

President's Message

This is my last message as your 2018-19 DFA President. I have submitted a yearly report for the DFA Dialogue which you can read in advance of our upcoming annual general meeting on Tuesday, May 7 (see below for locations).



Thank you to all of the outgoing and continuing members of the Executive Committee, your service is greatly appreciated and we could not get things done without you. To those of you who stepped forward to take on Executive positions for the coming year, I look forward to working with you all as both Past President and President-Elect and I am so pleased that you have offered your time and service.

Dalhousie's Budget has now been approved by the Board of Governors, and I continue to be concerned that Faculty allocations yet again fall short of cost increases which means further cuts to academic activities and almost certainly increased workloads for our Members who are already buckling under the pressure. In speaking to colleagues from various Faculties, it seems that nobody is well served by Dalhousie's high-level, one-size-fits-all approach to budgeting and that we all need to push back and insist that future budgets be driven by unit-level considerations that reflect the historical and future impacts of chronic underfunding. Perhaps such fine-grained analysis will finally convince central administrators that Dalhousie needs to reverse the trend of drawing resources away from academic responsibilities. We cannot hope to preserve let alone enhance our reputation as a leading academic institution without a dramatic reconsideration of the University budget process.

I am very excited to hand over the DFA Presidency to Dr. Julia Wright because she is an exceptional leader and thinker, and I cannot thank her enough for the time, energy, and insight that she has given to the DFA over the past year as your President-Elect. I know that she will be a tireless advocate for the academic mission of the University, and that she will defend the working conditions of all our Members.

I look forward to seeing you at the annual general meeting and I hope that you take some time over the summer months for yourself and those you care about.

David Westwood
DFA President 2018-19
Dave.westwood@dal.ca

Notice of DFA's 2018-19 AGM

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

Please come out to meet your Executive, get an update on DFA activities, and learn about DFA's contract review process in preparation for collective bargaining.

Halifax - Killam Library Rm B400; & by videoconference Truro - Haley Rm 254 & Saint John - DMNB Rm 218

DFA Office Hours Adjusted Beginning April 2

As announced in March, the DFA office will be open weekdays from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm from April to the end of August. Drop in during office hours at 1443 Seymour Street in Halifax, call 902-494-3722 or email dfa@dal.ca.

Retirement Workshop for Dal Faculty

DFA members are invited to Dalhousie's first retirement seminar designed specifically for faculty. Register for [Planning Your Next Chapter](#), scheduled for June 12, Dal SUB, Halifax. Sessions include pension and benefits, maintaining connections to the university, and a recent retiree panel discussion. Faculty can attend individual sessions or the full day (breakfast/lunch provided).

DFA member Sageev Oore named Canada CIFAE AI Chair

Dr. Sageev Oore joins top Canadian academic AI researchers [to form the second cohort of Canada CIFAR \(Canadian Institute for Advanced Research\) AI Chairs](#).

Is email making professors stupid?

"It used to simplify crucial tasks. Now it's strangling scholars' ability to think." [An interesting read by Cal Newport](#).

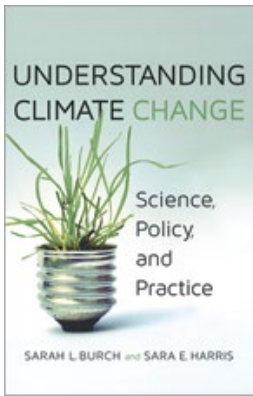
Perfectionism: the good, the bad & the ugly: Video posted

Earlier this month, DFA Member Dr. Simon Sherry did a talk on perfectionism, how it is assessed and treated, and its link to depression, anxiety, eating disorders, relationship problems, and suicide. *This was part of the DFA Public Speaker Series sponsored by the DFA and the Halifax Public Libraries.* [Click here for a video of the event.](#)

Dalhousie Workplace Wellness: Mental Health

Throughout May, Dal is promoting mental health for all, and specific supports for caregivers. For info, email healthy@dal.ca or click on the event link below.

- [Caregiver Support: Home Care on the Continuum of Care](#) (April 30)
- [Intro to Meditation](#) (May 2)
- [Managing Mental Health Issues in the Workplace \(managers & supervisors\)](#) (May 6)
- [Caregiver Support: The Sandwich Generation \(WEBINAR\)](#) (May 13)
- Caregiver Appreciation Day at Dalhousie (May 15)
- [Caregiver Support: Compassion Fatigue](#) (May 27)
- [Becoming More Stress Resilient](#) (May 28)



Books You Can Use

Understanding climate change: Science, policy, and practice

Sarah L. Burch & Sara E. Harris.

University of Toronto Press, 2014; 307 pp;

ISBN: 978-1-44261-455-1.

Visit www.caut.ca for a book review by Howard A. Doughty, Seneca College, Toronto.

Research You Can Use

[Socioeconomic inequalities in psychological distress and suicidal behaviours among Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in Canada](#) (Dalhousie University)

[Signs of despair rise among Generation X-ers](#) (Vanderbilt University & University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

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

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