

Test the limits of conventional disciplines, and participate in a culture of intellectual questioning and exchange – explore your graduate studies options at Trent.

Innovative.

LEARNING TO MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

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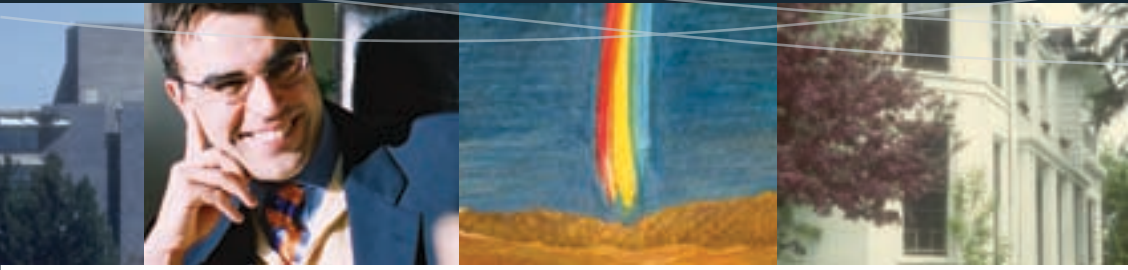
GRADUATE STUDIES AT TRENT UNIVERSITY

Theory, Culture and Politics M.A.



Theory, Culture and Politics M.A. at Trent University

The Theory, Culture and Politics M.A. at Trent University is an interdisciplinary program that emphasizes study in the humanities and social sciences from the perspectives of contemporary critical, cultural and political theory. The program encourages research and teaching in a collegial environment guided by critical-theoretical orientations that test the limits of conventional disciplines and contribute to the study of the complex network of relations that links knowledge, culture and politics.



A Culture of Critical Discovery

The Centre for the Study of Theory, Culture and Politics (TCP) brings together scholars from across Trent's faculties of humanities and social sciences, each contributing its own unique perspective. The cross-pollination of teaching and research creates a vibrant academic environment, and helps introduce students to a broad array of critical and theoretical orientations. This interdisciplinary atmosphere is essential to the program's ongoing development.

The Centre has developed a number of supports to help advance intellectual exchange and scholarly endeavour, including conferences, symposia, and speakers' series, as well as specific research projects and publications. As well, each year the program establishes an overarching theme as a means of focusing the speakers' series and seminar topics.

Prepare for a Doctorate

Many students in the Theory, Culture and Politics program pursue their M.A. as preparation for a doctoral program, although a number of graduates have used it as a stepping stone to help enrich their career focus and undertake new challenges in areas such as communications, the environment, education and law. Recent graduates are today pursuing doctoral degrees in programs as varied as social anthropology, philosophy, Canadian studies, English literature, East Asian languages and civilizations, social and political thought, and communication studies. Some students have also been influenced by the interdisciplinary nature of the program to move from one discipline to another for their doctorate, for example, from philosophy to political science.

The Peterborough Lifestyle

Trent University is located in Peterborough, Ontario on the banks of the Otonabee River just 90 minutes from downtown Toronto. A friendly, mid-sized city, Peterborough boasts a vibrant arts and music scene, a varied selection of restaurants, cafés and pubs, and a full complement of services combined with affordable accommodation and easy access to the surrounding lakes and wilderness of the world-famous Kawartha Lakes region. It's no wonder so many people are recognizing the benefits of living and studying in Peterborough. The TCP M.A. program is based at Traill, Trent's downtown college, only a few minutes' walk to the centre of Peterborough's cultural life.

Admission Requirements

To be considered for admission to the program, students must have a high standing in a completed Honours degree, aptitude for interdisciplinary study, and an appropriate area of intellectual interest. It is expected that students coming into the program will already have a good background in some area(s) of critical theory, such as:

- Frankfurt School theory
- Continental philosophy
- Feminist and Queer theory
- Psychoanalytic theory
- Communications theory
- Political theory
- Literary theory
- Social theory

Applications are due by February 1 of each year, although consideration will be given to late applicants depending on available spaces in the program.

To learn more about the people, the program and the potential for an exceptionally rewarding time pursuing an M.A. at Trent, please visit the Theory, Culture and Politics section of our web site at www.trentu.ca/theorycentre.



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Themes, Issues, Interests

While the research projects that emerge in the Theory, Culture and Politics (TCP) M.A. program cover a broad range of interests, the following thematic areas are emphasized:

- Textuality, Semiotics and Discourse
- Science as Discourse and Knowledge
- Culture, Nature and Technology (including media)
- Social and Political Theory
- Gender, Body and Psyche



Program Overview

Full-time students are expected to complete their M.A. within two years of admission while part-time students are expected to complete the program in five years. The first year of the program is dedicated to the completion of course requirements and preparation of a thesis proposal. Course requirements are as follows:

- Full-year seminar in Theory, Culture and Politics (T500)
- Two core half-courses, selected from a list of available special topic courses within the program's areas of emphasis
- One half-course elective

To help welcome students new to the program, a rustic weekend retreat to the Haliburton Highlands is arranged early in the first year to help people get to know one another and to learn more about the program in a relaxed environment.

Year two is devoted to completing and defending the thesis – typically a 25,000 to 30,000 word document – which is overseen by a supervisor. These topics can be substantive (i.e., critically reflexive examination of a particular cultural phenomenon or problem) or theoretical (with reference to particular thinkers and works) in scope.

Our programs offer opportunities to collaborate with experts in their fields, inspiring new understanding while pushing the boundaries of academic possibility and discovery.

Progressive.

Financial Benefits for Your Future at Trent

Recognizing how vital funding is for post-graduate programs, Trent offers students in the Theory, Culture and Politics program a minimum of \$12,700 for each of the two years of study. Of the total support, \$8,700 is provided through a Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) that requires ten hours of work per week throughout the academic year; the balance is a Research Fellowship of \$4,000. Trent strongly encourages students to apply for external funding and scholarships, such as the Ontario Graduate Scholarship and the SSHRC/CGS Scholarships. Please note that major scholarship holders will be eligible for only the GTA portion of this funding

One of Canada's Most Research Intensive Universities

Trent University has consistently been recognized as a centre of high calibre research and scholarship. The total research funding to Trent has more than doubled over a five-year period and the success of Trent faculty in attracting research funding from diverse sources continues to be remarkable. Trent's ten Canada Research Chairs cover a broad spectrum of disciplines, reflecting the institution's careful balance between research in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences. As federal and provincial governments continue to make knowledge transfer and outreach a priority for post-secondary institutions, Trent will continue to draw on its key strengths to further its research accomplishments and reputation nationally and internationally.

Academic Excellence and Expertise

As becomes a program that embraces such wide-ranging fields of scholarly research and study, TCP faculty are an experienced, talented and productive community of academics who are committed to the continuous expansion of interdisciplinary scholarship, while maintaining the rigorous standards that these areas of theoretical, cultural and political study demand. Contributing to the program are professors from Cultural Studies, Philosophy, Political Studies, Sociology, English Literature, Environmental Studies, Modern Languages, Women's Studies, and Canadian Studies.

Recent faculty research projects include:

- **Dr. Feyzi Baban**, Political Studies, "Turkey and the Postnational Europe: Challenges for the Emerging Political Community"
- **Dr. Constantin Boundas**, Philosophy, *Deleuze and Philosophy*, ed.
- **Dr. Richard Dellamora**, English/Cultural Studies, *Friendship's Bonds: Democracy and the Novel in Victorian England*
- **Dr. Nadine Changfoot**, Political Studies, "Feminist Standpoint Theory, Hegel, and the Dialectical Self: Shifting Foundations"
- **Dr. Charmaine Eddy**, English, "Writing the Subject/The Subject of Writing"
- **Dr. David Holdsworth**, Environmental and Resource Studies, "Becoming Interdisciplinary: Making Sense of DeLanda's Reading of Deleuze"
- **Dr. Veronica Hollinger**, Cultural Studies, *Queer Universes: Sexualities in Science Fiction*, ed.
- **Dr. Barbara Marshall**, Sociology, *Engendering the Social: Feminist Encounters with Sociological Theory*
- **Dr. David Morris**, Philosophy, "Ecstatic Body, Ecstatic Nature: Perception as Breaking with the World"
- **Dr. Davide Panagia**, Canada Research Chair in Cultural Studies, *The Poetics of Political Thinking*
- **Dr. James Penny**, Cultural Studies, *The World of Perversion: Psychoanalysis and the Impossible Absolute of Desire*
- **Dr. Elaine Stavro**, Philosophy and Women's Studies, "Working towards Reciprocity: Critical Reflections on Seyla Benhabib and Iris Young"

Life at Trent University

Trent University has earned a reputation for exceptional teaching and innovative research activity. The University as a whole nurtures a collaborative atmosphere in which students from across the country and around the world are encouraged to engage in interdisciplinary learning while enjoying a variety of social and cultural activities. For graduate students in particular, Trent affords a rich research and learning environment that facilitates an interdisciplinary perspective on just about any topic of interest - resulting in a broader range of options upon completion of your Trent degree. Graduate students at Trent also have access to a college dedicated primarily to graduate studies. Located in downtown Peterborough, Catharine Parr Traill College is a hub of activity for all graduate students.

In Our Students' Words

Our students come into the program from a variety of disciplines, including philosophy, literary studies, political theory, art history, and communications studies. A majority of our graduates have gone on to pursue their doctorate in a range of programs; the TCP M.A. provides an excellent foundation for a range of career options. In addition to the former students noted below, our graduates are also found in such Ph.D. programs as comparative literature, anthropology, art history and women's studies, among others.

- *A very rigorous program which thoroughly prepares graduates for further graduate study at the doctoral level.*
– Jonathan Blair, 2004 (Ph.D., Political Science, York University, in progress)
- *Since leaving TCP, I have come to appreciate the solid background in major theoretical scholarship of the modern period that TCP offers. It has been useful in all of my studies and has given me a head start over students coming from other universities.*
– Anup Grewal, 2004 (Ph.D., East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago, in progress)
- *The opportunity to devote an entire year to the production of a full thesis is much more beneficial than the major research paper typical of most 12-month M.A. programs.*
– Chris Holman, 2005 (Ph.D., Political Science, York, in progress)
- *TCP has a large and diverse faculty, but also offers personal attention characteristic of a small program. TCP offers the best of both worlds.*
– Sasa Stancovic, 2005 (Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Guelph, in progress)
- *My two years in TCP were the most rewarding of my academic life.*
– Howard Grant Timms, 2003 (Ph.D., Social and Political Thought, York University, in progress)
- *My supervisors were generous with their time and support, and immensely insightful in their suggestions and criticisms. There was no aspect of my experience in the TCP Program that benefited me more than the work I undertook with my thesis supervisors.*
– Katharine L. Wolfe, 2006 (Ph.D., Philosophy, SUNY Stony Brook, in progress)

