

**CENTRE FOR PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION AND SOCIAL ETHICS (CPRSE)  
ANNUAL REPORT  
APRIL 2012**

*Prepared by Lambert Zuidervaart for the ICS Senate and Board meetings, May 10-11, 2012*

This report summarizes the activities of ICS's research centre during the past twelve months (May 2011-April 2012), sketches plans for the future, and reflects on what we have accomplished since the recommendation to establish a research centre was adopted by ICS's Senate and Board in May 2010.

EVENTS

- *CPRSE Gala Launch*, October 22, 2011. This was a very successful event. Ticket sales and table sponsorships covered all of our expenses, provided complimentary tickets for staff, faculty, junior members, and featured guests, and generated additional revenue to support the work of the research centre. We had a full and appreciative house—120 attendees on the evening, of whom 111 were able to attend the banquet. Seating arrangements and preparations in advance ensured a good interchange between ICS regulars and new guests. Both the special music and the inaugural address drew many appreciative comments. The address can be read or viewed at [www.icscanada.edu/research](http://www.icscanada.edu/research).
- *Social Justice and Human Rights Conference*, April 27-28, 2012. This is CPRSE's first partnered, cross-sectoral conference in which research and public outreach embrace. We have been successful in lining up a rich program of speakers and related events. We have secured a very good partner (Emmanuel College, which is providing the venue), several conference sponsors, and new sources of funding. Thanks to a Public Outreach grant from SSHRC, we are planning to extend the reach of this event through a professionally made conference video and session summaries prepared by three research assistants. As of April 18, 122 people have registered for the conference (including presenters and conference workers), out of a maximum potential of 150. Ticket sales for the public lecture by Nicholas Wolterstorff the evening of April 27 are picking up. Full details about the conference can be found at the conference website developed by Daryl Kinsman and Lyle Clark: <http://conference.icscanada.edu/>.
- *Toronto Interfaculty Colloquium*. We launched this new forum in February 2011. It brings together faculty from ICS, Toronto School of Theology, and the University of Toronto to discuss the latest faculty research in philosophy, theology, and the humanities and social sciences. We held four sessions in 2011-12:
  - October 12, 2011: Robert Sweetman (ICS), "Storytelling as Mode of Persuasion and Inquiry in Dominican Rhetorical Theory of the Mid-Thirteenth Century."  
Commentator: Michèle Mulchahey (Leonard Boyle Chair in Manuscript Studies, Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, U of T)
  - November 23, 2011: Robert Gibbs (Director, Jackman Humanities Institute and Professor of Philosophy, U of T), "Ethics of Commands, Narratives, and Laws."  
Commentator: Joseph Mangina (Professor, Systematic Theology, Wycliffe College).

- February 15, 2012: Mario D'Souza (Dean of Theology, University of St. Michael's College), "Philosophers of Education: Jacques Maritain, Bernard Lonergan, and the Question of Classicism." Commentator: Doug Blomberg (ICS).
- March 21, 2012: John Berkman (Associate Professor, Moral Theology, Regis College), "The Ethical Architecture of Adolf Loos: A Historical-Cultural Analysis." Commentator: Rebekah Smick (ICS).

## PROJECTS

- *Truth Matters*. Last summer we completed the revisions to the conference volume *Truth Matters: Knowledge, Politics, Ethics, Religion* and, at the invitation of editor Kyla Madden, submitted the entire revised manuscript for review at McGill-Queens University Press. The reports from the press's external readers have been very favorable, and we expect to hear any day now whether MQUP will publish this volume, CPRSE's first major publication project.
- *Partnership Grant*. I completed and submitted a Partnership Grant Letter of Intent (LOI) application to SSHRC on February 13 and received official notice that SSHRC had received it. The first-stage request is for \$20,000 to help us develop a second-stage request for \$1,006,500. The partners in this submission, in alphabetical order, are the Centre for Jewish Studies (U of T), Emmanuel College, the Jackman Humanities Institute (U of T), and the VU University Amsterdam. If we receive our first-stage request and are invited to submit a formal second-stage application, that will require extensive work over the summer and fall of 2012—the submission deadline is November 1, 2012.
- *Emmanuel College*. For the past year ICS has been in discussion with Emmanuel College about ways in which we can collaborate, especially in connection with the research centre. Michael Bourgeois, Tom Reynolds, Bob Sweetman, and I met last summer to begin work on a framework statement, which was subsequently drafted by Tom and Bob as the "Case for Formal Collaboration Between ICS and Emmanuel College," approved by both faculties, and endorsed by ICS's Senate and Board Executive. We held a social gathering for the two faculties in February 2012, and more recently Chris Gort, Ron Kuipers, and I met with Michael, Tom, and Mark Toulouse to talk about specific ways in which we can collaborate around the research centre. Negotiations will continue through the summer, with a view to a formal agreement next fall or winter (with the timing dependent on the outcome of the SSHRC Partnership Grant LOI). (CPRSE and ICS are talking about partnership and collaboration with other schools and units as well—see Chris Gort's President's Report.)
- *Governance*. As I explained in my Annual Report last year, it would be premature to propose a governance structure before we have had more extensive discussions with potential partners in the research centre such as Emmanuel College and the VU University Amsterdam. In the interim we are using the Leadership Team and a modified Library and Scholarship Committee, which reports to ICS's Academic Council, as the two governance bodies to oversee CPRSE's activities and plans.

## FUND RAISING AND FRIEND RAISING

- *Co-Sponsors and Potential Partners*. Thanks to our efforts surrounding the Social Justice Conference and the SSHRC Partnership Grant, we have attracted interest, collaboration, and potential partnerships in research from a number of schools and organizations this year,

including those listed below (in alphabetical order). The list of other possible collaborators is just as long.

- Centre for Jewish Studies, U of T
- Christian Reformed Church in North America, especially its Office of Social Justice
- Emmanuel College of Victoria University in the University of Toronto
- Jackman Humanities Institute, U of T
- The King’s University College and its Micah Centre
- The Ridd Institute for Religion and Global Policy, University of Winnipeg
- Toronto School of Theology
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
- VU University Amsterdam
- *New Support.* The research centre has begun to receive new support from major donors, institutional co-sponsors, and granting agencies—totaling about \$66,000 to date in the current fiscal year (i.e., since July 2011), plus in-kind support valued at approximately \$8,500, or nearly \$75,000 in total.
- *Grant Writing.* We have begun an institutional grant-writing program, having submitted five grant applications on behalf of ICS and CPRSE during the current academic year, as follows.

Agency	Type of Grant	Date of Submission	Request	Result
Reid Trust	Justice Conference	9/28/11	12,000	5,000
SSHRC	Public Outreach Grant, Justice Conference	11/29/11	41,699	31,699
SSHRC	Letter of Intent,* Partnership Grant	02/13/12	20,000 (1,006,500)*	TBA
Jackman Humanities Institute	Program for the Arts, for Art Talks!	04/11/12	5,000	TBA
John Templeton Foundation	Online Funding Inquiry*	04/16/12	(1,325,000)*	TBA

\*These are two-stage grant programs where one must be invited to submit a formal application.

In addition, Ron Kuipers (\$224,990) and Shannon Hoff (\$66,065) have submitted SSHRC Insight Grant applications for a combined total of \$291,055 over three years.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

- *Web.* Over the summer Daryl Kinsman and Lyle Clark redesigned the research centre’s web page and designed a new CPRSE weblog called *Ground Motive* (see <http://www.groundmotive.net/>). After launching the blog in late August, we decided in November to dedicate it to the topics of the Social Justice conference before and immediately after the conference, and we hired Allyson Carr to be the blog’s moderator. It has seen steady traffic and deserves wider exposure and participation.
- *Gala and Conference.* Many of our efforts in communication have supported the organizing and publicizing of the gala launch in October and Social Justice Conference in April—e-mail and phone calls with conference presenters, sponsors, and affiliated organizations; publicity sent to supporters, churches, schools, and professional organizations; press releases to religious, public, and commercial media; and items in Channel 229 and *Perspective*. The

result has been increased exposure for ICS and strong participation in CPRSE's public outreach events.

- *Videos and Interviews.* Daryl Kinsman regularly interviews me for publication in *Perspective*, and he has created and posted two short interview videos on the conference website. We are also producing two professionally-made videos at the time of the Social Justice Conference: a short promotional video about ICS created by FICS Board member Luke Seerveld and facilitated by Daryl; and a ten-minute conference video created by Kevin White (who produced the *Songs of Love and Sorrow* video), facilitated by Allyson Carr. I am giving general direction for these two video projects.
- *Western Tour.* I accompanied colleague Rebekah Smick and Junior Member Rebecca Tait on a tour of Edmonton, Calgary, and the Vancouver area to present the *Songs of Love and Sorrow* video. The primary purpose of my trip was fund raising and donor relations. I spoke about the work of CPRSE and ICS at each of the presentations, not only during events for ICS supporters but also at the Banff Centre in Alberta and at Regent College in Vancouver. An abbreviated report on this trip, previously distributed to ICS faculty, staff, and Board members, is available upon request.

#### PERSONNEL

- *Assistant Director.* Last May we hired Lyle Clark on a one-year, half-time contract to be CPRSE's first Assistant Director. Lyle has worked three days a week, with a focus on event planning, publicity, and organization (Toronto Interfaculty Colloquium, gala launch, and Social Justice Conference) and on web-based communication.
- *Research Assistants.* Allyson Carr and Matt Klaassen are on the Conference Planning Committee and have done much work related to the Social Justice Conference. Allyson and Ronnie Shuker have served as the first two moderators of the *Ground Motive* blog. Ronnie also serves as editor of ICS's *Perspective* magazine.
- *Director.* I announced last fall that I plan to step down as CPRSE's founding Director when I begin my six-month sabbatical in July 2012. A process and job description were created to find my replacement, and ICS's Professional Status Committee has interviewed and recommended Ron Kuipers for this position.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

As part of the SSHRC Partnership Grant LOI application, I prepared a five-year plan for the research centre from 2012-13 through 2016-17. The intent during this time is to implement a governance structure, address staffing and space needs, secure long-term funding, and put every area of programming in place. The five-year plan includes two years (2012-14) to establish the Centre's governance structure and launch the Centre's first multi-year collaborative research project, and three years after that (2014-17) to begin the rest of the Centre's programs and to secure long-term funding. The Partnership Grant sought from SSHRC will provide crucial support during the last four years (2013-17) of this plan. The chart below summarizes the five-year plan.

Year	Governance and Administration	Programming and Services
2012-2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership agreements completed.</li> <li>Governing Council established.</li> <li>CPRSE space secured, furnished.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New annual public lecture series established.</li> <li>First collaborative research project solicited.</li> <li>Graduate &amp; postdoctoral fellowships posted.</li> </ul>
2013-2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First endowment campaign begins.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public lectureship (also every year hereafter).</li> <li>Research Team (RT) 1, first fellowships begin.</li> <li>Cross-sectoral conference offered.</li> <li>Program for visiting scholars posted.</li> </ul>
2014-2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governing Council conducts two-year review of CPRSE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second collaborative research project solicited.</li> <li>RT 1 leads interdisciplinary seminar.</li> <li>Second fellowships begin.</li> <li>Conference volume prepared for publication.</li> <li>First visiting scholar arrives.</li> </ul>
2015-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership agreements renewed.</li> <li>New partners considered.</li> <li>First endowment campaign ends.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second research team convenes.</li> <li>RT 1 leads cross-sectoral conference.</li> <li>Third fellowships begin.</li> <li>Second visiting scholar arrives.</li> </ul>
2016-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governing Council conducts two-year review of CPRSE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RT 2 leads interdisciplinary seminar.</li> <li>Third collaborative research project solicited.</li> <li>Fourth fellowships begin.</li> <li>Third visiting scholar arrives.</li> <li>Conference volume prepared for publication.</li> </ul>

This chart indicates three major programmatic activities for 2012-13:

- Establishing a new annual public lecture series: Tentatively titled “Religion, Scholarship, and Public Life,” this series will recall ICS’s previous “Christianity and Learning” lectures, but it will involve interreligious speakers and partners (e.g., Centre for Jewish Studies at U of T).
- Soliciting the centre’s first collaborative research project: Ron Kuipers has proposed a three-year project titled “Religion as Conversation Starter” for a \$225,000 SSHRC Insight Grant, and I have wrapped his project into a larger project titled “Religion in Public: A Cross-Disciplinary Conversation” and proposed this for John Templeton Foundation funding that would total \$1,325,000. Depending on the responses we get, we may already have our first project, and it would simply need to be developed and implemented.
- Posting graduate and postdoctoral fellowship opportunities: We need to craft a framework for these fellowships before posting them next fall or winter.

Other projects for 2012-13 include:

- Organizing and offering four or five sessions of the Toronto Interfaculty Colloquium.
- Preparing book launches for William Sweet and Henk Hart’s *Responses to the Enlightenment* and possibly for the *Truth Matters* volume.
- If there is sufficient interest, developing a partnered cross-sectoral conference on “Economic Justice” with The King’s University College and possibly the Christian Labour Association of Canada and other co-sponsors, to be held in Alberta in 2013-14.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

We have made significant strides since May 2010, when the Senate and Board approved the recommendation to establish a research centre at ICS. Research has a new position and prominence within ICS's three-fold mission, and its reciprocal links with teaching and public outreach have become stronger and more tangible. The collective shape of our research efforts has acquired a sharper definition, newly organized around interdisciplinary philosophy, interreligious dialogue, and social ethics. We have reaffirmed our commitments to collaboration among researchers and to dialogue with other scholars and a wider public, including ICS's graduates and supporters. And we have attracted interest, collaboration, and potential partnerships, initiated an institutional grant-writing program, and organized new ways to communicate about the work of ICS.

CPRSE faces four significant opportunities and challenges in the next several years:

- To forge formal partnership agreements with dynamic and compatible institutions
- To secure permanent long-term funding that takes pressure off ICS's operating budget
- To launch collaborative multi-year research projects as the programmatic hub for CPRSE's activities and events
- To establish a suitable governance structure that both recognizes ICS's important stake in this venture and encourages meaningful participation by our institutional partners

These are good challenges to have, and I am confident that we can meet them.

Let me end on a personal note. I came to ICS forty years ago to study under the mentorship of Dr. Calvin Seerveld. My graduate studies at ICS set the direction for my life's work as a Christian scholar. ICS has been my intellectual and spiritual home ever since. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve in this truly transformational community of learning, first as a Senator and Chancellor, then as a Senior Member, and most recently as the founding Director of its new research centre. I am confident that this fledgling centre will grow strong wings under the care and leadership of my colleague Ron Kuipers. And I am most thankful for the support my efforts have received from Research Assistants Allyson Carr, Matt Klaassen, and Ronnie Shuker; from Assistant Director Lyle Clark; from ICS's students, faculty, staff, and Leadership Team; from ICS's Senators and Board members; from many colleagues at other schools; and from the gifted graduates and faithful supporters who make our work possible. I also want to thank Joyce Recker, my partner for life, who has been with me every step along the way. May all of us flourish under the rainbow of God's love.

Blessings,

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