**DEPARTMENT:** School of Political Studies  
**PROFESSOR:** Christopher A. Cooper  
**RESEARCH TITLE:** Controlling Online Political Activity of Public Servants  
**NUMBER OF STUDENT:** 4  
**LANGUAGE:** English

**RESEARCH DESCRIPTION:**

Digital media has had fundamental consequences on the way that citizens and governments engage in governing and politics. An understudied aspect of this is the manner that governments are regulating the online political activities of public servants. By making public servants’ political actions highly visible and easily spread, digital media has been identified by some to challenge the public service’s traditional values of anonymity and political neutrality. This project seeks to better understand the different ways actors are seeking to control public servants’ online political activities. Students will do this by measuring and comparing the different ways that the governments, Public Service Commissions and public sector unions in the Westminster countries of Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom have sought to control and regulate the online political activity of public servants.

**KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES:**

- Learn how to apply concepts to categorize social phenomena.
- Learn how to develop indictors to measure concepts.
- Learn how to analyze documents from a theoretical framework.
- Gain a better understanding of how to conduct comparative research.
- Gain a better understanding of team-research.