Be it resolved that the Council of the Faculty of Arts & Science is deeply saddened by and mourns the sudden passing of Associate Professor Lee Ann Fujii on March 2nd 2018, at the age of 56. Professor Fujii was a highly respected scholar of political violence, ethnicity and race as well as African politics, and field methods. She was a vibrant and much-loved member of the Department of Political Science.

Professor Fujii was born in Seattle, Washington. She graduated from Reed College with a BA in Music and from San Francisco State University with an MA in International Relations. She spent several years as an actress in San Francisco and worked in the tech industry before deciding to pursue an academic career. To that end, she entered the graduate program in Political Science at George Washington University and graduated with a PhD in 2006, at which time she was hired as an assistant professor at her alma mater.

Professor Fujii joined the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto in 2011 and was tenured in 2015. She published widely and with tremendous impact. Her first book, *Killing Neighbors: Webs of Violence in Rwanda*, was published by Cornell University Press in 2009 and was quickly recognized as a seminal text on an important and difficult topic. The book made at least two critical interventions.

First she was concerned to understand how social interactions within communities contribute to political violence. People killed people who were their neighbours, their friends, and sometimes even members of their own families; victims and perpetrators often knew each other intimately. Professor Fujii sought to understand that and to uncover the individual and often highly specific motivations and fears at work in these horrific instances.

Second, her book proceeded from the observation that in this genocide, many of the key actors occupied multiple roles. Many of the people who served as *genocidaires*, or perpetrators of violence, in other instances behaved also as “heroes,” rescuing victims from death, hiding potential victims, or in other ways showing kindness and generosity. Professor Fujii’s work gave us the social context for understanding how such violence, and its associated complexities, unfolded. Her carefully
grounded, meticulously researched, granular and community-level research now profoundly shape how we understand what is otherwise unimaginable.

Professor Fujii was completing work on a new book when she died so suddenly and tragically. In Showtime: The Logic and Power of Violent Display, she examined how local actors use public displays of violence to alter and affirm social interactions and community membership, examining cases as diverse as Rwanda, Bosnia, and the United States. Her groundbreaking research was recognized through several prestigious fellowships, from a Russell Sage Foundation Visiting Scholarship in 2013-2014 to, most recently, her 2016-2017 fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

Professor Fujii was a tireless advocate for greater equity and diversity in the academy more widely and this university in particular. She challenged us to think harder about our own positionality in our research and in our teaching. She called out structural racism where she saw it and modelled in her own professional life what it meant to be reflexive, ethical and committed. Whether in dealings with her undergraduate and graduate students, or in her relationships with her "sources," she was unflinchingly open, engaged, and respectful.

Professor Fujii was deeply committed to the mentorship of young scholars – especially other women of colour. She worked to support and motivate countless young scholars in our department, across Canada and North America, as well as internationally. In the aftermath of her death, it has been a bittersweet experience to hear from person after person how Professor Fujii helped them prepare for a job talk, how she encouraged and cajoled, read draft chapters, assisted with the revision of syllabi to ensure the inclusion of a diverse range of voices, or supported those who were encountering difficulties in their personal or professional lives. It has been quite overwhelming to learn of the many, many lives that she touched. One wonders how she possibly had the time, all the while keeping up her own prodigious research and writing productivity and a very full teaching load.

The Department of Political Science is devastated by the loss of our valued colleague and friend. Lee Ann Fujii is survived by brothers Carey and Jeff, sister-in-law Jo, and by colleagues and friends around the world.

Be it further moved that this resolution be inscribed in the minutes and that a copy be transmitted to the survivors as a token of our deep respect.