

President's Message

Happy Spring to you all! I will keep my message brief as I recognize that this is one of the busiest times of the year.

We were all shocked and saddened by the terror attacks that took place in New Zealand on March 15, leaving 50 people dead and another 50 injured. All reports indicate that the terrible act was motivated by Islamophobia. For this reason, the DFA is partnering with Dalhousie administration and the Dalhousie Student Union to plan a 'teach-in' where scholars will discuss the Islamic faith, and Islamophobia, as a small gesture to honour and recognize those who lost their lives in the attack and to help contribute to making the world a better place through education, research, and teaching. Details about this event will be released once plans are finalized.



On March 12 the DFA sponsored the first-ever workshop on the process for promotion to University Teaching Fellow, which is the highest rank for Instructor Members. I am extremely grateful to University Teaching Fellows Drs. Anne-Marie Ryan (Earth Sciences; also Dalhousie's newest 3M Teaching Fellow!), Nancy McAllister-Irwin (Biology), and Jennifer Stamp (Psychology and Neuroscience) who prepared and delivered an excellent presentation outlining the Collective Agreement articles on University Teaching Fellows, followed by a facilitated discussion on steps for preparing a strong application for promotion. Notes from the presentation can be found [here](#). We plan to offer similar workshops each year.

Later the same week, March 14, we hosted a forum on Academic Workplace Wellness, featuring presentations from Dr. Brenda Beagan (Occupational Therapy), Dr. Arla Day (Psychology, Saint Mary's University) and Janice MacInnis (Organizational Health and Wellness). The purpose of the event was to call attention to the particular challenges faced by DFA Members in the academic workplace, focusing on the increasing workload demands and the pressure of being under constant scrutiny and performance evaluation. Dr. Beagan's presentation was most compelling, highlighting many concerning trends in modern academic life arising from the increasingly pervasive neoliberal, managerial approach that drives institutions of higher education. It is only through collective action that we have any prospect of making meaningful change, and I intend to use information from this workshop to inform our preliminary planning for the next round of collective bargaining. Slides from the presentations can be found here: [Dr. Beagan](#), [Dr. Day](#), [Janice MacInnis](#).

A call for nominations has gone out for vacant positions on the DFA Executive Committee, and I encourage each of you to give this some serious consideration. As time goes by and we say goodbye to individuals with long-standing service to the DFA, the need to replenish our leadership base becomes ever greater. I appreciate that nobody has enough time for the work already on their

plate and that stepping forward to serve with the DFA likely requires taking time away from other areas of priority for you. However, it is also important to recognize that the only way to gain back some control over our workplace is through collective action, and that requires time and engagement. Many hands make light work. The burden of service would be eased if more people could find a small amount of time and willingness to step forward. As someone who stepped into a leadership role with the DFA having little to no experience with the organization, I can assure you that there is a tremendous amount of wisdom in the Association and a willingness to bring new volunteers up to speed gently so that you do not need to fear a lack of knowledge about unions, collective agreements, or even where our house is located at 1443 Seymour Street in Halifax.

On that note, I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday May 7, 1:00 to 3:00 pm. (Details on location will be announced soon.) Please try to attend if time permits.

David Westwood, DFA President

DFA Office Hours Adjusted Beginning April 2

Effective April 2 to August 31, 2019, the DFA office will be open weekdays from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. As always, you can drop in during office hours at 1443 Seymour Street in Halifax, call us at 902-494-3722 or email dfa@dal.ca.

DFA Executive Call for Nominations

Nominations are now open for the 2019-2020 DFA Executive Committee. The nomination process is simple and is outlined on the [DFA's website](#), along with a PDF of the [nomination form](#). Nomination forms must be submitted no later than April 15, 2019 at 4:30 pm



Notice of DFA's 2019 AGM

**Tuesday, May 7, 2019
1:00 - 3:00 pm**

Location TBC. Meeting will be in Halifax, joining Truro & Saint John by video.

DFA Academic Workplace Wellness Luncheon

On March 14, the DFA held an Academic Workplace Wellness luncheon with presentations by: DFA Executive member and Dal Professor [Brenda Beagan](#), Sociologist, Faculty of Health; SMU Professor [Arla Day](#), Occupational Health Psychology, and [Janice MacInnis](#), Manager Organizational Health, Dal HR. Presentations on wellness trends in the academic environment and Dalhousie's support programs sparked an excellent discussion of health and wellness in the academy. *(Click on the presenter's name for a PDF of their presentations.)*

DFA Public Speaker Series Presentation



PERFECTIONISM

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

There is nothing wrong with being a perfectionist - so long as everything is perfect. But, perfectionists often struggle with imperfections, in themselves and others. How is perfectionism assessed and treated? Why do perfectionists often behave in an imperfect manner, such as binge eating or procrastinating? Dr. Simon Sherry examines the link between perfectionism and depression, anxiety, eating disorders, relationship problems, and suicide.

Everyone - and their imperfections - is invited to attend.

Tuesday, April 2, 2019
7:00 pm
Halifax Central Library
5440 Spring Garden Road, Halifax

The DFA Public Speaker Series is sponsored by:

DFA
Dalhousie Faculty Association



Dr. Simon Sherry directs Dalhousie's Personality Research Team, advancing our understanding of the link between personality and mental health. In his clinical practice, he specializes in treating perfectionism, depression, anxiety, eating disorders, alcohol problems, and personality disorders. Dr. Sherry educates the public about mental health problems in a scientific, non-sensationalized way.

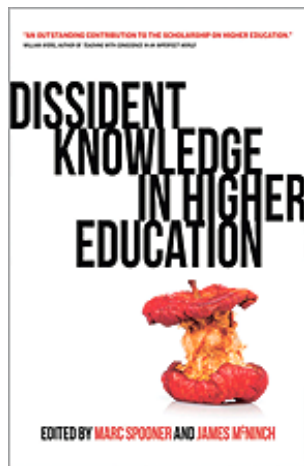


Are your finances in order? April is Financial Health Month

For info, healthy@dal.ca

- [How to Teach Your Kids about Money](#) (Halifax, Truro) April 2
- [Home and Auto Insurance 101](#) (Halifax, Truro, Saint John) April 3
- [Saving Strategies: Easy concept, difficult reality](#) April 9
- [Self-Advocacy in the Health Care System](#) (Halifax, Truro) April 10
- [What You Need to Know about Mortgages](#) (Halifax, Truro, Saint John) April 11
- [Ten Healthy Habits of Financial Management](#) (Halifax, Truro, Saint John) April 16
- [Estate Planning](#) (Halifax, Truro, Saint John) April 23
- [Caregiver Support: Home Care in the Continuum of Care](#) April 30
- [Communications for Complex Situations](#) (student focus) April 30

Books You Can Use



Dissident Knowledge in Higher Education

Marc Spooner & James McNinch (eds). University of Regina Press, 2018; 319 pp; ISBN: 978-0-88977-536-7.

“Dissident Knowledge in Higher Education originated in “Public Engagement and the Politics of Evidence in an Age of Neoliberalism and Audit Culture,” a 2015 symposium held at the University of Regina and co-chaired by the editors. Seeking to diagnose and disrupt academia’s status quo, the book straddles tensions between universities’ longstanding service to privilege and power and the space they offer for thinking otherwise.” Robin Whitaker, *Memorial University of Newfoundland*
Click [here](#) for the full book review.

Research You Can Use

[Facing an "Internet of Things" future](#) (Dalhousie University)

[Improving water quality not enough to save great barrier reef](#) (Dalhousie University, Lancaster University, Universities across Australia)

[New urine test to detect prostate cancer](#) (University College of Dublin)

[Artificial intelligence dangers podcast](#) (University of Chicago)

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Feedback or news we can use? Contact DFA Communications Officer Catherine.Wall@dal.ca

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