

Society for Socialist Studies
Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences
May 27-30, 2014, Brock University
www.socialiststudies.ca

“At first glance, the separation of economic from political power seems an even greater, and perhaps insurmountable, problem in today’s ‘globalized’ economy than ever before. Transnational capital seems to have escaped the boundaries of the nation state, the power of capital seems to have become even more diffuse, and the problem of locating and challenging the centre of capitalist power has apparently become even harder. It seems to be everywhere and nowhere. Yet appearances may be deceptive ... the state remains a vital point of concentration of capitalist power, even, or especially, in today’s global capitalism, and that the empire of capital depends upon a system of multiple states.”

Ellen Meiksins Wood, *Empire of Capital*

Conference Highlights

Keynote Address ***“The Global Economic Crisis Today: Lessons from the South”***

Keynote Speaker Prabhat Patnaik,
Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi
Wednesday, 28 May 14 @ 4:30–6:00 p.m.
Chair: William K. Carroll, University of Victoria

Roundtable ***Registering Class: 50 years of the Socialist Register***
Greg Albo, Leo Panitch, Stephanie Ross, John Saul
Tuesday, 27 May 14 @ 3:45–5:15 p.m.

Panel ***Author meets Critics***
Monsters of the market: zombies, vampires and global capitalism (2012)
David McNally’s award-winning study
Commentaries from Leah Bradshaw, Brock University, Prabhat Patnaik, JNU,
David Bedford, University of New Brunswick
Thursday, 29 May 14 @ 4:00–5:30 p.m.

Lounge Tuesday, 27 May, 9:00-6:00 p.m. Cairns Graduate Meeting Room
Wednesday, 28 May, 9:00-6:00 p.m. Schmon Tower-102
Thursday, 29 May, 9:00-6:00 p.m. Schmon Tower-102

Audio/Visual Tuesday, 27 May. 2:00-5:15 p.m. Cairns Complex-207
Wednesday, 28 May, 9:00-1:00 p.m. Schmon Tower-108
Thursday, 29 May, 9:00-6:30 p.m. Schmon Tower-105
Friday, 30 May, 9:00-12:30 p.m. Schmon Tower-105

Registration
Cairns Complex-200
Tuesday, 27 May @ 9:00-10:30 a.m.

A-1 Tuesday, 27 May 14 @ 10:45-12:15 p.m.

Venue: Cairns Complex-217

Chair: Ingo Schmidt, Athabasca University

Organizer: Sima Aprahamian, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University

Unraveling Boundaries of Denial: Inter- Intra-Disciplinary Approaches to the Study of Atrocity from Feminist and Socialist Perspectives

Using historical, ethnographic, linguistic, and literary studies, the panel will explore atrocities and genocide with a focus on multiple forms of denial. We will address the language of denial from feminist, socialist, and inter-disciplinary perspectives. The session will juxtapose the perpetrators' denialist discourse with the survivors' moral imperative to remember. Who is approached by this 'memory phrase', who feels spoken to, and who does not listen? What are the reasons behind positive or negative responses to 'Remember!'?

Sima Aprahamian, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University, "Revisiting Turkish Denial on the Eve of the 100th Anniversary of the Genocide of the Armenian People: Calls for Reconciliation as Denial"

Karin Doerr, Montreal Institute for Genocide Studies, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University, "Subtle Forms of Turning Away: Germans and the Ethical Imperative to Remember the Holocaust"

Indira Prahst, Langara College, "1984 Sikh Genocide: Imperatives to Remember and Contesting Perpetrator Discourses of Denial"

A-2 Tuesday, 27 May 14 @ 10:45-12:15 p.m.

Venue: Cairns Complex-207

Chair: William K. Carroll, University of Victoria

Convenor: Matthew Brett, *Canadian Dimension*

Roundtable Canadian Radicalism without Borders

Cy Gonick, Greg Albo, Bryan Palmer, Brenda Austin-Smith, and Clayton Thomas-Muller

Join us for a panel discussion about Canada's present and past radical struggles with activists and authors. This event is part of *Canadian Dimension* magazine's 50th anniversary celebration, which included lectures by Noam Chomsky and Chris Hedges in Montreal and Toronto respectively.

Speakers will look at present and past struggles for social and environmental justice, addressing a range of issues from First Nations' and feminist movements, to anti-war activism, racial struggles, electoral politics, and the labour movement in Canada. By tracing present struggles to the past, this event offers insights for academics, students and grassroots activists.

A-4 Tuesday, 27 May 14 @ 10:45–12:15 p.m.

Venue: Cairns Complex-310

Chair: Carol Turner, University of Bradford

Organizer: Program Committee

Cultural Forms and Socialist Transformation

The question of the intersection between different cultural forms and political resistance in the neoliberal era is central to the broader question of socialist critique and global transformation. With this intersection in mind these papers employ different aesthetic and socio-critical lenses and entertain a range of socio-political lessons.

Miriam Jones, University of New Brunswick at Saint John, “Story of a Bookstore: a Case Study”

Geordie Miller, Dalhousie University, “Teaching (and Learning from) the Neoliberal Novel”

Greer Barbizon, Carleton University, “Marx’s Hood: A Socialist Interpretation of Hip Hop’s Territoriality”

Paul C. Gray, York University, Greater Toronto Workers’ Assembly, “Sleepwalking Through the Phantasms of Capitalism”

B-0 Tuesday, 27 May 14 @ 1:45 – 3:15 p.m.

Venue: Vallee-299

Joint session SSS M-2 Friday, 30 May 14 @ 9:00–10:30

Organizers: Laurel Collins, and Carol Linnitt, University of Victoria

Theories of Violence and Nonviolence

Theories of violence and nonviolence are inextricably bound up with conceptions of social and political action, justice and the law. These theories can also provide a lens with which to examine institutional structures, language, and our relationship with others, with ourselves and with the environment. What bearings do violence and nonviolence have on the way we are and, therefore, on the world we occupy? This session invites papers concerned with broadening our conceptualization of violence and nonviolence beyond the traditional theoretical boundaries within sociology and social theory. The aim of this session is to create a conversation between papers that help us better attune ourselves to practices of violence or nonviolence in our enviroing world.

Rebecca Jane Nelems - University of Victoria, “The (Non-Violent) ‘Good Citizen’”

Al Berg, University of Victoria, ‘Curious Discrepancy - Non-violent Protest in the Violent Context of Russian Reality Today’

Carol Linnitt, University of Victoria, “Thinking the An-archic Animal: Metaphysics, Violence and the ‘Practical *a priori*’”

Laurel Collins, University of Victoria, “Theorizing Violence and Nonviolence in the context of Women’s Adult Education”

Joint Session with the Canadian Sociological Association

B-1 Tuesday, 27 May 14 @ 1:45 – 3:15 p.m.

Venue: Cairns Complex-207

Convenor: Judy Haiven, Saint Mary’s University

Roundtable WTF: What Happened to the NDP in Nova Scotia and BC?

Marjorie Griffin Cohen, Simon Fraser University **Dave Bush**, York University, **Judy Haiven**, Saint Mary's University, **Ingo Schmidt**, Athabasca University, **Gary Teeple**, Morgan Centre for Labour Research, Simon Fraser University

2013 saw the defeat of the first NDP government in Nova Scotia and the surprise loss of a British Columbia election the NDP was touted to win. Why did these things happen? What went wrong with the NDP? Much of the blame can be dumped on the former NS Premier, Darryl Dexter, an opportunist with a thinning streak of social democracy and Adrian Dix who frittered away a 20-point lead. Can we blame things on one person or is there something more deeply wrong?

B-2 Tuesday, 27 May 14 @ 1:45 – 3:15 p.m.

Venue: Cairns Complex-217

Chairs: Kanchan Sarker and Peu Ghosh

Imperialism Revisited: Dependence and Dominance beyond Borders

International Political Economy, as is contended by Modern World Systems theorists, seems to work through the process of dependence and dominance. The dominance created by the *capitalist* power (the *core* countries) that has transcended borders and engulfed the *semi-peripheral* and *peripheral* countries. There has been an inward movement of capital, along with its mechanisms of exploitation and domination, in all its variegated forms whether in culture, politics, the economy, labour movement, and even questions of peace and security. This session, therefore, proposes to take a holistic approach to understand the impact of this influence and its consequences.

Peu Ghosh, Lady Brabourne College, Kolkata, “Neoimperialism and Contemporary International Relations: War a Mechanism of Domination”

Isaiah E. Dada, Université de Montréal, “Peace beyond Borders through Interreligious Peace Education”

Kanchan Sarker, University of British Columbia Okanagan Campus, “Abstract Omnipresence of Euro-centrism: Borders without Boundaries”

B-3 Tuesday, 27 May 14 @ 1:45 – 3:15 p.m.

Venue: Cairns Complex-310

Chair: Alan Sears, Ryerson University

Organizer: Program Committee

Modes of Critique and Engagement

This session draws upon many of the more enduring socio-philosophical strategies enlisted to confront the pathologies of modernity. The papers engage the dialectics of deconstruction, explore immanently critical strategies, and call attention to the ideological appropriation and absorption of authentically critical voices.

Grant Yocom, Brock University, “Alter Road (Detroit): An Ostensive Border Road Case Study for the Boundaries of Immanent Critique”

Keith Haysom, University of Ottawa, “A Brief for ‘Diagonalism’: A Dialectical Take on Graeber’s *The Democracy Project*”

Robert Froese, York University, “Marx, Polanyi, and Schumpeter: The New Apologists of Capitalism?”

B-4 Tuesday, 27 May 14 @ 1:45 – 3:15 p.m.

Venue: Cairns Complex-313

Chair and Organizer: Thom Workman, University of New Brunswick

The Law of the Tendency of the Rate of Profit to fall

The LTRPF remains one of the most dynamic and controversial aspects of Marxist political economy, especially with respect to a general theory of capitalism's immanent tendencies towards crisis. This panel explores both theoretical and empirical dimensions of the LTRPF in contemporary commentary.

Andrew Kliman, Pace University, "Marx's Crisis Theory: On its Existence and Contemporary Relevance"

Murray Smith, Brock University, "Valorization, Financialization and the Structural Impasses of Capital: The Evolving Manifestations of Marx's LTRPF in an Era of Capitalist Decay"

Thom Workman, University of New Brunswick, "Marxism, Science and the LTRPF"

C-1 Tuesday, 27 May 14 @ 3:45-5:15 p.m.

Venue: Cairns Complex-207

Convenors: Greg Albo, York University and Leo Panitch, York University

Roundtable Registering Class: 50 years of the Socialist Register

Greg Albo, York University, **Leo Panitch**, York University, **Stephanie Ross**, York University, **John Saul**, York University

The preface to the first volume of the *Socialist Register* in 1964, in announcing 'a series of annual volumes of socialist analysis and discussion', expressed the belief that 'the possibility of fruitful discussions is now greater than for a long time past. It is now better realized among socialists that dogmatic reiteration cannot, any more than crass empiricism, provide answers to the problems of the present.' It is this spirit that we conceived the 2014 volume, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the *Register*. The spread and deepening of capitalist social relations around the globe has also been increasingly marked by growing social inequality. And as the global economic crisis that capitalism has spawned in the early 21st century has been deployed to extend the class struggle from above so determinedly waged in the neoliberal era, so have the many resistances that have arisen been explicitly cast in terms of class struggles from below. This panel will bring together various contributors to the *Socialist Register* to discuss the contribution the Annual has made to these issues, in the past and today.

Financial support for this session provided by the
Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences

C-2 Tuesday, 27 May 14 @ 3:45 – 5:15 p.m. p.m.

Venue: Cairns Complex-310

Chair: Susan Spronk, *Studies in Political Economy*

Organizer: Michael Bueckert, Carleton University

Which Resistance, Whose Left? Learning From Contemporary Social Movements

After a period of docility in the wake of the financial crisis, the past few years have shown signs of increasing energy on the Left. New social movements, from Occupy to the Quebec student movement to Idle No More, have been successful in galvanizing popular support and drawing public attention, often while engaging in new forms of organizing (the so-called “anarchist moment”). In parliament, the New Democratic Party holds an impressive yet precarious level of electoral support, suggesting the possibility of a return to social democratic politics, even as its policies shift to the right. In the United States, fast food workers have engaged in unprecedented strikes in a campaign for a \$15 wage. Internationally, European Left parties like Syriza and Die Linke propose alternatives to austerity, and organized labour in Bangladesh and elsewhere continues to fight for improved working conditions. And yet, despite this upswing of resistance, these struggles so far have had little effect on the political agenda of austerity, either at home or internationally.

Sabrina Fernandes, Carleton University, “Nãõ me representa”: a Critical Examination of the Crisis of Praxis in the Conjunctural Moment of the Brazilian Protests of 2013”

Christina Muehlberger, Carleton University, “Check your privilege” in 140 characters or less: The limitations of Privilege-checking in Building Solidarity Online”

Michael Bueckert, Carleton University, “Horizontal and Vertical Solidarities: Occupy Wall Street and Responsibility to the Other(s)”

Sponsored by *Studies in Political Economy*

C-3 Tuesday, 27 May 14 @ 3:45 – 5:15 p.m.

Venue: Cairns Complex-217

Chair: Murray Cooke, York University

Organizer: Tracy Glynn, University of New Brunswick

Mining capitalism: the Barbarism of and Resistance to Resource Imperialism

We will take an interdisciplinary approach to explore capitalist barbarism in indigenous and non-indigenous communities resisting resource extraction and its impacts. The panel will give us perspective on political economy, geography, and anthropology, and will take us to places of struggles against mining in Indonesia, Guatemala, Peru and unceded Mi'kmaq territory in Canada.

Arianto Sangaji, York University, “Capitalist Contradictions Found in Nickel Production in Indonesia”

Tracy Glynn, University of New Brunswick, “Women in a Mine's World: Capitalist Barbarism and Indigenous Oppression as Experienced by Women Resisting Mining and Shale Gas in Indonesia, Guatemala and Canada”

Alexandra Pedersen, Queen's University, “Under a Cloak of Development: Community Resistance to Canadian Mining Companies' Operations in Guatemala”

Emmanuelle Piccoli, Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium, “The Participation of Andean Populations in Decision-making in Peru and the Limitations of Pluralism in an Extractive Context”

D-1 Wednesday, 28 May 14 @ 9:00–10:30 a.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-108

Chair: Paul Kellogg, Athabasca University

Organizer: Marjorie Griffin Cohen, Simon Fraser University

Gender and Climate Change

Gender issues related to climate change get a fair amount of attention in international arenas, focusing primarily on developing nations. Both the gendered nature of the contributions and effects of climate change in industrialized capitalist countries have been much neglected. This panel will focus on both developing and developed countries and discuss the contribution a gendered understanding can give to forming a radically different approach to climate change and public policy.

Nathalie Chalifour, University of Ottawa, “How a Gendered Understanding of Climate Change Can Help Shape Canadian Climate Policy”

Marjorie Griffin Cohen, Simon Fraser University, “Including Gendered Perspectives in Ideas About a Green Economy: How this Might Lead to a Radically Different Economic Approach to Climate Change”

Sophie M. Lavoie, University of New Brunswick, “Climate Change in Central America: Nicaraguan Author Gioconda Belli’s Literary Denunciations and Proposals”

Patricia E. (Ellie) Perkins, York University, “Climate Justice and Gender Justice: Building Women’s Political Agency in Times of Climate Change”

D-2 Wednesday, 28 May 14 @ 9:00–10:30 a.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-105

Convenor: Terry Maley, York University

Roundtable Herbert Marcuse’s One-Dimensional Man: 50 Years on

Meg Luxton, York University, **Patricia McDermott**, York University, **J.J. McMurtry**, York University, **Terry Maley**, York University

2014 marks the 50th anniversary of Herbert Marcuse’s *One-Dimensional Man* (ODM). ODM has been called one of the most important books of the post-WWII era. It was scathingly critical of modern industrial capitalism, consumer culture, its commodified aesthetics, the military-industrial complex, humans’ relationship to the environment, and new forms of social control at the height of the Keynesian era. This roundtable explores and celebrates ODM theoretically and historically, asking whether ‘one-dimensionality’ can be seen as a ‘border without boundaries’ in the context of global, neoliberal capitalism. Panelists critically reassess the impact of ODM in light of current debates/movements for radical ecological, feminist, democratic and socialist change.

D-3 Wednesday, 28 May 14 @ 9:00–10:30 a.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-107

Chair: Lanyan Chen, Nipissing University

Organizer: Program Committee

War, Security and Resistance: Critical Reflections

Capitalism, crushing warfare and human insecurity of the most profound kind are inextricably linked, and many critics in the 20th century highlighted these connections analytically. The contributions to this session explore and adumbrate some of the most meaningful critiques penned in the last 100 years, and connect these explorations to contemporary socio-political struggles.

Ottokar Luban, International Rosa Luxemburg Society, “Rosa Luxemburg against War”

Ingo Schmidt, Athabasca University, “From 'Accumulation of Capital' to the 'Junius Pamphlet': Confronting Imperialism and War”

Martin Vihrenov Manolov, Carleton University, “Security – from use, exchange and the symbolic,

to simulation, hyperreality and the beyond”

Carol Turner, University of Bradford, UK, “If I had a Hammer... Democratic Deficit in the British Labour Party’s War Policies”

D-4 Wednesday, 28 May 14 @ 9:00-10:30 p.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-103

Chair and Organizer: David Bedford, University of New Brunswick

Marxism and the Philosophy of Science

The papers will explore Marxist philosophy of science from a variety of intersections including Platonic and Critical realisms. The papers share a common interest in Marxist methodology as part of the traditions of scientific and dialectical approaches.

David Bedford, University of New Brunswick, “Plato, Bhaskar, and Dewey on the Dialectical Character of Science”

Nick Hardy, University of New Brunswick, “Three Tendencies of Power: Forces, Mechanisms, and Powers”

Tom Cheney, York University, “Realism and Ecology; Understanding the Human Place in Nature through Stratification and Emergent Powers Materialism”

E-1 Wednesday, 28 May 14 @ 10:45–12:15 p.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-107

Chair: Carol Turner, University of Bradford

Organizer: Program Committee

Regional Resistance in the Neoliberal World

This panel explores several practical and strategic facets of resistance in different regions of the global order. The papers address social opposition to the injurious evolution of neoliberal trading regimes, concrete aspects of resistance against global capital in the resource sector, transnational solidarities in the wake of corporate criminality, and dimensions of ecological resistance.

Kevin Edmonds, University of Toronto, “Trade Liberalization and the Drug Trade in the Caribbean”

Omar Faruque, University of Toronto, “Confronting Global Capital: Nationalist Imaginaries and Countermovement in Bangladesh”

Jean Chapman, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University “Cambodia’s Emerging Extractive Industry: Pushback against Neoliberal Policies”

James (Jamie) Lawson, University of Victoria, “Boundaries and Chains: Canadian Mines in the Global South”

E-2 Wednesday, 28 May 14 @ 10:45-12:15 p.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-105

Chair: Thom Workman, University of New Brunswick

Convenor: Marjorie Griffin Cohen, Simon Fraser University

Roundtable The Thought of C.B. Macpherson in Today’s World

Frank Cunningham, University of Toronto, **Phillip Hansen**, University of Regina, **Lynda Lange**, University of Toronto

In the last two years all of C.B. Macpherson's publications have been reissued, one by the University of Toronto Press, and five by Oxford University Press. These reissues reflect renewed interest in Macpherson's thought. His novel, political-economic approach to socialist theory, which combines a strong critique of existing liberal democracy with proposals to retrieve submerged, positive features of it, speak at least as well to the challenges of the contemporary world as they did to those of Macpherson's times. This panel will address possible contributions of Macpherson's thought with respect to these challenges.

E-3 Wednesday, 28 May 14 @ 10:45–12:15 p.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-108

Chair: Robert McGray, Concordia University

Organizer: Program Committee

Counter-hegemony in the Dual Crisis: Opening Exit Routes?

This session addresses prospects for, or instances of counter-hegemonic politics in the dual ecological/economic crisis. Counter-hegemony is intended to signify a multiplicity of strategies, practices and organizational forms which include South-North, South-South and other movement convergences, refiguration, alternative regionalisms, new parties, new media, alternative policy formation and construction of post-capitalist subjects, that may open exit routes from capitalism.. The goal of the session is to connect the dots between diverse aspects of contemporary radical politics.

Stephen D'Arcy, Huron University College at Western, "Diversity of Tactics: An Appraisal"

William K. Carroll, University of Victoria, **joint paper** with

J.P. Sapinski "Transnational Alternative Policy Groups in Global Civil Society: Enablers of Post-capitalist Alternatives or Gatekeepers of Neoliberalism?"

Peter G. Prontzos, Langara College, "A Healthier World Is Possible"

E-4 Wednesday, 28 May 14 @ 10:45–12:15 p.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-103

Chair: Jamie Lynn Magnusson, University of Toronto

Organizers: Suzane Thomas, and Sharry Taylor, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto

Exploring the Everyday Contours of Financialization

This session will bring together a multidisciplinary discussion of "financialization" and late capitalism. Defined as the increasing importance of financial markets in the sum total of economic activity, the financialization of late capitalism has been discussed in connection with global economic crises, austerity programs, precarity, dispossession, debt, and the political economy of permanent war. We will explore financialization through the lens of everyday life, including perspectives from urban planning, education, health care, surveillance culture, migrant labour, Indigenous sovereignty, environmental devastation and organized resistance.

Mary Jean Hande, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, "Challenging the Financialization of Healthcare and Disability through 'Commoning'"

Kris Millett, Frost Centre for Canadian and Indigenous Studies, Trent University, "The Financialization of Everyday Life - the Law and Order State and Somali Canadians"

Sharry Taylor, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, “Financialization, Environment, and Degrowth”

Justin Wei-Yu Tai, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, “The Financialization of Condo Development in Toronto and Its Impacts on Local Communities”

Suzane Thomas, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, “Actions of Financialization in Education”

F-1 Wednesday, 28 May 14 @ 1:45 – 2:45

Venue: Schmon Tower-108

Chair: Greg Albo, York University

Organizer: Anthony Fenton, York University

The Internationalization of Canadian State and Capital

In the spirit of the call-out, this panel will help to situate the question of Canadian settler-imperialism and the contemporary world economy. Panelists will explore themes of internationalization of the Canadian state and/or capital such as case studies of Canadian imperialism; critical responses to Snowden's NSA revelations (Canada's role in the 'five eyes' intelligence network); impacts of financialization and internationalization on Indigenous communities; changing class formation(s); international circuits of (Canadian) capital; internationalization in historical perspective; internationalization and federalism; revisiting the imperialist vs. dependency debates; Canadian militarism and global capitalism; and resisting internationalization /internationalizing resistance.

Justin Panos, York University, **joint paper** with

Anthony Fenton, York University, “The Caliphate and the Crown: Recognizing the Influence of Secondary Powers like Canada in the Middle East”

David Chin, York University, “Political Economy of Financialization and Indigenous Territory”

Michael Lang, University of Victoria, “Contemplating the ‘Human Right to Water’ in an Era of Post-sovereign Uncertainty”

F-2 Wednesday, 28 May 14 @ 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-105

Convenor: Murray E. G. Smith, Brock University

Roundtable Marxist Phoenix: The Case for a 21st Century ‘Scientific Socialism’

Murray Smith, Brock University, **Jonah Butovsky**, Brock University, **Josh Dumont**, **Thom Workman**, University of New Brunswick

The opening decade of the 21st century has been marked by the eruption of the worst systemic crisis of world capitalism since World War II, fully confirming Marx’s analysis of the long-term “laws of motion” of the capitalist mode of production. Despite this, the influence of Marx’s “class-struggle” and “proletarian” socialism, along with his scientific analysis of the fatal contradictions of the capitalist system, continues to be marginal. The incongruities of this situation will be discussed in relation to the essays collected in Murray E. G. Smith’s new book, *Marxist Phoenix: Studies in Historical Materialism and Marxist Socialism*.

F-3 Wednesday, 28 May 14 @ 1.15–2.45 p.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-107

Chair and Organizer: Alan Sears, Ryerson University

The 'New' Normal: Canada-Israel Links, Palestinian Rights and the Academic Boycott

This session will discuss the relationship between the intensification of Canada-Israel links and the expanding movement for academic boycott of Israeli institutions to support Palestinian rights. As the boycott movement is gaining mainstream attention, academic ties between Canada and Israel are increasing. The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) recently signed a major collaboration document with its counterparts in Israel that marks an intensification of normalizing ties. Participants will explore the role of these institutional links in maintaining the boundaries and the borders that constrain the freedom of Palestinians to live and to learn.

Linda Tabar, University of Toronto, "The Academic Boycott: Perspectives from Palestine"

Sue Ferguson, Wilfrid Laurier University at Brantford, "The Normalization Campaign: Canada-Israel Ties in the Age of Boycott"

Blair Kuntz, University of Toronto, "Report from the Librarians and Archivists to Palestine Delegation"

Sarah Roberts, Western University, "The American Studies Association Taking a Stand: A Member's Perspective"

F-4 Wednesday, 28 May 14 @ 1.15–2.45 p.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-103

Chair and Organizer: Lanyan Chen, Nipissing University

Decolonizing/Indigenizing Social Welfare

Social welfare has functioned as one of the primary tools of colonization in settler societies.

Drawing on case studies from across the country, this panel will discuss the limits of and possibilities for decolonizing and indigenizing social welfare in Canada. Case studies, including Six Nations taking responsibility for education and child welfare and the Canadian government recognizing the supposedly extinct Qayqayt Band's revitalization, help address questions of: ways in which indigenous civic actions and resistance are challenging our colonial inheritances; what political space have such actions opened up for negotiating more just ways of living together; how might social welfare be reconceived in and through those negotiations?

Serena Kataoka, Nipissing University, "Qayqayt Resurgence: Implications for a Settler Neighbourhood and Society"

Anna Peltier, Nipissing University, "Wikwemikong Bill of Children's Rights: An application of Traditional Kinship Care"

Christopher Black, Nipissing University, "Truth and Reconciliation: an Ontarian Perspective"

G-1 Annual General Meeting #

Venue: Thistle Complex-307

Wednesday 28 May 14 2:50-4:15 p.m.

Keynote Address

The Global Economic Crisis Today: Lessons from the South

Prabhat Patnaik, JNU, New Delhi

Thistle Complex-243

Wednesday, 28 May 14 @ 4:30–6:00 p.m.

Chair: William K. Carroll, University of Victoria

I-1 Thursday, 29 May 14 @ 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-105

Convenor: Jean Chapman, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia, South Asian Women's Community Centre, Montreal (SAWCC)

Roundtable Bill 60, the Quebec Charter of Values

Mela Sarkar, McGill University, SAWCC; **Yasmin Jiwani**, Concordia University,
Denise Nadeau, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Muslim Christian Feminist Alliance, SAWCC

A consequence of the proposed Charter of Values was a schism in the Quebec feminist movement between liberal sovereignists and conservative nationalists. Can a Charter which promotes secularism and gender justice hunt down the veiled Muslim woman, the signifier of the outsider? Is there a paternalistic assumption that veiled Muslim women have no agency? What are the intersecting influences of race and gender within the context of media representations of racialized groups? Does Mark Neocleous' theory on pacification (*Socialist Studies*, Winter 2013) give us fresh insights into the Charter, or would we get more traction by critiquing the Charter within the human rights discourse?

Financial support for this session provided by the
Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences

I-2 Thursday, 29 May 14 @ 9:00–10:30 a.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-108

Chair and Organizer: Paul Kellogg, Athabasca University

Apartheid in Comparative Context

Interest in the concept of apartheid, as a means by which to explain relations of race, class and capital, has been reawakened by the death of Nelson Mandela. The concept of apartheid has been used as a framework by which to understand structures of oppression and resistance in contexts other than South Africa – the U.S. South, Israel/Palestine, and the Reservation System in North America, to name but three.

Yasmeen Abu-Laban, University of Alberta, **joint paper** with

Abigail B. Bakan, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, "Contentious Apartheid; Israel in Global Context"

Joe Kelly, Athabasca University, "Introducing the Politics and Ideas of South African Socialist, Neville Alexander"

Paul Kellogg, Athabasca University, “Challenging Apartheid: The Dialectic of Class Struggle and Anti-colonialism, 1987-1988”

I-3 Thursday, 29 May 14 @ 9:00–10:30 a.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-103

Chair: Jennie Hornosty, University of New Brunswick

Organizers: William Peekhaus, Program Committee

Celebrating and Defending the Commons

For at least the last decade, a number of Marxist scholars have celebrated the commons, which is typically employed as shorthand to refer to modes of social co-production and value practices that emerge in response to capitalist processes of both material and immaterial enclosure (De Angelis, 2007; Hardt & Negri, 2009; Harvey, 2003; Harvie, 2004; Perelman, 2000). Yet as Caffentzis (2004) has pointed out, the concept of the commons, and indeed commons projects, can be subject to appropriation by capital. This panel seeks to interrogate contemporary practices of both material and immaterial commons, including the problematic of capitalist appropriation.

Garry Potter, Wilfrid Laurier University, “Operation Venezuela: an Anonymous Error”

Jessa Reitsma, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, **joint paper**

Mary Jean Hande, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, “Food for Thought and Action: a Food Commons Project”

Peter Donnelly, University of Toronto, “Who Owns Sport? Some Implications of Considering Sport as a Cultural Commons”

Financial support for this session provided by the
Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences

I-4 Thursday, 29 May 14 @ 9:00–10:30 a.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-107

Chair: Robert McGray, Concordia University

Organizer: Program Committee

Aspects of Canadian Political Economy

In recent decades there have been a flourish of intellectual developments in the long-standing tradition of Canadian Political Economy. This panel contributes to those ongoing discussions by exploring conceptual and categorical issues in CPE, the articulation of the field with critical political economy, and the theoretical impact by neoliberal development strategies.

Paul Whiteley, Queen’s University, “Productions of Space, Time, and Power: notes from Harold Innis, Henri Lefebvre, and Doreen Massey”

Benjamin Christensen, York University, **joint paper** with

Chris Hurl, Carleton University, “The New Canadian Political Economy: An Intellectual History”

Wilfred Lynch, University of Toronto, “The Prime Mover of Canadian Neoliberalism in the Post-Free Trade Era: The Canadian Council of Chief Executives (CCCE, formerly the BCNI)”

Heather Whiteside, University of British Columbia, “Capitalizing on Public Infrastructure: Financialization and Public-Private Partnership Hospitals”

J-1 Thursday, 29 May 14 @ 10:45–12:15 p.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-105

Chair: Paul Kellogg, Athabasca University
Organizer: Ingo Schmidt, Athabasca University

Economics: in Search of Marxism's Lost Core

Economic ideas never had more power than under the reign of neoliberalism. Neoclassical economics served as a roadmap for industrial restructuring, austerity policies and privatizations. It also delivered the script for an everyday religion that even many of the people who are discontent with the outcomes of neoliberal policies can't escape. One of the reasons is that the Left doesn't offer economic counter-narratives. Much radical thinking has turned from political economy to culture and linguistics. A handful of Marxian economists are sticking to their ideas but constrain themselves to defend them against post-modern and post-Marxist thinking rather than updating them. Political economists who have done some very innovative work over the last years are more focused on the epithet 'political' than the substantive 'economy'. The surge of books and articles written about the Great Recession, which seems to confirm everything Marx wrote in 'Das Kapital', confirms this sad state of Marxian economics although it would have been a good reason to change it. Five years after the recession, bourgeois crisis management proved unable to solve any of the problems raised by the crisis but Left critics weren't able to offer persuasive alternatives either. This workshop is built on the idea that Marxian economics is the indispensable core of socialist alternatives to the capitalist crisis but that, in order to develop such alternatives, it needs a major overhaul.

Michael Lebowitz, Simon Fraser University, "If you're so Smart, Why Aren't you Rich? Theses on Marxian Economics and Socialism"

Paul Zarembka, State University of New York at Buffalo, "Marx's Evolving Conception of Value and Luxemburg's Legacy: A Process of Intellectual Production"

Michal Rozworski, Activist, "Towards a Value Theory for the 21st Century: the Place of Finance and Information"

Ingo Schmidt, Athabasca University, "From the Critique of Political Economy to Economic Sociology – A One-way Street?"

J-2 Thursday, 29 May 14 @ 10:45–12:15 p.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-107

Chair: Alan Sears, Ryerson University

Organizer: Program Committee

Social Movements and Political Change

Social movements are a source of transformative learning, the location where new media tools are tried and tested, where not having children is framed within the ecofeminism discourse, and social movements are the sites in which a new vocabulary reflecting contemporary culture and society emerge. Those transformative processes are the subject matter of this Panel.

Mark C. J. Stoddart, Memorial University, **joint paper** with

Paula Graham, Memorial University, "Old Harry and New Media: Environmental Movements and the Oil-Tourism Interface in the Gulf of St. Lawrence"

Budd L. Hall, University of Victoria, "Learning: the Secret Weapon of Social Movements?"

Niko Block, Activist, "Ecofeminism and the Reproductive Strike: from Nuclear to Climate Change"

Kelly Fritsch, York University, **joint paper** with

AK Thompson, Activist, "Keywords for Radicals: a Late-capitalist Vocabulary of Culture and Society"

J-3 Thursday, 29 May 14 @ 10:45–12:15 p.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-108

Chair: Murray Cooke, York University

Organizer: Program Committee

Theoretical and Empirical Reflections on the Movement of Peoples

The movement of peoples—as immigrants, as migrant workers and as refugees—has been a central feature of capitalist history. This panel explores some of the practical and theoretical implications of the movement of peoples over the last century.

Abraham Weizfeld, Université du Québec à Montréal, ‘Apartheid and Reciprocity’

Salimah Valiani, University of Toronto, “Temporary Migration as Distribution Basis for World Caring Labour – Precarious Presents and Futures Passed”

Xinying Hu, Simon Fraser University, “From Migrant Workers to Health Therapists: A Gendered Analysis of China’s Foot Massage Industry”

J-4 Thursday, 29 May 14 @ 10:45–12:15 p.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-103

Chair: William K. Carroll, University of Victoria

Organizer: Program Committee

From the Ground to Theory

This session features papers exploring the iteration between the concrete dimensions of struggle and the broadening of our theoretical horizons. Specific focus ranges from the struggles of Aboriginal peoples against whiteness through to direct confrontations with the corporate elite.

Ginette Thomas, Carleton University, “Citizenship and Aboriginal Social Rights in Canada”

Mark Phillips, McGill University, “Peaceful Assembly, no Force or Effect: Permits, Masks and Punishment by Association”

Lauren Montgomery, Carleton University, “The Unionization of Sex Workers in Canada”

Jean Philippe Sapinski, University of Victoria, “The Climate Capitalist Corporate elite Network”

J-5 Thursday, 29 May 14 @ 10:45–12:15 p.m.

Venue: TBA

Chair and Organizer: Patricia Mazepa, York University

Old States, New Boundaries: The Military-Industrial Communications Complex (MICC) in Canada

In military lexicon, strategies of the State in waging war require the exercise of ‘command and control’ over its material and ideological operating environment. Current priorities signified by the “War on Terror” extend to an infinite domain as “cyberwar”, reconfiguring the political economy of information, communication and technology (ICT) so the State may retain its legitimacy and secure relations of power. Focusing on three facets of this reconfiguration, the panel explains the policies and practices of the current Federal government and the Canadian military via its relationships with the ICT industry and its communication strategies towards identifying a ‘Canadian-made’ MICC.

Kirsten Kozolanka, Carleton University, “Domesticating the Global Enemy in the Post-9/11, Militarized Nation”

Tanner Mirrlees, University of Ontario Institute of Technology, “The Canadian Army’s YouTubeChannel and Soldier-generated Content”

Patricia Mazepa, York University, “Until Death do us Part: Canadian Web-locks in Militarized Capitalism”

Cross-listed with and scheduled by Canadian Communication Association

K-1 Thursday, 29 May 14 @ 2:00–3:45 pm

Venue: Schmon Tower-107

Chair: Paul Kellogg, Athabasca University

Organizer: Abigail B. Bakan, University of Toronto

Anti-racist Feminism and Socialist Feminism: Revisiting Borders, Overcoming Boundaries

Anti-racist feminism has a long history, with various genealogies associated with movements against slavery and colonialism, and movements for indigenous and migrant rights. Socialist feminism also claims a long historical arc, associated with working women’s movements, Communist and Socialist political projects, and labour organizing. These two traditions have often, however, operated in parallel spaces, with minimal points of intersection.

Sedef Arat-Koc, Ryerson University, “Crises of Citizenship, Crises of Social Reproduction, and the Current Urgency of Joining Anti-Racist and Socialist Feminist Analyses and Politics”

Abigail B. Bakan, University of Toronto, “Marxism, Feminism and Anti-racism: the Challenge of Intersectionality”

Debbie Dergousoff, Simon Fraser University, “Borders, Boundaries and the Challenge of Collaborative Knowledge Production in Institutional Ethnography (IE)”

Cross-listed with Race, Ethnicity, Indigenous Peoples and Politics (REIPP) of the CPA

K-2 Thursday, 29 May 14 @ 2:00–3:45 p.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-105

Chair: Huma Ahmed-Ghosh, San Diego State University

Organizer: Jean Chapman, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University

Challenging Violence against Women: the Failure of the Postcolonial Indian State

There might be a geographical border around India but its cultural practices have seeped out and contribute to the global discourse on systematic predation and violence against women. The bedrock of Indian culture is the caste system. After Kandiyoti’s work (2013) on the Arab Spring our thesis is that masculinist restoration comes into play at a point when patriarchy is no longer fully secure and female subordination is no longer securely hegemonic. In India, women’s aspirations have never been higher in terms of educational attainment, professional achievements, and visibility in public spaces. Yet, the status of women has never been as low as it is in contemporary, democratic India: women are kept as slaves, sold and trafficked as labour and brides, abused, raped, disfigured by acid, abandoned, and murdered. Newlyweds are immolated by their husbands and in-laws for not fulfilling dowry demands. The Delhi gang rape in 12/12 threw the status of women in India into bold relief and galvanized calls to reframe the discourse on institutionalized violence against women.

Huma Ahmed-Ghosh, San Diego State University, “Domestic Violence as a ‘Legitimate’ Institution in India”

Prabhat Patnaik, JNU, “The Gender Gap”

Jean Chapman, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University, “Violence against Women in Democratic India: Let’s Talk Misogyny”

K-3 Thursday, 29 May 14 @ 2:00–3:45 p.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-108

Chair: Robert McGray, Concordia University

Organizer: Program Committee

Left Politics: Theoretical Dimensions

The papers in this panel explore theoretical aspects of the evolving global Left. The contributions engage the legacies of post-modernism, facets of protest politics, the articulation of shifting economies and their corresponding effects on political struggle, and the contradictory dynamics of ecological resistance.

Al Berg, University of Victoria, “Who, What and How is Russia’s Contemporary Left? Tracing an Emerging Politics”

James Penney, Trent University, “Is There a Queer Marxism: Radical Future or Oxymoron?”

Elise Danielle Thorburn, University of Western Ontario, “Class Composition and the Minor Current of Autonomy: Organisation in Left Practice Past and Present”

Antranig Bedrossian, Nakhijevan Institute of Canada, “South Caucasus: A Zone of Cooperation or Division between European Union (EU) and Russia?”

K-4 Thursday, 29 May 14 @ 2:00–3:45 p.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-103

Chair: Jennie Hornosty, University of New Brunswick

Organizer: Program Committee

Social and Political Thought: Critical Interventions

The question of the relationship between the broader sphere of social and political thought on the one hand, and the struggle for meaningful and lasting change on the other, figures prominently in the socialist project. The contributions to this panel give analytical voice to this perennial question.

Adam Hilton, York University, “Rage against the Machine: The Politics and Pitfalls of Democratizing the Democratic Party, 1968”

Bojan Ratković, University of Western Ontario, “The People as Sovereign: Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s Social Contract from the French Revolution to Globalization”

Stephen Maher, York University, “Building Historical Materialism: Approaches to Marx’s *Capital* and the Role of Theory in Historical Investigation”

Tatiana Poggi, Fluminense Federal University, Rio de Janeiro, “Faces of the Extreme: Neofascism in the USA 1970-2010”

VENUE: SCHMON TOWER-105

Thursday, 29 May 14 @ 4:00–5:30 p.m.

Author meets Critics

David McNally (2012) *Monsters of the Market: Zombies, Vampires and Global Capitalism*
Critics

Leah Bradshaw, Brock University,
Prabhat Patnaik, JNU,
David Bedford, University of New Brunswick
Chair and Organizer: Thom Workman, University of New Brunswick

M-1 Friday, 30 May 14 @ 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-105

Convenor: Alex Khasnabish, Mount Saint Vincent University

Roundtable Insurgent Methodologies: Solidarity Research beyond the Academic-Industrial Complex

Alan Brown, Mount Saint Vincent University, **Janet Conway**, Brock University, **Richard Day**, Queen's University, **Alex Khasnabish**, Mount Saint Vincent University, **Gary Kinsman**, Laurentian University, **Karen Raddon**, Queen's University

"Insurgent methodologies" are experiments in solidaristic social movement research that unsettle objectivist accounts of social movements in favor of research that contributes - in many, varied, and rarely uncomplicated ways - to them. Bringing together a group of politically-engaged scholars, this panel engages pressing questions relating to social movements, social change, and research, including: What does "solidarity research" look like? What are its methodological and theoretical implications, its possibilities and limitations? How can we know and gauge the value of such research to movements and others outside the academy? What does such research mean in an increasingly neoliberalized university?

M-2 Friday, 30 May 14 @ 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-103

Chair: Murray Cooke, York University

Organizers: Laurel Collins and Carol Linnitt, University of Victoria

Limits of Violence and Nonviolence

Bringing together commentary on the philosophies of Arendt, Agamben, Benjamin, Butler and Marcuse, this session explores the limits, ambiguities and tensions within theories of violence and nonviolence in a variety of contexts. Papers either explore violence or nonviolence on their own terms, or critically examine tensions in the relationship between the two. Key topics and concepts covered include consensus decision-making processes, the phenomenology of desire, the concept of law, and the construction of affect, responsibility and killability

Dustin Zielke, University of Victoria and KU Leuven, "From the Repression of Historical Novelty to Violence Turned Back on the Self: Marcuse and a Phenomenology of Desire"

Jen Wrye, North Island College, "'Deep Inside Dogs Know What They Want': The Construction of Affect, Responsibility and Killability in Commercial Pet Foods"

Matthew Hayter, York University, "The Violence of Nonviolence? Membership and Exile in Consensus Decision-making Processes"

M-3 Friday, 30 May 14 @ 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-107

Chair and Organizer: Alan Sears, Ryerson University

Challenges for the Next New Left: Continuity and Change in the Age of Austerity

The anti-capitalist Left is now more marginal than at any time in the 20th century, despite an employers' offensive designed to roll back historic working class gains. To return to relevance, the Left needs to come to terms with what has or has not changed over the past 35 years of neoliberal restructuring, as well as its own weaknesses in developing an integrative queer feminist anti-racist and anti-colonialist historical materialism. This panel will explore core changes in the relations of citizenship, work and personal life that have a profound impact on the potential for solidarity and mobilization.

Tariq Amin-Khan, Ryerson University, "The Neoliberal Security-Surveillance State and Challenges for the Next Left"

Clarice Kuhling, Wilfrid Laurier University, "Sexual Assault and Rape Culture: an Integrative Materialist Framework"

Colin Mooers, Ryerson University, "Latin America: Autonomy or Dual Power?"

Alan Sears, Ryerson University, "The Next New Left: A Project of Learning"

M-4 Friday, 30 May 14 @ 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Venue: TBA

Chair: Eric Newstadt, York University

Organizer: Clair Polster, University of Regina

Developments in Canadian Science Policy

Canada's national science policy has been in the news more frequently and visibly in the last couple of years than it has been in a long time. This greater media attention has not focussed on government supports for science and scientific research. Rather, it has largely addressed Stephen Harper's alleged war on science. This session aims to critically explore various developments in Canadian science policy and to assess their actual and potential implications for our national science system and Canadians more generally. Papers may be analytical, empirical, strategic, or a combination of these. They may also focus either on current science policy in general, on policy related to particular scientific institutions (universities, government labs, etc.), or on policy related to particular kinds of science (water, climate change, etc.).

Claire Polster, University of Regina, "Stephen Harper's War on Science: A troubling metaphor"

Janice Newson, York University, "Off on a Wrong Angle? Responses to the Harper Conservatives' Science Policies"

Kelly Holloway, Dalhousie University, "Canadian Science Policy Movements: The Politics of Science"

Robert Ramsay, CAUT, "The CAUT's *Get Science Right* Campaign"

Cross-listed and scheduled by Canadian Sociology Association

N-1 Friday, 30 May 14 @ 10.45–12:15 p.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-103

Chair: Jean Chapman, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University

Organizer: Ellen Russell, Wilfrid Laurier University

Discussant: David McNally, York University

Neoliberalism: Fear, Hope, and Resistance

Neoliberalism and its recurrent emphasis on austerity foster a climate of fear that erodes people's sense of collective entitlement. This precarious environment often narrows the possibilities and hopes for radical alternatives. This panel considers the implications of these narrowing horizons of possibility, and explores strategies to expand political imaginaries in the face of the austerity offensive.

James Cairns, Wilfrid Laurier University, "Entitlement and the Eros Effect"

Clarice Kuhling, Wilfrid Laurier University, "Fear and (Obstinate) Hope: Analytical and Organizational Challenges in Dangerous Times"

Ellen Russell, Wilfrid Laurier University, "The Wages of Fear: Despair and Hope in a Neoliberal Economy"

N-2 Friday, 30 May 14 @ 10:45–12:15 p.m.

Venue: Schmon Tower-105

Chair: Miriam Jones, University of New Brunswick at Saint John,

Organizer: Program Committee

Education and Change in the Neoliberal Era

Reflection on education in capitalist social formations has been extensive in recent decades, and has spawned ideas as diverse as Foucault's idea of "docile bodies" to Illich's claims about the importance of "deschooling society" in an alienated world to Friere's ideas regarding critical pedagogies. The papers in this panel continue these reflections in the context of neoliberalism, especially with respect to the subordination of pedagogical practices and educational institutions to the enveloping logic of capitalist accumulation.

Taru Malhotra, York University, "Modifying Educator's Beliefs on their use of Technology in Classrooms"

Robert McGray, Concordia University, Editor, *The Canadian Journal for the Study of Adult Education*, **joint paper** with

Dan Parker, Concordia University, "Neoliberal School Reforms and Critical Sexuality Education in Quebec: Implications for Pre-Service and Probationary Period Teachers"

Matt Fesnak, Wilfrid Laurier University, "Marxist Feminist Interventions in the Canadian University"