

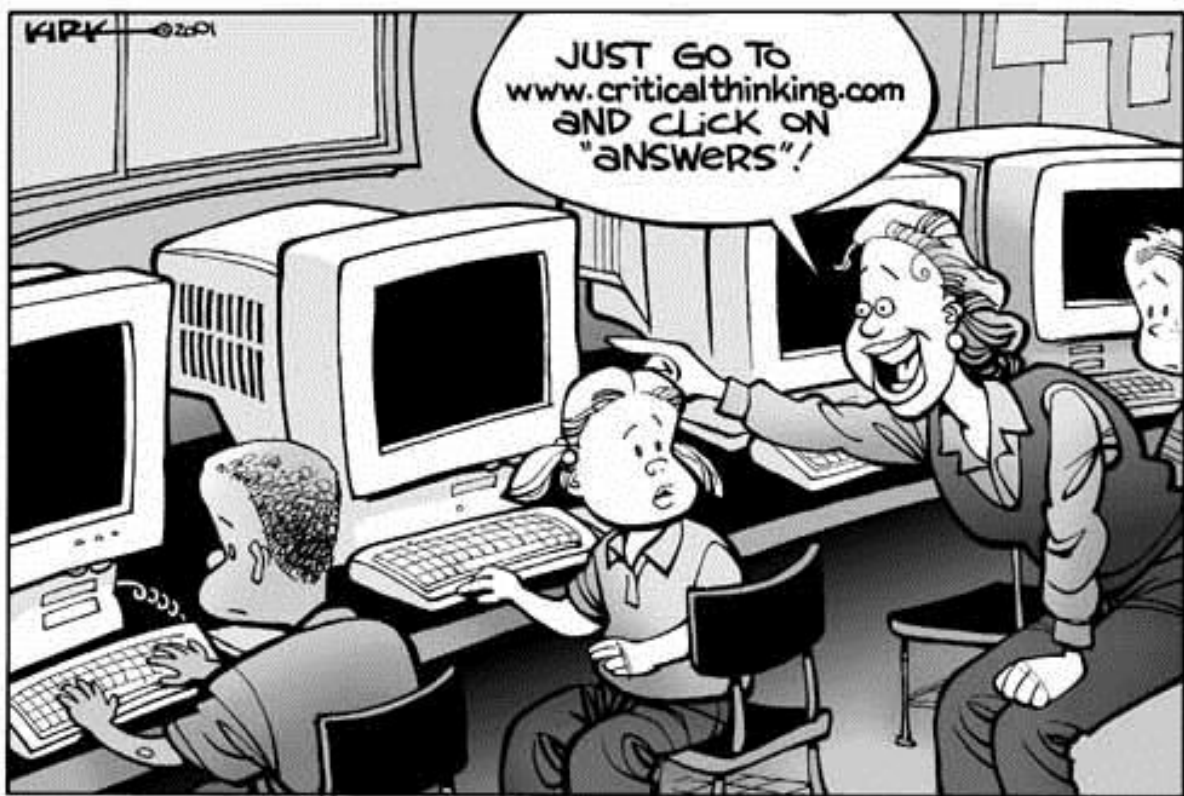
**Society for Socialist Studies**

[www.socialiststudies.ca](http://www.socialiststudies.ca)

presents:

## **Crossroads**

# **Critical Theories in an Uncertain World**



Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences

Wilfrid Laurier University & University of Waterloo

Waterloo, May 30 – June 2, 2012

## **Crossroads – Critical Theories in an Uncertain World**

There are always some people who think that their time has just begun while others fear that they have run the course of history. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, liberals lamented the decay of free market capitalism and social democrats were disappointed that the organized capitalism they had envisioned as an alternative to the unfettered rule of capital had not materialized. Communists saw the general crisis of capitalism as the perfect chance to advocate their Soviet alternative whereas the Nazis rebuilt the power of capital in the name of racial superiority. Reflecting on the economic and political conditions of the 1930s, Adorno and Horkheimer argued that the dialectic of enlightenment had transformed societies in such a way that the historical choices Rosa Luxemburg had seen – ‘socialism or barbarism’ – were replaced by different kinds of barbarism. Dissident intellectuals like Benjamin, Freud, and Arendt seconded such arguments. Keynes struck a more positive tone by suggesting a reinvention of liberalism that could align it with reformist labour movements.

Without a doubt, Keynes’s embedded liberalism was much more human than Hitler’s and Stalin’s respective empires. Yet capitalism with a human face also had its costs: democratic participation was subjugated to technocratic management processes, entire groups of people, notably women, ethnic minorities, and immigrants, were marginalized, the Global South was turned into a site of proxy-wars between capitalism and Soviet communism, and Mother Nature was misused in the name of never-ending prosperity. By the late 1960s, a new generation of protestors, inspired by theoreticians such as Marcuse and Mills but also by poets and singers of a burgeoning counter-culture, rebelled against the one-dimensional men that the allegedly antagonistic systems of the East and the West had both produced. Critical thinking, it seemed, became a force of social change. Unfortunately, it didn’t take long until the then New Left began to mimic Old Left party building, with each self-appointed vanguard organization claiming exclusive possession of the eternal truth, or disintegrating into single-issue movements of all kinds. With hindsight, the respective insularities of those new proletarian vanguards and social movements look like a practical anticipation of postmodern thinking, which accompanied the rise of neoliberalism in the 1980s.

The collapse of the Soviet empire completed the complementary rise of neoliberalism on the right and postmodernism on the left. Ironically, even the small group of socialists who maintained that there are alternatives to capitalism and actually existing socialism abandoned their hopes after the latter ceased to exist. During the 1990s, neoliberals were as triumphant as Soviet propagandists had been in the 1930s, while the left was as scattered and disoriented as Great Depression liberals. Critical theories were as homeless as they were during that earlier period. The discontent with neoliberalism, which was growing over the 1990s, eventually produced a new generation of protestors who took to the streets without reading Marx, Marcuse or Mao. At a series of World Social Forums and similar events, each presenting a mix of

protests and teach-ins, they sought to build a movement of movements – but couldn't withstand the pressures of permanent warfare to which neoliberalism took refuge after the New Economy boom went bust. The Great Recession of recent years produced new kinds of discontent but, so far at least, nothing that amounts to a movement for progressive change (the many urban occupations that have cascaded from the Arab Spring to the 15-M movement in Spain, and Occupy Wall Street are a hopeful sign). Yet ideas around which such movements could coalesce are in short supply. Where they exist, they oscillate between abstract principles and small-scale experiments as in the days of Fourier and Owen. Unlike the utopian socialists of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, though, we possess lots of experiences of failure that might contribute to a new socialist project.

In a world that has entirely changed since capitalism and socialist critique first developed, old questions need to be answered in new ways. What is the relationship between our understandings of the world and visions of a new world? How much understanding of reality is possible in the first place? Where is the line between concrete utopias and eschatological beliefs? Who are the agents of progressive change? Which role can intellectuals play to support such change?

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**Welcome to Congress 2012**

Keynote Address

**Sharit Bhowmik**

**Globalization and Labour:**

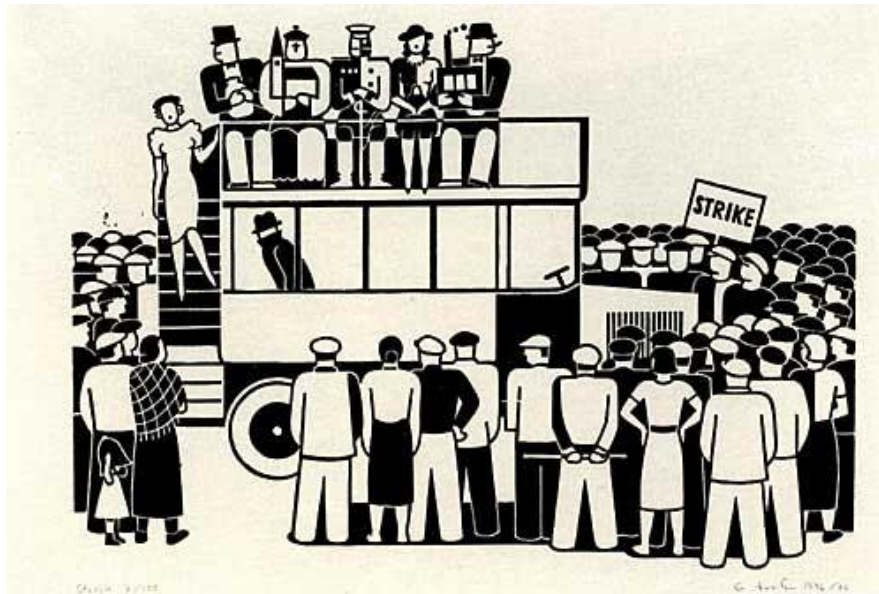
**A Southern Perspective on the Workers of the World**

Thursday, May 31, 2012

14:00 – 16:00

Globalization is most commonly seen as a process in which cheap labour in the Global South undercuts the social standards that workers in the North have achieved over long periods of organizing and struggle. Dr. Bhowmik introduces us to the realities of workers in the South and ponders the question how working and living conditions of workers all over the world could possibly be improved.

**Prof. Dr. Sharit Bhowmik**, Dean of the School of Management and Labour, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India. He also works with the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Labour University. His research interests are labour organizations, informal employment, gender and employment, plantation employments, worker cooperatives workers and self-management.



## Programme at a Glance

<b>May 30</b>			
	Room	Room	Room
9:00-10:30	A.1 Educating and Publishing	A.2 Babeuf and Luxemburg: Socialist Inspiration for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century I	A.3
10:45-12:15	B.1 Reclaiming the Public University in Canada	B.2 Babeuf and Luxemburg: Socialist Inspiration for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century I	B.3 The Aspiring Superpower: Critical Observations on India I
13:00-14:30	C.1 Palestine: Pedagogical Challenges and Strategies	C.2 Counter-hegemonic Projects and Practices I	C.3 Contours of Anti-Neoliberalism in Latin America and the Caribbean
14:45-16:15	D.1 Culture, Critique and Aboriginal Education	D.2 Counter-hegemonic Projects and Practices II	D.3 Palestine Solidarity: The Role of Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions

<b>May 31</b>			
	Room	Room	Room
9:00-10:30	E.1 New Scholars Forum I	E.2 Are there Alternatives?	E.3
10:45-12:15	F.1 New Scholars Forum II	F.2 Critical Theories	F.3 The Aspiring Superpower: Critical Observations on India II
14:00-16:00	Keynote Sharit Bhowmik: Globalization and Labour – A Southern Perspective on the Workers of the World room		
16:15-17:00	AGM		

<b>June 1</b>			
	Room	Room	Room
9:00-10:30	G.1 Feminist Perspectives on Genocide, Narratives of Displacement and Social Death	G.2 Social Democracy After the Cold War	
10:45-12:15	H.1 Countering the Publicity State	H.2 Roundtable Discussion on Socialist Alternatives	H.3 The Aspiring Superpower: Critical Observations on India III
13:00-14:30	I.1 Dystopia – Film Screening and Roundtable Discussion I	I.2 Aspects of the Canadian Economy	
14:45-16:15	J.1 Dystopia – Film Screening and	J.2 Neoliberalism in Canada: Colonialism at Home and	

	Roundtable Discussion II	Imperialism Abroad
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June 2		
	Room	Room
9:00-10:30	K.1 Marxist-feminist Encounters	K.2 Work, Employment and Inequality in an Uncertain World I
10:45-12:15	L.1 Re-animating Socialist Feminism	L.2 Work, Employment and Inequality in an Uncertain World II
13:00-14:30	M.1 Women's Work at the Crossroads	M.2 Chinese and Canadian Labour Experiences
14:45-16:15	N.1	N.2



## Detailed Programme: May 30

### A.1 Educating and Publishing, 9:00 – 10:30, room

#### Talking about Religious Presence Instead

Xavier Merin, Wilfrid Laurier University, [xavi7230@mylaurier.ca](mailto:xavi7230@mylaurier.ca).

#### Conceptualizing and Subverting the Capitalist Academic Publishing Model

Wilhelm Peekhaus, School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
[peekhaus@uwm.edu](mailto:peekhaus@uwm.edu).

### A.2/B.2 Gracchus Babeuf and Rosa Luxemburg: Socialist Inspiration for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, 9:00 – 10:30 and 10:45 – 12:15, room

Roundtable Organizer: William Pelz, Institute of Working Class History, [iwch@juno.com](mailto:iwch@juno.com).

Gracchus Babeuf and Rosa Luxemburg stood on the far left of the political spectrums in their times, both represented radical visions for human emancipation and dedicated struggle towards such emancipation. This roundtable starts with a discussion of Babeuf's ideas and their relevance for today and then discusses the economic and political theories of Rosa Luxemburg in more detail.

#### Speakers:

Ottokar Luban, International Rosa Luxemburg Association

William Pelz, , Institute of Working Class History, [iwch@juno.com](mailto:iwch@juno.com).

Lea Haro, Co-editor of the Complete Works of Rosa Luxemburg.

Stéphanie Roza, [stephanieroza@yahoo.fr](mailto:stephanieroza@yahoo.fr).

Ingo Schmidt, Athabasca University, [ingos@athabascau.ca](mailto:ingos@athabascau.ca).

### A.2 Reclaiming the Public University in Canada (joint session with the Canadian Sociological Association), 10:45 – 12:15, room

Session organizer: Claire Polster, Department of Sociology and Social Studies, University of Regina, [claire.polster@uregina.ca](mailto:claire.polster@uregina.ca).

For years, academics have been organizing sessions to analyze and critique the corporatization of Canada's universities. Although the evolution of this process still merits academic attention, this session will be devoted exclusively to papers addressing strategies to resist corporatization and to reclaim or remake public - and public serving - higher education in Canada. Papers may focus on challenges to university corporatization that have taken place either in the past or that are ongoing in Canada or elsewhere. Or, they may present and advocate new ideas and approaches to reclaiming public higher education based on the ideas of various social theorists and thinkers, strategies adopted by other social movements, and/or their author's own experiences and imaginings. Papers may be empirical, analytical, comparative, or a combination of these.

Chair: Janice Newson, Sociology Department, York University.



**Thinking Outside the Box: Strategies to Reclaim Public Serving Universities in Canada**  
Claire Polster, University of Regina, [claire.polster@uregina.ca](mailto:claire.polster@uregina.ca).

**The Edu-factory Collective and the Global University**  
Andrew Iliadis, Ryerson and York Universities, [ailiadis@ryerson.ca](mailto:ailiadis@ryerson.ca).

**As the University Fails: Engaging a Radically Militant Response to Changes in Post-secondary Education in Ontario**  
Taiva Tegler, University of Ottawa, [taivali@gmail.com](mailto:taivali@gmail.com) and James Meades, Carleton University, [meades.james@gmail.com](mailto:meades.james@gmail.com)

**Thinking Back: Reasserting the Liberal Arts in Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education**  
Chad D Thompson, University College of the North, [cthompson@ucn.ca](mailto:cthompson@ucn.ca)

**B.3 The Aspiring Superpower in an Uncertain World: Some Critical Observations on India, Part One: Gender Issues (see also sessions F.3 and H.3 on caste and class, economics and social movements in India), 10:45 – 12:15, room**

Session Organizer: Kanchan Sarker, University of British Columbia, [kanchan.sarker@ubc.ca](mailto:kanchan.sarker@ubc.ca).

India, the 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest growing economy, maintaining an average of 8% growth for the last 25 years, is also the 4<sup>th</sup> largest economy of the world according to PPP. Yes, it is the home of the world's 4<sup>th</sup> largest number of billionaires, and also the home to world's largest population of poor, hungry, and illiterate with inequality increasing. Demographic dividends as well as its few world class institutions have made her the back office of 360 Forbes 500 companies, yet thousands of farmers have committed suicide unable to pay their debts. So, there are two Indias: the Shining India (India) and the Suffering India (Bharat). Besides these macro observations, we also need to see critically how some vulnerable groups such as its aboriginal peoples, dalits, women, people working in the informal sector, are facing this dichotomy. It is also important to see the state of its environment in the context of present development discourse, given that "Ecology is the Permanent Economy".

**By or Die: Dowry and Violence of the Market**

Himani Banerjee, Dept. of Sociology, York University, [himanib@yorku.ca](mailto:himanib@yorku.ca).

**Quality of Life of Indian Women in the Phase of Liberalization**

Chaiti Sharma-Biswas, Economic Research Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India, [chaitisb@hotmail.com](mailto:chaitisb@hotmail.com).

**Gender Segregation: Cause and Effect: An Indian Evidence from Service Sector**

Sonali Chakraborty, Sociological Research Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India, [csonali60@hotmail.com](mailto:csonali60@hotmail.com).

**C.1 Palestine: Pedagogical Challenges and Strategies, 13:00 – 14:30, room**

Roundtable organizer: Vannina Sztainbok, University of Toronto, [vannina.sztainbok@utoronto.ca](mailto:vannina.sztainbok@utoronto.ca).

The conflict in Palestine is one of the pressing issues of our time. Yet at the very moment when greater understanding and awareness are needed, researchers, teachers, and activists face a context of misinformation and pressure to keep quiet about this crucial issue. This roundtable features experienced researchers, educators, and activists who will be sharing their strategies

for approaching Palestine/Israel in their research and in the class. The panelists will be addressing various topics including: freedom of speech; self-censorship; university officials' responses to silencing campaigns; classroom strategies; and supervising student research. This roundtable is envisioned as a "teach-in," so that panelists and audience members will have time to exchange experiences, concerns, and strategies.

Speakers:

Sheryl Nestel, Independent Scholar, [sheryl.nestel@utoronto.ca](mailto:sheryl.nestel@utoronto.ca).

Abbie Bakan, Head of the Department of Gender Studies and Professor of Political Studies, Queen's University, [abigailbakan@gmail.com](mailto:abigailbakan@gmail.com).

Mary-Jo Nadeau, Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto, [maryjo.nadeau@gmail.com](mailto:maryjo.nadeau@gmail.com).

### **C.2/D.2 Counter-hegemonic Projects and Practices: Moving Outside the Box, 13:00 – 14:30 and 14:45 – 16:15, room**

Session organizer: Bill Carroll, Sociology, University of Victoria [wcarroll@uvic.ca](mailto:wcarroll@uvic.ca)

This session takes up the movements, parties, cultural currents and prefigurative practices that are contesting the hegemony of transnational neoliberalism in ways that lead us outside the box of capitalist modernity. Or do they? Transitioning out of that box has proven difficult to say the very least. What are the enabling conditions, forms of collective agency, political alignments and alternative social visions that might foster such transitions? Can we detect elements of them in the Latin American pink tide, the Occupy movement, etc? The session welcomes strategic critiques, theoretical reflections, and empirical case studies.

#### **Some Thoughts on Equality and Transformative Change**

Robert Albritton, Professor Emeritus, Political Science, York University.

#### **Embedding Postcapitalist Alternatives: The Global Network of Alternative Knowledge Production and Mobilization**

William K. Carroll, JP Sapinski, Department of Sociology, University of Victoria.

#### **The Role of the Transnational Trade Union Cadre in Shaping Labour Responses to Global Neoliberalism**

David Huxtable, Dept. Of Sociology, University of Victoria, [huxtable@uvic.ca](mailto:huxtable@uvic.ca).

#### **21 Century Socialism: Participatory Democracy – People's Power**

Errol Sharpe, Fernwood Publishing, [errol@fernpub.ca](mailto:errol@fernpub.ca).

#### **Strategic Breakthrough? Reflections on the Occupy Movement in North America**

Stephanie Ross, York University, [stephr@yorku.ca](mailto:stephr@yorku.ca).

#### **Post-Soviet Transition in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Capitalism, Socialism, Barbarism – or Social Innovation?**

Debbie Dergousoff, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, [ddergous@sfu.ca](mailto:ddergous@sfu.ca).

### **C.3 Contours of anti-neoliberalism in Latin America and the Caribbean: Case studies from Cuba, Venezuela, Colombia and ALBA, 13:00 – 14:30, room**

Session organizer: Paul Kellog, Athabasca University, [pkellogg@athabascau.ca](mailto:pkellogg@athabascau.ca).

It is now 20 years since we marked five centuries of European colonialism in the Americas. Since that time, we have seen enormous social movements against neoliberalism throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. This panel – through case studies drawn from countries and institutions which have been at the centre of the resistance – will assess where our movement is at, 20 years on. The panel will be opened and closed by analysts from Cuba. The uneasy rapprochement between Colombia and Venezuela will be examined, as well as the emergence of counter-hegemonic regional associations in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a special focus on the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA).

**Cuba in the 21st Century: towards a new model of socialist development**

Concepción Nieves Ayús, Dean Institute of Philosophy of Havana

**States of exception Colombia and Venezuela: neo-colonization and the uneasy Bolivarian discourses**

Nchamah Miller, Visiting Research Professor, Institute of Philosophy, Havana

**ALBA and UNASUR – The Emergence of Counter-hegemonic Regional Associations in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Paul Kellog, Athabasca University.

**Updating the Cuban Economic Model: Challenges and Realities**

Hugo Pons, Vice President Cuban Society of Economists, Havana, Cuba.

**D.1 Culture, Critique, and Aboriginal Education: Thinking Beyond the Divide (joined session with the Canadian Sociological Association), 14:45 – 16:15, room**

Roundtable organiser: NJ Baker, Southeast Regional College, [njbaker@southeastcollege.org](mailto:njbaker@southeastcollege.org)

It is not unusual for those of us working within Aboriginal educational initiatives to hear that there exists an insuperable divide between the liberal arts tradition of critical thinking and various indigenous models of holistic knowing. One passionate comment that reflects this was made in a meeting of university college leaders in Manitoba: “It isn’t about academic freedom. It’s about truth and respect.” Indeed, Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, noted at a speech at Nipissing University that an Elder had remarked on the apparent contradiction between traditional ways of knowing and the ideals of critical thought within post-secondary education. Are Aboriginal cultures and traditions at odds with critical analysis as promoted in the liberal arts? Are these models of thinking wholly incompatible? Must our post-secondary institutions follow one model or the other? This roundtable brings together Aboriginal university educators and scholars to reflect on this perceived divide.

Speakers:

Sandra Barber, University Instructor, University College of the North

Jaime Cidro, Assistant Professor, University of Winnipeg

Denise Henning, President and CEO, North West Community College (tentative)

Laurie McLaren, Executive Director of Aboriginal Initiatives, Nipissing University

Hillory Tenute, PhD candidate, Carleton University

### **D.3 Palestine Solidarity: The Role of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, 14:45 – 16:15, room**

Roundtable organizer: Alan Sears, Department of Sociology, Ryerson University,  
[asears@soc.ryerson.ca](mailto:asears@soc.ryerson.ca).

In 2005, over 170 Palestinian civil society issued a call for a campaign of boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law and Palestinian rights. This roundtable will discuss the movement that has developed in response to that call, including historical parallels with the South African anti-apartheid movement, questions of boycott and academic freedom and activist responses in labour, cultural and academic contexts. The relationship of Palestine solidarity to anti-austerity movements in the current context will also be discussed.

Speakers:

tba

## Detailed Programme: May 31

### E.1/F.1 New Scholars Forum, 9:00 – 10:30 and 10:45 – 12:15

Session organizer: Matthew Brett, Concordia University, [brett.matthew@yahoo.ca](mailto:brett.matthew@yahoo.ca).

**Would 'Flexicurity' Work to Address the Needs of a Changing Labour Market in Canada, Where Precarious Employment is High and Employment Insurance Payments Low?**

Leslie Jane Nichols, Ryerson University, [lesliejane.nichols@ryerson.ca](mailto:lesliejane.nichols@ryerson.ca).

**Women in the 2011 Canadian Federal Election: The (In)Visibility of Gender on the Neoliberal Policy Agenda**

Mallory Daley, [daley.mallory@gmail.com](mailto:daley.mallory@gmail.com).

**Detroit: Radical Critique of Reason, Morality Beyond Good and Evil, and Urban Social Theory in Practice**

Grant Yocom, Interdisciplinary Humanities, Brock University, [gy00aa@brocku.ca](mailto:gy00aa@brocku.ca).

**Patterns of Discourse at Occupy Vancouver: A Study of Dialogue Amongst the Occupation's General Assembly**

Benjamin Levy, Simon Fraser University, [blevy@sfu.ca](mailto:blevy@sfu.ca).

**In Fear of Peace: The Convergence of Socialism and Pacifism in Cold War Canada and Australia**

Piper Rodd, Deakin University, [piper.rodd@deakin.edu.au](mailto:piper.rodd@deakin.edu.au).

**Forging Individual Identity and Collective Consciousness in the Place and Space of Iran: The Experience of WHO Nurse Margaret Jackson**

Lydia Wytenbroek, Trinity Western University, [Lydia.Wytenbroek@mytwu.ca](mailto:Lydia.Wytenbroek@mytwu.ca)

**Health is in 'Our' Hands: A Critique of HIV/AIDS Prevention Campaigns Targeted to Aboriginal Women in Canada**

Olivia Kijewski, Wilfrid Laurier University, [kije2740@mylaurier.ca](mailto:kije2740@mylaurier.ca).

### E.2 Are there Alternatives?, 9:00 – 10:30, room

**Toward a Permanent Citizens' Assembly of Canada**

Larry Patriquin, Social Welfare and Social Development, Nipissing University, [larryp@nipissingu.ca](mailto:larryp@nipissingu.ca).

**Radical post-liberal democratic utopias, without anarchist naïveté or Marxist praxis**

John Gulick, Department of Sociology, Brooklyn College, [jlawgulick@gmail.com](mailto:jlawgulick@gmail.com).

**What is the Difference Between a Town and a Workplace? In Search of a Philosophical Basis for Democracy**

Tom Malleson, University of Toronto, [tommalleson@hotmail.com](mailto:tommalleson@hotmail.com)

**Towards an Architecture of Liberation**

Charles Wells, Contemporary Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University, [cwells@wlu.ca](mailto:cwells@wlu.ca).

### F.2 Critical Theories, 10:45 – 12:15, room

**Horkheimer, Disappointment and the Temporal Orders of Early Critical Theory**

Loralea Michaelis, Department of Politics and International Relations, Mount Allison University, [lmichael@mta.ca](mailto:lmichael@mta.ca).

**The Dialectic of Hope and Despair in Political Organizing**

AK Thompson, Upping the Anti: A Journal of Theory and Action. [akt@tranzform.ca](mailto:akt@tranzform.ca).

**Marxist Aesthetic Defenses of Civil Liberties from the Popular Front to Post-9/11**

Norman Arthur Fischer, Kent State University, [Parsquix@aol.com](mailto:Parsquix@aol.com).

**F.3 The Aspiring Superpower in an Uncertain World: Some Critical Observations on India, Part Two: Caste and Class (see also sessions B.3 and H.3 on caste and class, economics and social movements in India), 10:45 – 12:15, room**

Session Organizer: Kanchan Sarker, University of British Columbia, [kanchan.sarker@ubc.ca](mailto:kanchan.sarker@ubc.ca).

India, the 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest growing economy, maintaining an average of 8% growth for the last 25 years, is also the 4<sup>th</sup> largest economy of the world according to PPP. Yes, it is the home of the world's 4<sup>th</sup> largest number of billionaires, and also the home to world's largest population of poor, hungry, and illiterate with inequality increasing. Demographic dividends as well as its few world class institutions have made her the back office of 360 Forbes 500 companies, yet thousands of farmers have committed suicide unable to pay their debts. So, there are two Indias: the Shining India (India) and the Suffering India (Bharat). Besides these macro observations, we also need to see critically how some vulnerable groups such as its aboriginal peoples, dalits, women, people working in the informal sector, are facing this dichotomy. It is also important to see the state of its environment in the context of present development discourse, given that "Ecology is the Permanent Economy".

**Inequalities of Caste: Interrogating the Natural and the Divine**

Hira Singh, Department of Sociology, York University, [hsingh@yorku.ca](mailto:hsingh@yorku.ca).

**Politics of Transformation: Governmentality of Participation amongst Tribals in Jharkhand, India**

Amit Prakash, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, [amit@mail.jnu.ac.in](mailto:amit@mail.jnu.ac.in).

**Caste, Human Development, and the Left: A Critical Analysis with a Case Study in West Bengal, India**

Tirthankar Ghosh & Kamalaksha Das, Sociological Research Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, [trg58@hotmail.com](mailto:trg58@hotmail.com).

**Survival Strategy under Changing Circumstances: A Social Network Study in West Bengal, India**

Rabindranath Jana and Anil K. Chaudhuri, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, [rabindranathjana65@gmail.com](mailto:rabindranathjana65@gmail.com).



## Detailed Programme: June 1

### **G.1 Scholarship of Difficult Knowledge: Feminist Perspectives on Genocide, Narratives of Displacement and Social Death in the Twenty-first Century, 9:00 – 10:30, room**

Session organizers: Dr. Sima Aprahamian (Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University, [aprhsma@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:aprhsma@alcor.concordia.ca)).

Dr. Karin Doerr (Simone de Beauvoir Institute and Montreal Institute of Genocide Studies, Concordia University), [kdoerr@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:kdoerr@alcor.concordia.ca).

The proposed session calls for papers that address the scholarship of both twentieth century and contemporary genocidal killings and atrocities from a feminist perspective. Feminist theories in this session are taken as critical theory. The session calls specifically for papers rooted in research dealing with the threat of social death of victimized groups for racial or political reasons. Topics can also include narratives of displacement; as well as issues of commemoration and politics of memory/history in Genocide Studies. The session also invites

Speakers:

tba

### **G.2 Social Democracy After the Cold War (book-launch, co-hosted by Athabasca University Press), 9:00 – 10:30, room**

Session organizer: Ingo Schmidt, Athabasca University, [ingos@athabascau.ca](mailto:ingos@athabascau.ca).

Despite the market triumphalism that greeted the end of the Cold War, the collapse of the Soviet empire seemed initially to herald new possibilities for social democracy. In the 1990s, with a new era of peace and economic prosperity apparently imminent, people discontented with the realities of global capitalism swept social democrats into power in many Western countries. The resurgence was, however, brief. Neither the recurring economic crises of the 2000s nor the ongoing War on Terror was conducive to social democracy, which soon gave way to a prolonged decline in countries where social democrats had once held power.

Offering a comparative look at social democratic experience since the Cold War, the volume examines countries where social democracy has long been an influential political force—Sweden, Germany, Britain, and Australia—while also considering the history of Canada's NDP and the emergence of New Left parties in Germany and the province of Québec. The case studies point to a social democracy that has confirmed its rupture with the postwar order and its role as the primary political representative of working-class interests. Once marked by redistributive and egalitarian policy perspectives, social democracy has, the book argues, assumed a new role—that of a modernizing force advancing the neoliberal cause.

Speakers:

Bryan Evans, Ryerson University, [b1evans@politics.ryerson.ca](mailto:b1evans@politics.ryerson.ca).

Herman Rosenfeld, Socialist Project, [hermanrosenfeld@rogers.com](mailto:hermanrosenfeld@rogers.com).

Ingo Schmidt, Athabasca University, [ingos@athabascau.ca](mailto:ingos@athabascau.ca).

Byron Sheldrick, University of Guelph, [sheldric@uoguelph.ca](mailto:sheldric@uoguelph.ca).



## **H.1 Countering the Publicity State: Communicative Strategies for Progressive Social Change, 10:45 – 12:15, room**

Roundtable organizer: Dr. Kirsten Kozolanka, Associate Professor, Carleton University, [kirsten\\_kozolanka@carleton.ca](mailto:kirsten_kozolanka@carleton.ca).

Publicity practices increasingly pervade our political and social culture in ways that remain comparatively unquestioned and unaddressed. Yet, in recent years, the politics-media relationship in late democracies has become an ongoing struggle for power that takes place outside of formal election campaigns and instead lies within what has been called a “permanent campaign”, which forces a continuous search for public consent without deliberative public consultation. Key to permanent campaigning are the publicity tools, many of them borrowed from private enterprise, that have become essential elements of both the work of political parties and the government apparatus that supports them in government. Such tools include: advertising, public opinion research, marketing, branding, image consulting, media management, and most recently, the instrumental tool of “political marketing”. This is an ongoing and intensifying process that has its roots in the modern statecraft developed as part of the New Right political project that brought Thatcher in the UK and Reagan in the US to power in the 1980s and that we now see both provincially and federally in Canada. It also originates in the “fast capitalism” that both demands and feeds publicity practices in politics. Thus the political tug of war between media and politicians is also driven by ideology, a condition of play that locates the publicity state within the specific political project of the New Right

### **In Whose Interest?: Publicity State versus Accountability in Government**

Kirsten Kozolanka, Associate Professor, Carleton University

### **From the ‘Party Paper’ to ‘Social(ist) Media’? Rethinking Counter-Hegemonic Communications Strategy in Canada**

Herbert Pimlott, Associate Professor, Wilfrid Laurier University

### **Resisting the Publicity State through Media Democratization**

Kathleen A. Cross, Lecturer, Simon Fraser University

## **H.2 Roundtable Discussion on Socialist Alternatives (co-hosted by the Society for Socialist Studies, Alternate Routes, Socialist Register, Studies in Political Economy, and The Bullet), 10:45 – 12:15, room**

Roundtable organizer: Ingo Schmidt, Athabasca University, [ingos@athabascau.ca](mailto:ingos@athabascau.ca).

Discontent with neoliberal capitalism is running high; the taste for alternatives is growing. Unfortunately, though, what progressive academics and activists have to offer ranges from attempts to turn the clock back to an allegedly golden age of welfare capitalism or take a great leap forward to a philosophically defined communism. Attempts to take the capitalist onslaught on living and working conditions of the world’s working classes as a starting point for a fight-back that could lead to socialist transition are rare. This roundtable tries to contribute to the urgently needed discussion about socialist strategy and agency in times of capitalist crises.

Speakers:

Greg Albo, York University, [albo@yorku.ca](mailto:albo@yorku.ca).

Matthew Brett, Concordia University, [brett.matthew@yahoo.ca](mailto:brett.matthew@yahoo.ca).

Carlo Fanelli, Carleton University, [cfanelli@connect.carleton.ca](mailto:cfanelli@connect.carleton.ca).

Stephanie Ross, York University, [stephr@yorku.ca](mailto:stephr@yorku.ca).

### **H.3 The Aspiring Superpower in an Uncertain World: Some Critical Observations on India, Part Three: Economics and Social Movements (see also sessions B.3 and F.3 on caste and class, economics and social movements in India), 10:45 – 12:15, room**

Session Organizer: Kanchan Sarker, University of British Columbia, [kanchan.sarker@ubc.ca](mailto:kanchan.sarker@ubc.ca).

India, the 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest growing economy, maintaining an average of 8% growth for the last 25 years, is also the 4<sup>th</sup> largest economy of the world according to PPP. Yes, it is the home of the world's 4<sup>th</sup> largest number of billionaires, and also the home to world's largest population of poor, hungry, and illiterate with inequality increasing. Demographic dividends as well as its few world class institutions have made her the back office of 360 Forbes 500 companies, yet thousands of farmers have committed suicide unable to pay their debts. So, there are two Indias: the Shining India (India) and the Suffering India (Bharat). Besides these macro observations, we also need to see critically how some vulnerable groups such as its aboriginal peoples, dalits, women, people working in the informal sector, are facing this dichotomy. It is also important to see the state of its environment in the context of present development discourse, given that "Ecology is the Permanent Economy".

#### **The Capitalist State and the Poor in Democratic India: A Marxist View**

Raju J Das, Department of Geography, York University, [rajudas@yorku.ca](mailto:rajudas@yorku.ca)

#### **Accumulation by Dispossession and Accumulation by Growth: Intimations of Massacres Foretold?**

Judith Whitehead, Department of Anthropology, University of Lethbridge, [whitja01@uleth.ca](mailto:whitja01@uleth.ca).

#### **Contesting the Imagination of a Nation: Social Movements in Contemporary India**

Jayati Srivastava, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, [jayatis@mail.jnu.ac.in](mailto:jayatis@mail.jnu.ac.in).

#### **Environmental Movements in Post Liberalization India**

Kanchan Sarker, University of British Columbia-Okanagan, [kanchan.sarker@ubc.ca](mailto:kanchan.sarker@ubc.ca).

### **I.1/J.1 Dystopia, 13:00 – 14:30 and 14:45 – 16:15, room**

Organizer: Gary Potter, [Garrypotter34@aol.com](mailto:Garrypotter34@aol.com).

#### **Film: Dystopia: What is to be done? (65 minutes)**

The film addresses a compendium of interrelated problems and crises affecting humanity now and on the horizon for the near future. Peak oil, global warming, pollution, poverty, disease and war suggest dystopia not as a fiction but as a reality, a very complex horrendous reality but one with a broad common cause: the world socio-economic political system. Dystopia is also a condition with respect to power, knowledge and ideology, such that it makes the possibility of sufficient widespread understanding of the situation to enable the necessary political will for the necessary radical political change extremely difficult. Nonetheless, the question is as always:

what is to be done?

### **Roundtable Discussion The Dystopia Thesis Re-evaluated**

Is there really only a collective choice between socialism and one form of barbarism or another? Is there no possibility of reform such that “capitalism with a human face” is not the ultimate utopian dream? Do recent developments e. g the Arab Spring, the “Occupy movement” – give us just cause for greater hope? What is to be done?

Speakers:

Peter Eglin (sociology Wilfrid Laurier) – panelist/presenter

Jose Lopez (sociology, University of Ottawa) – panelist/presenter

Gregory Cameron (cultural studies, Wilfrid Laurier) – panelist/presenter

Nik Liodakis (sociology Wilfrid Laurier) presenter/chair

Garry Potter (sociology, Wilfrid Laurier) - discussant

### **I.2 Aspects of the Canadian Economy, 13:00 – 14:30, room**

#### **Affordable Housing**

Thomas Saczkowski, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education,  
[thom.saczkowski@utoronto.ca](mailto:thom.saczkowski@utoronto.ca).

#### **From ‘Golden’ to ‘Gilded’ Age: Differential Investiture and Redistribution in the Canadian political economy**

Jordan Brennan, York University, [jbrennan@yorku.ca](mailto:jbrennan@yorku.ca).

#### **Recent developments in the Canadian economy: ICT, JIT and the business cycle**

G. McCormack, York University, [grmm@yorku.ca](mailto:grmm@yorku.ca)

### **J.2 Neoliberalism in Canada: Colonialism at Home and Imperialism Abroad, 14:145 – 16:15, room**

Neoliberalization in Canada has entrenched colonialism and the racialized social order it produces, while purporting to include Indigenous peoples through regimes of self-management and the language of partnership. This session explores this problematic, with a particular focus on the production of space. A critical spatial lens is appropriate since settler state policies and practices continue to be driven by the colonial imperative to appropriate Indigenous land and accelerate accumulation by dispossession. Correspondingly, the Canadian state and businesses joined US-led imperialist efforts and wars.

#### **Rethinking City-Space: Settler Colonialism and the Politics of Dispossession**

Julie Tomiak, Carleton University, [jatomiak@connect.carleton.ca](mailto:jatomiak@connect.carleton.ca)

#### **The Right Investment: Compensation, Indigenous-Settler Reconciliation and the Canadian Conservative Right**

Robyn Green, Carleton University, [robyn\\_green@carleton.ca/](mailto:robyn_green@carleton.ca/).

#### **Ten years of ‘war on terror’: Assessing the state of US imperialism**

James Clark, York University, Canadian Peace Alliance, [2jamesclark@gmail.com](mailto:2jamesclark@gmail.com).

## Detailed Programme: June 2

### K.1 Marxist-Feminist Encounters, 9:00 – 10:30, room

Roundtable organizer: Justin Paulson, Carleton University, [justin\\_paulson@carleton.ca](mailto:justin_paulson@carleton.ca).

The 1980s were witness to a vibrant debate among Marxists on the relationship between capitalism and gender inequality. Hugh and Pat Armstrong argued in 1982, for instance, that “the split between the private and the public, and thus a sexual division of labour, is essential to [the capitalist] mode of production.” In an attempt to develop an analysis of the material basis of patriarchy, Armstrong and Armstrong argued that “the existence of the sexual division of labour, although not its form or extent, is crucial to capitalism and thus to its theorization.” The debate that followed (in *Studies in Political Economy* and elsewhere) was conceptual and theoretical: how can we distinguish between a systemic (and therefore inherent) symbiosis between capitalism and patriarchy and the historically contingent exploitation of gender difference by capitalism? Is gender different from other axes of difference when it comes to theorizing capitalism “at the highest level of abstraction”? Given the wealth of literature that has emerged since the 1980s on intersectionality, the relationship of capital to what Ellen Wood called “extra-economic goods,” and the intensified commodification and globalization of care work, this panel will revisit the theoretical and political questions surrounding the relationship between capitalism and a sexual division of labour.

Speakers:

Hugh Armstrong, Social Work, Carleton University

Rebecca Schein, Human Rights, Carleton University

Justin Paulson, Sociology, Carleton University

Susan Spronk, International Development, University of Ottawa

Brynne Sinclair-Waters, MA student, Political Economy, Carleton University

### K.2/L.2 Session Title: **Work, Employment and Inequality in the Uncertain World (joined session with the Canadian Sociological Association), 9:00 – 10:30 and 10:45 – 12:15, room**

Session organizer: Ivanka Knezevic, University of Toronto [knezevic@chass.utoronto.ca](mailto:knezevic@chass.utoronto.ca)

This session will attempt to explore the significance of work and employment in configuration and maintenance of social inequality. Once assumed to be a near-universal factor of inequality formation, work and employment have been re-considered both by academics, who have been grappling with the relative importance of categorical and class/status inequalities, and by policy makers, who have defined work as a particularistic interest of the employed and thus tangential to the general policies of social inclusion. This session invites research on the current state and trends in work and employment relations in Canada and globally. Both case studies and sectorial/regional/international comparative studies are welcome. We particularly invite research which considers the intersections of work and employment with other areas that form the complex and apparently discontinuous structure of social inequality: gender and familial relations, race / ethnicity / migration, public policy, politics, social movements

Part One:

Chair: Dimitrina Dimitrova, York University, [ddimitro@yorku.ca](mailto:ddimitro@yorku.ca)

Discussant: Ingo Schmidt, Athabasca University [ingos@athabascau.ca](mailto:ingos@athabascau.ca)

**Fair Trade's Challenge to Precarious Employment: A Review of the Literature**

Vanessa Ahing, University of Toronto, [vanessa.ahing@utoronto.ca](mailto:vanessa.ahing@utoronto.ca)

**Uncertainty and the undermining of working identities: insights from post-socialist precarity in Bosnia-Herzegovina**

Catherine Baker, University of Southampton / University College London, [cbakertw1@googlemail.com](mailto:cbakertw1@googlemail.com)

**Recommodification of Labour – an European Union Project and its Application in Post-Socialist Member Countries**

Ivanka Knezevic, University of Toronto, [knezevic@chass.utoronto.ca](mailto:knezevic@chass.utoronto.ca)

**Managing the Unemployed No More: Renewing Union Adjustment through a Pedagogy of Resistance**

Janet Dassinger, Ph.D. candidate, Social Work, McMaster University, [janetdassinger@gmail.com](mailto:janetdassinger@gmail.com)

Part Two:

Chair: Ivanka Knezevic, University of Toronto [knezevic@chass.utoronto.ca](mailto:knezevic@chass.utoronto.ca)

**Tackling Workers and their Communities: The Contradictions Inherent in Public Sociologies**

Ann Doris Duffy, Brock University, [aduffy@brocku.ca](mailto:aduffy@brocku.ca), June Corman, Brock University, [jcorman@brocku.ca](mailto:jcorman@brocku.ca), and Norene Pupo, York University, [npupo@yorku.ca](mailto:npupo@yorku.ca)

**The Role of Precarious Labour on Time Stress and Life Satisfaction in a Canadian National Sample of Employed Parents**

Vivian Stamatopoulos and Glenn Stalker, York University, [vivstam@yorku.ca](mailto:vivstam@yorku.ca) and [gstalker@yorku.ca](mailto:gstalker@yorku.ca)

**Temporary Worker Trajectories - Pathways to Precarity?**

Sylvia Fuller, University of British Columbia, [sylvia.fuller@ubc.ca](mailto:sylvia.fuller@ubc.ca)

**Human Capital Assets of Internationally Trained Medical Doctors in Canada: A Needed but Unwanted Commodity**

Cindy Sinclair, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, [c.sinclair@utoronto.ca](mailto:c.sinclair@utoronto.ca)

**L.1 Reanimating Socialist Feminism: Denying Co-optation, Challenging Amnesia, 10:45 – 12:15, room**

Recent mobilizations against neoliberalism have raised questions about power and resistance. Concurrently, new interpretations of feminist history similarly address questions of power, cooptation, mobilization, and resistance. Several prominent feminists have suggested that “second wave feminism” has been co-opted by neoliberalism. Nancy Fraser’s (2009) “Feminism, Capitalism, and the Cunning of History” is one of the most clear, succinctly stated, and

influential examples, because of its prominent placement in *New Left Review*. This paper offers a critique of Fraser's argument, especially what we see as her amnesia about the diversity of feminist politics. It also calls for efforts to reanimate socialist feminist politics.

Speakers:

Joan Sangster, Women's Studies, Trent University [jsangster@trentu.ca](mailto:jsangster@trentu.ca)

Meg Luxton, Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies, York University [mluxton@yorku.ca](mailto:mluxton@yorku.ca)

**M.1 'Women's Work' at the Crossroads: Re-Inventing the Project for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, 13:00 – 14:30, room**

Session Organizer: Debbie Dergousoff, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, [ddergous@sfu.ca](mailto:ddergous@sfu.ca).

Prior to the fall of communism, Soviet state policy of full employment and benefits for women was of great interest to second wave feminists. In the run up to the year 2000 pundits were proclaiming (given there were now more women at work than men) that the 21<sup>st</sup> century belongs to women. While women's 'work' has been used in multitude ways to challenge the patriarchal structures of capitalism, we still have not seen significant gains of equality in the workplace, the home, or society in general for the majority of women. This session calls for empirical and theoretical papers that investigate how women's 'work' at any number of crossroads can be used to re-invent the project for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Revisiting Intersections and Tensions Between Marxism and Feminism: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Interpretations**

Abigail B. Bakan, Professor of Political Studies, Head, Department of Gender Studies, Queen's University, [bakana@post.queensu.ca](mailto:bakana@post.queensu.ca).

**Lessons from the Nonprofit Sector on Managerialism, Resistance and Socialist Models of Care: A Three Country Comparison**

Donna Baines, Professor, Labour Studies and Social Work, McMaster University, [bainesd@mcmaster.ca](mailto:bainesd@mcmaster.ca).

**M.2 Chinese and Canadian Labour Experiences, 13:00 – 14:30, room**

**Labour Union Education & Publication in China's Revolution: 1921-1949**

Shiling McQuaide, Athabasca University, [shilingm@athabascau.ca](mailto:shilingm@athabascau.ca).

**Industrial Pluralism in Crisis: Social Insurance, Hospital Workers and Compulsory Arbitration in Ontario, 1959-1972**

Chris Hurl, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University, [churl@connect.carleton.ca](mailto:churl@connect.carleton.ca).

## Participants and Abstracts

**Merin Xavier**, Wilfrid Laurier University, [xavi7230@mylaurier.ca](mailto:xavi7230@mylaurier.ca).

Presenter: Educating and Publishing, 9:00 – 10:30, May 30.

Abstract: The following paper argues that religion is a missing element in critical multicultural education in public schools in Ontario. To address this lack of sensitivity towards various religious influences in education, the paper examines pedagogical theories of critical multicultural and inclusive education and sociological theories of religion, ethnicity and identity. In doing so, the author proposes a move towards recognizing religious presence, which is understood as students who consider themselves religious or are influenced by religious values and practices, and its impact on the classroom culture. It suggests that teachers need to encourage intuitive and spiritual forms of knowledge acquisition and thinking across the curriculum. Thus, those who prepare teachers at the pre-service level must acknowledge religious presence by incorporating religious identity in inclusive educational frameworks. By understanding how religion plays a role in some students' identities, policy-makers, school administrators and teachers will recognize the importance of the current debate on education about religion in schools and work towards eliminating religious illiteracy, while encouraging expressions of religious identities in students.

**Peekhaus, Wilhelm**, School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
[peekhaus@uwm.edu](mailto:peekhaus@uwm.edu).

Presenter: Educating and Publishing, 9:00 – 10:30, May 30.

This paper interrogates and situates theoretically from a Marxist perspective various aspects and tensions that inhere in the academic journal publishing industry. I suggest that we can conceptualize this industry by returning to Marx's elaboration of 'primitive accumulation' and 'alienation'. While the effects of industry consolidation and control have been widely discussed, less work has thus far been conducted in trying to conceptualize and account theoretically for such developments and their impacts. Even less prevalent in the existing literature is any systematic attempt to interrogate these issues from the perspective of the actual producers. The paper also examines the resistance being mounted to capitalist control and suggests a model that might further subvert this control

**Roza, Stéphanie**, [stephanieroza@yahoo.fr](mailto:stephanieroza@yahoo.fr).

Presenter: Gracchus Babeuf and Rosa Luxemburg: Socialist Inspiration for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, 9:00 – 10:30 and 10:45 – 12:15, May 30.

More than two hundred years after the French Revolution, does Gracchus Babeuf (1760–97) still have something to teach those who hold to a socialist outlook? His legacy has long been the subject of a distorted debate: Was he a long-ago precursor of scientific socialism – or rather of totalitarianism? Let us attempt instead to focus on the contemporary significance of his thought. It offers us a vivid revolutionary experience, with popular power exercised in multiple fashions, which can serve as the foundation for a radical critique of current expressions of "democracy." His "Société des égaux" carried out popular education in a fashion that could well inspire today's tribunes of emancipation.

**Luban, Ottokar**, International Rosa Luxemburg Association.

Presenter: Gracchus Babeuf and Rosa Luxemburg: Socialist Inspiration for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, 9:00 – 10:30 and 10:45 – 12:15, May 30.

**Pelz, William**, Institute of Working Class History, [iwch@juno.com](mailto:iwch@juno.com).

Roundtable organizer and presenter: Gracchus Babeuf and Rosa Luxemburg: Socialist Inspiration for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, 9:00 – 10: 30 and 10:45 – 12:15, May 30.

**Haro, Lea**, Co-editor of the Complete Works of Rosa Luxemburg.

Presenter: Gracchus Babeuf and Rosa Luxemburg: Socialist Inspiration for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, 9:00 – 10: 30 and 10:45 – 12:15, May 30.

**Schmidt, Ingo**, Athabasca University, [ingos@athabascau.ca](mailto:ingos@athabascau.ca).

Presenter: Gracchus Babeuf and Rosa Luxemburg: Socialist Inspiration for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, 9:00 – 10: 30 and 10:45 – 12:15, May 30.

Presenter: Social Democracy After the Cold War, 9:00 – 10:30, June 1.

Roundtable organizer: Socialist Alternatives, 10:45 – 12:15, June 1.

**Newson, Janice**, Sociology Department, York University.

Chair: Reclaiming the Public University in Canada, 10:45 – 12:15, May 30.

**Polster, Claire**, Department of Sociology and Social Studies, University of Regina, [claire.polster@uregina.ca](mailto:claire.polster@uregina.ca).

Session organizer and presenter: Reclaiming the Public University in Canada, 10:45 – 12:15, May 30.

Abstract: This paper explores and critiques academics' responses to new administrative practices that undermine and erode the university's public serving mission. I argue that academics have been too reactive, individualistic, and fragmented in responding to these practices, and have, therefore, helped entrench and advance developments that run counter to their own, and to the public's, needs and interests. After briefly addressing and diagnosing the problem, I offer a variety of strategies, based on ongoing initiatives both within and outside of Canadian and other universities, to develop a cure. These involve collectively assessing, resisting, and redirecting ongoing changes in the subtending social relations of academic work, rather than merely struggling with their symptoms and effects.

**Iliadis, Andrew**, Communication and Culture, Ryerson and York Universities, [ailiadis@ryerson.ca](mailto:ailiadis@ryerson.ca).

Presenter: Reclaiming the Public University in Canada, 10:45 – 12:15, May 30.

Abstract: Little attention has been paid to the way in which the crises we are facing stem from the current re-conceptualization of the modern university's role in terms of the cities in which it dwells and the body politic of which it is comprised. The line between public/private is increasingly blurred and we are witnessing the arrival of a new type of student body that is affected by the long-term urban planning practices of many an academy. New deals between universities, cities, and corporations are the order of the day and this is increasingly happening in terms of geographical switching crises that involve the switching of capital from one sphere to another. Strategies to resist such corporatization have been developed by groups like the Edu-factory collective. More specifically, Canadians can form chains of equivalence with such international groups in order to pinpoint and theorize specific locations of the exercise of neoliberal practices or of resistance to them in the contemporary university, especially in terms of its long-term urban planning practices. Rather than theorizing resistance from a top-down approach, case studies can be developed and shared internationally via groups like Edu-factory so that we may prevent similar neoliberal practices in the future.

**Tegler, Taiva**, Department of Education, University of Ottawa, [taivali@gmail.com](mailto:taivali@gmail.com) and **James Meades**, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University,



[meades.james@gmail.com](mailto:meades.james@gmail.com).

Presenters: Reclaiming the Public University in Canada, 10:45 – 12:15, May 30.

Abstract: For those on the front lines of post-secondary education in Canada, there is little indication that things will improve for students and workers without a radically militant response. In this paper, we explore some potential strategies and tactics for creating such a response with a specific focus on Ontario. We begin by illustrating the current crisis affecting PSE in Ontario. Next, we provide a detailed exploration of how this has impacted two university campuses - the University of Ottawa and Carleton University and examine the responses by various student organizations and trade unions. Last, we speak from our own experiences as campus activists in order to offer insight in what we see as potential modes and methods of radical militant resistance. We mobilize an anti-oppressive, anti-racist feminist pedagogy to explicate not only how campus resistance can take shape but also offer a vision of how the university system can recapture and revitalize its potential as a space of social struggle and change.

**Thompson, Chad D.**, Social Sciences, University College of the North, [cthompson@ucn.ca](mailto:cthompson@ucn.ca).

Presenter: Reclaiming the Public University in Canada, 10:45 – 12:15, May 30.

Abstract: We are all aware of the re-focussing of university education to emphasise "professional training" in recent years. This emphasis is intended to bind universities to the demands of the corporate sector and (in a style reminiscent of Soviet and post-Soviet education) attempts to predict the number of graduates needed in four years' time. Within the context of unemployment, collapsed infrastructure, and funding constraints found in Canada's Aboriginal communities, the attractiveness of perceived "useful" degrees is arguably more powerful. This paper explores the efforts made in northern Manitoba to persuade communities and educators of the relevance of the liberal arts and the continuing scepticism encountered in discussions of culturally appropriate, academically rigorous studies in the arts.

**Sarker, Kanchan**, University of British Columbia, [kanchan.sarker@ubc.ca](mailto:kanchan.sarker@ubc.ca).

Session organizer: The Aspiring Superpower: Critical Observations on India, 10:45 – 12:15, May 30, May 31, and June 1.

Presenter: The Aspiring Superpower: Critical Observations on India, 10:45 – 12:15, June 1.

Abstract: Environmental movements can be divided into three categories: Conservationist, Managerial and Subsistence environmentalism. While, Conservationists want to protect the flora and fauna irrespective of any socio-economic and political views, and Managerial environmentalists try to solve the environmental degradation through techno-economic solution, the Subsistence environmentalists take a holistic approach to preserve the environment as well as for the traditional rights of the people on the nature for their subsistence. Though, all three kinds of environmentalists are working in India from different perspectives, this paper will mainly discuss the movements of subsistence environmentalists in the context of the present development discourse and neoliberal hegemony in India.

**Banerjee, Himani**, Dept. of Sociology, York University, [himanib@yorku.ca](mailto:himanib@yorku.ca).

Presenter: The Aspiring Superpower: Critical Observations on India, 10:45 – 12:15, May 30.

Abstract: It was presumed by the modernizers of India that India's transformation into a fuller market society would eradicate "traditional" social evils, such as the practice of dowry. In actuality, dowry and various kinds of violence against women have greatly increased in the last two decades. This paper explores the constructive relationship between the market and invention of tradition, looking specifically at how dowry provides the site for more intensified hyper-consumption, and the consequent dangers for Indian women's wellbeing and lives.

**Sharma-Biswas, Chaiti**, Economic Research Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India, [chaitisb@hotmail.com](mailto:chaitisb@hotmail.com).

Presenter: The Aspiring Superpower: Critical Observations on India, 10:45 – 12:15, May 30.

Abstract: India opted liberalization during 90's with anticipation to enhance its development. Already country's GDP achieved a spectacular growth. This must have some contribution on country's development. But liberalization introduces mechanization, resulting closer of traditional industries thereby causing huge unemployment of the unskilled/semi-skilled men, enforcing women to the job market for family sustenance. They mainly concentrated in the informal sector for unskilled job. Thus women have to balance between her employment and household duties and endure husband's bad temper. Thus, present study aims to measure Indian women's quality of life and locate the factors responsible for the said quality of life.

**Chakraborty, Sonali**, Sociological Research Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India, [sonali60@hotmail.com](mailto:sonali60@hotmail.com).

Presenter: The Aspiring Superpower: Critical Observations on India, 10:45 – 12:15, May 30.

Abstract: It is well documented that education plays an important role in decreasing the labour market gender segregation. However, female participation in Indian labour market after liberalization has been increased mainly in some segregated low paying jobs. Present study focuses on two aspects of gender segregation: (i) the relationship between gender segregation and educational attainment, (ii) subsequent wage differentials between males and females in Indian labour market. The analysis is based on unit level data for the years 1993-94 and 2004-05. Result shows that education plays an important role in determining gender segregation and gender-earning gap is explained by segregation.

**Sztainbok, Vanina**, University of Toronto, [vannina.sztainbok@utoronto.ca](mailto:vannina.sztainbok@utoronto.ca).

Roundtable organizer: Palestine: Pedagogical Challenges and Strategies, 13:00 – 14:30, May 30

**Nestel, Sheryl**, Independent Scholar, [sheryl.nestel@utoronto.ca](mailto:sheryl.nestel@utoronto.ca).

Presenter: Palestine: Pedagogical Challenges and Strategies, 13:00 – 14:30, May 30.

**Bakan, Abbie**, Head of the Department of Gender Studies and Professor of Political Studies, Queen's University, [abigailbakan@gmail.com](mailto:abigailbakan@gmail.com).

Presenter: Palestine: Pedagogical Challenges and Strategies, 13:00 – 14:30, May 30.

Presenter: Women's Work at the Crossroads, 13:00 – 14:45, June 2.

Abstract: Recent feminist articulations have been the subject of innumerable debates, including consideration of intersectional relations among gender, race and class (Holmstrom, Hennessey, Brenner, Mohanty, Razack, Thobani). Some theorizations of political economy have been considerably influenced by these debates, including work on the role of domestic labour, social reproduction, and the relationship between exploitation and oppression. However, some schools of Marxist theory remain cautious, or even hostile, regarding a feminist critique. In this paper, new translations of the 'classical' Marxist contributions are considered (Riddell on Fourth Congress of the Communist International, Lih on What is To Be Done, Thompson on Gramsci). The paper argues for a new framing of the Marxism/feminism dialogue, while emphasizing the continued significance of historic contributions understood in specific contexts of time and place.

**Nadeau, Mary-Jo**, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto, [maryjo.nadeau@gmail.com](mailto:maryjo.nadeau@gmail.com).

Presenter: Palestine: Pedagogical Challenges and Strategies, 13:00 – 14:30, May 30.

**Albritton, Robert**, Political Science, York University.

Presenter: Counter-hegemonic Projects and Practices, 13:00 – 14:30 and 14:45 – 16:15, May 30.

Abstract: A major achievement of the Occupy movement was to bring the ideal of equality out of the gutter where mainstream American political discourse had thought to have discarded it. Since Égalité's central location in the slogan of the French Revolution, capitalism has continually turned back many of the demands for greater equality made by popular uprisings. This is not surprising given that without outside interventions the natural tendency of capitalism is to increase inequality, such that all too often gains that have been made get turned back when changed conditions make it possible. In this paper, I want to reflect on some strategies to increase equality from the local to the global level, and from progressive taxation to the massive and permanent redistribution of wealth

**Carroll, William K. and Sapinski JP**, Department of Sociology, University of Victoria.

Presenters: Counter-hegemonic Projects and Practices, 13:00 – 14:30 and 14:45 – 16:15, May 30.

Abstract: Since the 1970s, transnational alternative policy groups (TAPGs) have emerged as a component of global civil society, generating visions and strategies for a 'globalization from below' which is also a process of transnational class formation. Such groups as the Transnational Institute (Amsterdam), Focus on the Global South (Bangkok), International Forum on Globalization (San Francisco) and the Centre for Civil Society (Durban) have served as 'collective intellectuals' in facilitating the construction of a counter-hegemonic bloc that transects national borders and poses democratic alternatives to neoliberal globalization. This study proceeds from an understanding that hegemonic think tanks and TAPGs are embedded in opposing historical blocs, as they develop and deploy knowledge with the intent to make their respective blocs more coherent and effective. Transnational alternative policy groups appear to be well placed to participate in the transformation of the democratic globalization network from a gelatinous and unselfconscious state, into an historical bloc capable of collective action toward an alternative global order.

**Huxtable, David**, Dept. Of Sociology, University of Victoria, [huxtable@uvic.ca](mailto:huxtable@uvic.ca) .

Presenter: Counter-hegemonic Projects and Practices, 13:00 – 14:30 and 14:45 – 16:15, May 30.

Abstract: While organized labour is, by necessity, rooted in the local, the global expansion of capital accumulation and the neoliberal project has resulted in organized labour spending more resources on developing transnationally organized responses to capitalist globalization. Furthermore, internationally organized labour has over the past decade, taken on "new projects," such as the deepening ecological crisis. Both of these developments have contributed to the expansion of international union bureaucracy. This paper uses the concept of a transnational cadre (van der Pijl 2004) to examine the role of union staff in shaping the response of internationally organized labour to the neoliberal project. Van der Pijl's work on the emergence of a transnational managerial cadre, its role in capitalist socialization and, in particular, the development of hegemonic "comprehensive concepts of control" (Bode 1979), provides a compelling picture of neoliberalism's "organic intellectuals," which fall outside the capitalist class in a strict Marxist framework. This paper will tackle two questions. How applicable is van der Pijl's framework in outlining the class composition of labour's transnational leadership? What is the role of this cadre (if it exists) in shaping labour's response to the neoliberal project?

**Sharpe, Errol**, Fernwood Publishing, [errol@fernpub.ca](mailto:errol@fernpub.ca).

Presenter: Counter-hegemonic Projects and Practices, 13:00 – 14:30 and 14:45 – 16:15, May 30.

Abstract: In the paper I propose to first of all analyze what has happened in Soviet style Socialism, Social Democracy and Neo-Liberal Capitalism. I will propose that all three are characterized by central and bureaucratic control of government which to a greater or lesser

extent keep their citizens from any meaningful participation . In the second part of the paper I will discuss a different kind of democracy – a democracy in which people participate directly in planning and organizing the things that affect their lives and the lives of their communities.

**Ross, Stephanie**, York University, [stephr@yorku.ca](mailto:stephr@yorku.ca).

Presenter: Counter-hegemonic Projects and Practices, 13:00 – 14:30 and 14:45 – 16:15, May 30.

Presenter: Socialist Alternatives, 10:45 – 12:15, June 1.

Abstract for May 30: In 2011, we witnessed the emergence of a new global cycle of contention whose most visible manifestation in North America was the Occupy Movement. Coming nearly three years after the onset of the global financial crisis, the Occupy Movement represented several key breakthroughs in the development of left progressive capacities, rapidly diffusing new meanings, tactical repertoire, solidarities, and organizational forms. Occupy's politics of prefiguration, particularly of non-market, decommodified, and participatory democratic social relations, served to puncture in very concrete ways the hegemonic sense that alternatives to the present are impossible. However, since protest cycles always take place in the context of legacies from previous rounds of struggle, the complex problems of left strategy are not simply swept away by the infusion of new ideas and energies. Rather than uncritically asserting Occupy's innovations as "the" way forward, it is instead useful to assess what ideological, tactics, strategic and organizational lessons have been learned, particularly since the cycle of contention launched by the Seattle protests in 1999, what new areas of possibility have been opened up, and what limits or weaknesses the North American left still confronts. In this paper, while acknowledging the real innovations of the Occupy Movement, I argue that contemporary activists must confront the contractions of populist discourse, the limits of "not making demands", the tensions and inequalities within participatory democratic processes, and the inability of new tactics to substitute for a strategy for creating the kind of collective power that puts real, sustainable alternatives on the table.

**Dergousoff, Debbie**, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, [ddergous@sfu.ca](mailto:ddergous@sfu.ca).

Presenter: Counter-hegemonic Projects and Practices, 13:00 – 14:30 and 14:45 – 16:15, May 30.

Abstract: The collapse of the Soviet Union marked for many the decisive victory of capitalism over all other alternatives, thus the concept 'post-socialist.' Scholarly works have since variously challenged the inevitability of 'transition' to capitalism, recognizing ongoing continuities with the past and the possibility of 'transformation' toward some other end, especially where Central Asia is concerned. Even Lenin concluded that social transformation in Central Asia was going to involve 'different roads to socialism.' This paper, based on my study of informal education programs in rural Kyrgyzstan last year, challenges the premise that a transition to communism happened in the first place, and that transition to capitalism is what is going on now.

Session organizer: Women's Work at the Crossroads, 13:00 – 14:45, June 2.

**Ayús, Concepción Nieves**, Dean, Institute of Philosophy of Havana

Presenter: Contours of anti-neoliberalism in Latin America and the Caribbean, 13:00 – 14:30, May 30.

Abstract: Current debates in the Latin American have given rise to different conceptions of socialism in the 21st century and here we look at the premises, contradictions and challenges, which relate to the current transition of contemporary Cuban society. Our research examines the Cuban model of socialist development together with its main objective: the consolidation of a new basis for Cuban social political unity and a foundation which, under the new historical conditions, preserves independence, national sovereignty, along with political power in the

hands of the workers, and the capability to effect the necessary socio-economic changes for the well being of human beings.

**Miller, Nchamah**, Institute of Philosophy, Havana

Presenter: Contours of anti-neoliberalism in Latin America and the Caribbean, 13:00 – 14:30, May 30.

Abstract: The recent rapprochement between Colombia and Venezuela indicates a dramatic change in diplomatic relations reflecting a move towards an uneasy alliance. Since the Chavez regime, Venezuela prioritized a political solution to a peace process with the insurgency in Colombia while at the same attending to consolidating bi-lateral trade agreements. Even though, in the new uneasy diplomacy, Colombia and Venezuela deploy two very apposite discourses (one deriving from neo-colonial Bolivarianism, the other from a Bolivarian proto-socialism), this translates into a shared state of exception which sublimates the geopolitical contradiction of the U.S. air bases in Colombia, and the Colombian conflict, yet consolidates a mercantilist economic partnership.

**Kellogg, Paul**, Athabasca University, [pkellogg@athabascau.ca](mailto:pkellogg@athabascau.ca).

Session organizer and presenter: Contours of anti-neoliberalism in Latin America and the Caribbean, 13:00 – 14:30, May 30.

Abstract: Neoliberalism provided a frame within which to continue a 500-year project – the denial of and/or distortion of sovereignty throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas) was to have consolidated the hegemony of neoliberalism across the hemisphere. But the rise of massive social movements prevented the launch of the FTAA in 2005. In its place, we have seen the creation of regional trade and investment associations independent of the United States and Canada. This paper will examine two of these – ALBA (the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas) and UNASUR (the Union of South American Nations) – and assess their impact as counter-hegemonic projects.

**Pons, Hugo**, Vice President Cuban Society of Economists, Havana, Cuba

Presenter: Contours of anti-neoliberalism in Latin America and the Caribbean, 13:00 – 14:30, May 30.

Abstract: This paper aims to show how the unique characteristics of the Cuban economy define the amalgam of actions and measures, which attain in the current Cuban model. The implementation of adequate economic policies allowed the consolidation of the advances made in the construction of socialist Cuba, together with the economic policies from the “Special Period”, pointing towards the attainment of specific economic objectives for 2015. These policies allow for the emergence of new forms of entrepreneurial and economic management in general, which recombine with forecasting and planning processes, becoming the necessary and defining factors, that define a different conception of decentralization, given a distinct context, and which, from a public administration position, affect the development of the entire island economy.

**Baker, NJ**, Southeast Regional College, [njbaker@southeastcollege.org](mailto:njbaker@southeastcollege.org)

Session organizer: Culture, Critique and Aboriginal Education, 14:45 – 16:15, May 30.

**Barber, Sandra**, University College of the North

Presenter: Culture, Critique and Aboriginal Education, 14:45 – 16:15, May 30.

**Cidro, Jaime**, University of Winnipeg

Presenter: Culture, Critique and Aboriginal Education, 14:45 – 16:15, May 30.

**Henning, Denise**, North West Community College

Presenter: Culture, Critique and Aboriginal Education, 14:45 – 16:15, May 30.

**McLaren, Laurie**, Aboriginal Initiatives, Nipissing University

Presenter: Culture, Critique and Aboriginal Education, 14:45 – 16:15, May 30.

**Tenute, Hillory**, Carleton University

Presenter: Culture, Critique and Aboriginal Education, 14:45 – 16:15, May 30.

**Sears, Alan**, Department of Sociology, Ryerson University, [asears@soc.ryerson.ca](mailto:asears@soc.ryerson.ca).

Roundtable organizer: Palestine Solidarity, 14:45 – 16:15, May 30.

**Brett, Matthew**, Concordia University, [brett.matthew@yahoo.ca](mailto:brett.matthew@yahoo.ca).

Session organizer: New Scholars Forum, 9:30 – 10:30 and 10:45 – 12:15, May 31.

Presenter: Socialist Alternatives, 10:45 – 12:15, June 1.

**Jane, Leslie**, Ryerson University, [lesliejane.nichols@ryerson.ca](mailto:lesliejane.nichols@ryerson.ca).

Presenter: : New Scholars Forum, 9:30 – 10:30 and 10:45 – 12:15, May 31.

Abstract: The labour market in Canada is changing, over the past decades there has been an increase in the number of precarious workers who work on short-term, part-time, contracts; jobs are created and lost, as employers deem necessary. As a result of the shifts in the organization of work, many workers are now forced to hold multiple jobs in order to make ends meet. This move away from standard long-term employment has created a situation where the majority of Canadian workers no longer expect their employer to provide support and security for them, but under the current EI laws, they cannot expect support from the federal government either. So how can we help to protect them? If, as it appears, EI does not work, we must strive to implement a viable alternative. Could an alternative system be modelled on the flexicurity system now in effect in Denmark?

**Daley, Mallory**, [daley.mallory@gmail.com](mailto:daley.mallory@gmail.com).

Presenter: New Scholars Forum, 9:30 – 10:30 and 10:45 – 12:15, May 31.

Abstract: The 2011 election was especially important for Canadian women, who have, for decades, been disproportionately burdened by the dismantling of the welfare state, and the declining commitment to gender equality. This election's focus on "Canadian families" offered an important opportunity for women's equality to re-emerge as a policy focus. However, women remained noticeably absent from both the Conservative and the Liberal platforms and minimally visible on that of the NDP. This research examines the effects of a neoliberal policy agenda in which social democratic values are subjugated to the supremacy of the global economy and how this contributes to the systematic erasure of gender equality in policy priorities.

**Yocom, Grant**, Interdisciplinary Humanities, Brock University, [gy00aa@brocku.ca](mailto:gy00aa@brocku.ca).

Presenter: New Scholars Forum, 9:30 – 10:30 and 10:45 – 12:15, May 31.

Abstract: Urban movements, like the farming movement in Detroit, represent a more radical critique of reason than ever imagined by Horkheimer and Adorno. Such movements also elucidate the nature of morality, beyond good and evil through new categories of critics engaged with social experimentation. These movements overcome both the impotence of critical theory and the vagueness of Nietzsche's call for a new category of philosopher. This paper will examine the urban context providing the literal ground for the substantive criticism emerging from crisis. Such movements suggest new forms of social theory and criticism emerging spontaneously from practice in concrete crisis contexts.

**Levy, Benjamin**, Sociology, Simon Fraser University, [blevy@sfu.ca](mailto:blevy@sfu.ca).

Presenter: New Scholars Forum, 9:30 – 10:30 and 10:45 – 12:15, May 31.

Abstract: From October to November, I lived, marched, and protested with Occupy Vancouver. From this standpoint of participation, I studied and interviewed Occupy activists, and observed how the disparate groups involved - including the homeless, First Nations people, and university students - communicated to discover common notions of identity, oppression, and liberation. My theoretical repertoire consisted primarily of critical and post-Marxist theories such as those of Laclau and Mouffe, Hardt and Negri, and Jürgen Habermas, whose concepts of hegemony, multitude, and instrumental/communicative rationality I used to explore the ways participants formulated, communicated, and negotiated their disparate beliefs.

**Rodd, Piper**, School of History, Heritage and Society; Deakin University, [piper.rodd@deakin.edu.au](mailto:piper.rodd@deakin.edu.au).

Presenter: New Scholars Forum, 9:30 – 10:30 and 10:45 – 12:15, May 31.

Abstract: In this paper I intend to explore ideas of war and the public reactions to those who have agitated for peace and pacifism in Canada and Australia. I will analyse the intersecting influences of political philosophy, religion, war and almost implicitly, nationalism. I will do so by comparing the experiences of those who espoused ideas of pacifism during the Cold War in both countries, drawing on evidence of state surveillance activities of those vocal in their pacifism. Socialism played a pivotal role in the formation of contentious belief systems and activities for those active in pacifist groups in both countries. For many in the mainstream of both countries, a belief in socialism was synonymous with pacifism and inextricably and dangerously connected to communism.

**Wytenbroek, Lydia**, Trinity Western University, [Lydia.Wytenbroek@mytwu.ca](mailto:Lydia.Wytenbroek@mytwu.ca).

Presenter: New Scholars Forum, 9:30 – 10:30 and 10:45 – 12:15, May 31.

Abstract: From November 1954 until November 1956, Canadian nurse Margaret Jackson was employed by the World Health Organization and stationed in Iran, where she participated in the establishment of health centre. Drawing on 200 letters that Jackson wrote to her family in Canada, this paper argues that Jackson utilized race and ethnicity as particular markers by which she defined her own position and the position of others. The peculiarities of inhabiting an international space within a geographically-unfamiliar place facilitated unique opportunities for Jackson to reinvent her identity.

**Kijewski, Olivia**, Wilfrid Laurier University, [kije2740@mylaurier.ca](mailto:kije2740@mylaurier.ca).

Presenter: New Scholars Forum, 9:30 – 10:30 and 10:45 – 12:15, May 31.

Abstract: Aboriginal populations are increasingly and disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS in Canada. Aboriginal women make up almost half of all the new positive HIV test reports among Aboriginal people (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2010). Considering the over-representation of Aboriginal people among new HIV infections, particularly among youth and increasingly among women, prevention is key in addressing the problem of HIV/AIDS among the Aboriginal population. While there is progressive research on HIV among Aboriginals, there is a lack of primary sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention research to include young Aboriginal women. This, along with a general consensus in the literature that prevention campaigns are largely ineffective and do not adequately address the needs of Aboriginal women's sexual health or the many factors that put young Aboriginal women at an increased risk of HIV, motivates this research. Therefore, this presentation will focus on a deconstruction of HIV prevention/awareness mediums found in the Kitchener-Waterloo area and their representations of health, gender, sexuality, risk behaviour and safer sex negotiations among Aboriginal women

in an attempt to theorize about the effectiveness of these campaigns and the possible consequences of these constructions on Aboriginal women's health.

**Patriquin, Larry**, Social Welfare and Social Development, Nipissing University, [larryp@nipissingu.ca](mailto:larryp@nipissingu.ca).

Presenter: Are there Alternatives?, 9:00 – 10:30, May 31.

This paper will propose a 500-person Citizens' Assembly (CA) as a third branch of the Canadian Parliament, though a branch that would have only an advisory role on legislation passing through the House of Commons and Senate or on questions the CA chooses to examine. Members of the CA would be selected at random from the Canadian population based on the variables of geography and gender. Given this, the CA would come close to representing the population on every other variable that is considered important for purposes of public policy (such as race, age, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, and religion).

**Gulick, John**, Department of Sociology, Brooklyn College, [jlawgulick@gmail.com](mailto:jlawgulick@gmail.com).

Presenter: Are there Alternatives?, 9:00 – 10:30, May 31.

Abstract: In the advanced capitalist polities, liberal representative democracy is in severe decline. On the left – especially since the global crisis of 2008 – it is movements influenced by anarchism that most forcefully raise the issue of reconstituting society outside the aegis of liberal democracy. But despite its criticizing socialist-oriented movements for lacking utopian imagination, the current instantiation of the anarchist movement is itself not utopian-minded enough – more specifically, in its dearth of creative thinking about what possible dispositional and institutional permutations a post-liberal democratic polity might feature. I critically articulate a socio-political utopia that innovatively combines popular self-regulation of everyday life with ritualized administration by a benevolent philosopher-monarch.

**Malleon, Tom**, University of Toronto, [tommalleon@hotmail.com](mailto:tommalleon@hotmail.com),

Presenter: Are there Alternatives?, 9:00 – 10:30, May 31.

Abstract: In the 1980s two most prominent political theorists – Robert Dahl and Michael Walzer – argued that there is a right to workplace democracy on the grounds that workplaces are similar to towns. This “parallel case” argument has since resulted in lots of heat but little light, with opponents of workplace democracy vociferously challenging the analogy. This paper investigates the three main criteria that have been offered as a basis for democracy that supposedly differentiate towns from workplaces. These are: coercive power, entrance (or subjection option), and ability to exit. I argue that none of these arguments stand up. Instead I try to offer a better basis for democratic rights based on equality and central importance. On this basis I conclude that there is indeed a right to workplace democracy.

**Wells, Charles**, Contemporary Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University, [cwells@wlu.ca](mailto:cwells@wlu.ca).

Presenter: Are there Alternatives?, 9:00 – 10:30, May 31.

Abstract: This paper examines the ways in which architecture structures social relations and acts as a tool for the enforcement of power, asking a naïve question: Is an architecture of liberation possible, and what would characterize it? In particular, this paper challenges the longstanding tradition that sees dominant power and subversive resistance reflected within the field of architecture in rational, hierarchical organization on the one hand, and chaotic picturesque confusion on the other. Our contemporary late capitalist postmodern world is characterized by more complicated tensions than these, which must therefore be accounted for in any potential contemporary architecture of liberation.

**Albo, Greg**, York University, [albo@yorku.ca](mailto:albo@yorku.ca).

Presenter: Socialist Alternatives, 10:45 – 12:15, June 1.



**Fanelli, Carlo**, Carleton University, [cfanelli@connect.carleton.ca](mailto:cfanelli@connect.carleton.ca)

Presenter: Socialist Alternatives, 10:45 – 12:15, June 1.

**Michaelis Lorelea**, Department of Politics and International Relations, Mount Allison University, [lmichael@mta.ca](mailto:lmichael@mta.ca).

Presenter: Critical Theories, 10:45 – 12:15, May 31.

Abstract: Early critical theory has earned a dubious distinction as a ‘theory of society conceived with a practical intent’ which has abandoned all expectation of success and so breaks with the most basic presuppositions of Marxism. Fascism, world war, and authoritarian socialism shattered the connection between theory and practice but, it is argued, these catastrophes were built into the very foundations of early critical theory such that the connection to practice could never be recovered. In this paper I argue that, contrary to prevailing interpretations, the experience of disappointment gives rise to a temporal reorientation in Horkheimer’s thinking in which the past and the immediate present are privileged over the future and in which the connection between theory and practice is not abandoned so much as it is recast in terms that call into question the traditional conception of action as the planful coordination of means and ends; action takes the form of a resistance that does not expect to succeed in its aims and indeed regards the aim of success with a skeptical eye. As to the Marxist credentials of early critical theory on the question of success and failure and the nature of revolutionary action, Horkheimer’s position is remarkably similar to the position worked out by Rosa Luxemburg in her writings on WWI and the collapse of the First International; there is evidence to suggest that Horkheimer was self-consciously modelling his position after Luxemburg.

**Thompson, AK**, Upping the Anti: A Journal of Theory and Action. [akt@tranzform.ca](mailto:akt@tranzform.ca).

Presenter: Critical Theories, 10:45 – 12:15, May 31.

Abstract: Radicals often highlight the importance of hope when confronting oppressive circumstances. Within the socialist tradition, writers as diverse as Ernst Bloch, Paulo Freire, and Rebecca Solnit have emphasized how hope makes it possible to envision a liberated future. In these formulations, hope plays a role roughly analogous to the one played by “imagination” in Marx’s description of the labor process. But alongside these affirmative claims, “hope” can also denote a state of social powerlessness. Moreover, rulers have often exploited hope to maintain the status quo. From the successful branding of “hope” during Obama’s 2008 election campaign to the practical fact that people are most likely to express hope when things are beyond their control, hope reveals itself to be a highly ambivalent concept. Despair is marked by a similar ambiguity. Ordinarily, despair is conceived as hope’s antithesis; it denotes that state in which people are thwarted by the belief that their actions will be inconsequential. Nevertheless, because despair intensifies our encounter with the properly unendurable dimensions of the present, it can also provoke the kind of decisive action required to save hope itself from the pitfalls of compensation and deferral.

**Fischer, Norman Arthur**, Kent State University, [Parsquix@aol.com](mailto:Parsquix@aol.com).

Presenter: Critical Theories, 10:45 – 12:15, May 31.

Abstract: I will argue that in a post 9/11 world, aesthetic and literary understanding of such civil liberties as free speech and due process are particularly important for historical materialism. Georg Lukács’ historical materialist account of the historical novel in the popular front period of the thirties and forties, gives us a basis for understanding the aesthetic and literary interpretation of civil liberties in the post 9/11 world. The propaganda used in the so called “war on terror” since 9/11 Against due process and free speech sheds new light on the theme of civil liberties in Lukács’ study of the historical novel, and the writers that he concentrated on: Walter

Scott, Lion Feuchtwanger and Heinrich Mann. I will use Lukács' method to discuss one novel that Lukács' did concentrate on, Mann's Young Henry on Navarre / King Henry of France, and three novels that Lukács did not concentrate on, Scott's seventeenth century civil liberties novel, The tale of Old Mortality, and Feuchtwanger's two novels published in post World War two America on the role of civil liberties: This is the Hour, in the art of Francisco Goya, and The Death and Transfiguration of Jean Jacques Rousseau. Applying Marxist aesthetics to these historical civil liberties novels illuminates an expansive concept of civil liberties for Marxism.

Hira Singh, Department of Sociology, York University, [hsingh@yorku.ca](mailto:hsingh@yorku.ca).

Inequalities of Caste: Interrogating the Natural and the Divine

Ruth Frankenberg shows how whiteness is a privilege enjoyed but not acknowledged. It is equally true of caste in India: belonging to an upper caste is a privilege enjoyed but not acknowledged. Frankenberg shows how the landscape of growing up white shapes white women's [and men's] consciousness in which race inequalities – both material and symbolic – are naturalized. Based on my growing up experience in a village in northern India, I want to show how consciousness in which caste inequalities are naturalized, is embedded in the landscape of childhood. The mainstream sociology of caste affirms the naturalization of caste inequality by masking it as essentially sacred. Profaning the sacred is essential to an understanding of caste.

**Prakash, Amit**, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, [amit@mail.jnu.ac.in](mailto:amit@mail.jnu.ac.in).

Presenter: The Aspiring Superpower: Critical Observations on India, 10:45 – 12:15, May 31.

Abstract: The liberal state, premised on individual rights, is unable deal with identity claims such as those of tribal identities in India. Consequently, policy response has meandered between repression and essentialisation to development-deficit. This hiatus between claims and policy response, medicated by a mélange of issues, has led to conflict and violence in resource-rich tribal areas. Resultant complex politics of recognition and redistribution has been affected by recent elections to Panchayats. Politics of participation thus generated makes Panchayats new sites of conflict and contestation, which will be analysed through a lens of governmentality of participation.

**Ghosh, Tirthankar** and **Kamalaksha Das**, Sociological Research Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, [trg58@hotmail.com](mailto:trg58@hotmail.com).

Presenters: The Aspiring Superpower: Critical Observations on India, 10:45 – 12:15, May 31.

Abstract: India is a land of contrasts. High Affluence and extreme poverty are the two sides of the coin. In addition to the different classes, Indian society is also stratified on the basis of various castes. Interestingly, there always been a positive correlation between lower caste and lower class across different socioeconomic indicators. India's neoliberal policies since 1991 have strengthened this correlation. This is also true in West Bengal, where Left Front government has ruled for more than 3 decades. This failure of the Left government raises one very important question: whether Left has failed to understand the caste question in Indian society? This paper is an attempt to evaluate this situation with a case study in West Bengal, India.

**Jana, Rabindranath** and **Anil K. Chaudhuri**, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, [rabindranathjana65@gmail.com](mailto:rabindranathjana65@gmail.com).

Presenters: The Aspiring Superpower: Critical Observations on India, 10:45 – 12:15, May 31.  
Abstract: The process of economic reforms was started in 1991 for taking India out of economic difficulty and speeding up the development process. It is now the 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest growing economy and, according to PPP, 4th largest economy of the world. On the other hand, 20% of the rural population lives only on Rs. 12 (1/4<sup>th</sup> of a dollar) a day. It is also well known that the rural society in India is stratified by sharp economic inequality. Under the circumstances, few socio-economic changes have been observed in the rural society of West Bengal. Our present concern is how the rural people survive under these changing situations. In the present paper, social network based study attempts to answer the query from a case study in West Bengal.

**Bhowmik, Sharit**, Dean of the School of Management and Labour, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India.

Keynote speaker: Globalization and Labour, 14:00 – 16:00, May 31.

**Aprahamian, Sima**, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University, [aprhsma@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:aprhsma@alcor.concordia.ca).

Session organizer: Feminist Perspectives on Genocide, Narratives of Displacement and Social Death in the Twenty-first Century, 9:00 – 10:30, June 1.

**Doerr, Karin**, Simone de Beauvoir Institute and Montreal Institute of Genocide Studies, Concordia University, [kdoerr@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:kdoerr@alcor.concordia.ca).

Session organizer: Feminist Perspectives on Genocide, Narratives of Displacement and Social Death in the Twenty-first Century, 9:00 – 10:30, June 1.

**Evans, Bryan**, Ryerson University, [b1evans@politics.ryerson.ca](mailto:b1evans@politics.ryerson.ca).

Presenter: Social Democracy After the Cold War, 9:00 – 10:30, June 1.

**Rosenfeld, Herman**, Socialist Project, [hermanrosenfeld@rogers.com](mailto:hermanrosenfeld@rogers.com).

Presenter: Social Democracy After the Cold War, 9:00 – 10:30, June 1.

**Sheldrick, Byron**, University of Guelph, [sheldric@uoguelph.ca](mailto:sheldric@uoguelph.ca).

Presenter: Social Democracy After the Cold War, 9:00 – 10:30, June 1.

**Kozolanka, Kirsten**, Carleton University, [kirsten\\_kozolanka@carleton.ca](mailto:kirsten_kozolanka@carleton.ca).

Roundtable organizer and presenter: Countering the Publicity State, 10:45 – 12:15, June 1.

Abstract: This paper examines the publicity practices of the current Conservative government of Stephen Harper as an unprecedented intensification and expansion of strategic communication in the federal government. The Harper government has more invasive control of the Privy Council Office, and thus the communications and information apparatus of the public service, while building its own strategic communications apparatus within the Prime Minister's Office. The paper concludes that the government's prioritizing of publicity to ensure policy success in its own interest renders its stated goal of accountability in the public interest unachievable.

**Pimlott, Herbert**, Wilfrid Laurier University

Presenter: Countering the Publicity State, 10:45 – 12:15, June 1.

Abstract: In spite of ongoing financial crises and the popular uprisings across the world, socialists have not been very effective in articulating their ideas against a resilient neoliberalism. This paper first outlines the key strengths and weaknesses of alternative media, including those that have been ignored by both activists and academics, before offering both a map of the present situation of alternative media in countering the publicity state in Canada, including lessons from the occupy movement, and a proposal for a way to work towards countering the communications strategy of the New Right.

**Cross, Kathleen A.**, Simon Fraser University

Presenter: Countering the Publicity State, 10:45 – 12:15, June 1.

Abstract: Mainstream corporate news media, and the policies that legitimize their dominance, are a pivotal focus for rescuing the public sphere from the emergence of market-based politics. This paper explores some of the most promising actions for challenging the dominant media systems by evaluating strategies used by the media reform movement in both Canada and the US. It considers the theories and interventions utilized to resist the neoliberal publicity and to create 'communicative democracy'. Particular attention is given to strategies adopted by Vancouver-based Media Democracy Day and OpenMedia.ca, thus adding to the sparse literature on the media reform movement in Canada.

**Das, Raju J.**, Department of Geography, York University, [rajudas@yorku.ca](mailto:rajudas@yorku.ca)

Presenter: The Aspiring Superpower: Critical Observations on India, 10:45 – 12:15, June 1.

Abstract: An important reason for the continuing problem of poverty in India is that the capitalist state has more or less failed to implement its own anti-poverty policies. By comparing the different anti-poverty policies introduced since the 1950s to the present time, I will show that there are some general patterns underlying state failure over the last 60 years, which are rooted in the class character of the state. In terms of what is to be done about the poverty problem, the paper introduces the concept of radical demands and explores its implication for the socialist movement.

**Whitehead, Judith**, Department of Anthropology, University of Lethbridge, [whitja01@uleth.ca](mailto:whitja01@uleth.ca).

Presenter: The Aspiring Superpower: Critical Observations on India, 10:45 – 12:15, June 1.

Abstract: Contemporary capitalist development in India is proceeding through two major forms of accumulation: accumulation by growth and accumulation by dispossession. While accumulation by growth is producing a new urban middle-class that is being constructed as global citizen-consumers, accumulation by dispossession is producing pauperization, often without full proletarianization, and an increasingly fragmented, informalized work force. This paper will examine the new forms of subalternity emerging in India today, and assess its new passive revolution. It does so in order to analyze the relative balance of forces of elite and subaltern class organizations.

**Srivastava, Jayati**, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, [jayatis@mail.jnu.ac.in](mailto:jayatis@mail.jnu.ac.in).

Presenter: The Aspiring Superpower: Critical Observations on India, 10:45 – 12:15, June 1.

Abstract: The imagination about the idea of India is anchored in the evolving civilizational narratives in which economy reveals itself simultaneously as an important cognitive site and also an instrument for articulating a range of political discourse, imaginations and political symbolism. As a part of this cognitive cosmos, imaginations about the nation are punctuated by contradictory images of exploitation and resistance in the realm of economics, thereby manifesting themselves in a variety of social movements. The paper discusses variety of such contestations in contemporary India that not only defines the transformation but also characterises the contours of re-imagining of 'India'.

**Eglin, Peter**, Wilfrid Laurier.

Presenter: Dystopia Roundtable, 13:00 – 14:30 and 14:45 – 16:15, June 1.

**Lopez, Jose**, University of Ottawa.

Presenter: Dystopia Roundtable, 13:00 – 14:30 and 14:45 – 16:15, June 1.

**Cameron, Gregory**, Wilfrid Laurier

Presenter: Dystopia Roundtable, 13:00 – 14:30 and 14:45 – 16:15, June 1.

**Liodaki, Nik**, Wilfrid Laurier

Presenter: Dystopia Roundtable, 13:00 – 14:30 and 14:45 – 16:15, June 1.

**Potter, Garry**, Wilfrid Laurier

Session organizer and discussant: Dystopia Roundtable, 13:00 – 14:30 and 14:45 – 16:15, June 1.

**Saczkowski, Thomas**, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, [thom.saczkowski@utoronto.ca](mailto:thom.saczkowski@utoronto.ca).

Presenter: Aspects of the Canadian Economy, 13:00 – 14:30, June 1.

Abstract: Using the science of dialectical historical materialism, I aim to explain the reorganization and cuts to quality affordable housing that is provided by the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC). I draw upon my experiences as an organizer of the TCHC Action Committee, during the privatization of TCHC services. In conjunction with an investigation of the creation of private property by that state, I will address the challenges of facilitating a socialist consciousness in the TCHC Action Committee. To this end, I will discuss the matters of consciousness and privatization as representative of how neoliberal ideology has permeated state structures

**Brennan, Jordan**, York University, [jbrennan@yorku.ca](mailto:jbrennan@yorku.ca).

Presenter: Aspects of the Canadian Economy, 13:00 – 14:30, June 1.

Abstract: Much has been made in recent times of the growing income inequality in Canada. The conventional explanation for this trend, which is rooted in the neoclassical economic vision, is to point the finger at the blind, impersonal forces of technology and trade or simply 'globalization'. But this explanation is empirically empty and intuitively unsatisfying. Using tools from radical institutionalism this paper will offer an alternative. It will establish direct linkages between the dramatic shift in the top income share and the rising differential power of capital.

**McCormack, Geoffrey**, York University, [grmm@yorku.ca](mailto:grmm@yorku.ca)

Presenter: Aspects of the Canadian Economy, 13:00 – 14:30, June 1.

Abstract: Information Communication Technology (ICT) is pervasive throughout the Canadian economy. This paper examines the role of ICT in Just-In-Time (JIT) production and distribution systems, and its effects on the business cycle. The hypothesis is that ICT implementation in JIT processes has altered the character of growth by more tightly integrating supply chains. The paper distinguishes between regular cycles (i.e. inventory and fixed capital investment cycles) and historically-specific cycles (resulting from e.g. housing bubbles, tsunamis, etc.). All cycles arise from the anarchic character of production and distribution in capitalism; however, fewer disruptions along the supply chain, a result of electronically integrated JIT systems, have contributed to smoothing out the pattern of growth in recent years by reducing fluctuations in inventory investment.

**Clark, James**, York University, Canadian Peace Alliance, [2jamesclark@gmail.com](mailto:2jamesclark@gmail.com).

Presenter: Neoliberalism in Canada: Colonialism at Home and Imperialism Abroad, 14:45 – 16:45, June 1.

Abstract: A decade after 9/11, US imperialism has largely achieved the opposite of the intended goals of the "war on terror." This paper will contrast the neoconservative vision inspired by the Project for the New American Century to the outcome of the principal US-led or -backed interventions in Central Asia and the Middle East since 2001: Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Gaza/Palestine. It will also situate recent expressions of resistance (Arab Spring, Indignados, Occupy) within the broader context of post-9/11 struggle, and will consider the extent to which this history contributes to the possibility of a more generalized anti-capitalist movement today.

**Tomiaik, Julie**, Carleton University, [jatomiak@connect.carleton.ca](mailto:jatomiak@connect.carleton.ca)

Presenter: Neoliberalism in Canada: Colonialism at Home and Imperialism Abroad, 14:45 – 16:45, June 1.

Abstract: Though rarely discussed, settler cities in what is now Canada are on shaky grounds, with title, sovereignty, and jurisdiction of Indigenous nations posing fundamental challenges. Exploring how Indigenous peoples have been framed in settler colonial discourses and marginalized through state practices, this paper examines how the politics of dispossession operates in and through the city based on colonial notions of property, race, and citizenship in the service of capitalist accumulation. I argue that an understanding of the urban dimension of neoliberal settler colonialism is central to a much-needed rethinking of the real and imagined spaces of colonialism-capitalism.

**Green, Robyn**, Carleton University, [robyn\\_green@carleton.ca/](mailto:robyn_green@carleton.ca/).

Presenter: Neoliberalism in Canada: Colonialism at Home and Imperialism Abroad, 14:45 – 16:45, June 1.

Abstract: The Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement (IRSSA) enables individual Residential School Survivors to apply for two forms of monetary compensation. The IRSSA focuses on the impacts of personal injury and trauma, while redress scholars and activists remain concerned that the recurring violence of dispossession is repeatedly elided from this compensatory framework. Moreover, individualized compensation is frequently framed by Canada's Conservative Right as an investment. Using editorial articles, public interviews, and Hansard transcripts, I demonstrate how reconciliation is characterized as a psychoanalytic process wherein the "healing" power of the capitalist economy is championed. The pursuit of health, autonomy, and meaningful wage employment is equated with individual "recovery," "self-worth" and a harmonious nation-state. This paper concludes that discourses of compensation as investment coincide with the paternalistic and assimilationist logics used to both justify residential school education and to perpetuate the extinguishment of Aboriginal title.

**Armstrong, Hugh**, Social Work, Carleton University

Presenter: Marxist-feminist Encounters, 9:00 – 10:30, June 2.

**Schein, Rebecca**, Human Rights, Carleton University

Presenter: Marxist-feminist Encounters, 9:00 – 10:30, June 2.

**Paulson, Justin**, Sociology, Carleton University, [justin\\_paulson@carleton.ca](mailto:justin_paulson@carleton.ca).

Roundtable organizer and presenter: Marxist-feminist Encounters, 9:00 – 10:30, June 2.

**Spronk, Susan**, International Development, University of Ottawa

Presenter: Marxist-feminist Encounters, 9:00 – 10:30, June 2.

**Sinclair-Waters, Brynne**, Political Economy, Carleton University

Presenter: Marxist-feminist Encounters, 9:00 – 10:30, June 2.

**Dimitrova, Dimitrina**, York University, [ddimitro@yorku.ca](mailto:ddimitro@yorku.ca)

Chair: Work, Employment and Inequality in an Uncertain World, 9:00 – 10:30, June 2.

**Ahing, Vanessa**, University of Toronto, [vanessa.ahing@utoronto.ca](mailto:vanessa.ahing@utoronto.ca)

Presenter: Work, Employment and Inequality in an Uncertain World, 9:00 – 10:30, June 2.

Abstract: Most fair trade research has been based in development, agribusiness, and consumer studies, however, little work has examined Fair trade from a labour perspective. Thus, this paper examines to what extent is fair trade a challenge to precarious employment? How well is it

performing compared to the conventional labour market and to its own policies set forth by its major parent organizations? This preliminary paper reviewing fair trade literature extends the analysis of precarious employment to insecure producers in the Global South, and sheds light on whether participation in fair trade brings more stability and security to producers in developing countries. This paper evaluates fair trade on three tenets of precarious employment that most affect developing countries: unlivable wages, social development and gender inequality. A review of this literature consists of over 30 case studies, spanning countries such as Bolivia, Peru, Thailand, Mexico, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Guatemala.

**Baker, Catherine**, University of Southampton / University College London, [cbakertw1@googlemail.com](mailto:cbakertw1@googlemail.com)

Presenter: Work, Employment and Inequality in an Uncertain World, 9:00 – 10:30, June 2.

Abstract: Perspectives on another such dislocation, the socio-economic impact of post-socialism in central and eastern Europe, have the potential to help scholars understand this uncertainty or offer strategies to manage it. This paper explores the impact of precarity in post-conflict Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH) by drawing on qualitative interview data collected during a study of peace operations in the country. The interviewees included 31 people from former Yugoslavia who had worked for the UN or NATO forces (including Canadian contingents) as language intermediaries ('interpreters') in BiH for at least a year since 1992. These jobs offered hard-currency wages but also casual contracts and minimal welfare provisions. Not only were the employment conditions of interpreters thus inherently precarious, but they also upset the expectations of employee/employer relations that prospective interpreters had formed while growing up in socialist Yugoslavia, where social identities had been easier to construct through ongoing and stable work. The paper explores the intersections between work and other forms of post-conflict social identity in Bosnia-Herzegovina and shows commonalities and disconnections between this case study and precarity in established capitalist democracies.

**Knezevic, Ivanka**, University of Toronto, [knezevic@chass.utoronto.ca](mailto:knezevic@chass.utoronto.ca)

Session organizer and presenter: Work, Employment and Inequality in an Uncertain World, 9:00 – 10:30, June 2.

Abstract: Recommodifying nature of the European Union's social policies over the last thirty years has been prominent in the analysis of labour and social policies in the ten post-socialist countries that acceded to the EU in 2004 and 2007. New types of the "welfare state" have been identified and debated, but no analyses or policy proposals challenge the central move toward recommodification of labour. Policy documents refer to an urgent need for flexibilisation of labour markets, and dismiss universalistic work- and social policies. Precariousness and destandardisation of work are not identified as problems. The paper will present results of a content analysis of the main EU social and labour policy statements, including the Copenhagen criteria for the accession to the EU, since the 1980s. These results will be presented in the context of the academic debate on labour policies of the new member states, demonstrating the degree of critique or support for the regional policies that determine conditions of work in those countries.

**Dassinger, Janet**, Social Work, McMaster University, [janetdassinger@gmail.com](mailto:janetdassinger@gmail.com)

Presenter: Work, Employment and Inequality in an Uncertain World, 9:00 – 10:30, June 2.

Abstract: This paper suggests that union-led labour adjustment programs function to normalize mass unemployment and inculcate neoliberal values of personal responsibility and labour market flexibility among dislocated workers. Using theories of bio-power, this paper argues that union "job action centres" have become saturated with the discourse and practices of labour

market policies and programs which diminish workers' expectations and weaken resistance; but that unions can and must move beyond these largely unreflexive and subtle practices by recovering their historic use of critical pedagogy to problematize the experience of unemployment, and discover anti oppressive approaches to the global crisis of joblessness.

**Duffy, Ann Doris**, Brock University, [aduffy@brocku.ca](mailto:aduffy@brocku.ca), **June Corman**, Brock University, [jcorman@brocku.ca](mailto:jcorman@brocku.ca), **Norene Pupo**, York University, [npupo@yorku.ca](mailto:npupo@yorku.ca)

Presenters: Work, Employment and Inequality in an Uncertain World, 10:45 – 12:15, June 2.

Abstract: In recent decades, there has been a renewed call for sociologists to engage with social policy and public actions in their professional capacity. This revitalization, popularized as the growth of public sociologies, has generated considerable interest. The three authors are currently collaborating on an interview-based examination of the impact of de-industrialization on locally-based workers, their families and their communities in a small manufacturing city in Ontario. This project has led to invitations to discuss the implications of the research and the interview results with local community leaders, social agency personnel and social policy advocates. In this paper, the authors explore the contradictions inherent in communicating a 'bad news' analysis that contradicts limited short-term public actions and that draws into question current efforts to buoy public spirits. The authors discuss the content of their public presentations as well as the diverse responses from segments of the community. The development of public sociologies may expose academic sociologists to significant contradictions in their roles as social analysts and as advocates for progressive social change.

**Stamatopoulos, Vivian** and **Glenn Stalker**, York University, [vivstam@yorku.ca](mailto:vivstam@yorku.ca) and [gstalker@yorku.ca](mailto:gstalker@yorku.ca)

Presenter: Work, Employment and Inequality in an Uncertain World, 10:45 – 12:15, June 2.

Abstract: the past quarter-century, the growth of precarious employment in industrialized countries has signaled concerns as to the extent of individual and societal level consequences ushered in with it. Since one of the rationales for labour market reorganization towards precarious alternatives has been the added flexibility provided to certain workers (e.g. parents and caregivers), this study will explore the impact of precarious work arrangements (i.e. casual, on-call, shift, contract, multiple job holding and self-employment) on time stress and life satisfaction outcomes in a national sample of employed Canadian parents. Presumably, time stress should decrease for precarious labourers since they have more flexible work schedules to balance multiple role demands; however, few studies have empirically tested this assumption. Moreover, do the theorized gains from various forms of precarious labour translate into positive gains in life satisfaction? The analysis will also pay special attention to the mediating roles of historically relevant markers of social inequality such as gender, race, and aboriginal status. These and other theoretically relevant conditional relationships will be tested using ordinary least squares (OLS) and ordinal regression on 2010 Statistics Canada's General Social Survey data.

**Fuller, Sylvia**, University of British Columbia, [sylvia.fuller@ubc.ca](mailto:sylvia.fuller@ubc.ca)

Presenter: Work, Employment and Inequality in an Uncertain World, 10:45 – 12:15, June 2.

Abstract: Because temporary jobs are, by definition, time-delimited, understanding their implications for worker well-being requires considering not only their current characteristics, but also their place in longer-term patterns of mobility. Current research has typically addressed this question by examining single transitions from temporary jobs to other (non)employment states. In this paper, we expand our focus to 5 year employment trajectories to examine the extent to which temporary employment is embedded in more or less precarious types of



employment pathways. Using data from the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics, we construct temporary workers' monthly movements through several types of employment and non-employment states and employ sequence analysis (optimal matching and cluster analysis) to empirically derive a typology of trajectories. We conclude by exploring the typical profile of workers in the different types of temporary work trajectories to reveal the degree to which the patterns we find map on to other key dimensions of inequality in Canadian labour markets.

**Sinclair, Cindy**, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, [c.sinclair@utoronto.ca](mailto:c.sinclair@utoronto.ca)

Presenter: Work, Employment and Inequality in an Uncertain World, 10:45 – 12:15, June 2.

Abstract: This presentation is part of an ongoing research project to explore underutilized informal learning skills of immigrant medical doctors (IMDs) in Canada. Canada continues to fall below the OECD's doctor-patient ratio for developing countries. Canada's immigration policy attracts highly educated professionals and their families to Canada. During the past decades, however, the number of IMDs entering the profession as licensed practitioners in Canada has been in decline, while research shows that, at the same time, immigrant patients from various cultural backgrounds avoid going to the doctor for reasons such as inability to communicate with Canadian doctors, lack of doctors who can understand their needs, other communication barriers at the doctor's office, or long wait times. I will explore the extent to which IMDs' hidden informal learning capital may become contributory asset to the Canadian medical profession and Canada's diverse patient population and the extent to which IMDs, especially those from visible minority non-English speaking countries, encounter discrimination because of their cultural, communication and language characteristics.

**Sangster, Joan**, Women's Studies, Trent University [jsangster@trentu.ca](mailto:jsangster@trentu.ca)

Presenter: Re-animating Socialist Feminism, 10:45 – 12:15, June 2.

**Luxton, Meg**, Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies, York University [mluxton@yorku.ca](mailto:mluxton@yorku.ca)

Presenter: Re-animating Socialist Feminism, 10:45 – 12:15, June 2.

**Baines, Donna**, Labour Studies and Social Work, McMaster University, [bainesd@mcmaster.ca](mailto:bainesd@mcmaster.ca).

Presenter: Women's Work at the Crossroads, 13:00 – 14:45, June 2.

Abstract: Managerialism and poor working conditions in the female-dominated nonprofit care sector have been seen as imposed by state funding through processes associated with contracting-out. Yet recent data from New Zealand shows that nonprofit agencies that are charitably funded and/or family-run adopt similar management styles and comparably worse wages and conditions. This suggests that neoliberalism is highly adaptable within care work, melding itself with older forms of service delivery (charity/family dynasties) as well as with newer New Public Management models, and further that these models are not exclusively driven by state funding. The paper draws on data from Australia and Canada to conclude with lessons for those seeking to resist neoliberalism, promote gender justice and promote more socialist notions of social care and emancipation.

**McQuaide, Shiling**, Athabasca University, [shilingm@athabascau.ca](mailto:shilingm@athabascau.ca).

Presenter: Chinese and Canadian Labour Experiences, 13:00 – 14:30, June 2.

Abstract: When the turbulent strike waves culminated in the mid-1920s and late-1940s, China's workers demonstrated strong radicalism and activism. Working class solidarity and class consciousness came to the front at these crucial moments of class struggle. Focusing on several industrial centers, this paper provides an analytical discussion of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) propaganda and educational work, a key component of Communist labour unions' organization and mobilization strategy. Through publishing periodicals and running night

schools, union organizers made important inroads into labour masses through a group of skilled male workers whose literacy and control over labour process made them susceptible to the CCP discourse of the “sacred labour”.

**Hurl, Chris**, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University,  
[churl@connect.carleton.ca](mailto:churl@connect.carleton.ca).

Presenter: Chinese and Canadian Labour Experiences, 13:00 – 14:30, June 2.

Abstract: This paper will examine the relationship between industrial relations discourse, health insurance and public sector unionism in the province of Ontario from the late 1950s to the early 1970s. Adopting a labour geographies perspective, it will be argued that hospital workers played a crucial role in reshaping the landscape of health care through this period. Drawing on archival materials, I will show how the struggles of hospital workers provided a focal point for debates in the budding field of industrial relations which would largely anticipate the problematization of ‘essential services’ in the 1970s and 1980s.

## Cross-listed Sessions

## **Society for Socialist Studies (SSS): Annual General Meeting**

Thursday, May 31, 2012

16:15 – 17:00

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**President:** Darrell McLaughlin, [darrell.mclaughlin@stmcollege.ca](mailto:darrell.mclaughlin@stmcollege.ca)

**Vice-President:** Kanchan Sarker, [kanchan.sarker@ubc.ca](mailto:kanchan.sarker@ubc.ca).

**Secretary:** NJ Baker, [admin@socialiststudies.ca](mailto:admin@socialiststudies.ca)

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**Local Arrangements Coordinator:** Garry Potter, [Garrypotter34@aol.com](mailto:Garrypotter34@aol.com)

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