Research News

Congratulations to IGHC member Dr. Andrew Gilbert (Anthropology), who, together with Dr. Larisa Kurtović (University of Ottawa), was awarded a research grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for their research project *Labours of collaboration, labours of representation: EthnoGRAPHY of labour activism in postsocialist Bosnia-Herzegovina*. The project will investigate new forms of labour activism emerging in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the wake of the disappearance of mass industrial employment. Gilbert and Kurtović will collaborate with a Bosnian graphic artist throughout the research process. They plan on publishing their ethnographic findings in the form of a graphic novel.

IGHC member Dr. Bonny Ibhwawoh (History) recently published a new book with Cambridge University Press titled *Human Rights in Africa*. In it, Dr. Ibhwawoh takes issue with how discussions of human rights in Africa are often reduced to simplistic narratives of ruthless violators, hapless victims, and benevolent activists. His book goes beyond this staid trope, and provides an account of indigenous African rights traditions embodied in the wisdom of elders and sages; of humanitarians and abolitionists who marshaled arguments about natural rights and human dignity in the cause of antislavery; of the conflictual encounters between natives and colonists in the age of Empire and the “civilizing mission”; of nationalists and anti-colonialists who deployed an emergent lexicon of universal human rights to legitimize long-standing struggles for self-determination; and of dictators and dissidents locked in struggles over power in the era of independence and constitutional rights. Congratulations to Dr. Ibhwawoh on making this important contribution to our understanding of human rights.
Congratulations to IGHC member Dr. Ellen Amster (Jason A. Hannah Chair in the History of Medicine, Departments of Family Medicine and History), who is the recent recipient of two prestigious awards. Dr. Amster was awarded a $20,000 CIHR Population Health Global Health Planning Grant to conduct a collaborative research project titled “The Morocco-Canada Network for Maternal and Infant Health: Determining Research Priorities and a Framework for Action.” She was named a Fellow at the Center for the Material and Visual Cultures of Religion at Yale University, where she is working on a collaborative project called “Material Economies of Religion in the Americas: Arts, Objects, Spaces, Mediations.”

Congratulations to IGHC member Dr. Susie O’Brien (English & Cultural Studies) on the publication of a special issue of the journal Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities (Vol. 4, No. 2-3, 2017) that she co-edited with Cheryl Lousley (Lakehead University). The issue is on the theme of Environmental Futurity, and features seven research articles authored by an interdisciplinary group of international scholars working on the intersection of resilience and environmental issues.

IGHC members have been active in publishing their research findings in a range of venues. Here is a snapshot of various IGHC members’ recent publications:


We are pleased to announce the publication of a new working paper in the IGHC Working Paper Series. The series circulates papers by members of the Institute as well as other faculty members and graduate students at McMaster University working on the theme of globalization. Issue 17/1 in the series is titled Reworking Resilience. This unique working paper is a collection of nine papers on the theme of resilience. It begins with a conceptual paper that critically unpacks the concept of resilience, and is written by Paul Huebener, Susie O’Brien, Tony Porter, Liam Stockdale, and Rachel Zhou. A series of eight short papers follow, written by members of the IGHC Globalization & Time working group. Each of the short interventions addresses one of the many dimensions of resilience, which include issues such as climate change, precarious employment, democratic governance, urban infrastructure, refugee politics, and the provision of social services. A Panel Discussion on the findings of the study will take place on February 1st, 12-1:30pm in L.R. Wilson Hall 1003.
Academic Programs

 Макмстер’s Fall Convocation took place on November 16, 2017. Warm congratulations to all 18 of our MA graduates from the 2016-17 cohort: Helen Beny, Beatrice Beshie, Maria Cataluna, Salma El-Zamel, Faria Faiz, Cherin Hamadi, Loretta Janes, Fizza Kulvi, Melina Mamone, Ryan Markesic, Kristina Marra, Crispas Musau, Sydney Myles, Daniel Powell, Najiba Sardar, Kim Tran, Mikaela Van Pelt, and Melanie Zetusan. Best wishes to you on your new journeys, and please keep in touch with the IGHC!

 Congratulations to Globalization MA student Stephanie Arlt, who has been accepted to present her research at the Society of Applied Anthropology conference in Philadelphia in April 2018. Stephanie’s paper is titled “The Reframing of American White Nationalism in the Context of the 2016 Election.”

 On November 23, 2017 Dave Heidebrecht, Globalization MA Alumni (2009-10 cohort) and current Manager of the Office of Community Engagement, met with the Globalization MA students to discuss the work of his office. Students learned about opportunities to become involved in research projects with the local Hamilton community.

 Co-sponsored by IGHC and the School of Social Work, Professor John Clarke (Open University) will be visiting McMaster during the week of March 19-23, 2018 as a Hooker Distinguished Visiting Professor. Professor Clarke will deliver two keynote lectures, as well as holding seminars with undergraduate and graduate students, including the students in Dr. Rachel Zhou’s Globalization 704, Global Social Policy seminar. His March 19th IGHC lecture, titled Austerity and After? Policies, Politics and Ideologies, will trace the rise of austerity as the political common-sense of the global North during the past decade. Prof. Clarke will consider the strange relationships between austerity as an ideology, as a political project, and as a set of (dysfunctional) policies.

 In November 2017 Globalization MA student Moreen Gorial organized her fellow graduate students to participate in Operation Christmas Child (OCC). The OCC project is run by a humanitarian aid organization called Samaritan’s Purse; its goal is to collect and distribute shoebox gifts to children worldwide. A shoebox gift is a “shoebox” filled with hygiene items, school supplies, and toys. One is given to each child, regardless of gender, race, or religion. Shoebox gifts are distributed by OCC to countries of the developing world and countries affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease. To date Operation Christmas Child has delivered gift-filled shoeboxes to over 135 million children in more than 150 countries and territories. The gifts, created and collected by Globalization MA students, have been sent out to Ukraine, where they no doubt put smiles on the faces of many children. Thanks to Moreen and her fellow students for taking this initiative and making a positive difference in the world.

 Graduate students are busy preparing their research proposals for their MRP’s, and are eager to receive feedback. Faculty are welcome to attend the MRP Proposal Workshop on February 8, 1-2pm in L.R. Wilson Hall 1003.

 The deadline for online applications to the MA program in 2018-19 has been extended to February 12, 2018. Please promote the program and encourage interested students to apply.
Upcoming IGHC Research Seminars

- January 25, 2018, 10:00am-11:30am, L.R. Wilson Hall 3001
  The Right to Have Rights and Jural Sleights: Towards a Constructively Cynical Appraisal of Statelessness
  Speaker: Dr. John McGuire, Marie Curie Global Research Fellow (IGHC & Political Science)

- February 26, 2018, 12:30pm-2:00pm, L.R. Wilson Hall 1003
  Toxic-free Future: Health and Environmental Justice for Chemical Safety
  Speaker: Olga Speranskaya, The Goldman Environmental Prize Winner (2009), CoChair of IPEN

- March 8, 2018, 12:30pm-2:00pm, L.R. Wilson Hall 3001
  The Diaspora Imperative
  Speaker: Dr. Janet Bauer, IGHC Fulbright Global Scholar

- March 19, 2018, 1:30pm-3:00pm, L.R. Wilson Hall 1003
  Austerity and After? Policies, Politics and Ideologies
  Speaker: Professor John Clarke, Hooker Distinguished Visiting Professor

If you have any news about grants, achievements, publications, or resources that you would like to share with the IGHC community, please contact us at: globalhc@mcmaster.ca

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