

# Undergraduate/Graduate Student Intern Research Opportunity: Systemic Violence in the Historical Record in BC with Special Focus on the Tsilhqot'in War of 1862

Looking for a qualified UBC undergraduate or graduate student interested in a paid research position for six months beginning as soon as possible. The position will be supervised by Professor Paige Raibmon, UBC Department of History. Interested students of Tsilhqot'in or other Indigenous ancestry are particularly encouraged to apply.

Qualifications include strong organizational skills; attention to detail; and an ability to work independently. Some prior knowledge of BC Indigenous Nations, history, and culture would be an asset.

Wage is \$25 /hour to a maximum of \$5000.

**The Research and the Learning Opportunity:** The student intern will assist with research for the two projects described below which relate to systemic violence in the historical record of British Columbia.

The student intern will gain knowledge of how to navigate colonial and government records, ethnographic and other secondary sources which are characterized by irregular and incorrect spelling, orthography, and colonial place names in order to locate and identify information about Indigenous peoples. The student intern will gain an inside look into the processes of both film production and writing a scholarly article.

## **(a): The Tsilhqot'in War feature film project**

*Intern duties:* Identifying and collecting bibliographical information for resources from archives, libraries and museums related to Tsilhqot'in history and People; organizing these references in the citation database Zotero; and meeting with the film project team.

*The project:* The Tsilhqot'in War feature film project, led by Tsilhqot'in filmmaker Helen Haig-Brown, will tell the story of the Tsilhqot'in War of 1864. This project takes an approach that puts culture and community at the centre of the development, production and release of the final film product. Already underway, the early research phases of the film development are extensive in comparison to typical film industry standards and entail research into oral narratives in the community, embodied research into ancestral tool-making, tattooing, bridge and house-building, and all other protocols and practices that make up the Tsilhqot'in world of the mid-nineteenth century at the time the war occurred. Paired with the community research will be the archival and institutional research involving literature from anthropology and ethnography, historical accounts, and documents held in archives.

**(b): The Long Arc of Violence: Re-narrating “BC” History**

*Intern duties:* Working from an annotated draft manuscript and following instructions that indicate where additional research, citations, quotations, evidence, and/or fact-checking are required.

*The project:* Professor Raibmon’s project re-examines BC history by taking violence as a given aspect of the everyday lived experience of settler colonialism for Indigenous people. It does so i.) through re-examination and re-positioning of secondary literature on British Columbia and ii.) through original analysis of settler-generated primary sources. Rather than reading these sources for what settlers said (and wrote) about Indigenous people, this work reads them for what Indigenous people said about settlers. This inverts a long-standing scholarly convention and contributes towards decolonizing historical method. This analysis shows that fear, threat, intimidation, and violence played a larger role in BC history than settler scholars or the settler public have allowed. This analysis provides a structural, long view of settler colonial violence ever present, albeit variously mobilized over time: first through military might, then through the actions of individual settlers, and later via state institutions including residential schools, hospitals, and child welfare organizations. This structural view of violence sheds light on recent arguments among historians over the use of the term genocide in the Canadian context and supports the view that genocide is a wholly appropriate term.

**Interested applicants should contact send a c.v. and a brief (max 1 page) statement detailing their interest, relevant experience, and qualifications for this position to Paige Raibmon at [paige.raibmon@ubc.ca](mailto:paige.raibmon@ubc.ca). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.**