

# Taisto Witt

## Curriculum Vitae

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### **Education**

- Doctor of Philosophy, Sociology, McGill University 2022 - Present
- Master of Arts, Interdisciplinary, University of British Columbia 2022
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours, with Distinction), Sociology 2018

### **Research Interests**

- Far-Right Movements
- Radicalization Theory
- Online Extremism
- Affect Theory
- Antifascist Activism
- Semiotics
- Masculinities
- Social Justice
- Intersectional Sociology
- Anti-Oppressive Pedagogies

### **Awards and Honours**

- Mobilizing Insights in Defence and Security (MINDS) Scholarship – \$35,000 – Social Science & Humanities Research Council & Department of National Defence 2023
- Initiative for Digital Citizen Research – \$10,000 – Social Science & Humanities Research Council of Canada 2023
- Canadian Graduate Scholarship – \$105,000 – Social Science & Humanities Research Council of Canada 2023
- Stolle Graduate Fellowship – \$5000 – Center for the Study of Democratic Citizenship 2022
- McCall MacBain Fellowship – \$13,700 – McGill University 2022
- Graduate Excellence Award – \$5000 – McGill University 2022
  - Awarded to incoming MA and Ph.D. students of ‘exceptional caliber’.
- University Graduate Fellowship – \$6100 – University of British Columbia 2019
  - Awarded to students who have demonstrated academic excellence.
- Lauren Frankel Memorial Scholarship – \$500 – American Men’s Studies Association 2018
  - Awarded to exemplary students presenting research at the 2019 AMSA Conference.
- Graduate Dean’s Entrance Scholarship – \$5000 – University of British Columbia 2018
  - Awarded to “best and brightest incoming full-time, thesis-based Masters and Doctoral Students”.
- Notation of Academic Distinction – University of Victoria 2018
  - Awarded to students graduating with GPAs in the top 20% of their academic unit.

## **Publications**

- Witt, T. (2020) *"If I cannot have it, I will do everything I can to DESTROY IT."*: The Canonization of Elliot Rodger: 'Incel' Masculinities, Secular Sainthood, and Justifications of Ideological Violence, *Social Identities*, 25:5, 675-689, DOI:10.1080/13504630.2020.1787132
- Witt, T. (2020) [Review of *Men's Rights, Gender, and Social Media*, by C. Hodapp], *Men and Masculinities*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1097184X20910494>
- Witt, T. (2018) "[T]his officer believed he was pursuing an armed felon" Racism, Police Violence, and Transversive Affective Systems, *In/Versions: Journal of the Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group*, Winter 2018, p. 1-8.

## **Conference Papers, Presentations, and Invited Lectures**

- "Contested Masculinities in the Involuntary Celibate Movement" 2023  
*SOCI 270; Sociology of Gender (Guest Lecture), McGill University*
- "Transgender Histories, Identities, and Issues" 2020  
*SOCI 321; Sociology of Sex and Gender (Guest Lecture), University of British Columbia Okanagan*
- *"If I cannot have it, I will do everything I can to DESTROY IT": Threatened Masculinities, Involuntary Celibacy, and 'Saint Elliot'* 2019  
*Masculinities, Crimes, and Violence (Panel), 2019 American Men's Studies Association Conference, Brandon University*
- "The Cult of Saint Elliot: Involuntary Celibates, Threatened Masculinities, and Justifications of Violence" 2019  
*New Directions in Masculinity Studies (Panel), Canadian Sociological Association Congress 2019, University of British Columbia*
- *"'I will punish everyone. And it will be beautiful,' Subordinated Masculinities, Idealizations of Violence, Incels and 'Saint Elliot'"* 2019  
*Disrupting Disciplines Conference 2019, University of British Columbia Okanagan*
- "Men's Rights Movement and the Impact of Modern Communications Technologies on Social Movements" 2019  
*SOCI 111; Intro to Sociology I (Guest Lecture), University of British Columbia Okanagan*
- "Masculinities within the Men's Rights Movement" 2018  
*SOCI 217 Intro to Sociology of Gender (Guest Lecture), University of British Columbia Okanagan*
- "[T]his officer believed he was pursuing an armed felon" Racism, Police Violence, and Transversive Affective Systems" 2018  
*Critical Topics in Social Justice, 2018: The Analysis of Power (Conference), Occidental College*

## **Academic Employment History**

### **McGill University, Montreal, QC**

<b>Teaching Assistant</b> – Sociology – Gender and Development	2023
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> – Sociology – Development and Underdevelopment	2023
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> – Sociology – Sociology of the Welfare State	2022
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> – Sociology – Sociology of Media	2022
<b>Communications Assistant</b> – Department of Sociology	2022 - Present
<b>Communications Assistant</b> – Center for Population Dynamics	2022 – Present

### **University of British Columbia Okanagan – Kelowna, BC**

**Speaker Series Organizer** 2019 - 2020

- Point person for organization of Power, Conflict, and Ideas graduate program's speaker's series. Organized travel arrangements, event advertising, presentation organization, facilities organization, and event troubleshooting.

**Research Assistant** 2019 - 2020

- Bibliographical work, compiling collections of research relating to various subjects.

**Teaching Assistant** – Sociology – Introduction to Sociology II 2020

**Teaching Assistant** – Sociology – Social Inequality 2019

**Teaching Assistant** – Sociology – Introduction to Sociology I 2019

**Teaching Assistant** – Sociology – Advanced Studies in Sociology of Gender 2019

**Teaching Assistant** – Sociology – Introduction to Sociology of Gender 2018

### **University of Victoria, Victoria, BC**

**University 101 Program – Assistant** 2017 - 2018

- Assistant editor for Divergent/Convergent Journal, document design, administrative assistant, classroom assistant, event facilitation, educational support/facilitator, photography, TA training.

**Work Study Assistant to the Chair of Transgender Research & Archives** 2016 –2017

- Inventory of new archival materials, content redaction, event facilitation, creation of access guidelines, website design & curation, creation of honorary doctoral candidate portfolios, archival material review, ensuring confidentiality of individuals represented within archives.

## **Non-University Affiliated Research Work**

### **Oliver Community League - Edmonton, AB**

**Research Lead** 2017

- Ran federally funded community-driven research project investigating the availability, accessibility, and efficacy of social support programs for community residents. Research design, interviews, transcription, data collection, literature review, data analysis, reporting progress to supervisory committee, report writing, social service mapping & networking, creating online interactive social

service maps, facilitating the connections of residents with services, advocating for social support expansion, community- engaged research.

### **Professional Affiliations**

**Canadian Sociological Association member (CSA)**

**American Men’s Studies Association member (AMSA)**

**Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship Graduate Fellow**

### **Academic Volunteering**

#### **Men and Masculinities Journal**

**Peer Reviewer** 2019- Present

#### **McGill University Sociology Student Course Union**

**Undergraduate Mentor** 2022 - Present

#### **Disrupting Disciplines (Interdisciplinary Conference) - University of British Columbia Okanagan**

**Co-organizer, Application Reviewer, Master of Ceremonies** 2018 - 2019

### **Community Engagement and Volunteer Work**

#### **McGill Graduate Sociology Student Association – McGill University**

**Treasurer** 2023 – Present

**Social Events Committee Member** 2022 - Present

#### **Quebec Secours (Search and Rescue), Montreal, QC**

**Search and Rescue - Member** 2022 - Present

- Montreal/Laval based volunteer search and rescue organisation (currently training into new group). Search and rescue operations (primarily wilderness based). Training includes: radio communications protocols, search pattern development and execution, wilderness survival, wilderness navigation, lost person behaviour training, subject securement and rescue training.

#### **Peninsula Emergency Measures Organisation Search and Rescue, Victoria, BC**

**Search and Rescue - Member** 2021 - 2022

- Local Saanich volunteer search and rescue team (on call), involves multi-level interfacing and coordination between municipal response organisations (police, fire department, BC Justice Institute, etc). Training includes: radio communications protocols, search pattern development and execution, wilderness survival, wilderness navigation, lost person behaviour training, subject securement & injury treatment, triage, rescue training, & rope rescue strategy development.

## **UBCO Graduate Student Association Working Group – University of British Columbia Okanagan**

**Secretary, Working Group Member, Co-Founder**

2018 - 2020

- Founding member of a working group established for the purposes of developing a Graduate Student Association or Union at the University of British Columbia Okanagan to allow graduate students better advocate for and bargain towards their specific institutional, community, and individual needs.

## **Graduate Student Advisory Committee – University of British Columbia, Okanagan**

**Masters Representative for Department of History and Sociology,** 2018 - 2020

- Consult with School of Graduate Studies on behalf of students within the department, advocate for student needs and interests, address concerns from College of Graduate Studies, participate in ongoing consultations with College of Graduate Studies regarding graduate students and programs.

## **Anti-Violence Project (University of Victoria Sexual Assault Centre)**

**Volunteer**

2017 - 2018

- Peer support, event support, workshop facilitation. Volunteer position includes 40 hours of training in trauma support, decolonizing practices, anti-racist and anti-sexist strategies, issues in and awareness of neurodiversity, accessibility.

## **Faculty of Social Sciences Community Engaged Learning Working Group – University of Victoria**

**Student Representative**

2017 – 2018

- Participated in the ongoing development of the University of Victoria's SOSC CEL Strategic Plan, successfully advocated for greater student representation within working group.

## **Undergraduate Sociology Students Union – University of Victoria**

**Vice-President**

2017 – 2018

**Community Outreach Coordinator**

2016 – 2017

## **Let's Get Consensual Campaign – University of Victoria Students Society**

**Volunteer Coordinator & Social Media Lead**

2017 - 2018

- Co-organized ongoing & pre-existing campaign to expand awareness of prevalence of sexual assault & rape on university campus spaces and provide education, awareness and spark dialogues around consent and consensual practices. Curated and maintained social media presence, re-established regularly occurring working group, expanded physical presence of campaign on campus, coordinated volunteer organization and training, organized campus outreach services, organized event/tabling presences, engaged in campaign planning.

## **Harm Reduction Workshop Series – Victoria, BC**

**Lead Organizer**

2017

- Organized the creation of a harm reduction workshop for University of Victoria students focusing on safer partying strategies, harm reduction through safer drug use, consent awareness, overdose recognition and response, and fentanyl awareness with Naloxone training. Coordinated between and worked in partnership with Aids Vancouver Island, The Daily Dose Society, STS Pharmacy, The Anti-Violence Project, Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group, Uvic PRIDE, and Uvic

Health Services.