

LEAH SCHMIDT

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Education

- **Doctor of Philosophy Student, Multidisciplinary Gender Studies (MDGS)** Entry: October 2023
Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS)
 - 2025 [Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Scholar](#).
 - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada Graduate Scholarships—Doctoral Program
 - Supervisor: Dr. L. Wilcox (POLIS, Director: Centre for Gender Studies).
 - Working Title: “PANIC ATTACK: Theorizing Security Anxiety on the Brink of Doomsday”.
 - Editor-in-Chief, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*; PhD Representative for POLIS (2023-2025); Newnham College Governing Body Representative (2024-2025); Graduate Student Representative, “Athena Swan” Certification Committee (2023-2025), Historical IR Symposium Committee (2023-).
 - [Student Fellow](#), Leverhulme Centre for Future Intelligence.
- **Teaching Experience**
 - University of Cambridge: POL 2 – *Conflict, Order And Justice* (2024-2025); and POL 9 – *Conceptual Issues and Texts in Politics and International Relations* (2024-2025).
 - University of Calgary Teaching Assistant: WMST 201 – *Introduction to Gender Studies* (2014-2016); WMST 401 – *Special Topics in Gender Studies – European Politics* (2015); POLI453 – *Women and Politics* (2015); CMCL 303 – *Political Communications* (2016); CMCL 307 – *Politics and Gender in Communications* (2016); and student advisor under the University’s Centre for Military and Strategic Studies’ curricular team (2014-2016).

Selected Publications:

- **Peer Reviewed:** Schmidt, L. M., McClintock, L. Abbott, N. & Modra, L. (2025). “You’re on Your Own, Kid: Absent Analysis, Heteronormative Biopolitics, and Lavender (Haze) Capitalism in Swiftian Lore.” [Taylor Swift: Culture, Capital, Critique](#). Routledge.
- **Policy:** Schmidt, Leah Madelaine and Peremarty, Leà. (2024). “*L’architecture de sécurité transatlantique: Potentialité de l’alliance franco-canadienne* [Policy Brief].” [Forum de Défense et de Stratégie](#).
- **Peer Reviewed:** Schmidt, Leah Madelaine. (In Press, expected Fall 2025). Boundary-Disruptive Tactics: Queering the Normative Regulation of Canada’s #MeToo Movement. *Sexual Violence in Canada: Critical Perspectives from the #MeToo Era*. Canadian Scholars Press.
- **Policy:** Schmidt, Leah. (April 2021). Primary Speechwriter: “Remarks by Canadian Ambassador to France, Isabelle Hudon, to the 2021 G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council.” *Delivered at the 2021 UK-hosted G7 Summit*. [Unclassified Document].
- **Policy:** Schmidt, Leah. (February 2020). Contributing Writer: “G20 2020 Riyadh Leaders Declaration.” *Delivered at the 2021 Saudi Arabia-hosted G20 Summit*. Saudi Arabia, Riyadh. [Unclassified Document].

Selected Conference Presentations:

- Schmidt, L. (2025). Early Career Workshop Selection: “Colonial Recursion: Spirals and the Temporal Materiality of Empire.” *The European International Studies Association*. Krakow, Poland.
- Schmidt, L. (2025). Early Career Workshop Selection: “Anxiety in the Anthropocene: Hyperobjects and the Politics of Tentacular Affect.” *European Workshops in International Studies*. Krakow, Poland.
- Schmidt, L. (2025). International Theory Workshop Selection: “Panic! in the Public Mind: Anxiety, Fear, and Social Order in the Genealogy of Political Thought.” *International Studies Association – Latin America*. Huatulco, Mexico. June 2025.
- Schmidt, L. (2024). The Fruit Machine: Deconstructing Canadian Cold War Queer Anxiety. *University of Cambridge Corpus Christi College Pride Conference*. Cambridge, UK. June 2024 (Keynote Speaker).
- Stowe, L. and Schmidt, L. (2017). Defining and Assessing the Impact of Group Dynamics on Student Learning in Short Term Travel Study Programs: Findings and Conversation. *National Society for Experiential Education*. St. Petersburg, FL. September 2017.

Professional Experience

- a/Senior Policy Analyst, Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)** July 2023-Present
Government of Canada, Ottawa, Canada, EC-05/acting EC-06
- Lead stakeholder engagement analyst for IRCC stakeholders, including civil society categorized under the Canadian Council for Refugees umbrella.
 - Lead pen on the 2024 Safe Third Country Agreement Review (STCA) and lead human rights analyst, Assistant Deputy Minister-level product.
 - Primary organizer of large-scale annual consultation cycle, including coordinating logistics and policy for biannual roundtables, annual conferences, and ad hoc consultations with Senior Management.
 - Lead liaison with relevant intergovernmental and international stakeholder consultation on irregular migration files, migration integrity, and legal aid support.

- Intelligence Analyst & Senior Gender Lead, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)** May 2021-July 2023
Government of Canada, Ottawa, Canada, EC-05
- Promoted to project lead on developing research methodology, conducting quantitative and qualitative intelligence analysis, and working with analytical software (R, SPSS, ArcGIS, Python) to create accurate and timely Threat Risk Assessments for use in environmental enforcement activities.
 - Team Lead on developing strategic policy positions for legislative bills, budget proposals, Memoranda to Cabinet, and Treasury Board submissions for GBA Plus projects.
 - ECCC representative on working level and Director General-level development of Canada's National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (C-NAP 3), the DG Rights forum, and other working groups on gender, race, disability, and LGBTQ2+ rights.
 - Provided written and oral briefings to senior management on research methods, quantitative statistics, qualitative statistics, visual display of statistics, visual design theories, and regulatory overviews.

- Lead, G7/G20 Diplomatic Team, Global Affairs Canada** April 2019-May 2021
Government of Canada, Ottawa, Canada, EC-04
- File Lead on policy analysis and synthesis of information to provide advice and recommendations on Gender, Development, Education, Employment, Health, Middle East, Outreach, Youth, and Inequality files for 15+ briefing books, five of which were for the leader's level (PM Trudeau) and for Deputy Ministers.
 - Working-level Foreign Service lead on Private Sector Alliance for the Empowerment and Progression of Women's Economic Representation (EMPOWER) project, launched at the G20 Summit. Lead on Canadian concept notes and strategic path following Summit launch, and into the Saudi Arabian G20 Presidency.
 - Home government Lead for the 2019 G7 Gender Ministerial negotiations, coordinating all policy products.
 - Experience supporting intensive multilateral negotiations, including supporting the Deputy Minister-led Canadian delegation in Saudi Arabia in December 2019 and March 2020 under a Diplomatic passport.

SELECTED LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- Co-Editor-in-Chief, Cambridge Review of International Affairs** December 2023-Present
Cambridge UK
- Board Member, Young Diplomats of Canada** June 2025-Present
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- Rising Expert in Gender, Young Professionals in Foreign Policy** April 2025-Present
Washington DC, USA
- Board Member, National Model United Nations - Canada** April 2022-Present
Alberta, Canada
- Fellow, NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security** May 2018-May 2019
NYC, New York, USA