Socialist perspectives on racial capitalism, colonialism and anti-blackness

In resonance with the Congress theme “Bridging divides: Challenging colonialism and anti-blackness”, the Society for Socialist Studies is calling for session proposals reflecting this theme from a socialist critique of capitalism and a socialist vision for a future that recognizes that all economic relations are racialized and gendered.

Racialized violence against Black, Indigenous, people of colour is a pivotal feature of the capitalist epoch. The present era of predatory capital, globalized finance and industrial operations, securitization, domestic militarization and endless global warfare has sparked massive social upheaval. Unparalleled numbers of racialized people are being violently dislocated across international jurisdictions. Forced migrations have resulted in multiplying deaths in the Mediterranean, Atlantic and Pacific Seas, and unprecedented incarceration at European and US borders. Canada is no exception to these trends.

Canadian cities are racialized, socially stratified and segregated. Years of austerity policies have widened racialized poverty gaps, dismantled public infrastructure, social and social security systems. Black, Indigenous and people of colour face deeply entrenched racialized violence. The poisonous devastation and environmental racism of Canada’s extractive industries is hitting Indigenous and Black communities hard. Canadian cities are riven with racialized segregation and poverty. Black communities are overpoliced and ‘carded’ 1 3.2 times more than whites 2 and have their personal profiles catalogued in a permanent database. Carceral capitalism is a Canadian issue. Between 2005 and 2016, the federal incarceration rate of black people in Canada increased by 70%, in spite of historically low crime rates 3. Indigenous women represent more than 35% of the federal prison population and their incarceration rates are rising faster than

1 Police Carding: Black people are stopped in the street, searched, required to produce identification and have their personal information recorded in police data bases regardless of whether they are found in violation of the law.
3 IBID
any other group. Gendered anti-blackness and settler colonialism are clearly the definitive features of racial and carceral capitalism in this country.

The 2020 Society for Socialist Studies conference takes up the theoretical and political implications of white heteropatriarchy, racial capitalism and coloniality in Canada. We invite your participation through session, roundtable, panel and paper proposals.

We aim to spark a new conversation about Canadian antiblackness and settler coloniality that will build on and beyond the current base of knowledge. Rinaldo Walcott argues for contemporary Black emancipation realized not through fugitivity but through sovereignty in relation to some notion of collective life. Leanne Betasamosake Simpson imagines queer normative land-based solidarities, achieved through constellations of co-resistances. Glen Coulthard discusses grassroots globalization based on ethical relationships to the land and pedagogies of insurgent indigeneity. Nandita Sharma rejects nationalisms as a horizon of decolonizing praxes and calls for the dissolution of the ruling categories of Native and Migrant toward building a common, worldly place “where our fundamental liberty to stay and move are realized”.

These provocations and debates can become the basis of renewed socialist thought and social movements against racial capitalism and coloniality in and beyond the academy. We are accepting session proposals related, but not limited, to the following sub-themes. As part of this dialogue, we remain open as always to sessions on the full range of socialist inquiry. International submissions welcome!

1. Black, Red and Brown: Decolonizing/Unsettling Marx – Antiblackness, Indigeneity, Antiracism
2. Antiblackness, Anti-Indigeneity and Canadian racial capitalism
3. Gendering and queering racial capitalism
4. Mapping the connections and disconnections of contemporary coloniality in Turtle Island, Palestine, Syria, Kashmir, Rojava among others in the world capitalist system
5. International, Neoliberal, militarized antiblackness/anti-indigeneity in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and emerging BRICS (Brazil, India, China, South Africa) countries.
6. Classed migration in the wake of permanent social crisis: producing gendered, racialized, sexualized, immobilities
7. Environmental racism, and the uneven impacts of climate change, survival, ‘disaster capitalism’
8. Anti-blackness and anti-indigeneity as the front line of emergent white heteropatriarchal Nationalism
9. Consolidation of global fascism

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10. Materializing ‘bare life’: carceral capitalism, new regimes of domestic, border, and transnational imperialism
11. The afterlives of Atlantic slavery and Canadian exceptionalism
12. Rethinking the role of ongoing dispossessions of Canadian and International so-called ‘primitive’ (primary) accumulation
13. The role of social reproduction in commodification and decommodification of care, gendered un/underpaid work and violent racial capitalist accumulation in the household, state, and global labour, commodity, value chains.
14. Problematizing the limits of value theory
15. Racial capitalism and the neoliberalism, financialization, securitization, militarization of so-called late capitalism
16. Building future socialisms and solidarities

To send proposals: Click Here

In the event that you are unable to navigate our system, you can also submit your proposal to jones.claudia2020@gmail.com. You can direct inquiries to this email address.

Consideration of session proposals for inclusion in the final programme will begin December 6, 2019, at which time the session submission process will be closed. A call for papers based on the selected sessions will be sent out December 13, 2019. Paper proposals may be submitted up to January 20, 2020.

*The Socialist Studies Society 2020, will be meeting on the unceded territories of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapewak and Attawandaron peoples who have long standing relationships to the land and region of Southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The local First Nations Communities are the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, the Oneida Nation of the Thames, and the Munsee Delaware Nation.

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Regular sessions
Three or four paper presentations can be accommodated in one session
Presentation time for each paper is limited to 15 minutes (four speakers) to 20 minutes (three speakers) to encourage audience discussion
AV (computer, projector, screen, and internet) will be available for presentations
These sessions are held in a classroom type setting with a capacity of between 25 – 50 people (participants and observers combined)
Roundtable Sessions
One or two separate roundtable sessions will be scheduled concurrently in one large room.
Each table can only accommodate 10 people (participants and observers combined).
Recommended for presentations based on research in progress or more general thematic discussions of work in a particular area.
AV will not be available for presentations.
Participants must distribute printed papers and/or handouts.

Workshop Sessions
May include facilitators and participants.
Sessions are typically on a clearly-defined topic and involve 3-4 presenters, with a chair.
You may propose a closed workshop with panelists; or a session that opens up the workshop to submissions (deadline for individual submissions is January 20, 2020).

Interdisciplinary Sessions (involving another association besides Socialist Studies)

Joint Sessions
Co-sponsored by two or more associations.
Session will be listed in the programs of co-sponsors.
Session will be hosted and scheduled by one of the associations as mutually agreed upon.
At least one session organizer and one additional participant in a joint or co-sponsored session hosted by the Society for Socialist Studies must be members and registered delegates of our association.
Participants must be a member and registered congress delegate of the association through which she/he/they submits an abstract.
Administrators will consult organizers to validate memberships.
Abstract submissions accepted by co-sponsor associations.
Any applications for Congress funding with the Society for Socialist Studies listed as co-organizers are required to be pre-approved by our association.
The allocation of funds must also be mutually agreed upon.

Co-sponsored Sessions
One primary association works with another association or group to organize a plenary or panel.
Session will be listed in the programs of co-sponsoring associations.
Session will be hosted and scheduled by the primary association with details communicated to the co-sponsors.
Participants must be members and registered congress delegates of at least one of the co-sponsoring associations.
Congress delegates from all associations are welcome to attend as observers.
Members of co-sponsoring groups (i.e. as opposed to congress associations) must comply with congress attendance policies, the exception being a session or panel open to the community. Any applications for Congress funding with the Society for Socialist Studies listed as co-organizers are required to be pre-approved by our association. The allocation of funds must also be mutually agreed upon.

Travel Grants

A limited number of travel grants are available of up to $350 for those traveling within Canada and up to $500 for those traveling internationally. To apply, please fill out the form available here and submit it to: societyforsocialiststudies@gmail.com

Renew Your Membership

2020 marks the 53th anniversary of the Society for Socialist Studies. From an era marked by the Civil Rights and anti-Vietnam war movements, to the current era marked by Climate Justice, Black Lives Matter and Idle No More, we have worked to build a society dedicated to keeping relevant the ideas of socialism. What better time, then, to join the society – or if you are a former member, to renew your membership?

SSS is an independent academic association, not affiliated with any political organization or group. Currently, the Society focuses on two initiatives:

- Our peer-reviewed academic journal. The most recent issue is available at http://socialiststudies.ca
- Our annual conference. The 2020 Congress will take place at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, June 1 to June 3.
- The journal and conference are important vehicles which provide a platform for established scholars. Critically, they have also become important vehicles allowing a new generation of scholars to present and publish their research.

All of this takes money. We run on a shoestring budget relying on the work of volunteers. That means that we are completely dependent on the support and commitment of the members of the society.

Membership fees are low. We offer a special $10 rate to student, retired, low income and unemployed members, and just $40 for full members.

The membership form is available here: http://socialiststudies.ca/membership/

Please consider joining today.