

# LEGALIZING MARIJUANA IN CANADA: POLICY CHALLENGES

IHSP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

April 26 & 27, 2018

Montreal, Quebec

# IHSP2018

# MarijuanaPolicy



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## /// MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the 2018 Annual Conference of McGill's Institute for Health and Social Policy!

The mandate of the Institute For Health and Social Policy is to promote policy-relevant research on issues that are important for population health. The research conducted at the Institute is premised on the belief that the social determinants of health and well-being are complex. Sometimes, policy decisions that we make in areas that are apparently far afield from health narrowly construed end up having an enormous impact on important health policy objectives, such as the reduction of health inequities.

The legalization of marijuana in Canada, set to be enshrined in law and policy later this year, represents an important occasion for precisely the kind of multidisciplinary approach that the IHSP has adopted since its creation in 2006. The decision to legalize marijuana was taken by the Federal government in part because of the deleterious health impacts of the present regime of criminalization. However, the regulation of legal marijuana is a complex affair. Many things need to go right in order for legalization to attain its desired effect. How should we distribute and price marijuana in order to counteract the illegal trade? How does legalization risk impacting different communities, presenting different levels of vulnerability and risk? How will Canada's international obligations affect our ability to design policy that is in the best interest of all Canadians?

These, and many other questions, need to be answered in order to arrive at policy that will actually promote the well-being of Canadians. They will be at the heart of the discussions that we will be having over the course of the two days that we will be devoting to the myriad issues raised by the momentous policy step that Canada is about to take.

Daniel Weinstock  
Director, Institute for Health and Social Policy

## /// MESSAGE FROM CO-CHAIR

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The pledge to legalize marijuana was buried deep inside the Trudeau Liberals' 2015 election platform, attached as the last item in a section entitled "Keeping Canadians Safe." Its policy stablesmates included a new strategy for preventing and prosecuting domestic abuse, a rebalancing of the post 9/11 tradeoffs between freedom and security, and a tightening of our gun laws. This is just to point out that from the start, legalization was understood as a serious business that touched on matters relating to health, crime, and public safety. The libertarian notion that the state might have no business in the ashtrays of the nation takes a back seat to the overarching mission to reduce the harms that arise out of the current regulatory regime.

Canada is one of the first countries, certainly the first federation, to attempt to legalize marijuana at the national level. This is an enormously complex undertaking and the stakes could not be higher. Given this, it is not just important that we get it right for domestic reasons, it is also worth keeping in mind that the world will be watching to see what we get right, and what might go wrong. Thanks to the support of McGill Queen's University Press, we will be publishing a book of essays based on this conference that should stand as one of the definitive examinations of this most ambitious of policy initiatives.

In the meantime, enjoy what promises to be a rich and stimulating conference.

Andrew Potter  
Associate Professor, McGill Institute for the Study of Canada

## /// ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### IHSP

Emma Shiroma-Chao, Communications Coordinator

### McGill Institute for the Study of Canada

Alexandra Tselepi, Conference & Event Coordinator

### McGill University

David Eidelman, Dean of Medicine and Vice-Principal (Health Affairs)

Robert Leckey, Dean of Faculty of Law, Full Professor Samuel Gale Chair

Tasha Ayinde, Associate Director, Administration Centre 3

Valérie Black St-Laurent, Continuing Legal Education Coordinator

Jason Clement, Communications Officer, Faculty of Medicine

Lysanne Larose, Web Communications Editor, Faculty of Law

Cynthia Lee, Senior Communications Officer, Media Relations Office

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Frank Elgar, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology

Nick King, Associate Professor, Biomedical Ethics

Alana Klein, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law

Kristin Voigt, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy

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## /// PROGRAM: DAY ONE (Moot Court)

8:30 a.m.

**Conference Registration**

9:00 a.m.

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**Bill Blair**, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and to the Minister of Health

9:30 a.m.

**GLOBAL DRUG POLICY REFORM:  
THE ROLE OF MARIJUANA**

**PLENARY SPEAKER:**

**Ethan Nadelmann**, Founder & Former Executive Director (2000-2017), Drug Policy Alliance

10:30 a.m.

**Coffee Break**

10:45 a.m.

**HEALTH OUTCOMES OF LEGALIZATION**

**SPEAKERS:**

**Van Butsic**, Assistant Specialist, University of California, Berkeley

**Kia Faridi**, Assistant Professor, McGill University

**Gabriella Gobbi**, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry

**Vardit Ravitsky**, Associate Professor, Université de Montréal and  
**Jonathan Zaid**, Founder, Canadians for Fair Access to Medical Marijuana

**François Gagnon**, Scientific advisor, INSPQ

**PANEL CHAIR:**

**Frank Elgar**, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, McGill University

12:45 a.m.

**Lunch**

1:45 p.m.

## POLITICS OF MARIJUANA IN A FEDERAL SYSTEM

### SPEAKERS:

**Malcolm Bird**, Associate Professor, The University of Winnipeg

**Michael DeVillaer** Assistant Professor, McMaster University

### PANEL CHAIR:

**Elsbeth Heaman**, MISC Interim Director, Professor, History and Classical Studies

2:45 p.m.

## HARM REDUCTION PART 1

### SPEAKERS:

**Hannah Hetzer**, Senior International Policy Manager, Drug Policy Alliance

**David Hammond**, Professor, University of Waterloo

### PANEL CHAIR:

**Kristin Voigt**, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, McGill University

3:25 p.m.

## Coffee Break

3:40 p.m.

## HARM REDUCTION PART 2

### SPEAKERS:

**Serge Brochu**, Scientific Director, Institut universitaire sur les dépendances, Université de Montréal

**Akwasi Owusu-Bempah**, Professor, University of Toronto

**Alana Klein**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, McGill University

### PANEL CHAIR:

**Kristin Voigt**, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, McGill University

## /// PROGRAM: DAY TWO (Moot Court)

8:00 a.m. **Registration**

8:30 a.m. **MARIJUANA REFORM IN URUGUAY: CHALLENGES, OBSTACLES AND BEYOND**

### PLENARY SPEAKER:

**Leonardo Costa Franco**, Esq., Partner, Brum & Costa

9:30 a.m. **ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF LEGALIZATION PART 1**

### SPEAKERS:

**Stephen Easton**, Professor of Economics, Simon Fraser University and Senior Fellow, the Fraser Institute

**Allison Christians**, Stikeman Chair in Tax Law, McGill University

**Anindya Sen**, Professor, University of Waterloo

### PANEL CHAIR:

**David Wright**, Department Chair, History and Classical Studies, McGill

10:30 a.m. **Coffee Break**

10:45 a.m. **ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF LEGALIZATION PART 2**

### SPEAKERS:

**Tahira Rehmatullah**, Managing Director, Hypur Ventures

**Cam Battley**, Chief Corporate Officer, Aurora

### PANEL CHAIR:

**David Wright**, Department Chair, History and Classical Studies, McGill

11:45 a.m. **DECISION MAKERS**

### SPEAKERS:

**Chief Gina Deer**, **Chief Rhonda Kirby**, **Eric Doucet**  
Mohawk Council of Kahnawake

**Sue Montgomery**, Borough Mayor, Côte-des-Neiges – Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

**Honourable Vernon White**, Senator & Former Police Chief

### PANEL CHAIR:

**Mylene Riva**, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, McGill

1:05 p.m. **Lunch— Sponsored by AURORA**

2:00 p.m. **INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES**

**SPEAKERS:**

**Magdalena Cerda**, Associate Professor, University of California at Davis

**Roojin Habibi**, University of Ottawa

**Caitlin Hughes**, Dr, Senior Lecturer, University of New South Wales

**Hanan Kolko**, Shareholder and Director, Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein

**PANEL CHAIR:**

**Andrew Potter**, Associate Professor  
McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, McGill University

3:40 p.m. **Coffee Break**

4:00 p.m. **A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH AS A BASE FOR  
DRUG POLICY: THE PORTUGUESE CASE - MORE  
THAN JUST DECRIMINALISATION!**

**PLENARY SPEAKER:**

**João Augusto Castel-Branco Goulão**, Director-General,  
The General-Directorate for Intervention on Addictive  
Behaviours and Dependencies (SICAD)

## PLENARY

### Leonardo Costa Franco



**Attorney-at-Law, Partner**  
Brum & Costa

Mr. Leonardo Costa Franco's area of practice is tax, corporate and banking law, as well as counseling to capital market and financial entities on compliance with regulations and prevention of money laundering. IDB advisor in the consultancy services to the Uruguayan Government on tax reform (2005) and for several Governments in Centro America. Deputy Chief of Staff of the Presidency of Uruguay (1999 through 2005) in charge of the Executive Branch legal advice, author, co-author and reporting member of bills on taxes, telecommunications, copyright, state purchases and prevention of money laundering and the fight against terrorist financing. He represented the country before international organizations in the fields of taxes, the fight against drugs, corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing (representative before CICAD, OAS, the UN CTC, Chairman of Gafisud, representative of Uruguay before the OECD Global Forum on Taxation, etc.). He was a member of the Joint Commission on Trade and Investment between Uruguay and the United States of America. He was also chair of the National Drug Council of Uruguay. He was a member of the tax departments of Ferrere Abogados and Pricewaterhouse Coopers Uruguay (1992 - 1999). He was a legal and social consultant for the United Nations Development Program, the IDB and several foreign governments in his areas of specialization.

## PLENARY

### João Augusto Castel-Branco Goulão



**Director General**, The General Directorate for Intervention on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies (SICAD)

He is currently the Portuguese Drugs and Alcohol National Coordinator and Director General of the Intervention on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies General Directorate (SICAD), the body within the Health Ministry responsible for the policy coordination in this field. He was Chairman of the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) from 2009 to 2015 and he has a long experience in addictions field at international level. A medical doctor by profession, Dr. Goulão has over 20 years' experience regarding drug-related issues, working in this field since 1987 as general practitioner and since then all his professional life has been devoted to drugs and health. He was also a member of the Portuguese Committee which, in 1999, prepared the report on which the first Portuguese Drug Strategy was based and that included decriminalization proposal.

## PLENARY

### Ethan Nadelmann



Photo credit: Gage Skidmore

**Founder & Former executive director (2000-2017)**  
Drug Policy Alliance

Described by Rolling Stone as "the point man" for drug policy reform efforts and "the real drug czar," Ethan Nadelmann is widely regarded as the outstanding proponent of drug policy reform both in the United States and abroad. He founded and directed (from 2000 to 2017) the Drug Policy Alliance.

Ethan was born in New York City and received his BA, JD, and PhD from Harvard, and a master's degree in international relations from the London School of Economics. He then taught politics and public affairs at Princeton University from 1987 to 1994, where his speaking and writings on drug policy attracted international attention. He has authored two books on the internationalization of criminal law enforcement - *Cops Across Borders* and (with Peter Andreas) *Policing The Globe* - and his writings have appeared in most major media outlets in the U.S. as well as top academic journals (e.g., *Science*, *International Organization*), policy journals (*Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Washington Quarterly*, *Public Interest*) and political publications from the right (*National Review*) to the left (*The Nation*). He is interviewed frequently by media, including *The Colbert Report*, *The O'Reilly Factor*, *Real Time with Bill Maher*, and news programs on all the major U.S. networks as well as dozens of networks elsewhere. His TED Talk, delivered at TEDGlobal in Rio de Janeiro in October 2014, has more than 1.5 million views, with translations into 28 languages.

Ethan currently serves on the advisory board of the Open Society Foundation's Global Drug Policy Project (GDPP) and as an advisor to the Global Commission on Drug Policy. He has played a key role as drug policy advisor to George Soros and other prominent philanthropists as well as elected officials ranging from mayors, governors and state and federal legislators in the U.S. to presidents and cabinet ministers outside the U.S.

## WORDS OF WELCOME

### Bill Blair



**Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and to the Minister of Health**

Raised in Scarborough, Bill served 39 years with the Toronto Police Service, the largest municipal police service in Canada, and the last decade as its Chief of Police from 2005 to 2015.

Bill has demonstrated his ability to unite and engage others through his numerous roles in provincial, national, and international policing forums. He served as President of both the Ontario and Canadian Associations of Chiefs of Police, receiving the distinction of Commander of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces. Internationally, he served as the Vice President of Major City Chiefs Association and on the executive of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. He was honoured in 2013 by the Canadian Tamil Congress for his leadership and tremendous service to the people of Toronto.

Bill is dedicated to many social causes, having worked with some of Toronto's most respected and effective community and public health organizations, such as Covenant House, the United Way, and the Children's Aid Society of Toronto. He is the proud recipient of the 2011 Beth Shalom Brotherhood Humanitarian Award. Bill served on the Board of Directors of the Scarborough Hospital Foundation.

Bill served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada from December 2015 to September 2017. He has also been the Government of Canada's point person on the legalization and strict regulation of cannabis.

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

## Cameron Battley



**Chief Corporate Officer**  
Aurora

Cam Battley is the Chief Corporate Officer at Aurora Cannabis, a producer of medical cannabis and cannabis oils under license from Health Canada. He is responsible for business development, external communications, investor relations, government relations, and medical and patient stakeholders. Cam is also a member of the Board of Directors of Cannabis Canada, the trade association of Licensed Producers, and Chair of the Advocacy Committee for the Association. He previously served as Vice President for licensed producer Bedrocan Canada. With a background as a health sector management consultant, he combines experience in government, health care NGOs, and the biopharmaceutical industries.

Malcolm Bird is an Associate Professor of political science at the University of Winnipeg.

His academic research focuses on the evolution of state-owned enterprises in Canada and the “modernization” of their operational and governance regimes. He is currently working on a book on the modernization of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) as well as examining the evolution of a number of state-owned banks. He is particularly fascinated by the interactions between administrative organizations and their political masters.”



**Malcolm Bird**

**Associate Professor**  
The University of Winnipeg

## Serge Brochu



**Scientific Director**, Institut universitaire sur les dépendances  
Université de Montréal

Dr. Serge Brochu Ph.D. is currently the Scientific director of the Addiction Research Institute and professor emeritus at the School of Criminology of the Université de Montréal where he served in various administrative roles including Director of the Centre international de criminology compare, Vice-Dean of Management and Human Resources, and Vice-Dean of Professorial Affairs in the Faculty of Arts and Science, Executive director of the International Forum of Public Universities and associate vice president for research, creation and innovation. His research spans the topics of addiction trajectories, impact of the treatments of addiction as well as relationships between drugs and crime.

Van Butsic is an Assistant Cooperative Extension Specialist and Adjunct Professor at UC Berkeley in the department of Environmental Science Policy and Management where he conducts research on land system science, fire and forest policy, land use planning, and coupled human and natural systems. He holds a PhD in Forestry and MS in Agricultural and Applied Economics both from the University of Wisconsin - Madison, and a BA in economics from Reed College. [luclab.berkeley.edu](http://luclab.berkeley.edu)



**Assistant Specialist**  
University of California, Berkeley

**Van Butsic**

## Magdalena Cerdá

**Associate Professor**  
University of California at Davis



Magdalena Cerdá is the Vice Chancellor's Chair in Violence Prevention, and an Associate Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine, at the University of California, Davis. Dr. Cerdá obtained her doctorate in Social Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health and completed a postdoctoral fellowship through the Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars Program. In her research, Dr. Cerdá integrates approaches from social and psychiatric epidemiology to examine how social and policy contexts shape violent behavior, substance use and common forms of mental illness. Her research focuses primarily on two areas: (1) the causes, consequences, and prevention of violence; and (2) the social and policy determinants of substance use from childhood to adulthood. Dr. Cerdá is conducting research on the health consequences of marijuana legalization in the United States and South America.

Allison Christians teaches and writes on national, comparative, and international tax law and policy. She focuses especially on the relationship between taxation and economic development; the role of government and non-government institutions and actors in the creation of tax policy norms; and the intersection of taxation and human rights. She has written numerous scholarly articles, essays, and book chapters, as well as editorials, columns, and articles in professional journals, addressing a broad array of topics, and has been named one of the "Global Tax 50" most influential individuals in international taxation. Recent research focuses on evolving international norms of tax cooperation and competition; the relationship between tax and trade; and evolving conceptions of rights in taxation. Professor Christians also engages on topics of tax law and policy via her *Tax, Society, and Culture* blog and on Twitter (@profchristians)



**Allison Christians**

**H. Heward Stikeman Chair in the Law of Taxation**  
Faculty of Law, McGill University

## Chief Gina Kanietahawi Deer

**Council Chief**  
Mohawk Council of Kahnawàke



Gina Kanietahawi Deer has been a Council Chief for six years, currently serving her second term in office. She currently holds the Economic Development, Policing, and Gaming portfolios among her many responsibilities.

Previously, she worked for 12 years as a Mohawk Peacekeeper (police officer) upon graduation from École Nationale police academy. Before that she spent several years working as an Administrative Assistant at the Kateri Memorial Hospital Center. She is also a business owner.

Notable among her activities and interests: she is a former kick-boxer and football player. Gina is married, with six children and seven grandchildren.

Mike DeVillaeer is currently a part-time Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster University. He is also a faculty associate at McMaster's Centre for Medicinal Cannabis Research and at the Peter Boris Centre for Addictions Research at McMaster University and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton.

Mike has enjoyed a diverse career as a clinician, a teacher, and a policy analyst with The Addiction Research Foundation and The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). He has made substantial contributions to addictions curriculum in undergraduate medical education at McMaster and has played a leadership role in two province-wide medical school initiatives. He has been a recipient of the John C. Sibley Award for Excellence in Health Sciences Research and Education at McMaster. Mike's current interests include epidemiology of drug problems and drug policy.



**Michael DeVillaeer**

**Assistant Professor**  
McMaster University

## Eric Doucet



**Legal Counsel** for the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke

Eric Doucet, member of the Barreau du Québec since 2012, is a Legal Counsel for the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK). Aside from his other legal advisory and litigation work for the MCK, Eric has participated in the development of a legal framework on cannabis for the Mohawk Territory of Kahnawà:ke in preparation for the impending legalization. Eric has also played an integral role in the negotiations with various licensed and pre-licensed cannabis companies who wish to partner with an Indigenous community. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from McGill University, as well as a Juris Doctor and Licence en Droit from the University of Ottawa.

Stephen Easton joined the Department of Economics at SFU in 1975. He received his A.B. from Oberlin College, and his M.A. and Ph. D. from the University of Chicago. He has had visiting appointments at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business; the Department of Economics of the University of Rochester; and l'Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris. Professor Easton teaches international trade/finance and economic history. Current research interests include the economics of education, sports economics and the economics of crime with a particular emphasis on marijuana. A more complete and up to date CV is available at <http://www.sfu.ca/~easton/>

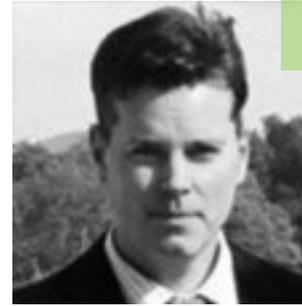


## Stephen Easton

**Professor of Economics**

Simon Fraser University and Senior Fellow, the Fraser Institute

## Frank J. Elgar



**Associate Professor**

Department of Psychology, McGill University

Frank Elgar (BA, MSc, Memorial; PhD, Dalhousie) is an associate professor of psychiatry at McGill University's Institute for Health and Social Policy where he holds the Canada Research Chair in Social Inequalities in Child Health. He previously worked in university and government settings in Canada and the UK, including the Cardiff Institute for Society, Health and Ethics, Welsh Assembly Government, University of Manitoba, and Carleton University. He is a child psychologist by training and a co-investigator of the WHO Health Behaviour in School-aged Children study, which supports his research on poverty, school violence, and adolescent mental health.

Dr. Faridi is an assistant professor of Psychiatry at McGill University. He completed a fellowship examining impact of co-occurrence sustained marijuana use in patients suffering from a first-episode of psychosis, and lectures on the epidemiological links between marijuana use and psychosis as part of the McGill Summer Program on Social and Cultural Psychiatry.

**Assistant Professor**  
McGill University

## Kia Faridi

## François Gagnon



**Scientific Advisor**  
Institut national de santé publique du Québec

François Gagnon has been working as a scientific advisor for the Institut national de santé publique du Québec for the last eleven years. His primary field of work is in public policies pertaining to psychoactive substances. He has worked on matters such as safe injection services, low threshold housing, community access to naloxone and others. For the last two years he has worked on the cannabis legalization process, supporting the Ministry of health and social services of Québec and the regional health authorities of the province in the development of the distribution system.

Dr Gobbi's laboratory is interested in understanding the causes of mental diseases and in the discovery of new treatments for them. In particular, her laboratory is studying the short- and long-term effects of cannabis use in mood and anxiety and the potential beneficial effects of the drugs acting on the endocannabinoid system (endogenous cannabis) in the cure of mental diseases. Her laboratory is also studying the effect of melatonin in mood, anxiety, and sleep regulation in an effort to understand how novel selective ligands for melatonin receptors (called MT1 and MT2 receptors ) can be used to treat seasonal depression, major depression, sleep disorders, and other neuropsychiatric conditions. The laboratory approach spans from bench to bedside, bridging the gaps between the fundamental and clinical research. The techniques employed in the laboratory include in vivo electrophysiology, behavioural pharmacology, and neurochemistry.



**Gabriella Gobbi**

**Associate Professor**  
Department of Psychiatry McGill University

## Roojin Habibi



**Juris Doctor (J.D.) candidate** at the University of Ottawa  
Faculty of Law

Before her legal studies, Ms. Habibi specialized in global health, defending her Masters of Science thesis on comparative pharmaceutical regulation at McMaster University. In 2015, Ms. Habibi began examining the international legal barriers to domestic cannabis legalization under the supervision of Dr. Steven Hoffman, Director of the Global Strategy Lab and Professor of Global Health, Law and Political Science at York University. Forthcoming in the Ottawa Law Review, this analysis has been considered by the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health, international academic conferences as well as news and media outlets.

Over the past six years, Ms. Habibi has collaborated extensively with scientists in Canada, Australia and France, publishing her research in scholarly journals across the disciplines of law, health policy and medicine. In her final year of legal studies, she is cross-specializing in transnational and international law at the University of Geneva.

Professor and CIHR Applied Chair in Public Health in the School of Public Health & Health Systems at the University of Waterloo. Professor Hammond's research focuses on population-level interventions to reduce chronic disease, including in the areas of tobacco control policy, food and diet, as well as harm reduction and drug policy. He works closely with governments around the world and has served as an Advisor for the World Health Organization. He also serves as an Expert Witness in court cases, primarily on behalf of governments defending health regulations from legal challenges by the food and tobacco industries. His research has been recognized by awards from CIHR, the Canadian Cancer Society, the Canadian Medical Association, the Royal Statistical Society of Canada, and the World Health Organization.



**David Hammond**

**Professor**  
University of Waterloo

## Elsbeth Heaman



**Interim Director**, McGill Institute for the Study of Canada

**Professor**, Department of History and Classical Studies,  
McGill University

A native of BC, Elsbeth Heaman holds degrees in history from McGill University and the University of Toronto. She worked at Imperial College of Science, Technology, and Medicine in London and Queen's University in Kingston before coming to McGill University in 2003. She has published extensively on Canadian history, with interests ranging widely across the history of politics, economics, medicine, and culture. Her most recent book is *Tax, Order, and Good Government: A New Political History of Canada 1867-1917* (MQUP 2017).

Hannah Hetzer is senior international policy manager at the Drug Policy Alliance, based in New York. She serves as DPA's liaison for Latin American and broader international issues, closely following, supporting and informing developments in drug policy reform in the region. Hetzer spent 2013 in Uruguay, working on the campaign that made it the first country in the world to legalize marijuana.

Hetzer received her bachelor's degree in Economics, Politics and International Studies from the University of Warwick (UK) and has previously worked with the Latin America Unit of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Americas Division at Human Rights Watch, and the Human Rights Foundation.

Hetzer's interest in drug policy stems from her concern about the dire consequences of the war on drugs in Latin American countries and has been magnified since learning about the myriad negative effects of punitive drug policies on human rights globally.



**Hannah  
Hetzer**

**Senior International Policy Manager**  
Drug Policy Alliance

## Caitlin Hughes



**Senior Lecturer**

University of New South Wales

Dr Hughes is a criminologist and Senior Research Fellow at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre. She works as part of the multi-disciplinary Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP) which seeks to improve Australian drug policy by identifying what works, translating research evidence and engaging directly with policy makers. Dr Hughes' prime focus is improving understanding of the effects of different legislative regimes and law enforcement approaches, and the role of law enforcement relative to other aspects of drug policy.

Projects include: the impacts of the Portuguese decriminalisation of illicit drug use; mapping out police and criminal justice diversionary policies throughout Australia; identifying optimum policing responses for responding to MDMA and determining legal thresholds for serious drug trafficking offences. Other interests include analysing the policy processes by which drug policy reform occurs.

Rhonda Kawenanoron Kirby has served her community as an elected Council Chief for four consecutive terms since 2006. She holds several portfolios, including Education, Labor, Health and Transport. She completed her BA in Education at Concordia University in 1982 and subsequently worked as a Kindergarten teacher for 12 years. This was followed by a 12 year stint as a founding member of the Kahnawà:ke Schools Diabetes Prevention Project. She is well known as a volunteer for various causes and continues to participate on various boards and fundraising committees.



**Council Chief**

Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke

**Chief Rhonda  
Kirby**

## Alana Klein



**Associate Professor**  
Faculty of Law, McGill University

Alana Klein is an Associate Professor at McGill University's Faculty of Law, where she is co-convenor of the McGill Research Group in Health and Law. She teaches and researches in the areas of criminal law, health law, and human rights. Principal themes in her research include the relationship between criminal law and health, harm reduction, and the role of marginalized groups in shaping and informing law and governance. Professor Klein received a J.S.D. from Columbia Law School in 2011, and earned LL.B. and BCL degrees from McGill University's Faculty of Law in 2002. Prior to joining McGill's Faculty of Law, she was a law clerk to Justice Louise Arbour of the Supreme Court of Canada, a senior policy analyst with the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, and a member of the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

Hanan Kolko is an attorney with Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein. He is the chair of the firm's cannabis practice group. The firm represents people and business enterprises involved in the cannabis industry, including one of the original five New York State license holders. Mr. Kolko has given numerous continuing legal education presentations on cannabis law issues, including presentations on legal ethics and cannabis, the New York State medical cannabis law, bankruptcy issues for cannabis businesses, and RICO law and cannabis. He is a graduate of Cornell University and the University of Michigan Law School.



**Hanan  
Kolko**

**Shareholder and Director**  
Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein

## Sue Montgomery



**Borough Mayor**  
Côte-des-Neiges – Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

Sue Montgomery is a well-known social justice activist and former experienced reporter with The Montreal Gazette. Reducing traffic jams, improving road safety, improving access to quality housing and protecting green spaces are among the top issues Sue wishes to address as borough mayor. She has raised her family in NDG.

Akwasi Owusu-Bempah BA (Carleton) MA, PhD (Toronto) is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Toronto, Mississauga. Dr. Owusu-Bempah's work focuses on the intersections of race, crime and criminal justice, with a particular interest in the area of policing. His current projects include: a study of Black males' perceptions of and experiences with the police in Greater Toronto Area (including the experiences of both civilians and police officers); and an examination of representations of Blackness in Canadian print media. He is also studying various aspects of cannabis legalization in Canada. His research has recently been published in Policing and Society, Crime and Justice, and Theoretical Criminology.



**Akwasi  
Owusu-  
Bempah**

**Professor**  
University of Toronto

## Andrew Potter



### Associate Professor

McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, McGill University

Andrew Potter is an associate professor at the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada. He is the former editor in chief of *The Ottawa Citizen* and was a long-time public affairs columnist for *Maclean's* magazine. He is a former professor of philosophy at Trent University in Peterborough, and he has also taught at the University of Toronto and the University of Quebec at Montreal. He is the author of *The Authenticity Hoax: How We Get Lost Finding Ourselves* and the co-author of the best-selling book *The Rebel Sell: Why the Culture Can't be Jammed*.

Vardit Ravitsky, PhD, is Associate Professor at the Bioethics Programs within the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine of the School of Public Health at the University of Montreal. She is also Director of the Ethics and Health Branch of the CRE, an interuniversity research center in ethics (previously the CRÉUM: Centre de recherche en éthique de l'Université de Montréal).

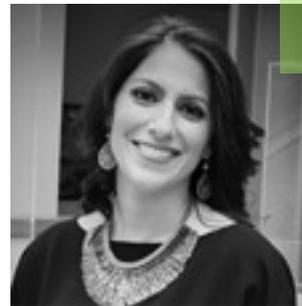
Prof. Ravitsky's research focuses on reproductive ethics and the ethics of genetic and genomics research. Her research interests in bioethics also include research ethics, health policy and cultural perspectives. She is particularly interested in the various ways in which cultural frameworks shape public debate and public policy in the area of bioethics. Her research projects are funded by CIHR, FRQSC, SSHRC, and Genome Canada. She published over 100 articles, book chapters and commentaries on bioethical issues, and is lead-editor of "The Penn Center Guide to Bioethics".

Associate Professor  
Université de Montréal



## Vardit Ravitsky

## Tahira Rehmatullah



### Managing Director

Hypur Ventures

Tahira serves as MTech Acquisition Corp's Chief Financial Officer and is a Managing Director of Hypur Ventures, where she is responsible for portfolio company management and investment sourcing and execution. She is also a Director of Dope Media, a cannabis media company and portfolio company of Hypur Ventures. Tahira has been named one of the most powerful women in the cannabis business by Fortune Magazine and Complex, and is passionate about developing female and minority leadership in the industry.

Prior to joining MTech and Hypur Ventures, Tahira served as General Manager of Marley Natural, where she was responsible for the brand's launch and managing day-to-day operations of the company, and was an Investment Manager at Privateer Holdings. Before venturing into cannabis, Tahira was a Portfolio Manager at City First Enterprises managing CFE's community development investment portfolio, and an associate at Perry Capital where she led research initiatives for the asset-backed securities team. Her career began in Ernst & Young's Financial Services Advisory practice.

I am a health geographer and population health researcher. My research is concerned with the social and environmental determinants of Indigenous Peoples' health and well-being. I am involved in conducting population health surveys and population health intervention research projects to assess and monitor the impacts of policies, programs, and projects formulated outside the health sector on the health of Indigenous Peoples and communities, with a focus on housing programs and policies, and mining development projects.



Assistant Professor, Department of Geography  
McGill University

## Mylene Riva

## Anindya Sen



**Professor**  
University of Waterloo

I am deeply interested in understanding the effects of government intervention and policy on the efficiency of markets and overall societal welfare. I have attempted to evaluate the effects of market structure and competition on retail prices in the gasoline and electricity markets. My research has also focused on assessing the empirical impacts of a wide variety of policies, such as stricter impaired driving laws, mandatory seatbelt legislation, cigarette taxes, and the minimum wage.

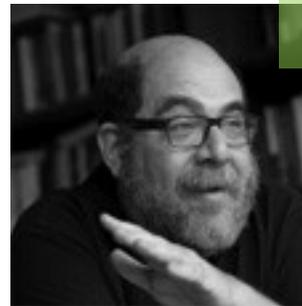
Kristin Voigt is an Assistant Professor, jointly appointed in the Institute for Health and Social Policy and the Department of Philosophy. She received her DPhil in political philosophy from the University of Oxford and has held post-doctoral positions at McGill, Harvard, Lancaster University and the European College of Liberal Arts. Kristin's research focuses on egalitarian theories of distributive justice and the links between philosophy and social policy. Her recent and ongoing projects address issues such as conceptions and measures of health and health inequality; the use of incentives to improve health outcomes; (childhood) obesity; higher education policy; and smoking and tobacco control.



**Kristin Voigt**

**Assistant Professor**, Department of Philosophy  
McGill University

## Daniel Weinstock



**Director**, Institute for Health and Social Policy

**Professor**, Faculty of Law, McGill University

Director of the McGill Institute for Health and Social Policy and James McGill Professor at the McGill Faculty of Law. A graduate of McGill and Oxford (DPhil in philosophy), he studied under Charles Taylor, and at Harvard University, he also studied under John Rawls. Previously a Professor of Philosophy at the Université de Montréal, he held a Canadian Research Chair on Ethics and Political Philosophy. He was also the director of the Research Centre on Ethics at Université de Montréal (CRÉUM) for many years. His main research interests at present have to do with the problem of health equity, and with issues of justice and inclusion as they arise in the organization of modern cities. He is a prize fellow of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation (2004), and a recipient of the André-Laurendeau Prize. He was awarded the 2017 Charles Taylor Prize for Excellence in Policy Research by the Broadbent Institute.

Senator White has worked with the RCMP, moving through the ranks from Constable to Assistant Commissioner and has served in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Ontario and spent almost 19 years in the three northern territories. Worked for the Durham Regional Police Service and the Ottawa Police Service in the role of Chief of Police between 2005 and 2012. Has been an Adjunct, visiting or part-time professor at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Charles Sturt University, the University of Ottawa, Carleton University, Simon Fraser University, Royal Roads University and as a visiting fellow at the Australian Institute of Police Management. Has extensive background at the investigational/supervisory and Indigenous and Community Policing level over a 31 year policing career. Has extensive experience in all avenues of policing, administrative, managerial and investigational.



**Senator & Former Police Chief**

**Honourable Vernon White**

## David Wright



**Professor and Canada Research Chair, Department Chair**  
History and Classical Studies, McGill University

David Wright is Professor of History and Canada Research Chair in the History of Health Policy. He received his BA and MA in History from McGill University and his DPhil (in History) from the University of Oxford. As a post-doctoral research fellow at Oxford he specialized in the history of health and medicine before being appointed Wellcome Trust Lecturer in the History of Medicine at the University of Nottingham. In 1999, David returned to Canada to become the Hannah Chair in the History of Medicine at McMaster University, a cross-appointment between the medical school and the History department (1999-2011). David recently returned to McGill and has a cross appointment in the Department of History. He has two areas of research expertise: the history of mental disorders (including the history of mental hospitals); and, secondly, the transnational migration of physicians in the second half of the twentieth century.

Jonathan Zaid is Founder and Executive Director of Canadians for Fair Access to Medical Marijuana (CFAMM) and a part-time Knowledge Integration student at the University of Waterloo. At the age of 14 in 2007, he was diagnosed with New Daily Persistent Headache, a rare neurological condition that causes constant head pain and insomnia.

After trying all available interventions to no avail, Jonathan finally gained some relief from medical cannabis. In 2014, Zaid was among the first to successfully advocate for medical cannabis insurance coverage and helped eliminate the fees Ontario-based physicians were charging patients for cannabis authorizations. In an effort to build on his work, Jonathan founded CFAMM to further improve the rights of Canadian medical cannabis patients.

### Founder

Canadians for Fair Access to Medical Marijuana



**Jonathan Zaid**

## /// NOTES

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L'Institut des politiques sociales et de la santé McGill

1130 ave des pins ouest

Montreal, QC, H3A 1A3

514-398-1236

**[www.mcgill.ca/ihsp](http://www.mcgill.ca/ihsp)**

[admincoord.ihsp@mcgill.ca](mailto:admincoord.ihsp@mcgill.ca)

