“A FEDERATION WITHIN A FEDERATION? RECONCILING INDIGENOUS AND WESTMINSTER PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT IN CANADA’S NORTH”

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Dr. Jerald Sabin joined the Department of Political Science as a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow in May 2017. He is working with Dr. Chris Alcantara on reconciling liberal democratic practice with systems of Indigenous government in Northern Canada.

Abstract:
Northern Canada is on the leading edge of political, constitutional, and administrative changes that are fundamentally remaking the relationship between Indigenous peoples and the liberal democratic state. Public territorial and Indigenous governments are using institutions of executive, fiscal, and regulatory federalism to mediate and regularize their intergovernmental relations. This paper argues that two “federations within a federation” are emerging in the Northwest Territories and Yukon – an innovative model that reflects both Canada’s federal traditions and processes of reconciliation.