

Society for Socialist Studies
Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences
May 31-June 3, 2016
<http://www.socialiststudies.ca>
Preliminary Program
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Energizing Class Struggles: Race, Gender, and Colonialism

We wish to **energize class struggles**, understanding that the class relationship in contemporary capitalism is mediated by forms of oppression related to gender, race, able-bodiedness and orientation, and is articulated with the ongoing colonization of Indigenous peoples across lands and waters claimed by Canada. At the same time, energetic class struggles are a variable historical reality across the whole of society, in areas ranging from the arts to literary studies to everyday economics in the home, the workplace and the community. The University, too, is a site of sometimes-energetic, sometimes-waning class struggle. On the one hand it reflects the relative dominance of the capitalist class in radically unequal times, including the power of resource extraction industries to shape university institutions and aims. On the other hand, the working classes, women (and women-identified) and subaltern groups have sought to challenge the expression of capitalist power in academia and society more broadly. At least since the 1970s, diverse Indigenous peoples have likewise sought simultaneously to 'decolonize' and 'indigenize' university spaces as part of broader struggles of Indigenous self-determination and liberation. In short, the working classes have never merely accepted their domination but have always fought battles against the power of capital in very unequal conditions. We consider **energizing class struggles** as a possibility – the potential for revitalized struggles by and for equity-seeking groups, subaltern classes and among diverse Indigenous peoples against an unjust colonial-capitalist world system.

The theme of the 2016 CFHSS Congress is 'Energizing Communities'. In our attempt to **Energize Class Struggles**, the Society invites participants to critically reflect upon the histories of vital class opposition. We call upon contributors to think through the possibilities for re-energizing class and Indigenous struggles in an historical moment of unprecedented capitalist class power.

Conference Highlights

Wednesday, June 1, 15:15-17:00

Venue: Science B 103

Keynote panel: Intersectionality and Socialist Feminism

Speakers: Abigail Bakan, Enakshi Dua, Meg Luxton

Tuesday, May 31, 17:30-19:00

Meeting point: TBA

Red Calgary: A Labour and the Left Historical Walking Tour

Registration

Tuesday, May 31 @ 8:30-10:45 a.m.

Venue: TBA

Tuesday, May 31, 10:45-12:15

Venue: Scurfield 257

Russia, Ukraine and Crimea: National Class, and Economic Dynamics

Organizers: Alan Freeman, Geopolitical Economy Research Group, afreeman@iwgvt.org; Radhika Desai, Professor, Department of Political Studies, University of Manitoba - Radhika.Desai@ad.umanitoba.ca

This session will focus on economic and political causes and consequences of the war that erupted in eastern Ukraine in April 2014, the subsequent stalemate enshrined in the uneasy Minsk peace accords, and the structural changes in Ukraine's economy and society that have resulted.

It will consider the following questions: what are the class and national dynamics at play in Ukraine and Crimea since independence in 1991, and in Russia since the Ukrainian crisis erupted? Why has the NATO military alliance been so insistent on backing the Kyiv government in its war effort while sanctioning Russia? Is Russia simply a new imperialist power, or a challenger to an old imperial order no longer capable of sustaining itself? It will build on the successful sessions on Ukraine and Russia at the last Congress of the Humanities, and on the wealth of material that has been assembled on the 'New Cold War' website (www.newcoldwar.org).

Speakers:

Roger Annis, independent writer and researcher, rogerannis@hotmail.com

“Crimea in history and the 2014 secession vote from Ukraine”

Halyna Mokrushyna, lecturer at the University of Ottawa, halouwins@gmail.com

“Revising history: The Decommunization Laws in Post-Maidan Ukraine”

Olena Lyubchenko, York University, olenalyubchenko@gmail.com

“The Ukraine Crisis: A Case of 'New Orientalism”

Tuesday, May 31, 10:45-12:15

Venue: Scurfield 157

Indigenous Resistance and Questions of Economy

Chair and Organizer: Greer Brabazon, Independent Scholar

greerbrabazon@gmail.com

The colonial-capitalist project in Canada has relied on the continuous destruction of Indigenous communities, destabilization of Indigenous networks, and dislocation of Indigenous land access and rights. Canada’s approach has been extensive, simultaneously targeting Indigenous culture, identity, and performance in an attempt to silence and expel Indigenous language, ceremony, and expression, but it has remained incomplete. While the colonial-capitalist system works to institutionalize and normalize racialized and gendered stratifications, homogenize diverse populations, and reorganize cultural bodies into depoliticized consumers and de-cultured labourers, it has been unsuccessful in eliminating Indigenous peoples and, therefore, critical resistance.

Exploring the possibility of solidifying Indigenous/non-Indigenous solidarity systems and plausibility of decolonizing the economy, this panel draws out particular points of resistance within the larger decolonization movement that, in part, combine Indigenous and Socialist approaches, including the contradictions, challenges, and compatibilities therein. This panel asks if the connections, claims, and assertions of Socialism are compatible within Indigenous-based decolonization framework, ultimately asking: Can we indigenize the economy in a way that is truly decolonial?

Speakers:

Greer Brabazon, Independent Scholar, greerbrabazon@gmail.com

“Indigenous Hip Hop”

Peter Kulchyski, Department of Native Studies, University of Manitoba,

peter.kulchyski@umanitoba.ca

“In the Marrow of Dissent: Social Justice and Hydro Politics in Rural Indigenous Manitoba”

Renee Erica McBeth, Department of Political Science, University of Manitoba,

rmcbeth@umanitoba.ca

“The ethics of interruption: Unsettling Participatory Anti-Poverty Research”

Tuesday, May 31, 10:45-12:15

Venue: Trailer A 101

Roundtable: Green, Red, and Black: Theses on Energy Transitions

Convener: Imre Szeman, University of Alberta, imre@ualberta.ca

We are in the midst of a great energy transition. The movement to a world after oil also challenges us to imagine a better world. We are faced with many questions. What will power the future? Can we ensure that the movement beyond fossil fuels is also a movement beyond capital? How do we leave the hulking infrastructures of oil extraction, refinement, production, and distribution behind and what to do with the vast constructed networks of our petroculture? This roundtable will present a series of theses that collectively address energy transition as a key moment for social change.

Speakers:

Brent Ryan Bellamy, Memorial University of Newfoundland, bellamy@ualberta.ca

Adam Carlson, University of Alberta, abcarlso@ualberta.ca

Jeff Diamanti, University of Alberta, diamanti@ualberta.ca

David Janzen, University of Alberta, djanzen@ualberta.ca

Jordan Kinder, University of Alberta, jkinder@ualberta.ca

Imre Szeman, University of Alberta, imre@ualberta.ca

Sheena Wilson, University of Alberta, shwilson@ualberta.ca

Saulesh Yessanova, University of Calgary, sbyessen@ucalgary.ca

Tuesday, May 31, 10:45-12:15

Venue: Trailer A 102

Feminist Intersectionality in Theory, Research and Praxis: An Interdisciplinary Conversation

Organizers: Susan Spronk, University of Ottawa, susan.spronk@uottawa.ca, Ann

Denis, University of Ottawa, adenis@uottawa.ca

Intersectionality has become an important approach for examining the interconnectedness of systems of oppression in women’s lives, including by feminist scholars. It has varied manifestations - theoretical, methodological, historical and contextual. This panel examines how scholars have used feminist intersectionality methodologically, in theory and/or in praxis, and *also* reflects on the strengths, limitations, implications and/or challenges of their experiences with it. Questions

include: how is an approach *both* intersectional and feminist? How is such analysis stronger than analysis that is not intersectional? Or feminist? What are the contradictions, limitations of how women's multiple dimensions are considered?

Speakers:

Angela Miles, Adult Ed & Community Development, OISE, University of Toronto
"Feminist Intersectionality Through the Lens of Theory and Practice"

Karen Ruddy, York University, Rethinking Intersectionality: Gender Variance,
"International Feminism, and the Politics of Post-War Reconstruction"

Harshita Yalamarty, York University, Intersecting Oppressions and Particular
"Patriarchies: Considering Transnational Marriage Abandonment in India"

Sabina Chatterjee, York University, "Colliding at the Intersections: Complacency,
Accountability, and Change"

Tuesday, May 31, 13:45-15:15

Venue: Scurfield 157

Precarity and Internationalization in Higher Education

Chairs and Organizers: **Lorin Geoffrey Yochim**, Beijing Normal Univeristy

lyochim@ualberta.ca; **Robery McGray**, Brock University, rmcgray@brocku.ca

This session includes scholars presenting theoretical and empirical perspectives on the internationalization of higher education, specifically as it relates to conditions of precarity. Analyses are either grounded in a particular geographical context (e.g., North America, East Asia, China), in an examination of relations between such contexts (e.g., North-South or East- West relations), or in a consideration of social relations within and between institutions [e.g., tenured vs. contingent faculty, north-south Massive Online Universities (MOUs)].

Speakers:

Jarold Kachur, University of Alberta, jkachur@ualberta.ca

"Scholars at Risk in the Neocapitalist 'Teacher-less Classroom': Colonizing Forces, Neoauthoritarian Micropolitics, and the Decline of Professional Autonomy"

Robert Ovetz, Lecturer, San Francisco State University and San José State University, rfovetz@riseup.net

"The Fast Food College: The Impact of On-Line Education on the Division of Academic Labor and Faculty Organizing"

Zuhra Abawi, University of Toronto, zuhra.abawi@mail.utoronto.ca

"Citizenship and Belonging in the Canadian Education System: Class, Race and Gender"

Vicki Macris, University of Alberta, macris@ualberta.ca

“The precarious existence of the contemporary secular feminist”

Tuesday, May 31, 13:45-15:15

Venue: Scurfield 257

Russia, Ukraine and Crimea: National Class, and Economic Dynamics

Organizers: **Alan Freeman**, Geopolitical Economy Research Group, afreeman@iwgvt.org; **Radhika Desai**, Professor, Department of Political Studies, University of Manitoba - Radhika.Desai@ad.umanitoba.ca

This session will focus on the Russia's new world role and its consequences for the international world order, seeking to combine an understanding of the interrelation between the escalating military conflicts in which Russia is involved, the economic and political rapprochement between Russia and China, and the consequent conflicts and realignments within the 'Eurasian space'. Behind these questions lies the broader issue of the nature of the emerging new multipolar world, and the risks and possibilities that this is unleashing. Do Russia – and possibly other BRICS countries - constitute new 'imperialist' powers pursuing imperial ambitions in Ukraine, Crimea and Syria? Or are they challengers to an existing imperial order that is no longer able to sustain itself? This session will examine both the specifics of events in Ukraine and Syria, and these wider analytical issues.

Speakers:

Radhika Desai, Geopolitical Economy Research Group, radhika.desai@umanitoba.ca,

“Russia in the multi-polar world order”

Alan Freeman, Geopolitical Economy Research Group, afreeman@iwgvt.org,
“Imperialist powers, World powers, Regional Powers and Nations: Theorising China and Russia's modern role”

Tuesday, May 31, 13:45-15:15

Venue: Trailer A 101

Roundtable: Canadian Social Democracy at the Crossroads: Modernization versus Renewal

Convener: Dennis Pilon, Political Science, York University, dpilon@yorku.ca
How should critical social analysts understand the return of the federal NDP to third party status in the 2015 election? Does it represent the exhaustion of the modernization project initiated by Jack Layton, which married elements of the 'third way' strategy with a populist leader-oriented appeal? Was it more a strategic failure of relying on a 'front runner' strategy that appeared to fail in BC in 2013? Or does it reflect a broader crisis in social democracy itself? This panel will draw from

Canadian experts on social democracy to assess where things went wrong and what might need to be put right to renew Canada's traditional national left party.

Speakers:

Dennis Pilon, Political Science, York University, dpilon@yorku.ca

Murray Cooke, Political Science, York University, murrayecooke@gmail.com

Paul Saurette, School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa, paul.saurette@uottawa.ca

Rebecca Schein, Human Rights, Carleton University, RebeccaSchein@CUNET.CARLETON.ca

Alexandra Dobrowolsky, Political Science, St. Mary's University, adobrowolsky@smu.ca

Charles Smith, Political Science, St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan, csmith@stmcollege.ca

Rianne Mahon, CIGI Chair in Comparative Public Policy, Balsillie School & Political Science, Wilfred Laurier University, prmahon@rogers.ca

Trevor Harrison, Sociology - University of Lethbridge, trevor.harrison@uleth.ca

Tuesday, May 31, 13:45-15:15

Venue: Trailer A 102

Small States in a Multipolar World – Part I

Chair and Organizer: Petar Kurecic, pkurecic@unin.hr

The panel is devoted to the small economies, of which the most are also small states. The main topics will be: smallness of the economy as an advantage or a disadvantage (vulnerability) studied through the various macroeconomic data, the influence of quantitative easing on the economies of the Global North and especially on the smaller economies in this part of the world, and specificities of human (social and economic) development on the specific group of small states: small island states, which are particularly vulnerable group of small states.

Paul Kellogg, "Monetary Stimulus in the Global North – Keynesianism redux?"

Tim Anderson, "Human development in Small Island States"

Petar Kurecic, Goran Luburic, Goran Kozina, "Smallness of the Economy as a (Dis)advantage: The Evidence from the Selected Interdependent Macroeconomic Data"

Debbie Dergousoff, "Kyrgyzstan's Accession to the EEU: Why do apples matter anyway?"

Tuesday, May 31, 15:30-17:00

Venue: Scurfield 257

Crisis? What Crisis?—Part I

Chair and Organizer: Ingo Schmidt, Athabasca University ingos@athabascau.ca

This session discusses the following questions:

Which kinds of crises is capitalism facing these days? Crises of the economy, ecology, legitimation, representation and/or hegemony? Do these crises affect only subsystems of capitalism or do they add up to an organic or general crisis of capitalism? Are these crises structural or conjunctural? What role can the left play in overcoming capitalist crises? Is the left in crisis, too? If so, what kind of crisis is that and how might it be overcome?

Speakers:

Kim Pollock, kbpollock64@gmail.com

“WHAT THE CRISIS IS – AND ISN'T A report on work in progress”

Filipe Possa Ferreira, Institute of Economics - Unicamp/Brazil,
filipe.possa@gmail.com

Robert Chernomas, University of Manitoba, Robert.Chernomas@umanitoba.ca; **Ian Hudson**, University of Manitoba, Ian.Hudson@umanitoba.ca

“A Shock to the System: Analysis of Economic Fluctuations in the Work of John Bates Clark Award Winning Economists”

Tuesday, May 31, 15:30-17:00

Venue: Scurfield 157

Re-Energizing the Dialectic

Chair and Organizer: Sean F. McMahon, American University in Cairo
mccmahon@aucegypt.edu

Marx said the dialectic was “critical and revolutionary.” However, as a mode of inquiry and presentation it has been neglected, if recognized at all, in much Marxian and socialist thought. This session contributes a “re-energizing” of the dialectic by taking it seriously as an epistemology and a method. A broad range of papers including a reflection on the dialectic as a philosophy of knowledge and as a means of conceptualizing and representing the dynamism of capital accumulation expands our understanding of the current moment and its reactionary and revolutionary opportunities.

Speakers:

Sean F. McMahon, American University in Cairo, mccmahon@aucegypt.edu

“Dialectic of Egypt’s Crisis Movement”

Sandra Rein, Editor, *Socialist Studies: A Journal of the Society of Socialist Studies*, University of Alberta, Augustana Faculty, srein@ualberta.ca

“Marx’s Dialectics: reclaiming “the human” and “Hegel” for the New Society”

Adam Belton, University of Alberta, belton1@ualberta.ca

“Dialectic Dynamics: Essential Explorations”

Lamma A. Tawakkol, American University in Cairo, ltawakkol@aucegypt.edu

“The Middle Class as a Capitalist Fetishism and Anti-Worker Tool”

Tuesday, May 31, 15:30-17:00

Venue: Trailer A 101

The Left-Overs. Post-Carbon Prospects for Calgary

Chair and Organizer: Tom Langford, University of Calgary,

As the world community begins to focus its attention on the ever-worsening climate crisis, and Alberta confronts another bust in the recurrent boom and bust of the oil and gas industry, Calgary is at a critical juncture in its history. Provincially, the left has risen to power after 44 years of a conservative regime that championed neo-liberalism in Canada. Calgary’s left-shifting municipal political landscape is embodied in a reformist liberal mayor.

Yet Calgary faces an uncertain future. It can claim the distinction as the wealthiest and fastest growing large city in Canada but at the same time it is the most unequal in terms of income disparities. Educational and health outcomes are among the best in the world, yet we consume more resources (as measured by ecological footprint, energy consumption, auto-dependency, waste generation) than anywhere else in Canada. Unlike political jurisdictions like Norway, Alberta has no sovereign fund to speak of, faces the largest budget deficits in its history, finds its attempts to secure export opportunities for bitumen under siege nationally and internationally and has produced a sprawling, high-maintenance urban form.

In this session panelists will confront the question of what’s left from a critical/socialist perspective? The panel will examine the historically evolving state-civil society relations and their implications for how we think about possible developmental trajectories and political futures in Calgary; the impact on housing policy and provision of decades of boom-bust cycles in Calgary; the social implications of pedestrian-scaled development; prospects for state or civic-society led economic and social transitions and the options and potentials for economic diversification toward an economic foundation that is not reliant on fossil fuel resource extraction. After 44 years of conservative, neo-liberal governance the cupboard is pretty bare. How can the left replenish it? Will it have to sell Calgarians on a more frugal economic future? How can we craft a sustainable post-carbon future from the left-overs of a bankrupting neo-liberalism?

Speakers:

Thomas Howard, Geography, University of British Columbia thoward@geog.ubc.ca

Noel Keough, Environmental Design, University of Calgary
nkeough@ucalgary.ca

Kyle Peterson

projectcoordinator.fcass@telus.net

Alan Smart, Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Calgary

asmart@ucalgary.ca

Eliot Tretter, Geography, University of Calgary

etretter@ucalgary.ca

Tuesday, May 31, 15:30-17:00

Venue: Trailer A 102

Small States in a Multipolar World: Regional Economic/Political Integrations and Small States

Chair and Organizer: Petar Kurecic, pkurecic@unin.hr

This panel tends to study the role of small states in regional political and economic organizations and integrations, as well as the role of the integrations for small states, especially how organizations and integrations change the position and priorities of small states.

Speakers:

Marcelo Mondelli, mondellix@gmail.com

“Challenges for South America’s Small States and their regional integration in the XXI Century”

Raul Salgado Espinoza, rsalgado@flacso.edu.ec

“Region-engaging, Region-constraining and Region-adapting Small States: Ecuador and Uruguay’s Engagement in the Construction of the UNASUR”

Sergio Ordonez, serorgu@gmail.com

“Latin American 'Neo-Developmentism', State Action and Supranational Realignment: Might It Endure?”

Pelumb Kallaba, pelumb.kallaba@gmail.com

“Difficulties stemming from small states created from the break-up of larger ones: the case of Kosovo and Serbia in the normalization process led by the European Union”

Tuesday, May 31, 17:30-19:00

Meeting point: TBA

Red Calgary: A Labour and the Left Historical Walking Tour

Join Kirk Niergarth of Mount Royal University on a 90-minute walking tour featuring sites relevant to the history of labour and the left in Calgary's History. Visit

Calgary's one-time "Red Square," the Legion Hall where the CCF became a party, and other sites of resistance and rebellion in Cowtown.

Wednesday, June 1, 9:00-10:30

Venue: Scurfield 257

Crisis? What Crisis? – Part 2

Organizer: Ingo Schmidt

This session discusses the following questions:

Which kinds of crises is capitalism facing these days? Crises of the economy, ecology, legitimation, representation and/or hegemony? Do these crises affect only subsystems of capitalism or do they add up to an organic or general crisis of capitalism? Are these crises structural or conjunctural? What role can the left play in overcoming capitalist crises? Is the left in crisis, too? If so, what kind of crisis is that and how might it be overcome?

Eric Strikwerda, Athabasca University, erics@athabascau.ca

"Unemployment and the 'Crisis of Masculinity'"

Ignacio José Miñambres García, National Cheng-Kung University,

ignacio.minambres@gmail.com

"The European Left and the Challenges of the Great Recession: is Democratic Transformation Possible within the EU?"

Joshua Moufawad-Paul, York University, moufawadpaul@gmail.com

"The Austerity Apparatus: some preliminary notes"

Wednesday, June 1, 9:00-10:30

Venue: Trailer A 101

Corporate Power and Carboniferous Capitalism—Part 1

Chair and Organizer: William Carroll, University of Victoria, wcarroll@uvic.ca

This session welcomes papers that explore the social organization of corporate power in and around the carbon-extractive sector, broadly defined (including petroleum and bitumen, natural gas, coal, and transport via pipelines etc.), whether extracted using conventional or unconventional methods. Papers may focus on any of a variety of modalities through which corporate power is expressed, including the strategic control of firms, elite networks, the allocative power of finance, operational power exercised within corporate chains of command, the power inscribed within transnational commodity chains, cultural power via media relations and corporate social responsibility initiatives, and political power vis-à-vis state bodies. While the social organization of corporate power is the main focus, papers that address how

that power is contested in the struggle for a just transition to a better world are also welcome.

Speakers:

William Carroll, University of Victoria, wcarroll@uvic.ca

“Modalities of Corporate Power in Carboniferous Capitalism: An Overview”

Ian Hussey, Parkland Institute, ihussey@ualberta.ca; **Robert Hlatky**, University of Victoria, hlatky@uvic.ca

“Strategies of the Big 5 Oil Sands Producers During the Latest Price Downturn”

Bill Burgess, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, billburgess2@gmail.ca

“Inter-corporate ownership, finance capital and the Canadian Tar Sands”

Jamie Lawson, University of Victoria, lawsonj@uvic.ca

“Studying Production Chains and Networks of Fossil-Fuel Extraction in Western Canada”

Michael Bueckert, Carleton University, michael.bueckert@gmail.com

“Corporate Power and the Contradictions of Fossil Fuel Divestment”

Wednesday, June 1, 9:00-10:30

Venue: Trailer A 102

Roundtable: On the State of the Economics Discipline: Canadian and International Perspectives

Chair and Organizer: Radhika Desai, Geopolitical Economy Research Group, Radhika.Desai@umanitoba.ca

The criticism of neoclassical economics is almost as old as the discipline itself and the widespread questioning of its value after the 2008 financial crisis, complete with proposals for curriculum reform, was only the latest chapter of this long tradition. This panel places the current state of the post-crash discipline in this longer historical context going back to the powerful critiques of Keynes, Kalecki and Polanyi, tracing the dialectic between powerful intellectual critique confronted by the institutional power of 'paradigm maintenance'. The panel assesses the post-crash state of the struggle between neoclassical economics and its critics while placing key flashpoints in this struggle, whether what occurred a few years ago at the University of Notre Dame and what is occurring at the University of Manitoba today.

Speakers:

Robert Chernomas, University of Manitoba, Robert.Chernomas@umanitoba.ca

Alan Freeman, Geopolitical Economy Research Group, afreeman@iwgvt.org

Ian Hudson, University of Manitoba, Ian.Hudson@umanitoba.ca

Wednesday, June 1, 9:00-10:30

Venue: Scurfield 157

Alternative Media, The Left, and Social Movement Struggles

Despite the bankruptcy of neoliberalism, at least since the onset of the global financial crisis in 2008, the left and social movements continue to struggle to reach out beyond the 'radical ghetto' to new audiences to bring about progressive social change. If the growth in accessibility of new digital technologies and social media platforms has 'solved' many obstacles that impeded alternative media in the 1990s, why do dominant media continue to set the political agenda and negatively frame social movements and left parties? What future is there if we are unable to build our movements through our own independent media – to communicate with each other without censorship or omission, and to represent ourselves, ideas and visions to others? This session calls for contributions, whether practical, theoretical and/or analytical, to consider how, why and where might alternative media contribute to building an alternative (party, movement, coalition) to austerity and crises affecting our communities. Papers might wish to draw upon examples from history or propose ways to advance alternative media or identify problems with the existing or previous thinking around the left and alternative media.

Chair and Organizer: Herbert Pimlott, Wilfred Laurier University,
hpimlott@wlu.ca

Speakers:

Herbert Pimlott, Wilfred Laurier University, hmpimlott@wlu.ca
"Vanguard Media: Connecting Social Movements, Struggles and Strategy"

Rick Allan Hesch
"Protest Music and the Energizing of Counter-Hegemonic Resistance"

Derek Hrynshyn, York University
"Mass, Alternative, and Social: What kind of Media for Oppositional Politics?"

Lewis Kaye, University of Toronto Scarborough, p.lewis.kaye@gmail.com
"Alternative Media, the Left and Social Movement Struggles"

Wednesday, June 1, 10:30-12:00

Venue: TBA (scheduled by CPSA)

***JOINT SESSION, co-sponsored by the Canadian Political Science Association:
Roundtable: Feminist Intersectional Ways Foreword in Response to Changing
Public Services***

This roundtable (1) presents findings from research undertaken as part of the feminist intersectional *Changing Public Services Research Network* (CPSRN), and (2) hosts an open dialogue about the next phase of the network's work to advance knowledge and practice related to diverse women's experiences with, and responses to, changing public services. Since 2013, CPSRN – a collaboration of academic, union, and community organization partners – has studied diverse women's experiences with changing public services. CPSRN adopts a feminist intersectional and community engaged approach, and attends to how social relations are shaped within power-laden structures. Roundtable participants will discuss options for future foci, including ways to optimize the integration of feminist intersectional considerations into broader debates about public service changes and their consequences.

Organizers and Presenters:

Leah Levac, llevac@uoguelph.ca

Susan Braedley, susan.braedley@carlton.ca

Teresa Healy, Teresa.healy@sit.edu

Irene Jansen, ijansen@cupe.ca

Sarah Baker, sbaker@criaw-icref.ca

Wednesday, June 1, 10:45-12:15

Venue: Scurfield 257

Crisis? What Crisis? – Part 3

Chair and Organizer: Ingo Schmidt, Athabasca University ingos@athabascau.ca

This session discusses the following questions:

Which kinds of crises is capitalism facing these days? Crises of the economy, ecology, legitimation, representation and/or hegemony? Do these crises affect only subsystems of capitalism or do they add up to an organic or general crisis of capitalism? Are these crises structural or conjunctural? What role can the left play in overcoming capitalist crises? Is the left in crisis, too? If so, what kind of crisis is that and how might it be overcome?

Benjamin Anderson, Simon Fraser University, bj19@sfu.ca

“Shattering the Illusion: Capitalist Legitimation and the Radical Imagination”

Ingo Schmidt, Athabasca University ingos@athabascau.ca

“It's our own crisis, stupid!”

Errol L. Sharpe, Publisher and co-owner Fernwood Publishing Co. Ltd.,

errol@fernpub.ca

“Who's Setting the Agenda?”

Wednesday, June 1, 10:45-12:15

Venue: Scurfield 157

Video Screening and Discussion: Sociology at the End of the World

Presenter: Garry Potter, Professor of Sociology at Wilfred Laurier University, Independent Documentary Film Maker, garrypotter34@aol.com

In this session, two half-hour long documentary films will be screened, followed by a short Q & A with the film-maker.

Film 1: "Sociology at the End of the World" examines the real dangers facing humanity and the (mis)representation of such through mainstream media and film.

Film 2: "Ideology: Marx, Althusser and Gramsci" briefly examines the key ideas of these three thinkers in a contemporary context.

Wednesday, June 1, 10:45-12:15

Venue: Trailer A 101

Corporate Power and Carboniferous Capitalism—Part 2

Chair and Organizer: William Carroll, University of Victoria, wcarroll@uvic.ca

Speakers:

Patrick McCurdy, University of Ottawa, pmccurdy@uottawa.ca

"Communicative Dilbit or Effluent? A Critical Examination of CAPP's "Energy Citizens" Campaign"

Shannon Daub, Director of Communication & Researcher, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - British Columbia, shannon@policyalternatives.ca

"Extractivism, austerity and dissent at the climate crossroads"

Carol Linnitt, University of Victoria, carollinnitt@gmail.com

"Co-opting the Grassroots: Industry and the Battle for Social License"

M. Derya Tarhan, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto, md.terhan@mail.utoronto.ca

"Energy Democracy": A Critical Approach"

Wednesday, June 1, 10:45-12:15

Venue: Trailer A 102

Small States in a Multipolar World: Multipolarity and Different Strategies/Responses of Small States

Chair and Organizer: Petar Kurecic, pkurecic@unin.hr

The third panel devoted to small states emphasizes the strategies of small states in the multipolar world, in general and in particular

organizations/alliances/integrations, such as NATO, the EU etc. The present multipolar world offers more possibilities to small states than unipolar or bipolar. Nevertheless, it is important to study whether the traditional strategies, such as balancing, bandwagoning, cooperation, and integration are still viable or have the conditions changed, and the need for new strategies and/or combinations of the old ones has arisen.

Dana Lusa, giannalusa@yahoo.com

“Small States Strategies in NATO: sheltering, balancing, buck-passing or bandwagoning?”

Petar Kurecic, pkurecic@unin.hr

“Bandwagoning, Balancing, Neutrality, and Integration: Regional Differences Among the Small States’ Adaptation to Multi-Polarity”

Abdullah Al-Mamun, mamun5555@yahoo.com

“Small States in a Multi-Polar world: Strategies for Survival, Gaining Influence and Achieving Development in Balancing, Bandwagoning, and Mutual Cooperation”

Alberto Martinez Delgado, albertdelg@hotmail.com

“Fragmentation and Weakening of States, Instruments of Global Domination”

Sandya Nishanthi Gunasekara, sandya.gunasekara@griffithuni.edu.au

“Small states in international order: Can they be actors of their own rights?”

Wednesday, June 1, 13:15-14:45

Venue: Scurfield 257

Energizing Inspiration: Radical Women Remembered and Engaged

Chair and Organizer: Sandra Rein, University of Alberta, srein@ualberta.ca

This panel focuses on the contributions of particular women radicals with the goal of not just “remembering” but also engaging their contributions to theory, philosophy, organization, and radical thought broadly construed. In a sense, the panel is an act of reclamation, seeking to place women in their historical contexts and ensuring that their contributions and commitments are not simply displaced or excluded from our historical narratives and contemporary thinking. The focus of the paper can be a living or deceased “radical woman” whose legacy and contribution are often overlooked even among critical thinkers.

Speakers:

Sandra Rein, Editor, *Socialist Studies: A Journal of the Society of Socialist Studies*, University of Alberta, Augustana Faculty, srein@ualberta.ca

“Graphic Rosa: Rosa Luxemburg’s biography and political thought in Kate Evans’ graphic biography”

Janet Wesselius,

“Has the Personal Overshadowed the Political? Taking Emma Goldman seriously as Philosopher”

Stacey Haugen,

“You Don’t Know Helen: the overlooked and forgotten contributions of Helen McFarlane”

Ottokar Luban,

“Together with Rosa Luxemburg for Peace, Social Justice, and Revolution (August 1914 – November 1918): The Female German Spartacus Militants Clara Zetkin, Kaete Duncker, Mathilde Jacob, Fanny Jezierska, Berta Thalheimer”

Wednesday, June 1, 13:15-14:45

Venue: Trailer A 101

Alberta in Transition

Chair and Organizer: Trevor Harrison, Parkland Institute and the University of Lethbridge, trevor.harrison@uleth.ca

Alberta's 2015 provincial election saw the NDP come to power, ending nearly 44 years of Progressive Conservative rule. Was it a blip? Or does it signify deep changes in Alberta's political, economic, and social structures? This session will explore ways of understanding the election.

Speakers:

Trevor Harrison, Parkland Institute and the University of Lethbridge,

trevor.harrison@uleth.ca

“Political Identities in Alberta”

Steve Patton, University of Alberta, spatton@ualberta.ca

“Alberta Under the NDP: Assessing the Extent of Change in Politics and Governance”

Melanee Thomas, University of Calgary, thomasm@ucalgary.ca

“Explaining Alberta's 2015 Election”

Wednesday, June 1, 13:15-14:45

Venue: Trailer A 102

Transformations and Traditions of Repression and Control

Chair and Organizer: Lesley Wood, York University ljwood@yorku.ca

This panel seeks those working to understand the changes and continuities in policing and security practices in protest and community contexts in Canada and internationally. These include militarization, surveillance, community policing, privatization, and spatial control, keeping in mind the ways that these trends affect

Black communities and other communities of colour, indigenous communities, poor people and other marginalized groups.

Speakers:

Susan Dianne Brophy, Saint Jerome's University, s3brophy@uwaterloo.ca

"Immigrant Fight-back: The Emancipatory Praxis of Ukrainian Canadians (1891-1919)"

Josephine L. Savarese, St. Thomas University, savarese@stu.ca

"Unsettling the Presumption of (Settler) Innocence in Homicides"

Jamie Magnusson, University of Toronto, jamielynn.magnusson@utoronto.ca

"Community Colleges and the Surveillance-Military Complex"

Ngozi Okidegbe, ngozi.okidegbe@mail.mcgill.ca

A 'Bad Rap': The Implications of Rap Lyrics Being Admitted as Evidence in Criminal Trials

Wednesday, June 1, 13:15-14:45

Venue: Scurfield 157

Twenty-First Century Socialism in Latin America

Chair and Organizer: Susan Spronk, University of Ottawa

Susan.Spronk@uOttawa.ca

Kristin Ciupa, Queen Mary University of London, k.ciupa@qmul.ac.uk

"Venezuelan Oil Development and the Bolivarian Revolution in Historical Context"

Richard Fidler, Independent Researcher and Essayist, rfidler_8@sympatico.ca

"Plurinational State, Indigenous Autonomy in Bolivia – and Canada?"

Ana Maria Peredo, University of Victoria, aperedo@uvic.ca

"El 'Buen Vivir': Re-Energizing South American Indigenous Peoples Struggles"

Alvaro Graterol, Institute of Advanced Studies, Central University of Venezuela,

alvarograterol@gmail.com

"Management Self-Sustaining Model: 'Gradual Development for Urban Communities'"

Wednesday, June 1, 15:15-17:00

Venue: Science B 103

Keynote panel: Intersectionality and Socialist Feminism

Speakers: Abigail Bakan, Enakshi Dua, Meg Luxton

Thursday, June 2, 9:00-10:30

Venue: Scurfield 157

Contemporary Sites of Feminist Critique

Organizers: SSS

Christina Rousseau, York University, christina.rousseau@gmail.com

“All in the Family? How Marginalized Women Experience the Nuclear Family Structure (Or Don’t)”

Jean Chapman, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University, chapman@wilkinson.ca

“The women’s movement and the ‘woman question’”

Kanchan Sarker, University of British Columbia-Okanagan, sarkerk@gmail.com

“Unionisation and Inclusive Civic Infrastructure: Report from Mumbai’s Female Home- based Workers”

Lauren Janelle Montgomery, Carleton University

“Post Modern Cities and the Neoliberal Imaginary: Gentrification and Sex Workers in Canada”

Thursday, June 2, 9:00-10:30

Venue: Scurfield 257

Middle East And North Africa: Many Faces Of Struggles For Social Justice

Chair and Organizer: Mojtaba Mahdavi, University of Alberta

mahdavia@ualberta.ca

This panel explores the many faces of struggles for social justice in contemporary Middle East and North Africa (MENA). It reflects on social/civil rights movements as diverse as the urban poor movements, activism of labour union/workers, women’s and student movements, and environmental activists. Moreover, the panel investigates the quest for grassroots democratic socialism in political discourses of socialist Muslims and the new left in the MENA region.

This panel examines the extent to which the manifestations of these social phenomena nullify/challenge the old and naïve discourse of “Middle East Exceptionalism”, i.e. Middle East exceptionally resists progressive ideals and democratic institutions. Furthermore, it suggests the neo-liberal discourse/policies have exacerbated the crisis in the region.

Speakers:

Sabah Alnasseri, York University, alnasseri@yorku.ca “Tahrir and working class political hegemony: The case of Egypt”

Niloofar Miazzami, l’Université de Montréal, niloofar.miazzami@gmail.com

“Prospects of Reform as a Social Change in the Middle East”

Mojtaba Mahdavi, University of Alberta, mahdavia@ualberta.ca

“Social Justice and Spirituality: The Case of Progressive Muslims (New) Left in Iran”

Ingy El-Mostafa Higazy, The American University in Cairo,
ihigazy@aucegypt.edu "Egypt's Peripheral Colony: Violence, Disciplinary Power, and
State Making in the Sinai Peninsula, 1979-Present"

Abraham Weizfeld, saalaha@fokus.name, "Nation, Society and the State :
The reconciliation of Palestinian and Jewish Nationhood

Thursday, June 2, 9:00-10:30

Venue: Scurfield 268

Book Launch: *Escape from the Staple Trap*

Organizer: Paul Kellogg, University of Alberta, pkellow@athabascau.ca

From fur and fish to oil and minerals, Canadian development has often been understood through its relationship to export staples. This understanding has led many political economists to assume that Canadian economic development has followed a path similar to those of staple-exporting economies in the Global South, ignoring a more fundamental fact: as an advanced capitalist economy, Canada sits in the core of the world system, not on the periphery or semi-periphery. In *Escape from the Staple Trap*, Paul Kellogg challenges statistical and historical analyses that present Canada as weak and disempowered, lacking sovereignty and economic independence. In developing a sustained critique of the dominant trend in Canadian political economy since the 1970s, *Escape from the Staple Trap* offers an important new framework for understanding the distinctive features of Canadian political economy.

Chair: William Carroll, University of Victoria, wcarroll@uvic.ca

Speakers:

Radhika Desai, Professor, Department of Political Studies, University of Manitoba -
Radhika.Desai@ad.umanitoba.ca

James Lawson, Political Science, University of Victoria - lawsonj@uvic.ca

Sandra Rein – Associate Professor, Political Studies, University of Alberta –
srein@ualberta.ca

Paul Kellogg, Associate Professor, Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies, Athabasca
University – pkellogg@athabascau.ca

Thursday, June 2, 9:00-10:30

Venue: Scurfield 202

Political Economy of Food Production in Northern Indigenous Communities

Chair and Organizer: Rebecca Schein, Carleton University,
Rebecca.Schein@cunet.carleton.ca

“Food insecurity” has become a mobilizing issue across Northern Canada for Indigenous communities who continue to face the twin challenges of contemporary capitalism: deepening structural inequality and climate change. Community members depend on locally harvested plants and wildlife (country food) for their sustenance, and yet while these resources are under threat, the social systems that support country food economies and that are integral to community life are also changing. In this panel we consider how local food economies are impacted by the forces of global capitalism, and how the study of political economy can inform our understanding of these changes. In holding this panel we hope to deepen our theoretical understanding of local food economies and the role of the state and Indigenous institutions in shaping them, and to share new empirical insights from across Canada (and internationally, if relevant).

Speakers:

Rebecca Schein, Carleton University, Rebecca.Schein@cunet.carleton.ca

“Against harvesting as social reproduction: calculating the value of wildlife in the contemporary Arctic”

Joshua Gladstone, Gladstone.joshua@gmail.com

“Displacing Local Food Systems: The role of the welfare state in the advancement of capitalism in Canada’s North”

Deborah Simmons, Department of Native Studies, University of Manitoba,
director@srrb.nt.ca

Thursday, June 2, 10:45-12:15

Venue: TBA (scheduled by CAWLS)

CAWLS Keynote: Kim Voss on Neoliberal Dilemmas

Thursday, June 2, 10:45-12:15

Venue: Scurfield 268

Roundtable: Major Events and Issues in Today’s Geopolitical Economy

Organizers: Alan Freeman, Geopolitical Economy Research Group,
afreeman@iwgvt.org; **Radhika Desai**, Geopolitical Economy Research Group,
radhika.desai@umanitoba.ca

Chair: Radhika Desai, Geopolitical Economy Research Group,
radhika.desai@umanitoba.ca, University of Manitoba -
Radhika.Desai@ad.umanitoba.ca

This session will feature panelists discussing major issues in world affairs today and offering reflections on them and discussion will focus on how they might be connected. Panelists will also remark, as necessary on how existing paradigms of understanding world affairs, including 'globalization' and 'empire' are inadequate to understanding them and how we need to develop geopolitical economy if it is to do better.

Speakers:

Sabah Alnasseri, York University, alnasseri@yorku.ca

Paul Kellogg, Athabasca University, pkellow@athabascau.ca

Petar Kurecic, University of the North, Croatia, pkurecic@unin.hr

Thursday, June 2, 10:45-12:15

Venue: Scurfield 257

Idle No More

Organizer: Tom Langford, University of Calgary

Speakers:

Dr. Cora Voyageur, Department of Sociology, Univ. of Calgary voyageur@ucalgary.ca

Dr. Heather Divine, Department of History, Univ. of Calgary hdivine@ucalgary.ca

Thursday, June 2, 10:45-12:15

Venue: Scurfield 157

Roundtable: Recognition and Socialism: Whither Class Struggle?

Convener: Igor Shoikhedbrod, University of Toronto, ishoikhed@gmail.com

In his most recent work, the eminent German philosopher Axel Honneth makes the case for a revamped understanding of socialism. It is telling, however, that the normative foundation on which Honneth basis his idea of socialism eschews any consideration of class struggle. Yet, since Honneth's social philosophy concerns itself with social struggles for recognition, it is worth inquiring whether the theory of recognition can offer conceptual tools for analyzing contemporary forms of class struggle. This international roundtable will also examine the extent to which the theory of recognition provides a helpful strategy for re-actualizing the idea of socialism in the 21st century.

Speakers:

Igor Shoikhedbrod, ishoikhed@gmail.com

Mariana Texeira, mariana.on.teixeira@gmail.com

Arthur Bueno, artbueno@gmail.com

Victor Kempf, V.Kempf@em.uni-frankfurt.de

Thursday, June 2, 10:45-12:15

Venue: Scurfield 202

Roundtable: From International Solidarity Towards a Pan-Canadian Left Alternative

Chair and Organizer: André Frappier, National Leadership of Québec Solidaire, afrappier34@gmail.com

As the global economic crisis deepens, social movements throughout the advanced capitalist world are responding with struggles against austerity and for greater sovereignty and democracy. In North America, Quebec has been at the forefront of such struggles and its bid for emancipation and the creation of a sovereign state can play a dynamic role in bringing about the kinds of far-reaching social change that will necessarily transform the Canadian state as a whole. To counter the inevitable anti-Quebec offensive of the Canadian establishment, the solidarity of the Canadian working class with Quebec's fight for self-determination is vital and can contribute to strengthening progressive movements in English Canada. Building towards a convergence of social movements in English Canada, Quebec and First Nations is one of the essential tasks that was set out at the Peoples' Social Forum in Ottawa in 2014. The question remains: How can we follow through on it?

Speakers:

André Frappier, Member of National Leadership of Québec Solidaire, afrappier34@gmail.com

TBA, Solidarity Winnipeg,

David Bush, Rankandfile.ca, davidmobush@gmail.com

Sarah Beuhler, COPE Vancouver, sbeuhler@gmail.com

Thursday, June 2, 13:15-14:45

Venue: Scurfield 202

Roundtable: The Politics of Fossil Fuel Divestment

Convener: James K. Rowe, University of Victoria, jkrowe@uvic.ca

This roundtable will explore the emergence, impacts, and future trajectories of the fossil fuel divestment movement. Naomi Klein has argued that "no tactic in the climate wars has resonated more powerfully." If that is the case, then why? What can other movements learn about the relatively rapid spread of fossil fuel divestment? What dangers lurk in the uneasy alliances forming between fractions of the finance industry and this fledgling movement? Does the movement effectively prefigure democratic control over collective wealth like pensions, endowments, and

sovereign wealth funds? How is the movement contributing to the ongoing project of decolonization? How might these intersections be strengthened? This roundtable will be an opportunity to explore the politics of fossil fuel divestment more generally, while also facilitating a discussion of concrete tactics for those who are already engaged in campaigns, or looking to help start one.

Speakers:

Jessica Dempsey, University of British Columbia, jdempsey@uvic.ca

Carol Linnitt, Desmog Canada, carol@desmog.ca

George Hoberg, University of British Columbia, george.hoberg@ubc.ca

James Rowe, University of Victoria, jkrowe@uvic.ca

Emilia Belliveau-Thompson, University of Victoria, emilia.belliveau@gmail.com

Matt Hoffman, University of Toronto, mjhoff@utsc.utoronto.ca

Thursday, June 2, 13:15-14:45

Venue: Scurfield 157

Foreshortened and Displaced Critiques of Capitalism in the Global Justice Movement

Organizer: Regina Cochrane, University of Calgary, r.cochrane@ucalgary.ca

Chair: Nidhi Panwar, University of Calgary, nidhi.panwar@ucalgary.ca

Neoliberal globalization has been accompanied by the rise of resistance movements/spaces in both the Global North and South – Occupy, Via Campesina, Andean indigenism, the World Social Forum, etc. – and writers/academics supporting this “newest left.” Strongly influenced by populism, nationalism, and/or academia’s “cultural turn,” many of these challenge neoliberalism and/or transnational finance capitalism rather than capitalism per se. Some even go so far as to reduce neoliberalism to its “cultural underpinnings” in (Enlightenment) modernity and its universalizing tendencies. Papers should address the following questions: What are the political implications of such foreshortened and displaced critiques of capitalism? Are they merely reformist or do they embody deeper contradictions?

Speakers:

Regina Cochrane, University of Calgary, r.cochrane@ucalgary.ca

“Against (Neoliberal) Globalization: Foreshortened and Displaced Critiques of Capitalism at the World Social Forum”

Andony Melathopoulos, University of Calgary,
andony.melathopoulos@ucalgary.com, “If climate

‘changes everything,’ why does so much remain the same?”

Evgeniia Sidorova, University of Calgary, evgeniia.sidorova@ucalgary.ca
"Marxism and Aboriginal Peoples in the Soviet Union"

Murray Cooke, York University, mcooke@yorku.ca
"The Use and Abuse of 'Populism' in Contemporary North American Left Politics"

Thursday, June 2, 13:15-14:45

Venue: Scurfield 268

Blackness, Gender, and Class

Chair and Organizer: Abigail Bakan, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, abigail.bakan@utoronto.ca

Frantz Fanon's chapter, "The Fact of Blackness" in *Black Skin, White Masks* (1967) starkly notes the experience of being "an object in the midst of other objects." Citing the Hegelian moment of "being for others," Fanon notes the specific ontological reality that frames colonialism in terms of the body, consciousness, negation and the gaze. Contemporary Blackness studies draws upon Fanon's work, as well as leading Marxist scholars such as WEB DuBois, CLR James and Angela Davis. This panel draws on current research that attends to these conversations, with a focus on the intersection of Blackness, gender and class.

Speakers:

Rosalind Hampton, McGill University, rosalind.hampton@mcgill.ca

"(Re)Conceiving Blackness"

Abigail B. Bakan, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto abigail.bakan@utoronto.ca; **Daiva Stasiulis**, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University, dstasi@ccs.carleton.ca

"Revisiting 'Negotiating Citizenship' for Caribbean Women in Live-in Domestic Labour: Anti-Blackness, Gender and Class"

Grace-Edward Galabuzi, Ryerson University, galabuzi@politics.ryerson.ca

"Contextualizing the Insurgency in the early Twenty-First Century: Black experience and its race, gender, class and colonial dimensions"

Thursday, June 2, 13:15-14:45

Venue: Scurfield 257

JOINT SESSION, co-sponsored by the Canadian Association for Work and Labour Studies: Organizing For Socialism – Part One

Chair and Organizer: Ingo Schmidt, Athabasca University ingos@athabascau.ca

Neoliberal capitalism is in a crisis of legitimacy. In many countries, though, it is the political right, rather than the left, that thrives on that crisis. In Canada, an organized socialist voice is all but absent. This session explores the reasons for the weakness of the left and possible ways out of it. It includes papers dealing with the following questions:

- What are recent experiences the left can learn from?
- Which role do unions and social movements play in reinventing socialism?
- Does socialism need a new type of party? What would that look like?

Speakers:

Ingo Schmidt, Athabasca University, ingos@athabascau.ca

“Limits to Social Democracy, Populist Movements, and Left Alternatives”

Brent Toye, York University, toye@yorku.ca

“Broken Mirrors: The Representational Crises and Organizational Fragmentation of Swedish Civil Society during the Neoliberal Turn”

Benjamin O’Heran, University of Victoria, ohanbc@gmail.com

“Decolonial Intimacy: (Re)creating communities of Co-Resistance”

Thursday, June 2, 15:00-16:30

Venue: Scurfield 202

Disability and Class Struggle

Chairs and Organizers: **Mary Jean Hande**, maryjeanelizabeth@gmail.com

Elisabeth Harrison, elisabeth.ae.harrison@gmail.com

In a time of intensifying austerity, imperialism, financialization, militarism and incarceration, the ideological and material conditions of disability and disablement have never been more formidable, both in Canada and globally. This panel intends to reveal the ways in which addiction, disability, disablement, illness, mental health, and psychiatry are formed both ideologically and materially in this present moment, situating disability as an important site of class struggle. Presentations include analyses of Canadian mental health policy, addictions and harm reduction work, austerity and financial restructuring in the areas of prisons, war, education and healthcare institutions, as well as community organizing in these areas.

Speakers:

Mary Jean Hande, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, maryjeanelizabeth@gmail.com

“Politicizing Disability Care Struggles in Toronto”

Elisabeth Harrison, elisabeth.ae.harrison@gmail.com

“Resilience’ and Resistance: Trans, Genderqueer and Non-Binary People’s Experiences with Mental Health Care in Ontario”

Amber Reid, School of Social Work, York University, apreid@yorku.ca

“Disability, Gender, and Poverty within the Prison Industrial Complex”

Danielle Landry, Department of Sociology, York University; School of Disability Studies, Ryerson University, dlandry@yorku.ca

“Pennies a Day: Building Alternatives to Sheltered Workshops”

Thursday, June 2, 15:00-16:30

Venue: Scurfield 257

JOINT SESSION, co-sponsored by the Canadian Association for Work and Labour Studies: Organizing For Socialism – Part Two

Chair and Organizer: Ingo Schmidt, Athabasca University ingos@athabascau.ca

Neoliberal capitalism is in a crisis of legitimacy. In many countries, though, it is the political right, rather than the left, that thrives on that crisis. In Canada, an organized socialist voice is all but absent. This session explores the reasons for the weakness of the left and possible ways out of it. It includes papers dealing with the following questions:

- What are recent experiences the left can learn from?
- Which role do unions and social movements play in reinventing socialism?
- Does socialism need a new type of party? What would that look like?

Speakers:

Matt Fodor, York University, mattnfodor@gmail.ca

“What Happened to the Left of the NDP? Can it be Revived?”

Roger Annis, Editor, The New Cold War: Ukraine and Beyond, & the Canada Haiti Action Network, rogerannis@hotmail.com

“Building a Socialist Alternative in Canada Since World War 2”

Yuri Forbes-Petrovich, Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism, University of Western Ontario, yforbesp@uwo.ca

“Bernie Sanders and the Organization of a Contemporary Vanguard”

Thursday, June 2, 15:00-16:30

Venue: Scurfield 268

Workshop: Economics for Activists: Report and Dialogue on a Work in Progress

Chair and Organizer: Kim Pollock, kbpollock64@gmail.com

The current generation of community and labour activists is committed to social change but often lack a coherent critique of capitalism. We hope to offer a series of

workshops titled “Economics for Activists”. Combining the techniques of peer-led enquiry with a curriculum based on Marxist economics, we tentatively plan to pilot the workshops in Saskatoon this fall, hopefully followed by similar workshops in the Lower Mainland. Our session will present brief accounts of peer-led learning, our proposed curriculum and some of the research that will aid in the development of pedagogy and curriculum.

Speakers:

Kim Pollock, kbpollock64@gmail.com

Cheryl Hewitt, cherylhewitt54@gmail.com

Marion Craft, marionhewittpollock@gmail.com

Thursday, June 2, 15:00-16:30

Venue: Scurfield 157

Socialist Studies Journal Session for New Scholars

Chair and Organizer: Sandra Rein, University of Alberta srein@ualberta.ca

Although this session is open to everyone, special attention will be paid to assisting new scholars in pursuing scholarly publication in the journal *Socialist Studies*. The session will be led by the current editor, Dr. Sandra Rein and joined by Editorial Board members. Topics will include: assessing the “fit” between your work and the journal mandate; presenting your manuscript; and dealing with peer review and revisions.

Friday, June 3, 8:45-10:15

Venue: TBA (scheduled by CALACS)

JOINT SESSION, co-sponsored by the Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies - Extractive Industries and Organized Violence in Central America, Mexico and Columbia

Organizer: Simon Granovsky-Larson, University of Regina, simon.granovsky-larson@uregina.ca

Transnational corporations involved in extractive industries such as mining and hydroelectric production are currently enjoying a wave of expansion across Latin America, extracting resources and wealth despite community resistance. This growth is facilitated officially by states, and backed up by state forces as well as by an array of non-state armed groups. As intimidation tactics, violent attacks, and assassinations have become the norm, this panel asks who the organized armed groups involved are, and what relationship exists between armed actors, transnational corporations, and local and foreign governments. The panel aims to

identify common threads across case studies from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and Colombia.

Speakers:

Simon Granovsky-Larson, University of Regina, simon.granovsky-larson@uregina.ca; **Caren Weisbart**, York University, caren@riseup.net
"Extracted by Force: Violent Norms in the Implementation of Mining Projects in Guatemala"

Jasmin Hristov, McMaster University, jasminmanaus@gmail.com
"Violence, the Commodification of Women and the Destruction of Childhood in a Paramilitary-dominated Society"

Tyler Shipley, York University, tyshipley@hotmail.com
"Land Seizure, Dispossession, and Canadian Mega-Projects in Honduras"

Dawn Paley, Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, dawnpaley@gmail.com
"The Alliance for Prosperity and the Promotion of Extractive Industries under the Paradigm of the War on Drugs"

Friday, June. 3, 9:00-10:30

Venue: TBA (hosted by CSA)

JOINT SESSION, co-sponsored by the Canadian Sociological Association - Political Sociology Part A: Canadian Politics and Policy

Organizer: Ivanka Knezevic, knezevic@cass.utoronto.ca

Speakers:

Douglas Baer, DougBaer@gmail.com
"Public Opinion, Voting and the Politics of Inequality in Canada, 2004-2011 "

Marie-Philippe Lemoine, mlemo096@uottawa.ca
"What's the plan(t)? Different Perspectives on Cannabis Legalization"

Benjamin Christensen, benchrist@yahoo.com
"Power, society, and the drivers of change: Ontario occupational pension policy 1987-2016 "

Friday, June 3, 9:00-10:30

Venue: Scurfield 257

Marxist Debates on Commodification and Class Dynamics

Organizers: SSS

Mervyn Nicholson, Thompson Rivers University, mnicholson@tru.ca
"Commodifying Children"

Salmaan Khan, York University, salmaanahk@gmail.com

“After 400 years, I’ve got no choices!’: Reexamining the debate between free and unfree labour under Capitalism”

Keith Haysom, University of Ottawa, k_haysom@yahoo.ca

“Is The Precariat a Class? Thoughts on a Diagonalist Reconstruction of Class Struggle”

Friday, June 3, 9:00-10:30

Venue: Scurfield 157

Governance and Democracy

Organizers: SSS

Thomas Haines-Doran, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, T.Haines-Doran@soas.ac.uk

“The Political Economy of Rail Privatization in Britain”

Dennis Pilon, York University, dpilon@yorku.ca

“Occupy Democracy: Exploring Democracy as a Relationship”

Laura Tocco, University of Cagliari, Italy, ltocco@unic.it

“The Redefinition of Social Borders: The Experiment of “Özgür Kazova”

Aina-Obe Shamsuddin Bolatito, Sudan University of Science and Technology,

“Local Government and Public Value: A Prospect for Downtrodden Masses in Nigerian States”

Friday, June 3, 9:00-10:30

Venue: Scurfield 202

Book Launch/Panel Discussion: The Economics and Politics of Austerity, Resistance, and Alternatives

Chair and Organizer: Carlo Fanelli, Ryerson University, carlo.fanelli@ryerson.ca
Geoff McCormack and Thom Workman explore economic stagnation and the retreat of working-class organizations, as well as Canada’s experience through the “age of austerity” and highlight how this experience has been shaped by the exigencies of capitalist development and the catalyzing role of the Canadian state. Jim Silver argues that urban poverty today includes not only low incomes, but in all too many cases also poor housing, poor health, low educational achievement, high levels of neighbourhood violence, racism, colonialism and social exclusion. He puts forward a comprehensive, pan-Canadian strategy to dramatically reduce the incidence of urban poverty in Canada. Fanelli focuses on the neoliberal transformation of cities in Ontario, with special attention to Toronto. He argues that cities have been underfinanced, which has led to a deterioration of public services based on the contention that they are unaffordable. He puts forward a range of social policy

alternatives to austerity, drawing attention to labour-community coalitions as the most effective strategy for building resistance against neoliberalism.

Speakers:

Carlo Fanelli, Ryerson University, carlo.fanelli@ryerson.ca

Thom Workman, University of New Brunswick, wworkman@unb.ca

Jim Silver, University of Winnipeg, j.silver@uwinnipeg.ca

Friday, June 3, 9:00-10:30

Venue: Scurfield 268

Caste Oppression Today I: Violence, Human Rights, and Justice

Organizer and Chair: **Regina Cochrane**, University of Calgary, rcochran@ucalgary.ca

Papers:

Sandeep Chavan, Ambedkarite activist USA, "Caste Oppression Today: Root Causes and Remedies"

Nidhi Panwar, Department of Political Science, University of Calgary, "Caste-based Violence against Dalits in the Context of the Anti-Reservation Riots"

Dr. Raj Narnaware, Nursing, MacEwan University, Edmonton, "Human Rights Violations against Dalits in India"

Raj Kamble, President, Dr.Ambedkar International Mission Inc. U.S.A, "Caste Oppression Today and India's Justice System"

Friday, June. 3, 10:45-12:15

Venue: TBA (scheduled by CSA)

JOINT SESSION, co-sponsored by the Canadian Sociological Association - Political Sociology Part B: International and Comparative Studies in Political Sociology

Organizer: Ivanka Knezevic, knezevic@cass.utoronto.ca

Speakers:

Ali Dadgar, dadgar@uwindsor.ca; **Roozbeh Hatami**, hatamir@uwindsor.ca

"Introducing the 'Republic' Political Structure as an intermediary to the Oil Rentier State Theory: The Case of the Islamic Republic of Iran (1979-present)"

Anya Litviniuc, alitivini@ucalgary.ca

"Centre right and Far right: Competition or Alliance?"

Madalena Santos, MadalenaSantos@cmail.carleton.ca

"The Missing and the Dead in Transitional Justice (South African Case Study)"

Mushahid Hussain, mushahid.mh@gmail.com

"Labor Politics in the Age of "Precarity": Lessons from the Bangladeshi garment sector"

Friday, June 3, 10:45-12:15

Venue: Scurfield 157

Parenthetically Settled: Raced and Gendered Bodies Negotiate Imperialist Academe

Chair and Organizers: **Katie Aubrecht**, Mount Saint Vincent University, katieaubrecht@gmail.com, **Stephanie Latty**, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, sk.latty@gmail.com, **Isabel Mackenzie Lay**, Artist, Mental Health Counselor and Gestalt Psychotherapy Student, Isabelmackenzielay@gmail.com, **Tania Ruiz-Chapman**, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, t.ruiz.chapman@mail.utoronto.ca

Although colonial universities saw themselves as being part of an international community and inheritors of a legacy of Western knowledge, they were also part of historical processes of imperialism. They were established as a central part of the colonizing process, a bastion of civilization and a sign that a colony and its settlers had 'grown up'. (Smith, 1999, p. 65) This session is energized by Tuhiwai Smith's understanding of the role of universities in legitimizing and reproducing imperialist orders. We seek to examine the infantilization, pathologization and surveillance of gendered, racialized, indigenous, LGBTQ2S and disabled challenges to capitalism within academe.

Speakers:

Isabel Mackenzie Lay, Artist, Mental Health Counselor and Gestalt Psychotherapy Student, isabelmackenzielay@gmail.com; **Katie Aubrecht**, Mount Saint Vincent University, katieaubrecht@gmail.com

"Parenthetical Belonging: Women Students Discuss the Gendered Organization of University Life and Labour"

Stephanie Latty, Department of Social Justice Education, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, sklatty@gmail.com

"Space Invaders: The Racial-Spatial Logics of the Black Feminine Body in Academe"

Angele Alook, Alberta Union of Provincial Employees,

a.alook@aupe.org"Identifying as an Indigenous scholar: the best and worst decision of my career?"

Blake Hawkins, University of British Columbia, blake.hawkins@alumni.ubc.ca

"Recognizing White Privilege in #CritLib: The Ability to Critique Whiteness in the Neoliberalized Academy"

Friday, June 3, 10:45-12:15

Venue: Scurfield 257

Social Reproduction: Theory Meets Empirical Inquiry

Chair and Organizer: Susan Braedley, Carleton University,
susan.braedley@carleton.ca

Social reproduction has become one of the most promising and exciting concepts for research on contemporary social life, used in multiple ways, with developments in geography, indigenous studies, labour and activism, studies of care and many more. This session includes papers that capture and explore some of this richness, in order to inquire how this concept is being employed and the promise it holds. What is the relationship between social reproduction and capitalism NOW, and how does a social reproduction perspective foster analyses of all oppressions – gender, race, class, sexuality, ability and more –including their connections? Can social reproduction inspire us to imagine bold, emancipatory futures and if so, how?

Speakers:

Susan Braedley, Carleton University, susan.braedley@carleton.ca

“Slow Violence and Bare Life in Canadian Cities: Social Reproduction and the Reluctant Welfare State”

Leslie J. Nichols, Osgoode Hall Law School, lesliejane.nichols@ryerson.ca

“Social Reproduction, Motherhood and Unemployment”

Meg Luxton, York University, mluxton@yorku.ca

“The Production of Life Itself: Beyond Neoliberalism and Social Reproduction”

Friday, June 3, 10:45-12:15

Venue: Scurfield 202

Book Launch: A World to Win

Chair and Organizer: William Carroll, University of Victoria, wcarroll@uvic.ca

In this time of economic, ecological and social crises, a diverse array of collective movements carry the possibilities of deep democratization and alternative futures. *A World to Win* brings these movements alive as agents of history-in-the-making. Using theory and case studies, this book articulates the particular histories and structures facing social movements while offering analyses of our current era of crisis and change—in Canada and the world. In this session, contributing authors – including well-known political and social theorists, activist-intellectuals who have made significant contributions to movement politics and emerging voices in this field – will reflect on their analyses.

Friday, June 3, 10:45-12:15

Venue: Scurfield 268

Caste Oppression Today II: Cultural and Strategic Dimensions

Organizer: **Regina Cochrane**, University of Calgary, rcochran@ucalgary.ca

Chair: **Nidhi Panwar**, Department of Political Science, University of Calgary

Papers:

Siddhartha Valicharla, KnowRealIndia.com, USA, "Effects of Caste on Modern India – Sports

Pranali Garud, WITS South Africa, "Dalit Camera: "Through an Untouchable Eye""*

Rama Krishna Bhupathi, Board of Directors, Ambedkar International Center, USA, "Taking Ambedkar Forward: Tackling Rampant Caste Oppression in Indian Context"

Jai Birdi, Executive Director, Chetna Association of Canada, Vancouver, "Dalit Assertion – Strategic Considerations"

Friday, June. 3, 13:45-15:15

Venue: TBA (scheduled by CSA)

JOINT SESSION, co-sponsored by the Canadian Sociological Association – Political Sociology Part C: State and Citizenship

Organizer: **Ivanka Knezevic**, knezevic@cass.utoronto.ca

Speakers:

Andrew C Patterson, andrew.patterson@uleth.ca

"Electoral Systems and Population Health"

Carly Elizabeth Schall, cschall@iupui.edu

"Three Histories of Patient-Centered Care"

Margaret Bancercz, mbancercz@ryerson.ca

"Food Policy-Making in Canada: The Return of the State?"

Friday, June 3, 13:45-15:15

Venue: Scurfield 268

Caste Oppression Today III: Gender and Class Intersections

Organizers: Regina Cochrane, University of Calgary, rcochran@ucalgary.ca and Raj Narnaware

Chair: **Raj Narnaware**, Nursing, MacEwan University, Edmonton

Papers:

KP Ashwini, St. Joseph Arts and Science College, Bengaluru, India, and **Areesh**

Kumar Karamala, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, "Interlinks of Caste and

Gender: Interpreting Humiliation and Discrimination through Dalit Women's Bodies"*

Jaspreet Mahal, Fulbright Scholar, Brandeis University, Boston, and **Dadasaheb Tandale**, CARE India, "Caste and Gender Intersections in the Paradigm of Health Services"

Karthik Navayan Battula, EFL University, Hyderabad, "Caste in Context of Globalization: The Perception of International Aid Agencies"*

Suraj Yengde, WITS, Johannesburg, and Harvard University, Boston, "Oppressed Caste Capitalism"

Friday, June 3, 13:45-15:15

Venue: Scurfield 157

Critical Enquiries into Marxist Theory and History—Part One

Organizers: SSS

Alberto Martínez-Delgado, albertdelg@hotmail.com

"De-Re-Energizing the Dialectic"

Karen Marie Walker Brogan, York University, k162walker@gmail.com

"The Self-overcoming of Identity Thinking: Reinterpreting the Nietzschean Foundation of Negative Dialectics"

Jeremy Hexham, University of Calgary, jjhexham@shaw.ca

"The Fabian Society's Discovery of Cultural Hegemony"

Friday, June 3, 13:45-15:15

Venue: Scurfield 257

Genocide and Colonialism: The Enduring Legacy

Organizers: SSS

Caroline Locher-Lo, University of British Columbia, clocherlo@alumni.ubc.ca

"Persistence of Colonial Residue: The Lasting Implications in Post-colonial Taiwan"

Jason Chalmers, University of Alberta, chalmers@ualberta.ca

"Genocide as colonial recognition: Using 'genocide' to reproduce colonised subjects"

Sima Aprahamian, Concordia University, "Revisiting narratives of survivors of the 1915-1922 genocide of the Armenians: Loss, inability to grieve and mourn"

Ginette Thomas, School of Social Work, Carleton University,

ginette.thomas@carleton.ca

"Why do Health and Social Inequalities Persist in Indigenous Communities?"

Friday, June. 3, 15:30-17:00

Venue: TBA (scheduled by CSA)

***JOINT SESSION, co-sponsored by the Canadian Sociological Association -
Political Sociology Part D: Politics and Legitimacy***

Organizer: Ivanka Knezevic, knezevic@cass.utoronto.ca

Speakers:

Stephen Marmura, smarmura@stfx.ca

"Is the Medium the Message? Assessing WikiLeaks' impact in the context of a Legitimation Crisis"

Tyler David Dunford, tdunford@ualberta.ca

"Legal Nominalism and the War on Terror: A look at new Post-9/11 Legal Complexes"

Katherine Pendakis, kpendaki@uwo.ca

"The Politics of Kinship in Post-Civil War Greece"

Azar Masoumi, amasoumi@yorku.ca

"Incest and Murder: Taboos and Donald Trump's Politics of Security"

Friday, June. 3, 15:30-17:00

Venue: Scurfield 157

Critical Enquiries into Marxist Theory and History—Part Two

Organizers: SSS

Sophie Mireielle Lavoie,

"Carmen Aguirre's Writing: 'Terrorist' or Revolutionary?"

Martin Schoots-McAlpine, Trent University, martin.schoots.mcalpine@gmail.com

"The Communist Party of Canada and the Popular Front: A Critical History"

Kaveh Boveiri, Université de Montréal, "Arms Industry Analysis based on the Grundrisse"

Friday, June. 3, 15:30-17:00

Venue: Scurfield 257

Marcuse's Legacy and the Twilight of Postmodernism

Thom Workman, University of New Brunswick, wworkman@unb.ca

An exploration of the continuing relevance of Herbert Marcuse's critique as we pass through the twilight of postmodernism.

Speakers:

David Bedford,

“Nature as Resistance: ODM and Liberating Sublimation”

Tom Cheney,

“Art and the Experience of Nature in Marcuse's Aesthetic Dimension”

Terry Maley,

“Marcuse's Resilience: The Dialectics of Liberation in the era of Neoliberal/Post-Modern Decline”

Yet to be scheduled but will be cross-listed in SSS program:

JOINT SESSION, co-sponsored by the Canadian Sociology Association: What Is To Be Done? A Roundtable On Strategies To Challenge The Corporatization Of Canada's Universities

Chairs and Organizers: Janice Newson, York University, janewson@eagle.ca,

Claire Polster, University of Regina, claire.polster@uregina.ca

A substantial body of scholarship has mapped out the nature and harmful implications of the corporatization process. The casualization of academic labour, over-regulation of academics and their work, commercialization of publicly funded knowledge, and downsides of the programme prioritization process, among other aspects of corporatization, have received critical attention in previous Congress sessions. What has not received as much attention is what to do in response to such issues. This roundtable session will focus on strategies for confronting corporatization in ways that restore and strengthen the public serving focus of higher education. Contributions are invited that do any of the following: (a) describe how you and your colleagues have dealt with, or are trying to deal with, a corporatizing policy or initiative in your own institution, with a view to undermining or diverting its negative effects; (b) propose a strategically focused response to a corporatizing trend currently unfolding in higher education; (c) develop a strategy that links responses to corporatization undertaken within a given university or college with social movements based outside. Contributors will have up to 10 minutes to present their work for discussion, with a view toward developing strategic suggestions that can be circulated to concerned colleagues.

Speakers:

Peter S. McInnis, St. Francis Xavier University, pmcinnis@stfx.ca

“Resistance and Redirection in the Managed University”

Karen Stanbridge, Memorial University of Newfoundland, kstanbri@mun.ca

“Profession Fail: How Academics Have Allowed Others to Hijack their Profession”

and How they can Get it Back”

Martin Schoots-McAlpine, Trent University,
martin.schoots.mcalpine@gmail.com

“Students Against Capital: The Experience of the Revolutionary Student Movement”

Michael Bueckert, Carleton University, michael.bueckert@gmail.ca
“Democratizing Carleton University”

Claire Polster, University of Regina, claire.polster@uregina.ca

“Good Ideas Gone Wrong: Protecting Anti-Corporatization projects”

JOINT SESSION, co-sponsored by the Canadian Association for Work and Labour Studies - Exploring the Employment Standard Enforcement Gap in Ontario

Chair and Organizer: Mark Thomas, York University, mpthomas@yorku.ca

Employment Standards (ES) set the minimum terms and conditions in areas such as wages, working time, vacations and leaves, and termination and severance of employment. In Ontario, over six million workers rely on ES as the only source of workplace protection. Yet available research shows that ES violations are widespread, while enforcement mechanisms remain weak. These papers are part of a long-term multi-disciplinary study of ES enforcement that explores the dimensions of ES violations, current enforcement practices, and alternative approaches that might better meet the need to insure that precarious workers are able to enjoy basic labour market protections.

Speakers:

“The Recovery of Unpaid Wages in Ontario”

Rebecca Casey (York University), John Grundy (York University), Andie M. Noack (Ryerson University), Leah F. Vosko (York University)

“Addressing the Employment Standards Coverage Gap”

Leah F. Vosko (York University), Andrea M. Noack (Ryerson University), Mark Thomas (York University)

“Understanding Employment Standards Act Appeals”

Eric Tucker (Osgoode Hall Law School), Leah F. Vosko (York University), Andrea Noack (Ryerson University), Rebecca Casey (York University), and Maria Gintova (Ryerson University)

“Dealing with the Hard Cases: Front-Line Constraints and Strategies in Employment Standards Enforcement”

Alan Hall (Memorial University), Leah F. Vosko (York University), Rebecca Hall (York University), Nicole Bernhardt (York University)

“Not good enough for minimum wage”: Workplace harassment and precarious work in Ontario, Canada

Ayesha Mian Akram (University of Windsor), Adam Perry (McGill University),
Urvashi Soni-Sinha (University of Windsor)

“This is What Canada is REALLY Like? Comparing Immigrant and Canadian-born Workers’ Experiences of the Ontario ESA Claims Process”

Ayesha Mian Akram (University of Windsor), Shelley Condratto (Laurentian University), Mary Jean Hande (University of Toronto), Justin Kong (University of Toronto)

“Violations without Claims: the problem of precarity and new governance in the culture of employment standards enforcement in Ontario”

Jennifer Jihye Chun (University of Toronto Scarborough), Shelley Condratto (Laurentian University), Stephanie MacKinnon (OISE), Elliot Siemiatycki (Ryerson University)

JOINT SESSION, co-sponsored by the Canadian Association for Work and Labour Studies - The Challenges of Organizing Alberta Farm Workers

Organizer: Bob Barnetson, Athabasca University, barnetso@athabascau.ca

Alberta has long excluded paid farm workers from basic workplace rights, including the rights to form a union, collectively bargain, know about workplace dangers, refuse unsafe work, and receive workers’ compensation for workplace injuries.

These unconstitutional exclusions financially benefited farm owners and politically benefited the former Progressive Conservative government. At the same time, these exclusions have meant low wages and high rates of injury for farm workers.

With the election of a New Democratic government in 2015, it appears this long period of statutory exclusion is coming to an end. Drawing in part upon research from a forthcoming University of Alberta Press book about farm workers in western Canada, this panel will examine the legal, practical, and political challenges associated with organizing Alberta farm workers.

Chair and Discussant: Jason Foster, Athabasca University,

Speakers:

Bob Barnetson, Athabasca University, barnetso@athabascau.ca

Examining the historical political economy underlying the statutory exclusion of farm workers and the challenges this poses for contemporary organizing

Jennifer Koshan, University of Calgary,

Considering the constitutionality of Alberta's exclusion of farm workers from the ambit of the most employment laws, including any changes made by Alberta's New Democratic government.

Devin Yeager, UFCW 1118,

Discussing the needs of, and challenges facing, Alberta farm workers and UFCW's response to them.

JOINT SESSION, co-sponsored by the Canadian Association for Work and Labour Studies - Moving Beyond the Low Wage Economy: Strategies, Policies and Politics for a Living Wage

Organizer: Bryan Evans, Ryerson University, b1evans@politics.ryerson.ca

A central and enduring characteristic of capitalist labour markets for 25 or more years has been the stagnation in earned wages and income. This is a consequence of a restructuring of work organization and employment relations, more part-time, temporary, contract employment but also of a marked decline in the capacity of workers to bargain for better wages. The expansion of low waged work has, as a result, become increasingly normalized with dire consequences for social and economic equality, political contestation, and economic development. While primarily located in the private service sector, low waged work and strategies to pursue such, have entered into the public sector as states restrain compensation through austerity policies.

Papers TBA