IGHC News

◆ We are pleased to announce that Dr. Petra Rethmann (Anthropology) will be the new Director of the IGHC. Her five-year term begins on July 1. Dr. Rethmann has been an active member of the Institute since its inception in 1998. She has also been a dynamic presence within the Globalization MA program, having supervised and taught many of our graduate students. Congratulations!

◆ Congratulations to IGHC member Dr. Julie Young, who has been appointed as a Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Critical Border Studies in the Department of Geography at the University of Lethbridge. Dr. Young aims to establish the University of Lethbridge as a leading institution for critical border studies, with a focus on displacement and border control in settler colonial contexts. Her current research analyzes migration management and resistance along the NAFTA corridor. She aims to develop a community of scholars (locally, regionally, nationally, globally) around border studies in the context of settler colonial nation-states.

◆ Congratulations to IGHC member Dr. Netina Tan (Political Science), who together with Dr. Karen Bird, was awarded a SSHRC Connection grant to organize a conference on Comparing Mechanisms for Substantive Representation of Ethnic Minorities and Indigenous Peoples. The conference will be held at McMaster on December 6-8, 2018 and will bring together 30 international and local scholars to examine electoral quotas, reserved seats, and alternative approaches to securing the political inclusion of indigenous and ethnic minorities. These goals will be facilitated through a day of research panel sessions and another day of innovative training opportunities for graduate students to gain hands-on experience of methodological approaches for assessing substantive representation outcomes for distinctive groups.
On the April 4, 2018 IGHC member Dr. Robert O’Brien (Political Science) travelled to Buenos Aires, Argentina to present the results of a co-authored report on alternative trade union policies to the Southern Initiative on Globalization and Trade Union Rights (SIGTUR). SIGTUR is a network of unions based in the south that work towards increasing basic union rights, bolstering democratic practices and fighting corporate power. Professor O’Brien co-authored a report titled Challenging Corporate Capital: Creating an Alternative to Neoliberalism. It examines alternative policies in the fields of trade, taxation, public services and green energy transition. The chapter on corporate and individual tax abuse was co-authored by O’Brien and two of his former PhD students, Dr. Falin Zhang (Nankai University) and Dr. Nick Bernards (University of Warwick). The report was debated by trade unionists from 14 countries including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, India, South Africa, and South Korea.

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


- Netina Tan and Cassandra Preece, “Malaysia’s Dire Democratic Crisis.” The Conversation, March 25, 2018. This op-ed was also translated into Indonesian, and published in The Conversation: “Ngerinya krisis demokrasi di Malaysia”, April 12, 2018.


IGHC member and Acting Director Dr. Peter Nyers (Political Science), hosted the second annual States of Refuge workshop on May 10-11, 2018. Organized with his colleagues Dr. Thy Phu (Western) and Vinh Nguyen (Waterloo), the aim of this workshop series is to develop an international and interdisciplinary network of critical refugee scholars. Researchers from across Canada and the United States came to McMaster to discuss the theme of this year’s workshop: Keywords for Critical Refugee Studies. The workshop featured a public keynote lecture by Dr. Eric Tang (University of Texas at Austin) on the topic of “Race, Refugees and the Current Crisis.”

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Academic Programs

✦ This year the Globalization MA program was subjected to an Institutional Quality Assurance Program (IQAP) review. On March 28-29, 2018, the IGHC hosted the three members of the Review Team. Thank you to all the faculty, students, and staff who met with the team to discuss the graduate program. The results of the review are very positive. In their report the Review Team found the MA in Globalization to be “a creative, theoretical, intellectually rigorous, and truly multi-disciplinary program that has no rival or comparator in Canada.” The report emphasizes the “exceptional student experience,” and notes that the program’s success is derived from “the quality, coherence and integrity of the intellectual training.” Finally, the report underscores that the MA program “embodies many of McMaster University’s current priorities and strategic research plan and it should be promoted and resourced as an important complement to the university’s flagship programs.”

✦ On May 16, 2018, the IGHC successfully held its annual MA Student Major Research Paper (MRP) Colloquium at L. R. Wilson Hall 1003. Eighteen Globalization MA students presented their work in four sessions: (1) Global Migrations, (2) Global Health, (3) Global Politics, and (4) Global Disruptors. In addition to our current MA students, many incoming students attended the Colloquium, as well as faculty members from across the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Health Sciences. Thank you to everyone who participated, and to Lihua Qian for organizing the event.

✦ On February 26, 2018, students in Dr. Vito Buonsante’s graduate seminar, Globalization 732: Global Health and Environment Policy, met with Dr. Olga Speranskaya, Co-Chair of IPEN – a global network of hundreds of organizations working on chemical safety in over 100 countries. Dr. Speranskaya gave a talk titled “Toxic-free Future: Health and Environmental Justice for Chemical Safety.”

✦ Our MA admissions for the upcoming academic year have now finished. In addition to domestic applications, we have also received many international ones. We expect a very dynamic cohort of about 18 students for the 2018-19 academic year. A special thank you goes to the IGHC MA admissions committee, comprising seven IGHC members from five disciplines in the Social Sciences and Humanities.

✦ Important upcoming dates for Globalization MA MRPs:
  - July 9 Submit draft MRP to supervisor
  - July 23 Receive draft MRP comments from supervisor
  - Aug 6 Submit final MRP to supervisor and reader
  - Aug 20 Receive final MRP comments from supervisor and reader
  - Aug 27 Submit final MRP with corrections to IGHC office
Other IGHC News

Congratulations to Globalization MA student **Souhail Boutmira** on the recent birth of his first child, Ali Junior Boutmira. We wish you much joy and happiness on the safe arrival of your new family member!

The IGHC is pleased to welcome **Dr. Debal SinghaRoy**, who will be visiting McMaster in July 2018. Dr. SinghaRoy is Professor of Sociology at the Indira Gandhi National Open University in New Delhi, India. The IGHC will serve as host to Dr. SinghaRoy while he is in Canada working with researchers at the Shastri Indo Canadian Institute to study the changing facets of social science education under conditions of globalization.

Congratulations to Globalization MA student **Moreen Gorial** who presented her MRP research on the persecution of Assyrian Christian Iraqis at the conference *Religion and Violence: Sources, History and the Contemporary World* at the Centre for Research on Religion at McGill University on April 17-20, 2018.

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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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Newsletter editors: Peter Nyers & Lihua Qian
Email: globalhc@mcmaster.ca

Facebook: @instituteonglobalization
Twitter: @McMaster_IGHC