

Global Labour Research Centre

Inaugural Graduate Student Symposium



October 29th & 30th
York University, Toronto, ON

<http://www.yorku.ca/glrc>

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A Message From the Directors



The Global Labour Research Centre (GLRC) at York University is very pleased to welcome you to our first Graduate Student Symposium. The symposium showcases graduate student research on a wide range of issues related to the study of work and labour in a global context, and offers an interdisciplinary forum for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to share their research in a collaborative environment.

The GLRC promotes the study of work, employment, and labour at York University. The Centre's mandate is to support engaged, interdisciplinary, and accessible research on pressing issues of economic and social justice, to foster a collaborative intellectual community, to cultivate and expand new knowledge

mobilization activities around work, employment and labour research, and to develop international linkages with leading research and learning centres. Graduate students play a vital role in the life of the GLRC, and in advancing the study of work and labour. This symposium builds on other graduate student initiatives that take place at the GLRC and we hope it will create the basis for further graduate research in the study of work and labour. A committee of York graduate students from the graduate programs in Sociology and Political Science, with the support of the GLRC, has organized the symposium. We would like to thank Rawan Abdelbeki, Matthew Corbeil, Lacey Croft, and Jordon House for taking the initiative to bring this symposium together.

This symposium is also made possible with the support of the York community. We would like to acknowledge York's Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Vice President Research & Innovation, Canada Research Chair in the Political Economy of Gender and Work, and the Graduate Programs in Socio-Legal Studies and Political Science for sponsoring this event.

We hope you find your experience at the symposium to be rewarding and that it will inspire your work as you move forward in your studies, and we encourage you to continue to be involved in the life of the GLRC.

Mark Thomas & Stephanie Ross
Co-Directors, Global Labour Research Centre

Schedule at a Glance

Thursday October 29		
11:30-1:00	Lunch & Registration	
1:00-2:30	Settler Colonialism Workshop	Marginalized Workers
2:30-3:00	Coffee Break	
3:00-4:30	Work & Migration I	Strategy & Politics of Labour
Friday October 30		
8:30-10:00	Neoliberal Education Roundtable	Un/underemployment
10:00-10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30- 12:00	Work in the 21 st Century	Work & Migration II
12:00-1:00	Lunch	
1:00-2:30	Plenary Panel: Academics and Workers' Movements	
2:30-3:00	Coffee Break	
3:00-4:30	Militancy	Organizing
5:00-7:00	Social @ Shopsy's Sports Grill	

Rooms: TEL 1004 & 1005

Thursday, October 29th

11:30-1:00	<p>Lunch & Registration [Outside TEL 1004 & 1005]</p>
1:00-2:30	<p>Settler Colonialism Workshop Panelists: Devin Clancy (York University), Annelies Cooper (York University), Karl Gardner (York University), Thania Vega (York University)</p> <p>Unions in Canada have seldom engaged with Indigenous anti-colonial struggles, reproducing a false separation of worker's struggles from settler colonialism and the ongoing dispossession of Indigenous lands and rights. This panel, however, addresses this gap from personal organizing experience. For the past two years members of this panel have been involved in CUPE Local 3903's First Nations Solidarity Working Group (FNSWG). Originally formed in 2006, this working group is committed to building long-term working relationships supporting Indigenous struggles for self-determination and liberation. As such this panel will focus on 4 main areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The limitations and problematic histories of past union organizing in settler colonial contexts; 2. The importance of union solidarity work with Indigenous peoples and nations; 3. Our experience organizing with FNSWG and our ongoing projects and relationships; 4. A reflection on the contradictions and challenges inherent in organizing across multiple locations within settler colonialism, and developing ethics for accountable solidarity. <p>[TEL 1004]</p> <p>Marginalized Workers Chair: Carlo Fanelli, Ryerson University</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Irena Djukic (York University): An Analytical Exploration of Sexism in the Canadian Workplace</p> <p>Shelley Condratto (Laurentian University): The Interdisciplinarity of Precarity</p> <p>Crystal Melville (York University): "The Future It's in your Hands": Locating youth labour futures on the TTC University subway line in Toronto, Ontario</p> <p>[TEL 1005]</p>
2:30-3:00	<p>Coffee Break [Outside TEL 1004 & 1005]</p>
3:00-4:30	<p>Work & Migration I Chair: Philip Kelly, York University</p>

Panelists:
Adam Belton (University of Alberta): Culture of Silence: Legislated Temporary Foreign Worker Precarity and the Dimensions of Power

Alexandra Rodgers (Simon Fraser University): The Regulation of Employment Agencies in Temporary Foreign Worker Recruitment to British Columbia

Kyla Sankey (Centre for Research on Latin America): Agrarian transformations and New Peasant Movements in Colombia

Ann Henley (York University): The Crisis Facing Internationally Trained Engineers in Canada

[TEL 1004]

Strategy & Politics of Labour

Chair: TBA

Panelists:
Babak Amini (York University): 'The European Radical Left and Labour Struggle in the Age of Austerity'

Adam Hilton (York University): "To Make Respectable the Idea of Planning in a Democracy": The Democratic Party Crisis and the Battle for Full Employment, 1974-80

David Ravensbergen (York University): Degrowth: A new strategy for labour?

Jamie Robertson (York University): Coming to an Appropriate Conception of Justice for Assessing Fair Trade

[TEL 1005]

Friday, October 30th

<p>8:30-10:00</p>	<p>Neoliberal Education Roundtable Panelists: Christopher Bailey (York University), Paul Bocking (York University), Peter Brogan (York University)</p> <p>This session aims to explore the recent attacks on public education, teachers and their unions throughout North America. In particular participants will focus on developing a political economic analysis of the policies of education restructuring and how teachers have been responding collectively, primarily through their unions but not solely, to these attacks on public education and their profession. Some of the questions taken up in this roundtable will examine: what kind of theory and research practice is necessary to both understand and contest the neoliberalization of public education and the assault on teacher unions; how have the ideologies and politics of neoliberal education "reform," on the one hand, and organizing models, strategies and tactics of resistance against such restructuring, on the other, travelled across space and evolved from place to place. Put another way, how does education policy, activist discourses and practices travel and get taken up in different places across Canada, the United States and Mexico.</p> <p>[TEL 1004]</p>
	<p>Un/underemployment Chair: Mark Thomas, York University</p> <p>Panelists: Benoit Marsan (UQAM): The Great Depression and the Moral Economy of the Unemployed: Culture of Resistance and Solidarity in Montreal's Working Class Neighbourhoods</p> <p>Lydia Dobson (York University): Causes for the Declining Union Membership of Young Workers in Canada: a Case Study of CUPE</p> <p>Christopher Webb (University of Toronto): Youth Unemployment and Livelihoods on the Edge of the Post-Apartheid City</p> <p>[TEL 1005]</p>
<p>10:00-10:30</p>	<p>Coffee Break [Outside TEL 1004 & 1005]</p>
<p>10:30-12:00</p>	<p>Work in the 21st Century Chair: TBA</p> <p>Panelists: Kelly Flinn (York University): "And thus I became a practical Socialist": Artists, Labour, and the Contradictions of Creativity within Capitalism</p> <p>Wassila Merkouche (York University): Toward an integrative model of organizational withdrawal: its determinants and manifestations</p>

	<p>Umair Muhammad (York University): Labour and the environment</p> <p>Veronika Novoselova (York University): Blogging as digital labour</p> <p>[TEL 1004]</p> <p>Work & Migration II Chair: Geraldina Polanco, York University</p> <p>Panelists: Stephen Campbell (Trent University): State illegibility in the containment of labour unrest: Between rights and their realisation on the Thai-Myanmar border</p> <p>Jolin Joseph (York University): Migration (in) flux: Impact of Legislation on Irregular Mobility between India and Saudi Arabia</p> <p>Stein Monteiro (York University): Extended Family Migration Decisions: Evidence from Nepal</p> <p>[TEL 1005]</p>
12:00-1:00	<p>Lunch [Outside TEL 1004 & 1005]</p>
1:00-2:30	<p>Plenary Panel: Academics and Workers' Movements Chair: Leah Vosko, York University</p> <p>Panelists: Deena Ladd (Workers' Action Centre), Naveen Mehta (United Food & Commercial Workers), Alan Sears (Ryerson University), Sean Smith (Unifor Local 2002)</p> <p>This session explores the role of academics in building a powerful labour movement. Panelists who straddle the academic and movement communities will share their perspectives on the following questions:</p> <p>What is the relationship between the academic study of work and labour and workers' movements themselves? How can labour scholarship promote the goals of economic and social justice? How can or should movement activists mobilize academic knowledge and research? How can or should the academic community work with/for movement activists? Are there barriers that act to prevent a fruitful relationship between labour scholars and movement activists and how might they overcome?</p> <p>[TEL 1004]</p>
2:30-3:00	<p>Coffee Break [Outside TEL 1004 & 1005]</p>

<p>3:00- 4:30</p>	<p>Militancy Chair: Stephanie Ross, York University</p> <p>Panelists: Gizem Cakmak (York University): Nursing Union Strikes in Canada</p> <p>Matthew Corbeil (York University): Violence in the Mining Sector: A Review of the Literature</p> <p>Adam King (York University): ‘Making Sense of Change: Sudbury Miners Remember the Vale Strike’</p> <p>Christopher Kshyk (York University): “Bull Dogs and Pit Bulls”: The Experiences of Chief Shop Stewards at CUPE Local 1063</p> <p>[TEL 1004]</p>
	<p>Organizing Chair: Kelly Pike, York University</p> <p>Panelists: Kyle Bailey (York University): A Different Kind of Unionism: CUPE 3903’s Rank and File Revolt against the Neoliberal University</p> <p>Jordan House (York University): Friend or Foe? Incarcerated Workers and Organized Labour in Canada</p> <p>Justin Wing Chung Kong (University of Toronto): Worker Centres Against Precarity: An organizer-academic’s insight from San Francisco and Toronto</p> <p>Julia Smith (Trent University): Bank Workers, Unions, and the State: A Historical Perspective on White-Collar Organizing</p> <p>[TEL 1005]</p>
<p>5:00- 7:00</p>	<p>Social Shopsy’s Sports Grill</p>