



EDUCT News

Connecting University of Edinburgh Alumni in the GTA



Issue 63

The Newsletter of the Edinburgh University Club of Toronto [EDUCT]

September 2023

Message from the President



Another season of EDUCT events is upon us! We hope that you share our excitement about our line-up of great speakers and other engaging occasions to gather. With an eye on COVID, we are hopeful that we will be able to proceed with three in-person events this fall. The last few years have shown us the benefits of an online platform, and we will continue to offer a virtual event or two in early 2024.

We will kick off the season with two well-subscribed tours of the Tom Thomson Exhibition at the McMichael Collection of Canadian Art on October 12 and 14. These tours will be led by Ian Dejardin, the soon-to-be-departing Executive Director of the Collection. On October 24, members are invited to attend a discussion with University of Edinburgh Professor John Devaney focusing on a collaborative project between the universities of Edinburgh and Toronto, in support of maltreated children. Wine and cheese will be served.

Watch for more information about a wine tasting in late November and, of course, we will be kicking off 2024 with our annual Burns Nightcap on January 18.

As the new season of EDUCT events begins, please ensure that you have paid your membership dues for 2023 (see p. 22 for details).

Sarah Tulley

Upcoming Club and Alumni Events

OUR RESPONSE TO COVID: Although the public has become relaxed about Covid, we are learning of two new variants that could well spread rapidly with people returning to their offices and schools re-opening, and that may not be as susceptible to control with our currently available vaccines. Given this air of uncertainty, and the history of waves of new variants of Covid and the ever-changing government cautions on public gatherings, we will decide how to stage each event about six weeks prior to that event. We shall retain the online format for a few events each year, given the ease of access this offers to those members living far from Toronto.

Tour of the Tom Thomson Exhibition at the McMichael Collection of Canadian Art

When: Thursday, 12 October and Saturday 14 October 2023, 1:00 pm.

Where: The McMichael Collection of Canadian Art, in Kleinburg.

Details: Ian Dejardin, Executive Director of the Collection, will be our guide. We have a very few extra spaces remaining for the Thursday. And we welcome your joining the waiting list for the Saturday since some cancellations are possible. We will try to arrange lifts for those needing one. Although not included in the cost of the tour, a pre-tour lunch will be arranged for those who would like that.

Cost: \$20 for members and guests; \$25 for non-member alumni.

Info: Simon Miles, simon-miles@sympatico.ca 416-466-8793

The Universities of Edinburgh and Toronto: Collaboration on Support for Maltreated Children

When: Tuesday, 24 October 2023, 6:30 pm.

Where: Party Room, 1177 Yonge Street, Toronto.

Details: Professor John Devaney, Centenary Chair of Social Work and Head of the School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh, will lead a discussion, with colleagues from the University of Toronto and Children 1st, a Scottish charity, on the research undertaken to enable the formal establishment, this August, of the Bairns' Hoose, an innovative, whole-of-family and multi-professional approach to support maltreated children. Wine and cheese will be provided.

Cost: \$15 for members and guests; \$20 for non-member alumni.

Info: Simon Miles, simon-miles@sympatico.ca 416-466-8793

EDUCT Wine Tasting

When: Thursday, 23 November, 2023, 6:30 pm.

Where: Aviator Danforth, 1458 Danforth Avenue, Toronto. This is just west of the Coxwell subway station.

Details: The theme is Sauvignon Blanc (Scotland's favourite wine). We will taste samples from around the world. Hors d'oeuvres and cheeses to complement the wines will be at hand.

Cost: \$45 for members and guests; \$50 for non-member alumni and guests.

Info: Paul Bradley, pauljfrbradley@gmail.com 416-464-9771

Inside this Issue

- David McClay and Catriona Armstrong Visit Toronto
- EDUCT Decennial Endowment Fund: Mixed News
- EDUCT Geography Centenary Fund: More Mixed News
- Doctoral Research Supported by the EDUCT Geography Centenary Fund
- How Your Final Gifts Shape Our Future - Legacy Giving to The University of Edinburgh
- Reunion of 1967 Geography Graduates
- Famous Alumni
- The Future of the Professions
- Treasurer's Report
- Board of Directors
- Are You On Our List?

MEMBERSHIP FEES:
Membership fees for 2023 were due in January. If you have not yet renewed, please see page 22 for details.

We now take INTERAC e-transfers.

The 2024 Burns Nightcap

When: Thursday, 18 January 2024, 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm (7 days before Burns).

Where: The Duke of Kent, on Yonge Street, east side, at Roehampton Avenue, just north of Eglinton Avenue East. Parking underground across Yonge, or surface lot on Roehampton.

Details: All are part of the entertainment.

Cost: TBA, but likely around \$50 for members and guests; \$55 for non-member alumni.

Info: Sarah Tulley, sarahetulley@gmail.com 416-476-9575 or Fiona Tompkinson, educt.treasurer@gmail.com 416-728-4254

Professor Jamie Cross Speaks at the University of Toronto on Climate Change

When: Tuesday, 30 January 2024, 4:00 pm.

Where: University of Toronto, St. George Campus. Location details will follow.

Details: Professor Jamie Cross, Director of the Edinburgh Earth Initiative, who spoke to EDUCT last February, is lecturing at the Centre for Global Change Science, University of Toronto. EDUCT members are invited to attend. More details on the talk will follow.

Cost: No charge. But please let Simon Miles know if you plan to attend.

Info: Simon Miles, simon-miles@sympatico.ca 416-466-8793

Artificial Intelligence: Pros, Cons and the Way Forward

When: Likely a Sunday afternoon in late February or early March 2024.

Where: TBA. Possibly on Zoom.

Details: We are exploring a lead presentation and panel debate involving several EDUCT members.

Cost: TBA.

Info: Paul Bradley, pauljfrbradley@gmail.com 416-464-9771

EDUCT Annual Dinner

When: Friday, 12 April 2024, 6:30 pm.

Where: The Great Hall, The Arts & Letters Club, 14 Elm Street, Toronto.

Details: Sir Peter Mathieson, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Edinburgh, will be our after-dinner speaker. In his talk, entitled *Ten Years at the Top*, Sir Peter will offer reflections based upon his having had the outstanding opportunity to lead two universities on two continents: the University of Hong Kong and the University of Edinburgh. He will provide historical context, elaborate on lessons learned, and offer some personal views on the future for the overall direction and running of a university such as the University of Edinburgh.

Cost: TBA, but likely around \$105 for members and guests; \$110 for non-member alumni.

Info: Simon Miles, simon-miles@sympatico.ca 416-466-8793

Annual General Meeting

When: Sunday, 26 May or Sunday 2 June 2024, at 1:00 pm.

Where: TBA, but likely on Zoom

Details: There is no charge for the AGM.

Info: Sarah Tulley, sarahetulley@gmail.com 416-476-9575

David McClay and Catriona Armstrong Visit Toronto

by Simon Miles

EDUCT members may recall the fascinating talks that David McClay has given to us on the University collections. David is Philanthropy Manager of the Library and University Collections. He last spoke to us by Zoom in April 2022, when Covid prevented us from being able to have him speak to us in person at what was to have been our Annual Dinner. At that time, he told us of the Library's ongoing efforts to digitize its collections and subsequently, at its AGM in May 2022, EDUCT had been inspired to make a donation of £1,000 for that purpose. When thanking us for the donation David had made mention of the University's hope that it would be able to raise funds to acquire a rare manuscript, in book form, of a collection of lute music, and that if the University were to be successful, our donation would be used to digitize the manuscript. In September 2022 David confirmed that the University had raised the £214,200 needed to buy the manuscript.

David was in Toronto in June and took the opportunity to have a lunch with EDUCT's Board to update us on several developments, including the digitization of that manuscript, and to introduce us to Catriona Armstrong. Catriona has joined Development and Alumni at the University and is replacing James Gauthier as the Regional Development Manager, North America (East Coast). However, unlike James, who was based in New England, Catriona will operate from the University. She reports to Liz Reilly, who has visited EDUCT on several occasions. Catriona is also an alumna of the University, having graduated in 2010 with an M.Sc. in Global Health and

Public Policy. Catriona has just recently joined the University staff. Prior to that, she had been working in the fundraising departments of international medical research organizations, where her focus had been on major gifts. Thus she comes well prepared for her new role. Catriona's counterpart, responsible for fundraising in western North America, is Ashley Warmington, who is also a new recruit to the University staff. She is based in Newport Beach, California.

Catriona mentioned that, while the University is more than happy to receive donations for any number of activities, etc., the current priorities for fundraising include, among other themes: widening participation (i.e., financial support for students from low-income households); climate change activities (such as those that Professor Jamie Cross told us about when he gave his talk to EDUCT on the new Edinburgh Earth Initiative last February); artificial intelligence; and, data-driven innovation.



David McClay (centre) and Catriona Armstrong (centre right) are joined by Simon Miles, Sarah Tulley and Graham Ferguson. Not captured in the photo but present for the lunch were Paul Bradley, Chris Valley Ban, Anna Voineskos and our guest and photographer, Fionna Ferguson.

With respect to the lute manuscript that EDUCT is helping to digitize, David mentioned that, initially, to mark its acquisition, the book was put on free public display, in St. Cecilia's Hall, alongside an exact contemporary lute instrument. Since then, the conservation work has been completed. The digitization is to be undertaken soon. He reiterated the importance of the book, which dates from about 1620 and is regarded as an item of national significance. As we noted in an article in the September 2022 issue of *EDUCT News*, the book, described as a "treasure-house of music", is of Italian and French lute music, in French tablature, comprises some 320 pieces of music, including famous ones, such as John Dowland's *The Lachrimae*

Pavan, those by many other identifiable composers, as well as eighty-nine unique pieces. It is in its original binding and in remarkable condition.

David also brought us up to date on the collection of Charles Lyell's Notebooks. There are some 294 notebooks of this famous geologist in the collection. EDUCT had contributed £1,000 towards its acquisition and had encouraged its members to make personal donations. Interestingly, David was able to reach some 64 donors across Canada, through various institutional networks, such as that of the Geological Society of London. Some 75 per cent of the notebooks have been digitized and are being examined in great depth by students and researchers. About 15 students thus far have been able to enjoy paid internships to work on various aspects of the notebooks.

Although the acquisitions of both the lute music manuscript and the Lyell notebooks are examples of the University reacting to an opportunity to acquire something that suddenly appears on the market, David emphasized that the long-term plan of the University collections continues to focus on four broad objectives: conservation (i.e., improving the condition of items in collections that have been donated); filling gaps in existing collections; involving students (especially via internships); and, public engagement (e.g., through exhibitions and civic outreach programmes).

EDUCT thanks David and Catriona for taking time out of their business meetings here to join us for lunch.

EDUCT Decennial Endowment Fund: Mixed News

by Simon Miles

Like the EDUCT Geography Centenary Fund, the EDUCT Decennial Endowment Fund has continued to do suffer from the decline in world markets but, as with our last report, there are signs that the decline was slower in the reporting period. As of the end of July 2023, the total investment in the Fund stood at £207,788, which is down slightly from the £208,997 reported at the end of April 2023.

As ever, we remind all who are interested that the Fund remains open for further contributions. For details on how to donate, and to receive the appropriate form for donors from your country, please contact me at simon-miles@sympatico.ca

EDUCT Geography Centenary Fund: More Mixed News

by Simon Miles

Like the EDUCT Decennial Fund, in this reporting period the Fund has continued to decline in value, but at a slower pace. As of the end of July 2023, the total investment in the Fund stood at £110,753 down from £111,270 at the end of April 2023.

The good news is that we are pleased to provide details of the research of the two doctoral students, Shona Jenkins and Manasa Gade, who have enjoyed financial support from the Fund this year. This article follows below.

All interested are reminded that the Fund remains open for further contributions. Any assistance you can give to help us get to the next very important milestone of £120,000 would be much appreciated by all in Edinburgh. For details on how to donate, and to receive the appropriate form for donors from your country, please contact me at simon-miles@sympatico.ca

Tell us your news

EDUCT News is always looking for interesting alumni stories and news.

We are happy to hear about what's new with you! Whether you have just returned from an interesting trip or have a memory you wish to share with your fellow EDUCT Members, we would love to hear from you. If you have something you would like to share, please contact the EDUCT News Editor, Simon Miles at simon-miles@sympatico.ca.

Doctoral Research Supported by the EDUCT Geography Centenary Fund

by Simon Miles

This year, the eleventh year for awards from the EDUCT Geography Centenary Fund, the award was made to two post-graduate students: Shona Jenkins and Manasa Gade. I have worked with them to provide the following capsule summaries of their lives and their doctoral research in order to give donors to the Fund a good sense of what they are helping to make possible. Support for Shona and Manasa brings to 21 the total number of students who have enjoyed support from the EGCF.

Shona Jenkins is a Canadian and her doctoral thesis at Edinburgh focuses on what can be regarded as a major concern for planetary society: the human influence on the world's largest tropical peatland, the Central Congo Peatlands, one of the world's most carbon-dense ecosystems. This research started with an analysis of the scale of deforestation across the peatland forest, a human impact that has implications for global climate change and could affect the ability of the peatlands to continue to act as a significant carbon sink. What makes Shona's research doubly interesting is that, in addition to assessing the extent and impact of deforestation, she is exploring the importance of the peatlands for the livelihoods and the values of the five million people who live on its periphery. The working title of her thesis is "The Human Influence on the Central Congo Basin Peatlands". To better appreciate how and why Shona ended up undertaking this study, it is helpful to learn something of her life beforehand.

Shona was born in Calgary and moved with her parents at an early age to Montreal for her



Shona Jenkins with a (dead) baby Boa, which was caught accidentally in a fishing net, but made a fine dinner for Shona's research team and a local family

schooling. She believes that her early appreciation for the health of the natural environment arose from the fact that her parents, who had travelled extensively before having their children, had impressed upon her and her siblings the value of landscapes that had not been degraded, and that Canada was a special place in this regard. Camping on P.E.I. in the summer holidays gave the family the opportunity to live with nature and get to understand it.

When it came to applying for a university place, Shona opted to pursue a B.Sc. in Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at McGill. Most of her time at McGill was spent at the beautiful Macdonald campus near the river at the west end of the city. While there, she had the good fortune to be accepted to spend time at McGill's Bellairs Research Institute, in Barbados, to study issues affecting small island states, like fresh water management, coastal management, and recycling. For the latter, Shona was linked to local NGOs and entrepreneurs. She credits this experience with bringing into focus the importance of sustainability, especially in a small island context where finite limitations in land and strong reliance on natural resources and natural beauty mean waste management cannot be ignored.

Following graduation in 2011, Shona took time to travel in

Europe for six months. She had discovered Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF), a global network of organic farms that enabled her to live on two farms in France and one in Italy. While it was a wonderful experience, it also led her to conclude that farming was not for her. Returning to Montreal, she followed in her father's footsteps and worked for a short time in the industry of pharmaceutical communications. Again, this was not meant for her. So she opted for some time as a teaching assistant back in Bellairs Research Institute. That led to her contemplating a master's degree.

In 2014 Shona enrolled at the University of Lund, in Sweden, to pursue her M.Sc. in Sustainability and Environmental Science. Over the two-year period she was able to focus on water resources management. A highlight was being able to spend time in Ghana studying the community governance and management of boreholes in a town on the fringe of the capital, Accra. Here, she encountered challenges in drinking water provision that are common to many countries facing high levels of poverty and without secure universal access to safe drinking water. There was seldom enough money available for maintenance and spare parts when boreholes broke down, and water allocation was not equitable. Nonetheless, decentralised and community-based drinking water provision still remain one of the most realistic solutions to bringing taps to underserved communities in the developing world.

The experience sparked Shona's interest in the management of water resources and, following her graduation from Lund in 2016, she undertook an internship with the International Water Association in The Hague. This provided her the opportunity to work with drinking water



Shona with Esther, a research assistant who worked with Shona during her fieldwork in the DRC, and two local forest guides

utilities. One fascinating project involved working on a project in Sardinia to improve the response to drought, including the tough issue of how best to allocate scarce water resources when water reservoir levels fall to critical levels. This led to Shona joining Oxford Policy Management in 2017. It is a large consulting company and Shona was assigned to the water, sanitation and hygiene team. It was fast-paced and project oriented. One assignment took her to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with the British Embassy to evaluate the impacts of British international aid funding allocated to the improvement of water, sanitation and hygiene outcomes in the DRC. It was this opportunity that gave Shona her first exposure to the DRC, its people and beautiful landscapes. After 18 months with OPM, Shona joined Water Witness International, an NGO, based in Edinburgh and devoted to promoting improved water resources management. It provides services in research, advocacy, training, monitoring and investigations. Following significant restructuring of the British international aid programme by Prime Minister Johnson, it became more precarious to be dependent on this funding for work in the long-term. This spurred Shona to think about what was to come next for her. She had always considered doing a Ph.D. and had now developed an interest in the management of natural resources (a broadening out from her previous, narrower focus on water resources) in resource-poor settings.

Serendipitously, Shona spotted an advertisement for a research project on the Congo peatlands, that would give her the opportunity to pursue a doctorate at the University of Edinburgh. The findings of her research are fed into the CongoPeat Research Consortium - researchers working on the Congo's peatlands in collaboration with officials in the governments of the DRC and the Republic of Congo. The consortium's five-year research project is funded by the Natural Environment Research Council in the UK. The consortium

brings together researchers from 18 UK and Europe-based universities and research organisations and six university and civil society organisations from the DRC and Republic of Congo. It is also aided by science-policy communication specialists to communicate the project's results to policy makers and civil society leaders, in a format tailored to them, with the objective of enabling them to make wise decisions about the future of this globally significant region. The peatlands cover some 167,600 square km. – an area equivalent to just shy of half the land area of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador– and extend across the border between the DRC and the Republic of Congo. Encouragingly, in March 2018 the two countries, following the production of the first map estimating the size of the peatland forest and the amount of carbon stored in its peat soils, signed the Brazzaville Declaration, along with Indonesia, with the intent of protecting this valuable ecosystem. While Indonesia has considerable experience in conserving peatlands, it has to be recognized that oil palm production and agricultural expansion have degraded significant areas of its peatland forest, a trajectory that, if followed in the Congo peatlands, would have devastating ecological and human consequences for local people (who would likely be robbed of their customary land rights). Governance of natural resources, such as the peatlands, in the DRC is fraught with challenges, including issues related

to transparency and corruption. The DRC also has a poor track record of mobilizing income from natural resources to spur economic development in the country, though the devastating impact of the Belgian colonial period has also contributed to the current state of the DRC's economy and the governance of natural resources. Nonetheless, Shona's current research benefits from the close working relationship that the Congopeat project has established with the Ministry of the Environment in the DRC. Knowing what data the Government need to make decisions that can support the protection of the peatlands and support economic development in the peatland region helps Shona communicate her work and inspires her to generate research that has immediate value for policy makers in the DRC. This is challenging, as policy makers are faced with tough trade-offs between commitments to protect the peatlands and the pressure to use the peatlands for achieving economic development in a country that faces pervasive poverty.

In short, Shona's task is to provide a better understanding of the interplay between the peatlands and people. To elaborate somewhat, the peatlands are a complex ecosystem of peat, flora and fauna, the functioning of which scientists know far from enough. Alongside the peatlands, and dependent to varying degrees upon them, are communities of people who make their livelihoods partly from the peatlands and partly from other biomes, such as savannah grasslands and terra firme forests (forests growing on dry solid ground). Again, scientists know very little about the importance of the peatlands to the livelihoods and the cultures of local people. It is these gaps in understanding that Shona is addressing.

Shona is very cognizant of the confines of her research. She recognizes that, if the peatlands are to be protected, land right-based approaches to peatland management can be a strong starting point. However, there will need to be a devolution of power from the central government of the DRC to local communities. Right now, the central government owns all the forests in the DRC, even though customary laws at the community level are a basis of local ownership of the forest. The central government can very easily grant concessions for oil and gas exploration and logging in the peatland forest, which it has already done. However, there are some signs of positive change on this front in that recent legislation in the DRC now permits communities to apply for community forest concessions, which can give them legitimate legal rights to their customary forests. But it remains to be seen how this new legislation will contribute to the protection of the Central Congo Peatlands and to greater prosperity in the communities reliant on the peatland forest.



Shona and Ovide at the Congress in Kigali

Shona's thesis is organized around

three major chapters.

The first chapter looks at the evidence of deforestation over the last 20 years using Global Forest Change satellite data and the latest peatland extent map, produced in 2022, as the baseline area of peatland forest. Shona's study is the first to document the magnitude, scale and trends of deforestation in the peatlands. Prior to this work, the dominant thinking was that the peatland forest was largely intact and sustainably used. But today, her current understanding is that, while the forest can still be said to be sustainably used, she has been able to identify small, localized areas of more acute deforestation and she cannot say for sure whether deforestation may increase towards unsustainable levels in the future. Nonetheless, what is fairly certain is that the deforestation that is and has been occurring in the DRC's peatlands over the last twenty years is largely from local livelihood activities and reflects local customary forest management practices. The peatlands support, or partially support, some five million people, most of which are located in the DRC. Her task in this first chapter is to improve the understanding of the state of the peatland forest and the extent to which deforestation is occurring and, if so, why. As Shona observes, we know so little about the Congo peatlands compared with the Amazon forests.

Her second chapter shifts the focus to the people. Satellite-based techniques are limited in what they can tell us about social drivers of forest uses and impacts. Thus Shona is conducting an anthropological study aimed at understanding how local people use the peatland forest and how this varies from their use of, say, the savannah or terra firme

forests, upon which they also depend to varying degrees. In her six-month field visit in 2022, Shona focused on two communities. She got to know the local people well and came away with a nuanced understanding of what motivates their behaviour vis-à-vis their use of forest resources and their ultimate local impact on the forest ecosystem.

The third chapter will focus on the interplay between, on the one hand, the peatlands and other environmental factors and, on the other hand, the people and their livelihoods and culture. For example, one of the significant environmental factors influencing local livelihoods is the seasonal flooding regime. The people living in these communities have expressed concern that they are less able to predict the seasons because they have noticed changes to the dynamics of the flooding. This unpredictability is reflected in the variety of local observations of recent flooding: it is not long enough, or not deep enough, or too deep, or just too extreme. This unpredictability upsets local livelihood strategies that are finely attuned to seasonal changes, such as plans for fishing. When the benefits from key livelihood activities drop, especially an activity that generates an income for a household (like fishing does), local people seek to adapt and find new activities and resources that can form the basis of income generation. In this chapter, Shona will attempt to draw from new evidence on the hydrology of the peatlands to explore if it is possible to identify shifts in flooding patterns in recent times.

As with any Ph.D., there are a number of academic papers that have to be produced. In Shona's case, she already has drafts of the papers that will underpin her first and second chapters. The first, in collaboration with her supervisor, Professor Edward Mitchard, and fellow CongoPeat colleagues, will elaborate on findings from the satellite-based study of deforestation trends and patterns in the Congo peatlands over the last two decades. The second, in collaboration with CongoPeat colleagues and two recent Conservation Science graduates from University College London, focuses on the underlying social and environmental drivers which shape how local communities use and impact the peatlands in the DRC and the significance of this for conservation in the peatlands. The third paper will be written in collaboration with CongoPeat colleagues and Katherine Meier, at Yale University, and focus on the above-mentioned significance of environmental factors for livelihoods. Shona underscores, however, that her driving motivation is to produce a document with findings that make clear the case for action – and especially action by governments and local stakeholders.

The financial support Shona received from EDUCT enabled her to attend the International Congress for Conservation Biology, in Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2023. She had the opportunity to discuss her findings to date with people who are interested in the outcomes of her work. With the support of her supervisory team and her additional fundraising efforts, Shona was joined in Kigali by Ovide Emba, a Congolese research assistant and co-author of some of the articles she is writing based on the fieldwork they conducted in the DRC. Shona found the conference to be invaluable for receiving feedback on their work and for meeting new colleagues.

Looking to the future, post Ph.D., Shona has plenty of ideas. Not surprisingly, having spent so much time looking at the peatlands in the DRC, and coming to appreciate the diversity in settings and contexts that is found within this dynamic and heterogeneous landscape, she realizes what a thin slice of this bigger picture she

has been focusing on. So, in the near term she would like to do more work on these peatlands and, in particular, to explore how social science studies can be used to feed into longer-term monitoring of forest and societal wellbeing within the Congo peatlands. More ambitiously, she would like to enhance social science research skills in the region, attract resources for local researchers, and mobilize her research to engage with the evolving policy environment in the DRC with respect to peatland management.

EDUCT wishes Shona every success on her way to completing her doctorate and, in moving on, to enhancing the chances of a liveable planet in the longer term.

Manasa Gade is Indian and in her second year of study for her Ph.D. at Edinburgh. The working title for her thesis is "Play and Place: Intersectional Inequalities in Children's Experience of Play in Urban India". Manasa's background makes her well-suited to undertake this research.

Manasa was born in Chennai (formerly known as Madras), in Tamil Nadu, the most southerly state in India, but grew up in Visakhapatnam (more commonly called Vizag), in Andhra Pradesh, the state just north of Tamil Nadu. Her high school days were atypical for a child from an upper-middle-class family. There is a lot of pressure in such families for children to prepare themselves for pursuing a university degree in one of the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and maths). Fortunately, Manasa's parents were more interested in the overall development of their children. Manasa looks back at her time at school and observes that she did very well for someone who did not work very hard! But, yes, she spent lots of time dancing and singing

and pursuing other artistic endeavours. Thus, when it came time to go to university, she decided to pursue a combined bachelor's and master's degree for her M.A. in Development Studies at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, one of the top universities in India. There are several IITs in India and, while all offer degrees in the STEM subjects, some also offer liberal arts degrees too.

Manasa graduated in 2013 knowing what she did not want to do but, within the social sciences, not knowing exactly what she wanted to do. Thus, like so many young graduates, her first jobs were an exercise in testing the waters. Job number one was in a think-tank in Bangalore, assessing the effectiveness of a government policy designed to ensure compulsory education of all children under the age of 14. Her second job, in another think-tank, this time in Hyderabad, called for her to assess the value of innovations in the implementation of public policy (e.g., monitoring of progress towards goals). Neither of these turned her crank.

Fortunately, while at IIT Madras, Manasa had also earned a Certificate in Book Publishing from the National Book Trust. She soon became an intern at a publishing house, in Chennai, that specialized in children's books in a range of languages. After three months they offered her a full-time job. But she was feeling she should be using her degree in development studies. So she declined the offer and returned to IIT Madras to work on a research project. Well, it was not much later that she ran into her former boss and, guess what, she was rehired – as an Assistant Editor. Tulika Publishers was one of a few, small, independent publishers



Manasa Gade

of children's books that were beginning to appear in India at the time. This 'new wave' of publishers was unlike the more traditional publishers, which were producing books that were more didactic in style. This time, Manasa stayed for three-plus years, producing books that, collectively, were inclusive and representative of diverse Indian childhoods.

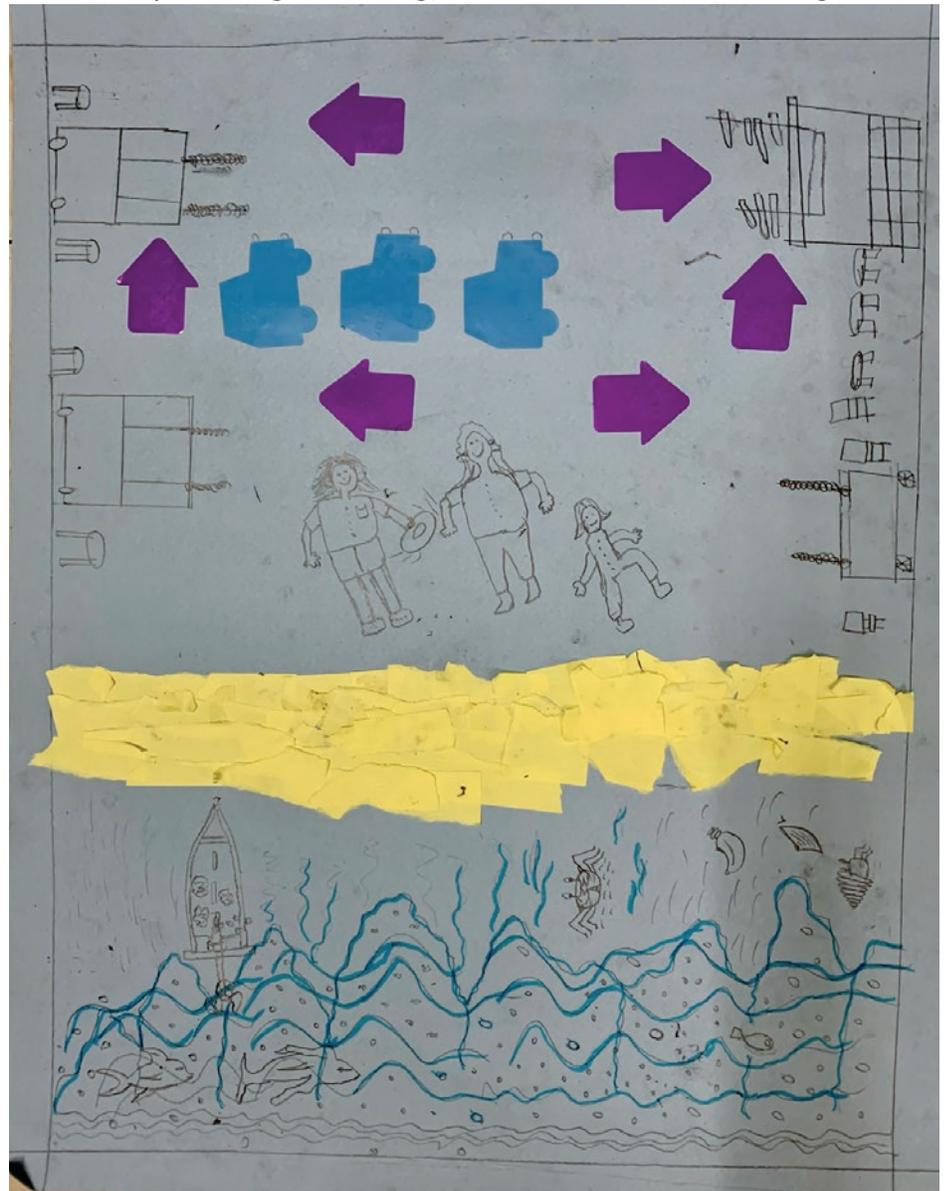
The next stop was a complete change: the University of York. Manasa had been contemplating pursuing a doctorate for some time. She had been accepted at other universities, such as Cambridge, but without a scholarship she could not take up the offer. York offered her a partially-funded place and she decided to give it a try. But she could not find the considerable extra funding required for a foreign student. So she downgraded her degree and settled for a one-year research master's degree that enabled her to explore the theme of identity and the urban experience in picture-books. In a nutshell, Manasa looked at how picture-books archive and mirror the dynamics that imbue our social environment with meaning.

Upon graduating in early 2020 Manasa returned to Tulika Publishers, this time as an Editor. At the same time, she was also serving as a Consulting Editor with an academic journal, *The Economic and Political Weekly*, published in Mumbai (formerly Bombay). She still has this job. Her role is to commission three substantial articles for the Postscript section, every fortnight, that are written in a lighter vein than those that appear in the body of the journal.

Then, just as Manasa had decided to stop applying to universities to pursue a doctorate because of the difficulties with funding, quite

serendipitously, she spotted an advertisement for a fully-funded doctoral post at the University of Edinburgh for studying children's play in urban areas in 'developing' countries. She applied and was accepted to commence her studies in September 2021. But then, before she had left for Edinburgh, she contracted Covid and, being affected quite badly, had to study online.

Finally, Manasa arrived in Edinburgh in March 2022. She already had a rough framework for her research. She wants to contribute to our understanding of the life of children in Indian cities like Chennai, and specifically to their experience of play. The lens through which she views the children she is working with is one that sees them, first and foremost, as human beings; not, as others before her have put it so pithily, as 'human becomings', or 'adults-in-training'. She is also wary of overgeneralizing, which she observes as being a



A collage made by the participants mapping out the beach and their sense of place in it: where they play frisbee and other games; kiosks selling fried fish and 'spring potato'; parked cars and traffic moving; fishing boats and marine life in the sea

characteristic of so many studies of children. This is where her emphasis on intersectional inequalities becomes important. She is looking at the interplay of a range of factors, such as geography, gender, age, and class, in various combinations. If one combines these considerations with the child's interests and activities, then one discovers that there are as many childhoods as there are children.

Manasa's first field visit, from early January to April 2023, enabled her to work with children in a marginalized, working-class, coastal community located alongside a predominantly upper-class neighbourhood in Chennai. The children were 10 to 14 in age. Understandably, they don't like the idea of completing surveys! So Manasa observed them at play, engaged them in artistic pursuits and, most importantly, involved them in conversation about their lives. Most discussions and activities were held in groups, which varied in size from three or four children to up to 20. She would get the children to talk about play, but avoided leading them. Thus most questions were open-ended. As Manasa put it, she is letting the data speak to her. She is taking her cues from the children. Surprisingly, this method of having the children lead some parts of the research has been gaining traction only in recent decades.

When I talked with Manasa she was analyzing all of her data from this field visit. Once she has an initial draft of her findings, she will return to Chennai to share her observations with the children and confirm that she has not misunderstood or misrepresented their experiences. One initial impression she touched on is that play does not have to be anything other than what is

spontaneous, that gives the child joy, that is not something that they are forced to do according to some rule book. Children in the neighbourhood were often having to juggle responsibilities. For example, they may have to go fishing at 4:00 am, but they may well see this as fun. And then there was the child who spent a few evenings each month working in his grandmother's shop. But his friends would come in to visit, and he would see this as akin to play. And for these children, helping to care for or support their families gave them considerable satisfaction and a sense of agency.

The funding that Manasa received from EDUCT enabled her to spend an appropriate amount of time conducting her field studies and she is enormously grateful for this assistance.

Not surprisingly, Manasa is not sure yet just what she may end up doing after she completes her doctorate. Yes, she does see herself continuing to be involved in publishing, and preferably for children. But she can also see herself working for an organization that advocates for children as human beings ... remember, not as human beings!

EDUCT wishes Manasa every success in completing this important study so central to understanding what it is to be human, and in whatever she decides to do thereafter. One has to think that it will be contributing to a better world for all of us, not just children.

Follow us!

Did you know that EDUCT is on Facebook and Twitter? Stay up to date with EDUCT events and news at:



www.facebook.com/EDUCToronto



@EDUCT1

How Your Final Gifts Shape Our Future - Legacy Giving to The University of Edinburgh

by Beatrix Esk

Legacies and Planned Gifts Officer, University of Edinburgh

Editor's Note: When Beatrix Esk was in Toronto last November for the University's reception, she kindly offered to write an article for EDUCT News on leaving a legacy to the University. We greatly appreciate her taking the time to prepare this article for us.

We understand many graduates of The University of Edinburgh feel a special bond and connection that extends beyond their years on campus. Time at university shapes and challenges us; hopefully your time at Edinburgh provided you with the basis for a career, invaluable knowledge, and memories that will last a lifetime. You may already make gifts to support current students or research at

the University; these gifts are much appreciated. You may or may not know there is also an opportunity to give back to the University and have a lasting impact by leaving a legacy gift through your retirement plan or will. In fact, legacies can build on your current gifts, enabling you to have an impact both now and well into the future.

Currently we have over 1,200 legacy pledgers, many of whom are alumni like you, based worldwide. Remarkably, they are of every age. The University is incredibly grateful for their meaningful support, and recognizes them as members of our Carlyle Circle, which recently celebrated its thirty-year anniversary.

The size and means of legacy contributions vary greatly, from large residual legacies that many leave as a percentage of their estate after taking care of family, to fixed monetary amounts. Gifts of stock, property and personal collections, such as art and musical instruments, are also pledged. Such donations contribute to the enrichment of academic programmes and research, cultivation of artistic and cultural activities, development of state-of-the-art facilities, and protection of historical buildings, that empower students and faculty alike.

In 2021, the [Friends of the Library](#) received a bequest via The University of Edinburgh from an alumna and her husband. In line with their interests and an active area of teaching for Heritage Collections, the legacy enabled the purchase of a rare book: Oskar Kokoschka's landmark *Die Träumenden Knaben* (The Dreaming Youths). The University was fortunate to find a copy of the original issue, published in Vienna in 1908.

Working with the Legacies team in the University's Development

and Alumni department, you can explore supporting The University of Edinburgh through a retirement account or a gift in your will. In doing so you can support an area of research or study you truly care about. Many looking to support the student experience at Edinburgh leave unrestricted legacies, which empower the University to put those funds toward the areas of greatest need. Currently, unrestricted gifts mainly support undergraduate scholarships. There could also be opportunities to support a Canadian student through our new Global Access programme.

Some of our Canadian-based legacy pledgers have been kind enough to share their thoughts and motivations around leaving a legacy to the University:

Dr. Brian Fernandes, Edmonton, graduated in medicine in 1977: "I arrived in the UK in 1972, as a refugee from Uganda. I was very fortunate to get admitted to The University of Edinburgh Medical School, and I got a world-class medical education. Leaving a legacy to the University is only a small measure to express my gratitude."
The late Professor Emeritus John Last (1926-2019), formerly of Ottawa, an honorary degree holder, a former faculty member, and former honorary member of EDUCT: "I owe a debt to the stimulating, collegial atmosphere of the University of Edinburgh, for which this gift is partial recompense. I hope it will help future scholars in public health sciences in the same way that I was helped."

Understandably, students who have benefitted from the financial support made possible through many of the legacies are enormously grateful. For many, such support has been life-changing. Declan O'Gara, a second year Ph.D. student in Philosophy,



St. Cecilia's Hall, the University's concert hall and music museum, lit up to celebrate thirty years of the Carlyle Circle



Inside Oskar Kokoschka's 1908 *Die Träumenden Knaben* (The Dreaming Youths)

supported by the Forrester Ph.D. Scholarships in Philosophy, made possible by an endowed legacy donation, told us: "I first started studying philosophy at college when I was 16. Ever since then, it is all that I have wanted to do. I decided to pursue postgraduate studies in philosophy so I could continue doing what I loved. As a first-generation, working-class student, there is little chance I would have been able to undertake a Ph.D. without the generous support the Forrester Scholarship has given me."



The Legacies and Planned Giving team at the University, from left: Beatrix Esk, Legacies and Planned Gifts Officer (and an Edinburgh graduate); Flora Fitzpatrick, Philanthropy Assistant, Legacies and Grants; and Morag Murison, Head of Legacies and Planned Giving

By including the University in your financial plans, you will play a vital role in shaping the institution's future and ensure that future generations of students benefit from a transformative Edinburgh education. Regardless of the size of your contribution, you can make a significant impact.

If you would like to discuss how you can help make a difference through a legacy, or to let us know you have already made a legacy pledge, please contact us at:

legacy-giving@ed.ac.uk or visit <https://www.ed.ac.uk/giving/legacy-giving>

Notifying us of your legacy will enable the desired impact of your gift and ensure you receive bespoke communications and invitations to our Carlyle Circle events.

Alternatively, if you live in the Greater Toronto Area and would like to discuss making a gift in the near future, you can contact Catriona Armstrong, our newly appointed Regional Development Manager, North America East Coast, at catriona.armstrong@ed.ac.uk

Reunion of 1967 Geography Graduates

by Linda Mason

Members of our Honours Geography class of 1967 have organized six formal reunions over the years, and this year we celebrated 60 years since first meeting in High School Yards. Out of the 31 in our graduating class, 12 of those who have kept in contact were able to attend. Lots of good memories and stories were shared during a splendid lunch at La P'tite Folie in Edinburgh in early September.



Photo courtesy of Lynne Farquharson

FAMOUS ALUMNI

George Ramsay, 9th Earl of Dalhousie, GCB

by Simon Miles

George Ramsay, the 9th Earl of Dalhousie, is best known for having served as the Governor-General of British North America from 1820 to 1828.

George Ramsay was born in 1770 at the family's ancestral home, Dalhousie Castle, in Midlothian. He was home-schooled by his mother before being sent to the Royal High School in Edinburgh. There is no record of exactly when he attended the University of Edinburgh, or what he studied there, but by 1788 he was already in the army. This was just after his father died (in 1787) and thus when George, until then styled as Lord Ramsay, assumed the Earldom. It was common for sons of the peerage to enter the armed forces at that time. And it was also common practice for them to purchase a commission. Dalhousie purchased a coronetcy in 3rd Dragoons. Within three years he had formed his own independent company of soldiers. He served in many campaigns in such varied places as Gibraltar (1791-92), the West Indies (1792-95), Ireland (1798), the Netherlands (1799), Egypt (1801), the Iberian Peninsula (1812-13), and Waterloo (1815). By 1813 he was a colonel and in 1830 he was made a general. However, although that sounds like a grand record, it has to be noted that the Duke of Wellington, under whom

he served in the Iberian Peninsula and at Waterloo, was, on more than one occasion, somewhat critical of Dalhousie's competence as a military commander.

Nevertheless, despite Wellington's criticism, Dalhousie was recognized and rewarded for his services by being made a Knight Bachelor in 1813 and, in 1815, being invested in the Order of the Bath and being created Baron Dalhousie, in the peerage of the UK. This last honour enabled him to sit in the House of Lords in his own right. Prior to that, as Earl Dalhousie, he could sit in the Lords as a Scottish representative peer.

Despite his extensive military missions abroad, Dalhousie was very attached to his home in Midlothian. He had married Christian Broun, of East Lothian, in 1805 and they had three sons. He appears to have wanted to spend more time at the castle. Indeed, it was partly because of the expenses he had incurred in improving his estate that, following Waterloo, he decided to become a colonial administrator.

His first post was that of Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia. He arrived in Halifax in October 1816. He was clearly committed to



Portrait of George Ramsay, 9th Earl of Dalhousie. National Portrait Gallery, Ottawa. Artist and date unknown

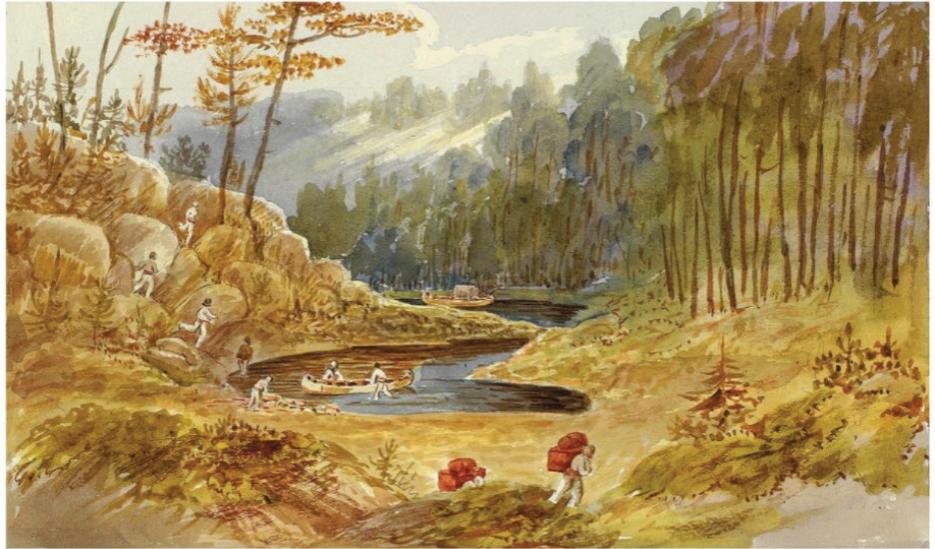
public service and wanted to understand the territory he was overseeing. He would make frequent trips into the countryside, which were recorded through the drawings and paintings of John Elliott Woolford. He tried his best to obtain more funding to improve the conditions of the black refugees from the War of 1812. But neither the legislature of Nova Scotia, nor the British government was very forthcoming. He also championed improvements in farming. On this front, he had some success in persuading the Nova Scotia legislature to fund the importing of seeds and breeding animals from Britain. He was enthusiastic in his support for the construction of roads to open up the countryside, but the legislature dragged its feet. In the trade with the US, he had another ongoing battle to fight in that, although an Anglo-American commercial agreement to facilitate trade across the border had been signed in 1818, the US proceeded to impose restrictions on access to American ports. Britain responded by declaring Halifax a free port, thus encouraging entrepôt trade and essentially

reducing the effects of the US's restrictions. However, on all these fronts Dalhousie was finding progress hard to achieve.

Yet one of Dalhousie's lasting accomplishments, which has to be of interest to Edinburgh alumni, was his founding of Dalhousie College. Seemingly, he had been paying attention when studying at the University of Edinburgh. When it came to advancing higher education in Nova Scotia, Dalhousie saw the need for a college that would, like the University of Edinburgh, be based on the principles of religious tolerance and universal access. He called upon George Husband Baird, the then-Principal of the University of Edinburgh, to advise on the structure of teaching, etc. Professors were to teach courses in classics, mathematics, moral philosophy and natural philosophy (today's physics). The foundation stone for the college was laid in 1820, a few weeks before he left Nova Scotia to take up his new post as Governor-General of British North America. However, again, progress was slow. It would not be until 1838 that the College opened its doors to students. Its first years were painful. It closed several times before reopening as Dalhousie University in 1863.

Dalhousie left Nova Scotia conscious of the difficulties of getting the residents to act in the public interest. Perhaps because he was an aristocrat, he expected to be listened to and obeyed. His relations with the legislature had often been strained. But compared to what he was about to encounter, he had actually had a relatively easy time administratively.

Dalhousie's new post, as Governor-General of British North America, meant that he would be based in Quebec City. At that time, the Governor-General was expected to represent the monarch, both in British North America and in



Portage at Lake Nippising, painting by John E. Woolford, 1821, showing Dalhousie's expedition portaging at what is now North Bay

Lower Canada, although the Governor-General had the power to appoint a Lieutenant-Governor for the task of administering Lower Canada and generally such an appointment had been made. When Dalhousie arrived in Quebec, Francis Burton was already serving as Lieutenant-Governor and he continued to do so until 1832, well after Dalhousie's departure in 1828. However, it has to be noted that, although Burton had held this office since his appointment in 1808, he had not set foot in Nova Scotia until 1822, and then he remained there only until 1825.

Arriving in Quebec City in June 1820 Dalhousie was struck by the poverty, the squalor in the streets, and the poor condition of his official quarters at the Château Saint-Louis. He decided to spend £5,000 of his own money to purchase new furniture, but clearly it was not sufficient to allay his concerns that the lack of an impressive residence, and the lack of patronage to recognize merit and public service, were handicapping him in his new role. He and his wife preferred to spend time at the official country retreat - a tiny cottage in the settlement of William Henry (now Sorel).

Dalhousie again championed improvements in farming. He bought several parcels of land for this purpose. On some he was successful, on others not. He also founded the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec in 1824 in the hope of encouraging more open thinking

Are you a fan of Scottish writing?

Do you enjoy reading novels and non-fiction by Scottish authors? How about books about Scotland or Scots?

If so, EDUCT would welcome your views and opinions for publication in EDUCT News. Please contact the EDUCT News Editor, Simon Miles at simon-miles@sympatico.ca.

than was prevalent in the Catholic Church. And, again, he promoted the building of roads and canals to strengthen military defences and open up lands for development. On this last front, his greatest contribution was the launching of the construction of the Rideau Canal. He managed to convince the legislature of Lower Canada and the British Government to fund it, arguing that it would not only be useful as a safer line of communication than the St. Lawrence River, being further removed from the border with the US, but that its construction would provide plenty of employment for the many immigrants arriving every year.

Immigration policy, or the lack of it in any coherent form, was a particular concern of Dalhousie. He was openly critical of the British Government's subsidizing of immigrants from the UK. He saw plenty of willing immigrants and thus he recommended instead that the money should be spent on constructing housing and other facilities to make life more tolerable for the new immigrants. He was particularly concerned that too many of the 10,000 or so immigrants arriving each year were destitute Irish who immediately became a burden on the charity and goodwill of local residents. He actively encouraged more settlement in easily serviced locations such as the Baie des Chaleurs on the Gaspé peninsula, as opposed to southern Upper Canada which was exposed to attack from Americans. He also wanted to see more encouragement of settlement in the far west, which was becoming increasingly vulnerable to incursions by the Americans. More generally, he questioned much of what drove land administration which he saw as unsupportive of the new immigrant settlers who wanted above all to be able to own a plot of land into which they could

invest their sweat equity.

In addressing these and other issues of the time, Dalhousie was very conscious of his role as representative of the monarch and the need to uphold the royal prerogative. There was a constant challenging of his powers by the legislative assemblies. This was particularly acute in Lower Canada and it was obviously taking its toll on Dalhousie's health and sense of well-being. By June of 1824 he decided to take some leave in Britain, partly to deal with issues relating to his eyesight, and partly to improve the management of his estate in Scotland. While he was away, Dalhousie had entrusted Burton with the running of the office of the Governor General. Burton took the opportunity to ingratiate himself with the leaders of the legislative assembly of Lower Canada by providing them with access to sources of revenue that rightly belonged to the Crown. News of this reached Dalhousie in early 1825, while he was still in Britain. In his initial meetings with Earl Bathurst, the Secretary at the Colonial Office, Dalhousie convinced Bathurst that this move by Burton would be precedent setting. Burton was censured for his actions. But Burton managed to summon others to argue his case and Bathurst eventually ended up siding with him. Dalhousie was furious and returned to Quebec City in September 1825. Burton left for Britain and never returned.



Dalhousie Castle, west front. After 8 centuries serving as the ancestral seat of the Ramsay family, the castle was sold in the early 20th century. It is currently a hotel.

However, the net effect was that Burton had undermined Dalhousie's authority and the legislative assembly continued to make demands on the Crown. Dalhousie was not a happy man.

Fortunately, in 1828 Dalhousie was appointed as Commander-in-Chief, India. That is, he would command the army in India. He left Quebec in September 1928 and spent time in England trying to correct the findings of an unsupportive report of an investigation, by British Ministers and Parliament, on the governance of Lower Canada. He made little headway on this front. He decided to leave for India in July 1829. He was headquartered primarily in Calcutta. He found the heat overbearing and, despite finding some comfort in Shimla, in the cooler hill country, decided to retire in 1832 due to his ill-health. Apart from his commencing the suppression of the Thuggee murder cults, which would by 1870 put an end to this very nasty movement that had been part of Indian life since the 14th century, he accomplished little of note in India.

His retirement at Dalhousie Castle was not a happy one. His health was deteriorating rapidly. He decided to spend some time in France and Germany in 1833 but returned home in the following year. He ended up becoming blind and senile and died on 21 March 1838. His wife died on 22 January 1839.

Some writers have judged him to be unsuited to the role of Governor-General of such a turbulent country as British North America at that time. However, in fairness, he was ever striving to improve the well-being of the citizenry. As the representative of the monarch and of the British Government in British North America, he saw it as his duty to uphold the royal prerogative and oppose the efforts of the members of the legislative

assemblies to erode that prerogative. He was critical of the constitutional structure in light of the colony's needs. That, however, is not a debate that is easily brought to any satisfactory conclusion.

As alumni of the University of Edinburgh, we should be appreciative of his having established Dalhousie University, modelled on our alma mater.

Editor's Note: EDUCT acknowledges the value of the following in compiling this profile: Dictionary of Canadian Biography; and, Wikipedia

BOOKS

The Future of the Professions

by Victoria Crewe-Nelson

Richard Susskind and Daniel Susskind, The Future of the Professions: How Technology Will Transform the Work of Human Experts (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022, 592 pp., Ppbk.) ISBN: 9780198841890 \$14.50 at Indigo or Amazon in Canada. Also available as an e-book.

Why is there a book on my desk?

"Helen? Why is there a book on my desk?"

My assistant pops her head around the door. "Dan brought it over. He wants you to read it for the strategy meeting."

Oh. I can feel my interest waning. It's not a gift. It's homework.

I'm now looking at this new book on my desk with disfavour. I have just taken out 8 books from the library. Those books involve rogue agents, vampires, and domestic staff with dark secrets. I do not think *The Future of the Professions: How Technology Will Transform the Work of Human Experts*, by Richard Susskind and Daniel Susskind, is going to fit in with how I had planned to spend my weekend. This is not a fun book. This is the broccoli of books ("you'll like it – it's good for you"). I'm feeling very hard done by.

I take it home and stare at the back. The quotes on there are from *The Economist* ("*undoubtedly right*"), the *Financial Times* ("*remorselessly effective*") and the *Times* ("*expert, original and witty*"). Hmm. Well, at least the *Times* is giving me some hope that this won't put me to sleep. I finally read the summary. It seems to be about how technology will lead to professionals being replaced. Great. Now I know the problem won't be falling asleep – it'll be having night terrors after reading this.

Maybe I'll just read one chapter of the Lee Childs book first ...

No, I know, I'll take a page from this book I haven't read yet, and use technology.

"Alright, ChatGPT, summarize 'The Future of the

Professions’.”

The authors argue that emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and automation, will significantly disrupt traditional professions by automating routine tasks and providing more efficient and accurate solutions. They predict that professions will undergo a transformation where human professionals will collaborate with technology to deliver better services.

The book highlights the potential benefits of these changes, such as increased access to affordable services, improved quality, and reduced costs. However, it also raises concerns about the displacement of human professionals and the need for them to adapt and acquire new skills to remain relevant in the changing landscape. They suggest that professionals should embrace technology and become “knowledge engineers” who design and manage systems that deliver expertise to clients in a more efficient and accessible manner.

Hmmm ... OK, this actually sounds kind of interesting. But I’m not sure if I’m willing to commit the weekend to it yet. What if I put off reading my library books and I don’t even get anything worth discussing at my strategy meeting on the future of law?

“Alright, ChatGPT,” [*Why do I start my questions the same way? Wouldn’t ChatGPT still answer me even if I don’t address it by name?*] **“give examples of lawyers as knowledge engineers.”**

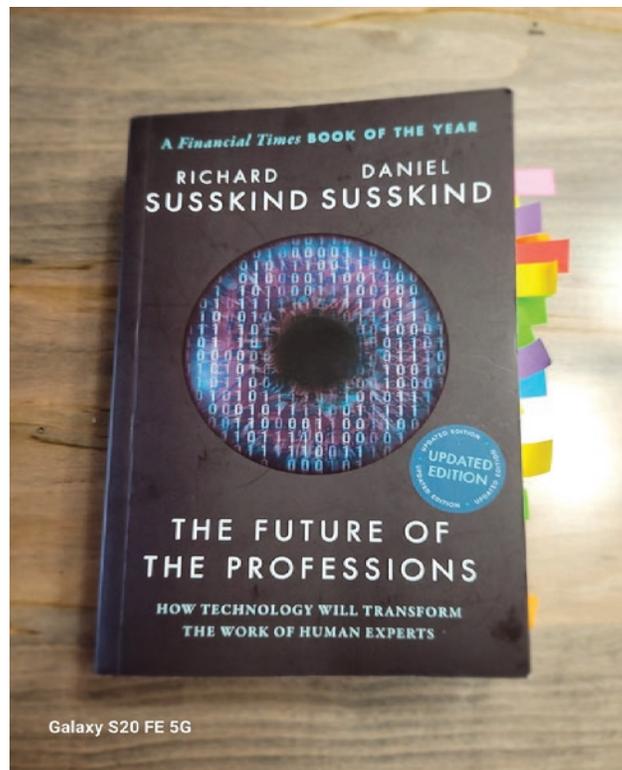
Well, ChatGPT wasn’t fooling around. It gave me seven examples ranging from legal researchers, to contract

managers and legal analysts. This sounds a bit too good. I don’t know why I was hesitating. This sounds like technology is going to open up great opportunities for the professions and I should definitely start reading this book.

“ChatGPT,” [*sorry, I can’t stop myself from using the full name every time*] **“what risks are there for lawyers acting as knowledge engineers?”**

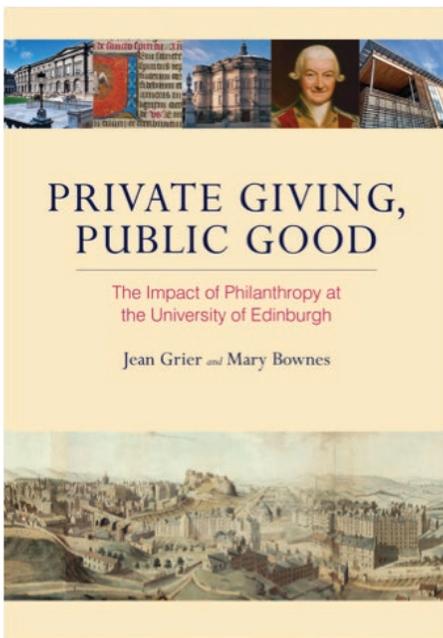
Ahhh ... The other shoe drops. From ethical concerns, to liability and errors, biases and algorithmic fairness, loss of human connection and job displacement, I learn that I’ve jumped on the “Yay, technology!” bandwagon too soon.

OK. ChatGPT. You’ve done a great job preparing me for this book, but it looks like I’m actually going to have to go ahead and read it.



Galaxy S20 FE 5G

By the time I make it into the strategy meeting the next week, I’ve got the book marked up with dozens of brightly coloured tabs, there are highlights and pencil notes on almost every page and I’ve typed up 10 pages of opportunities and concerns for lawyers in the future. Did I go overboard? Well, yeah, because that’s what I always do. But, somewhere along the way, something changed. I went into this thinking of this only as homework, but now this book is distorting the way I think. I’m now looking at every stranger on the subway, and every person I meet and thinking about how technology will change their careers. I can’t think of one job that won’t be fundamentally changed if the authors are right. Will this mean people become underutilized floating blobs like in Wall-E? I’m beginning to doubt my core beliefs. Why do we hold “expertise” as something that is special and limited to chosen professions instead of trusting that expertise can be trusted to things or rules? Will society benefit from greater access to this expertise? How do we start preparing young



A SPECIAL OFFER TO EDUCT MEMBERS

Would you like to own a copy of the latest book on the University of Edinburgh?

Jean Grier and Mary Bownes, Private Giving, Public Good: The Impact of Philanthropy at the University of Edinburgh, (Edinburgh: University of Edinburgh Press, 2014), 224 pp., £30.

EDUCT would like to make it possible for every member to own a copy of this magnificent book on our University. We have arranged for a slight discount to be offered to members. Just how much we can offer off the market price of £30 depends on our shipping costs. If you would like to purchase a copy, or if you are planning to visit Edinburgh soon and can help with the transport of a few copies at no charge, please contact Simon Miles at 416-466-8793 or simon-miles@sympatico.ca.

For a review of the book, see EDUCT News, September 2014, p.19.

professionals now for this new way of working? Why does my brain hurt while I'm thinking about all of this?

Before I have a full existential crisis, I still have to make it through the strategy meeting. Prepared with all of my notes, I go to the meeting ready to strategize the hell out of how technology will disrupt the future of law and everything we know. And I immediately learn that the 400 pages scared off most of the others from reading it. What? Only five of us read it? I ask the others if they tried ChatGPT as a starting point, and they all look at me like I've reached a new level of uber nerd that they hadn't known previously existed. It doesn't bother me. I realize that I'm kind of proud of the fact that I used technology to look at this book in a new way. This seems very meta and apt to me. And I also know that by actually *reading* the book, I was able to apply my own interpretation to it. Is the book perfect? No. It takes a hot topic and makes it accessible, but it also glosses over a lot of aspects that are supposed to scare us about technology, security and privacy. Even though it's only recently been reissued, the book failed to predict just how quickly AI would completely upend education and the job market. But I like that the book explains what the professions have historically done well: offering work that is stable, intellectually challenging and well-paying. The father and son Susskind duo warn that if the professions don't adapt, they are going to find that technology has thrown open the doors and our secrets are out. A lot of what drives sales in law, accounting, engineering, marketing and other professions is the belief that the work we do is too difficult or complicated for people to do on their own. When the answers to everything are available at the press of a button, how will the professions still provide something that is useful to clients? It makes me think about the way we provide services, and how people will demand services be performed. There are so many scary aspects to this and opportunities to better the lives of people, and these all feel like they are just around the corner.

While I don't necessarily buy into everything in the book, I absolutely believe that a lot of it is coming true. After I reflect on the hits and misses in the *Future of the Professions*, I decide that I'll keep the things I learned from this book in mind as I plan for myself, my clients and my family. In fact, I'm going to start right now.

"OK, ChatGPT, how should I plan for the future?"

Treasurer's Report

Our Treasurer reports that EDUCT's accounts, as of 31 August 2023, show a balance of \$11,335.38.

Do you know of other Edinburgh alumni in Toronto?
Please pass this newsletter on to anyone
who might be interested

Friends of EDUCT

Friends of EDUCT are recognized by virtue of the generosity they demonstrated when, as non-members, they donated to the University of Edinburgh through an EDUCT-initiated special fund.

Carlyle Circle Members in Canada

EDUCT wishes to acknowledge the generosity of alumni and friends of the University of Edinburgh who have decided to leave a bequest to the University in their wills. They are recognized by the University as Carlyle Circle members. We extend our gratitude to each of them. If you are a member of the Carlyle Circle or know of such members, you are encouraged to contact us.

Honorary Members of EDUCT

Recipients of Honorary Degrees from the University of Edinburgh who reside in Canada are invited to become Honorary Members of EDUCT.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual membership fees are \$35 and are due in January of each year.

The fees can be paid to our Treasurer, Fiona Tompkinson, by INTERAC e-transfer, via educt.treasurer@gmail.com. For payment by cheque please contact Fiona at the same e-mail address, or by phone at 416-728-4254, to make arrangements.

Your promptness in this regard greatly lightens the load on our volunteer Board and is thus much appreciated. Thank you, in advance, for your payment.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sarah Tulley, President, (exchange student 2005-06), 416.476.9575
sarahetulley@gmail.com

Fiona Tompkinson, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, (M.Sc. 2001), 416-728-4254
fibruce@gmail.com

Simon Miles, Past President and Editor of EDUCT News, (M.A. Hons 1962), 416.466.8793
simon-miles@sympatico.ca

Paul Bradley, Past President and Communications, (B.Sc. Hons 1982), 416.464.9771
pauljfrbradley@gmail.com

Graham Ferguson, Immediate Past President, (B.Sc. Hons 1975), 416.605.7074
graham@ppdeng.com

Chris Valley Ban, Past President, (M.Sc. 1990), 416.489.2011
chrisban@bell.net

Anna Voineskos, Director-at-large, (B.Arch. 1970), 416-826-6655
avoineskos@bell.net

Are You On Our List?

We know of over 240 alumni in the Toronto area. As of 30 September 2023, we have 168 members, most of whom are in the Toronto area. If you would be interested in joining EDUCT, please do not hesitate to contact the EDUCT President or the Club Treasurer.

EDUCT News is published three times a year in January, May and September. Please send submissions or ideas for articles to the Editor: simon-miles@sympatico.ca

Our thanks go out to:
Alex Sayers Web Solutions for graphic design and layout.

Follow us!

Did you know that EDUCT is on Facebook and Twitter? Stay up to date with EDUCT events and news at:



www.facebook.com/EDUCToronto



@EDUCT1