

The Henry Mandelbaum Graduate Fellowship Citation

The Henry Mandelbaum Graduate Fellowship was established in 2011 to honour OCUFA's Executive Director on his retirement. It recognizes excellent scholarship in the social sciences, humanities, or arts and exceptional community and volunteer service.

From a strong and diverse field of applicants, the selection committee was unanimous, once again, in awarding the Fellowship. The recipient this year is Sara Pavan, a doctoral candidate in political studies at Queen's University.

In addition to her first-class academics, the committee was particularly struck by her strong community and volunteer service. While studying in Rome for her bachelor's degree, Sara additionally received training and spent two years working as a social worker and counselor in women's shelters. She also spent eight-months in San Salvador as a volunteer promoting sustainable development and community building in the aftermath of the civil war. She is actively supporting international students at Queen's (she noted that they are often under-represented in student activities) in formal and informal roles.

Her interests are on the effects of different immigration policies on the political integration of immigrants. As one of her referees noted "The dissertation will tackle one of the most important issues in contemporary democracies: does growing ethnic diversity erode the sinews of democratic citizenship, by weakening trust, participation, and social cohesion..." as some suggest? Sara is avoiding that fatalism by asking "...whether more open political institutions and supportive public policies can improve trust and participation in increasingly diverse societies. This work will advance our understanding of the impact of multiculturalism policies and other approaches to diversity through careful empirical analysis, going beyond the polemics that too often pass for research in this field."

In recognition of outstanding academic, community and volunteer service, OCUFA is pleased to present Ms Sara Pavan with the Henry Mandelbaum Graduate Fellowship award.