



King's University College offers resources for media during 2022 Papal Visit

July 20, 2022

Background:

As a Catholic University, King's University College at Western University is a forum for difficult and uncomfortable truth discussions regarding faith, justice, and acknowledging historical injustices and committing ourselves to the work of truth-seeking and truth-telling about past injustices and ongoing harm.

Truth-telling is a necessary precondition to taking the first steps for reconciliation. King's offers programs in religious studies, social justice and peace studies, history and other areas where faculty, and students, research, teach and study contemporary issues related to Truth and Reconciliation (TRC), the Catholic Church, and Colonization.

In 2021, King's along with the two other affiliated university colleges at Western, Brescia and Huron, [hired Sean Hoogterp as an Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator and advisor](#).

Sean Hoogterp and four King's faculty are available to share knowledge and scholarship on issues which may help media with background related to the visit by Pope Francis to Canada July 24-29, 2022.

King's as a community is committed to being a place where TRC can be openly discussed and researched and is hopeful that the Calls to Action being implemented on campus will lead to a just and truthful community for all.

Media interviews can be arranged with:

- **Sean Hoogterp, Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator and advisor for the affiliated university colleges at Western University:** Indigenous student experience, Indigenous community liaison, working with post-secondary education to de-colonize and Indigenize curricula, serving Indigenous communities through the Office of Indigenous Initiatives Council at Western University and the Indigenous Post-Secondary Education Council at Western University.
- **Dr. Allyson Larkin, Associate Professor and Chair, Social Justice and Peace Studies:** TRC and (Canadian) Catholic higher ed; SJP studies; who we are and what we do; community engagement and activism with Indigenous communities; colonial legacies and restorative

justice; decolonization and reconciliation in higher education and the challenges it presents; Catholic social justice framed by current Catholic social movements.

- **Dr. Robert Ventresca, Interim Academic Dean and Professor, History:** Papal apologies; official apologies and restorative justice; historical wrongs and public memory; inter-religious/inter-faith and intercultural dialogue; post-conflict transitions; colonial racism; church-state relations; genocide studies
- **Dr. Mark Yenson, Associate Academic Dean and Professor, Religious Studies:** Theology; Catholic Church (history, organizational structure, e.g. religious congregations); Pope Francis' thoughts and writings; missionary activity/colonization (e.g. doctrine of discovery).
- **Jess Notwell, Lecturer, Sociology:** Decolonization; ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ miyo pimâtisiwin (living respect and reciprocity with ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ kahîyâw kâwâhkômakâw (All Our Relations)); global solidarities across struggles for liberation and decolonization in Palestine and on Turtle Island; Indigenous knowledges and pedagogies; settler colonialism.

Past media coverage:

- Catholic Register, June 2022: <https://www.catholicregister.org/item/34239-apology-begins-path-to-reconciliation>
- CTV London, June 2022: <https://london.ctvnews.ca/we-have-a-responsibility-to-move-forward-king-s-students-react-to-papal-apology-1.5845328>

Papal apology communications at King's:

- President's message to the community April 1, 2022: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/media-and-communications/newsroom/kings-acknowledges-papal-apology-on-canadian-residential-schools/>

About King's University College:

King's is a public Catholic University College that provides general and honors degree programs in the liberal arts, social sciences, management, and a master degree in social work. It is positioned in the top rank of institutions of higher learning in Canada for the high quality of its teaching faculty and student experience. Institutionally autonomous, King's is academically affiliated with Western University, and King's graduates receive a Western University degree. King's is open to students of all faith backgrounds, with its community centred on the values of social justice, equality and the education of the whole person. Learn more about King's University College at www.kings.uwo.ca.

For media interviews, contact:

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