

Open SSS Executive Positions and Proposed Positions
(the latter, pending Constitutional Amendment)

Biographies of Nominees Received to Date

President:

Radhika Desai

I am Professor at the Department of Political Studies at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg and founding Director of the Geopolitical Economy Research Group there. I teach in the fields of comparative politics, comparative and international political economy and (left) political theory. Earlier, I taught at the University of Victoria.

I have considerable experience in working with membership organizations, having served on the executive of the University of Victoria Faculty Association, as President of the University of Victoria Faculty Women's Caucus and on the Board of Representatives of the University of Manitoba Faculty Association. I have also served on the boards of the Association for Heterodox Economics and currently serve on the Board of the World Association for Political Economy. I was Treasurer of the Society for Socialist Studies from 2014 to 2016 and, since then have served as President of the Society. I have also been actively involved with various community organizations, activist and NGO type, including the Greater Victoria Women's Shelter Society, Winnipeg's Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba and most recently, the Venezuela Peace Committee.

As a socialist who also considers imperialism, patriarchy and ecological destruction central to the structures of capitalism, I conceive of the role of our Society to be inclusive of all exploited and oppressed groups, articulate socialist, feminist, anti-racist and anti-imperialist and ecologically sustainable understandings and visions of our societies and connect them with actually existing struggles of people. In line with these views, along with hard-working executive members and members of the society's various committees, I have tried to make the society's membership and activities more diverse and am now pursuing a vision of the society as a network of scholars and activists that advance our diverse causes with increasing unity of vision.

I also believe each organization should strive to be more than the sum of its parts and that this is best achieved by practices that express solidarity and encourage initiative.

Member-at-large

Jamie Magnusson

I am a faculty member in in the Adult Education and Community Development graduate program at OISE, University of Toronto. I write and teach about how urban poverty is organized, and about how urban communities -- and in particular queer/trans BIWOC (Black, Indigenous, Women of Colour) -- can reclaim urban spaces from processes such as gentrification and police surveillance. I have years of experience in community organizing with queer/trans communities

and sex workers. I am interested in community defence involving organizing harm reduction, food sovereignty, health care access, and education for communities that are marginalized and targeted for state violence.

Bill Carroll

Bill's research interests are in the political economy of corporate capitalism, social movements and social change, and critical social theory and method. Currently, he co-directs "Mapping the power of the carbon-extractive corporate resource sector," a SSHRC-funded interdisciplinary partnership of several universities and civil-society organizations which traces the modalities of corporate power and resistance within the global political economy, focusing on fossil capital based in western Canada. He has been active in Socialist Studies since the 1990s and has served on the Program and Executive Committees and Editorial Board of *Socialist Studies*. Carroll's website can be found at <https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/wcarroll/>

Scholar-activist – pending constitutional amendment

1) David Huxtable

I have been involved in the labour movement for over 25 years. Annoyed at the state of Canadian unions, and tired of being told, "Shut up kid!" at union meetings, I went back to school to study the union movement as a sympathetic critic. Eventually I completed graduate work at SFU and UVic, where I studied past and present international trade union institutions. My PhD research examined existing and emergent relations between unions and non-union civil society groups, with a focus on the specific collaborations involved in the transnational campaign for an ILO convention on domestic worker rights.

Despite my early negative experiences of the trade union movement, I continued to work as a labour activist. I have worked as an employment standards advocate for non-union workers, an organizer, and a union representative. Currently I work as staff at CUPE 2278 - the union for Teaching Assistants and Language Instructors at UBC. Clearly my efforts to leave academia behind were only somewhat successful.

I continue to find relationships between unions and other social and environmental organizations intellectually fascinating, and practically important. Similarly, I think that collaboration between socialist academics and social/ecological justice organizations can only help our project to build a better world. Academics concerned with justice need to ground their research in the needs of the community. Likewise, labour leaders (for example) need to ground their decisions in social and environmental facts, rather than prejudice and tradition. I believe having links like the proposed "scholar-activist" position on the SSS board are crucial to building academic-community relationships, and I look forward to the helping Socialist Studies develop future community collaborations.

2) Sabra Rezaei

Sabra Rezaei is an on-the-ground community activist and scholar. Sabra earned her Masters degree in Adult Education and Community Development and has been writing on queer diasporic studies and anti-capitalism and anti imperialism in the Middle East. She has been involved in political movements in Iran, where she is originally from. She has presented her work internationally and has recently published a piece titled "Living Peripheral, Thinking South: decolonizing queer Marxism, or, why does queer Marxism need Asia" at Invert Journal.

Membership Secretary – pending constitutional amendment

Megan Aiken

Megan is a PhD candidate in Political Science at the University of Alberta. Broadly, she studies critical health policy, the role of ideas in public policy, and discursive methods. Her dissertation is a genealogy of the opioid crisis in Canada. She holds a BA in Political Science and International Relations from St. Thomas University and a MA in Political Science from the University of New Brunswick.

Megan was one of the Society's inaugural student observers this past year and participated on the Membership Committee. As Membership Secretary she will emphasize the importance of community building within and beyond the academy.

Student and youth representative – pending constitutional amendment

1) **Ian Liuja Tian**

Ian is a doctoral student at University of Toronto. His interests are socialist feminisms, queer theory and Marxism and gender and sexuality in post socialist contexts. At SSA, he will be able to bring perspectives from graduate students, making sure that students and youth are contributing to the institutional continuity of the society.

2) **Will Kujala**

Hi, I'm a PhD candidate in political science at the University of Alberta, where he is doing research on antiracist and anticolonial internationalism in the 1960s. I'm running for Student and Youth Representative because I've always found the Society for Socialist Studies to be a welcoming haven for critical and grounded work in the social sciences and humanities. If I was elected my main priorities would be expanding the base of graduate students involved in the Society, because it really is an exceptional venue and community for graduate students.