SOCIETY FOR SOCIALIST STUDIES
Rekindling the Socialist Imagination
CONGRESS 2018
Regina
On June 3, 1935, at the height of the Great Depression, over 1,000 striking workers hopped on eastbound boxcars from relief camps in British Columbia, with the aim of traveling to Ottawa to demand employment and fair wages from the federal government of R.B. Bennett. As the trains rolled into Regina after the eleven-day journey, the On-to-Ottawa Trek was met with RCMP blockades – word had come from Ottawa that the railway companies should not allow their trains to go any further east. After two weeks of failed negotiations, the Trekkers and their supporters rallied in Regina's Market Square on July 1st. Shortly after this photo was taken, city police and mounted RCMP officers charged the crowd of 300 with baseball bats and billy clubs, arresting 130 and injuring dozens. It would come to be known as the Regina Riot – the violent climax to the country’s greatest crisis of capitalism.

Captured in this photo is a rally and round dance held in Regina on February 24, 2018 demanding #JusticeForTina after the acquittal of Raymond Cormier for Tina Fontaine’s murder. This gathering followed another large rally two weeks earlier when Gerald Stanley was acquitted of the murder of Colten Boushie, a young Indigenous man from Red Pheasant Cree Nation. Photo credit: Evie Ruddy.

We would like to remind all participants that we will be on the territories of the nêhiyawak (Cree), Anihšināpēk (Saulteaux), Dakota, Lakota, and Nakoda, and the homeland of the Métis Peoples. Today, these Treaty Four lands continue to be the shared territory of many diverse peoples from near and far. The nêhiyawak originally referred to Regina as oskana kā-asastēki which literally means “The place where bones are piled up.” This is why Regina’s nickname is “Pile O’Bones” and this is the origin of the name Wascana Park, where the University of Regina and its federated colleges (First Nations University of Canada, Cam- pion College, and Luther College) sit. The Society for Socialist Studies acknowledges ongoing colonization across Turtle Island and the world and commits to dismantling colonial systems as a necessary part of its work for social(ist) justice.
SOCIETY FOR SOCIALIST STUDIES

Rekindling the Socialist Imagination

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA
REGINA, SK
MAY 29 - MAY 31, 2018

FINAL PROGRAMME

SSS 2018 Programme Committee:

Tanya Andrusieczko, Angele Alook, Elaine Coburn, Emily Eaton (Chair), Margot Hurlbert (Local Area Coordinator), Jamie Lawson, Shawn O’Dell (Programme Assistant), Sebastián Vielmas. With input from the Executive Committee of the Society for Socialist Studies.
**Note about Session Chairs:** Where no session chair has been indicated in the programme, session participants are expected to appoint one at the beginning of their session from the audience or the panel of speakers.

**Greeting Tables:** Please visit the SSS greeting table to pick up your conference programme, special issue of *Briarpatch Magazine*, and recharge yourself with refreshments and nibbles. The greeting table moves each day. See the programme at a glance below for locations.

**PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE**

**TUESDAY, MAY 29**

Greeting table outside CL 136

**8:30 - 10:00 Concurrent Sessions A**

A2 (CL 136): Socialisms and Literatures
A3 (CL 109): Neoliberal Environments: Commodifying, Privatizing and Automating

**10:00 - 10:30 BREAK**

**10:30 - 12:00 Concurrent Sessions B**

B2 (CL 136): Activism Against the Academy: Critical Reflections on Activist Ethnographies
B3 (CL 109): Global Capitalism, Value, and Imperialism
B4 (CL 135.4): Book Launch – *Corporatizing Canada: Making Business out of Public Service*

**12:00 - 1:30 LUNCH**

Welcome and Book Prize Reception (CL 317)

**1:30 - 3:00 Concurrent Sessions C**

C1 (CL 317): Futures of Feminisms
C2 (CL 136): Overcoming Schisms in Socialism
C3 (CL 109): The Canadian State and Unemployment
C4 (CL 135.4): Migrant Workers and the Social Reproduction of Capitalism

3:00 – 3:30 BREAK

3:30 – 5:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS D
D1 (CL 317): Canadian Copyright: Understanding the Problem, Seeking Solutions. Publisher’s Perspective
D2 (CL 136): The “Alt Right” and Its Utilization of “Free Speech” Discourse
D3 (CL 109): Marxist Theories of Being, Class Consciousness, and Revolution
D4 (CL 135.4): The Politics of Treaty Interpretation and the Tasks of Inheritance

6:00 – 8:00 BRIARPATCH RECEPTION
Snapshots of Unrest: Protest in Regina & Saskatchewan, 1970 to 2000. (Neil Balkwill Civic Arts Centre - 2420 Elphinstone St.)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29
Greeting table outside LY 107.32

8:30 – 10:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS E
E1 (LY 107.32): Corporate Power, Fossil Capital, Climate Crisis
E2 (LY 612): Social Change and Musical Work
E3 (LY 107.33): Socialist Futures: Engaging Additional Critical Theories

10:00 – 10:30 BREAK

10:30 – 12:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS F
F1 (LY 107.32): From Corporate Power to Climate Justice: Towards an Agenda for Transformation
F2 (LY 612): What Would Democratic Consultation Look Like?
F3 (LY 107.33): Intellectual Labour: Academe as Commodity

12:00 – 1:30 LUNCH
1:30 – 3:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS G
G1 (LY 107.32): Parliamentarist and Extra-Parliamentarist Paths to Socialism
G2 (LY 612): Abolitionist Politics Today
G3 (LY 107.33): Reconciling Social Justice and Truth

3:00 – 3:30 BREAK

3:30 – 5:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS H
H1 (LY 107.32): Policing and Authoritarianism
H2 (LY 612): Workers’ Councils and Cooperatives
H3 (LY 107.33): Environmental Politics in the Anthropocene

5:00 – 7:00 PRESIDENT’S RECEPTION (CK 122)

7:00 – LATE BANQUET
Bushwakker Brew Pub (2206 Dewdney Ave.)

THURSDAY, MAY 31
Greeting table outside ED 106.2

8:30 – 10:00 SESSION I
(ED 489) Media, Art, and Imagining Socialism

10:00 – 10:30 BREAK

10:30 – 12:00 SESSION J
(ED 489) Québec-Canada: How to Rethink a Left Convergence

12:00 – 1:30 LUNCH
Keynote: Brigitte Baptiste, “Queer Layers for Life Meaning” (ED 106.2)

1:30 – 3:00
Plenary: “Manifestos and Movements: Political Struggles and Political Imaginations” (ED 106.2)
3:00 – 3:30 BREAK

3:30 – 5:00 AGM (ED 106.2)

FRIDAY, JUNE 1

10:45 – 12:00
Keynote (co-sponsored with CAWLS): Larry Rousseau, “Reflections on the Fight for Equity in Canada’s Labour Movement” (ED 193)

DETAILED PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, MAY 29

CONCURRENT SESSIONS A

8:30 -10:00 SESSION A1
Location: (CL) 317
The Media, Trumpism, and Liberalism Collide in the 21st Century – 1 of 2
Organizer: Margot Hurlbert, University of Regina

The media reflects an institutional expression of thoughts, ideas, and issues in society. For over a century, the Supreme Court of Canada has protected the rights of the media to be free from influence and control of the government. Now in the 21st century new social processes create a complex, institutional landscape where conflicting and diverse interests are represented in varying degrees and manners. The media has also expanded from newspapers, magazines, into new media platforms and practices becoming multi-national and global in scope. This panel broaches questions such as: How in the 21st century are the voices of diverse Canadian and American perspectives represented, or not in the media? Has the ultra-conservative media created a hegemonic apparatus that has levelled a successful long-range multi-front assault on liberalism? What are the countervailing media practices and processes opposing this multi-front assault?
Chair: **Margot Hurlbert**, University of Regina  
Speakers:  
**Margot Hurlbert**, University of Regina: *The Changing Nature of Freedom of Speech*  
**Mitch Diamantopoulos**, University of Regina: *The Road to Trump’s Triumph: The Rise of Right-Wing Media Alternatives and the Collapse of the Journalistic Centre*  
**Kim Pollock**, University of Regina: *Who Are the Real “Deplorables”: How Did Workers Actually Vote in 2016 and Where Does That Leave Us?*

**8:30 -10:00  SESSION A2**  
Location: (CL) 136  
**Socialisms and Literatures**

Literatures of hope and imagination provide us with the opportunity to understand our world outside of the constraints of present structures of power. But instead of being an escape from the world, literature can foster deeper understanding and affinity with subjectivities and realities that are not immediate to our experience. This session will focus on literatures that foreground hope and imagination and will reflect on how these literary texts might help us better understand revolution and resistance.

Chair: TBD  
Speakers:  
**Kevin Malton**, McMaster University: *“This Was the Time We Were Here”: Hope, Revolution, and the Utopian Desire in China Mieville’s Bas-Lag Trilogy*  
**Sabujkoli Bandopadhyay**, University of Regina: *Imagination, Activism and Resistance: Lessons from Three Women’s Texts from the Global South*  
**Vicki Macris**, University of Alberta: *Co-Creating a Socialist Classroom Through Student-Centered Pedagogies*

**8:30 -10:00  SESSION A3**  
Location: (CL) 109  
**Neoliberal Environments: Commodifying, Privatizing and Automating**

In this session participants consider processes of commodification, privatization and automation as they relate to resources, extraction, and public services. The focus is on the neoliberal period and on identifying the winners and losers, and thus the class outcomes, of these processes.

Chair: TBD  
Speakers:  
**Niloofar Golkar**, York University: *Automation and Environment:*
Environmental Destruction, Mining, and Unemployment

Garson Hunter and Miguel Sanchez, University of Regina: Frenzied Non-Renewable Resource Extraction in Saskatchewan During the Boom. Where Did the Economic Benefits Settle?

JoAnn Jaffe, University of Regina, and Michael E. Gertler, University of Saskatchewan: Primitive Privatization: Dismantling the Commons and the Common Carrier in Saskatchewan

Adrian Murray, University of Ottawa: Crisis, Commodification and Social Reproduction: The Cape Town Water Crisis and the Politics of Social Movement Defense

CONCURRENT SESSIONS B

10:30 –12:00 SESSION B1
Location: Classroom Building (CL) 317

The Media, Trumpism, and Liberalism Collide in the 21st Century – 1of 2
Organizer: Margot Hurlbert, University of Regina

The media reflects an institutional expression of thoughts, ideas, and issues in society. For over a century, the Supreme Court of Canada has protected the rights of the media to be free from influence and control of the government. Now in the 21st century new social processes create a complex, institutional landscape where conflicting and diverse interests are represented in varying degrees and manners. The media has also expanded from newspapers, magazines, into new media platforms and practices becoming multi-national and global in scope. This panel broaches questions such as: How in the 21st century are the voices of diverse Canadian and American perspectives represented, or not in the media? Has the ultra-conservative media created a hegemonic apparatus that has levelled a successful long-range multi-front assault on liberalism? What are the countervailing media practices and processes opposing this multi-front assault?

Chair: Margot Hurlbert, University of Regina
Speakers:

Honor Brabazon, University of Toronto and Kirsten Kozolanka, Carleton University: Neoliberalism, Authoritarian-Populism, and Democracy in the Publicity State: The Harper Years and Beyond

William Solomon, Rutgers University: Framing Financial News

Alan Freeman, University of Manitoba: Making the Crime Fit the Punishment: RussiaGate and the Criminalisation of Communication in the United States of America
10:30–12:00 Session B2
Location: (CL) 136
Activism Against the Academy: Critical Reflections on Activist Ethnographies
Organizers: Devin Clancy and Colin Hastings, York University

This session invites contributions from researchers who employ ethnography to advance activist struggles. Such work may be broadly defined as engaged activist research, activist scholarship, participatory research, or community-based research. We especially encourage reflections on ethnographic projects conducted as part of grassroots anti-colonial, anti-racist, anti-capitalist, anti-fascist, abolitionist, feminist, anarchist, socialist, and harm-reduction organizing among others. Participants may engage with questions such as: How can researchers effectively mobilize ethnographic findings to advance activist projects? How might ethnographers navigate the disparate expectations of the neoliberal academy and activist organizations? What particular activist ethnographic strategies have been most productive in your work?

Chairs: Devin Clancy and Colin Hastings, York University
Speakers:
Annelies Cooper, Mandi Gray, and Laura Pin, York University: Curated Consultation and the Illusion of Inclusion in York University’s Sexual Assault Policy-Making Process
Karl Gardner, York University: University-Based Research On, With, and For Social Movements
Ann-Marie Urban and Laurie Clune, University of Regina: Situating Nurses and Their Work through an IE approach
Thania Vega, York University: The Challenges of Activist Research with Workers in Precarious Conditions of Employment

10:30–12:00 Session B3
Location: (CL) 109
Global Capitalism, Value, and Imperialism
As an inherently expansionary system of value creation, capitalism must be understood alongside imperialism. In this session, papers examine how value and wealth circulate in the global capitalist system with a focus on the recirculation of financial waste, the repatriation of artifacts and wealth looted during colonization, and the imperial nature of the Canadian capitalist state’s extraction of value from the global south.

Chair: TBD
Speakers:
Henry Heller, University of Manitoba: Between Sovereignty and U.S.
Domination: The Brief Prime of Canadian Imperialism
Aina-Obe Shamsuddin Bolatito, Sudan University of Science and Technology: The Colonization Lasts; Stolen Assets and the Lost Wealth, the Repatriation Obstacles Confronting Nigeria
Rob Aitken, University of Alberta: The Afterlives of Global Capital: Recirculating Financial Waste

10:30 – 12:00 SESSION B4
Location: (CL) 135.4
Book Launch: Corporatizing Canada: Making Business out of Public Service
Organizer: Chris Hurl, Concordia University

A book launch for the recently published collection from Between the Lines press, looking at the impacts of corporatization and corporate-style governance on Canada’s public sector. Over the past three decades, some of Canada’s most crucial public services – including education, healthcare, transportation and utilities – have started to mimic private enterprises in the way they operate. The panel will feature authors from the collection, speaking to how this has played out in a range of different areas including state policy-making and planning, health care, criminal justice, education, and social and community services.

Speakers:
Chris Hurl, Concordia University
Kevin Walby, University of Winnipeg
Jamie Brownlee, Carleton University
Claire Polster, University of Regina
William Carroll, University of Victoria

12:15 – 1:15 WELCOME AND BOOK PRIZE RECEPTION
Location: Classroom Building (CL) 317

Join us for a warm welcome to Congress. The Erroll Sharpe Book Prize is an award for the best work on socialist and allied struggles through a Canadian press and/or by a Canadian author. The book honours Erroll Sharpe, a key figure in progressive publishing circles in Canada and in the ongoing life of the Society for Socialist Studies. Winning authors are presented with a plaque at a suitable moment in our annual conference where all participants can attend. Previous prize winners include Todd Gordon and Jeremy Webber for their work on resistance to Canadian mining interests in Latin America, Blood of Extraction (Fernwood Publishing), and Glenn Coulthard for his Red Skin, White Masks (University of Minnesota Press). Nominations for next year’s prize
(covering the 2018 publishing year) will open by early next year and may be submitted by consulting instructions published at the Society’s website, socialiststudies.ca.

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS C**

**1:30 – 3:00 SESSION C1**  
Location: Classroom Building (CL) 317  
**Futures of Feminisms**  
Organizer: **Elaine Coburn**, York University

This interdisciplinary session invites critical reflections about the futures of feminisms, in theory and in everyday practices. Contributors may draw on historical analyses that inform possible feminist futures or map contemporary fields of feminisms -- queer, Indigenous, intersectional, trans, global South, socialist, eco-feminist and more -- as entry points into imagining ways towards feminist futures. What challenges do feminist futures face? And what might the futures of feminisms look like, in all their tensions and contradictions but also liberatory possibilities.

Chair: **Elaine Coburn**, York University  
Speakers:  
**Fiona Macdonald**, University of the Fraser Valley: *2018 Feminists: Problematizing the “Year of the Man”*  
**Peter Hodsman**, King's University College: *Zero Point Two Percent: Male Feminist Ally-ship and Gender Privilege in Academia*  
**Tiffany Boulton**, University of Lethbridge: *Disturbing Binaries: Feminist Disability Theory and Liminal Embodiment*  
**Meg Howison**, York University: *The Sins of Academia: Attitudinal Ableism in Post-Secondary Institutions*

**1:30 – 3:00 SESSION C2**  
Location: Classroom Building (CL) 136  
**Overcoming Schisms in Socialism**  
Organizer: **Sean McMahon**, American University, Cairo and **Sandra Rein**, University of Alberta

Schisms have long defined socialist relations and processes and their expression in ideas, from Marx and Bakunin through to dialecticians and “non-bullshit Marxists,” to autonomists and neo-Marxists and the Frankfurt School. Recalling that in Doctor Zhivago Pasternak observes that “[p]rogress in science is governed by the laws of repulsion, every step forward is made by refutation of prevalent errors and false theories,”
this panel seeks papers that productively use repulsion between scholars and/or tendencies in the socialist tradition to create new scientific analyses of our changing historic moment. Papers expressing combinations of acutely incompatible or seemingly irreconcilable socialist ideas are particularly encouraged.

Chair: **Sean McMahon**, American University, Cairo
Speakers:
- **Sean McMahon**, American University, Cairo: *Selling Ideas: Realizing Surplus Value and Hegemony*
- **Sandra Rein**, University of Alberta: *Recovering and Overcoming: Raya Dunayevskaya, Marxist Humanism and “Orthodox” Marxism*
- **Radhika Desai**, University of Manitoba: *Marx and Polanyi as Socialists*
- **Alexandre Charron**, University of Victoria: *The Economic Theories of Rosa Luxemburg and Michal Kalecki: Continuity or Rupture?*

**1:30 – 3:00 SESSION C3**
Location: Classroom Building (CL) 109
The Canadian State and Unemployment

This session brings together a broad discussion about the nature of the Canadian state and issues of unemployment. It provides perspectives on specific regulatory challenges as well as broader theoretical analysis. Papers discuss the role of the Canadian business lobby, the precarity that self-employed people face without access to standard employment insurance benefits; and the relevance of Marx's theory of unemployment for understanding contemporary capitalism.

Chair: TBD
Speakers:
- **Wilfred Lynch**, University of Toronto: *Canadian State and “Canadian” Capital: Understanding the Big Business Lobby Group Using the Marxist Theory of the State*
- **Leslie Nichols**, Wilfred Laurier University: *Review of the Unemployment Benefits Program for Self-Employed Canadians: Are Marginalized Workers Disadvantaged?*

**1:30 – 3:00 SESSION C4**
Location: Classroom Building (CL) 135.4
Migrant Workers and the Social Reproduction of Capitalism
Organizer: **Andrew Stevens**, University of Regina
Over the last decade the Canadian government has recruited and accepted a growing number of foreign workers. Programs like the Temporary Foreign Worker program have constructed labour markets for low-wage industries in social reproductive work – for example in care-giving and in accommodation and food services sectors. In this session, papers examine the impacts on workers in these low-paid social-reproductive sectors and how this labour has become essential to contemporary capitalism.

Chair: Andrew Stevens, University of Regina
Speakers:
Andrew Stevens, University of Regina: We Can’t Have Line-Ups at Tim Horton’s: Migrant Workers and the Social Reproduction of Prairie Capitalism in Saskatchewan
Adam R. Belton, University of Alberta: Temporary Foreign Workers’ Exploits in Neoliberal Policies and Lobbying by the Alberta Hotel and Lodging Association

CONCURRENT SESSIONS D

3:30 – 5:00 SESSION D1
Location: Classroom Building (CL) 317
Canadian Copyright: Understanding the Problem, Seeking Solutions. Publisher’s Perspective.
Organizer: Errol Sharpe, Fernwood Publishing

In the last five years there’s been lots of conflict in the academic community around copyright. Many champion open access, while publishers and authors decry the decline in their earnings for use of their material. Those of us who are small, independent publishers in Canada are torn between our objective to see as many readers as possible reading our books, and our need to generate the revenues that pay for our publishing activity. The supreme court ruling against the practices of York University opens the debate around copyright. The panel will analyze these issues and propose a way forward.

Speakers:
Errol Sharpe, Fernwood Publishing.
Jeff Miller, President and publisher of Irwin Law Inc.
The New Far Right has increasingly and frequently quite successfully used a discourse concerning free speech, and sometimes even academic freedom, to advance their political agendas and also to discredit universities (for examples as being suppressors of free speech left wing thought police) in the eyes of the general public. There has been a disturbing blurring of discursive lines between those of the far right and those of the mainstream media, as became quite apparent, for example, in the Wilfrid Laurier University issue(s). This session asks for papers analysing this phenomenon and also considerations for what should be appropriate and effective socialist responses.

Chair: Garry Potter, Wilfred Laurier University

Speakers:
- Garry Potter, Wilfred Laurier University: The Asymmetry of Left and Right
- Yuri Forbes-Petrovich, Lakehead University: Tactical Freedom of Speech and Strategic Social Censorship: The Rhetorical Politics of the Alt-Right
- Jerrold L. Kachur, University of Alberta: Masquerading in the Beard of a Prophet: Trump’s Truth-Talk and the Poverty of Democratic Moralism
- Peter McInnis, St Francis Xavier University: Academic Freedom Under Duress

2018 marks Karl Marx's 200th birthday, and 170 years since the publication of the Communist Manifesto. While Marx is perhaps best known for his efforts to interpret the political economy of capitalism, he also contributed substantially to theories of class consciousness, subjectivity and social being. In this session, papers explore the contemporary relevance of Marxist theories of subjectivity and their capacity to explain failed revolutions and the continuation of capitalism (for now!).

Chair: TBD

Speakers:
- Robert P. Biezenski, University of Regina: The New Materialist Conception of History
- Rupi Minhas, York University: The Politics of Possibility - Examining the
Contours of the German Revolution, 1918-23

Gerald de Montigny, Carleton University: Marxist Social Work?

3:30 – 5:00 SESSION D4
Location: Classroom Building (CL) 135.4
The Politics of Treaty Interpretation and the Tasks of Inheritance
Organizer: Corey J. Snelgrove, University of British Columbia

Ignored within socialism and CPE, this panel suggests the relevance of treaty interpretation to the Left. Snelgrove presents a critique of CPE from the standpoint of treaty. Starblanket asks how Indigenous peoples might move towards forms of political identity, action and organizing that embody the spirit and animate the intent of treaties. Stark shows how the interpretation of treaties by higher courts detaches Indigenous political authority from territory and citizens to particular cultural practices serving to legitimize colonial expansion through land acquisition.

Chair: Corey J. Snelgrove, University of British Columbia
Speakers:
Corey J. Snelgrove, University of British Columbia: Treaty Differences: Towards a Politics of Interpretation
Gina Starblanket, University of Manitoba: Beyond Rights and Wrongs: Towards a Treaty-Based Practice of Relationality
Heidi Kiiwetinepinesiik Stark, University of Victoria: Treaty Rights and the De-territorialization of Indigenous Political Authority

6:00 – 8:00 BRIARPATCH RECEPTION
Snapshots of Unrest: Protest in Regina & Saskatchewan, 1970s to 2000
Location: Neil Balkwill Civic Arts Centre, 2420 Elphinstone St.
Snapshots of Unrest presents photos from Saskatchewan and Regina’s radical past, pulled from the archives of Briarpatch Magazine, one of Saskatchewan’s last remaining independent magazines. Join local activists in discussion and dialogue in a casual atmosphere as they look back on 30 years of struggles led by Indigenous peoples, workers, students, and farmers that shaped our city and province.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

CONCURRENT SESSIONS E
**8:30 - 10:00 SESSION E1**

Location: Library (LY) 107.32

**Corporate Power, Fossil Capital, Climate Crisis**

Organizer: **William Carroll**, University of Victoria

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

Chair: **William Carroll**, University of Victoria

Speakers:

**William Carroll**, University of Victoria: Who Owns Canada’s Carbon-Capital Sector?


**Lisa Mills**, Carleton University: Not Just a “Black-and-Green” conflict: The Conflict over the Proposed LNG Hub in Western Australia’s Kimberley Region and the Politics of Time

**Shannon Daub**, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives: Contested Capture: The Natural Gas Industry’s Outsized Influence in British Columbia

**8:30 - 10:00 SESSION E2**

Location: Library (LY) 612

**Social Change and Musical Work**

Organizer: **Rick Hesch**

In what ways can musical performance and/or song writing contribute to our work for social justice? In what ways has neoliberal political economy both motivated and constrained the possibilities for socially conscious musical appreciation? How do politically conscious musicians produce their creative labour? Does public schooling remain a site for music educators to advance socially just understandings? Is insurgent music an effective way to support the mission of social movements? These are some of the questions which provoke the research and writing of the
Chair: **Rick Hesch**  
Speakers:  
*Rick Hesch*: Maria Dunn: Case Study of a Musical and Under-Recognized Working Class “Hero”  
*Gregg Olsen*, University of Manitoba: Power and Resistance: The Politics of Music  
*Jonah Olsen*, University of Manitoba: “No Hay Revolución Sin Canciones”: The Musical Revolutions of 1973

**8:30 – 10:00 SESSION E3**  
Location: Library (LY) 107.33  
**Socialist Futures: Engaging Additional Critical Theories**

The work of envisioning socialist futures and acting upon them requires an understanding of the complex and multifaceted examples provided by movements of the past. It also requires revolutionary theories that go beyond conventional Marxism to include insights from other critical theories. Papers in this session explore insights from social movements such as Occupy, disciplines such as psychology, and critical theories such as post-colonialism and critical whiteness and show what they can contribute to contemporary socialist politics.

Chair: TBD  
Speakers:  
*Emma York*, University of Saskatchewan: The Fascist in Us All: What Social Psychology Offers for Socialist Futures  
*Holly Campbell*, University of Regina: Building Socialism from Below: Luxemburg, Sears, and the Case of Occupy and Other Social Movements  
*Eleonora Roldán Mendivil*, University of Hamburg: Marxism and Race: Towards a Fruitful Conversation

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS F**

**10:30 -12:00 SESSION F1**  
Location: Library (LY) 107.32  
**From Corporate Power to Climate Justice: Towards an Agenda for Transformation**  
Organizer: **Shannon Daub**, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives  
This session explores the question of what is to be done about the fossil fuel industry as a source of obstruction to urgent and interrelated efforts to address climate change, realize Indigenous Rights and Title,
and democratize energy systems. It is hosted by the Corporate Mapping Project, a partnership investigating the role and power of the fossil fuel industry. As the partnership approaches its midpoint, we are turning our attention increasingly to solutions. The session considers various avenues for challenging corporate power, including institutional and political reforms; Indigenous resurgence and land-based rights; citizen- and social movement-led resistance; efforts based in law; and/or the development of alternative visions that challenge carboniferous capitalism itself.

Chair: Shannon Daub, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

Speakers:
Shannon Daub, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives: Wind-Down: Considerations for the Managed Decline of Fossil Fuel Industries
Robert Hackett, Simon Fraser University: The Democratic Media and the Path to Climate Justice
David Langille, York University: From Corporate Power to Pocket Power: Examining the Potential for Community-Based Alternatives
James Lawson, University of Victoria: Lines of Work, Corridors of Power: Chains of Extraction as the Sources of Corporate Powers of Obstruction

10:30 – 12:00 SESSION F2
Location: Library (LY) 612

What Would Democratic Consultation Look Like?
Organizer: Amber Fletcher, University of Regina

This roundtable examines the possibilities and alternatives for more effective public engagement on women’s and gender issues in Canada. Based on a current SSHRC-funded project entitled “Engendering Public Engagement, Democratizing Public Space”, the roundtable will begin with a brief commentary on what made the 1968-1970 Royal Commission on the Status of Women one of the most successful public consultations. The organisers will present insights from the SSHRC project’s five pilot exercises across the country. Participants with experience of other consultations are encouraged to join us to explore what a truly democratic public engagement process could look like.

Chair: Amber Fletcher, University of Regina

Speakers:
Alana Cattapan, University of Saskatchewan: Power, Privilege, and Policy Making: Reflections on “Changing Public Engagement from the Ground Up
Amber J. Fletcher and Adela Kincaid, University of Regina: A Survey and a Map: Prompting Public Engagement on Women’s Issues in Saskatchewan
Barbara Cameron, York University: *Gender, Representation and Public Engagement*

10:30 – 12:00 SESSION F3  
Location: Library (LY) 107.33  
**Intellectual Labour: Academe as Commodity**  
Organizer: Chad D. Thompson, College of New Caledonia

Alfred Sohn-Rethel, a figure at the margins of the Frankfurt School, towards the end of his career published his life’s work, *Intellectual and Manual Labour*. In this work, Sohn-Rethel sought to understand the status of the products of intellectual labour in the context of the commodity. What might this mean today? What becomes of traditional knowledge within academe? Can – or should - Enlightenment insistence on the unity of teaching and research be maintained? What are the implications of the “adjunctification” of higher education for scholarship? This session invites proposals on any aspect of intellectual labour and commodification.

Chair: Chad D. Thompson, College of New Caledonia  
Speakers:  
Chad D. Thompson, College of New Caledonia: *Academic Apostasy: Ruminations from Former Faculty*  
Gerald de Montigny, Carleton University: *Universities for Sale: Let Me Count the Ways*  

12:00 – 1:30 KEYNOTE LECTURE  
Location: Education Auditorium (EA) 106  
Cherry Smiley, Concordia University: *Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada: What’s Missing from the Conversation?*

This presentation will critically examine the discourse in regard to male violence against Indigenous women and girls in Canada with a focus on the National Inquiry that is currently in progress. Historical causes, contemporary issues, and possible solutions will be addressed from an Indigenous feminist perspective.

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS G**
1:30 – 3:00 SESSION G1
Location: Library (LY) 107.32
Parliamentary and Extra-Parliamentary Paths to Socialism

The challenges presented to political movements that seek electoral power are underscored by four compelling papers in this session. Authors provide analysis of socialist thinkers and radical left organizing outside of and within state structures. This session will help us better understand the common global tensions around seeking state power versus maintaining radical integrity.

Chair: TBD
Speakers:
Paul Christopher Gray, Brock University: Slaying Leviathan: Reconciling ‘Parliamentarism’ and ‘Extra-Parliamentarism’ through Common Strategies to Transform the State
Sarker Kanchan, University of British Columbia – Okanagan Campus: Spring Thunder Over India: 50 Years of Naxalbari Movements
Paolo Aguindia, National University of San Marcos: A Critical Analysis of a Possible Social Democratic in Perú
Mojtaba Mahdavi, University of Alberta: Imagining Indigenous Democratic Socialism in the Muslim Context?

1:30 – 3:00 SESSION G2
Location: Library (LY) 612
Abolitionist Politics Today
Organizer: Jeff Shantz, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

This session invites papers addressing aspects of the developing theories and practices of contemporary movements for criminal justice system abolition. Papers may address any focus of abolition, for example prison abolition, police abolition, anti-statism, etc., as well as specific community-based projects. Papers focusing on alternatives to statist criminal justice are also welcomed.

Chair: Jeff Shantz, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Speakers:
Jeff Shantz, Kwantlen Polytechnic University: Abolitionist Perspectives on Punitive Accumulation and the Neoliberal Containment State
Josephine L. Savarese, St Thomas University: The Coldest of Shoulders: Making Canada Account for the Treatment of Abdoul Abdi
Tamari Kitossa, Brock University: Prison Abolitionism and the Anti-Criminology Classroom
1:30 – 3:00 SESSION G3
Location: Library (LY) 107.33
Reconciling Social Justice and Truth
Organizer: Margot Hurlbert, University of Regina

Social justice epitomizes the achievement of justice and fairness in relation to access to and the distribution of Society’s resources, recognition, procedural, and substantive justice. These goals have recently been juxtaposed against claims of free speech, freedom of religion, thought, intellectual curiosity, and academic freedom. Papers in this session will deconstruct these arguments, propose alternate framings and provide possible resolutions. Do solutions to the current conundrum require deep deliberations surrounding truth, truthiness, and post truth? Do such exercises pursue new conceptions of justice, or are these age-old arguments between qualitative and quantitative science in slightly new, different framings? All papers pursuing constructive deliberation and debate are welcome.

Chair: Margot Hurlbert, University of Regina
Speakers:
Margot Hurlbert, University of Regina: Juxtaposing the Legal Space with the Space of Discourse
Stephanie Bryson, Portland State: Can the Lifeworld Save us From Neoliberalism? Reconsidering the Contribution of Jurgen Habermas to our Understanding of Truth and Reason

CONCURRENT SESSIONS H

3:30 – 5:00 SESSION H1
Location: Library (LY) 107.32
Policing and Authoritarianism

Post September 11, 2001, police forces in Canada and across the world have gained new powers and increased the scope of their practice. This session examines both the increased material power of police forces and the (potentially) changing understanding of policing among the public and the left.

Chair: TBD
Speakers:
Ashley Carver, Saint Mary’s University: Preventive Authoritarianism: Preventative Detention in Canadian Anti-Terrorism Investigations
Will Kujala, University of Alberta: Police, Occupation, and the Prose of Counterinsurgency
Sarah E. Marshall and Tamari Kitossa, Brock University: ‘Studying Up’ the Moral Dilemmas of Police Misconduct, the Blue Code and Whistle Blowing

3:30 – 5:00 SESSION H2
Location: Library (LY) 612
Workers’ Councils and Cooperatives
Chair: TBD

This session explores empirical examples and theories of workers’ councils and cooperatives that exist alongside, and as alternatives to, the global capitalist economy. The presenters look to examples from Latin America and Spain, and develop a new ethical defence for radical democratic organization.

Speakers:
Manuel Larrabure, University of California, Santa Cruz: Post-Capitalist Development in Latin America’s Left Turn: Beyond Peronism and the Magical State
Jonah Olsen, University of Manitoba: Are Cooperatives a Viable Alternative to Capitalist Production in the Fight for Industrial Democracy?: Lessons from the Basque Country
Christopher Holman, Nanyang Technological University: Reconsidering the Significance of the Workers’ Council Phenomenon: Castoriadis and the Politics of the Autonomous Society

3:30 – 5:00 SESSION H3
Location: Library (LY) 107.33
Environmental Politics in the Anthropocene
Chair: TBD

Human activity is reshaping the earth on unprecedented scales, even leaving its imprint in the geological record. Present-day governments walk a thin line between acknowledging anthropogenic threats and risks, while also actively encouraging further environmental destruction. This session seeks to explore some of the challenges facing eco-socialist organizing in the face of unprecedented social, ecological, and political crises.

Speakers:
Yuri Forbes-Petrovich, Lakehead University: Ecosocialist Community Organizing in the Anthropocene
Harry Diaz, University of Regina: Global Environmental Change: A Challenge to a Better Society?
Curtis Shuba, University of Regina: The Politics of (Un)Sustainability in Canada
Kailah Sebastian, University of Regina: *Changing Watershed Boundaries: The Escalation of Climate Change Impacts*

5:00 – 7:00 PRESIDENT’S RECEPTION
Location: Centre for Kinesiology (CK) 122

7:30 – LATE BANQUET AT BUSHWAKKER BREW PUB
Location: 2206 Dewdney Ave.

Purchase your tickets in advance by emailing rosa1919@uvic.ca or buying one through Congress upon registration. All tickets must be reserved by May 23; there will be no walk-ins accepted. The banquet meal features steak, a prairie staple. If you would prefer a chicken or vegetarian option, please be in touch via rosa1919@uvic.ca before May 23rd. Tickets are $40 or $25 for students and unwaged.

THURSDAY, MAY 31

8:30 – 10:00 SESSION I
Location: Education Building (ED) 489
**Media, Art, and Imaging Socialism**
Organizer: **Scott Forsyth**, York University

Open to papers on media and the arts and imagining a future socialism. Open to a range of radical perspectives – feminist, anti-racist, anti-colonialist. Relationship to socialist and radical politics, socialist parties and states and social movements. Impact of the changing political economy of the media and new media technologies. Historical or contemporary explorations of radical cultural politics in any national context. Analysis and interpretation of works of art in any media and period. Classic or contemporary theoretical debates in radical and Marxist aesthetics. Emphasis could focus on radical cultural possibilities or critiques of dominant media.

Chair: **Scott Forsyth**, York University
Speakers:
**Scott Forsyth**, York University: *The Sixties on Screen: Rebellion, Madness, and Representing the New Left*
**Herbert Pimlott**, Wilfred Laurier University: *Let One Hundred Flowers Bloom? Creating an Oppositional ‘Emergent Culture’ for Imagining a New Socialism*
**Tamara Hansen**, Simon Fraser University: *Read, Listen, Tell: Reimagining*
Left-wing movements and struggles, Québécois and Canadian, have their own trajectories and cultures. How could we rethink a convergence of these, based on common causes? How can Canadian movements play a role in the social and national emancipation of the Québec people? How could progressive movements of Canada and Québec build a common strategy to support the emancipation struggles of First Nations? How could struggles in Québec inform and assist struggles in Canada for emancipation? How to build plural solidarities on a plural left? These questions will guide an open debate that should be sustained as a key endeavour of the Society for Socialist Studies.

Chair: Sebastián Vielmas, Université Laval
Speakers:
Sebastián Vielmas, Université Laval
Nora Loreto, Québec Solidaire and Unionist
Jamie Lawson, University of Victoria

12:00 - 1:30 KEYNOTE LECTURE
Location: Education Auditorium (EA) 106.2
Brigitte Baptiste, Instituto de Investigación de Recursos Biológicos Alexander von Humboldt: Queer Layers for Life Meaning

Cultural interpretation of biological facts is complicated: genes, organisms, species, biological communities and ecosystems are complex entities built by human societies over centuries. However, cultural diversity and social evolution show that none of them are stable categories; therefore we have to be aware of the limits of our heuristic tools to bring meaning to material life. In the middle of total deconstruction and stone-carving of identities there is much to be explored. Political implications emerge behind the way we choose to understand the living planet and how it changes. The end of our environmental stability requires a revision of the pieces of the world, mainly identified or created by science, and the ways we use them to assemble knowledge adding layers of meaning to our historical
endeavor. A queer perspective of those living entities may help us to inject a bit of flexibility into our vision of ecology, to create cultural room for understanding and promoting adaptation, and to shed light on the hidden capacities of life, including ours, to keep evolving.

1:30 – 3:00  PLENARY SESSION
Location: Education Auditorium (EA) 106.2
Manifestos and Movements: Political Struggles and Political Imaginations

The Communist Manifesto, the Regina Manifesto, the Waffle Manifesto, the Dene Declaration, the Cyborg Manifesto, Idle No More, the Maple Spring and Occupy, are some critical political moments in the histories of working class, Indigenous, feminist, student and Québecois struggles. These movements found their public expression, in part, through Manifestos and Declarations. Manifestos analyse the injustices of the present and they help us look towards more equitable futures. In this panel, a range of distinguished guest speakers, many of them participants in the crafting of important, recent Declarations, will contribute short reflections on each Manifesto: what it has meant historically and how it may illuminate our political imaginations as we strive for more just and peaceful worlds to come.

Speakers:

Darren O’Toole, University of Ottawa and descendent of the Bois-Brûlé (Wiisakodewininiwag) of the White Horse Plains in Manitoba: The Riel Declaration
Radhika Desai, University of Manitoba: The Communist Manifesto
John Conway, University of Regina: The Regina Manifesto
Sebastián Vielmas, Université Laval: Maple Spring Manifesto
Shannon Daub, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives: Leap Manifesto
Mojtaba Mahdavi, University of Alberta: The (Iranian) Green Revolution
Gina Starblanket, University of Manitoba and Cree/Saulteaux from Treaty 4 territory: Indigenous Women’s Resilience and Resistance
Andrea Quinlan, University of Waterloo: MeToo
*Sakej Youngbood Henderson, University of Saskatchewan and born to the Bear Clan of the Chickasaw Nation and Cheyenne Tribe in Oklahoma: Justice for Colton Boushie and Tina Fontaine

* = Depending on availability

3:30 – 5:00  SOCIETY FOR SOCIALIST STUDIES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Location: Education Auditorium (EA) 106.2
FRIDAY, JUNE 1

10:45 - 12:00 KEYNOTE (CO-SPONSORED WITH CAWLS)
Location: Education Building (ED) 193
Larry Rousseau, Executive Vice-President, Canadian Labour Congress
Reflections on the Fight for Equity in Canada’s Labour Movement

Larry Rousseau has been CLC Executive Vice-President since May 2017. Previously, he served two terms as the Regional Executive Vice-President of PSAC’s National Capital Region, and one term as the Regional Vice-President of PSAC’s Union of National Employees. Larry started as a filing and stockroom clerk in the mailroom of the CLC at age 18 before being elected shop steward for the Office and Professional Employees International Union Local 225 (now COPE). He has a master’s degree in Public Administration from l’École nationale d’administration publique and a long history of trade union and political activism, particularly on issues like labour relations, health and safety, human rights, and equity. His involvement in the LGBTQ2SI, anti-racism and peace movements has been an integral part of his engagement and commitment to social justice.
INDEX OF PARTICIPANTS

PL = Plenary
KN = Keynote

Aguinda, Paolo (G1)
David.746@hotmail.com

Aitken, Rob (B3)
raitken@ualberta.ca

Bandopadhyay, Sabujkoli (A2)
Sabujkoli.bandopadhyay@uregina.ca

Baptiste, Brigitte (KN)
brigittebaptiste@humboldt.org.co

Belton, Adam R. (C4)
belton1@ualberta.ca

Biezenski, Robert P. (D3)
robert.biezenski@uregina.ca

Brabazon, Honor (B1)
honorbrabazon@gmail.com

Bryson, Stephanie (G3)
sbryson@pdx.edu

Brownlee, Jamie (B4)
JamieBrownlee@cunet.carleton.ca

Boulton, Tiffany N. (C1)
tiffany.boulton@uleth.ca

Cameron, Barbara (F2)
barbararac@yorku.ca

Campbell, Holly (E3)
Hly.k.campbell@gmail.com

Carver, Ashley (H1)
Ashley.Carver@smu.ca

Cattapan, Alana (F2)
alana.cattapan@usask.ca

Carroll, William (B4, E1)
wcarroll@uvic.ca

Charron, Alexandre (C2)
achar097@gmail.com

Clancy, Devin (B2)
devinmclancy@gmail.com

Clune, Laurie (B2)
laurie.clune@uregina.ca

Coburn, Elaine (C1)
coburn.elaine@gmail.com

Conway, John (PL)
John.Conway@uregina.ca

Cooper, Annelies (B2)
annelies.cooper@gmail.com

Daub, Shannon (E1, F1, PL)
Shannon@policyalternatives.ca

Desai, Radhika (C2, PL)
Radhika.Desai@umanitoba.ca

de Montigny, Gerald (D3, F3)
g.demontigny@videotron.ca

Diamantopoulos, Mitch (A1)
Mitch.diamantopoulos@uregina.ca

Diaz, Harry (H3)
harry.diaz@uregina.ca

Elias, Paula (I)
paula.elias@mail.utoronto.ca

Fletcher, Amber (F2)
amber.fletcher@uregina.ca

Forbes-Petrovich, Yuri (D2, H3)
yforbesp@uwo.ca

Forsyth, Scott (I)
sforsyth@yorku.ca

Freeman, Alan (B1)
afreeman@iwgvt.org

Gardner, Karl (B2)
karlsebastiangardner@gmail.com

Gertler, Michael E. (A3)
michael.gertler@usask.ca

Golkar, Niloofar (A3)
il11@yorku.ca

Gray, Mandi (B2)
mandimelissagray@gmail.com

Gray, Paul Christopher (G1)
paul.c.gray@gmail.com
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hackett, Robert</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hackett@sfu.ca">hackett@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hansen, Tamara</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tamarah@sfu.ca">tamarah@sfu.ca</a></td>
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<td>Hastings, Colin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:colinjh@yorku.ca">colinjh@yorku.ca</a></td>
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<td>Heller, Henry</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Henry.Heller@umanitoba.ca">Henry.Heller@umanitoba.ca</a></td>
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<td>Henderson, Sakej</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sakej.henderson@usask.ca">sakej.henderson@usask.ca</a></td>
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<td>Hesch, Rick</td>
<td><a href="mailto:randc1970@sasktel.net">randc1970@sasktel.net</a></td>
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<td>Hodsman, Peter</td>
<td><a href="mailto:phodsman@uwo.ca">phodsman@uwo.ca</a></td>
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<td>Holman, Christopher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cholman@ntu.edu.sg">cholman@ntu.edu.sg</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:meghowison@gmail.com">meghowison@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:Garson.hunter@uregina.ca">Garson.hunter@uregina.ca</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:chris.hurl@concordia.ca">chris.hurl@concordia.ca</a></td>
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<td>Hurlbert, Margot</td>
<td><a href="mailto:margot.hurlbert@uregina.ca">margot.hurlbert@uregina.ca</a></td>
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<td>Jaffe, JoAnn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joann.jaffe@uregina.ca">joann.jaffe@uregina.ca</a></td>
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<td>Kachur, Jerrold</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jkachur@ualberta.ca">jkachur@ualberta.ca</a></td>
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<td>Kanchan, Sarker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sarkerk@gmail.com">sarkerk@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Kincaid, Adela</td>
<td><a href="mailto:adela.kincaid@uregina.ca">adela.kincaid@uregina.ca</a></td>
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<td>Kitossa, Tamari</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tkitossa@brocku.ca">tkitossa@brocku.ca</a></td>
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<td>Kozolanka, Kirsten</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Kirsten.Kozolanka@carleton.ca">Kirsten.Kozolanka@carleton.ca</a></td>
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<td>Kujala, Will</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wkujala@ualberta.ca">wkujala@ualberta.ca</a></td>
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<td>Larrabure, Manuel</td>
<td><a href="mailto:manuellarrabure@hotmail.com">manuellarrabure@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Langille, David</td>
<td><a href="mailto:langille@yorku.ca">langille@yorku.ca</a></td>
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<td>Lawson, James</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lawsonj@uvic.ca">lawsonj@uvic.ca</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:nora.loreto@gmail.com">nora.loreto@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:Jlorimer@formac.ca">Jlorimer@formac.ca</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:Lynch@chass.utoronto.ca">Lynch@chass.utoronto.ca</a></td>
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<td>MacDonald, Fiona</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Fiona.MacDonald@uvic.ca">Fiona.MacDonald@uvic.ca</a></td>
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<td>Macris, Vicki</td>
<td><a href="mailto:macris@ualberta.ca">macris@ualberta.ca</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:mojtaba.mahdavi@ualberta.ca">mojtaba.mahdavi@ualberta.ca</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:maltonk@mcmaster.ca">maltonk@mcmaster.ca</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:sm11iv@brocku.ca">sm11iv@brocku.ca</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:pmcinnis@stfx.ca">pmcinnis@stfx.ca</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:smcmahon@aucegypt.edu">smcmahon@aucegypt.edu</a></td>
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<td>Mills, Lisa</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lisa.mills@carleton.ca">lisa.mills@carleton.ca</a></td>
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<td>Miller, Jeff</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jmiller@irwinlaw.com">Jmiller@irwinlaw.com</a></td>
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<td>Minhas, Rupi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:minhas.rupi@gmail.com">minhas.rupi@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Murray, Adrian</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amurr061@uottawa.ca">amurr061@uottawa.ca</a></td>
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<td>Neubauer, Robert J.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rneubauer@sfu.ca">rneubauer@sfu.ca</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nichols, Leslie</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lnichols@wlu.ca">lnichols@wlu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olsen, Gregg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gregg.olsen@umanitoba.ca">gregg.olsen@umanitoba.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olsen, Jonah</td>
<td><a href="mailto:olsenj34@myumanitoba.ca">olsenj34@myumanitoba.ca</a></td>
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<td>Name</td>
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<td>O’Toole, Darren (PL)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Darren.otoole@uottawa.ca">Darren.otoole@uottawa.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pimlott, Herbert (I)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hpimlott@wlu.ca">hpimlott@wlu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pin, Laura (B2)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lauragracepin@gmail.com">lauragracepin@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollock, Kim (A1)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kbpollock54@gmail.com">kbpollock54@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polster, Claire (B4)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Claire.Polster@uregina.ca">Claire.Polster@uregina.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potter, Garry (D2)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gpotter@wlu.ca">gpotter@wlu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quinlan, Andrea (PL)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Andrea.quinlan@uwaterloo.ca">Andrea.quinlan@uwaterloo.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roldán Mendivil, Eleonora (E3)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:roldanmendivil@jpberlin.de">roldanmendivil@jpberlin.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rein, Sandra (C2)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:srein@ualberta.ca">srein@ualberta.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanchez, Miguel (A3)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:miguel.sanchez@uregina.ca">miguel.sanchez@uregina.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savarese, Josephine L. (G2)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:savarese@stu.ca">savarese@stu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebastian, Kailah (H3)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sebastik@uregina.ca">sebastik@uregina.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shamsuddin Bolatito, Aina-Obe (B3)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Sam1421h@yahoo.com">Sam1421h@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shantz, Jeff (G2)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:drjshantz@gmail.com">drjshantz@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharpe, Errol (D1)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:errol@fernpub.ca">errol@fernpub.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shuba, Curtis (H3)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shuba20c@uregina.ca">shuba20c@uregina.ca</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Singh, Karam Mohinder (C3)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kmsbham@gmail.com">kmsbham@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Smiley, Cherry (KN)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Clsmiley@gmail.com">Clsmiley@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snelgrove, Corey J. (D4)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:corey.snelgrove@gmail.com">corey.snelgrove@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solomon, William (B1)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bsol1066@icloud.com">bsol1066@icloud.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starblanket, Gina (D4; PL)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Gina.Starblanket@umanitoba.ca">Gina.Starblanket@umanitoba.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stark, Heidi Kiwetinepinesiik (D4)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:starkh@uvic.ca">starkh@uvic.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stevens, Andrew (C4)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:andrew.stevens@uregina.ca">andrew.stevens@uregina.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strauss, Kendra (C4)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kstrauss@sfu.ca">kstrauss@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thompson, Chad D. (F3)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thompsonc@cnc.bc.ca">thompsonc@cnc.bc.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban, Ann-Marie (B2)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ann-marie.urban@uregina.ca">ann-marie.urban@uregina.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vega, Thania (B2)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thania.vega@gmail.com">thania.vega@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vielmas, Sebastián (F3; J; PL)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sebastian@vielmas.quebec">sebastian@vielmas.quebec</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walby, Kevin (B4)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:k.walby@uwinnipeg.ca">k.walby@uwinnipeg.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York, Emma (E3)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:emy853@mail.usask.ca">emy853@mail.usask.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yunker, Zoe (E1)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:zoey@uvic.ca">zoey@uvic.ca</a></td>
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Founded in 1967, the Society for Socialist Studies is an independent academic association not affiliated with any political organization or group. The Society currently focuses on two projects: our peer-reviewed academic journal and our annual conference at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. Both projects provide a forum for wide-ranging discussion, debate and analysis, making an important contribution to the ongoing development of socialist theory, knowledge and practices.

**HOW TO GET INVOLVED**
The Society for Socialist Studies is a growing organization with an expanding online presence. We continue to look for new members, authors, researchers, session-organizers and volunteers. We welcome new scholars and graduate students.

Membership information is available on the Society website. We offer a special membership rate to students and low-income or unemployed persons. We particularly encourage anti-racist, critical disability, ecological, feminist, Indigenous and queer approaches to socialism.

**THE JOURNAL**
_Socialist Studies/Études socialistes_ is a peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary and open-access journal. It focuses on describing and analyzing social, economic and/or political injustice, and practices of struggle, transformation and liberation. It is committed to ensuring that scholarly works are accessible at no cost. Our journal website has been accessed by readers in over 70 countries and articles are extensively downloaded by academics and activists globally.

The journal regularly features special sections or even entire issues on a selected theme. Recent themes include: A Special Issue on William Morris, On Pacification, The Legacy of G.A. Cohen, Neo-Liberal Austerity and Working Class Resistance, Rosa Luxemburg’s Political Economy, Twenty Years after Kanehsatà:ke and Rethinking Leninism. In the next few months, special issues on the Ghadar Movement and Mao will also be released. In addition, the Journal is committed to annually publishing an extended issue demonstrating the breadth of socialist and revolutionary thought and practice.

_Socialist Studies/Études socialistes_ is indexed in EBSCO Publishing, Left Index and the Wilson Social Sciences Full Text databases, and is a member of the Canadian Association of Learned Journals (CALJ). We welcome submissions of strong, original manuscripts.

**SOCIETY FOR SOCIALIST STUDIES 2019 MEETINGS**
Elaine Coburn is looking forward to chairing next year’s annual meetings on the unceded territory of the Musqueam people at the University of British Columbia. She invites committee members, especially those committed to supporting Indigenous scholarship, ecological socialisms, anti-racist socialisms, socialist feminisms, LGBTQ2S socialisms, disability and crip perspectives (and more), to ensure that Socialist Studies remains a space for wide-ranging, critical discussion. Both senior and more junior scholars, including those new to the Society, are welcome.