

ENGAGE 2015:
MAKING THE FAMILIAR STRANGE IN THE SOCIAL WORLD
THE 15TH ANNUAL SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Conference Schedule: Saturday, March 14, 2015

Registration and Light Breakfast: 8:30-9:00am
Morning Conference Sessions: 9:15-10:45am; 11:00-12:30pm
Lunch and Keynote Presentation by Dr. Tad McIlwrath: 12:30-1:45pm
Afternoon Conference Sessions: 2:00-2:30pm; 3:45-5:15pm
Location: 3rd floor Mackinnon Building, Rooms 304, 305, 306 & 307
~ Reception to follow at Shakespeare's Arms at 7pm ~

POSTER SESSION

8:30-9:15am & 10:45-11am
Location: Outside Room 304

Title: The Intersections of Anthropology and Health – Using Biological Citizenship to help communicate the importance of anthropological research in the medical field

Presenter: Chantelle Ramsundar

Affiliation: International Development, University of Guelph

Coined by anthropologist Adriana Petryna in her studies of post-Chernobyl exposed populations, the idea of “biological citizenship” refers to the “individual and collective welfare claims made by populations that have been impacted by some sort of biological damage”. This includes medical, social and culturally-based conceptions of a “diseased” population and what the impacts on are their health and the health of others. This in turn, creates a population demographic characterized by sustained biological damage and how they are treated within their own communities. Petryna suggests that these conceptions, depending on how they are framed by popular/world-wide media, medical professionals, family members, and other communal members distinguish how the diagnosed populations internalize their own “biological damage”. This internalization can manifest itself in a number of ways, ranging from class-action suits, citing that the “biological damage” sustained should be quantified with those diagnosed/damaged given a reimbursement, or with populations choosing to hide their “damage” fearing social, or political isolation, in a sense, trying to further themselves from the characteristics that make them a “biological citizen”. Through my poster project, I use this framework to help supplement understanding the utility of applying different anthropological lenses to contemporary healthcare issues- namely medical ecology and structural violence. I argue that the difficulties racial minorities in the US face with regards to receiving medical insurance/coverage perpetuates instances of heart disease, diabetes and hypertension, characterizing Black and Hispanic populations with the aforementioned ailments. I also argue that looking for patterns of “biological citizens” within the medical ecology approach mitigates the criticism it receives of being a framework that “tends to downplay political and economic factors” and that it “fails to consider the relation of people to their environment in its complexity”.

Title: A Three-Tiered Canadian Food System: Visualising Food Security Security for the Haves, Have-Nots, and Have-Lots

Presenter: Kelly Hodgins

Affiliation: Geography, University of Guelph

Although we strive for an inclusive, democratic food system in Canada, inequality in food access is the truer reality. The current state of food access constitutes a three-tiered figure: in the middle is the behemoth conventional food system, serving the majority of consumers. However, rising levels of poverty and hunger mean that more Canadians are drawing on food banks and other forms of "emergency" food provision. These networks are no longer temporary fixes, but have come to constitute an entire system of food provisioning for food insecure Canadians: the "have nots." On the other hand, the alternative food movement has evolved to such a place that its networks of farmers' markets, health food stores, CSAs and co-

ops now constitute a legitimate third, top, tier, accessible to the “have-lots.” From the bottom to the top of this hierarchical system of food provisioning, food quality and nutrition increases in tandem with higher prices. That is, the three-tiered food system can be represented as a hierarchy of privilege, characterised by a top tier of exclusivity for wealthy consumers, and a bottom tier serving those most excluded, suffering from poverty. The purpose of this research is to understand some of the reasons why this three-tiered system exists and to envision strategies to dismantle its segregating arrangement. I explore how the individuals currently relegated to procuring food in the bottom tier could gain greater access to the sustainably-grown, fresh food products that are primarily available to those in the top tier.

SESSION ONE

9:15-10:45: Crime, Criminal Justice, and the Media

Location: MACK 304

Chair: Dr. Myrna Dawson

Title: Capes, Cows and the Fragments of Ideology

Presenter: Aidan Lockhart

Affiliation: Sociology, University of Guelph

Mr. Eric Garner was choked to death by a police officer after he insisted that he was not selling individual cigarettes. His final words were, “I can’t breath.” Repeated eleven times. A court jury acquitted the officer of all wrongdoing. Where do the sensibilities, which condone repressive state violence, come from? The roll of pop-culture in the production of punishment ideology has long held intuitive and academic purchase. There is an entire cottage industry in academia dedicated to exploring the elective affinity between popculture representations and the conscience collective. Woefully, little has been done to articulate the mechanism through which encoded ideology is decoded into agency. Synthesizing Garfinkel’s conditions for successful degradation and Jeffrey Alexander’s binary discourses, this paper aims to develop an analytic approach, which can be used to interrogate fictional televisual text to determine their ideological potentiality. Second, I will demonstrate how representations of ceremonial degradation in media (both in form and content) can effectively transmit punishment ideology through a process of secular communion. The efficacy of this approach will be displayed by interrogating a canonical work of cinematic comic-hero fiction. Within this reading, two emergent themes will be discussed: i) representations of the villain help resolve tensions inherent in punishment ideology concerning agency and just deserts ii) representations of the hero resolve tensions surrounding the potentially ugly, counter-democratic elements of retributive punishment. Lastly, I will make recommendations for further study of ideology production in media and future elaborations of this interpretive technique.

Title: Servin’ Time on the Outside: Canadian Young Offenders’ Experiences of Extra-Judicial Measure and Extra-Judicial Sanction Programs

Presenter: Becky Aloisio

Affiliation: Sociology, University of Guelph

Many youth are diverted from Canada’s traditional criminal justice system and court proceedings, and receive extra-judicial measures (EJM), including extra-judicial sanctions (EJS). However, little academic literature exists about the experiences that Canadian young offenders have within these alternative processes. My proposed research will fill this void and provide valuable insight about young offenders and their perceptions of the EJM process, as well as the way in which young offenders emotionally respond to the EJM process and to the measure itself. Of particular interest to my project are the experiences of youth who have been referred to and have completed EJM/EJS programs. Under the YCJA, there are a variety of types of EJM and EJS that both the police and/or the Crown may use, including: warnings, cautions, written apologies, participation in community-based programs, or victim-offender mediation programs. I believe that focusing exclusively on youth that have been involved in programs will allow for a more in-depth understanding of their experiences with non-traditional measures, as they are likely to have spent more time completing their measure and have had more interactions with various agents of social control, in comparison to youth who received warnings or cautions, for example. This inquiry will be theoretically guided by Lawrence Sherman’s theory of defiance, which explores the emotional responses that young offenders have to the conventional sanctioning experience (Sherman 1993). Looking at how traditional sanctions contribute to recidivism, Sherman (1993) points out that conventional, punitive-based sanctions may increase both the frequency and severity of recidivism because of four key emotional responses - legitimacy, social bonds, shame, and pride. Using Sherman’s insights as the theoretical basis for my project, I will explore how the same four emotional responses play out in relation to extrajudicial measures and sanctions.

Title: The Criminalization of Mental Illness

Presenter: Grace Marie Leach

Affiliation: Sociology, Trent University

This thesis will examine the social organization and the structures that regulate the collection and distribution of private health information, with particular attention to how persons with histories of mental illness are understood by police agencies as “risky” subjects. Early sociologists have examined the role of stigma in the social organization of difference and focused on the experience of difference and identity management, but on less of the coercive practices of the state to regulate those with mental illness. Literature based on risk society that proposes risk logics, and actuarial practices of insurance industries that label people as dangerous, deduce that there is a hierarchy of power within police forces and institutions that regulates through risk classification those with mental illnesses. The methodological focus of this study will be the police practices of gathering, recording, and dissemination of private mental health information of persons with histories of mental illness and suicidality. This thesis aims to determine how the policing and surveillance of mental illness and particularly suicidality are framed by hospitals, law enforcement, and patient advocates. It is suggested that the state’s response to mental illness and suicidality has become more coercive and institutionally practiced through police scrutiny and surveillance. Mental illness is assumed to be passive or control framed by patient rights and welfarist health policies. The social organization and the structures that regulate the collection and distribution of private health information dictate the way in which persons with histories of mental illness are understood by police agencies as “risky” subjects.

Title: The Depiction of Wrongful Conviction in Canadian News Media

Presenter: Lisa Bell

Affiliation: Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy, University of Guelph

The construction of wrongful conviction in Canadian newspaper coverage from 2008-2013 is explored. In particular, both content and thematic analyses are conducted in order to gain an in-depth understanding of how Canadian newspapers construct wrongful convictions in the public view. This research is grounded in a framework of social construction, and more specifically the social problems process theory. The media’s depiction of wrongful conviction may illuminate and influence public perceptions of such. Three areas of analysis may be examined: the way in which "wrongful conviction" is defined within the coverage; an examination of diagnostic themes within the coverage; an examination of prognostic themes within the coverage and how these contextualize wrongful conviction policies.

9:15-10:45: Creating Women’s Spaces

Location: MACK 305

Chair: Dr. Belinda Leach

Title: Dedicated Athletes, Deviant Women: How Amateur Female Athletes Confront Stigma and Negotiate Identity

Presenter: Courtney Cameron

Affiliation: Carleton University

Until the late 1960s, women were largely excluded from the arenas of sport and athletics. Since that time, women’s presence in sport has risen and the gap between female and male participation has significantly decreased (Messner 2007). Unfortunately though, pervasive and problematic constructions of normative masculinity and femininity persist and have negative implications for women participating in sport. My paper examines the stigmatization that female athletes face, particularly those who participate in what are considered “masculine” sports, and how they manage this stigma and negotiate their identities as a response. Through participant observation in multiple athletic activities as well as semi-structured interviews with amateur female athletes of a variety of ages and sports, it has become clear that women are acutely aware of the fact that there are sports that are associated with masculinity, femininity, and sports that are non-gendered. My participants have been very candid in their explanation of the ramifications of participating in sports in general, but particularly those deemed masculine. My research aims to explore this stigmatization and examine the strategies that women employ to combat it. **Today**, women and girls are encouraged to participate in sport and their efforts in these realms are often celebrated. However, there exists an arbitrary level to which women can perform as female athletes, both in and outside of the athletic arena. They are welcome to participate, and excel, in the realm of sport as long as they continue to conform to normative standards of femininity. This research hopes to understand these restrictive ideas of masculinity and femininity in order to examine the experiences of female athletes and challenge the barriers to women’s success and enjoyment in sports and athletics.

Title: Neoliberalism's Impacts on Social Reproduction and the Status of Women

Presenter: Rebecca Acton

Affiliation: Sociology, The University of Guelph

It is axiomatic that earning and caring are two opposing forces that create competing demands for families trying to strike a balance between paid work and unpaid care work. Neoliberalism, with its focus on profit-making and reduced government spending, has made it increasingly difficult for families to ensure the proper care of members, which has major consequences for women. This paper focuses on neoliberalism's impact on social reproduction and the status of women in Canadian society. More particularly, it examines the role of neoliberalism in reinvigorating concepts and expectations of personal and individual responsibility (what has been called perverse individualism) to the detriment of those of collective responsibility, which has put tremendous pressure on women to take on more responsibility for the care of family members as the work of social reproduction continues to intensify as a result of privatization and the overall offloading of social programs, some of which were initially put in place to encourage and accommodate women's entry into the labour force. The paper will also explore the ways in which neoliberalism has eroded many of the gains in gender equality by reinforcing the ideology of hegemonic femininity and further romanticizing care work and motherhood.

Title: Putting our Own House in Order: Women of Steel's Experience of Gender Equality within the United Steelworkers

Presenter: Liz Cherry

Affiliation: Sociology, University of Guelph

Despite many decades of the women's and labour movements fighting for gender equality for women at work, women continue to be disadvantaged

- The labour movement has been an effective vehicle for promoting social, economic and political equality for all disadvantaged groups, including women, yet women activists continue to experience gender inequality within their trade unions
- This inequality stems from both interpersonal and systemic discrimination within trade unions

This research project will ask Women of Steel (women who are members of the USW trade union) to both identify discriminatory practices within the Union and propose ideological and structural changes to further promote equality for all Women of Steel in their union activities as well as in their workplaces

Title: Female Drug Dealers: Conceptualization of Success and a Vital Role

Presenter: Samantha Snetsinger

Affiliation: Criminology, University of Ontario Institute of Technology

Previous literature highlights many aspects of a drug dealer's career and multiple roles. These aspects include how drug dealers perceive their position in society and within the drug economy, their personal motivations, as well as the resources and control mechanisms that shape their lifestyle. Although drug dealing is a common topic of study, it is regulated largely to the activities of men; such a dominant male-centered focus distorts the activities of women who deal drugs, as well as their accomplishments as 'successful' drug dealers. This paper will first outline how a successful female drug dealer is defined, and then apply this definition to the understanding women's vital role within the drug dealing subculture. This paper concludes with a discussion pertaining to the consequences of this societal misinterpretation. This paper will also address policy recommendations in altering how to identify, locate and manage drug dealers in the criminal justice system.

Title: Girls Taking Up Space and being Put in Place: Political Fervour and Discipline in Canada's Public School System

Presenter: Emily Pittman

Affiliation: The University of Toronto and Collaborative Munk School of Global Affairs

Narratives of female emancipation tell girls and women that they can achieve just as much or more than their male peers at school, at work and in life in general. Yet patriarchal expectations still negatively impact girls' ability to self-actualize and discipline them when they stray from the bounds of 'acceptability'. Indeed, girls who push the limits of acceptability face the structural opposition of the state, the school, parents and other social institutions.

This paper investigates two incidents in which schoolgirls were disciplined based on the political statements manifested in their dress. In January 2014, Tenelle Starr – a young First Nations woman from Balcarres, Saskatchewan – started wearing a sweater that said, “Got Land? Thank an Indian.” While her school initially forbade her to wear the garment, Starr was ultimately successful at reversing the ban. In May the same year, a young white woman from Beaconsfield, Québec was reprimanded for wearing a pair of shorts which school administrators deemed “too short.” Lindsey Stocker protested the administration through a series of posters that she put up at school, but was then suspended for her actions. The above cases provoke three key questions: First what do these young women’s actions represent? Second how can we measure the success and failure of these protests? Why was one woman successful in initiating a dialogue on structural discrimination within her school, whereas the other was not? How did broader societal attitudes around racial and gender discrimination influence the outcome of these two girls’ actions? Third how can we move forward from these cases and work to empower young women within the school environment? My paper makes an important contribution to the literature by reminding scholars to take the political agency of teenage women seriously and through its intersectional approach to patriarchal, settler society.

9:15-10:45: Mixing Social Sciences with Art

Location: MACK 306

Chair: PhD Candidate Rory Sommers and PhD Candidate Katie MacDonald

Title: *Talk to Youth Lately* and Juggling Storytelling in Performance with a Mental Health Social Circus (A mid-process reflection)

Presenter: Zita Nyarady

Affiliation: Theatre and Performance Studies, York University

Talk to Youth Lately (TTYL) is a social circus project in Toronto that works with youth (ages 16 -30) who have experienced mental health issues. The participants learn circus arts and create circus performance to articulate their experiences of mental health while striving alleviate mental health stigma. Since autumn of 2014 I have been working with TTYL as a researcher and a dramaturge on their new performance *Circus Berserkus*. My paper brings forth my ethnographic, performance-ethnographic and auto-ethnographic research to ask questions about TTYL’s model of social circus. TTYL is interesting in the landscape of social circus because of how this project embraces the social circus model championed by Cirque du Monde and puts a clear value on the process of the participants (which is central to any social circus model) yet is also developing their own approach to what social circus can be. This is found within their emphasis on public presentations, a creative product, that is not only a demonstration of circus skills learnt by the participants but a creative device that serves to share participants personal stories through circus acts, or to use the language of the group, through circus metaphors. And with only a few weeks till the new TTYL show opens, this paper is an opportunity to juggle with my findings and demonstrate the hoops I have jumped through in my research process.

Title: Knowledge By Whom? Public Policy as a Curatorial Project

Presenter: Robert Nonomura

Affiliation: Sociology, Western University

Since Michael Burawoy’s 2004 American Sociological Association Presidential Address calling for greater disciplinary recognition of Public Sociology, much commentary on the normative-ethical justifications for Public Sociology has centred around the proper “role” of the academic scholar vis-à-vis their non-academic “public(s)” (e.g., students, communities, politics, etc.). In particular, theoretical issues concerning the power relations between academics and non-academics in the production and consumption of “valid” knowledges have gained substantial sociological attention. This paper contributes to these debates by exploring Public Sociology’s normative conceptualization of “the public” through the lens of “the curatorial.” Whereas Burawoy’s fourfold division of sociological labour is framed by questions about the recipients and purposes of knowledge — “knowledge for whom and knowledge for what?” — the curatorial invokes an interrogation of the discursive and structural conditions of knowledge construction faced by the agents themselves — i.e., knowledge by whom, and by what process? Drawing from contemporary theoretical works in the fields of art and museum curation, as well as practical experience organizing a Public Library workshop on various social issues in London, Ontario, I suggest ways that curatorial theory may provide ethical insight, as well as methodological inspiration, for ‘organic’ Public Sociology projects aiming to foster subaltern, “abnormal,” or sociologically imaginative forms of knowledge within the public sphere. I argue that by producing social spaces where community members are afforded the opportunity to respectfully discuss sociological issues in their own terms amongst one another — as a constellation of social “experts” in their own right — the sociologist as curator

can incite reflexive sociological thinking organically within his or her “public(s)” and social solidarity between them. Using examples of the strengths and shortcomings in the aforementioned Public Library event’s structure and execution, I also share some strategic and normative-ethical considerations for similar projects.

Title: Loves me, loves me not: The Museum of Broken Relationships scene analysis

Presenter: Sarah Bencekovic

Affiliation: York University

The Balkan region is known for its historical climate of turbulent social relations; thus, public spaces that consecrate shared experiences of grief and loss come as no surprise. One such space, however, has experienced astonishing growth in its fame and popularity, not just as a renowned cultural landmark, but as a significant Croatian cultural export. The Museum of Broken Relationships is filled with unremarkable everyday objects donated by lovers who associate them with their past relationships. The value of these objects is not necessarily utilitarian, or aesthetic, but symbolic: they represent the emotions of remorse and pain elicited by breakups. This paper is an account of the objects, stories, and narratives found in the Museum of Broken Relationships. It considers the Museum a lens through which people can scrutinize the meaning of love in their everyday lives and consequently re-shape their identities. It looks into the Museum’s transformative potency as a spiritual and sacred space that offers hope in times of despair, fosters disorientation and chaos, and offers visitors an opportunity to confirm or reject their previous perspectives on love.

Title: Mother Figures and Religion as a Cultural Commodity in Anita Rau Badami’s *Can You Hear the Nightbird Call?* and Gurjinder Basran’s *Everything Was Good-bye*

Presenter: Sanchari Sur

Affiliation: English, Wilfrid Laurier University

The “transnational turn” in literary studies, according to Paul Jay, challenges the nationalist paradigms in literature. He posits that “agency” within a transnational text must be considered as a “negotiation” with other cultures, and agency has more to do with the intelligent and imaginative negotiation of cross-cultural contact than with avoiding such contact, where “cultural commodities” such as cultural values and religious practices are “inherited” from one’s family. Sara Ahmed states that “[t]o inherit [something from] the family is to inherit the demand to reproduce its form”. According to Steven Vertovec, “following migration [,] women play... [a] key role... in reproducing religious practice” in the diaspora. I argue that women (in the role of mother figures) occupy a space of negotiation within transnational texts in the diaspora. It is their “inheritance” of cultural commodities within their homeland that compel them to “reproduce its form” in the adopted homeland of the diaspora, either through assimilation into or rejection of the adopted homeland. Leela in Anita Rau Badami’s *Can You Hear the Nightbird Call?* (2006) and Meena’s mother in Gurjinder Basran’s *Everything was Good-bye* (2010) occupy a space of negotiation within the diaspora through their reproduction of religion (as a cultural commodity) of the homeland (here, India) within the adopted homeland (here, Vancouver, Canada). However, while Badami’s Leela adopts a new community (comprising of people from different racial and cultural communities) in Vancouver, Basran’s character others the “alien culture” (Ahmed) of the adopted homeland through her rejection of White Anglophone Canadians.

SESSION TWO

11:00-12:30: Immigration, Work, and Well-Being

Location: MACK 304

Chair: Dr. Ed Hedican

Title: Foreign Trained Professional Women and Professionalization: Paradox, Limitless Possibilities or Possibility of Limits?

Presenter: Dalon Taylor

Affiliation: School of Social Work, York University

The concept of professionalization ignores the high demand for immigrant labour and the changing work environment for racialized professional immigrant women, and creates additional barriers for them to re-enter their field of expertise in the Canadian labour market. Despite meeting the professional competency that qualified them to migrate as skilled workers under the Federal immigration points system, foreign trained professional women in Canada continue to struggle to find work in their fields (Chui and Maheux, 2011; Ngo and Este, 2006; Man, 2004). The employment participation rate for professional

immigrant women is lower than even foreign trained immigrant men; their jobs are likely to pay less; the likelihood for them to secure full time employment is lower; and it takes longer for professional immigrant women to secure their first job after migration, compared to professional immigrant men (Novak and Chen, 2013; Tufts, Lemoine, Phan, Kelly, Preston and Shields, 2010; Yakushko and Chronister, 2005). Throughout this paper I argue that the concept of professionalization is applied primarily within a national context, and this limited application excludes professional immigrants, particularly professional immigrant women, from full participation in the Canadian labour market. Furthermore, the concept of professionalization was established well before the full participation of women in the formal work force and the current application is a source of oppression and discrimination for professional immigrant women. I will interrogate the characteristics of professionalization that structure professions, and the ways in which this structure excludes the accomplishments of professional immigrants. As a system of practice that is recognized in industrialized societies on a global scale, the concept of professionalization needs to be more inclusive to reflect the changing work environment.

Title: School-Work Transitions and Employment Among Second-Generation Ethnic Minority Immigrants

Presenter: Awish Aslam

Affiliation: University of Western

Canadian data show that although second-generation ethnic minority immigrants generally achieve higher levels of educational attainment when compared to their peers with Canadian-born parents, this success in school does not translate into the labour market (Statistics Canada 2003; Bonikowska 2008; Abada and Lin 2011). This population experiences poorer labour market outcomes, including higher rates of underemployment, lower rates of pay, and less access to jobs with opportunities for advancement (Yan et al. 2012). Ethnic minorities continue to find themselves struggling to navigate their way through a labour system that has demonstrated a historical practice of systematic discrimination against them (Pendakur and Pendakur 1998; Hier and Bolaria 2007; Block and Galabuzi 2011). This study seeks to answer the following questions, “What challenges do second-generation ethnic minority immigrants face during school-work transitions, and what strategies and experiences help them navigate this transition successfully?” This research will draw on Mark Granovetter’s (1974) seminal study on how people find work, focusing on the primary means through which individuals obtain employment: formal means, personal contacts, and direct application. To understand differences in employment outcomes, Pierre Bourdieu’s theory on the different forms of capital will be applied, with an emphasis on the effects of social capital (Bourdieu 1986). Qualitative research methodologies, specifically, in-depth interviews will be conducted with young second-generation ethnic minority adults who have completed a post-secondary program in Canada to explore their lived-experiences of school-work transitions, and identify their difficulties and successes. This research will help shed light on the experiences of second-generation ethnic minority immigrants in their transition from school to work, and shape policy and practice in the Canadian economy. At this point in time this research is a work in progress, and no data will be collected by the date of the conference, as it is still in its conceptual phase.

Title: The Well-being of Chinese Professional and Non-Professional Women

Presenter: Rachel Padillo

Affiliation: University of Toronto

As more women transition from their traditional homemaker role, they stimulate equality in the workforce by entering the work domain. Paid employment adds more responsibility to women since they must balance their work and family life. The objective of this paper is to examine professional and nonprofessional Chinese women with respect to their personal and career sacrifices, job satisfaction, and psychological and emotional wellbeing. This study examines the responses of workingwomen, 30–50 years of age, from The Chinese Family Panel Study Adult Questionnaire on 2010. For the purpose of this investigation, workingwomen of this cohort are divided into four groups based on their current profession and educational attainment (educated professional women, non-educated professional, educated non-professional women, and non-educated non-professional women), and are further categorized based on their residential community (rural or urban). The term “professional” represents an occupation that pertains to white-collar work such as clerical, administrative, specialized, executive, or office work, and the term “educated” refers to the completion of at least two or three years of college. Controlling for the number of siblings, number of children, age, dependent parents, home province, ethnicity, marital status, and hukou status, logistic regression is used for statistical analysis to examine the emotional wellbeing and job satisfaction of middle-age working women. Results from this study indicate that type of profession, educational attainment, residential community, number of siblings, age, and marital status influence women’s happiness and wellbeing, while the number of children, dependent parents, ethnicity, and home province have little impact on women’s happiness and wellbeing. Moreover, job satisfaction is impacted by the women’s profession, educational attainment, residential community, and age as

well as the number of siblings – in the case of rural women. Results from this investigation have the potential to assist human resource managers to understand their female employees.

Title: Acculturative Stress and International Students

Presenter: Peter Haastrup

Affiliation: Policy Studies, Ryerson University

This presentation will focus on acculturative stress and international student's integration into the Canadian society. It will also discuss the shift in immigration policy, which now see international students becoming an increased immigration priority. The conceptual framework will be based on Berry's (1980) acculturation theory, which will be used to analyze the impact of acculturative stress among international students in Canada by taking Nigerian foreign students as a case study. Outlined in this paper are lessons learned across the globe and policy recommendations/implications.

Title: Integration and Identity among the Second-Generation in Canada

Presenter: Belinda Ha, PhD Candidate

Affiliation: Policy Studies, Ryerson University

Statistical data from the large scale *Ethnic Diversity Survey* report second-generation visible-minority immigrants as having the lowest rates of integration amongst young people in Canada. Canadian media reports about disproportionately high rates of school drop-outs among some ethnic groups, ethnic youth gangs, and the arrests of alleged "home-grown" terror suspects in Toronto have added immediacy to the question of just how far children of immigrants have integrated in Canadian society (Ali, p.89). There appears to be a considerable irony then, considering the existence of a multiculturalism policy that has been celebrated as a unique success by Canadians and touted across the world as Canada's ideological model for less enlightened liberal democracies (Chariandy, p.818). Kobayashi (cited in Wong and Simon, p.7) notes that members of the second-generation see themselves and are seen by others as a cultural bridge between their parents' ways of living and a new way of living that is thought of as Canadian. As they are agents of socio-cultural change, they are a "prime locus" for understanding the complexities of a multicultural society. Issues of the second-generation essentially capture the success or failure of the dominant society in achieving its multiculturalism policy aims (Wong and Simon, p.7). While a considerable amount of research has focused on first-generation immigrants with regards to their psychological adjustment and labour market integration, the body of work addressing the experiences of second-generation youth in Canada is relatively recent. This conference paper proposal seeks to examine how 1.5 generation and second-generation youth in Canada negotiate their identities with regards to nationhood and Canada's immigration policies. It will also address how they negotiate their fluid identities amidst intergenerational relationships with family members who may emphasize more adherence to their traditional culture.

11:00-12:30: Public and Private Communities

Location: MACK 305

Chair: Dr. Myrna Dawson

Title: NO TITLE **

Presenter: Asad Ejaz Butt

Affiliation: International Development Studies, University of Guelph

Seyla Benhabib's Universalist model of deliberative democracy is constructed as a product of an independent politico-philosophical position that finds its unique place in the realm of identity politics, and multiculturalism. The position adds a seal of approval to normative political theories of earlier scientists that encourage multiculturalism (to the extent where it is not strong or mosaic multiculturalism) and cultural contestation which exists by virtue of social constructivism but disagrees with contemporaries on the spatial aspects of discourses that are essential to the functionality and coexistence of multiple cultural, social, religious and ethnic groups. The spatial aspects pertain to restrictions applied on public and private spaces where discourses that involve public reason and opinion formation have their place. Benhabib's model validates equality and inclusivity of members of particular groups in socio-political discourses that are of mutual importance. All these and her extensive observations on reification of ethnic groups, their opportunities of coexistence that lie in matured and reasonable discourses and principles of universal moral respect and recognition for the "other" where the other is taken as a ubiquitous term for both individuals and cultures other than the self or your own culture, are democratic standards that are mapped onto

Baluchistan's case where impermeable cultures, that are embodied in rich Baluch traditions, ethno-nationalism and sectarian violence, are barring the province from getting embedded into Pakistan's national grid.

Title: Saskatoon, Halifax, and Oakville: Analyzing Three Public Engagement Documents

Presenter: Jessica Dyck

Affiliation: Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Waterloo

Members of the public have diverse viewpoints and priorities. It is important to understand how best to engage these voices as they provide valuable perspectives and help to build resilient solutions to complex problems. Several Canadian communities have established, or are in the process of establishing, a formal set of instructions for engaging the public in decisions. Though these documents have varying names, they all lay out a formal procedure to engage the public in dialogue. The design of these processes impacts the quality of participation and feedback; if the design is poor, the endeavour is spoiled before it begins.

The following public engagement documents are analyzed in this research:

1. Saskatchewan – City of Saskatoon Community Engagement Process: A Guide To Public Process (2004)
2. Nova Scotia – Halifax Regional Municipality Community Engagement Strategy (2008)
3. Ontario – Town of Oakville Public Engagement Guide (2013)

The research addresses two specific questions: Are the basic needs of public participation met? And, is enough done to combat public apathy? This presentation begins by discussing the set of terms that it uses for the analysis. Then, each document is explored in more depth. Next, the assessment questions are applied and, finally, conclusions are drawn and we will determine whether or not the engagement documents have been designed to engage genuine and helpful dialogue between the public and the government. The research concludes that the engagement documents should make more of an effort to share decision-making power between the government and the public, and that they should be intentional about sharing specific goals of public engagement processes at the outset. The conversation about public engagement remains evergreen, rich with potential for dialogue and exploration.

Title: Best Practices for Open Government Implementation in Guelph Ontario

Presenter: Ashley DePaola

Affiliation: Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy, University of Guelph

The paper presents a case study of the City of Guelph, Ontario's efforts to engage the public and various stakeholders in the development of their Open Government Action Plan. Data from semi-structured interviews, government documents, and field notes from roundtable discussions and public events were used in the analysis. One objective of this project is to help other municipalities in the development of their own Open Government Action Plans. Findings suggest that several different types of engagement mechanisms should be used to attract a wider population to share their ideas with the City. As shown in Guelph's example, cities that plan to implement an open government need to be innovative in their capacity to deliver, translate, and provide messaging to attract people to engage in the community. Through an assessment of Guelph's roundtable discussions and ChangeCamp hosted in the spring of 2014, it is clear that these mechanisms have allowed for Guelph resident ideation to be implemented into Guelph's Open Government Action Plan. Although Guelph's Open Government Action Plan incorporated some of the ideas mentioned at the ChangeCamp, there was a general consensus that there needed to be more immediate follow up to all of the individuals that were involved in the various methods of public consultation as well as more inclusion of hard-to-reach populations in the engagement process. Most individuals were unaware of whether their ideas were actually going to be implemented.

Title: Sense of Belonging as a Necessity for Well-Being: Factors that Influence the Reported Sense of Belonging of Individuals Living in Canada

Presenter: Jordan P. Babando

Affiliation: Sociology, Laurentian University

The importance of sense of belonging as a health indicator has been supported by numerous studies and helps point to the importance of discovering the factors that influence people's sense of belonging if we are to improve the belonging within communities. This study reveals the various factors that influence the well-being of various individuals and minority groups in Canada. The study utilizes 2009 data collected by statistics Canada from their General Social Survey (GSS) on victimization and the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey. Numerous variables (such as age, gender, trust, safety, friends, community

assistance and victimization) that were perceived to influence the sense of belonging that various individuals and minority groups have (such as ethnicity, immigration status) were compared with the respondent's self-reported sense of belonging. Significance of variables were analysed and assessed using statistical techniques. Numerous variables were found to have a significant influence on a respondent's self-reported sense of belonging to their community. The study addresses and accounts for the differences between respondents that reported a high sense of belonging with those that reported a low sense of belonging. It demonstrates the significance that various variables have on the integration and belonging of various minority groups in Canada. The study is important in helping uncover details regarding important aspects of belonging among Canadian individuals and minority groups that may have otherwise been overlooked or disregarded.

11:00-12:30: International Studies

Location: MACK 306

Chair: Dr. Lisa Kowalchuk

Title: Exploring the Discourse of Skill/s mismatch in Ghana

Presenter: Emmanuel Kyeremeh

Affiliation: Geography, Brock University

Skill/s mismatch as a phenomenon in recent times has received a fair amount of scholarly attention. A review of the literature suggests that there is no precise and consistent definition of what a skill/s mismatch constitutes. Concepts such as skills gap and skills shortage are used interchangeably for a skill/s mismatch which makes the concept of mismatch a fuzzy one. With this in mind, I examined the discourse of and around skill/s mismatch in Ghana. My decision to examine the skill/s mismatch phenomenon in Ghana was based on a recent work by Bawakyillenuo et al. (2013) "Tertiary Education and Industrial Development in Ghana" that contends that there is a job skill/s mismatch in Ghana. Specifically, my research addressed the question 'how is the issue of skill/s mismatch understood within the Ghanaian context? In order to achieve this objective, I employed a discourse analysis on Bawakyillenuo et al.'s policy brief in addition to some policy documents on skills and education in Ghana. Conceptually, I drew on the policy mobilities literature to determine if the concept of skill/s mismatch might have been adopted from outside Ghana. The findings reveals that skill/s mismatch in Ghana constitute a skills gap. Specifically the gaps include: graduates inability to analyse data, their inability to provide solutions to situations, their inability to lead and provide innovative ideas as well as their inability to take responsibility of their actions in the work place. Also the findings reveal that the discourse on skill/s mismatch in Ghana is one that is propagated by employers which is reinforced by Bawakyillenuo et al.'s study. Lastly, due to data limitations, my research is inconclusive as to whether the idea of skill/s mismatch as a discursive object, is an imported idea into Ghana or not.

Title: NO TITLE**

Presenter: Ban Kattan

Affiliation: Development Studies, York University

With hundreds of thousands escaping armed conflict in Syria, the neighbouring Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is currently experiencing the largest presence of refugees on its land to date. United Nations organizations and international NGOs are actively operating in Jordan to respond to the Syrian crisis until their finite resources are called upon to address situations in other parts of the world. Here, the local government and NGOs are called upon to step up and fill the gap created by the absence of international aid. However, despite seven decades of experience hosting refugees from the region, local civil society still takes a back seat in meeting the needs of displaced populations seeking refuge in Jordan. My research explores the position of local NGOs in the aid sector in Jordan today and their development needs. It focuses on knowledge transfer as means of capacity building via partnerships between local and international NGOs in the field. The research goes on to highlight other factors that present challenges to building the capacity of local non-profit organizations such as conditional aid, NGO corporate sociology, and government support. It concludes by offering recommendations for overcoming obstacles to empowering NGOs in the local Jordanian context in order to promote the growth of a democratized, empowered civil society in the Kingdom.

Title: Seeking the Road Less Travelled: Experiences & Perceptions at an Ecotourist Attraction in Chi Phat, Cambodia

Presenter: Ryan Winch

Affiliation: Global Governance, Balsillie School of International Affairs and University of Waterloo

To emphasize the complexities of tourism in today's globalized world I have written an autoethnographic account of my visit to a Community-based Ecotourism (CBET) operation in Chi Phat, Cambodia. I recount the thought processes that resulted in my travelling to the CBET and my experiences as a tourist once there, stressing my personal interpretation of the CBET's net impact on those living in Chi Phat. The impressions I had through this period are subsequently compared to other discourses which challenged my initial perceptions of responsible tourism and help to emphasize the numerous impacts, both positive and negative, that this type of tourism can have on developing regions. The goal is not to conclude whether the CBET in Chi Phat is an example of a successful ecotourism operation but rather to emphasize the complexities of such operations, especially when trying to determine the "successfulness" of the operation for the local community. This will be done in the hope that it will lead readers to become more critical of the costs and benefits of their travel choices, thereby assisting to support tourist attractions which engage in the best practices. As tourists/travellers gain access to regions that were difficult to access until modern advances in transportation this type of analysis is important to aid in determining the morality of tourism, as well as in determining which destinations socially conscious tourists should support or avoid.

Title: The Paradox of Institutional Reform: A Case Study of Health Policy Implementation in Ghana

Presenter: Ebenezer B. Agyei

Affiliation: Political Science, University of Guelph

Many low and middle-income countries have recently adopted encompassing health insurance programs. While existing literature has developed compelling accounts of the sudden spread of these programs, so far little attention has been paid to the puzzle why the policy implementation seems to have proceeded relatively successful in some countries but has run into more problems in others. This paper studies the case of Ghana, where the effectiveness of the relatively young National Health Insurance Scheme has been compromised by a number of challenges, in particular reimbursement of health claims. An analysis of these challenges suggests that a crucial precondition for a successful health insurance program is a necessary institutional infrastructure for the program to thrive. It is a curious paradox that the promise of a universal social safety net sits comfortably with protruding obstacles that threaten its very existence. The existing literature pays no attention to the appraisal component of institutional reforms, and this paper seeks to address that lacuna. In the case of Ghana, periodic appraisals and prompt attention to addressing challenges at the program's outset could have forestalled their outgrowth into the current despicable state. This finding suggests that new health care legislation in low and middle-income countries is unlikely to reach the desired policy outcomes unless the culture of regular institutional appraisal, and prompt attention to institutional loopholes is embraced.

LUNCH 12:30-1:45

Please join us for Keynote speaker, Dr. Tad McIlwraith's talk "*When the Strange Becomes Familiar: Land, Stories, and an Anthropologist's Confessions from the Field.*"

With introductions from Dr. Mervyn Horgan.

Keynote: 12:45-1:45pm

SESSION THREE

2:00-3:30 Indigenous People

Location: MACK 306

Chair: Dr. Tad McIlwraith

Title: Resentment, Containment, Relationality: Colonial Logics of Rehabilitation and the Narration of Indigenous Youth Suicides

Presenter: Roxanne Runyon

Affiliation: Gender Studies, Queen's University

This essay suggests that government reports and media stories on youth suicide in Indigenous communities narrate Indigeneity as woundedness, enabling a colonial logic of rehabilitation. The impulse to rehabilitate can be understood as the impulse to normalize (McRuer, 2006); thus, government interventions into Indigenous youth suicides can be understood as biopolitical tactics that discipline Indigenous subjects toward a standard of health, in which health corresponds to compliance with the demands of neoliberal subjectivity. In addition to engendering rehabilitation I suggest that narratives of Indigenous woundedness function as what Dina Georgis (2013) might call colonialism's 'better stories', in that they perform affective work that enables non-native subjects to live with Indigenous suffering and to remain attached to the nation despite the violence that it enacts. I argue the containment of affect in these 'better stories' circumscribes the possibilities for non-Indigenous people to ethically encounter Indigenous distress. In order to imagine different kinds of relationality, I engage in an analysis of the musical performance of Tanya Tagaq, an Indigenous artist whose work expresses queer affect (Georgis, 2013) and resentment (Coulthard, 2014): expression of anger, rage, and unnamable affect that cannot be contained or rehabilitated. I suggest that in Tagaq's work, queer affect and resentment confound and unsettle the dominant narratives of woundedness and *ressentiment* through which Indigenous 'negative' emotions are contained, bringing the non-Indigenous witness into a potentially transformational confrontation with the colonial 'better story'.

Title: Settler Social Location in the Canadian Reconciliation Process

Presenter: James Janzen

Affiliation: Peace and Conflict Studies, Conrad Grebel University College and University of Waterloo

Canada has an empathy problem. Indigenous groups in Canada fare worse than every other group of people in every respect. This is having not only a detrimental effect on Indigenous groups but on all Canadians, albeit in different ways. The nature of this problem lies in a colonial tradition of denial and a cultural manifestation of the Other – the "Indian" problem is actually the Settler problem. The ramifications of this predicament reveal themselves clearly in the interdependent banners of human rights, civil society, and the environment. Without compassion and a true understanding of equal human rights for all we cannot engage in the intergroup relations needed to build a healthy civil society capable of absorbing social shocks. These shocks are becoming increasingly frequent and intense on a planet moving rapidly towards a future of acute resource shortages and irreversible damage to the biological systems that keep us alive. Confronting this empathy problem will require acknowledging a deep identity crisis within the colonial nation-project that will leave Canadians, in every sense of the word, unsettled. To begin, we must cultivate liminal spaces where Canadians can engage in a lifelong practice of critical self-reflection. Only through realizing their own social location in the colonial narrative can Settler Canadians place themselves within a new narrative of reconciliation. Through literary analysis of both Settler and Indigenous writers this essay challenges Settler Canadians to think critically about their cultural assumptions and their lack of empathy for the Other.

Title: Colonial Hegemony, Aboriginal Peoples and the Canadian News Coverage: An Exploration of the 2011 Attawapiskat First Nation Housing Crisis

Presenter: Brian Budd

Affiliation: Health, Aging and Society, McMaster University

This paper offers an analysis of the various portrayals of the 2011 Attawapiskat housing crisis published in 3 major Canadian newspapers. The housing crisis in the small Northern Ontario First Nation community is an important event with respect to the ongoing relationship between the federal government and Aboriginal Peoples. The housing crisis help to propel Attawapiskat to national notoriety, as attention from journalists and news organizations helped to generate dialogue regarding on-reserve conditions and initiate a policy response from the federal government. Guided by a consideration of colonial ideology, this paper provides insight into how this policy response was received and justified via published news stories.

Relying on the techniques of frame analysis, 4 distinct causal interpretations for the crisis were coded, each of which assigning culpability and responsibility to different political actors. Complimenting this consideration of framing choices is a content analysis, which examines the presence of stereotypes, news sources, expressed sympathy toward the plight of Aboriginal Peoples, portrayal of the relationship between Aboriginal Peoples and the Canadian state, and historical references to colonialism. Together, these two levels of analysis offer insight into core trends and themes in news coverage around the crisis. They also help to highlight the ongoing role of newspapers in providing the de facto moral and commonsense justification for the extension of settler society within Canada.

Title: The Canadian Carceral State: Violent Colonial Logics of Indigenous Dispossession

Name: Katie Thibault

Affiliation: Gender Studies, Queen's University

My research intervenes into the intellectual work emerging from the field of prison studies; positioning my conceptualization of the prison as a site of racial management and surveillance. The over-representation of indigenous and racialized incarcerated bodies necessitates the examination of the prison as a logic of white supremacy that is intricately related to histories of slavery, colonialism, and racial violence. I posit that the prison is a site of modernity and is underwriting ongoing colonial processes. I consider what the prison *hides* from public knowledge. How does the institution of the prison work to disavow histories of colonialism? I specifically examine how the prison works to enable racial violence, and at the same time, erase this violence against indigenous women from public knowledge. This paper will examine the prison as a tool of geographic dispossession, facilitating the continual disappearance of Indigenous bodies and upholding settler colonialism. The growing incarceration rates of indigenous women can be understood as a method of *removing* indigenous bodies from North American lands, which upholds settler colonialism and allows white bodies to be the rightful, geographically present, inheritors. Racialized discourses of criminality normalize state violence and position certain bodies as vulnerable to incarceration and violence. With this in mind, the prison can be conceptualized as a racialized geography for the spatial management of race and attendant vulnerable communities (McKittrick 2011:955). This paper clarifies the ideological work that the prison performs, and seeks to center narratives of abolition that envision change as a decolonial act.

2:00-3:30 Migrant Workers

Location: MACK 305

Chair: Dr. Vivian Shalla

Title: The Docile Worker: Theoretically Analysing the Impact of Immigration Policy on Seasonal Agricultural Workers in Canada

Presenter: Alexandra Pileggi

Affiliation: Sociology, University of Guelph

Michael Foucault's (1977:136) theory of *Docile Bodies* asserts the individual body to be an object of control; one that can be "subjected, used, transformed and/or improved". In his discussion, Foucault introduces a number of conditions that break down the individual during military training, including *The Art of Distribution* and *The Control over Activity*. Working with these conditions, this paper argues how the same form of docility is produced in temporary agricultural workers entering Canada under the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP). First, by likening *The Art of Distribution* to SAWP policies and procedures, it is evident how temporary agricultural migrants are confined and regulated within a certain space during their time in Canada. Second, by examining the policy implications and experiences of migrants entering under SAWP, links can be made to Foucault's techniques of *The Control over Activity*. Finally, in combining these two processes, this paper addresses Foucault's technique of *the body-object articulation*; whereby, SAWP protocols and employer discretion strips autonomy from temporary workers, producing a fully malleable and docile labour force. Such connections are significant to the study of Canadian immigration, as it provides a novel theoretical lens for understanding a phenomenon seemingly saturated by primary research. In engaging with these concepts and observations, this research opens the floor to policy discussion around the failings of the SAWP, and to recommendations that aim to improve it overall.

Title: In Transit: An Auto-Ethnographic Account of Irregular Migration in Central America

Presenter: Michael Gordon

Affiliation: International Affairs, Balsillie School of International Affairs and University of Waterloo

Irregular migration is a contentious and divisive buzzword that has been gaining attention globally and culminating in significant governance efforts both domestically and internationally to address the issue. Engaging with the commonly held discourse around irregular migration, the paper clarifies some pressing issues within the debate, while addressing the broader implications of irregular mobility on migration governance regimes. The paper is an auto-ethnographic account of an experience with irregular migrants while travelling on a bus in northern Guatemala. While travelling through Central America in the spring of 2010, I was able to have a discussion with a young migrant from Honduras as he made the journey to reunite with his family in the United States following his deportation to Honduras a few years earlier. I documented the interaction with this individual, while reflecting on impact that this experience had on me personally. Through the discussion, we talked about the processes of irregular migration, the conditions of travel, life in Central America and the desire to live in the US. The paper is a combination of a journal account from 2010, my reflections on that interaction and an academically based discussion on irregular migration from Central America to the United States. Through this process, the paper is attempting to generate a commentary on the processes of irregular migration in Central America and to challenge poorly constructed normative understandings and conceptions of 'illegal' migrants.

Title: Pinay, Balikbayan, Canadian: Transnational Trajectories of Filipina Domestic Workers in the Negotiation of Contemporary Neoliberalism

Presenter: Joddi Alden

Affiliation: Gender Studies, Queen's University

Often portrayed as disciplined victims or as trafficked bodies, Filipina domestic workers are, in fact, agents of migration and transformation. My paper expands and nuances existing models of labour migration by Filipina domestic labourers, seeking to understand the creative struggles and strategies they employ in order to create alternative futures for themselves and their families within and outside the Philippines. By examining the larger macrostructures of global labour and carework alongside the everyday experiences of women who are employed as domestic workers, I seek to also illustrate how these women are undisciplined agents of resistance, carving out stable spaces for themselves in ever-shifting and uncertain geographical locations. This project will complicate how these women's journeys are informed by constructions of nationhood, and processes of state exceptionalism that are underwritten by the debilitating effects of the current neoliberal, and increasingly globalized, moment. I will specifically investigate how Filipina careworkers create transnational labour trajectories stretching from rural spaces in the Global South (the Philippines), to intermediary households in international ports (Hong Kong) to urban centres in the Global North (specifically in Canada). The purpose of this paper is to explore the complexities of how power interlocks^[1] to provide the conditions under which Filipina women migrate transnationally for labour, and how migrants are constantly reworking, contesting, and transforming the disciplinary constructs of neoliberalism.

[1] By "interlock", I mean the ways that different forms of privilege and oppression intersect in the production of marginalization.

Title: The Unintended Consequences of Migrant Work: A Nationwide Analysis of the Mental Well-Being of Left Behind Children in Rural China

Presenter: Egag Egag

Affiliation: Sociology, University of Toronto

The Left-Behind Children phenomena is a recurring issue in Rural China that affects millions of children, as their parents migrate into urban areas of China seeking employment, typically with the intention to support their children. Despite their good intentions, researchers have highlighted unintended consequences experienced by these children in areas such as education, social behaviour, and mental well-being. The body of literature on left-behind children in Rural China is still small, with research findings that support a significant relationship between left-behind children and mental well-being, and findings that have challenged this assumption. More importantly, a lot of the research done has focused on one rural area within China, rather than conducting nationwide studies. This study focuses on how the absence of parents affects the mental well-being of left behind children throughout Rural China. Based on baseline survey data collected by Peking University's "Chinese Family Panel Study", the sample includes left behind children and non left-behind children of Han descent across Rural China,

between the ages of 10 and 15. Mental well-being was measured using a series of questions asking participants to rate on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being "Always", and 5 being "Never") how frequently they experience feelings of depression, stress, uncontrollable sadness, hopelessness, everything being difficult, and life being meaningless. Using logistic regression analysis, this model demonstrates the adverse affects of the migration of parents on left-behind children in a variety of areas related to well-being. While only the mother being absent significantly affected frequency of feeling depressed, it was only both parents being absent that significantly affected frequency of feeling hopeless, and feeling like life was meaningless. These findings support the body of literature that claims the presence of consequences associated with being a left behind child.

2:00-3:30 Grab Bag

Location: MACK 304

Chair: Dr. Lisa Kowalchuk

Title: The Implications of Being “Different”: The Bullying Experiences of Students with Disabilities

Presenter: Megan Leonard

Affiliation: Sociology and Con-Ed Program, Trent University

This paper is a summary of some of my findings developed in my honours thesis research in Sociology at Trent University. It focuses on the problem of disability-based school bullying. Although “bullying” has become an educational buzzword in recent decades, prompting a slew of school-based initiatives and anti-bullying policies, the issue remains rampant in our school systems. The research approaches the topic from a broad sociological perspective by focusing on the culture, policies, authorities and practices of schools, rather than accepted models of remediation aimed strictly at individuals, both bullies and their victims.

The first of these models claims that there are certain “types” of children who are prone to bullying, and who must be removed from schools. Second, it is suggested that teachers must create an accepting classroom environment in which bullying and disability is openly discussed, in order to eradicate the harassment of special needs students. Finally, the school policy model suggests that disability-based bullying can be remedied through the use of stronger anti-bullying policies and increased amounts of inclusive programs. In my conclusions however, I argue that bullying and ableism are both deeply embedded within the larger culture of schools and for this reason, the environment continues to foster and reproduce peer victimization despite educators’ efforts. School boards would therefore benefit from a larger, institution-based approach to disability-based bullying.

Title: Beyond Reproduction: Moving Forward from Maternal Health to a Life Course Approach

Presenter: Emma Callon

Affiliation: Sociology, University of Guelph

Using a gender-lens this analysis examines the social implications of different classifications of health policies for women. Maternal health has increasingly been considered a development priority since the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established by the United Nations in 2000. Although maternal mortality has decreased in many countries, the decreases have been inequitable. As well, investments in sexual and reproductive health are often insufficient. For these reasons further commitments to improving maternal health are likely to be included in the post-2015. The MDGs and post-2015 agenda are used as a benchmark for many countries’ development policies. Therefore it is important to assess the current state of maternal health policies and make recommendations to move forward in ways that work toward improving the health of mothers as well as women across the life course. Specifically, this analysis problematizes a focus on maternal health using Brazil’s domestic health policy and Canada’s foreign development policy as a case study. Next, this research will point to the benefits and limitations of reproductive health policy using Sweden’s development policy as an example. This analysis will then propose ways to move forward beyond policy that focuses on reproduction by emphasizing the benefits of a life course approach to women’s health. Lastly, I will suggest the division of maternal health from reproductive health on the policy level is detrimental to women’s health and rights and that there is a need to move beyond reproduction in order to achieve gender justice.

Title: Household Economics and Retirement

Presenter: Anne-Marie Bresee

Affiliation: Sociology, University of Guelph

Planning retirement income is a convoluted process that highlights both gaps in the Canadian pension system itself as well the lack of ability to adequately plan for retirement years. For many women, however, the shortage of retirement funds is not the result of a lack of foresight, but rather is the byproduct of balancing the role of family caregiver with that of a career, often at the expense of funding retirement for later in life. The following research offers an analysis of the Canadian retirement income system, a system which indicates a failure to recognize the complexity of the domestic/private sphere given the nature of the women's role in the workforce, their age of retirement and their participation in pension benefits. Examined are Old Age Security, Canada Pension Plan and Registered Retirement Savings Plan, which are considered to be the three pillars of retirement funding in Canada. As a result of lower wage earning power, women may also be forced to consider a fourth pillar – continued employment. Literature shows a continued gendered pension gap, reflecting both employment experience and life choices. In this thesis, a life course analysis reveals that by assuming the family caretaker role, women spend less time in the workforce, resulting in a disparity of wealth and income compared to retired men in Canada. Further, feminist economics reveal those choices are a reflection of a continued social hierarchy that is embedded with masculinist values resulting in systemic barriers to wealth accumulation. The net socio-economic result: feminization of poverty compounded by existing Canadian retirement policies.

Title: Governing Dogs: An Auto-Ethnographic Tale of Redefining Service Dog in Canada

Presenter: Brooke Sillaby

Affiliation: McMaster University

The number of dogs being used to assist individuals by providing therapy, support and service is steadily growing (Huss, 2009). According to Huss (2009), there are an estimated 10 to 30 thousand assistance dogs working in just the United States alone. Research in the area has tended to focus on the use and benefits of assistance dogs. It has ignored pressing public policy implications, such as infection control, ethics and public safety (Weese, 2009).

This presentation addresses questions surrounding the definition of service dogs: How should service dogs be classified? Will one definition of service dogs make it more or less difficult for people with disabilities to use a service dog? Will a more expansive definition mean that all companion dogs are basically also service dogs? Does Canada's health care system have the ability to properly handle and manage service dogs? By addressing these questions the author looks at possibility and implications of developing a practical definition of what constitutes a service dog.

Using auto-ethnography the author will reflect on her experiences with raising, training and working with service dogs; while exploring the cultural, political and societal perspectives regarding service dogs. Through an examination of the literature and interviews with trainers and service dog handlers, particularly those who train their own dogs, the author feels she will gain a deeper understanding of the debates surrounding how a service dog is classified and the consequences or implications of this definition for individuals, organizations and health care professionals. With a more transparent definition of what constitutes a service dog, the author believes it will be easier for the public to identify the legitimate teams and therefore less stressful for persons with disabilities who choose to rely on a service dog.

Title: The Slow Food Movement: Principles, Origin and Response

Presenter: Doran Hoge

Affiliation: Sociology, University of Guelph

A social movement is a form of collective action that serves to respond to an identified issue to create social change. While social movements may serve this common reactionary function, they are complex and diverse. They are organized using a variety of values and identities, and employ a range of organizational structures and manifest actions. Describing the values, tactics and organizational structures of a social movement does not provide a complete representation of a social movement. In order to most fully understand a social movement one must also understand the external context and issues that the movement is responding to. This article uses the Slow Food Movement as an example to demonstrate that a social movement can be most fully understood by taking into consideration the internal values and organizing principles, and the external context and issues related to a movement. Specifically, the Slow Food Movement internally promotes the preservation of traditional cultures, foods and lifestyles in a manner that is socially equitable and environmentally sustainable. These features are connected to three external factors that have resulted in the formation of the Slow Food Movement: 1) The emergence of neoliberal political ideology; 2) cultural globalization; and 3) the conceptual compression of time and space via

communications and transportation technologies. Ultimately, by revealing some of the connections between the internal and external factors I demonstrate that one can gain a more holistic, accurate and useful understanding of a social movement.

SESSION FOUR

3:45-5:15 The Benefits of Education

Location: MACK 304

Chair: Dr. Mavis Morton

Title: Not Just Another Brick in the Wall: Why Lifelong Education is Key to Prison Abolition

Presenter: Meg Lonergan

Affiliation: Gender Studies, Queen's University

Contrary to Pink Floyd's popular song of rebellion against education as "thought control"; education is a key strategy that has been mobilized by prison abolitionists in the pursuit of prison, penal, and carceral abolition. Specifically, abolitionists have focused on three spheres of educational intervention: fostering community support for public education for youth to help them avoid the school-to-prison pipeline; educational programs for inmates while they are incarcerated as both a form of resistance, and as part of the rehabilitation process; and consciousness raising educational programs which attempt to work with people inside and outside of prison as a strategy of breaking down both the symbolic and literal walls which separate them. Education, both as an overall strategy and as education-based alternatives, is necessary not only to improve the conditions of those within the criminal justice system, but in raising consciousness and critical thought surrounding the prison-industrial complex and fostering the sense of community needed to tear down the system.

Title: A Change in Plans: The Career Prospects of Recent PhD Graduates in Academia

Presenter: Brittany Etmanski

Affiliation: Sociology, University of Guelph

Various studies acknowledge the uncertainty many PhD graduates face when beginning their search for tenure-track employment. These graduates enter a job market where the likelihood of obtaining employment as a full-time professor is declining, and the mobility of these graduates within this sector is unclear. This study provides one of the most recent assessments examining whether an oversupply of PhD's exist, and whether those who pursue a PhD to become a full-time professor are successful in achieving their goals. Drawing on Statistics Canada's 2013 National Graduates Survey (NGS), this paper assesses the impact that field of study and reason to pursue a PhD have in determining who is most likely to obtain full-time employment as a professor. The results of this study find that although a large portion of PhD graduates pursued their PhD to become a professor, very few of them are obtaining full-time continuing employment, regardless of field of study. The statistical analyses of this research are situated within the credentialist theoretical framework.

Title: Alternative Education Programs: An In-Depth Analysis of an Individualized Learning Experience

Presenter: Robin Lafferty

Affiliation: Sociology, University of Guelph

For my Master's thesis, I am focusing on alternative education programs in Ontario. I am currently working toward completing my qualitative research project, which takes place in 4 alternative high schools located within a local school board. It is noteworthy that not all schools boards/districts may offer alternative education programs to the same extent, but this research will provide insight that carries a larger significance because alternative schools follow the standard Ontario curriculum. Current literature regarding alternative education programs is primarily (1) quantitative in nature and (2) discusses findings in the United States. My research project provides an in-depth study that goes beyond understanding the structure of these alternative education programs/schools on paper. I have immersed myself in the school climate in order to truly experience the culture and day-to-day lives of the many staff and students. With respect to my overall research question, I am asking: how is success defined and measured in these alternative schools? Conceptually, I am relying on symbolic interactionism, the sociology of education, as well as a criminological focus to guide my research and ultimately, analyze my findings. I have been conducting semi-structured, one-on-one interviews with staff members of various roles, as well as engaging in participant observation with students (between the ages of 14 and 18) in order to understand what success means. Due to the unique nature of alternative schools placing an emphasis on individualized learning for students, the standardized

measure of success that exists in traditional schools greatly differs. Thus far, I have learned that success does mean something different for each student, dependent upon their home life, past history, mental health, and so on.

Title: Student (Dis)Engagement and Portable Devices in the University Classroom

Presenter: Emily Alexander

Affiliation: Western University

Since the early 2000's, student disengagement in higher education has become popularly discussed in public discourse, the media, and academia as a growing social issue of importance. This study contributes to the existing literature by examining the relationship between student engagement and the use of portable technology devices within the university classroom. Typically, disengagement is conceptualized through psychological proxies of motivation, integration, and identity, rather than as a separate phenomenon. However, this study examines academic disengagement as a behavioural expression that is characterized as a lack of involvement in a given task. As such, disengagement can be examined in two distinct ways – as a physical expression and as a digital expression. In order to assess this relationship, four hundred thirty-eight undergraduate students enrolled in second year sociology courses at an Ontario university completed a questionnaire on their experiences within the classroom. Preliminary data analysis reveals that students' involvement in one type of disengagement behaviour does not predict involvement in another. Further analysis will focus on the relationship between individual expressions of (dis)engagement (both physical and digital) and related psychological measures (motivation, integration, identity).

3:45-5:15 Technology, Media, and Public Campaigns

Location: MACK 305

Chair: Dr. Patrick Parnaby

Title: Cyber-Psychopathy: Examining the Relationship between E-Personality and Online Misconduct

Presenter: Andrew D. Nevin

Affiliation: Western University

Is it possible that different versions of ourselves emerge online? Do our personalities change when we use the internet and in what way? There has been a lack of research investigating how the internet context can influence the internalization and expression of personality, and how context-dependent personality may relate to understanding acts of online deviance. This study seeks to fill a gap in the literature surrounding online personality by using self-report survey data to explore whether the internet may increase, decrease, or supplement existing personality traits. Specifically, it focuses on the expression of psychopathy—a personality construct characterized by lack of empathy, impulsiveness, manipulateness, and antisociality. By taking into account unique elements of cyberspace (anonymity, psychological distancing, disinhibition, low constraint), the objective of this study is to construct and validate a measure of 'cyber-psychopathy'. Preliminary findings have revealed that when controlling for context, there appears to be higher levels of psychopathy online, which is also influenced by extraneous variables such as gender and internet usage. Further data analyses will examine the role of cyber-psychopathy in understanding misconduct behaviours on the internet and in the 'real' world, through the use of vignettes that measure both moral acceptability and behavioural tendencies toward online/offline deviance. For this research, misconduct behaviours are conceptualized as transgressions that are generally deemed as wrong or improper based on norms, and cross either social or legal boundaries (e.g. cyber-stalking, digital piracy, trolling, flaming, online deception, cyber-vandalism, and internet addiction, as well as their offline counterparts). Ultimately, this study may serve to inform policy recommendations for internet use regulations by evaluating the potential impacts of psychopathic personality online, while also taking into consideration the necessary balance between the often competing interests of cyber-security and internet freedom.

Title: Interrogating Blurred Lines: Consent and Sexual Assault Prevention on Campus

Presenter: Hannah Barrett

Affiliation: Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy, University of Guelph

This research sought to examine whether sexual assault prevention campaigns are effective at changing cultural practices and attitudes towards sexual consent in a way that matches the Canadian affirmative model of consent. To answer this research question, a survey was conducted with 230 St. Thomas University criminology students, examining their attitudes and behaviours towards sexual consent. A literature review revealed four dominant themes in sexual assault prevention research, namely: miscommunication, coercion, risk management, and sexual myths and stereotypes. These themes were used to

establish ten indicators that served as the basis for creating the survey questions. Modeled in part after Humphreys' 2000 survey at the University of Guelph, the current survey sought to understand students' attitudes and behaviours towards sexual consent and how sexual assault prevention campaigns, specifically the *Don't be That Guy* campaign, might have influenced their perceptions of sexual consent. Results of this study found that students have positive attitudes towards the affirmative model of consent, therefore engaging in ethical sexual practices with their partners and understanding the importance of verbal consent.

Title: Mobile Technology and Place in the Matheson Learning Commons

Presenter: Connor Dingle

Affiliation: Geography, Brock University

In this Master's thesis project, the roles of personal, mobile technologies are analyzed as important elements in constructing place in the library at Brock University. Ethnographic observations and interviews with students and library staff are used to examine how everyday practices and norms of behaviour of Brock students, paying particular attention to their technological devices, informs the construction of place. In recent years, university libraries across Global North nations have been responding to changes in which they construct new spaces or renovate existing spaces into what is generally called a 'learning commons'. Such environments are useful sites for exploring mobile technology and place, although geographic literature has yet to recognize its importance. Furthermore, the geographic literature is occupied with theoretical advancement and large scale studies such as urban environments or public space, and there are few empirical studies to demonstrate these new digital geographical approaches. Alongside this, there is a large body of literature in multidisciplinary critical media studies empirically engaging with mobile ICTs, and in this literature there is growing attention to the importance of place. Additionally, there is a growing body of ethnographic research in library and information science seeking to better understand student behaviours in the learning commons environments. This thesis project draws on the intersections of geographical theories of place, spatiality and technology, supported by findings from recent critical media studies, and contextualized by discussions of learning commons in library science. This presentation will cover the framework and findings for this masters thesis.

Title: e-Valuation and Environmental Organizations: Perception, Practice, and Utility in Social Media Campaigns

Presenter: Brynn Fromknecht

Affiliation: Geography, University of Guelph

Social media is everywhere. Platforms like Twitter and Facebook offer users an easy and engaging way to interact with one another, receive updates, and share information. With the expansion of Internet access, social media platforms are swelling, creating an attractive market for private industry, news outlets, governments, and non-profit organizations. As our social interactions move online, information, advertisements, and political actions are also adapting to fit within these platforms. As a result, many scholars have begun to analyze and debate the relationships between social media and social action. Its critics describe online participation in social, political, or environmental issues as superficial communication, or "slactivism," whereas others have highlighted a unique ability to engage and mobilize collaborative online networks to amplify and draw attention to pressing issues. While many social scientists have utilized individual campaigns as case studies to underline the successes or failures of social media action, few have examined the role organizations play in planning, implementing, or measuring the value of campaigns in their work. As environmental organizations spread online, they present a number of images, perspectives, and potential solutions for a wide range of environmental problems. While the outcomes of these campaigns have been celebrated or problematized as evidence of social media's potential for mobilization and change, my research focuses on the role of environmental campaign planners and management themselves. In this paper, I place the subject of social media within the context of geography and examine its potential influences and effects on social media mobilization and the environment generally. I then describe the methods that I will use to determine how environmentally focused organizations conceptualize, use, and evaluate the efficacy of social media campaigns, in order to add a new and important perspective to contemporary debates revolving around social media, social action, and the environment.

3:45-5:15 Gendered and "Othered" Experiences

Location: MACK 306
Chair: Dr. Renee Sylvain

Title: Re-imagining Black Migrant Masculinity: Lived Experiences of Black Kenyan Man in Toronto

Presenter: Dionisio Nyaga

Affiliation: Social Justice Education, The University of Toronto/OISE

My main area of study is on masculinity and Indigenous studies. For this presentation, I would like to focus on how Masculinity can intersect with Indigenous knowledge and practices. This presentation will focus on my PhD proposal dubbed “Re-imagining Black migrant masculinity: Lived experiences of Black Kenyan man in Toronto”. This study attempts to understand the experiences of Kenyan fathers in the diaspora. Many Kenyan men who come to Canada cannot find good jobs that they had back in their country. This forces them to remain at home while their wives go to work. This means that men have to take care of their children and any household work. This has a lot of issues based on the fact that Kenyan men are reared under a very masculine culture. This has led to many marital and social issues within the Kenyan homes in the diaspora. The questions posed in this research are:

Why is the educated Kenyan man uncomfortable with available service industry jobs?

Why do Kenyan men feel uncomfortable while performing private house chores?

How can a Kenyan man resist hegemonic masculinity and succeed in job search/satisfaction while in Toronto?

Can Indigenous ways of living and practice become a tool to decolonise colonial masculinity for the diaspora African man?

This study will utilise Anti-colonial/Anti-racist, post-colonial, critical masculinity, and Indigenous theories.

Title: Photography and Subversive Narratives

Presenter: Ultra Gautam

Affiliation: University of Toronto

Selfies and self-portraiture in new media are a subversive tool utilised by marginalised communities to counteract a colonial history of photography. This paper analyzes the selfie, technology, self-portraiture and the relationships between subject and observer. The topic will be discussed using a format that is reminiscent of many semiotic studies; format, content and context analysis (Valverde, 2006). This paper will discuss the colonial legacy of photography, from the usage by the royal family of England to disseminate representations of rule to its people, to South African apartheid leaders commissioning special cameras to photograph its black citizens along with the boycott of Polaroid, one of the first anti-apartheid corporate boycotts. This paper will also discuss the use of self-generated depictions and the impact this can have for outgroups that may never interact in depth with many of these marginalised groups. Authorial ownership of these photos in the face of new media is discussed, as these photos can be stolen and warped. The response of print journalism, and institutions such as TIME magazine that has named ‘You’ as their person of the year where the cover was a black box with the title and a reflective paper inside. This allowed the magazine to turn the reader into the subject, while controlling the observational power of the narrative along with its context. Selfies remove this power and institutional response to shifting dynamic is discussed. It is argued that selfies and self-portraiture are subversive tools used by marginalized groups to exert narrative agency.

Title: Not Without the Plastic: Black Women and the Negotiation of Safe Sex

Presenter: Danyel Haughton

Affiliation: Gender Studies, Queen’s University

This paper explores the ways in which black women and girls negotiate safe sex. I wish to consider how narratives of safe sex are understood alongside heterosexuality and feminine modesty, and the ways in which racialized bodies emerge within these discourses. I consider how safe sex, as a racialized narrative, not only produces nonwhite and black bodies as already ‘unsafe’ but also in need of sexual management. My research, therefore, also seeks to problematize notions of sexual agency. I contend that the gendered agentive narrative embedded in safe sex—that women should ‘own’ and ‘control’ their sexual acts—speaks implicitly to a white female subject who, following third wave feminist discourses of sexual liberation and empowerment and the current neo-liberal turn, is viewed as inherently having sexual agency. I will think about how this white feminist and neo-liberal narrative elides how racialized bodies are differentially located within systems of power and are still subject to colonial discourses of sexual degeneracy and hypersexuality, which adversely shapes their relationship with sexual agency. My research will frame sex as a “performative act” which is socially and historically contingent and shaped by Western social scripts, which

are continuously renegotiated. It is within these scripts and “sexual interactions, with their inherent power relations, that the negotiation of desires and practices takes place” (Moran and Lee 2011:160).

Title: Trans* Identities and the Inherent Need to Control Them

Presenter: Amberlea Parker

Affiliation: Gender Studies and Native American Studies, University of Lethbridge

My paper presentation is titled *Trans* Identities and the Inherent Need to Control Them* and was created as a final paper for a fourth year class titled Queer Theory taught by Mickey Vallee. In this paper I explain the theory that because of the previous use and continued of Gender Identity Disorder to classify Trans* human beings as mentally ill, that the stigma continues to marginalize, and disserves the Trans* community. The disservice being that the past classification of mental illness creates an unease and fear in others who otherwise do not identify as Trans*. Additionally, the common misconceptions that sex and gender are the same thing mixed with the distorted public media and the practice of medical intervention creates uninformed ideas and practices subjected upon the Trans* community which is controlled by a heteronormative society. It is my hope that through this paper presentation, I can help to create discourse surrounding the inherent practices of our society which would in turn start social changes needed to make a safer social space or the Trans* community.



Department of Sociology and Anthropology

A word cloud graphic for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. The words are arranged in a circular pattern around the central text 'SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY'. Other prominent words include 'SOCIAL', 'ANTHROPOLOGISTS', 'SOCIOLGISTS', 'CULTURES', 'THEORY', 'COMMUNITY', 'AGRICULTURE', 'ENVIRONMENT', 'POLITICAL', 'GENDER', 'ETHICS', 'MUSEUMS', 'TEACHING', 'RELATIONS', 'MULTICULTURALISM', 'FARMING', 'ENERGY', 'DISCRIMINATION', 'POLITICAL', 'ISSUES', 'ADVOCACY', 'CRITICAL', 'THOUGHT', 'WORLD', 'ENVIRONMENT', 'IDEOLOGY', 'SOCIAL', 'CULTURES', 'FRAMING', 'SCIENCE', 'ANALYSIS', 'METHODS', 'STUDY', 'STRAT', 'AGRI', 'BUSINESS', 'POLITICAL', 'GENDER', 'ETHICS', 'MUSEUMS', 'TEACHING', 'RELATIONS', 'MULTICULTURALISM', 'FARMING', 'ENERGY', 'DISCRIMINATION', 'POLITICAL', 'ISSUES', 'ADVOCACY', 'CRITICAL', 'THOUGHT', 'WORLD', 'ENVIRONMENT', 'IDEOLOGY', 'SOCIAL', 'CULTURES', 'FRAMING', 'SCIENCE', 'ANALYSIS', 'METHODS', 'STUDY', 'STRAT', 'AGRI', 'BUSINESS', 'POLITICAL', 'GENDER', 'ETHICS'. There are also several small circular images of people and landscapes interspersed within the word cloud.

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/socioanthro>

The University of Guelph logo, featuring the text 'UNIVERSITY of GUELPH' in a black box.