

Society for Socialist Studies  
Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences  
May. 30 – June. 2, 2017, Ryerson University  
<http://www.socialiststudies.ca>

**Call for Papers**  
**Updated January 25, 2017**

**Theme:**

**Liberation Here and Now: Continuity and Change in Socialist Studies at 50 Years and Beyond**

The theme of Congress 2017 of the Social Sciences and Humanities is '**From Far & Wide: The Next 150**'. Taking place in the Dish with One Spoon territory, based on a treaty between the Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee, Congress 2017 at Ryerson University references the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canada's confederation. We therefore particularly invite analysis this year that critically reflects on what is affirmed and whose struggles are erased in celebrations of Canada as a nation. As a settler colonial project founded on Indigenous dispossession, genocidal policies, and systemic racism, the Canadian state has continued to advance policies and practices consistent with the intertwined logics of colonialism, capitalism, white supremacy, and heteropatriarchy. Canada's "dominion" includes this internal imperialism and dispossession, contributing to resource extraction that now threatens human survival worldwide. At the same time, Canada often acts at capital's behest in the global South, engaging in a neo-imperial project that extends and reproduces relations of exploitation and alienation around the globe.

We call upon participants to trouble Project Canada fundamentally, to celebrate past and future resistances and solidarities, and to engage in dialogue on how to get to a decolonized praxis and collective liberation here and now. As part of this dialogue, we remain open as always to sessions, papers, and roundtables on the full range of socialist inquiry. We note here other important anniversaries in 2017, such as 150 years of the publication of Marx's *Capital* and 100 years since women's enfranchisement in Canada. This conference is also an important opportunity to reflect on the Society for Socialist Studies at its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. How has Socialist Studies helped us know and change the world? And what conversations and transformations need to happen in the next 50 years?

Join us in Toronto from May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup> for four days of wide-ranging and engaged analysis and dialogue. Featured among many other events and highlights will be our Keynote Address, which this year will take the form of a 3-minute mini-lecture panel titled "Socialism: Historically and Today". Weighing in on socialism's legacy and current condition will be the following scholars: Cliff Atleo Jr. (Kam'ayaam/Chachim'multhni), Isabelle Altamirano-Jimanez, Himani Bannerji, William K. Carroll, Aziz Choudry, Ken Collier, Marjorie Griffin Cohen, Glen Coulthard,

Grace-Edward Galabuzi, Gary Kinsman, Meg Luxton, Dorothy Smith, and Sandra Rein.

**If you wish to submit a proposal for a paper**, please go to our conference website by clicking [HERE](#). After clicking the 'submit an abstract' icon, you will first be asked to register with a user name and password (of your creation). Then, choose the 'conference track' (i.e., session) best suited to your paper. **The conference tracks correspond to the sessions listed below.** If your paper does not seem to fit into any of the listed sessions, choose the track, 'General Paper', and we will try to find a place for it, either in existing session proposals or in sessions composed of individually submitted papers like your own. **Paper titles and abstracts (maximum of 100 words) should be submitted by Tuesday, January 31, 2017.**

The following sessions are currently accepting papers. We hope to see you at the end of May!

Jamie Lawson  
SSS 2017 Programme Chair  
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## **AUGMENTING THE LEFT: CONFRONTING NEW CAPITAL FORMATIONS AND THE RISE OF THE RIGHT**

Organizers: Adam Kingsmith, York University, adam.kingsmith@gmail.com;  
Robert Latham, York University, rlatham1@gmail.com;  
Julian von Barga, York University, julianvonbarga@gmail.com

The election of Donald Trump is only the most recent example of a discernible global turn to the Right across the Americas, Europe, and Asia. This turn comes at a particularly problematic time, as people around the world face deepening environmental, economic, and social crises - with the turn itself perhaps being part of a wider crisis of political legitimacy.

Once again the far Left - anchored in the Marxian tradition - faces a changing political terrain on which it might reposition and reorganize itself - a terrain with an amplified set of longstanding challenges involving issues of race, gender, the environment, technology, migration, indigeneity, coloniality, culture, and the media. It is hardly clear how the radical Left might effectively adjust its trajectory to begin confronting such issues - a Left that has faced roadblocks and seems particularly fragmented at this time.

It is important once again to examine and theorize the relationship between the issues listed above (and the forces associated with them) and what is taken to be core Marxist concerns with class, class conflict, work, relations of production and reproduction: to consider, again, on what terms and how augmenting the Left in the current socio-political moment might be beneficial.

There have been lots of vectors of augmentation across 20th century. These past efforts must be built upon in order to: a) confront squarely the tensions associated with augmenting or "stretching" Marxism rather than assuming them away with claims about necessary hierarchies of forces or some comfortable "horizontal" or one version of "postism" or another; and b) situate the augmentation process and theoretical terrain in the current socio-political moment, with attention to the possibilities of organization for radical social transformation.

How might one reconsider the following: the ways the Marxian heritage can be drawn on to navigate the divisions within the Left and challenge the rise of an increasingly ethno-nationalist and authoritarian Right; connections among economic (relations and forces of production), political, and cultural factors; connections perhaps best understood as moebius strips rather than bounded structures; and understandings of such forms as political consciousness, identity, ideology, and institutions, as they relate, for example, to the forces of production and logics of class that have been so important to Marxian analysis since the beginning of critical theory?

## **CITIES ON INDIGENOUS LANDS: SETTLER COLONIALISM, DISPOSSESSION AND RESISTANCE**

Organizer: Julie Tomiak, Ryerson University, julie.tomiak@gmail.com

This session invites papers that discuss various forms of dispossession, displacement and violence as integral and ongoing processes of the production of urban space in what is now known as Canada. More specifically, the discussion will focus on how conceptualizations of the right to the city, property and scale need to be reframed to account for the fact that all cities across Turtle Island are on Indigenous lands. What does this mean in relation to different ideas, practices and the political economy of cities and regions? Possible topics include, but are not limited to, urban spaces of/as racist and hetero-patriarchal violence, policing of city spaces, gentrification, homelessness, reclamations of space, trans/urban solidarities and struggles against the forces of settler capitalism.

### **CLASS IN MONOPOLY FINANCE CAPITAL**

Organizer: Ken Collier, Athabasca University, kcollier@shaw.ca

The owning class transitioned from landed agricultural to production industrial to current era identified as the stage of monopoly finance. In each phase, the working class had to work out its own identity and description and that of the owning class, as well as the forms of struggle in which to engage. Presentations should describe, analyze and/or theorize class forms, identity, struggle, transition or other aspects of the topic that preferably lend themselves to utility or praxis, though more speculative approaches may also fit this session.

### **CORPORATE POWER, FOSSIL CAPITAL, CLIMATE CRISIS**

Organizers: William Carroll, University of Victoria, wcarroll@uvic.ca;  
Shannon Daub, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives: BC Chapter,  
shannon@policyalternatives.ca

This session explores the intersections between (a) networks, structures and practices of capitalist class power (and resistance to it), as centred in large corporations; (b) the political economy of fossil capital as a way of life that has reached global scale; and (c) the accelerating climate crisis, whose urgency seems to be matched by its intractability at least within the strictures of capitalism itself. Papers should address all three of these concerns, but can focus on any of a range of power modalities, including the following: corporate networks and elites, corporate ownership and control, the financing of fossil capital, corporate social responsibility discourses, think tanks and corporate advocacy, business activism and lobbying, soft denialism and green capitalism, carbon energy commodity chains, land-based resistance, just-transition initiatives and the divestment movement.

## **CULTURE, POLITICS AND LIBERATION**

Organizer: Scott Forsyth, York University, sforsyth@yorku.ca

This session will explore themes on the relationship of politics and culture and the ways culture plays a role in struggles for liberation. Open to historical discussions of cultural practices in important political movements and struggles, including culture in the organizations and institutions of the Left – parties, unions, local, national, global. Considerations of contemporary debates and questions: What is radical art now? What is the dominating power of contemporary cultural industries now? What are key developments in Marxist aesthetics? Key changes in popular culture and the corporate organization of commercial media, nationally and globally. Significance of new media technologies and potentially new communities of resistance in social media. How will culture be significant in conflict with the rise of the radical right? Open to a range of subjects and socialist perspectives.

## **DÉCOLONISER LA PRODUCTION SCIENTIFIQUE EN SCIENCES SOCIALES: PERSPECTIVES FÉMINISTES-INTERSECTIONNELLES / DECOLONISING KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES: INTERSECTIONAL FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES**

Organizer: Chamindra Weerawardhana, Queen's University Belfast, fremancourt@gmail.com

[Scroll down for English version]

Ce panel a pour but de développer un dialogue à la fois transversal et interdisciplinaire sur la thématique de la décolonisation au sein des sciences sociales. L'enseignement et la recherche en sciences sociales, pour la plupart, s'inspirent des approches méthodologiques et des épistémologies euro-centriques, ce qui est de plus en plus remis en question dans certains contextes (par ex. les recherches sur les communautés natives de l'île de la Tortue, et au sein de l'université africaine - notamment en Afrique du Sud). De quoi s'agit-il lors qu'on parle de décoloniser l'université, l'enseignement et la recherche, et comment peut-on conceptualiser les liens étroits entre « décolonisation » et « féminismes intersectionnels » ? Il s'agit d'un sujet qui suscite de vifs débats, et qui exige impérativement des processus de « désapprentissage » et de réapprentissage, qui comprend la remise en question de certaines approches bien ancrées dans nos méthodologies de la recherche. C'est une thématique qui nous pousse à poser des questions critiques non seulement sur l'enseignement et sur la production scientifique, mais également sur la question de la « représentation » au sein de nos universités.

Le présent panel comporterait trois objectifs principaux – a) mettre en place un panel bilingue dédié à la thématique de la décolonisation, faisant le point sur les débats contemporains (qui se tiennent plus que souvent en langue anglaise) et b) mettre en lumière l'importance d'une perspective féministe-intersectionnelle dans

toute discussion à propos de la décolonisation, et c) créer une plateforme dédiée aux démographies très peu représentées dans les structures universitaires.

Tout en accueillant des perspectives variées, nous invitons en particulier des interventions (en français ou en anglais) portant sur les thématiques suivantes :

- La « décolonisation » en ce qui concerne la justice aux premiers peuples de l'île de la Tortue
- Décolonisation et le.s féminisme.s – notamment dans le cadre de l'enseignement et la recherche universitaire en sciences sociales
- {Perspectives « décolonisantes » à propos de} La dispense des enseignements universitaires et la gestion de la recherche universitaire sur les études dites « indigènes » (anglais « Indigenous Studies »), les perspectives comparées seront les bienvenues.
- Les enjeux qu'affrontent les mouvements qui exigent la « décolonisation » de l'université (notamment par rapport à des cas spécifiques, y compris l'université canadienne, sud-africaine, et les établissements universitaires des pays jadis colonisés et à présent « néo-colonisés »), décolonisation et la question de la « représentation ».

En ces temps de réflexion sur les faits atroces d'un lourd passé, sur des commissions de vérité et sur les débats à propos de la « réconciliation », cela va de soi que nous invitons en plus haute priorité des propositions de communication de la part des universitaires issu.e.s des premiers peuples de la partie de l'île de la Tortue que l'on nomme « Canada » (dérivé du « kanata » de l'iroquoien au bord de Kaniatarowanenneh, qui veut dire « village »). Nous accueillons en particulier des propositions de la part d'enseignantes-chercheuses et des personnes bi-spirituelles. En outre, les propositions de la part d'enseignantes-chercheuses (cis et trans) racisées, très peu représentées dans le monde de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche, seront également prioritaires.

Pour tout renseignement complémentaire, veuillez nous contacter par courriel, [c.weerawardhana@qub.ac.uk](mailto:c.weerawardhana@qub.ac.uk) et [olikamgain@gmail.com](mailto:olikamgain@gmail.com).

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/ This panel is intended at developing a cross-cutting interdisciplinary dialogue on the theme of decolonizing the social sciences. To a very large extent, teaching and research in political science inspires from and is centred upon Eurocentric epistemologies and methodologies, which is increasingly put into question in some areas in the social sciences (for example, in the field of First Peoples'/Indigenous Studies in Turtle Island, and in some African seats of learning, especially in South Africa). What do we really imply when evoking the topic of 'decolonizing the university, teaching and research, and how can we identify and conceptualise close interconnectivities between decolonizing and intersectional feminism/s? These are areas of academic preoccupation marked by lively debates, and an incitement to actively engage in processes of "unlearning" and "relearning", which involves putting into question approaches and methodologies that are deeply ingrained in

academic circles. It is a topic area that not only encourages us to raise critical questions not only on teaching and knowledge production per se, but also on the question of 'representation' in university structures.

Panel objectives:

- a) Putting together a bilingual platform devoted to the theme of decolonizing, which reviews and takes stock of contemporary debates, and
- b) Highlight the vital importance of an intersectional feminist perspective in any discussion on decolonizing, and
- c) To create a platform devoted primarily to individuals and groups who are scarcely represented in university hierarchies.

While the panel welcomes a variety of perspectives, participants are especially encouraged to explore the following axes of reflection:

- Decolonizing and justice towards the First Peoples of Turtle Island
- Decolonizing and Feminisms – especially in the context of university teaching and research in the social sciences
- {Decolonizing perspectives with regard to} teaching and research in the field widely referred to as 'Indigenous' Studies'. Comparative perspectives are especially welcome.
- Challenges facing movements that struggle to 'decolonize' the university (especially in the Canadian and South African contexts, as well as in the global South/s, which have suffered western colonization and continue to suffer from present-day 'neo-colonizing' drives.

At a time of reflection on past atrocities, on truth commissions and debates on 'reconciliation', it is imperative that we invite, with the utmost priority, paper proposals from scholars (of all levels) who are from the First Communities of the part of Turtle Island we know as 'Canada' (for the record, a word that derives from Kaniatarowanenneh-Iroquoian 'kanata' (meaning, village/settlement)). We extend a special welcome to two-spirited and gender-plural scholars. The panel also warmly welcomes proposals from [trans and cis] women of colour, who are scarcely represented in university teaching and research-related positions.

For any further questions or information, please contact us at [c.weerawardhana@qub.ac.uk](mailto:c.weerawardhana@qub.ac.uk) and [olikamgain@gmail.com](mailto:olikamgain@gmail.com).

### **GENOCIDE AND MASS DEATHS: INTIMATE EXPRESSIONS OF LOSS AS MODES OF UNIVERSAL GRIEF**

Organizers: Sima Aprahamian, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University, [simaaprahamian@yahoo.ca](mailto:simaaprahamian@yahoo.ca);  
Karin Doerr, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, MIGS Concordia University, [karin.doerr@concordia.ca](mailto:karin.doerr@concordia.ca)

In the face of continued global violence, many contemporary groups seek a focus on their own particular history of grief and injustice. As they do so, they are looking for models of recounting and commemorating. They find these in particular in the responses to and research of the Armenian genocide and the Holocaust. Nevertheless, in the name of historical continuation and transmitting of the early genocides and other mass deaths of the past, we need to keep them in our consciousness lest the historical knowledge falls into oblivion.

Since the scholarship of these earlier catastrophes is vast and multifaceted, it might be useful to take a more personalized approach. This is to say, instead of focusing on the immensity of the evil deeds and the resulting suffering of the large number of victimized, we bring the calamities closer. The attention will be on the human level, that is to say, on one person and the loss of one who was so sorely missed.

The proposed session calls for papers that specifically examine personal and intimate expressions of loss and grief in the context of Genocide and mass deaths from a feminist and socialist perspective.

### **INSTITUTIONAL ETHNOGRAPHY: UNDERSTANDING THE 'WORK' OF COLLECTIVE LIBERATION**

Organizer: Debbie Dergousoff, University of British Columbia,  
ddergous55@gmail.com

Institutional ethnography (IE) was developed by Dorothy Smith as a method of inquiry for investigating social processes that coordinate the work done by actual people in local sites to meet the requirements and specifications of institutional practices and professional discourses developed elsewhere. IE does not view institutional modes of action as singular forms of social organization, but rather, as functional interrelated circuits. This has particular implications for investigating sites of and potential for collective liberation. This session welcomes papers that open up for discussion how researchers have used institutional ethnography to examine and understand how work practices organize or preclude possibilities for either or both 'the collective' and liberation.

### **LIBERATION: GLOBALLY AND PARTICULARLY**

Organizer: Sean McMahon, American University in Cairo, smcmahon@aucegypt.edu

Liberation is a contradictory process; workers struggle, materially and ideally, against capital's imposing of forms of control. The history of this process includes the instrumentalizing of, inter alia, nature, technology, and state policy to realize, and divert time away from, workers' self-creative activity.

This session takes stock of our contemporary moment in the liberation process and reflects on what our present means for our possible futures. Assessments can range from those informed by the Frankfurt School's theory of domination and Foucault's notion of disciplinary society to those interested in



Gramscian counter-hegemony and autonomist everyday resistances. Papers conceptualizing our time of liberation globally and in different spaces are particularly encouraged.

**LIBERATION HERE AND NOW: WHAT ROLE FOR SOCIALIST STUDIES IN SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS RESISTANCE AND RESURGENCE?**

Organizer: Debbie Dergousoff, , ddergous55@gmail.com

It has been decades since the RCAP acknowledged the great damage that Canada's policies of dispossession and assimilation have done. They have left a legacy of brokenness, but also a legacy of Indigenous survival, resilience and resistance. Both aspects of that legacy affect Aboriginal individuals, families and communities, and secondarily non-Indigenous persons across Canada. In the latter case, one of the casualties must be uncritical self-regard among non-Indigenous people of this land, for instance with respect to the "the spirit of generosity and mutual accommodation in which Canadians take pride", which RCAP itself referenced as a necessary casualty of Canada's collective self-reassessment. This panel seeks to open up a space for examining the mutual learning that can come from putting into dialogue, the troubled historical and ongoing relations of socialist scholarship and struggles with those of Indigenous scholarship and liberation struggles, themselves troubled by historical and ongoing relations of colonialism and racism. We welcome both Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants to the panel, and will adjust the final description to account for the panel's representation.

**THE MEXICAN CRISES AND NORTH AMERICA IN THE NAFTA AND TRUMP ERA**

Organizer: Richard Roman, University of Toronto, droman@rogers.com

This panel will explore the deepening crises of Mexico and of Mexican workers in the United States where racism towards Mexicans and the threat of mass deportation of immigrants has become the battle cry of the incoming Trump government. The interplay between Mexico's multiple crises and the Trump attack on Mexico and Mexicans creates a volatile situation. This panel welcomes papers that deal with any key aspect of the Mexican crisis and/or the crisis of Mexicans within the U.S. and most especially the relationship between the two.

**NEW PERSPECTIVES ON THE HISTORY OF THE JEWISH LABOUR MOVEMENT: ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY YEARS OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONALIST ACTIVISM**

Organizer: Roni Gechtman, Mount Saint Vincent University,  
Roni.Gechtman@msvu.ca

On the one-hundred-and-twentieth anniversary of the Jewish Labour Bund and the one-hundredth anniversary of the February and October Russian Revolutions, this

panel will bring together a group of international scholars to showcase new perspectives on the history of the Yiddish-speaking labour movement and reassess its role in international socialist politics and in Jewish and East European social life. Founded in Czarist Russia in October 1897, the Jewish Labour Bund was instrumental in the establishment of the Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party (the party that would later split into Mensheviks and Bolsheviks). The Bund actively participated in the 1917 Revolutions until it was liquidated by the ruling Bolsheviks during the Russian Civil War. It then became a mass movement in interwar Poland. The Bund consistently favoured internationalist commitment to working-class revolutionary activism over nationalist demands; its 'national' program was restricted to defending the rights of Jewish workers in the places where they lived. After the extermination of its East European constituency during the Holocaust, the Bund's survivors scattered and developed a truly transnational movement. Its political influence, however, diminished in direct proportion to the strengthening of its main political rivals: communism and Zionism. Political defeat and genocide almost erased the Jewish labour movement from both Jewish and labour historiography for many decades. More recently, there has been a resurgence of scholarly interest in the Bund, as a new generation of scholars is finding, in its unwavering commitment to both internationalist revolutionary socialism and democracy, its program of national-cultural autonomy (as an alternative to nationalism) and its intransigent struggle against class oppression and fascism in all their forms, lessons that are relevant to the dilemmas of the present.

### **PHYSICAL CULTURE WITHIN SOCIALIST THEORIES AND MOVEMENTS**

Organizer: Samuel Martin Clevenger, University of Maryland, [scleveng@umd.edu](mailto:scleveng@umd.edu)

The development of theories and paradigms studying the centrality of the body and physical culture affords socialist thinkers, activists, and theorists with useful analytical insight for, among other things, rethinking the conception and alienation of human beings as "productive workers" and providing more nuanced understandings of the body as an ideological and material instrument within processes and relations of power. This session welcomes papers that further this imperative and focus on the role of the body, embodiment, and practices of physical culture within socialist theories and movements, and their significance within historical and contemporary political contexts.

### **RECLAIMING ALTERNATIVE AND GRASSROOT HISTORIES**

Organizers: Kirsten Kozolanka, Carleton University, [kobra@web.net](mailto:kobra@web.net);  
Ulli Diemer, Connexions, [diemer@sources.com](mailto:diemer@sources.com)

This panel focuses on alternative and grassroots media and other non-mainstream perspectives and artifacts that are missing or incomplete in our history, as well as the importance of reclaiming our radical past through archiving as an agent of change. The state of archiving such media and artifacts is examined, as well as its

complexity and its future: where is our radical history and what lessons could and must it teach us?

### **REVOLUTION AND COUNTER-REVOLUTION**

Organizers: Tony Thomson, Acadia University, [tony.thomson@acadiau.ca](mailto:tony.thomson@acadiau.ca);  
Herb Gamberg, Dalhousie University, [gamberg@dal.ca](mailto:gamberg@dal.ca)

Revolutionary theory in the late twentieth century was dominated by the collapse of actually-existing socialism in Russia and China. Cuban socialism in the post-Castro era faces an uncertain future. The end of the decades-long guerilla struggle in Columbia apparently marks the end of armed rural insurrection in Latin America. What are the prospects for Marxist revolutionary change in the early twenty-first century? Is the only viable strategy the “long transition to socialism” that Samir Amin contemplates in *Russia and the Long Transition from Capitalism to Socialism* (2016)?

This panel provides an opportunity to discuss the prospects for revolutionary change in light of evaluations of the socialist revolutions of the twentieth century – what are the fundamental lessons from these experiences? – what revolutionary strategies may be viable in the context of global capitalism and the struggles newly emerging and on the horizon, how are these prospects affected by the potential for the rise of neo-fascism, and given the above, what constitute viable Marxist tactics in the foreseeable future?

Among panel topics might be the following:

- Distinction between taking of power and socialist transition
- Problems in transition
- The revolutionary situation or lack thereof
- The productivist fixation
- The question of leadership and organization
- Imperialism and change in location of revolutionary situation
- Counter-revolution: Response to crisis- real or imagined
- Extreme response—fascism and monopoly capitalism, its variations

### **REVOLUTION WAS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER: THE NEW LEFT, MARXISM, CULTURE AND PARTY**

Organizer: Scott Forsyth, York University, [sforsyth@yorku.ca](mailto:sforsyth@yorku.ca)

An exploration of the New Left in the Canadian 1960s and 1970s with focus on the micro-parties that formed and grew for a decade. Seeking discussion of debates in Marxism and world socialism, conceptions of party and organization, approaches to culture and counter-culture, strategies, successes and failures.

## **ROJAVA REVOLUTION IN SYRIA: DECOLONIZATION, NATIONAL LIBERATION AND DEMOCRATIC SELF-RULE**

Organizers: Behnam Amini, York University, behnamamini60@gmail.com;  
Gulay Kilicaslan, York University, kilicaslangulay@gmail.com;  
Sardar Saadi, University of Toronto, sardarsaadi@gmail.com

Since the 2011 uprisings in the Middle East, the majority Kurdish populated areas of northern Syria, i.e. Rojava, have been experiencing enormous social and political transformations often referred to as 'Rojava revolution.' Struck by a long history of colonization and imperialist interventions as well as authoritarianism of secular and religious modern states, people in Rojava have been developing a democratic alternative to the oppressive and exclusive modern nation-state system. The idea of 'democratic confederalism', developed by Abdullah Ocalan, has been central to Rojava revolution. It rejects the creation of a new nation-state as a solution to the plights of oppressed and colonized nations, and advocates the formation of confederate structures of democratic self-rule through people's assemblies and communes which challenge the rule of capital and patriarchy, and celebrate the co-existence of ethnicities, religions and languages. This panel intends to reflect upon various aspects of the Rojava revolution in Syria.

## **SELF-EMANCIPATION, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND DEMOCRACY – RETHINKING THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION**

Organizer: Paul Kellogg, Athabasca University, pkellogg@athabascau.ca

The revolutionary upheavals in Russia in 1917, created a frame for the theory and practice of left politics which, for several generations, structured the activity of thousands. For many, the Russian Revolution was a model, because we believed it to embody the politics of self-emancipation – articulated in the Rules of the First International as, "the emancipation of the working classes must be conquered by the working classes themselves." This panel – on the centenary of the Russian Revolution – will interrogate this belief. What were the actual relationships between the politics of self-emancipation and the politics of the Russian Revolutionaries? What were the actual agents of change in the revolutionary years opened by 1917? How do we properly evaluate the activities of the revolutionaries of that era from the standpoint of the politics of self-emancipation? What are the lessons from this that might be important for the New Lefts of the 21st century?

## **SEX/GENDER LIBERATION AND SOCIALISM: KEY DEBATES**

Organizer: Alan David Sears, Ryerson University, asears@ryerson.ca

The 'sexual revolution' since the 1950s has pointed out the limitations of struggles for freedom in the realms of gender and sexuality that leave core structures of oppression and exploitation intact. Practices of sexuality and gender are grounded in fundamental relations of class, colonialism, disability/ability, and racialization.

The emergence of the concepts of homonormativity, homonationalism and transliberalism marks the development of forms of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer (LGBTQ) existence within the bounds of these dominant relations. The next wave of sexual revolution faces the challenge of transforming these fundamental power relations as part of a broader struggle for freedom. The development of this next generation of struggle around sex/gender liberation requires us to work through important debates about the relationship between gender, sexuality, race, class and colonialism. The session addresses debates about the strengths and weaknesses of socialist theories and practices in addressing these debates and providing strategies for sex/gender liberation.

### **STAR TREK LEFT: CLASS ANALYSIS OF STAR TREK OR IMAGINATIVE WORK IN FILM OR LITERATURE**

Organizer: Mervyn Nicholson, Thompson Rivers University, mnicholson@tru.ca

Can socialists learn from Star Trek? The Socialist Studies Society is not the only thing turning 50. Star Trek began appearing in 1966, and became an entertainment and cultural phenomenon following that appearance, continuing to unfold in new forms and series over the years and never losing its popularity. What does class analysis tell us about this incredibly popular and influential TV show (and movie series)? What does class analysis reveal about other works of imagination in film or in written texts?

### **THE STATE OF THE PRIVATIZATION DEBATE IN CANADA, EH?**

Organizer: Susan Spronk, University of Ottawa, Susan.Spronk@uOttawa.ca

With the recent announcement of the Liberal Government of the private infrastructure bank, the privatization debate is as relevant as ever. Private services in diverse sectors as diverse as roads, hospitals, education, electricity, drinking water and sanitation have proven to be more expensive and of poor quality, particularly from an equity perspective. As a result, many governments around the world are now reversing private contracts in a trend known as remunicipalization or contracting-in (instead of contracting out). The Canadian government, unfortunately, seems to be bucking this trend, promoting public-private partnerships to fund federal infrastructure. This panel invites contributions that reflect on the state of the debate on privatization and alternatives in Canada and beyond. Papers that present theoretical work, comparative work and/or case studies are encouraged. Papers will be considered for a potential themed issue to be published in *Studies in Political Economy*.

### **STRATEGIES TO RESIST CORPORATIZATION IN CANADA'S UNIVERSITIES**

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

Although the corporatization of Canadian universities has become an established topic of discussion and analysis at the annual meetings of the CSA and other learned societies, relatively little attention has been paid to the question of how to resist this harmful process. This roundtable session aims to fill this gap by focusing exclusively on strategies and tactics to challenge corporatization. To this end, panelists are invited to share their experiences with past or ongoing efforts to resist one (or more) corporatizing policy or initiative in their own institution, and to distill from them lessons that can be applied in other universities. Panelists may also present proposals to resist university corporatization that are inspired by various social theories/thinkers, social movements, and/or their own activism outside of academia, provided that they are concrete and viable in the current Canadian university context. Contributors will have 5-10 minutes each to present their work. Following this, ample opportunity will be provided for all those in attendance to collectively discuss and debate strategies and tactics for confronting corporatization in ways that restore and strengthen the public serving focus of Canadian higher education.

### **SUBJECTIVITY AND IDENTITY IN SETTLER COLONIAL CANADA**

Organizer: Elena Chou, York University, echou@yorku.ca

Although diversity is often depicted as a cherished Canadian value and multiculturalism as emblematic of our collective Canadian identity, Canadian state policies and cultural practices have had varying effects on the sense of self and the identity-making practices of Canadians. This panel invites papers which explore the ways in which subjectivity and identity have been shaped by and constructed in dialectical relation with the settler colonial capitalist history, policies and ideologies of the Canadian state over the past 150 years. Topics may focus on, but are not limited to racialization and 'Othering' practices, indigeneity, intersections with other categorizations/identities (race, gender/sexuality, class, ability, citizenship/status, etc.), white supremacy, im/migration and/or citizenship practices, rural and/or urban geographies, Canadian national identity/ies, Canadian multicultural discourses and policies, Canadian culture/s and cultural practices (art, music, fashion, sports, leisure activities, etc.), social movements, and neoliberal or conservative ideology/political movements.

### **WALTER BENJAMIN, REVISITED**

Organizer: Andrew Thompson, akt@tranzform.ca

Since the 1968 Schocken Books publication of Walter Benjamin's *Illuminations*, English-language audiences have generated an extensive secondary literature comprised of exegeses, biographical sketches, and cultural commentary related to Benjamin and Benjaminian themes. However, up until this point, these engagements have taken place outside of the context of overt fascist ascent. As a result, many of the explicit operational and strategic dimensions of Benjamin's contributions to

anti-fascist struggle have been overlooked in the secondary literature. In this panel, presenters will consider Benjamin from the standpoint of the concrete strategic contributions that his work might make to our current fight against fascism in the United States and beyond.

### **WOMEN IN REVOLUTION**

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

Although we know that women have been key revolutionaries throughout history and that women's participation in revolution is a necessity for success, there is both a lost "history" of women in revolutionary movements and an undertheorization of women in the projection of future revolutionary movements. This panel invites a rethinking of women in revolution, asking to both revisit the thinking and participation of historical women revolutionaries and to theorize what role gender (and other subjectivities) must necessarily play in projecting new revolutionary movements and meaningful alternatives to capitalism.

### **150 YEARS OF CANADA AND CAPITAL: VOLUME 1**

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

This year not only marks Canada's 150 years of confederation, but also marks the 150th anniversary of the first publication of Marx's *Capital: Volume 1*. Within this monumental work, we benefit from the masterful interconnection of his formative concepts – including commodities, labour-power, surplus-value, and capitalist accumulation – into a socio-historically grounded developmental theory. This session invites submissions relating to concepts, themes, and ideas crystallized in this groundbreaking volume of Marx's magnum opus. Of particular interest are contributions that connect *Capital* to Canadian society to illustrate how Marx "got this right, but got that wrong", and celebrate the 150 years of discussion about the critique amassed in *Capital: Volume 1*.

### **INTERDISCIPLINARY FEMINIST SESSIONS AT CONGRESS 2017 / APPEL À PROPOSITIONS DE COMMUNICATIONS: SESSIONS FÉMINISTES INTERDISCIPLINAIRES AU CONGRÈS 2017**

Members of the associations co-sponsoring these two interdisciplinary feminist sessions at Congress are circulating this call for papers to their members. Proposals may ONLY be made on the Canadian Sociological Association (CSA-SCS) web site, *but members of other co-sponsoring associations may propose papers to these sessions without be(com)ing members of CSA-SCS. Deadline for proposals: Jan 27, 2017.*

/ Les membres des associations qui co-marrainent ces deux sessions féministes interdisciplinaires au Congrès transmettent cette invitation à leurs membres. Des propositions peuvent être soumises SEULEMENT sur le site web de la Société canadienne de sociologie. *Toutefois les **membres des autres associations qui co-marrainent** peuvent proposer des communications pour ces sessions sans être ou devenir membre de CSA-SCS. Date limite pour les propositions : 27 jan, 2017.*

**SESSION 1 : WORKING IN A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT: INTERDISCIPLINARY FEMINIST ANALYSES / TRAVAILLER DANS UN ENVIRONNEMENT HOSTILE: ANALYSES INTERDISCIPLINAIRES ET FÉMINISTES**

This session invites feminist analyses that examine experiences of working in a hostile, more specifically an anti-feminist, environment. The analyses may be experientially based, within particular academic units and/or universities, or they may be based on research that has been done about environments which are hostile to women, particularly to feminists. Analyses which are action oriented are welcome: how to cope with and hopefully alter the hostile environment, including resistance to neo-liberalization processes that are transforming universities. There will be opportunity for interdisciplinary (and interuniversity) discussion among presenters and with the participating audience about these issues.

/ Dans cette session on invite des analyses féministes qui examinent des expériences de travailler dans un environnement hostile, qui, plus précisément est un environnement antiféministe. Les analyses peuvent être basées sur le vécu au sein d'unités académiques et/ou des universités précises, ou ils peuvent découler de la recherche qui a été entreprise sur des environnements qui sont hostiles aux femmes, plus particulièrement aux féministes. Des analyses qui visent de l'action sont les bienvenues : comment composer avec, et, on l'espère bien, modifier, l'environnement hostile, y compris en résistant des processus néolibéraux qui transforment nos universités. Il y aura la possibilité de discussion - interdisciplinaire (et interuniversitaire) parmi les intervenant(e)s et avec l'auditoire - autour de ces problématiques.

**SESSION 2 : INTERDISCIPLINARY FEMINIST STRATEGIES THAT RESIST OPPOSITION TO SOCIALLY ENGAGED RESEARCH AND INCLUSIVENESS IN PEDAGOGY / DES STRATÉGIES INTERDISCIPLINAIRES ET FÉMINISTES QUI VISENT À RÉSISTER À L'OPPOSITION À L'ENGAGEMENT SOCIAL EN RECHERCHE ET À L'INCLUSIVITÉ EN PÉDAGOGIE**

This session invites analyses of feminist strategies of resistance on two fronts: those that resist opposition to the social engagement and social change orientations that characterize much research done by feminists; and also resistance to the micro-aggression that may be directed to pedagogy which integrates an intersectional analysis of gender, race/ethnicity, class, orientation, ability, citizenship status (and



other axes of social position or identity). Presenters are invited to reflect critically on these phenomena. Discussion, both among the presenters and with the audience will be an important component of this session.

/ Dans cette session on invite des analyses de deux volets de stratégies féministes de résistance – la résistance à l’opposition à l’engagement social et aux orientations visant le changement social, approches qui caractérisent beaucoup de recherche entreprise par des féministes; et aussi la résistance à l’agression d’ordre micro où on oppose la pédagogie qui intègre une analyse intersectionnelle de genre, race/ethnie, classe, orientation, capacité, citoyenneté (et d’autres axes de position sociale ou identité). On invite une réflexion critique à ces sujets. La discussion – entre intervenant(e)s et avec l’auditoire – sera un volet important de cette session.

**To submit a proposal to either of these sessions:/ Pour présenter une proposition pour l’une ou l’autre de ces sessions:**

Go to <http://www.csa-scs.ca/submissions> - You will first be asked to register, with a user name and password (of your creation). On the next screen go to author and click on ‘new submission’. On the next screen follow instructions for ‘starting a submission’. You are first asked to identify the ‘conference track’ for the submission – this is the session name (all are listed alphabetically by session title in the drop-down menu). Then continue on, following the instructions.

/ Allez à <http://www.csa-scs.ca/submissions>: Sauf pour votre inscription, toutes les instructions sont en anglais et en français. Dans l’inscription (en anglais), on vous demande d’abord de vous inscrire, avec un nom et un mot de passe que vous choisirez. Ensuite allez à ‘author’ et cliquez sur ‘new submission’. Ensuite, suivez les instructions, en français, pour ‘Starting a new submission’. On vous demande d’abord d’identifier le ‘conference track’ pour la proposition – il faut choisir le nom de la session (toutes sont dans la liste du menu, en ordre alphabétique selon le titre de la session, en anglais). Ensuite continuez, selon les directives. Votre résumé et votre présentation éventuelle peuvent être en français.

**Co-Sponsoring Associations /Associations qui co-marrainent ces sessions :**

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- Canadian Association for Social Work Education /Association canadienne pour la formation en travail social (CASWE/ACFTS)
  - Canadian Association for the Study of Women and Education (CASWE-ACÉFÉ)
  - Canadian Committee on Women’s History/ Comité canadien de l’histoire des femmes (CCWH/CCHF) Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women/Institut canadien de recherche sur les femmes (CRIAW/ICREF)
  - Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA-ACSP)
  - Canadian Sociology Association/Société Canadienne de sociologie (CSA/SCS)
  - Society for Socialist Studies – Société pour études socialistes (SSS-SES)
  - Women’s and Gender Studies Recherches Féministes (WGSRF)
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