a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Partners in Innovation

Ministry of Attorney General

Partners in Innovation highlights how UBC – through its research, community engagement and teaching – is working with and supporting BC's government initiatives. Each edition identifies existing collaborations and new areas of research and discovery that may be of use to Ministers and senior public servants within the ministry.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

The **Department of Geography**, in UBC's Faculty of Arts, is inherently an interdisciplinary teaching and research unit. It seeks to integrate the natural sciences, the humanities and the social sciences. At UBC the Geography undergraduate program is divided into three fields: physical geography, human geography, and research techniques including Geographic Information Science. At the graduate level, the Department of Geography is widely acknowledged as one of the leading departments in the world in terms of its research accomplishments. Among its research and training projects, the geography department is home to the Metropolis BC program, an International Forum for Research and Policy on Migration, Diversity and Changing Cities. Other research fields are in climatology, geomorphology and hydrology, and in human geography, in environment and sustainability, and cultural, economic and urban geography. For more information, please see **www.geog.ubc.ca/index.html**.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Caught between Two Worlds: Mainland Chinese Return Migration, Hukou Considerations and the Citizenship Dilemma

Elaine Ho, a former postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Geography, along with Professor David Ley, examined how Mainland Chinese returnees (with Canadian citizenship) navigate China's dual citizenship restriction and its implications for their hukou (household registration status). Hukou confers residency, working and other social rights in China. The study found that the residency status of Mainland Chinese returnees with Canadian citizenship is precariously contingent on their visas. As they have given up their Chinese citizenship, they only have limited working and social rights in China despite their economic contributions. Their foreign citizenship status results in restrictions to healthcare, pensions and housing entitlements while their children are also no longer entitled to education subsidies. Although they have full rights in Canada, they

were compelled to leave because of employment difficulties and social marginalization. In this sense, they have become citizens "caught between two worlds". These findings indicate that more academic and policy attention needs to be given to this particular group of migrant returnees in China who still have strong ties with Canada. http://riim.metropolis.net/assets/uploads/files/wp/2010/WP10-06.pdf

PARTNERSHIP POSSIBILITIES

Digital Evidence on Trial – a Research Collaboration between UBC's School of Library, Archival and Information Studies and the Faculty of Law

UBC's School of Library, Archival and Information Studies and the Faculty of Law are collaborating on research into some of the most challenging issues presented by digital technology to the legal profession, businesses and government. Increasingly, evidence presented at trial comes from sources generated in the digital environment. How can the courts determine admissibility and ensure the continuing authenticity of digital evidence? Digital forensic tools extract digital objects from their original systems; lawyers rely on forensics in discovery and identification of evidence. But the volume of potential digital evidence is growing exponentially. Archival diplomatics – the study of the creation, form and context of records and how they are communicated – helps to identify, analyze, interpret and authenticate digital evidence, thus simplifying procedures, increasing efficiency and lowering costs. The digital records forensics research project integrates digital forensics and archival diplomatics knowledge to develop concepts, methods and practices supporting the application of the law of evidence in the digital environment.

UBC Law Innocence Project

Tamara Levy, director of the UBC Law Innocence Project, engages the talents and enthusiasm of a group of 10-12 law students each year to review claims of wrongful conviction in British Columbia. The goals of the Project are to identify potential miscarriages of justice, assist in applying to the Minister of Justice for post-conviction review, and educate law students, lawyers and the public about the causes of wrongful conviction and the frequency of the problem worldwide. The students work under the supervision of pro bono lawyers and receive course credit for their work. Plans this year include utilizing the skills of investigative journalism students from the Department of Journalism in the Project's case investigations. The Project began with 3 files in its first year in 2007 and is now examining close to 30 files with the help of 22 lawyers who volunteer their time to conduct this important work. **www.innocenceproject.law.ubc.ca**

The University of British Columbia appreciates the generous support and vision provided by the Province of British Columbia. *It is through this valuable partnership that UBC is able to maintain its position among world-leading research institutions and attract talented individuals to BC; individuals who help drive the economy in our region and promote innovative thinking through research and application to benefit all British Columbians.*