Announcement, Chancellor Jackman Graduate Fellowships in the Humanities, 2020-2021
Annual Theme: Collectives

Nadia Lambek, Law
"Transnational Agrarian Movements and the Normative Elaboration of International Law"

Nadia Lambek is completing her Doctorate of Juridical Science at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law. Drawing on critical approaches to law and legal anthropology, her research examines how transnational agrarian movements (composed of small-scale food producers, peasants, landless people, fisherfolk, and pastoralists) engage in international legal reform in their struggles to transform food systems. She explores how movements assert claims to collectivity that challenge the impacts of dominant legal and distributional arrangements on rural places and people. Through tracing how movement claims are contested, resisted and reframed through international law-making processes, she hopes to better understand the normative elaboration of international law in areas of deep ideational divide.

Shozab Raza, Anthropology and collaborative graduate program in South Asian Studies
"Reimagining the Revolution: Agrarian Mobilization and the Worker-Peasant Party in Pakistan's Periphery"

Shozab Raza is finishing his Ph.D. in Anthropology with a focused study on communist-led agrarian mobilizations in the South Punjab region of Pakistan. Peasant participants in these struggles often navigated between various attachments – including to communism, Islam, tribe and Siraiki nationalism – to produce a re-imagination of "revolution" that exceeded the expectations of urban-based revolutionary leaders. Drawing on 18 months of ethnographic and archival research in rural Pakistan, his project considers how this "excess" theory-making drove ordinary people's participation in a collective, how collectives affect the agency of the individual, and how collectives can function as intentional agents in their own right that perform political work.

Christina Turner, English
"Land Forms: The Literary Jurisprudence of Indigenous Rights"

Christina Turner's dissertation investigates Indigenous literary responses to Canada's constitutional recognition of Indigenous rights through the lens of form. Looking to recent Indigenous-authored works of poetry, fiction, and drama, as well as Supreme Court decisions on Aboriginal rights and title, Turner considers how law and literature borrow each other's forms and how these forms collide and interact across texts. She examines how specific words and images deployed across legal decisions create distinctive motifs: the garden, the museum, the family, and the autobiography. She then turns to literary texts (by Jordan Abel, Shirley Sterling, Marie Clements, and Leanne Betasamosake Simpson) where similar motifs are deployed to determine how Indigenous authors use form to critique the Canadian legal system's limited recognition of Indigenous law. Turner's research explores the constraints and necessities of interpretive work across Western and Indigenous traditions, positioning herself respectfully as a settler critic within the colonial legacy of literary studies.