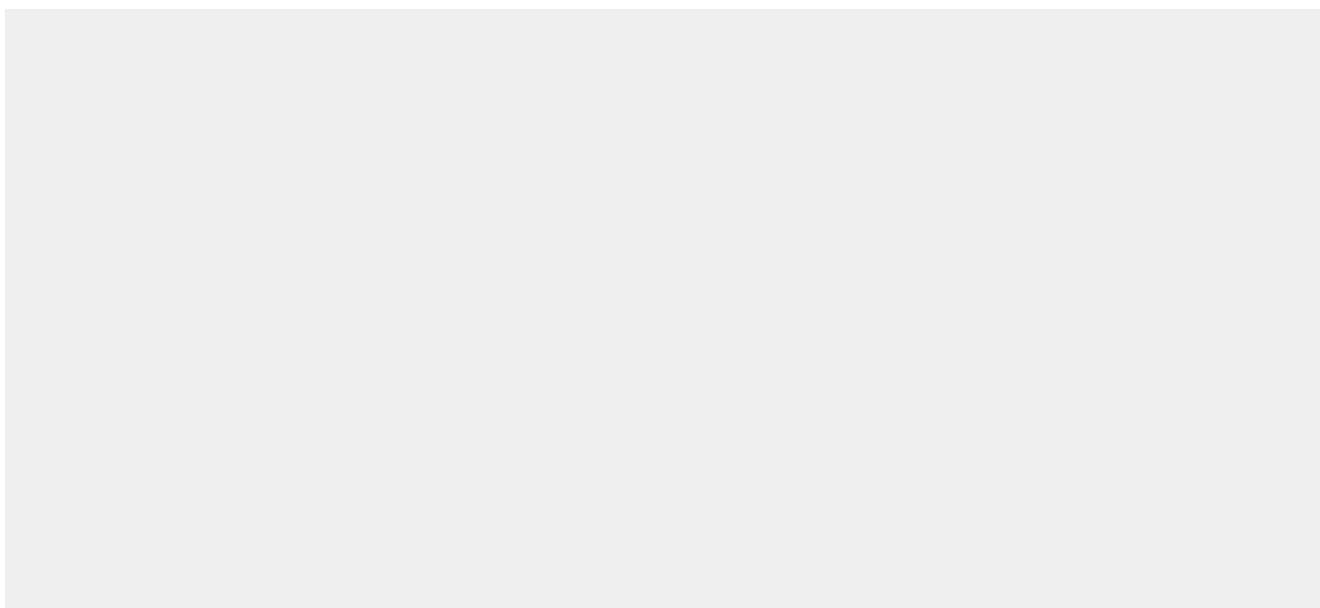


TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

The Ampersand made its debut in July 2018. Over the years, we have made tweaks to its frequency and look. Please take the 2-minute survey and tell us your thoughts. We would love to hear from you.

[Take the survey](#)

UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTIONS





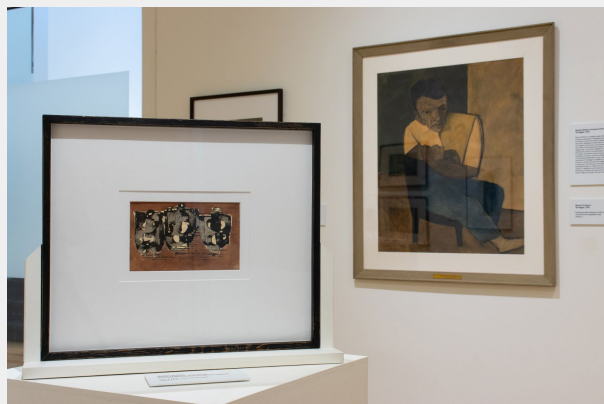
All images by Anahita Ranjbar

VICTORIA AND EXPRESSIONISM'S SECOND WAVE: THE POINT GROUP

by: Mina Guan, YCW Collections and Engagement Intern, Legacy Art Galleries

Step back into the 1960s and experience artworks from [The Point Group](#), a modernist collective of Victoria artists formed in 1959. This new exhibition curated by Williams Legacy Chair and Art History and Visual Studies professor, [Dr. Carolyn Butler-Palmer](#), assembles a unique selection of artworks from UVic's permanent collection for public view.

The Point Group consisted of artists Herbert Siebner, Michael Morris, Flemming Jorgensen, Molly Privett, Elza Mayhew, Sylvia Sutton, Virginia Lewis, Duncan de Kergommeaux, Robert de Castro, William West, and Nita Forrest. Exhibiting at The Point Gallery on Fort Street, the group operated one of the first commercial art galleries in Victoria. Some of its founding members would later help form the Society of Limners, another group of modernist creatives.



Herbert Siebner, *Untitled (Figures)*, 1962 (recto).



Elza Mayhew, *Maiden of Knossos*, 1962.

Victoria's first wave of Expressionism can be seen through the artworks of Emily Carr whose

training in Europe and practice in Victoria helped establish a place for modern art in the city. Many artists of The Point Group were also linked to Europe either through birthplace or their training. Prussian-born artist Siebner taught many members of the group, imparting his own training in German and Abstract Expressionism to the collective.

With the formation of visual arts instruction at UVic in the early 1960s, some members of The Point Group left impactful legacies at UVic, including Siebner and Jorgensen, who were lecturers. West was a professor in the Department of Theatre and later contributed to the design of the Phoenix Theatre Building.

The range of mediums and styles on display also demonstrate the individuality of The Point Group members. This can be seen in Privett's prints for her bold use of colour, Morris' multimedia artworks for his creative assemblage of materials or Mayhew's sculpture for her subtle nod to ancient Greek legends.

It is Butler-Palmer's hope that through this exhibition, visitors "will come to appreciate the richness of the UVic art collection and the many untold stories it holds while gaining access to a more complex view of modern art in Victoria."

Victoria and Expressionism's Second Wave: The Point Group is on exhibit at the Legacy Art Gallery Downtown (630 Yates Street) until April 5, 2025, open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Thursday to Saturday.

& AROUND THE LIBRARIES

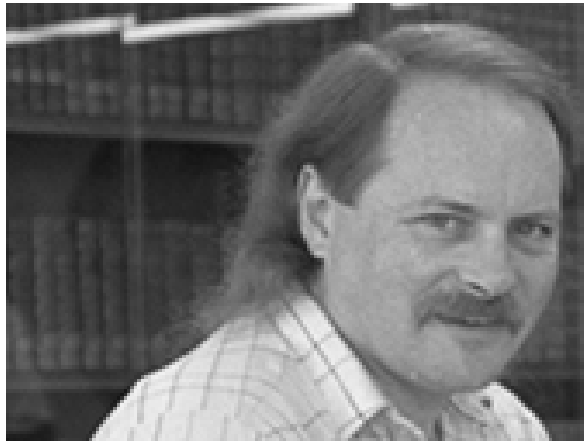


Image courtesy of University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections & University Archives (file AR343).

REMEMBERING TERRENCE (TERRY) TUEY (1948-2025)

by: Christopher Petter, retired UVic Director, Special Collections & University Archivist

Terry Tuey worked in the McPherson Library for 39 years as a circulation student assistant from 1967-71, and then as a library assistant evening supervisor. He earned respect from the librarians as a "quick, able and a steady worker." In 1980, he was appointed to a continuing appointment as a supervisor on the loan desk with duties including automation



The Rt Hon. Consul General Kim Campbell and UVic President David Strong on March 30, 1999.

MCPHERSON LIBRARY - 60TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIES

by: Don Lovell, retired architect

My favourite building project for 10 of my 17 years as Manager Design and Campus Planning at UVic, was participating in the library planning and construction of the Mearns Centre for Learning. In 1999, I travelled with University Librarian Marnie Swanson and Assistant University Librarian Wendie McHenry to Los Angeles to tour the Leavey Library, University of Southern

assistant and weekend supervisor. He had a reputation for his helpful cooperative manner, dedication, quick sense of humour, and willingness to learn new methods.

Priscilla Scott, Division Head in Circulation, also credited Terry as "quite a scholar," and in addition to his B.A. ('73), Terry possessed language skills including Latin, with some German and Gaelic. He loved books, was a great reader, and diligently built his own collections of stamps, books, and recordings.

In December 1989, he transferred to Special Collections, reporting to Howard Gerwing, who said that he was "a good, diligent worker who [was] well steeped in the library's routines."

[Read the full story.](#)

To learn more about Terry's life, visit [Legacy.com](#).

California, and Powell Library, UCLA. David Strong, then President of UVic, was very keen to see a major addition to the McPherson Library. While in Los Angeles, a reception was held at the residence of the Canadian Consular General Kim Campbell. UVic Alumni and notables including filmmaker Atom Egoyan attended the library presentation by David and Marnie. I arrived at the Consular residence early to set up a data projector. In the main ante room, I noticed a lady vacuuming, and I asked her where I might connect the projector. As she got up from behind a chesterfield, I saw that it was Kim Campbell. When I said that I was surprised to see our 19th Prime Minister cleaning, she responded that it was her home, and she wanted it presentable.

[Read the full story.](#)

Learn how [donors have contributed to UVic Libraries](#) throughout its history.

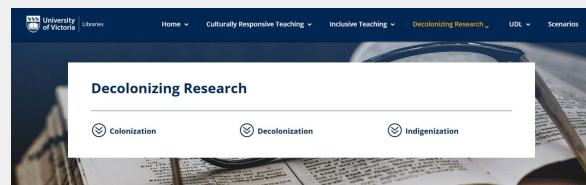


Photo: (l to r): University Librarian Jonathan Bengtson, Faith LaPointe, Spencer Leong Cowie, and Grants and Awards Librarian Christine Walde

LIBRARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Since 2013, UVic Libraries has been a proud supporter of student success through our library scholarships and awards program. In 2024, we celebrated four recipients:

- Lucy Balogh and Faith Lapointe (David Harris Flaherty Undergraduate Library Scholarship)
- Carly Palmer (William Petrie Graduate Library Scholarship)



CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AND INCLUSIVE PEDAGOGY TOOLKIT

Librarians Aditi Gupta (Engineering and Science) and Ying Liu (Humanities), along with librarian Robbyn Lanning at Camosun College, recently launched a [toolkit](#) that provides practical strategies for incorporating inclusive teaching and culturally responsive practices into instruction and student interactions.

Aimed at librarians, faculty, and staff, its primary goal is to promote anti-racism and inclusivity in educational environments. Suitable for both experienced educators and those new to inclusive pedagogy, it serves as a valuable resource for a diverse range of campus stakeholders.

- Spencer Leong Cowie (Nipp Mah Award)

Each scholarship recipient was awarded based on the merit and excellence of their 500-word essay, and how they have used library resources for a class project, assignment, or research paper.

[Read the winning submissions](#)



NEW: TEK BOOTHS

New Tek Booths have arrived for individual study, group study or Zoom calls. Each booth has a tablet for controlling light and ventilation, along with USB-C outlets and standard electrical outlets.

[Book one today](#)

& ACROSS THE CAMPUS



LIBRARY PODCAST CONTEST WINNERS

[Zoe Bechtold](#) is a queer author and artist from Moh'kinstsis (Calgary, Alberta) currently pursuing a BFA in Theatre and Writing at UVic. Zoe would like to thank Dr. Sasha Kovacs for impressing upon her the historical importance of theatre artists writing manifestos for their work. She began *The Creative Process* as a manifesto and archive to record her current artistic practices and opinions, with the expectation that they will change over time. *The Creative Process* is recorded with posterity in mind, with the hope that someday the recordings will serve Zoe or others in understanding how her work, and the world



[Tanya Appleby](#) is currently studying Public Relations at UVic. She hosts the podcast "On Notice" with her friends Jo and Megan, which brings listeners an unfiltered journey through real women's experiences. The friends dive into life's complicated and laugh-out-loud moments. No topic is too personal; no story too awkward; they're here to share it all. Uplifting, while still tackling real issues about women, "On Notice" is raw, real, and refreshingly unfiltered. Tanya hopes audiences will tune in to hear stories that will make them nod, laugh, and think. Because sometimes, the most powerful thing women

the work was created in, has changed.

can do is simply share their truth with each other.

[Listen to their award-winning podcasts](#) on UVicSpace.

& IN THE COMMUNITY



TELL YOUR STORY

New writing courses offered through Continuing Studies are here!

Writing is a powerful tool for self-expression, connection and discovery. Whether you're a seasoned writer or just beginning your journey, the opportunity to explore your voice and share your stories is always within reach. At Continuing Studies, we believe that everyone has a unique narrative worth telling.

Our upcoming courses offer dynamic learning experiences, both online and in-person, designed to nurture your creativity and expand your writing skills. From developing your craft to discovering new ways to tell your story, there's a course for you. Here are just a few to consider:

- [Writing Layered Memoir: Mille-Feuille](#)
- [Memoir: How to Write Your Own Life Story](#)
- [Revisit and Revise Your Novel](#)
- [Simply Poetry](#)
- [Inspired Writing](#)
- [Writing as a Spiritual Practice](#)
- [Creative Nonfiction: Writing from Everyday Life](#)



THE OPEN BOOK

Learn about the complexities of scanning historical scrapbooks from our Special Collections and University Archives in Digitization Supervisor Page DeWolfe's latest [blog post](#).

"I am always amazed by the time people took to collect materials together for reference in the days before ephemera became digital and I recognize the privilege we have in being able to make these digitally available now."

LIBRARIAN RESEARCH PROJECT

UVic librarians Shahira Khair, Monique Grenier, and Nick Rochlin, along with Research Computing Services, were recently [published in Ithaka S+R](#) about their reflections in creating a cross-campus collaboration in reproducibility, along with their workshop series "[Reproducibility for All](#)."

UVic Libraries and Research Computing hosted a series of workshops dedicated to

[Learn more](#)

training researchers in tools and techniques for greater research reproducibility, with the aim of making scholarly knowledge openly available, accessible, and reusable.

& IN THE NEWS



FINDING TRANS+ COMMUNITIES IN THE ARCHIVE

by: *Katy DeCoste, Communications Officer, Faculty of Humanities*

Fourth-year English and Art History student Sky Dragushan is blending their study of literature and art history to gain archival research experience that they hope will equip them for a graduate program in library and archival studies.

After years visiting Victoria for Passover and falling in love with Vancouver Island, UVic was Dragushan's only choice for post-secondary study. "I knew I wanted to study English, and UVic's English department is phenomenal," they say. At the time, they had no idea that UVic is also home to the world's largest trans archive, but they would eventually find themselves deep in that archive, studying the formation of trans community through newsletters.

"The dream is to be an art librarian, working in a gallery's library holdings or in archives or special collections with rare books and manuscripts. I can also see myself as a children's or public librarian."

[Read the full story](#)

BOREALIS BLOGGING

by: *Katelyn Fryer, Mountain Legacy Project*

The [Mountain Legacy Project \(MLP\)](#) has a foundation deeply rooted in history. We work with some of the earliest photographic records in Canada, immerse ourselves in old surveyor's diaries, and listen to individuals and communities who have long held connections with mountain landscapes. In our work we look to listen actively, learn humbly, and discover thoughtfully.

Through this pilot project we have been fortunate to have the support of the University of Victoria Libraries, which recently became the first Canadian academic library to achieve CoreTrustSeal certification – the highest standards of data management and preservation.

We would especially like to thank Data Curation and Organizational Analysis Librarian, Shahira Khair, and Data Science Librarian Nick Rochlin. We are deeply grateful for their expertise, guidance and partnership as we learn to navigate Borealis and make our research available to an even wider audience.

NEW ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN KULA

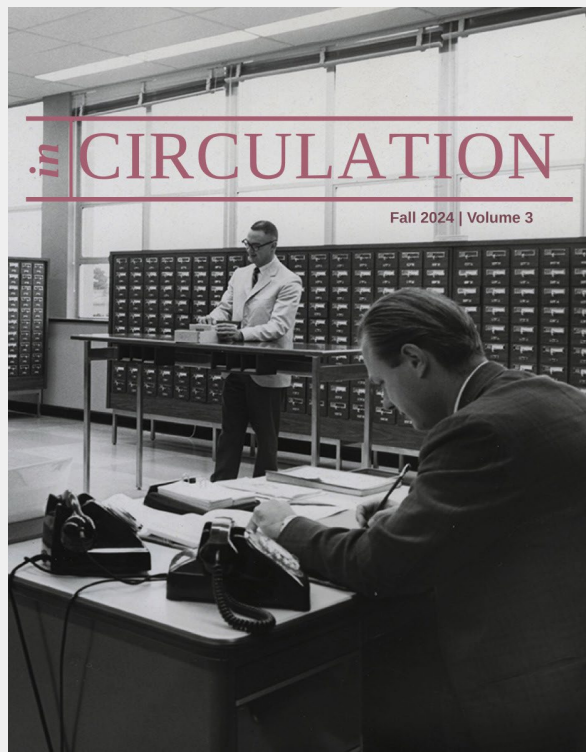
We are pleased to share that UVic Libraries' signature open-access journal *KULA: Knowledge Creation, Dissemination, and Preservation Studies* has published a new article: "[Paying It Forward: The Prefigurative Politics of Record Creation](#)" by Anna Robinson-Sweet and Michelle Caswell.

Through analysis of data from interviews with people who shared their stories with two community archives, Texas After Violence Project (TAVP) and South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA), this article examines

how records creators imagine future use and users.

[Learn about KULA](#)

& OUR PEOPLE, YOUR LIBRARY



in CIRCULATION

The Fall 2024 issue of UVic Libraries' signature donor impact publication, *in CIRCULATION*, includes stories about student wellness, our Farallon book arts lab, a 4-page photo essay celebrating the McPherson Library's 60th anniversary, and a themed library quiz that tests readers' knowledge of our spaces and collections.

Read the latest issue of [in CIRCULATION](#).

ACCESS SERVICES: 2024 WRAPPED

- most popular single borrowed item: piano headphone adapter (**825**)
- book loans (**37,298**) surpassed equipment loans (**32,124**)
- phone chargers (**5,495**) were borrowed slightly ahead of laptop chargers (**4,907**)
- most popular item other than a book: USB-C cable (**6,183**)
- most loans in a single day: March 11, 2024 (**481**)
- **1,449** podcast editing, viewing and listening rooms were booked
- most popular book: *The Portable Guide to Evidence* by Michael P. Doherty (**30**)



WELCOME! NEW TRANSGENDER ARCHIVES METADATA LIBRARIAN

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Michael Radmacher as the limited term Transgender Archives Metadata Librarian for our CLIR grant-funded project. Michael has an MLIS from San Jose State University and an



UVIC DIGITAL ONECARD NOW AVAILABLE

We are excited to announce the launch of UVic's [mobile ONECard](#) to our campus community! Your ONECard is now available to download to your digital wallet on compatible Apple and Android devices. You can tap your phone or smart watch to buy food on campus, access CARSA, take out books from the library, shop at the UVic Bookstore, and more. No more fumbling around for your wallet – instead, just tap and go!

You can still use your physical card in all the usual places across campus. Think of the mobile ONECard as a digital extension of your physical card. It's an additional option for your everyday ease and convenience.

MA in Political Science from UVic. He comes to us from his role as Administrative Officer for the Chair in Transgender Studies at UVic, which he has held since 2016, and has been instrumental in the success of the Moving Trans History Forward conference.

Read more about the [trans\(formation\): digitizing the Rikki Swin Institute Trans+ activism and outreach media collection](#) project that Michael is working on.

& THE LAST STORY



A group of young men inspect the remains of their home in Girzerik, Sinjar. On August 3, 2014, the town was the first attacked during Da'esh/ISIL's genocidal offensive in Sinjar. Although local men bravely defended the village, allowing women and children to flee, they were ultimately overrun, and the militants took control. More than ten years later, Girzerik remains completely destroyed, with human bones and rubble littering the streets. With limited NGO support, most former inhabitants continue to live in IDP camps in Kurdistan or in abandoned homes in other parts of Sinjar. Copyright Nathaniel Brunt. All rights reserved. Photos are not available for use without prior consent.

PRESERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE IN TIMES OF WAR

by: Lisa Abram, Communications Officer

Nathaniel Brunt is on an urgent mission. The interdisciplinary scholar and award-winning documentary photographer is creating the Conflict Aftermath Digital Archive Project (CADAP). Using field experience and drawing on the expertise of University of Victoria librarians, historians and other documentarians, Brunt is developing innovative ethical digital archival methods and resources to preserve and make publicly accessible at-risk visual material in conflict and post-conflict contexts. But the clock is ticking as the community he is working with, the Yazidis in northern Iraq, face the challenges of living in the aftermath of a genocide as they rebuild their lives.

As an [Aspiration 2030 post-doctoral fellow](#) with UVic Libraries, Brunt is working with librarians who have expertise in the ethics of working with archival materials in vulnerable communities, digital preservation, digital asset collection, metadata, and the challenges of working with Indigenous materials.



Members of the Rashka family wash sheepskins above Mosul Dam. Displaced from Til Benat, Sinjar, in August 2014 during the Da'esh/ISIL genocide, this Yazidi family has lived in an IDP camp in Khanke, Kurdistan, for over a decade. Copyright Nathaniel Brunt. All rights reserved. Photos are not available for use without prior consent.

Preserving Yazidi cultural heritage

When Brunt regularly returns to Iraq, his full attention is on accessibility and ethical preservation—at stake are the oral histories in the everyday life of the Yazidis, a religious minority, that are currently being collected through interviews in Iraq and Kurdistan. Brunt's project combines professional visual documentation with non-traditional archival material from the community such as family photographs, oral histories, and mobile phone images and videos.

In August 2014, Da'esh/ISIL attacked about 20 villages and towns in the Sinjar region, the Yazidi's ancestral homeland in north-west Iraq, and killed more than 5,000 people. Instantly, 500,000 Yazidis became refugees, while hundreds of thousands fled to the autonomous Kurdistan region in northern Iraq where they continue to live in displaced persons camps.

Through CADAP, Brunt will create a unique set of resources that will not only support the communities directly involved in his fieldwork and projects, but also create a body of research that provides strategies, methods, and concepts that can be mobilized by others globally to aid in the long, complex, and challenging process of communities seeking to make sense of the aftermath of conflict.

The Yazidi digital archive project aims to preserve at-risk audiovisual material, often stored on cellphones, with Yazidi communities in Iraq and the diaspora. "This important, yet ephemeral historical evidence, is quickly being lost without preservation," says Brunt. "The project emerges as a response to the genocide of the Yazidi population and serves as an act of resistance against this violent attempt at erasure." With a focus on their lives in Sinjar before 2014, the events of the genocide, and their present-day lives, this digital archival initiative will highlight the human

dimensions of the project.

"Our idea was to look at the more experiential side of things, and what people went through. Not necessarily just looking at the events that represented the worst days of their lives, but also much more broadly, their family histories, their lives, outside of the genocide."

—Nathaniel Brunt, Interdisciplinary scholar, documentary photographer and Aspiration 2030 Post-Doctoral Fellow

With the support of UVic librarians Lisa Goddard, Dean Seeman, Laura Doublet, Corey Davis, and Matt Huculak, Brunt is learning about best practices in digital asset collection, the structure of metadata that is culturally appropriate but accessible and creating the caretaking infrastructure for the Yazidi community's digital preservation project.

[Read the full story.](#)



UVic Libraries Communications Office: libcomm@uvic.ca

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