

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES CONFERENCE **FALL 2019**

CASH
RULES
EVERYTHING
AROUND ME

September 18 – 19, 2019

FEATURING

Dr. Neal DeRoo
Dr. Gerda Kits

Dr. Leah Martin-Visscher
Dr. Arlette Zinck

   #ISfall19
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THE
KING'S
UNIVERSITY

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 18

8:30	Welcome Table and Coffee/Tea outside Gym	
9:00	Opening	
9:15	Buying Happiness <i>Dr. Neal DeRoo</i>	ROOTS
10:15	Break	
10:30–11:45	Breakout Sessions	LEAVES
11:45–12:45	Lunch	
1:00–2:15	Intro to I.S. (all first-year students) Workshops (second and third-year students) (see list and room locations on page 9)	ROOTS LEAVES
2:30–3:30	Meet with faculty markers (see lists at registration table for room assignment)	
EVENING PUBLIC LECTURE		
7:00	Idols at IKEA: The Gospel of Consumerism <i>Dr. Neal DeRoo (N102)</i>	

Thursday, September 19

9:00	Opening & Keynotes Consumer Power: How Your Wallet Helps Shape the World <i>Dr. Gerda Kits</i> Your money or your life! Can we understand (and accept) the cost of prescription drugs? <i>Dr. Leah Martin-Visscher</i> A Value Proposition for the Liberal Arts <i>Dr. Arlette Zinck</i>	STEM
10:15	Break	
10:30–11:45	Breakout Sessions	LEAVES
11:45–12:45	Lunch	
1:00–1:30	Change: Where Do I Start? <i>Dr. Neal DeRoo</i>	LEAVES
1:30–2:15	Panel Conversation <i>Dr. Neal DeRoo, Dr. Gerda Kits, Dr. Leah Martin-Visscher, Dr. Arlette Zinck</i>	STEM
2:30–3:30	Discussion Sections	

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

For full session descriptions see pages 5–8.

1	Capitalism at the Cross: A Cost-Benefit Analysis of Christian Discipleship <i>Paul Cumin</i>	N208
2	Whose Money Is It Anyway: Should Private Schools Get Public Dollars? <i>Dr. Robert (Bob) Bruinsma</i>	N209
3	Overdressed: At What Cost? <i>Daniel Mathui</i>	N210
4	Not Business as Usual <i>Dr. Gordon Preston</i>	N120
5	A World Without Money? <i>Dr. Mark Sandle</i>	N109
6	You're not Using Apps . . . Apps are Using You <i>Dr. Amy Feaver</i>	N118
7	A Mathematician Reflects on Counting and Value <i>Dr. Remkes Kooistra</i>	N111
8	Make a Difference TODAY! Voluntourism, "Poverty Porn," and Using Our Wealth to Help – or Hurt – the Poor <i>Jonathan Nicolai-deKoning</i>	N108
9	The Lucrative World of Human Trafficking <i>Jessica Brandon</i>	N110
10	Simplifying the Money Conversation <i>David van Berkel, Rob Drost, and Ryan Van Niejenhuis</i>	N119
11	Your Money, or Your Life? The Real Secret to Happiness <i>Mark Anielski</i>	N102
12	Big Pharma, Big Problems, Big Questions <i>Dr. Leah Martin-Visscher</i>	L116

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Dr. Neal DeRoo is Canada Research Chair in Phenomenology and Philosophy of Religion and Professor of Philosophy at the King's University in Edmonton. He is the author of many publications on religion and contemporary European philosophy, including *Futurity in Phenomenology* (2013). He was the Founding Editor of *in All things* (inallthings.org), an online hub for thinking through the implications of the lordship of Christ in all aspects of life, and has served in executive positions or on the board of the Andreas Center for Reformed Scholarship and Service, the Institute for Christian Studies, *Christian Scholar's Review*, and the *Canadian Journal for Scholarship and the Christian Faith*, among others. He currently lives with his wife and two kids in the woods east of Sherwood Park.



Dr. Gerda Kits has taught Economics at The King's University since 2011. She has a BA in Environmental Studies from King's, a Masters in Development Economics from Dalhousie University, and a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the U of A. Her research focuses on the Alberta oil sands, educating for reconciliation, and economics education. When not at work, she enjoys camping, hiking in God's beautiful creation, and gardening.



Dr. Leah Martin-Visscher is an associate professor of chemistry at The King's University. Her research involves looking at natural ways to control food spoilage and pathogenic bacteria, using either bacteriocins (bacterially produced peptides) or bacteriophages (viruses that kill bacteria). Leah loves to cook and garden, and this summer learned how to knit (although at the moment she's limited to toques, leg warmers and scarves). Leah is married to Darcy Visscher (associate professor of Biology at King's) and they have three lovely and busy children – Maia, Violet, and Niko.



Dr. Arlette Zinck is an Associate Professor of English and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts. She joined The King's University community in 1998 and served as the first Dean of the Faculty of Arts from 2008 to 2011. She resumed the post in 2015. She is a Seventeenth-Century scholar, specializing in the work of English Puritan writer John Bunyan. Zinck is first and foremost a teacher. Her passion for the classroom carries over to her volunteer work where she and her colleagues developed a support program for a small group of Correctional Services of Canada inmates. Her work with prisoners was recognized in 2012 with a Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal. In 2018, Zinck's excellence in teaching was recognized when she was selected to receive a 3M National Teaching Fellowship.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Capitalism at the Cross: A Cost-Benefit Analysis of Christian Discipleship

N208

Most of us have a gut-level sense that unhindered consumption is maybe not easily compatible with Christian faith. We know greed is bad but mostly like the idea of a free economy. What's an honest Christian to do in the world such as we find it today? A pastoral and theological analysis, with conversation.

Paul Cumin is senior pastor at Lendrum Mennonite Church, here in Edmonton, and an adjunct professor of theology with the Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary. He's a dad to three teenagers, and the author of *Christ at the Cross* (Wipf and Stock, 2014).

Whose Money Is It Anyway: Should Private Schools Get Public Dollars?

N209

Pierre-Elliot Trudeau, the father of Canada's current Prime Minister, once said that "government has no place in the bedrooms of the nation." This interactive discussion will likewise suggest that government has little or no place in the schools of the nation. We will look at the validity of the private/public distinction as it pertains to schooling and explore the limited role that government should play in determining curriculum and who should and shouldn't receive funding for formal educational enterprises.

Dr. Robert (Bob) Bruinsma is a Professor of Education (Emeritus) who is the founding faculty member of The King's University Bachelor of Education programs. He worked at King's from 1981 to 2009. He is currently a member of board of the Centre for Family Literacy.

Overdressed: At What Cost?

N210

Have you ever bought clothes from a retail store so cheaply that you did not think twice about the purchase? Did you ever wonder why they are so cheap, who made them, how old they were, what conditions they work and/or live in? Did you ever ask yourself who really benefits from your purchases and where the bulk of the money goes? How should we ethically and sustainably relate with the items that form our most immediate environment? We are invited to think critically but also hopefully about these questions. This session will explore the true costs of fast fashion pitting it against alternative options such as the so-called slow or sustainable fashion.

Daniel Muthui is an Edmonton-based fashion designer and founder of Ethno Fashion Gala, a runway event that raises the profiles of local fashion designers who are committed to sustainable ways of producing clothing. Daniel's clothing line is called Peach Blue Clothing, specializing in handmade contemporary African and other clothing. Daniel graduated from The King's University in 2012 with BA in Politics History and Economics (PHE) and a Micah Certificate.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Not Business as Usual

N120

As the dominant social institution in contemporary western culture business is expected to be the moral pacesetter of the 21st century. What could possibly go wrong?

Dr. Gordon Preston is an Associate Professor in the Leder School of Business at King's. His research is primarily in the area of inter-institutional collaboration. He also owns and manages a learning design company specializing in adapting complex learning to an online environment.

A World Without Money?

N109

In this session, we will examine how some scholars and thinkers have imagined a world in the future without money. We will see what the basis of their argument is for a world which has abolished money, what these societies might look like in practice, and what we think about this. We will look at the writings of some anarchist and communist thinkers and consider the extent to which money is a historically conditioned entity which is destined to disappear in the future.

Mark Sandle likes football (or soccer) a lot. He comes from England originally and is a history professor at King's. If you buy him a coffee he might tell you about the time he was followed by the KGB and ended up inadvertently in a revolution.

You're not Using Apps . . . Apps are Using You

N118

Attention engineers at major tech companies are hired to maximize the amount of time that people are spending on their technology. The longer they can keep you hooked, the more they can advertise to you, collect your data for profit and keep you using their products. Can we do anything to take some control back for ourselves?

Amy Feaver is a professor of mathematics and computing science at The King's University. She enjoys salsa dancing, number theory, snuggling with her cat Data, building things with Legos, combinatorics, sleeping, probabilistic algorithms and petting zoos. She is currently writing a third sentence, because she was told that she had to write a 3-sentence bio.

A Mathematician Reflects on Counting and Value

N111

Money is applied mathematics: using numbers to define the value of things. This conference will lead you through many perspectives, including the theology, philosophy, psychology, and sociology of money; but a mathematician is someone whose purpose is to think deeply about numbers in themselves. From that place of deep reflection, what can a mathematician say about money, counting and assigning value?

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Remkes Kooistra is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at The King's University. He likes to sit in his office and think about numbers.

Make a Difference TODAY! Voluntourism, "Poverty Porn," and Using our Wealth to Help – or Hurt – The Poor

N108

Is it possible that our awareness campaigns, service projects, and fundraising may actually hurt those we are trying to help, at home and around the world? In this session, we will explore how the stories we tell – about ourselves and about the poor – may cause more harm than good in our attempts to build a better world. Together we will ask ourselves some challenging and awkward questions in the search for more faithful, empowering, and just ways to use our resources.

Jonathan Nicolai-deKoning is the Program Director of The Micah Centre at The King's University, whose aim is to foster greater understanding and awareness among the King's community around issues of global poverty, peacemaking, and social justice.

The Lucrative World of Human Trafficking

N110

Human trafficking is the exploitation of a person for sex/labour, domestic servitude or organ removal. It's happening in Canada, in Alberta, in Edmonton. Human trafficking represents a gross violation of a person's human rights. In this session, participants will learn; what is human trafficking, myths surrounding human trafficking, the difference between human trafficking and human smuggling, the financial complexities of this crime, who potentially can become a victim of human trafficking, red flags and indicators, how human trafficking presents in Alberta, barriers to assisting victims of human trafficking, what is ACT Alberta, and how we can work together to assist victims.

Jessica Brandon has more than 15 years of advocacy and volunteer experience with a focus on Human Rights. She began as a volunteer with ACT Alberta 3 years ago and stepped into the Training and Education Management role full-time in May 2018. Over the last year, Jessica has presented to over 2000 attendees on behalf of the Action Coalition on Human Trafficking.

Simplifying the Money Conversation

N119

In this session, we will explore the four elements of financial confidence: Heart, Health, Habits, and Hope as outlined in *Simplifying the Money Conversation* by the Ron Blue Institute. These elements unlock a framework empowering a lifetime of excellent financial decisions.

This session is led by representatives of the Christian Credit Union: David van Berkel, CFP®, CKA® Financial Advisor, Rob Drost, FPSC Level 1®, Certificate in Financial Planning, Financial Advisor, and Ryan Van Niejenhuis, Insurance Advisor.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Your Money, or Your Life? The Real Secret to Happiness **N102**

What does the science of happiness say about our relationship with money? How much money is enough? Does money really buy happiness? How do I align my heart and soul aspirations for a good life with the need to earn an income (make money)? Is the notion of “making money” a lie? As a student and future labourer in the economy, how do I balance my work, life, and genuine happiness? Learn how you can measure and manage your well-being in harmony with making a reasonable amount of money, so that your soul or spiritual well-being is flourishing; a from the French word floriss meaning “to flower.”

Mark Anielski is a happiness economist and author of the award-winning book *The Economics of Happiness: Building Genuine Wealth* (2007) and his second book, *An Economy of Well-being: Common Sense Tools for Building Genuine Wealth and Happiness*, will explore this fun range of topics that he hopes will leave students and faculty thinking about money and the pursuit of happiness through a new and refreshing lens.

Big Pharma, Big Problems, Big Questions **L116**

We value our health - and that is clearly reflected by Canada’s commitment to universal healthcare. Or is it? Approximately one in ten Canadians cannot cover the cost of prescription drugs. But whose fault is that? Do branded drugs have to be expensive to recoup R&D costs? To offset the lost revenue when generic drugs appear? To finance potential lawsuits? Or, are drug prices simply driven by a profit-maximizing mentality? In this breakout session, we will explore the complexities surrounding the price of prescription drugs, and what that reflects about our values.

Leah Martin-Visscher is an associate professor of chemistry at The King’s University. See full bio on page 4.

INTRO TO IS (WEDNESDAY, 1 P.M.)

All first-year students will attend “Intro to IS” by faculty.

Faculty of Arts	N109
Faculty of Natural Science	L116
Faculty of Social Science	N102
Leder School of Business	N101

WORKSHOPS (WEDNESDAY, 1 P.M.)

Knowing Your Options When Paying for Post-Secondary **N108**

This session will highlight the funding supports you need to know about when planning for and paying for your post-secondary education and where to look for non-repayable/free funding options. The session will include some money management tips and pitfalls to avoid while in post-secondary studies.

Rachel De Leon is currently the Bursary Program Coordinator in Student Financial Support at the University of Alberta. She is a financial aid specialist with 20 years of proven success in establishing and managing financial supports and funding options, providing money management expertise including resources and referrals, for post-secondary students.

Budgeting and Personal Financial Planning: Alternatives to Finding Loonies in the Couch Cushions **N110**

As a student, you’re probably not earning a lot of cash these days. All your cash seems to be going the other direction. So, how can you make sure that there’s money at the end of the month, rather than having too much month left at the end of the money? You need that brain food to study, so if there are no loonies in the couch cushions, you could be in trouble. We’ll talk about some ways you can afford to feed your brain right through to finals with a bit of preemptive planning.

Dwayne O’Coin is a Chartered Professional Accountant (legacy designation Chartered Accountant). He has worked in public practice, in academic service, and in three stints in industry, most recently with an Edmonton software firm. He studied at Athabasca University, the Universities of Manitoba, Alberta, Calgary, and Pennsylvania.

Alternative Economies in Edmonton **N219**

Our consumer habits can have a huge impact on the lives of people all over the world, even a purchase as small as a bag of coffee. It can be daunting to try to purchase fair trade or sustainably and we often feel overwhelmed by the endless options and streamlined advertising that aims to convince us that a product is best. Learn about some of the different options in Edmonton that can help us to purchase products in a more just and sustainable way. Also, learn how to navigate the confusion of fair trade and sustainable symbols without being tricked into false products and products that have been greenwashed.

Michelle Roseboom and **Lindsay Gustaw** are both third year students at King’s and co-lead the King’s social justice club, MASS (Micah Action and Student Awareness Society). Michelle is an Environmental Studies major with a concentration in Sociology and Lindsay is a PHE major. Through their leadership of the MASS Club they have been introduced to many people in the Edmonton area who are doing justice in the city.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

How Worried Should You Really Be About Money After Graduation?

N209

Join four King's alumni who will talk about life after grad! Working in a wide range of fields, these alumni will share their experiences and offer some practical advice for how to manage money and how to navigate the job market once you have that degree in your hand. What did they worry about that didn't happen? What did they not think about that turned out to be challenging? How do you pay your student loans and still try to change the world? This panel will explore these issues, and will include time for your questions as well.

Hans Doef is a King's alumnus graduating in 2004 with a BA in Business Administration. He's married to Leah (yes, Hans and Leah our son is not named Chewbacca but it was considered) and has 4 lovely children, and owns a brewery (how together and cool could this guy be??).

Will VanderVelde graduated from King's University in 1994. Will works at Glenrose Hospital with teens with mental health concerns. He also runs a local non-profit called, Embrace Charity which has raised over \$300,000 for local and global initiatives.

Renee Lee graduated from King's in 2010. Renee and her husband Derrick have two children and live in Ottewell. Renee currently is at home with their kids and sells Norwex on the side. Renee and Derrick would also like to open their home to current students for occasional meals. Chat with her to get an invite. She is a PHE grad.

Abigail Douglass graduated with her Bachelor of Commerce in 2017. Following her time at King's Abi continued to pursue her political aspirations through her work with the Alberta Party as a political candidate in the 2018 provincial elections, the Central Campaign Coordinator & CFO for the 2019 Alberta Election and most recently as the Executive Assistant to the Leader of the Alberta Party. Abi now works as the Operations Manager of 3leaves Group Inc.

Government Spending: Understanding Where Your Money Goes, and How to Engage for Change

N208

This session will provide a brief overview of where governments allocate funds, including healthcare, education, infrastructure, the labour market, and social programs. We will explore what can go into funding decisions, how these decisions affect the population, and what options are available to citizens who disagree with funding decisions by the government. The session will provide participants with information, tips, and political insights from the facilitator, and opportunities to ask questions and engage in a mini-budget planning session.

Jodi Learn is mother of three and lifelong Albertan, and has been involved in community and civic engagement for almost 2 decades. A graduate of the 2016 PHE class of King's University,

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

she has been with Alberta's NDP Caucus for three years. Working with Caucus—both as Government and now as the Official Opposition—Jodi supports the legislative, policy, engagement, and advocacy work of the members.

How to Measure the Well-Being of Your Soul: Soul Printing

N119

Join economist and author Mark Anielski in an engaging workshop on how to measure the mental, spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of your soul. What does the science of happiness teach us about the well-being of our souls? What does happiness mean to you?

In advance of the workshop, Mark encourages all participants to take his on-line Well-being of Soul Survey at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScODIzWetbAPNjwuzUQUH-WolZDUOQk3m3kadfJ11ymge5xMg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Your survey results will be kept strictly confidential. Mark will discuss the results of over 800 people who have taken the Well-being survey from around the world. It reveals a lot about what contributes most to happiness, and it's not necessarily money.

Mark Anielski is a happiness economist. See full bio on page 8.

Want to lead a session and get IS credit?

For our winter 2020 conference, which will focus on earning a living and questions about money and vocation, we are seeking students in their 2nd year or beyond who are interested in leading a breakout session for their peers.

The application form is available on the IS Moodle page or outside Madison Holzmann's office (A121 in the Level).

Alumni Financial Seminar | October 18–19, 2019

The King's University

October 18, 6:30 p.m. to October 19, 4 p.m.

Alumni Relations is excited to be partnering with Navigators Financial to offer a 2-day seminar on the biblical principles of finance. Learn how to manage your finances, get out of debt, steward your money for kingdom purposes, and more.

\$30 per person and includes coffee, snacks, and Saturday lunch.

Register today at <https://www.kingsu.ca/alumni/events/financial-101/register-today>

ASSIGNMENT FOR KING'S STUDENTS

All students will meet with faculty markers on Wednesday, September 18 at 2:30 p.m. See the list at the welcome desk for your room assignment. You will write a short reflection at that time. Students completing the paper assignment will receive their assignment, which is due on Moodle by **Friday, September 27 at NOON**. Students in discussion section should go to the same room they did on Wednesday to participate at 2:30 p.m.

Remember, to pass IS, you must do all of the following:

- Attend the conference both days, all day
- Meet with your faculty marker on Wednesday and complete the written reflection
- Attend your discussion section on Thursday for the whole time (if registered in D section and all first-year students), OR complete the paper assignment by September 27 at NOON (if registered in P section and in second or third year).

If you have special circumstances or concerns, you must fill out the Exception Form on Moodle and submit with appropriate documentation (**before September 27 at NOON**) to:

Madison Holzmann, Administrative Assistant for Interdisciplinary Studies

(madison.holzmann@kingsu.ca, A121 in The Level, 780- 780-465-3500 EXT 8107).

A Visual Guide to Interdisciplinary Studies



This plant symbolizes the learning goals the IS faculty committee has for students attending the Interdisciplinary Studies conferences. You will see these labels in different places in the program events to help you see how all the pieces fit together.

- **ROOTS** What's going on "beneath the surface" of an issue; the soil and nutrients that go into how people view things; this helps you learn to see the world as shaped by various values/commitments
- **STEM** How the root shapes the surface appearance of the issue; this helps you make connections between the root issues and how this actually plays out in the world and how we live
- **LEAVES** The various disciplinary approaches that show the complexity of the issue; you can see how different people in different areas are working to engage this issue, and gives you a "real-life" example of how you might participate in transforming the world



THE
KING'S
UNIVERSITY

9125 – 50 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T6B 2H3 Canada

780.465.3500
1.800.661.8582
www.kingsu.ca