



## Press Release

### **BROCK UNIVERSITY MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **Brock University researchers reflect on the Internet's 25th anniversary**

The Internet: friend or foe? Connector... or destroyer?

“Referring to the now rather famous Rehtaeh Parsons’ suicide in Nova Scotia, her victimization was magnified by the use of social media, but then social media was used to generate awareness and yes, pressure, to force the police into action by re-opening the case, “ says child psychologist and cyberbullying expert Zopito Marini.

“Twenty five years on, it’s easy to take for granted exactly how revolutionary it is that the world’s knowledge and culture is only a click away,” says political scientist Blayne Haggart.

“Even though we take these things for granted, they’re under threat by government surveillance and overzealous enforcement of copyright laws,” he says. “We’re at a point now that unless people speak up for a free and open Internet, the Web at 50 will be a shadow of what it is today.”

Marini and Haggart examine the impacts of the Internet in their different fields of research. They are both available to share their insights and research findings.

Child and Youth Studies professor Zopito Marini can speak to impacts of the Internet on children, including:

- \* being better connected to parents/caregivers
- \* how and why cyberbullying takes place and the impacts of cyberbullying
- \* aggression on the Internet
- \* teaching students about the importance of using the Internet and social media responsibly to help them to develop into responsible digital citizens
- \* issues of privacy and anonymity
- \* cyberbullying legislation

Contact Zopito Marini at e-mail: [zmarini@brocku.ca](mailto:zmarini@brocku.ca)

Political science professor Blayne Haggart can speak to:

- \* how the World Wide Web has revolutionized politics and peoples’ involvement in the political process and social movements

- \* the huge strides made in sharing information and knowledge online
- \* threats to a free and open Internet
- \* his upcoming book, *Copyfight: The global politics of digital copyright reform*, which, among other things, tells the story of how Canadian professor Michael Geist was one of the first people in the world to successfully use social media (Facebook) as a tool to mobilize a grassroots political movement around Canadian copyright reform

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