Research News

Congratulations to Dr. Peter Nyers, the IGHC incoming Acting Director, for being awarded the title of University Scholar for a period of four years from July 1, 2017. This title is intended to recognize faculty members in mid-career who have already distinguished themselves as international scholars. In approving the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Appointments, the Senate took note of his reputation as a leading international scholar in the field of refugee and migrant politics and citizenship, of his role in the IGHC, of his success as a supervisor and mentor of graduate students, and so on.

Congratulations to our colleagues - Drs. Paul Huebener, Susie O’Brien, Tony Porter, Liam Stockdale, and Yanqiu Rachel Zhou - of the IGHC Time & Globalization working group for publishing their second edited volume, Time and Globalization: An interdisciplinary dialogue. This book was originally published as a special issue of the journal Globalizations. Focusing on the intersection of time and globalization, this book aims to create an interdisciplinary dialogue between the (largely separate) respective literatures on these themes. The collection explores many urgent issues of contemporary human affairs—from large, epochal problems, such as climate change, to everyday struggles with the dynamics of social acceleration—involving a complex interplay between temporality and globalization. It illustrates the theoretical benefits of bridging time with globalization, and also exemplifies the methodological strengths of engaging in cutting-edge, interdisciplinary scholarship to better understand the changing economic, social, political, cultural, and ecological dynamics in this globalizing world.

Congratulations to Dr. Katherine Nastovski, our new IGHC Adjunct Member, and to Dr. Robert O’Brien, the co-applicant, for being awarded a SSHRC Connection Grant for a conference titled “Confronting Global Capital: Strengthening Labour Internationalism and Transnationalism in Canada today”, which will be held at McMaster.
University from October 12-14th, 2017. The conference will take stock of the state of labour internationalism in Canada by bringing trade unionists together with activists and academics involved in workers’ justice more generally to evaluate past practices of Canadian labour internationalism, and to debate and discuss strategies to strengthen this work. Their goal will be not only to debate and analyze, but also to come up with a report from the conference that will include concrete proposals and ideas for advancing international labour solidarity in Canada today.

**Congratulations to Drs. Y. Rachel Zhou, William D. Coleman, Christina Sinding, and Roy Cain at McMaster University, as well as their colleagues in other five universities and research institutes in three countries (Canada, China, and France), for publishing a symposium on Transnationalism, Sexuality, and HIV Risk in the international scholarly journal *Culture, Health and Sexuality*. Based on the findings of a CIHR-funded multi-sited empirical study (2011-2016), titled “Living in ‘Transnational Spaces’: Gendered Vulnerability to HIV of Chinese Immigrants in a Transitional Context and the Implications for Future Interventions”, this collection of papers pays close attention to the role of transnationalism – in particular, cross-country mobility and connections, simultaneous cultural engagement and the “in-between” identities of Chinese immigrants in Canada – in shaping the meanings of, and power dynamics around, gender, sexuality, “race”, socioeconomic status and the nation-state in the contexts of HIV-related risk and HIV prevention.

**On May 18, 2017 the IGHC-hosted Austerity Research Group held a day-long workshop, titled “The Spatial Politics of Austerity: Changing Political Geographies”. Organized by Drs. Peter Graefe and Stephen McBride, the workshop considers some questions about the spatial dimensions of state austerity: In a period of prolonged budgetary austerity, how is political geography remade? Do national governments try to offload responsibility to provinces and cities? Are there new openings for minority nations to claim autonomy? Can social movements act at the urban scale to contest cuts to state programs and propose alternatives? It brought together McMaster faculty and graduate students with invited speakers, including Pascale Dufour from Université de Montréal, Meghan Joy from Concordia, André Lecours from the University of Ottawa, and Heather Whiteside from the University of Waterloo.**

**We would like to express our very warm welcome to the following three colleagues who have recently joined the IGHC as new members.**

**Dr. Travis Kroeker**, Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at McMaster University, is the author of *Christian Ethics and Political Economy in North America* (McGill-Queen’s University Press), and co-author (with Bruce Ward) of *Remembering the End: Dostoevsky as Prophet to Modernity* (Westview). He teaches in the areas of religion, ethics and politics. His current research interests include apocalyptic literature and political theology, and the intellectual and cultural premises underlying the growing dominance of the technological paradigm in modern and postmodern societies. He is currently completing two book projects: *Messianic Political Theology and Diaspora Ethics* (in press, Cascade) and *Literary Apocalypse as Political Theology*.

**Dr. Ellen Amster** is the Jason A. Hannah Chair in the History of Medicine at McMaster University, and an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact, and the Department of History. She received her B.A. from the University of Chicago and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. After serving as a simultaneous translator for an ORBIS ocular surgery mission, she takes undergraduate students to Morocco for a context-based global health field course titled “Interdisciplinary Global Health Field Course: Maternal and Infant Health in Morocco, Women’s Rights and Family in Islam”. These global health themes are explored in her 2013 book, *Medicine and the Saints: Science, Islam, and the Colonial Encounter in Morocco, 1877-1956* (2013). Her current research interests include the history of public health, non-Western health and healing, midwifery, and global health. She has created a web portal for all researchers with libraries, archives, museums, and digital collections, the History of Medicine and Medical Humanities Research Portal (http://medhumanities.mcmaster.ca/).

**Dr. Katherine Nastovski** holds a PhD in Social and Political Thought from York University. Her research and publications explore the possibilities of transformative models of transnational trade union action, solidarity and coordination. Her dissertation, titled “Towards Transformative Solidarities: Wars of Position in the Making of Labour Internationalism in Canada”, provides the first full-length analysis of the way the institutionalized practice of labour internationalism developed inside Canadian unions and how these practices came to be challenged and remade by union activists throughout the Cold War. Katherine’s research grew out of her work as a union activist and her involvement in international labour solidarity.
Since January the IGHC has successfully organized, held, co-hosted, and co-sponsored the following well-attended events. Many thanks to our speakers, organizers, collaborators, moderators, and those who have contributed to the ongoing activities of the IGHC research community.

- **Apr 20, 2017, IGHC Lunch Discussion** on Environment and Climate Change: “Political Science, International Relations and Climate Change” (Speaker: Dr. Robert O’Brien)
- **Apr 4, 2017, IGHC Lunch Discussion** on Environment and Climate Change: “Cultural Studies and the Environment” (Speaker: Dr. Susie O’Brien)
- **Apr 12, 2017, IGHC Co-sponsored Screening** at the AGH: "The Pass System", followed with a panel discussion (Organizers: Jessica Foran-Jurgutis and Alex Williams)
- **Mar 24, 2017, IGHC Co-sponsored Book Talk**: “Marconi: The Man Who Networked the World” (Speaker: Dr. Marc Raboy, McGill University; Organizer: Dr. Sara Bannerman, Canada Research Chair in Communication Policy and Governance)
- **Mar 22, 2017, IGHC Lunch Discussion** on Environment and Climate Change: “History and the Environment” (Speaker: Dr. Michale Egan)
- **Mar 21, 2017, IGHC Research Seminar**: “Third Worldism Re-considered: The Multiple Lives of an (Unrealized) Political Project” (Speaker: Dr. Alina Sajed; Moderator: Dr. Inder Marwah)
- **Mar 6, 2017, IGHC Public Lecture**: “Mobilizing Morality: Migrant Domestic Workers in Dubai”, in collaboration with the School of Social Work, the School of Labour Studies, the Gender Studies and Feminist Research Program, and the Department of Sociology (Speaker: Dr. Rhacel Salazar Parreñas, Fulbright Research Chair; Moderator: Dr. Donald Goellnicht)
- **Feb 14, 2017, IGHC Research Seminar**: “The Travels of ‘Energy Transitions’: Thinking Post-Carbon Capitalism in Latin America” (Speaker: Dr. Donald Kingsbury; Moderator: Dr. Robert O’Brien)
- **Jan 24, 2017, IGHC Research Seminar**: “Intimate Geographies, Transpacific Worldings, and the Pulse of the Archive” (Speaker: Dr. Nadine Attewell; Moderator: Dr. Peter Walmsley)
Academic Programs

🎉 With Dean’s permission at the Faculty of Social Sciences, a new graduate seminar course, titled “Global Health and Environment Policy”, will be offered in Term 2 of the 2017-2018 academic year. This course explores the challenges in tackling the health impacts of environmental pollution (chemicals, waste, and climate change) at a global level. It will address issues of the conversion of scientific knowledge about adverse health effects of exposure to environmental factors into policies. The course covers and assesses the concepts of risk, scientific uncertainty, cost-benefit analysis, access to information, and the precautionary principle. It will discuss the instruments (International conventions, programs, and initiatives) that have been implemented to address these pressures at the global level, and discuss their limitations.

The course instructor, Vito A. Buonsante, is a public interest Environmental Lawyer. In particular he has worked on the implementation of EU chemicals legislation, access to environmental information, and public participation in and access to justice for ClientEarth, an environmental organization based in London, UK. Vito has worked on projects involving updating environmental legislation in South Eastern Europe, and currently works with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to improve laws on pesticides in Sub-Saharan African countries. His interests include how decisions are taken in protecting human health and the environment from environmental risks, socio-economic analysis, the relationship between trade and environmental protection, and risk assessment.

🎉 On May 18, 2017 the IGHC successfully held its annual MA Student Major Research Paper (MRP) Colloquium at L. R. Wilson Hall 1003. Our 18 MA students presented their works in four sessions: a) Globalization: Complexities, Challenges, and Possibilities; b) Globalization and Development; c) Globalization, History and Politics; and d) Global Governance. In addition to our current ones, many incoming students (including one driving from the USA) and faculty members from the Faculties of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Health Sciences attended the colloquium. A special thank-you goes to Drs. Alina Sajed, Netina Tan, Inder Marwah, and Susie O’Brien for chairing the sessions and to Lihua for beautifully pulling things together! We also want to take this opportunity to thank our colleagues who serve as the supervisors or readers of our students’ MRP projects this summer!

🎉 The IGHC is now in the process of collaborating with the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) Program to create a new theme, tentatively titled “Globalization and Health”, in our existing minor in Globalization Studies. Aiming to provide students with the opportunity to explore the complex idea of globalization from a multi-disciplinary perspective, this minor now includes a wide range of courses from Social Sciences and Humanities. At present students are able to tailor their course selection from the three existing themes: a) Environment, Sustainability, and Economic Development; b) Peace, Security, and Human Rights; and c) Globalization and Culture. Having the proposed new theme is expected to further enrich interdisciplinary teaching and learning about globalization.

🎉 Our MA admission this year has now finished. In addition to domestic applications, we have also received many international applications, from countries including Bangladesh, China, Ghana, India, Japan, Kenya, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Turkey, and the USA. We expect a very dynamic cohort of about 18 students for the 2017-2018 academic year. A special thank-you goes to the IGHC MA Admission Committee, comprising eight members from seven disciplines in Social Sciences and Humanities.

🎉 In late February 2017 three of our four MA students — Maria Cataluna, Faria Faiz, and Melina Mamone — who are enrolled in the Water Without Borders graduate program, a collaboration between UNU-INWEH (United Nations University - Institute for Water Environment and Health) and McMaster University, travelled to Ghana to learn about the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) situation, including its health implications, from local professionals, government stakeholders, fellow students, and community members. During the research field trip, according to Faria, students had the opportunity to conduct key informant interviews, youth focus group discussions and water testing at various water sites to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the WASH situation and various factors contributing to the current state of affairs in Ghana. “The experience has been enlightening, a setting that embraces diverse perspectives which in turn provoked new ideas”. Melina added: “Collectively, I have been endowed with an integral standpoint which allows me multiple viewpoints when contemplating global issues.” (Photo courtesy: UNU-INWEH)
Other IGHC News

✨ Organized by the IGHC Review Committee, which consists of Drs. Stephen McBride, Susie O’Brien, Tony Porter (Chair), Petra Rethmann, and Netina Tan, the IGHC Imagining Global Futures Workshop took place on May 16, 2017 at the Skylight Room, McMaster University. Consistent with the role that the IGHC has played in the past, one of the purposes of the workshop is to identify new areas for potential research collaboration. Informed by a summary of the report created by the review committee, three themes were discussed by the participants: a) Privilege and inequality; b) Media, materiality and communication; and c) Imagining viable futures. The workshop also provided a plenary to discuss future directions, including re-framing or renaming the IGHC to incorporate some variant of an “imagining global futures” theme.

✨ Congratulations to four of our MA students - Salma El-Zamel, Helen Beny, Fizza Kulvi, and Kim Tran - and their colleagues, for organizing a successful student event on March 15, 2017. Titled “Decolonizing Mindsets”, this artistic event aims to challenge the negative perceptions and stereotypes of the Other that continue to dominate our society. The event includes a variety of performances, such as spoken word, music, and stand-up comedy, as well as an art exhibition and a silent auction promoting the work of local artists. This event is co-sponsored by the President’s office. (Photo courtesy: Elina Filice)

✨ Lihua Qian, the IGHC Graduate Coordinator, and her colleagues volunteered at McMaster’s Inspiring from Within Professional Development Conference in March (Photo courtesy: Heidi van Bodegom).

Miscellaneous Information

✨ The 2018 Globalink Research Internship faculty submissions is due on June 14, 2017, at 5 p.m. PDT. Mitacs Globalink Research Internships (GRI) pair professors in Canada and high-quality international undergraduates from Australia, Brazil, China, France, India, Germany, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Ukraine for 12-week internships (from May to September). All disciplines are eligible. More information: https://www.mitacs.ca/sites/default/files/resources/2018_globalink_research_internships_faculty_guide_may2017.pdf.

✨ The Centre for Media, Communication and Information Research (ZeMKI) is calling for papers for its international conference, “The Mediatization of Time: New perspectives on media, data and temporality”. The conference will be held on 7-8 December 2017 at the University of Bremen, Germany. Abstract submission deadline: September 1, 2017. More information: http://www.zemki.uni-bremen.de/en/events/conferences/the-mediatization-of-time.html

✨ Waterlution is an organization that engages people in water issues, and is currently seeking young leaders (ages 18-29) from across Canada to join their Youth Advisory Board. The term will be from July 2017 to March 2018, and the deadline for application is June 29, 2017. More information: https://waterlution.org/job-opportunities/

✨ Heads-up for MRPs
- July 10 Submit draft MRP to supervisor
- July 17 Receive draft MRP comments from supervisor
- Aug 7 Submit final MRP to supervisor and reader
- Aug 14 Receive final MRP comments from supervisor and reader
- Aug 21 Submit final MRP with corrections to IGHC office (must be coil bound with an acetate cover)
Selected Recent Publications by IGHC Members


Selected Publications by IGHC Alumni


**Johnson, H. L.** (2013). The Other Side of the Fence: Reconceptualizing the “Camp” and Migration Zones at the Borders of Spain. *International Political Sociology*, 7(1), 75-91.


