

# Global Labour Research Centre

Graduate Student Symposium 2016



October 27 & 28  
York University, Toronto, ON

[www.yorku.ca/glrc](http://www.yorku.ca/glrc)

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# A Message from the Director



The Global Labour Research Centre (GLRC) at York University is very pleased to welcome you to our second annual 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 I hope it will create the basis for further graduate research in the study of work and labour. The symposium was organized by a committee of York graduate students from the graduate programs in Sociology, Political Science, and Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies, with the support of the GLRC. I would like to thank Rawan Abdelbaki, Matthew Corbeil, Lacey Croft, Jordan House, Jolin Joseph, and Adam King for taking the initiative to bring this symposium together. I would also like to thank Stephanie Ross from the School of Labour Studies at McMaster University and GLRC Coordinator Ives Polking for their contributions to the organizing committee.

This symposium is made possible with financial support from York's Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Vice President Research & Innovation, York Centre for Asian Research, Canada Research Chair in the Political Economy of Gender and Work, Canada Research Chair - Socially Engaged Research in Race and Racialization, Osgoode Hall Law School, the Graduate Programs in Geography and Gender, Feminist, and Women's Studies, and the LIUNA Enrico Henry Mancinelli Professor in Global Labour Issues at McMaster University.

I 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 I encourage you to continue to be involved in the life of the GLRC.

Mark Thomas, Director  
Global Labour Research Centre, York University

# Schedule at a Glance

Thursday, October 27

9:00am – 9:30am	Coffee & Registration	
9:30am – 10:00am	Welcome	
10:00am – 11:45 am	Strikes & Working Class Resistance	Migration & Immigration I
11:45am – 12:45pm	Lunch	
12:45pm – 2:30pm	Reproductive Labour	Unions & Organizing
2:30pm – 2:45pm	Coffee Break	
2:45pm – 4:30pm	Labour in the Cultural Industries	Public Service Work
6:30pm	Film Screening: <i>Migrant Dreams</i>	

Friday, October 28

9:30am – 10:00am	Breakfast and Registration	
10:00am – 11:45 am	Migration & Immigration II	Precarious Work
11:45am – 12:45pm	Lunch	
12:45pm – 2:30pm	Keynote: The Migrant Domestic Workers' Movement in Canada	
2:30pm – 2:45pm	Coffee Break	
2:45pm – 4:30pm	Post-Secondary Sector Strikes	Global Capitalism, Resources, Regulation
5:00pm – 7:00pm	Social @ Shopsy's Sports Grill	

# Thursday, October 27

9:00am – 9:30am

**Breakfast and Registration**

VH 3000

9:30am – 10:00am

**Welcome**

VH "C"

10:00am – 11:45am

**Strikes & Working Class Resistance**

VH 3004

Chair:

**Greg Albo (York University)**

**Umair Muhammad (York University)**

Listen, Worker! A Critical Assessment of Murray Bookchin's Anti-Workerism

**Konstantin Kilibarda (York University)**

Mapping Labour Unrest and Strikes in Montenegro: Working Class Resistances in an Era of Neoliberal Restructuring

**Charvaak Pati (York University)**

Violence and the Aftermath: Working Class Politics in Maruti-Suzuki, India

**Migration & Immigration I**

VH 3005

Chair:

**Philip Kelly (York University)**

**Stephen Campbell (Trent University)**

Capitalist Relations and Possible Politics: Migrant Waste Collectors in Thailand's Informal Economy

**Michael Gordon & Bethlehem Daniel (McMaster University)**

Enhancing Women Migrant Workers' Rights and Mainstreaming Gender in Global Migration Governance

**Marcus Kip (Universität Darmstadt)**

Urban Commons and Undocumented Workers

**Tariana Little (University of Massachusetts Boston)**

An Island Divided: Statelessness and Coloniality in the Dominican Republic

11:45am – 12:45pm

VH 3000

**Lunch**

12:45pm – 2:30pm

VH 3004

**Reproductive Labour**

Chair:

**Kelly Pike (York University)**

**Rachel Gnanayutham (McMaster University)**

The Reproduction of Working Bodies: The Political Economy of Injured Worker Reintegration and Vocational Rehabilitation

**Danielle Landry (York University)**

Employability as Ideological Training: Sheltered Workshops, Disablement, and Labour in Capitalism

**Masaya Llavaneras Blanco (Wilfrid Laurier Balsillie School)**

Caring Through Borders: The Transnational Political Economy of Care Through the Experiences of Migrant Haitian and Dominican Domestic Workers

**Judith Mintz (York University)**

A Labour of Love? The Ironic Imbalances of Teaching Yoga in North America

**Georgette Morris (York University)**

Jamaican Canadian Experience Live-In Caregiver Program 1973

VH 3005

**Unions & Organizing**

Chair:

**David Doorey (York University)**

**Xiaoming Bao (University of Montreal)**

Diagnosis of the Union Crisis in Developed Market Economies: A Literature Review

**Jordan House (York University)**

The CFAW Behind Bars: The Guelph Prison Abattoir Programme Gets Organized

**Alia Karim (York University)**

Indigenous-settler Relations and Labour's Complicity in Ongoing Colonization

**Justin Panos (York University)**

The Fight in Philadelphia: Nurse Organizing, a City-Wide Campaign and the Role of Union Researchers

**(cont.)**

**Hye Jin Rho & Gokce Basbug (MIT)**

Changes in Work Relationships and Their Implications on Worker Organizing: A Review and Synthesis

2:30pm – 2:45pm

VH 3000

**Coffee Break**

2:45pm – 4:30pm

VH 3004

**Labour in the Cultural Industries**

Chair:

**Tanner Mirrlees (University of Ontario Institute of Technology)**

**Kim de Laat (University of Toronto)**

Bargaining with the Boy's Club: Socio-cultural Capital and Female Disadvantage in the North American Music Industry

**Kelly Flinn (York University)**

Artists as Workers: Working Identity within Capitalism

**Arun Jacob (McMaster University)**

Give me your Creative, your Collaborative, your Desirable Masses: Critically Interrogating Digital Labour and Surveillance

**Kait Kribbs (Ryerson University)**

Musical (Net)Work: Musician Labour in the Digitally Networked Era

**Jacqueline Ristola (York University)**

Blood, Sweat, Ink, and Tears: Exploitation of Labour in the Anime Industry

VH 3005

**Public Service Work**

Chair:

**Stephanie Ross (McMaster University)**

**Kritee Ahmed (York University)**

Now in Service: Public Transit Work and the Customer Service Ethos in Toronto, Canada and London, U.K.

**Chris Bailey (York University)**

Fighting Back in the Age of Austerity: Teachers' Union Struggles in Ontario and British Columbia

**(cont.)**

**Paul Bocking (York University)**

Neoliberal Education Policy, Teachers' Professional Autonomy and Union Struggles in Ontario

**Candies Kotchapaw (York University)**

The Politics of Social Work: Do Racialized Social Workers belong in the Practice Space of Public Policy Development?

6:30pm

**Nat Taylor Cinema**

**Film Screening: *Migrant Dreams***

Discussant:

**Evelyn Encalada Grez**

A powerful feature documentary by multiple award-winning director Min Sook Lee (*El Contrato, Hogtown, Tiger Spirit*) and Emmy award-winning producer Lisa Valencia-Svensson (*Herman's House*), tells the untold story of migrant agricultural workers struggling against Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) that treats foreign workers as modern-day indentured labourers.

*Migrant Dreams* exposes the underbelly of the Canadian government labour program that has built a system designed to empower brokers and growers to exploit, dehumanize, and deceive migrant workers who have virtually no access to support or information in their own language. Workers willing to pay exorbitant fees to work at minimum wage jobs packing the fruits and vegetables we eat in our homes. Migrant workers who deserve basic labour and human rights. Canada it seems, has failed them.

# Friday, October 28

9:30am – 10:00am

## Breakfast and Registration

VH 3000

10:00am – 11:45am

## Migration & Immigration II

VH 3004

Chair:

**Chris Kyriakides (York University)**

**Sonia D'Angelo (York University)**

Racist Talk as Empirical Capital: Reflections on the Methodological and Ethical Issues of Encountering Racist Talk in Conversation with Employers of Temporary Migrant Workers

**Sasan Issari (York University)**

The Effects on Well-Being of Employment Experiences of Skilled Immigrant Workers

**Justin Kong (University of Toronto)**

The Legacy of Asian Exclusion and Contemporary Possibilities for Worker Internationalism in Canada

**Hsin-Yun Jaden Peng (York University)**

Life Experience and Career Plan of Chinese Lesbian and Gay Migrants in Canada

## Precarious Work

VH 3005

Chair:

**Carlo Fanelli (Western University)**

**Navi Aujla (York University)**

Temporary Employment Agencies in Ontario: Experiences of South Asian Immigrant Women

**David Bush (York University)**

The Fight for \$15: Debating Strategy

**Liz Grigg (McMaster University)**

Who's on Top? Understanding Sex Work as Precarious Labour

**Marco Marrone (York University)**

The Rise of Intern Economy: Internship and Informalization of Labor in the West

**Jeffrey Martin (McMaster University)**

Millennials and Self-Employment



11:45am – 1:00pm

VH 3000

Lunch

1:00pm – 2:30pm

VH Lecture Hall C

**Keynote:**

**Imperialismo, Ibagsak (“Down with Imperialism”):  
The Migrant Domestic Workers’ Movement in Canada**

**Ethel Tungohan (York University)**

My goal in this presentation is to understand why, when, and how migrant care workers in Canada have engaged in political actions to resist their living and their working conditions. I do so by analyzing primary source documents at the National Archives of Canada and the Canadian women’s movement archives, conducting interviews with 103 migrant care worker activists across Canada and in various activist sites in Hong Kong, Singapore, the Philippines and Geneva, Switzerland and attending and observing various events sponsored by local and national organizations in Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal, by mainstream international organizations like the International Labour Organization (ILO) and by grassroots international organizations like the International Migrants Alliance (IMA). By assessing the multiple scales where migrant care worker activists resist their living and working conditions, I was able to trace the interlinkages between the ‘politics of everyday resistance’, of which migrant care workers’ individual and organizational forms of micro-rebellion are a part, and the ‘politics from below’ that characterizes the Canadian migrant care workers’ ‘movement.’ In doing so, migrant care workers counter academic and popular representations depicting them as being docile and compliant. They demonstrate their capacity to contest individual micro-aggressions at home and at work, to form ‘new’ transnational family arrangements to meet their needs, to shift the discourse on migrant care work, to facilitate important changes to Canada’s policies on migrant care work, to help ensure the passage of the landmark international “Convention on Domestic Work,” and to begin discussions on alternatives to labour migration and to sending countries’ economic dependence on receiving countries, among their many activities. Although the Canadian migrant care workers’ movement has key divisions—namely surrounding activist scope, strategy and normative inclinations—organizations representing migrant care workers are united in their conviction that migrant care workers’ interests matter and merit representation.

**Bio:** Dr. Ethel Tungohan is Assistant Professor in the Departments of Political Science and Social Science. Dr. Tungohan’s research broadly assesses the linkages between the state and civil society. Her book, *Migrant Domestic Work in Canada: From the Politics of Everyday Resistance to the Politics from Below*, which is under contract with the University of Illinois Press and won the 2014 National Women’s Studies Association First Book Prize, analyzes the migrant domestic workers’ movement in Canada. It scrutinizes the dynamics and debates within the movement and how different organizations have responded to Canada’s various migrant domestic worker programs. Current research projects include an analysis of Canada’s Temporary Foreign Worker Program and the effects recent policy changes have wrought on civil society and on temporary foreign workers, an analysis of international organizations’ competing agendas on ‘rights-promotion’ versus ‘migration management,’ and a comparative assessment of migrant domestic worker movements globally.

2:30pm – 2:45pm

VH 3000

**Coffee Break**

2:45pm – 4:30pm

VH 3004

**Post-Secondary Sector Strikes**

Chair:

**Steven Tufts (York University)**

**Kyle Bailey (York University)**

Lessons from the 2015 CUPE Local 3903 Strike

**Ellie Ade Kur & Robert Fajber (University of Toronto)**

Strike Defeated or Strike Deferred? Judging the Outcomes of the 2015 CUPE 3902 Strike

**Christian Pépin & Thomas Chiasson-LeBel (York University)**

The Strikes at York and UofT: Lessons for a Social Movement Unionism

VH 3005

**Global Capitalism, Resources, Regulation**

Chair:

**TBA**

**Matt Corbeil (York University)**

The Provincial State, The Mining Industry and the Struggle for Occupational Health and Safety in Ontario, 1965-1979

**Sadia Khan (York University)**

Labour in the Colonies: Adam Smith's Liberal Internationalism and its Contradictions

**Katie Mazer (University of Toronto)**

Mining Manpower: Rural Poverty, Resource Extraction, and the Politics of Viability

**Vanisha Sukdeo (Osgoode Hall Law School)**

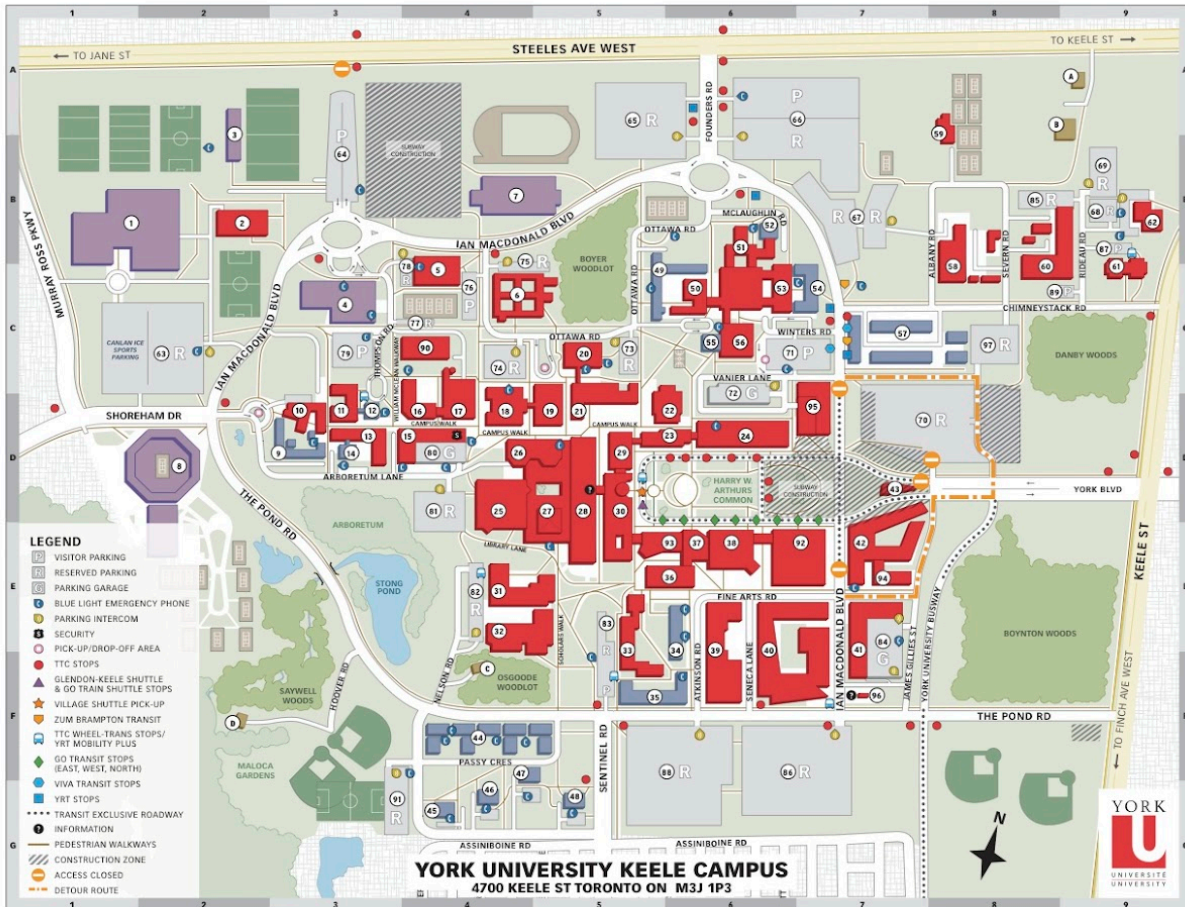
Regulating Labour and Capital: Corporations in a Transnational Context

5:00pm – 7:00pm

**Shopsy's Sports Grill**

**Conference Social**

# Campus Map



**YORK UNIVERSITY KEELE CAMPUS**  
4700 KEELE ST TORONTO ON M3J 1P3

## CAMPUS DIRECTORY

### ACADEMIC, ADMINISTRATIVE & COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

59 Albany Road	ALB	A8
92 Accolade East	ACE	E7
93 Accolade West	ACW	E6
95 Archives of Ontario*	AO	D7
33 Atkinson	ATK	E5
29 Behavioural Science	BSB	D5
41 Bennett Centre for Student Services, Admissions	BICS	E7
24 Bookstore, York Lanes	YL	D6
10 Calumet College	CC	D3
27 Central Square	CSQ	D5
58 Central Utilities Building	CUB	B8
38 Centre for Film & Theatre	CFT	E6
16 Chemistry	CB	D4
62 Computer Methods Building**	CMB	B9
26 Curtis Lecture Halls	CLH	D5
6 East Office Building	EOB	C4
94 Executive Learning Centre	ELC	E7
21 Farquharson Life Sciences	FRQ	D5
50 Founders College	FC	C6
31 Health, Nursing & Environmental Studies	HNE	E4
32 Ignat Kamefil Building, Osgoode Hall Law School	OSG	E4
36 Joan & Martin Goldfarb Centre for Fine Arts	CFA	E5
61 Kinsmen	K	C9
19 Lassonde Building	LAS	D5
90 Life Sciences Building	LSB	C4
43 Loren R. Marsden Honour Court & Welcome Centre*	HC	D7
20 Lumbers	LUM	C5
51 McLaughlin College	MC	B6
11 Norman Bethune College	BC	D3
17 Observatory, Petrie	PSE	D4
17 Petrie Science & Engineering	PSE	D4
60 Physical Resources Building	PRB	B9
28 Ross Building	R	D5

25 Scott Library	SCL	D5
27 Scott Religious Centre, CSQ	SRC	D4
40 Seneca @ York, Stephen E. Quinlan Building**	SAY	E7
42 Seymour Schulich Building	SSB	E7
2 Sherman Health Science Research Centre	SHR	B2
18 Stacke Science & Engineering Library Research Centre	STL	D4
22 Stedman Lecture Halls	SLH	D3
13 Stong College	SC	D3
23 Student Centre	STC	D6
4 Tall McKenzie Centre	TM	C3
39 Technology Enhanced Learning	TEL	E4
96 Temporary Welcome Centre	TC	F7
56 Vanier College	VC	C6
30 Vari Hall	VH	D5
5 West Office Building	WOB	C4
15 William Small Centre	WSC	D4
53 Winters College	WC	C6
24 York Lanes	YL	D6
95 York Research Tower	YRT	D7

### RESIDENCES & APARTMENTS

48 320 Assiniboine Road	ASZ	G5
47 380 Assiniboine Road	ASA	F4
46 360 Assiniboine Road	ASG	G4
45 380 Assiniboine Road	ASB	G4
34 Atkinson Residence	AR	E6
12 Bethune Residence	BR	D3
9 Calumet Residence	CR	D3
49 Founders Residence	FR	C5
57 Harry Sherman Crowe Housing Co-op**	HCC	C7
44 Passy Gardens, 2-18 Passy Cres.	PASSY	F4
35 The Pond Road Residence	PON	F3
14 Stong Residence	SR	D3
52 Tatham Hall	TH	B6
55 Vanier Residence	VR	C6
54 Winters Residence	WR	C7

### PARKING GARAGES - VISITORS

80 Arboretum Lane Parking Garage	ARB	D4
84 Student Services Parking Garage	SSP	E7
72 York Lanes Parking Garage	YLP	D6

### PARKING LOTS - VISITORS

83 Atkinson Lot	A5
66 Founders Road East Lot	A6
64 Northwest Gate Temporary Lot	B3
79 Thompson Road Lot	C4
71 Vanier Lot	C7
76 West Office Building East Lot	C9
89 Physical Resources Building South Visitor Lot	C9
87 Kinsmen Lot	B9

### PARKING LOTS - RESERVED

67 Albany Road Lot	B7
83 Atkinson Lot	E5
97 Chimney Stack Lot	C8
75 East Office Building Lot	B4
66 Founders Road East Lot	A6
65 Founders Road West Lot	A5
81 Library Lot	D4
73 Lumbers Lot	C5
82 Nelson Road Lot	E4
91 Passy Crescent Lot	G3
85 Physical Resources Building North Lot	D7
68 Physical Resources Lot	B9
69 Rideau Road Lot	B9
88 Sentinel Road Lot	F6
63 Shoreham Drive Lot	C2
74 Steacie Lot	C4
77 Tall McKenzie Lot	C3
86 The Pond Road East Lot	F7
71 Vanier Lot	C7
78 West Office Building West Lot	C4
70 York Boulevard Lot	B8

### VISUAL PERFORMANCE ARTS FACILITIES

92 Art Gallery of York University	ACE	E7
37 Burton Auditorium*	BU	E6
92 Gales Gallery	ACW	E6
38 Joseph G. Green Studio Theatre	CFT	E6
92 McLean Performance Studio	ACE	E7
92 Price Family Cinema	ACE	E7
92 Sandra Faire & Ivan Fecan Theatre	ACE	E7
92 Tribute Communities Recital Hall	ACE	E7

### SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES

1 Canlan Ice Sports*	ICE	B1
4 Tall McKenzie Centre	TM	C3
8 Tennis Canada - Rewall Centre*	TC	D2
7 Track & Field Centre*	TFC	B4
3 York Stadium	STA	A2

### HISTORICAL HOUSE

C Hart House	HH	F4
D Hoover House	HOH	F2
B Stong Barn	SB	A9
A Stong House	SH	A9

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JANUARY 2012