

Society for Socialist Studies
Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences
June 2 – 5, 2015, University of Ottawa
<http://www.socialiststudies.ca>

Second Call for Papers, 15 December 2014

Kapital Ideas: analysis, critique, praxis.

Kapital Ideas are theories and analyses that help point us toward a better world through critique of the unequal, violent and exploitative one we now inhabit. They take inspiration from the author of *Das Kapital*, though they range widely over many issues which include ecology and political economy, gender and sexuality, colonization and imperialism, communication and popular struggles, but also movements and parties, hegemony and counter hegemony, governance and globalization and, of course, class struggle and transformation. ***Kapital Ideas*** are interventions that contribute to what Marx, in 1843, called the ‘self-clarification of the struggles and wishes of the age.’ In an era of deepening crisis and proliferating struggles, of grave threats and new possibilities, the need for these ideas, and for the praxis they can inform, could not be more acute.

The FHSS Congress’s designated theme for 2015 is ‘Capital Ideas’ – a reference to the conference’s setting in Ottawa, Canada’s national capital. Subverting that theme, we are excited to explore ***Kapital Ideas***, as sketched above. Join us for four days of wide-ranging and engaged analysis and dialogue, which will feature, among other events, our Keynote Speaker, Himani Bannerji addressing ‘Marx’s critique of ideology: its uses and abuses’.

If you wish to submit a proposal for a paper, please go to our conference website by clicking [HERE](#). The ‘submit an abstract’ button is at the bottom of that page. 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, ‘Paper proposal’, and we will find a place for it. **Abstracts (maximum of 100 words) for paper proposals should be submitted before Saturday, January 31, 2015.**

The sessions listed below are currently accepting papers. For a list of all currently scheduled sessions and events, see our preliminary programme [HERE](#).

We hope to see you in Ottawa!

Bill Carroll, Jean Chapman and Elaine Coburn

SSS 2015 Programme Co-chairs

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Strategies against Collective Amnesia of Iconic Genocidal Events

In the face of present-day extreme violence and murder past genocides and atrocities recede into the background. This panel calls for papers that address strategies that can aid in maintaining or regenerating collective memory of a genocidal history. Also papers are sought that assess existing memorialisation or resistance to it, as well raise questions as to how best to pass on memory, how to use language and images conducive to (re-)kindle interest in its preservation. Through feminist and socialist reflections, we seek case studies that exemplify meaningful ways to focus on the original victims and their lost lives.

Organizers

Dr. Sima Arahamian, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University simaarahamian@yahoo.ca, Dr. Karin Doerr, Montreal Institute for Genocide Studies/Simone de Beauvoir Institute, karin.doerr@concordia.ca, Indira Prahst, Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Langara College, Vancouver, indira_prahst@yahoo.com

Political Economy and the Politics of Class

In the current period class and class politics, Political Economy's central concepts, have been seriously challenged in two different ways. The global power of neoliberalism fosters claims that class and class struggle are no longer relevant. Mobilisations of indigenous, anti-imperialist, anti-racist and feminist movements especially in the Global South, have insisted that class and class politics must be rethought. This session asks how political economy has responded to such challenges and what understandings of class and class politics are most relevant in today's situations.

Organizers

Professor Meg Luxton, York University School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, mluxton@yorku.ca, Assistant Professor Adrian Smith, Law and Legal Studies, Institute of Political Economy, Institute of African Studies, Carleton University

Taking Stock of the Corporatization of Canada's Universities

The corporatization of Canada's universities has been ongoing for at least 35 years. This session aims to take stock of the corporatization process and to consider and debate where we may go from here. We seek papers that explore the new shape of longstanding issues, the current shape of more recent issues, or newly emerging issues within our corporate universities. We also seek papers that assess and/or propose various strategies for progressive change. Papers that are empirical, theoretical, comparative or a combination of these are welcome.

Organizers

Professor Claire Polster, University of Regina, claire.polster@uregina.ca, Professor Emerita Janice Newson, York University, anewson@eagle.ca

The Nature of Capital: Capital's Engagement with Ecological Crises

Only a few years ago, capital's response to environmental harm was primarily one of denial or minimization. We now see increasingly public acknowledgement of these issues by capitalists and political elites. This is combined with efforts to interpret ecological degradation, rendering it legible and actionable to capital. Outcomes might include maps of hazard and values, risk factors, rankings, new markets, or new commodities. This has not been a smooth process. This session seeks to explore the contradictions, outcomes,

presuppositions, requirements, and terms of “success” of capital’s engagement with ecological crisis and theoretical and empirical contributions are welcome.

Organizer

Mark Hudson, University of Manitoba, Department of Sociology, Global Political Economy Program, mark.hudson@umanitoba.ca

Political Sociology

Political sociology is a vibrant field, covering a wide variety of topics. The session invites empirical papers in sociology that focus on the political realm broadly defined, to include power relations among a wide variety of social actors: governmental and non-governmental institutions, organizations, and individuals. Diverse aspects of citizenship and identity, as they appear in the political process, are also of interest. We welcome research using quantitative, qualitative and historical methods.

Organizer

Ivanka Knezevic, Department of Sociology Lecturer, University of Toronto Mississauga, knezevic@chass.utoronto.ca

Cross listed with CSA

The Left and the Struggle for Alternatives in South Africa

South Africa has one of the highest inequality rates in the world, is the 12th highest carbon emitter, and is experiencing various systemic crises. In this context, the ANC has been fracturing with two break-away groups, there are increasing protests in urban and rural spaces, and the militant labour federation (Cosatu) is in the process of fragmenting. In response to these challenges, Left alternatives are being articulated and fermenting from below. This panel will explore the nature of some of these alternatives, their prospects and challenges. Contributors are invited to explore these emergent Left alternatives.

Organiser

Associate Professor Michelle A Williams, Sociology, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, michelle.williams@wits.ac.za

Long Waves of Marxist Political Economy?

Innovations in Marxist Political Economy seem to loosely coincide with the long waves or phases of capital accumulation. This session asks: - what can we learn from Marxist political economy of the past? What came out of the Marx-orthodoxy of the 1970s? What lessons does Soviet communism teach us in terms of making a new socialist project? What role might a rejuvenated Marxist political economy play for socialist renewal? Does capitalism have a future and if so, what might it look like? What are the limits to capitalist development and how do they affect socialist politics?

Organizer

Ingo Schmidt, Athabasca University, ingos@athabascau.ca

Socialisms, Feminisms, Anti-racisms

Class relationships are about the ways the people get together to produce what is needed to live. Some socialisms have interpreted this in narrowly economic terms, so excluding considerations of gender, race, sexuality, disability and more from their historical materialist analysis and socialist politics. Yet socialist feminisms and anti-racist socialisms insist that class analysis and socialist struggles towards a just society must take the full complexity of the social relationships of class into account. This session invites

critical contributions to socialist theory and practice from feminist, anti-racist and other subaltern perspectives.

Organizers

Elaine Coburn, Assistant Professor and Researcher, American University of Paris and Centre d'analyse et d'intervention sociologiques-EHESS, Paris, coburn.elaine@gmail.com, Abigail Bakan, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, Chair, Department of Social Justice, abigail.bakan@utoronto.ca

New Contributions to Marxist Sociology

This session profiles research that uses insights from Marxist methodology and analysis to help advance our understanding of any dimension of contemporary society as well as Marxist contributions to historical sociology and the development of social theory.

Organizers

David Camfield, Labour Studies and Sociology, University of Manitoba, david.camfield@umanitoba.ca, Mark Thomas, Sociology, York University mpthomas@yorku.ca
Joint session with CSA

Adventures in Queer Anti-Capitalism

This session will investigate the potential role of queer anti-capitalism in developing a vision and strategies for liberation that go beyond lesbian and gay rights. At the same time, it will consider the role queer anti-capitalism might play in developing a vibrant Left with broad and integrative emancipatory politics. Contributions to this session from a variety of perspectives are most welcome, including those considering queerness in relation to worlds of paid and unpaid work, working class life and community, gender formation, ecological projects, commodification, migration, racialization and/or indigeneity and settler colonialism.

Organizer

Alan Sears, Sociology, Ryerson University, asears@ryerson.ca

Rethinking Struggle in Post-Marxist Theory

Developments in Marxist and post-Marxist theory have complicated scholars' assumptions and conceptions of class struggle, previously positioned as, in the words of Ellen Meiksins Wood's, "the nucleus of Marxism." One consequence of these advancements brought by, among others, cultural Marxist, feminist, and postmodern theory has been the decentering of class as a category of analysis, neglecting struggle as the concept intrinsically connecting theory with political engagement. This session aims to examine and illustrate how Marxist notions of class and struggle have manifested in today's empirically grounded sociocultural theory, asking, at the same time, what has become of Thesis 11 scholarship.

Organizers

Samuel Clevenger, Doctoral Candidate, University of Maryland, College Park, scleveng@umd.edu, Hector Mackie, Graduate Student, University of Toronto, hector_mackie@hotmail.co.uk

Institutional Ethnography and Making change from below

Institutional ethnography explores ruling relations from below and from people's experience. Recently institutional ethnographers have been investigating how forms of

management based on those developed for corporations are being imposed by government on the provision of public services such as health, welfare, and education (at all levels). Workers at the front-line - nurses, doctors, social workers, teachers, university faculty and others - have found their professional autonomy undermined and displaced. This session is proposed to open discussion of how to make change from below in this new situation. What are some of the ways institutional ethnography can be useful and used in developing change from below? Draw on your experiences or what you've learned as an ethnographer to get us all thinking further and better.

Organizer

Adjunct Professor Dorothy Smith, Sociology, University of Victoria, desmith@uvic.ca

Contemporary Theories of Imperialism

In the face of several American and/or NATO-led wars, political upheaval in the Middle East, the re-emergence of the Latin American Left, global economic crisis, and regional and global positioning of the so-called BRICS, the 21st century has witnessed a rebirth in theories of imperialism. This panel (or panels) will explore a number of key themes central to the new debates on imperialism: Is the US an empire in decline? Do the BRICs represent the emergence of new inter-imperial rivalries? What is the future anti-imperialist struggle? How do we theorize the relation between imperialism and ecological crisis? How do we theorize the role of secondary imperialist powers, particularly Canada?

Organizer

Todd Gordon, Assistant Professor, Society, Culture and Environment, Wilfred Laurier University, ts.gordon@hotmail.com

'Battling Bureaucracy': 'Class' Struggles in the Neoliberal University

The neoliberal assault on the postsecondary sector has seen a rising tide of petitions and protests at program cuts, bureaucratic diktat and the exploitation of precarious academic labour at universities across Canada (and beyond). Different strategies have been employed in attempting to push back against the attack on the public university by senior administrations and governments and their faculty allies. We seek papers that analyse, explore and/or propose strategies of and by different campus constituencies in resisting the neoliberal assault and/or defending and expanding the public university. The session is open to examples from other countries.

Organizers

Herbert Pimlott, Department of Communication Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University, hpimlott@wlu.ca, Garry Potter, Department of Sociology, Wilfrid Laurier University, gpotter@wlu.ca

Stuart Hall's Legacy: Theory and Praxis for the Present Crisis?

Stuart Hall's legacy is measured in part by the ways his scholarship linked to political struggles, especially through the adaptation of the work of Antonio Gramsci to forge an open, non-reductive and dynamic 'Marxism without Guarantees'. Are the concepts he developed in the 1970s useful to understanding and changing the world today? In this conjuncture of neoliberalism, what analytical and political value does Hall's contribution to cultural studies hold? Where might it fall short? This panel's presenters seek papers

that engage with or evaluate the past and current analytical value of Hall's work on ideology, hegemony, media, and public intellectuals.

Organizers

Herbert Pimlott, Department of Communication Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University, hpimlott@wlu.ca, Tanner Mirrlees, University of Ontario Institute of Technology, tanner.mirrlees@uoit.ca

Indigenous Resistance and Resurgence

Indigenous resistance is over five centuries old and means survival against colonial-capitalist forms of dispossession. During the same period, Indigenous resurgence, the renewal of many different Indigenous ways of being, knowing and doing has waxed and waned but never disappeared. This resurgence matters first and foremost to diverse Indigenous peoples, but has implications for all of society. At the same time, Indigenous resistance and resurgence faces formidable opposition, from the neoliberal colonial "security" state through to multibillion dollar, transnational corporations and persistent racisms. This session invites critical reflection on the challenges, contradictions and possibilities for Indigenous resistance and resurgence.

Organizers

Jennifer Adese, Otipemisiwak/Métis, Carleton University, Jennifer.Adese@carleton.ca.
Elaine Coburn, Assistant Professor and Researcher, American University of Paris and Centre d'analyse et d'intervention sociologiques-EHESS, Paris, coburn.elaine@gmail.com

Transforming Classes, Transforming States

In the face of a rapidly emerging neoliberal order, Ralph Miliband wrote: 'Socialist work means intervention in all the many different areas of life in which class struggle occurs: for class struggle must be taken to mean not only the permanent struggle between capital and labour, crucial though that remains, but the struggle against racial and sex discrimination, the struggle against arbitrary state and police power, the struggle against the ideological hegemony of the conservative forces, and the struggle for new and radically different defence and foreign policies.' Today, this means confronting social classes and states remade under the period of neoliberalism. What are the challenges and emergent strategies for transforming social classes and politics?

Organizer

Greg Albo, Department of Political Science York University Toronto, albo@yorku.ca

Nature, Time, and Marx's "Laws"

Readers of Marx often cite, credulously or critically, the various "laws" that appear in Capital. Marx, of course, offers up the laws of classical political economy for scrutiny or derision, while also presenting his own reading of the laws of capitalist accumulation, its dynamics, and its necessary social effects. Concepts of Time, Nature, and History often underpin the meaning of "law" and "determinism" in these discussions, with real implications for the way such axioms can be deployed for various political and intellectual projects — in Marx's own work and beyond. This panel invites papers that consider: What work is accomplished by the idea of "law" to describe, diagnose, or strategize? To what extent are Marx's "laws" laws of "nature," "human nature," or of "human nature under capitalism?" Can we revise or revisit the appearance of Marxist

axioms — as they appear in Marx or elsewhere — in order to put them to new use as tools for both interpreting and transforming the world?

Organizer

Rebecca Schein, Assistant Professor Human Rights / Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies
Carleton University, Ottawa, rhschein@gmail.com

Taking the Offensive: Making things Public after Neoliberalism

In confronting three decades of restraint, privatization, and contracting out, the Left has often called for the ‘defense’ of the public sector. But what kind of ‘public’ are we defending? This session interrogates the shape of public services under neoliberalism – discussing Left strategies that seek to reframe the relationship between workers and the community. We invite case studies of public sector struggles and anti-austerity coalition building that have contributed to alternative understandings of service provision and opened up new lines of public sector organizing.

Organizers

Chris Hurl, Sociology, Carleton University, christopher.hurl@carleton.ca, Doug Nesbitt, Queen’s University
dougjnesbitt@gmail.com

Will We Know We’re Free? The beginning of a philosophical conversation

This panel is intended to reflect a philosophical conversation about women and freedom drawn primarily from the works of Rosa Luxemburg, Emma Goldman, and Raya Dunayevskaya. The panel draws on the research from a larger project that examines the ontological place of freedom in the thinking of these three important but often overlooked radical women. The panel invites proposals that would further the philosophical conversation drawn from related works of radical women thinkers.

Organizer

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

Policing and Resistance

With the aim of advancing our shared understanding of the dynamics between police and contention, this session will bring together scholars working on related issues. These include the policing of indigenous communities, protest policing, intelligence -led policing, police shootings and the Ferguson uprising, movements against police brutality, and police oversight bodies.

Organizer

Lesley Wood, Associate Professor of Sociology, York University ljwood@yorku.ca

In/Against/Beyond the New Austerity

New Austerity refers to post- 2010 policies targeting public spending and public debt. The public sector has assumed and institutionalized responsibility for a private sector crisis, the ultimate costs being paid by people with no role in creating it.

Papers are invited on: lived experience of the new austerity and alternatives; the complex politics of austerity including austerity as a program of traditional political parties

including social democracy; new political movements of the Left or of the right; or citizen disengagement where passive (if disaffected) consent produces political malaise.

Organizer

Stephen McBride, Professor of Political Science, McMaster University mcbride@mcmaster.ca

Facilitating a Just Transition: The role of Policy Alternatives

This roundtable invites contributions that take up the challenges, strategies, successes and failures in developing and promoting alternative policies that can help catalyze a just transition away from neoliberal capitalism, including its ecological crisis. All levels of policy formation, from transnational and regional through national to local, are deemed relevant to the discussion. The roundtable welcomes participation from practitioners as well as academics, reporting on and reflecting on these issues.

Organizer

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

Labour in the New Economy

The over-arching theme of this session is the ‘post-industrial’ society or the ‘knowledge’ economy. Key themes:

- a) Reviews/analyses of the current state of study of the labour process;
- b) Periodization: the stages of development of the labour process from the Industrial Revolution to today;
- c) Reassembling nature and the labour process: computerization, biotechnology, nanotechnology, and synthetic materials;
- d) Changing structure of capital;
- e) Changing structure of the working class;
- f) Changes in Management?
- g) Jobless future?
- h) The state of the unions and resistance.

Organizer

Gary Teeple, Professor of Sociology and Director of Labour Studies, Simon Fraser University teeple@sfu.ca

Historicizing Precariousness and Class Struggle: New Approaches to Working-Class History and Capitalist Crisis

The working class was born as a precarious social stratum. In the long history of ongoing capitalist crises that have punctuated class formation over the course of the 19th and 20th centuries workers who found themselves without the limited securities of wage labour have resisted their worsening lot under capitalism, forging innovative struggles aimed at improving conditions. Often such class struggles unfolded outside of the mainstream trade union movement or challenged hegemonic understandings of what constituted legitimate protest on the part of labour. These histories thus intersect with current appreciations of precarious labour and its growing importance in the changing landscape of 21st century class relations. Papers that address the nature of class struggles undertaken on the part of the dispossessed, paying particular attention to workers struggling outside the mainstream of class relations, are welcomed.

Organizer

Bryan Palmer, Canada Research Chair in Canadian Studies, Trent University bpalmer@trentu.ca

Global Slump, Global Resistance: The Crisis and the Left Five Years On

This session will address three interconnected questions. First, what explains the inability of the global economy to regain traction five years after the slump of 2008-9? Issues of profitability and over-accumulation will be explored in this regard. Second, how do we understand patterns of resistance since the outbreak of the slump and the new age of austerity it inaugurated? Here we shall interrogate youth resistance, the impasses of trade union responses, and the fragility of new left formations. Third, what role might anti-racist and feminist struggles play in the regeneration of the left? Migrant justice organizing and movements against racist police violence in particular will be explored in relation to prospects for building an activist left.

Organizer

David McNally, Professor of Political Science, York University davidmcnally@sympatico.ca

Feminism(s) Today: Key Questions/ Les questions clés du féminisme/des féminismes d'aujourd'hui

What do feminist leaders, thinkers and researchers see as the key questions of feminism today? What are the key feminist challenges underlying our current fields and disciplines? What core feminist questions continue to require answers? Are there new and emergent questions? What doors will these key questions open? Will these key questions open the doors for change that is relevant and significant? In this interdisciplinary feminist session, papers are invited that explore questions such as these.

You are invited to reflect on what you consider to be the most urgent feminist questions and challenges of feminism today and/or for the future. You may address this question through the lens of your own discipline, through interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary experiences, through your own feminist experiences, and/or through what you are learning from women and feminists in all their diversities. Papers might also explore the agenda of researchers, feminist cultural workers and diverse community members inside and/or outside of academe.

Qu'est-ce que les leaders féministes, les théoriciennes féministes et les chercheuses féministes considèrent comme questions clés du féminisme d'aujourd'hui ?

D'un point de vue féministe, quels sont les principaux défis sous-jacents à nos domaines et disciplines? Quelles questions clés féministes n'ont pas encore de réponses? Y a-t-il de nouvelles questions? Ces questions permettront-elles d'ouvrir d'autres portes? Ces questions contribueront-elles à des changements pertinents et importants? Cette session féministe interdisciplinaire examinera de telles questions.

Vous êtes invitées à réfléchir sur ce que vous considérez comme les questions féministes les plus urgentes et les défis féministes les plus urgents d'aujourd'hui et/ou du futur. Vous pouvez répondre à ces questions sous l'angle de votre propre domaine, de vos expériences interdisciplinaires et multidisciplinaires; par le biais de votre propre expérience féministe, et/ou à la lumière de ce que vous êtes en train d'apprendre des femmes et les féministes dans toutes leurs diversités. Les participantes pourraient également étudier l'ordre du jour

des chercheuses féministes, des travailleuses culturelles féministes et des divers membres de la communauté à l'intérieur et/ou à l'extérieur du monde universitaire.

Organizer

Ann Denis, Professeure émérite/ Emerita Professor, Département de sociologie et d'anthropologie/ Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Université d'Ottawa/ University of Ottawa, adenis@uottawa.ca

Co-sponsoring Associations

Canadian Association for Social Work Education - Association canadienne pour la formation en travail social (CASWE-ACFTS)

Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women – Institut canadien de recherches sur les femmes (CRIA-W-ICREF)

Canadian Sociology Association – Société canadienne de sociologie (CSA-SCS)

Society for Socialist Studies – Société pour études socialistes (SSS-SES)

Women's and Gender Studies et Recherches Féministes (WGSRF)

Feminist Intersectionality/Intersectionnalité féministe

In this interdisciplinary feminist session papers are invited which address feminist intersectionality. Papers may focus on theoretical, methodological or empirical examinations of feminist intersectionality. For instance, papers might address 'what is understood by feminist intersectionality?' either generally or within your discipline/ 'Why is it important to do feminist intersectional research?' within a discipline, on a particular topic or in a particular situation and/or the negative consequences if one does not do so. Papers could also focus on 'Challenges of conducting feminist intersectional analysis,' and 'Results of conducting feminist intersectional analysis' in general, on a topic or about a particular situation.

Dans cette session féministe interdisciplinaire, les participantes sont invitées à aborder les enjeux d'intersectionnalité féministe. Elles peuvent se concentrer sur les aspects théoriques, méthodologiques, ou encore sur l'examen empirique de l'intersectionnalité féministe. Par exemple, les communications pourraient discuter « qu'est-ce qui est compris par l'intersectionnalité féministe », soit en général, soit au sein de votre discipline; « pourquoi est-il important de faire une recherche sur l'intersectionnalité féministe » au sein d'une discipline, sur un sujet particulier ou une situation particulière; et/ou les conséquences négatives si on ne le fait pas. On pourrait également mettre l'accent sur les « défis de faire une analyse intersectionnelle féministe » et sur les résultats d'une « analyse intersectionnelle féministe » en général, sur un thème ou sur une situation particulière.

Organizer

Ann Denis, Professeure émérite/ Emerita Professor, Département de sociologie et d'anthropologie/ Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Université d'Ottawa/ University of Ottawa, adenis@uottawa.ca

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