CONFRONTING GLOBAL CAPITAL:
Strengthening Labour Internationalism and Transnationalism in Canada Today

AFFRONTER LE CAPITAL MONDIALISÉ :
Renforcer l'internationalisme syndical au Canada aujourd'hui

12-14 Oct.
Hamilton
Ontario

globalization.mcmaster.ca/conference
Confronting Global Capital:
Strengthening Labour Internationalism
and Transnationalism in Canada Today

We want to invite you to participate in our conference next fall in Hamilton, ON. The purpose of the conference is to evaluate past practices of Canadian labour internationalism and to debate and discuss strategies to strengthen this work. This includes how to mobilize increased participation by rank and file activists and how to develop deeper inter-union coordination on international solidarity. The conference will tackle issues around transnational organizing, building international solidarity campaigns, fostering political connections and connecting internationalism with migrant workers struggles.

The organizing committee for the conference is made up of trade unionists (and worker-activists) and academics and most of our panels and workshops will include a mix of unionists, worker-activists, and academics. Our goal will not only be to debate and analyze, but also to come up with concrete proposals and ideas for advancing international labour solidarity.

For more information, visit:
globalization.mcmaster.ca/conference
labourinternationalism@gmail.com

Affronter le capital mondialisé :
Renforcer l’internationalisme syndical
au Canada aujourd’hui

Nous souhaitons vous convier à un colloque que nous organisons cet automne à Hamilton (Ontario). Nous y discuterons du passé, du présent et de l’avenir de l’internationalisme syndical au Canada et au Québec, et nous débattrons des stratégies à adopter pour le renforcer. Nous échangerons entre autres sur les moyens d’impliquer de façon plus approfondie les militant-e-s de base et de développer les coopérations intersyndicales en matière de solidarité internationale. Ce colloque abordera les questions des mobilisations transnationales, des campagnes de solidarité internationale, ainsi que des moyens de renforcer les liens politiques et de conjuguer internationalisme syndical et luttes des travailleurs et travailleuses migrant-e-s.

Le comité d’organisation est composé de syndicalistes (et de militant-e-s issus des milieux de travail) et d’universitaires. La plupart des panels et ateliers incluront à la fois des syndicalistes, des militant-e-s, et des universitaires. Notre but n’est pas seulement de débattre et analyser, mais aussi d’identifier des propositions concrètes afin de renforcer et développer l’internationalisme syndical.

Pour plus d’informations, visitez :
globalization.mcmaster.ca/conference
McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario
October 12-14, 2017
https://globalization.mcmaster.ca/conference

Confronting Global Capital: Strengthening Labour Internationalism and Transnationalism Today

***The conference has three main venues

Venue Information:

1. The Workers’ Arts and Heritage Centre (WAHC)
   https://goo.gl/maps/bfccaFNdZC72

2. McMaster University Centre for Continuing Education (CCE)
   https://goo.gl/maps/BbpLzefe71m

   Conference Session Rooms: 110 (sessions in this room will not have French-English Interpretation), 212 and 213

3. David Braley Health Sciences Centre (DBHSC)
   100 Main St. West Hamilton, ON
   https://goo.gl/maps/vUEFvEffh7Zm

   Conference Session Rooms: 2032, 2035 (sessions in this room will not have French-English Interpretation) and 2036

   Full maps of each venue are available at the end of the programme

Conference Programme

OPENING NIGHT PUBLIC EVENT

*Transnationalism at Work: Hamilton, Steel, and Globalization*

Thursday October 12, 2017
Time: 6:00-9:00pm
Workers’ Arts and Heritage Centre

6pm – Art Exhibit Opening and Play
CONFERENCE PLENARY

_Framing Labour Internationalism_

Friday October 13, 2017
Time: 9:00-10:30am
McMaster Centre for Continuing Education
Room 212-213

Kim Scipes (Purdue University)
Nathalie Guay (CSN)
Mike Palacek (CUPW)
Katherine Nastovski (McMaster University)

Tribute to Peter Waterman

Friday October 13th, 2017

Session 1A
_Institutional Labour Internationalism_

Friday October 13, 2017
10:45am-12:15pm
McMaster Centre for Continuing Education
Room 212

Chair
Tom Langford
(University of Calgary)

Panel:
Nathalie Guay

_The ITUC at Ten: Making Another Internationalism Possible?”_

More than 10 years after the founding of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC),
can we say that ‘New Internationalism’ has become a reality?

Born from the merger of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and the
World Confederation of Labour (WCL), ITUC represents 180 millions of workers belonging to
333 national trade unions from 162 countries and territories.

The founding of the ITUC in 2006 was supposed to help the international labour movement face
the challenges of globalization. In 2006, a few days after his election at the head of the ITUC, the
former secretary-general of the ICFTU and main advocate of the merger with the WCL, Guy Ryder, stated that “the creation of the ITUC will reinforce the capacity of the labour movement, both nationally and internationally. […] With this new strength, we will have more influence on corporations, governments and international financial institutions”.

We will start by presenting the goals of the founding of the ITUC, as well as the main challenges facing the international labour movement at the time. We will then evaluate the evolution of this organization under several dimensions: its relations to international organizations, trade negotiations, North-South relations, its relations to social movements, and its capacity to confront multinational corporations.

Thomas Collombat
“Reviewing the First Decade of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas”
In 2008, the founding congress of the Confederation of the Americas (CSA) was held in Panama. A product of the merger of the Inter-American Regional Labor Organization (ORIT) and the Latin American Confederation of Labor (CLAT), it established the rapprochement between the reformist and Christians that had begun with the creation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) in 2006. What critical assessment can be made of these first years of trade union unity at the continental level? What are the challenges today in a changing political context giving rise to the return to power of the right and its neoliberal agenda? Building an analysis of CSA documents as well as semi-structured interviews with international trade union officials and representatives of CSA affiliates, I argue that the record is mixed and that CSA still faces the tensions and contradictions inherent in the trade union movement.

Victor Silverman
“Does Labour Internationalism Work?”
Trade unions around the world remain in a precarious state despite widely hailed efforts at revival through organizing, restructuring, and political action. Union density continues to decline in most industrialized countries. Corporate-oriented globalization forces down wages in wealthier countries while checking union growth in the global south. Political repression, antagonistic governments, anti-union publics, and inter-union battles further damage the movement's prospects. Can the institutions and ideas of international trade unionism help counter these powerful trends? What has internationalism done to help working people achieve greater representation and power in the workplace, in their countries' governments, and in the global order? This presentation uses example from the history of labour's efforts at global cooperation to offer a portrait of both the possibilities and the limitations of internationalism.

Robert O’Brien
“Bridging the Local: SIGTUR and 21st Century Labour Internationalism”
This paper examines the challenges and opportunities for labour internationalism generated by the Southern Initiative on Globalization and Trade Union Rights (SIGTUR). SIGTUR is a network of left leaning trade unions from “Southern” countries such as South Africa, Brazil, Argentina, India, South Korea and Australia. SIGTUR had been held up as an example of a form of ‘new labour internationalism’ which is said to be less bureaucratic and more action oriented than traditional forms. The focus of the paper is on the difficulties of bridging different local realities to forge international cooperation and effective counter power. In this case ‘local’ refers both to
national and subnational entities. The paper concentrates on the challenges of communication across cultures, languages and histories; coordinating across distance and time; and mapping out common global strategies among localities. It will argue that the most valuable accomplishment of SIGTUR to date has been the nurturing of mutual accommodation, increased sensitivity and the expansion of utopian thinking. Progress at SIGTUR has been slow and the practicalities of bridging localities remain daunting even if the task is essential and pressing.

Session 1B:  

North America as a Space for Labour Solidarity  
Friday October 13, 2017  
10:45am-12:15pm  
McMaster Centre for Continuing Education  
Room 110  

Chair  
Kathy Kopinak  
(Professor Emeritus, University of Western Ontario)

Panel:  
Richard Roman and Edur Velasco Arregui  

“Worker Competition and Solidarity in North America: Historical Experiences and Prospects in the Time of Trump”  

There is a perennial tension between worker competition, built into the very nature of the capitalist labour market, and worker solidarity based on unions or other forms of worker organization. These tensions become intertwined with racial and national differences among workers within the same nation-state as well as across national boundaries. Continental production has grown dramatically alongside the deeper integration of millions of Mexicans into the U.S. labour force. President Trump promises to radically re-arrange the economic integration of North America and to expel millions of Mexican workers from the U.S. This paper will explore past responses of U.S. and Canadian labour to previous mass deportations in the U.S. of Mexican workers and their responses today. It will look at the current moment partially through the lens of past experiences to try to pose key questions and dilemmas for labour in the emerging Trump era.

Cirila Quintero  

“The Freedom of Association in Mexico and International Unions”  

In Mexico, there is agreement about the negative impacts that globalization and the industrial restructuring have had on unions. Other issues have complicated the union situation in Mexico, especially in terms of the formal registration of genuine unions. Globalization has not contributed to the recognition of authentic unions. In 2013, Canadian unions supported a campaign to respect Freedom of Association and labor rights in Mexico. This paper explains the main strategies that companies and official unions have used to register non-representative unions, focusing on an analysis of two historical periods -- the boom of maquiladoras in the eighties in Tijuana, and the boom of the automotive industry in San Luis Potosí, México. The paper examines the results of the Canadian campaigns in this matter. The paper concludes with a delineation of the advantages and disadvantages that came from the campaign of Canadian unions in a context so complex as Mexico.
Dan LaBotz
“The Election of Donald Trump and its Impact on Labour”
U.S. president-elect Donald Trump suggests he will overturn the post-World War II geopolitical and economic order, as well as ending the neoliberal Washington Consensus. He may walk away from NATO, leave the WTO, and renegotiate NAFTA, as well as building a wall at the U.S.-Mexican border and deporting 2 to 3 million undocumented immigrants. What impact will Trump's policies have on labor unions, as well as on trade pacts and labor laws? What are the options for the workers' movement? What will it take to stop Trump? And how does this context shape prospects for labour internationalism in North America. We examine those issues.

Session 1C: Thinking Labour Internationalism Historically
Friday October 13, 2017
10:45am-12:15pm
McMaster Centre for Continuing Education
Room 212

Chair
Ruth Frager
(McMaster University)

Panel:
David Goutor
“Labour Internationalism in Historical Perspective: The Role of the Spanish Civil War.”
My paper will explore one the major causes of labour internationalism in the 1930s: the Spanish Civil War. It will show the extent to which many average workers were pre-occupied with international forces, such as Communism and anti-fascism, which in turn brought them to Spain. It will also show that many recent immigrants - such as the subject of my new biography, Hans Ibing - had an extremely “international” consciousness and could join international causes in the 1930s, because the brutal economic conditions during the Depression made it difficult to lay down roots.

Thierry Drapeau
“'An Unknown Shiver Agitates the Two Worlds': The First International in Global Context”
More than a century before the creation of the International Working Men’s Association, known as the First International, in London in September 1864, free and unfree workers, including enslaved Africans, racialized servants, pressed sailors, men and women, of all nationalities and ethnicities, were already and steadily engaged in cross-border collective actions throughout and beyond the Atlantic world. By rehabilitating this global and plural trajectory of working-class internationalism, this presentation seeks to challenge and transform the prevailing Eurocentric story of the coming of the First International, as well as to draw inspiration for the present moment.

Rebeka Tabobondung
“Towards an Indigenous Internationalism across the Americas: Reflecting on the Third Encounter.”
Discussing a vision for the Third Encounter: An Indigenous led gathering to unite diverse social justice movements around the globe.
Louise Casselman


For more than 30 years LAWG was a prominent player in the Latin American solidarity movement. Its achievements were remarkable, considering it was never more than a small collective, and that it functioned in the pre-internet, Cold War era. Looking back on LAWG’s history offers us an opportunity to explore a rich historical moment in time, and to identify resources and lessons that might be of use to social justice and labour activists today. Longtime activist, Louise Casselman will explore LAWG’s contribution to international labour solidarity across Canada, its ground-breaking work in facilitating the exchange of Canadian trade unionists with their counterparts in Latin America, and how it influenced an historic shift in the relationship between Labour organizations in the north and south of the Americas. LAWG was instrumental in the creation of a vibrant network of labour solidarity hubs across Canada in the eighties and nineties and help form LOCALS, “Linking Ontario and Central America in Labour Solidarity” an organization that united a number of labour activists in Toronto, and Southern Ontario during a crucial time during the liberation struggles in Central America. What LAWG did, how it worked, the strategies it used, how it built trust – are relevant questions today. While the historical context and our tools have greatly changed, much can be learned from reflecting on LAWG’s unique blend of activism, research and advocacy.

LUNCH
12:15-2:00pm

Friday October 13th, 2017

Session 2A
Building North-South Political Solidarities
Friday October 13, 2017
2:00-3:30pm
McMaster Centre for Continuing Education
Room 212

Chair
Mary-Jo Nadeau
(Staff Representative CUPE 1281/Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid)

Panel:
Mostafa Henaway

“Labour Solidarity with Palestine: Comparing English Canada and Québec”

Our presentation provides a comparative analysis around the development of solidarity work with Palestinian workers in the trade union movements of Quebec and English Canada. Our presentation will consider the way class consciousness and particularly different responses to imperialism and racism in Quebec and Anglo-Canada shaped different histories of solidarity. We argue that in Quebec the historical development of an anti-imperialist analysis within the labour movement created openings for solidarity with Palestinian workers’ decades before such actions emerged in Anglo-Canada. Starting with this theoretical analysis of the link between class consciousness and solidarity in the historical development of relations between Canadian and Palestinian workers we
will explore the current nature of solidarity. We will consider the legacies of these different histories and new dilemmas in building solidarity in the context of unions battling neoliberalism and austerity.

Farid C. Partovi
“Building International Solidarity: Iran’s Experience”
Explore strategies to enhance meaningful international solidarity with the labour movement in Iran, with a focus on the freedom of imprisoned workers and current fightbacks against austerity and repression imposed by the capitalist Islamic Republic of Iran. The presentation will examine the challenges doing international solidarity work; it will draw attention to the role of the global trade union organizations whose efforts to either support or undermine our solidarity is significant. Global federations like ITUC and WFTU will be discussed. In addition, the detrimental role of organizations like AFL-CIO's Solidarity Centre and the ILO's tripartite structure will be problematized.

Appiah Adou
“North-South Relations: The Case of Canadian and Ivorian Unions.”
Global capitalism, confronted with new challenges, especially after the crisis of 2008, tries to adapt by refining and standardizing its methods in both the North and the South; Which weakens trade unions (Pernot, 2006, Appiah, 2013) and questions the social benefits acquired in previous decades. At the same time, international workers' responses to the creation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) are timid. In addition, they have limited impact at the local level (Appiah, 2015). In this context, cooperation between trade unions from the North and the South can be a relevant alternative. But how can it be translated without, however, taking on the form of a trade union imperialism that would mitigate the expected results? Based on Canadian and Ivorian organizations, our contribution questions the conditions for international cooperation between trade unions in the North and the South to reduce the negative effects of globalized capitalism on employees.

Reynaldo Velazquez and Heide Trampus
“Canadian Labour Solidarity with Cuban Workers.”
Canadian labour has a long-standing history of involvement in international solidarity, and social and global justice around the world. In the early 1990’s, following the loss of major trading partners with the collapse of the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries and having survived 30 years of a U.S. blockade, Cuba was facing a very difficult time known as the “Special period”. To make matters worse, the United States, which had tried successively by way of sanctions, sabotage and subversion to overthrow the Cuban Government, further strengthened the blockade with the additional Torricelli and Helms-Burton law. Recognizing the unique challenges Cuba is facing in the struggle to assert its sovereignty, a group of Labour Union activist from various unions formed the Worker to Worker, Canada-Cuba Labour Solidarity Network. With the slogan “Hands off Cuba” the goal was to present resolutions for debate and vote at union conventions. Getting support from the members and the union leadership was a challenge. With the continuing efforts by union activists informing/educating the members and repeatedly presenting resolutions resolving that labour take actions opposing and demanding an end to the blockade, including the Torricelli and Helms-Burton acts, resolutions were finally accepted, brought to the convention floors, debated and voted on. Our presentation will both explore the organizing lessons from Worker to Worker as well as the need for solidarity in new
economic and political context in Cuba today with changing U.S.-Cuba relations and the new Cuban economic reality.

Session 2B

*Organizing Transnationally*

Friday October 13, 2017
Time: 2:00-3:30pm
McMaster Centre for Continuing Education
Room 213

Chair
Hassan Husseini

Panel:
Nathalie Guay
“*International Trade Union Alliances to Challenge Multinationals*”
In recent years, the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) has supported the creation of links between local unions and trade unions from other countries representing the workers of the same multinational enterprises. Relatively recent, this strategy is demanding, but it is also promising, so it is one of the proposals adopted by the CSN as well as by some private sector federations. Based on an analysis of practice in various cases, we will identify the benefits, success conditions, challenges, potential outcomes and other possible types of progress.

Luis L. M. Aguiar
“*The Justice for Janitors Model, Transnational Union Partnerships, and Organizing Service Workers*”
Arguably, over the last thirty years the SEIU's Justice for Janitors (JfJ) has been the model for organizing service workers (e.g., cleaners, security guards) in the US and Canada in these times of privatization, contracting out and deregulation. It's successes in the US in particular has led to its transnationalization to unions elsewhere also focused on organizing service workers under neoliberalism. In this paper, I focus on the JfJ by tracing its globalization through partnerships between the SEIU and unions elsewhere to then examine and discuss its implementation in unions outside the US. Based on four years of research in Amsterdam, Sydney and Dublin, I ascertain and discuss the contributions and limitations of the JfJ in organizing service workers outside the US and Canada. This paper makes an important contribution to our understanding of cross-border union relations for organizing the new working class.

Amélie Nguyen
“*Inter-Union Solidarity: The Challenges and Opportunities of Alliances with Peasants, Environmentalists, Indigenous and Feminist Movements.*”
The International Centre for Workers Solidarity (Centre international de solidarité ouvrière, CISO) is a unique space where various inter-union international solidarity initiatives meet. It is both a place for thinking about ways to build solidarity and a space to discuss the latest trends in the world of work and work organization, through alliances between unions and social movements from various countries, in order to promote workers’ rights. In the current context, the workforce of many countries where CISO and its members intervene come largely from the informal sector (often more than 80% of the workers), where workers can’t have their voice heard. Moreover, due to the social and historical context, many local unions are not representative and/or independent from the political power, which leads to serious dilemmas in terms of international solidarity.
Therefore, it becomes crucial to extend solidarity networks and collaborations to other social movements: farm workers, environmentalist, aboriginal, or feminist groups. These alliances represent challenges and opportunities but they also contribute to the labour movement’s reflection on international solidarity, and about promising alternatives to confront the attacks to precarious workers’ rights and build global change.

Vanisha Sukdeo
“Regulating Labour and Capital: Corporations in a Transnational Context.”
This paper critically explores how the internationalization of labour and corporate law has reduced the ability of individual states to regulate the corporation and secure workers’ rights. This research will analyze whether it is possible to regulate corporations through codes of conduct which act on a transnational level rather than domestic law which acts on a state level. This paper will also examine how codes of conduct can be used to help develop the rights of workers and increase enforcement and compliance. While in law school, two other law students and I were successful in convincing Queen’s University to adopt a Code of Conduct ensuring that products made with the Queen’s logo would be made under fair working conditions. This early venture into the anti-sweatshop movement was instrumental in fuelling my current research. Codes are important, but only through compliance and proper enforcement do they hold true force.

Session 2C
Opportunities and Limitations of International Company Networks: The Tenaris-Ternium Case
Friday October 13, 2017
Time: 2:00-3:30pm
McMaster Centre for Continuing Education
Room 110

Chair
Viviana Patroni
(York University)

Trade unions networks in multinational companies are one tool in the arsenal against new employer strategies. The results of these networks have been uneven. This panel will talk about the experience of the Tenaris-Ternium Workers’ World Council, a network that has been operating since 2007 which started when support in Argentina for a strike in Canada ended in a successful new collective agreement in 2006. The network currently represents 54% of the unionized workers under the Techint group, an Argentinian multinational and producer of steel and tubes for the gas and oil industry. Many of the actions of the council have been effective while others have not brought the results expected. By reflecting on the opportunities and limitations of this network, the panel hopes to contribute to enrich the debate about potential tools to confront employers at this historical moment.

Presenters:
Jorge Garcia-Orgales (USW)
Julia Soul (Labour Centre CONICET Argentina)
Robert Goose (USW 7226 Calgary)
Carlos de Sanctis (Assistant General Secretary - UOM Seccional Campana Campana, Buenos Aires)

COFFEE BREAK
3:30-3:45pm

Friday October 13th, 2017

Session 3A
Race, Gender and Labour Internationalism
Friday October 13, 2017
3:45-5:15pm
McMaster Centre for Continuing Education
Room 212

Chair
Cynthia Wright
(York University)

Panel:
Katherine Nastovski
“Race and Class in the Making of Canadian Labour Development Aid”
In the 1950s the organized labour movement in Canada underwent some significant political and organizational changes. One of these changes was increased activity internationally. From the start, these departments and committees sought to use state funds to engage in a whole range of international activities. The resulting labour development aid paradigm soon became the core mechanism through which the department and committee carried out their work. This only ended in 2013 with the overhaul of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) by the Conservative government. CIDA aid had been the main source of funding for the International programmes of Canadian unions since the early 1970s. My paper explores the significance of the development aid paradigm for international labour solidarity. I explore the way that thinking about colonialism and race informed this paradigm by focusing on archival research on two cases, the Caribbean and Palestine.

Chris Ramsaroop and Adrian Smith
“Farm Workers and Labour Solidarity: Reflections on the SAWP Programme”
We spent many years thinking about the international dimensions of the SAWP program and the absence of an international analysis of managed migration. The simple prism of globalization, international solidarity has left me wanting to find better analytical tools to not only understand the SAWP program but to also understand the development of both consciousness and resistance undertaken by participants of the SAWP. One area that We are Interested in pursuing is to build on a longer richer tradition of diasporic and internationalism on how racialized working class people come to understand their location in our society as well as the location of other racialized working class people across the world. Black Marxian internationalism is a framework that provides a set of analytical tools to understand the SAWP program as well as understanding the
Caribbean community's connection and how solidarity is built between migrants and the diasporic community.

Lygia Sabbag Fares Gibb and Ana Luiza Matos de Oliveira

“Inequality in working time: An International Trend”

This presentation will discuss the flexibilization of working time and compare recent working time trends in different countries including the USA, Canada, France, the UK and Brazil. It is argued that inequalities in the labour market cannot be grasped in its entirety if income inequality is the only variable considered. Working time distribution is also a key variable to be considered. Flexibilization of working time that has been implemented in the last 30 years is deepening the inequality of working time distribution. Our presentation will show that there are many dimensions to working time inequality. The following inequalities in working time are considered: i) The difference in working time between the employed and the unemployed; ii) Distribution of working hours, even among employed workers; iii) While men devote more time to productive work, women fulfill the role of reproductive workers (not socially or economically valued) and have double / triple shifts.

Dave Bleakney and Aziz Choudry

“International solidarity / Migrant worker organizing: Building connections, pollinating struggles”

As we struggle to understand and confront global capitalist crises, restructuring and the transformation, and ongoing exclusionary nationalism, our presentation highlights the importance of links between migrant workers’ struggles in Canada and transnational solidarity in an increasingly polarized world. What can be learnt from different models of workers’ organizations such as workers’ centres and other forms of activism which are connected to anti-racist and immigration justice struggles in communities and sections of the working-class which have often been marginalized, including temporary foreign workers?

Session 3B

Building Solidarity: Sectoral Cases

Friday October 13, 2017

3:45-5:15pm

McMaster Centre for Continuing Education
Room 213

Chair
Mark Thomas
(York University)

Panel:
Andrew Gibson


This study will examine the role of labour internationalism in improving the conditions of workers in the international supply chains of the global garment industry. More specifically, it will focus
on the role of Canadian international union engagement in garment industries in Latin America. The reason for the Latin American focus is that Canada has a significant number of free trade agreements, and labour cooperation side agreements, in this region. This facilitates the ability of Canadian unions to gain leverage from the actions of the Canadian government. This study will survey a range of best practices, although it will focus on transnational corporate campaigns in particular (e.g. Russell Factories in Honduras, 2009). Attention will be paid to possible linkages between Canadian labour and human rights NGOs engaged in monitoring global supply chains.

Alia Karim and Kevin Brice-Lall
“Solidarity is Sweet”: Building Labour Internationalism Between Guyana’s Sugar Workers and the Canadian Labour Movement”
In 2016, Guyana has experienced renewed attacks on sugar workers as the government threatened the closure of sugar estates and mass layoffs of thousands of workers. The current struggle against privatization and closures in Guyana’s sugar industry is at its core a battle against neoliberal austerity. The Guyanese government intends to sell public assets to break the power of unions and free up capital to subsidize foreign investment. The struggle of Guyana’s sugar workers is an opportunity to rebuild strategies and tactics of labour internationalism in the fight against austerity worldwide. Our presentation will provide an overview of solidarity work between activists and labour organizations in Guyana and Canada. It will feature our solidarity work with the Guyana Agricultural Workers’ Union (GAWU) against current privatization battles. We will discuss strategies for transnational solidarity action and challenges to building stronger international ties, such as the legacy of colonization and imperialism.

José Antonio Vital Galicia
“International Campaign Against Health Privatization”
My presentation considers the impact of the Health Workers’ Alliance in building an international campaign of public sector workers against austerity and neoliberalism. In the public sector, international action for the construction of an anti-neoliberal agenda is critical for our struggle. The Health Workers’ Alliance has been working to develop International campaigns against privatization of health, pensions and against neoliberal reforms, and for the construction of alternatives to neoliberalism. The Alliance draws together public employees with organizations and democratic movements in defense of social rights, employment and democracy. We have been working for the last decade to build national and international campaigns for the right to health, the defense of retirement and pensions, decent work and the democratization of trade unions. My presentation will chart the development of the alliance and the strategies employed to coordinate with health care workers internationally.

Euan Gibb
“Global Framework Agreements”
The rapid growth in the popularity of international framework agreements (IFAs) represents an important step in the history of strategic international efforts on the part of trade unions. IFAs were initially understood as a potential mechanism to ‘globalize’ collective bargaining between multinational companies and global unions. Despite a clear and seductive logic (global collective bargaining should occur at global companies), the substantive opportunities to engage in international industrial relations have proven to be quite limited for several key reasons. Constraints include the nature of what have historically been strictly local and national legal
industrial relations practices and the fact that one of the most important variables in the successful negotiation and subsequent implementation of strong IFAs is strong local unions. This paper will explore the involvement of Canadian unions (including international unions with members in Canada) and workers in the negotiation and implementation of IFAs.

Session 3C
Defending Public Services: Canadian and Colombian Workers on the Frontlines
Friday October 13, 2017
3:45-5:15pm
McMaster Centre for Continuing Education
Room 110

Chair
Ilian Burbano

Louise Casselman, Evert Hoogers and Kelti Cameron
"The Frontlines Project: International Cooperation in Defense of Public Services"

Our presentation is based on our critical reflections on our experiences building the Frontlines project. This project has been ongoing for well over a decade. It arose out of connections that developed between activists on the ground in several public-sector Colombian Unions, the Colombian labour central (CUT) and human rights defenders with members in three public sector unions (CUPW, PSAC and CUPE) with support from the Canadian Labour Congress. The project has facilitated many very useful exchanges allowing Canadian public sector workers to understand the devastating impacts of the neo-liberal capitalist agenda being implemented by the Colombian government including the erosion of the public sector, free trade, privatization and global corporate interests that have been imposed using state sponsored violence on workers, unions and popular movements. We will examine and assess how the relations built through the project have resulted in concrete solidarity actions.

DINNER AND SOCIAL
6:00-9:00pm
Workers’ Arts and Heritage Centre

Saturday October 14th, 2017

Session 4A
The Trinational Coalition of Education Workers
Saturday October 14, 2017
9:00-10:30am
David Braley Health Sciences Centre
Room 2036
Panel:
"Tri-national Coalition in Defense of Public Education: Two decades of Struggling in Solidarity and Constructing Alternative"

Maria de la Luz Arriaga Lemus (UNAM)
Larry Kuehn (BCTF)
Jackson Potter (Chicago Teachers’ Union)

This panel will discuss the history as well as the present and future of the Tri-national Coalition in Defense of Public Education, from the perspective of labour internationalism. Specifically, we are interested in reflecting on the challenges of the international struggle to defend public education as a social right, a right which is indispensable for the construction of democratic and just societies. The Tri-national is an alliance of teachers' organizations, scholars, and students in the three countries of North America that has attempted to build solidarity in the struggle against the privatization of public education and the destruction of our labour rights. It includes teachers' unions in all three countries. It has engaged in acts of solidarity for each other's struggles as well as attempting to learn by sharing experiences at its conferences that take place each two to three years.

Paul Bocking and Dominic Bellissimo
“The OSSTF and International Solidarity in Latin America”

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) has a significant history of solidarity initiatives with educators and other workers, especially in Latin America. This work has been done both within and independently of formal international union federations, and has taken the form of assistance with institutional capacity building, participation in critical policy networks, and support for unionists facing repression. This presentation begins with a brief overview of OSSTF's early history of international relations through the Canadian Teachers' Federation. We will then discuss its experiences in support of the agricultural workers' and teachers' unions of Colombia, and a teachers' union training school in Bolivia, before and after development support was available through CIDA. Finally, we will present the experiences of OSSTF as an active member of the Trinational Coalition in Defence of Public Education, which includes local, state/provincial, and national teachers' unions and movements in Canada, the United States and Mexico.
Our session is a roundatable of organizers from 3 different unions involved in the Toronto Airport Workers Council. The council was formed to establish a space for over 50,000 union and non-union workers to share common concerns with employers at Toronto's Pearson Airport (YYZ). This panel will discuss the opportunities, successes and challenges of TAWC organizing with workers across borders. This panel will feature four activists with the TAWC who will each discuss the role of the TAWC in different campaigns such as those dealing with, 'contract flipping', the increasing use of 'volunteer labor', the 'hollowing-out' of airport operations, and privatization. Through the development of the council, we have made built links with workers in the airline industry in the US, Turkey, the Philippines and have engaged in numerous joint actions and solidarity actions in support of each other's struggles

Presenters:

Dan Janssen (IAM Local 2323)
Aminah Sheikh (COPE)
Sean Smith (UNIFOR Local 2002)
mining industry was one of the key reasons for its downfall. Taking Peters' assessment as a starting point, this paper seeks to start a conversation about how mine workers unions should relate to the growing mining justice movement and assess the extent to which such a strategy could strengthen workers' power. This is particularly salient in light of recent events in the Ontario mining industry, including developments in the "Ring of Fire" and the government's efforts to "modernize" its mining policies.

Adam King
“The reconstitution of working class identity: some insights from oral histories with Sudbury nickel miners”

This paper presents findings from oral history interviews with retired and active nickel miners in Sudbury, Ontario who are United Steelworkers Local 6500 members. Through a look at how national and community identifications intersect with class subjectivity in workers' accounts, I highlight some of the challenges presented by Vale's attacks on workers, workforce downsizing and segmentation, and the internationalization of capital. The conclusions drawn from this paper are meant to emphasize the importance of institutional memory in building working class power, as well as pose questions about how we can extend and strengthen similar ties of solidarity internationally.

Judith Marshall
“Global Networks Challenging the Power of Big Mining Companies”

Big mining companies have gained, exercise and legitimate their power through a multiplicity of spaces, instruments and discourses. Unions have set out to tackle the power of these transnational corporations through company councils, value chain bargaining and framework agreements, all cast in fairly narrowly defined workplace issues and all implemented principally through labour partners. This paper will explore some of the recent experiences of USW workers in global networks, both in networks made up only of unions such as the network of Gerdau (Brazilian steel company) workers and in broader networks encompassing other social movements, NGOs, churches and directly affected communities, such as the International Articulation of People Affected by Vale, a Brazilian mining transnational. It will offer some critical reflections on the adequacy of union approaches for challenging corporate impunity.

Saturday October 14th, 2017

Plenary Session
Mobilizing Rank and File for Labour Internationalism: Challenges and Opportunities
Saturday October 14, 2017
10:45am-12:15pm
David Braley Health Sciences Centre
Room 2032

Facilitator:
Hassan Husseini
Marion Pollack  
“Looking at the Tensions and Opportunities for International Solidarity for Unions in English Canada”  
International labour solidarity is critical to strengthening the power of unions but within unions not all members support international solidarity. There is a feeling among some union members that until unions "get their houses in order," we should not engage in International Solidarity. Other members feel that unions should focus on grievances rather than international solidarity, and yet others feel that international solidarity is a "frill" we cannot afford in the time of austerity and attacks. This presentation will focus on the tensions and difficulties in engaging in international solidarity in unions and will discuss opportunities for addressing those tensions and difficulties.

Alex Hanson and Troy Cook  
“Using Social Media to Build Solidarity”  
The rise of global capital displacing the North American union movement is well documented. However here is also plenty of resistance building against the open formation of a global corporate establishment. Our presentation will examine how the emergence of peer to peer social media connectivity is one opening to challenge these objectives. Our union local has decided to make sure we exist and dominate in that online matrix. We’d like to share our methods, successes and failures with the larger labour movement. This includes updating traditional paper based filing system that allows increased efficiencies with the added benefit of data mining; a text alert system to eliminate time and geographical challenges to union participation; building capacity for low cost audio/visual production within the local union and creating a one hour weekly internet radio show to reinforce labour and political values in the community.

Saturday October 14th, 2017  
2:00-3:30pm

WORKSHOPS

Session 5A  
Labour Internationalism and Environmental Justice  
Saturday October 14, 2017  
2:00-3:30pm  
David Braley Health Sciences Centre  
Room 2036

Facilitators:  
Carolyn Egan  
Dave Bleakney  
Kim Scipes

Session 5B  
Labour Internationalism in a Changing Political Context  
Saturday October 14, 2017  
2:00-3:30pm  
David Braley Health Sciences Centre  
Room 2035
Facilitators:
Katherine Sciacchitano
Bruno Dobrusin

Session 5C
Thinking Labour Internationalism beyond Unionized Workers
Saturday October 14, 2017
2:00-3:30pm
David Braley Health Sciences Centre
Room 2032

Facilitators:
Evelyn Encalada Grez
Mostafa Henaway

COFFEE BREAK
3:30-3:35pm

Saturday October 14th, 2017

Final Wrap Up: Developing Our Report

Facilitators:
Thomas Collombat

Saturday October 14, 2017
3:45-5:00pm
David Braley Health Sciences Centre
Room 2032

PARTICIPANT BIOS

Appiah Adou holds a PhD in Sociology of Work and Business and works at A.O. University Bouake, Ivory Coast. Appiah’s works focuses on industrial relations and is mainly interested in trade union organizations. He is the author of a book and several articles on these themes. More information on the site: www.adou.org

Luis LM Aguiar is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus. He researches and publishes on low wage workers (especially cleaners) and their organizing campaigns. Under a SSHRC grant he investigated the mobility, implementation, and adaptations of the JfJ model across several cities in the global north. He is currently researching the future of the labour movement in the interior of the country, using the Okanagan Valley as a case study. An edited book on whiteness, restructuring and neoliberalism will be
published by UBC Press early in 2018. He teaches courses on ‘race’ and racism, qualitative methods, urban sociology, the sociology of elites, and globalization and global unions.

**Dominic Bellissimo** is a senior staff person in the Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation and has led the OSSTF's involvement in international solidarity activities including their participation in the Trinational Coalition in Defence of Public Education. Bellissimo has been a key actor in Canadian labour networks involved in international solidarity work for last twenty years.

**Paul Bocking** is a PhD candidate in geography at York University. His dissertation studies the impact of neoliberal education policy on teachers' professional autonomy in Canada, the US and Mexico. He is also a secondary school teacher in Toronto, and an active member of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, which he has represented at meetings of the Trinational Coalition in Defence of Public Education.

**Kevin Brice-Lall** is the founder of Sugar Worker Solidarity and a social-justice activist in both Canada and Guyana. He is also an activist in the Fight for $15 and Fairness in Toronto, the Caribbean Solidarity Network and a journalist for Socialist.ca.

**Louise Casselman** lived and worked in Latin America for over 25 years, before becoming the Director of the Social Justice Fund of the Public Service Alliance of Canada in 2005. She was a long time member of the Latin American Working Group, a solidarity organization that emerged in the late sixties to challenge Canadian foreign policy in Latin America. Her work has entailed corporate research, policy analysis, writing, the defense of human and labour rights, and the organizing of solidarity exchanges between workers in the hemisphere. She also has a long-term experience with the former International Commission for Coordination of Solidarity Among Sugar Workers (ICCSASW), the Steelworkers Humanity Fund, Common Frontiers and other Labour and Solidarity organizations in Canada and the Global South.

**Aziz Choudry** is associate professor and Canada Research Chair in social movement learning and knowledge production in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education, McGill University, visiting professor at the Centre for Education Rights and Transformation, Faculty of Education, University of Johannesburg, and a member of the advisory committee for the Global Labour Research Centre, York University. His latest book is *Unfree Labour? Struggles of migrant and immigrant workers in Canada* (PM Press, 2016 - co-edited with Adrian Smith). He serves on the board of the Immigrant Workers Centre, Montreal.

**Thomas Collombat** is Associate Professor of Political Science at the Université du Québec en Outaouais (UQO). He leads UQO’s Research Team on Work and Society (Équipe de recherche Travail et Société, ERTS). His research focus on the dynamics of labour internationalism in the Americas, in particular North-South relations within the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA) and Global Union Federations, and the role of Latin American unions in those organizations. He also studies the socio-political dimensions of trade unionism, specifically through a research project on central labour councils in Québec. Thomas Collombat serves as Communications Coordinator of the Canadian Association for Work and Labour Studies (CAWLS).
Shelley Condratto is a Ph.D. student in the Human Studies program at Laurentian University. Her doctoral research examines the rise of precarious employment within the Sudbury mining industry, unionization within the Sudbury mining industry and how government-regulated policies and practices impacted employment in Greater Sudbury Ontario. Her research interests include: precarious work, working conditions, employment legislation, unionization, and worker rights. Shelley has a Master’s degree in Industrial Relations from Queen’s University, and has completed two undergraduate degrees at Laurentian University, the first in Psychology and the second in Labour Studies. Shelley is also a graduate research assistant on the ‘Closing the Employment Standards Enforcement Gap: Improving Employment Standards Protections for People in Precarious Jobs’ project.

June Corman is currently Director of the Social Justice Research Institute at Brock University. While housed in Sociology at Brock University, she is also actively involved in Labour Studies, Women and Gender Studies and the MA in Social Justice and Equity Studies. Her research on labour issues is based on interviews with people who worked at Saskatchewan potash mines, at Hilton Works steel plant, John Deere Welland Works, Henniges Rubber Plant, Atlas Specialty Steels, and Bicks Pickles as well as with women who worked as one-room school teachers.

Troy Cook and Alex Hanson are elected United Steelworkers Local 9346 union executives in the mining sector with an affinity towards creativity and risk. Both are committed to ensuring labour values survive both traditional corporate attacks and the social side-effects of the silicon revolution.

Matt Corbeil is a PhD student in Political Science at York University. His dissertation focuses on corporate power and public policy in Ontario’s mining industry.

Maria de la Luz Arriaga Lemus is a full-time professor in the Faculty of Economics of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Her research focuses on processes of economic integration and public policies, especially educational policy and teacher unionism. She is the author of several publications on these topics. She is also a founding member of the Trinational Coalition in Defense of Public Education (Mexico, United States and Canada) and the Social Network for Public Education in the Americas (IDEA Network 1999).

Ana Luíza Matos de Oliveira is an Economist, Consultant and PhD Candidate in Development Economics at the University of Campinas.

Carlos de Sanctis is the Assistant General Secretary - UOM Seccional Campana Campana, Buenos Aires, Argentina. He is a high-level leader inside a major Argentinian union that is partnering with the Canadian section of the USW in this transnational network. De Sanctis is Assistant General Secretary of the larger Tenaris plant and the founder of the Tenaris-Ternium Workers’ World Council. He has also participated in all the meetings and activities of the Tenaris-Ternium Workers' council around the world.
**Bruno Dobrusin** is a labour activist and scholar. He is an advisor in International Relations at the Argentine Workers’ Confederation of Argentina (CTA). His work at the union focuses on coordinating south-south integration projects, climate change and organizing workers’ networks within multinationals. He holds a PhD from the University of Buenos Aires, in Argentina, with a thesis on minimum wage policies in Argentina and Brazil during the decade of centre-left governments.

**Thierry Drapeau** is currently a contract faculty member in the Department of Industrial Relations at Université du Québec en Outaouais. He received his PhD in Social and Political Thought at York University, Toronto, in 2014. His research examines forms of cross-border labour solidarity throughout the Atlantic world during the early modern and modern eras, as part of developing a new, more plural approach to working-class internationalism historically. He is the co-editor of L’Internationale sera le genre humain! De l’Association internationale des travailleurs à aujourd’hui (M Éditeur, 2015).

**Carolyn Egan** is president of United Steelworkers local 8300 and president of the Steelworkers Toronto Area Council. She is a founding member and co-chair of the Good Jobs for All Coalition, a community and labour organization, begun in 2008 to challenge the economic crisis, the climate crisis and to fight for equity in hiring for climate jobs. She is also a member of Labour for Leap which was inspired by the Leap Manifesto.

**Evelyn Encalada Grez** is a community engaged scholar, global educator and community-labour organizer based in Ontario. Working with migrant farmworkers and their families in rural Mexico, Guatemala, and Canada for two decades, she is co-founder of the awarding winning collective, Justice for Migrant Workers, J4MW. She also works with grassroots labour movements such as the Centro de Apoyo al Trabajador in Mexico and the Food Chain Workers Alliance based in the USA. Evelyn has mobilized her doctoral research about migrant farmworkers in venues such as the United Nations, the National Autonomous University of Mexico and Parliament Hill. Her organizing work is featured in award-winning documentaries by Min Sook Lee, such as “El Contrato” and “Migrant Dreams”. Lastly, she teaches immigration policy, international development, equity and diversity in Canadian universities and also in a US-based global education institute. She is passionate about teaching and for migrant justice.

**José Antonio Vital Galicia** is a member of the national coordination of the Health Workers' Alliance and Trinational Coalition in Defense of Public Education at the Center for Analysis of the Economic, Political and Social Situation of the Faculty of Economics of the UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City). Vital Galicia has a degree in Medicine and Public Health. He was union representative of the General Hospital of Mexico (section XIV) National Union of Workers of the SSA in 1977-78, Member of the Executive Committee of the National Trade Union Coordinator and of the National Front in defense of the Salary.

**Jorge Garcia-Orgales** is a United Steelworkers representative. Garcia-Orgales works in the Global Affairs and Workplace Issues of the United Steelworkers. He is a founder of the Tenaris-Ternium Workers' World Council and international coordinator of the network since its inception.
Rolf Gerstenberger was born in Stuttgart, Germany in 1949. His family emigrated to the U.S. in 1952 where Rolf grew up on a dairy farm in New York State. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree from St. Lawrence university in 1971. He opposed the U.S. war against Vietnam, an immigrant to Canada in 1971. In 1973 he received a Master’s Degree in Theoretical Nuclear Physics from McMaster University. He started working at Stelco in 1973 and worked in the steelmaking department of Stelco for 42 years. Rolf was elected President of Local 1005 USW (at that time the largest steel local in Canada) and was President for 12 years until he retired in 2015. This period was one of the most difficult periods faced by Local 1005 where the full effect of globalization became obvious for all to see. Rolf has been active politically throughout his entire adult life supporting the struggles of the Canadian people and opposing the various attacks of the Canadian state and ruling circles against the Canadian people. To list the struggles would be too extensive, but they range from supporting the Native people in 1974 and 2006, opposing the racist Green Paper on Immigration in 1975, opposing cruise missile tests in Canada during the 80’s, the struggles for democratic renewal and opposing the Charlottetown Accord in 1992, opposing the various wars that U.S. imperialism has launched since Vietnam, etc.. Rolf has been a life long member of the Marxist-Lenist Party of Canada and is presently the President of the MLPC.

Euan Gibb was an activist in the CAW (now UNIFOR) for 12 years. He completed a Master's degree in Labour Studies at McMaster University and another at the Global Labour University in Germany. He works for several different trade unions including the national central, UGT Brazil and is the national coordinator of LabourStart Brazil. He has several publications in the area of work and labour including a forthcoming piece that deals with the role of international framework agreements.

Lygia Sabbag Fares Gibb is a PhD student at University of Campinas (Brazil) with a focus on feminist economics and labour.

Andrew Gibson is a senior policy analyst with the Government of Canada's Labour Program. He has also previously worked on the Colombian peace process with Global Affairs Canada. Gibson’s paper offers both theoretical and political insights about the landscape for action around supply chains in the global garment industry. He also offers a unique perspective as someone involved in policy inside the federal government's labour program.

David Goutor is an Assistant Professor in the School of Labour Studies at McMaster, where he is the main undergraduate teacher. His research and teaching interests include labour history, political economy, immigration, human rights and the living wage. He is currently finishing a biography of a Canadian veteran of the International Brigades in the Spanish Civil War.

Nathalie Guay is a senior staff-person in the Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN), which is the second largest union federation in Quebec. Nathalie is the staff person responsible for international affairs and sits on the central body coordinating international solidarity for all unions in Quebec.
Mostafa Henaway is a staff organizer at the Immigrant Workers Centre in Montreal, he also holds an MA from the Global Labour University in Germany and has been very active in the labour movement more generally in Montreal. As a member of Tadamon, an organization focusing on Palestine solidarity in Montreal, he has been a key figure in building labour solidarity between Quebec unions and Palestinian workers. Henaway is research assistant at McGill University and has publications that consider new forms of organizing with precarious workers and migrant labour and labour renewal.

Evert Hoogers served as an elected National Union Representative for the Canadian Union of Postal Workers assisting the National President and the National Executive Committee and included coordinating the international file from 1990-2008. Evert also served as president of the CUPW Vancouver Local from 1980-1986 and currently is a labour researcher, writer and activist. Evert's work on CUPW's International Solidarity Program included organizing worker-to-worker exchanges, participating in cross-union bodies and in organizing educational and campaigns.

Dan Janssen is the Vice President of Local Lodge 2323, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. Dan works on the ramp at Pearson International Airport and is an active member of the Toronto Airport Workers’ Council.

Alia Karim is a Ph. D candidate at the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University. She earned a Master of Environmental Studies from Dalhousie University and Honours Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Mount Allison University. Her research interests include Indigenous and non-Indigenous alliances, labour-community coalitions, decolonization, and Marxist, anti-racist and feminist political economy. She is currently a coordinator of the Fight for $15 and Fairness campaign at York.

Adam King is a PhD Candidate in the Graduate Program in Sociology at York University. His dissertation, 'Memory and Class Formation in Sudbury Nickel Miners during Restructuring' is a study of how international ownership and reductions in unionized work have affected United Steelworkers nickel miners at Vale (Inco) in Sudbury, Ontario.

Rob Kristofferson is an Associate Professor cross-appointed to the Social & Environmental Justice and History programs at Wilfrid Laurier University, where he is also Coordinator of the Graduate Program in Social Justice & Community Engagement. He is the author of Craft Capitalism: Craftsworkers and Early Industrialization in Hamilton Ontario 1840-1872 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007), winner of the Clio Award (Ontario) from the Canadian Historical Association. His most recent book, co-authored with Simon Orpana is SHOWDOWN! Making Modern Unions (Toronto: Between the Lines, 2016), a graphic history of the 1946 strikes in Hamilton.

Larry Kuehn, EdD, is Director of Research and Technology at the British Columbia Teachers' Federation and is Coordinator of the BCTF International Solidarity Program. Kuehn is the coordinator of the Tri-national Coalition in Canada. He has written extensively on international solidarity issues and his dissertation called Intercambio is a labour history of the BCTF's international engagement, particularly since 1981.
Dan LaBotz teaches at the Murphy Institute of the City University of New York, which is one of the key centres of labour scholarship in the US. He was a founding member of Teamsters for a Democratic Union and is the author of ten books on labor, social movements, and politics in the United States, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Indonesia. He was for 20 years the editor of Mexican Labor News and Analysis and is a co-editor of New Politics.

Judith Marshall is a "scholar-activist" who holds a PhD from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. She has recently retired after working for two decades in the Global Affairs department of United Steelworkers of America Canadian national office. In this position, she was responsible for member education, project coordination for USW's projects in southern Africa and promotion of global labour exchanges and networks.

Katherine Nastovski is an associate of the Institute of Globalization and the Human Condition at McMaster University. Katherine did her PhD in Social and Political Thought at York University and does research exploring the possibilities of transformative models of international trade union action, solidarity and coordination. Katherine’s academic research grew out of her work as a union activist and her involvement within grassroots international labour solidarity organizations.

Amélie Nguyen is a coordinator at the International Center for Workers' Solidarity, an international inter-union solidarity organization aimed at strengthening the links between workers from here and elsewhere, struggling for the respect of their rights, for better working conditions and for the establishment of a more just and democratic society. She has been a political analyst for the Quebec Association of International Cooperation Agencies before. Her journey led her to volunteer with Oxfam Québec in Vietnam where she supported a women's group in the development of action research related to women's access to land ownership. She holds a Master's Degree in International and International Politics from UQAM, where she was awarded a Brian D. Tittemore scholarship to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. She is a director on the Board of Directors of the League of Rights and Freedoms and member of the editorial board of the magazine À bâbord.

Robert O’Brien is Professor of Political Science at McMaster University in Canada. His teaching and research interests are in the fields of international political economy, global governance, global labour, global civil society, and the political economy of climate change. Professor O’Brien is a founding and consulting editor of the online open access Global Labour Journal. He also served as a member of the Futures Commission of the Southern Initiative on Globalization and Trade Union Rights (SIGTUR) and is a co-editor of one of its publications, Developing Alternatives to Neo-liberalism: tax justice, fair trade, democracy-driven public sector transformation and eco-socialism. (South Africa: Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, 2016)

Farid C. Partovi is a grassroots labour and socialist activist. He is a long-time organizer with the International Alliance in Support of Workers in Iran. Farid is the President of CUPE local 4772 and has been involved with the International Solidarity Committee of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Ontario Division in various capacities for more than 10 years. He has been an active labour and international solidarity activist for decades engaged in building campaigns, organizing educational on international labour solidarity and in broader community struggles.
against poverty and exploitation where he has worked in the Jane-Finch community in Toronto for almost 22 years.

**Marion Pollack** is a retired postal worker and a longtime activist in the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW). From 2008-2011 she had the privilege to assist in the coordination of CUPW’s international solidarity programme and to help implement the Union’s policy on BDS. She continues to be a supporter of international solidarity, justice and fairness for all, dignity for seniors. Marion strives to apply an intersectional feminist lens. She lives in Vancouver on unceded Coast Salish territory.

**Jackson Potter** is an active member of the trinational Coalition in Defense of Public Education. Potter is the staff coordinator of the Chicago Teachers Union and one of the founders of the Coalition of Rank and File Educators who have done very important work in renewing the union and building a significant fight-back to neoliberal policies and anti-worker attacks in Chicago.

**Cirila Quintero Ramírez** is a full-time Professor and Researcher at El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (Border Studies Institute), Matamoros campus. She holds one of the highest research rankings in Mexico's National System of Researchers (Sistema Nacional de Investigadores de Mexico). Her areas of research are unions, gender and migration in Mexico and has several books and many journal publications in these areas. She has been a Visiting Professor at the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean at York University in Canada, the Iberoamerican Institute at Gothenburg University in Sweden, the Department of Contemporary History at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, and the Department of Political Science University of New Brunswick in Canada.

**Chris Ramsaroop** has been very active as a labour and social justice activist in Toronto for more than two decades. Ramsaroop is a founding member of Justice for Migrant Workers which organizes with workers in the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program in Canada. Ramsaroop has numerous publications on labour, migration and the international strategies associated with organizing with migrant workers.

**Richard Roman** is Associate Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Toronto and Associate Fellow of the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean, York University. His research has been on the Mexican labour movement, free trade in North America and prospects for solidarity amongst workers in in North America. He is the co-author of Continental Crucible: Big Business, Workers and Unions in the Transformation of North America (2015), which makes a significant contribution to thinking through labour internationalism in the context of North America.

**Katherine Sciacchitano** currently teaches at Rutgers University and spent eight years teaching political economy to activists while a professor at the National Labor College. Her presentation is rooted in her experience organizing and writing about organizing. She has published on a range of topics important to labour, including leadership development in organizing, the role of the U.S. dollar and global imbalances in the crash of 2008, the Security and Prosperity Partnership, and the ongoing attack on public sector pensions in the United States.
Kim Scipes, Ph.D., is a long-time labor and political activist, former member of the Graphic Communications International Union, AFL-CIO; National Education Association; American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO; and currently a member of the National Writers Union, UAW #1981, AFL-CIO. Scipes is a global labor scholar, having researched and written on labor in the US and around the world for over 30 years. He is the author of **KMU: Building Genuine Trade Unionism in the Philippines, 1980-1994** (Quezon City, Metro Manila: New Day Publishers, 1996), and **AFL-CIO’s Secret War against Developing Country Workers: Solidarity or Sabotage?** (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2010 hardback, 2011 paperback); and recently edited a book collection titled **Building Global Labor Solidarity in a Time of Accelerating Globalization** (Chicago: Haymarket Books, April 2016). Since 1984, he has published over 200 articles and book reviews, mostly labor-related, including articles in peer-reviewed journals, encyclopedias, specialty and general publications. He is an Associate Professor of Sociology and teaches at Purdue University Northwest in Westville, Indiana, USA, and lives in Chicago.

Aminah Sheikh is a union and labour activist in Canada. She is an Organizer at the Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union. Aminah worked at the Service Employees International Union, where she worked on the Justice for Janitors. She started her activism at the Scarborough Women’s Centre as a Literacy Mentor, and did an abundance organizing in the Muslim community in Toronto. She completed her Bachelor of Arts at York University in Gender Studies and her Masters in Gender and Development at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Victor Silverman studies the past and present of international labor, global institutions, and US empire. He is the author of four books—including **Imagining Internationalism in British and American Labor** and most recently **Who Can Stop the Raid? The Limits of US power** (forthcoming: William C. Velazquez Institute) which examines law and the sources of US interventions in the Americas. Silverman has worked as union organizer and consulted with the international labor movement on sustainable development policy. He is also an Emmy-winning filmmaker whose work has screened around the world.

Adrian A. Smith (Justice for Migrant Workers) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Law and Legal Studies at Carleton University and is cross-appointed to the institute of Political Economy and the Institute of African Studies.

Sean Smith is the mobilization coordinator for the union UNIFOR local 2002 in the airline industry. He is one of the founding members of the council and the coordinator of the roundtable session.

Julia Soul is a researcher at the Labor Studies Centre in Argentina. Anthropology of work, labor social history, labor sociology. Her research is focused on steel communities, workers and unions in the context of capitalist globalization and neoliberal hegemony. Soul currently coordinates a research project entitled “The action of union trade unions in the post-neoliberal stage. A comparative approach to the metallurgical unions of Argentina and Brazil.”

Vanisha Sukdeo is a Ph.D. Candidate at Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. She currently works at Osgoode Hall Law School. Her doctoral dissertation is entitled “Regulating
the Corporation from Within and Without: Corporate Governance and Workers’ Rights”. Vanisha was Called to the Ontario Bar in 2007 after completing her articles with a union-side labour law firm Ryder Wright Blair & Holmes LLP, and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU). Her research explores codes of conduct as tools to be used in strengthening the rights of workers. Her examination of Corporate Social Responsibility and workers’ rights also studies the differences in how ‘soft law’ can be used to help develop the rights of workers and increase enforcement and compliance versus ‘hard law’.

Media and story creator **Rebecca Tabobondung** is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of MUSKRATMagazine.com a leading on-line Indigenous arts and culture, magazine established in 2010 that strives to honour, investigate, and disseminate traditional knowledges in ways that inspire their reclamation. Rebecca has traveled extensively throughout Central America working to build meaningful links between Indigenous communities in the North and South. Working alongside ReZ 91.3 FM in 2015, Rebecca co-founded the Gchi Dewin Indigenous Storytellers Festival in Wasauksing First Nation where she is a member. Rebecca is a filmmaker, writer, poet, and Indigenous knowledge and oral history researcher. She is a Research Associate with The Well Living House, an Indigenous action research centre based at St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto specializing in community based research with over twenty years of experience in engagement and planning activities within diverse Indigenous communities. Rebecca’s latest research and film work documents traditional birth knowledge. Her short doc, *Spirit of Birth* exploring Indigenous birth and the Toronto Birth Centre is available for viewing on MUSKRAT Magazine.

**Heide Trampus** is an Early Childhood Educator by profession. As a Labour and Peace activist she participated in a “Fact Finding Mission” to El Salvador and Nicaragua in 1986. Her involvement with Cuba Solidarity goes back to the late 1970’s and she is the present coordinator of the “Worker to Worker, Canada-Cuba Labour Solidarity Network”. She has received the “Enrique Hart” distinction from the National Union of Public Administration Workers (SNTAP) in Cuba and the “Lázaro Peña” medal from the Central Worker’s Union of Cuba (Central de Trabajadores de Cuba (CTC). Heide attended nine out of ten “International Colloquiums against Terrorism and for Justice and Freedom for the Cuban Five”, in Holguin, Cuba and attended the “Five days for the Five” activities in Washington D.C. She was instrumental in forming the “Friends of the Five Committee” and organizing the September 2012 “Breaking the Silence, Justice for the Five, Peoples Tribunal & Assembly” in Toronto, September 2012.

**Edur Velasco Arregui** is a professor in the Department of Law at the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana in Mexico City and former Secretary-General of SITUAM (Sindicato Independiente de Trabajadores de la Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana -- Independent Union of Workers of the Metropolitan Autonomous University]. Velasco Arregui is the co-author of Continental Crucible: Big Business, Workers and Unions in the Transformation of North America (2015), which makes a significant contribution to thinking through labour internationalism in the context of North America.

Safety (1993 to date). He has carried out work missions in Portugal, Spain, Venezuela and Mexico. Visiting Professor at the National Engineering University of Managua, the Popular University of Nicaragua, the Autonomous University of the Caribbean in Barranquilla, Colombia; where he has taught courses and conferences in Strategic Management, Business Strategy, Human Resource Management, Knowledge Management and University Management, among other topics related to Organizational Management. He is Vice-President of the permanent national doctoral degree in Industrial Engineering of the Republic of Cuba. He has received several awards and distinctions for his professional, academic and social work during his working life.
Workers' Arts and Heritage Centre

51 Stuart St. Hamilton
McMaster Centre for Continuing Education

1 James St. North, Hamilton, ON
David Braley Health Sciences Centre

100 Main St. West Hamilton, ON
Peter Waterman, 26.1.1936 – 17.6.2017 – an obituary by Richard Hyman

Peter was an activist scholar, in many respects the classic organic intellectual. Since he never defined himself primarily as an academic, his involvement in RC 44 was relatively peripheral, but his whole life was dedicated to winning a better world for the workers of the world. He worked for two decades, in space between more directly political commitments, on a long autobiography, published online (for free) as From Coldwar Communism to the Global Emancipatory Movement: Itinerary of a Long-Distance Internationalist. To a large extent, the title says it all.

Peter grew up in North London in a communist, Jewish (but atheist) family. He joined the Young Communist League on his fifteenth birthday, and his immersion in the cause left little space for progress from school to university. However, in 1954 he enrolled in a journalism course, and on
the strength of his journalistic qualifications the Party sent him to Prague at the age of 19 as the English Editor of the monthly newsletter of the International Union of Students – a front organisation. Never a simple party loyalist, his three years in eastern Europe undermined many of his former illusions, but the brutal suppression of the Hungarian uprising in 1956 did not cause him to break with the Party; he still hoped the Soviet Union could be democratised from within. (His mother left, his father ‘remained with set teeth’.)

Back in Britain, he undertook military service (‘the party apparently still believed that all us young (male) Communists should learn how to fire a rifle, just in case’) and then looked unsuccessfully for work as a journalist. He gained a place at Ruskin College in Oxford (not part of the university, an adult education institution with close links to the trade unions. Immediately beforehand he married Ruthie, a Dutch communist most of whose relatives were killed in Auschwitz, and they soon had two children. My first encounter with Peter was during his Ruskin days. For some bizarre reason the university Labour and Conservative clubs invited the new German ambassador, a former Nazi, to speak to a joint meeting in spring 1962. Many of us went along to protest, and I remember Peter standing on a chair encouraging the disruption. The meeting did not proceed.

After gaining the Ruskin diploma he was accepted for an undergraduate degree in Oxford, after which he took up another position in Prague, this time ‘as a well-paid but lowly functionary’ with the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), in 1966. Here he experienced at first hand the 1968 Prague Spring and the Russian-led invasion in August. The British staff at WFTU denounced the invasion (as did most of the others), and Peter ‘left both the Communist World and the World of Communism’. Returning to Britain, he took a one-year MSocSci degree in West African Studies in Birmingham University – a by-product of his education work with African trade unions. From there he went to his first academic post, at Ahmadu Bello University in Northern Nigeria, where he stayed for two years. The political climate was uncongenial, and in 1972 he was offered a teaching post at the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague – Ruthie’s birthplace. The Institute was oriented to courses for Third World students and was generously funded from the Dutch government’s development aid budget (Peter told me that its library had more resources that that of the University of Delhi). He was to stay there until retirement 27 years later, for much of the period on short-term contracts.

It was here that I first got to know Peter. As he wrote later, while most of his colleagues were teaching ‘social partnership’, he was teaching ‘class struggle’, and his status was always somewhat precarious. My 1972 book on Strikes must have put me on his radar, and on several occasions I was invited to The Hague, usually staying at his comfortable house. Most notably for me, he organised an international conference on Third World Strikes, which resulted in a special issue of the ISS journal Development and Change (to which I contributed a concluding essay). He also took the opportunity to write a PhD on Lagos dock workers.

He became enthused with the idea of social movement unionism, though critical of many of its advocates, and came to prefer the concept of global social justice unionism. A central theme of Peter’s work was his demand for a new labour internationalism, autonomous from the old, top-down bureaucratic structures of international trade unionism, east and west, and for a new international labour studies. In the 1970s he launched a Newsletter of International Labour
Studies, and in the following decade he became enthused with the potential – though he was never a naive techno-optimist – of computerisation, and later the internet, to facilitate an emancipatory, bottom-up labour internationalism. He published widely, including his 2001 book Globalization, Social Movements and the New Internationalism and Recovering Internationalism, Creating the New Global Solidarity: Labour, Social Movements and Emancipation in the 21st Century in 2008. But his work was increasingly presented in online (and free) format, including in the e-journal Interface. His autobiography lists roughly a hundred such contributions.

After the breakdown of his marriage in the mid-1980s, Peter travelled extensively, building links with radical/emancipatory third world movements across the globe. In 1990 he began a relationship with well-known Peruvian feminist Gina Vargas, whom he later married. She helped involve him in the World Social Forum movement. He became increasingly disillusioned, on the one hand, by the manipulative activities of many leftist groups involved, on the other by the efforts to engage with official international trade unionism. He insisted on the need for a sustained utopian project to build a networked internationalism sensitive to the rights of labour but also to those of women, the socially and economically marginalised, and the environment.

Many RC44 members will have encountered his contributions on the web. He avidly devoured and disseminated insightful new writings, particularly by third world scholars and activists, in a variety of languages; he engaged in often sharp polemics on points where he disagreed; and he displayed throughout a wry, warm and self-deprecating humour. He will be sorely missed, but his legacy lives on.

Richard Hyman
