Research News

 IGHC member Dr. Katherine Nastovski has organized the conference *Confronting Global Capital: Strengthening Labour Internationalism and Transnationalism in Canada Today*, to be held on October 12-14, 2017 at McMaster University and the Workers’ Arts and Heritage Centre. The conference brings together trade unionists, as well as activists and academics involved in workers’ justice more generally, to evaluate past practices of Canadian labour internationalism and to debate and discuss strategies to strengthen this work. The conference programme includes consideration of how to mobilize increased participation by rank and file activists, what we can learn from specific sectoral strategies such as transnational networks across sectors or specific employers, and how to develop deeper inter-union transnational coordination. The conference also tackles issues around fostering political connections against the rise of far right governments and austerity agendas, building transnational action for environmental justice, and developing international labour strategies that include the struggles of migrant, non-union, and informal workers. Dr. Nastovski states that the goal of the conference will not only debate and analyze, but also to come up with a report from the conference that will include concrete proposals and ideas for advancing international labour solidarity and transnational labour coordination today.

For registration information, as well as the conference schedule and programme, consult the conference website: [globalization.mcmaster.ca/conference](http://globalization.mcmaster.ca/conference) or send an email to: [labourinternationalism@gmail.com](mailto:labourinternationalism@gmail.com)
Over the next two years the Institute, together with the Political Science Department, will be joined by Dr. John McGuire from University College Dublin. John is visiting on an EU-sponsored Marie Curie Global Fellowship. He completed his PhD in Philosophy at UCD under the supervision of Maevie Cooke and Brian O’Connor. His interests range from contemporary political philosophy and social theory to Enlightenment-era pedagogy and Classical rhetoric. He is coming to McMaster to work with IGHC member Dr. James Ingram on an interpretative framework for understanding ‘cynical’ disaffection based on ancient Greek philosophy.

Congratulations to IGHC member Dr. Stephen McBride, Canada Research Chair in Public Policy and Globalization. Dr. McBride is a founding member of the Austerity Research Group at the IGHC, which was created to study the theory, practice, and results of austerity policies in the wake of the 2008 global economic collapse. Together with his colleague Dr. Bryan Evans, Dr. McBride recently published two edited books on the theme of austerity: The Austerity State and Austerity: The Lived Experience. Both books are published in paperback by the University of Toronto Press.

Congratulations to IGHC member Dr. Netina Tan (Political Science), on her successful conference on electoral malpractice in East and Southeast Asia. Supported by grants from SSHRC and McMaster’s International Initiatives Micro-Fund, the conference gathered a group of internationally renowned scholars on electoral politics and democratization in Asia to investigate the causes, types, and effects of electoral malpractice. The conference was held as part of the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco on September 2, 2017.

Congratulations to Globalization MA alumnus, Robin Verrall, who was recently awarded a competitive Dissertation Fellowship at the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy in Taipei. Robin is currently a PhD Candidate in Political Science at York University. He is interested in studying the intersection of cultural and national identity in East Asia, and in particular how notions of national identities are produced, reproduced, and contested through political action and popular culture. His dissertation research looks at the discourses and symbols used by participants of the Sunflower Movement during their occupation of Taiwan’s legislative Yuan in 2014.

A warm welcome to our newest faculty member of IGHC, Dr. Ivona Kučerová, Associate Professor of Linguistics. Dr. Kučerová is a formal linguist who is increasingly involved in work with indigenous peoples. She has three SSHRC funded projects working with indigenous communities in Canada to document, protect, and revitalize endangered indigenous languages. Dr. Kučerová spent this past summer working with anthropologists in Brazil on Brazilian indigenous languages. Dr. Kučerová is also the lead of The Syntax Lab at McMaster.

The IGHC co-sponsored a talk titled ‘Leadership, Women and the United Nations’ by Patricia Moser. The September 28th event was part of the Academic Women’s Success and Mentorship (AWSM) lecture series. Ms. Moser is the Director of the Procurement Group of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), where she is instrumental in supporting rebuilding the communities fractured by humanitarian disasters. Ms. Moser spoke about her work with the UN, the importance of sustainability in procurement, and her experience as a woman in leadership. Globalization MA student Moreen Gorial introduced Ms. Moser’s talk.
Academic Programs

Warm congratulations to all of our 18 Globalization MA students of the 2016-17 cohort for successfully completing their MRPs. Many thanks to all MRP supervisors and second readers for your work and for your support for IGHC!

New Globalization MA students attended the IGHC’s Orientation on September 5, 2017. Students had a chance to meet student representatives from last year and CUPE representatives, as well as the IGHC Acting Director (Peter Nyers) and Graduate Coordinator (Lihua Qian).

On September 13, 2017, the IGHC held a Meet & Greet at the University Club to welcome the new 2017-18 cohort of 20 Globalization MA students. Students and IGHC faculty members socialized in the West Room of the University Club. Thanks to everyone who attended, and a special thanks to Lihua Qian for making it such a successful event.

Thanks to Globalization MA students Stephanie Arlt and Brett Cox for volunteering to serve as graduate student representatives at the IGHC Advisory Committee. Warm thanks also to Alex Geerts for volunteering to serve on the General Faculty Committee.

IGHC member Dr. Alina Sajed is offering a new graduate course beginning in the Winter 2018 term. Titled Political Violence and Revolution (POL SCI 717), the course examines the global connections and intersections between insurrectional movements in the Global South and radical leftist movements in the Global North. Dr. Sajed notes that academics tend to study these movements separately and forget the deep enmeshments among them. The course will begin by examining decolonization movements from the 1950s to the 1970s (e.g. Algeria, Vietnam, Palestinian organizations, Cuba), and then trace the reverberations of these movements into contemporary decolonization struggles, such as indigenous resurgence and Black Lives Matter.

The IGHC is pleased to be offering a wide range of graduate courses as part of the Globalization MA program. In the first semester of the 2017-18 academic year, the program offers three courses: Introduction to Globalization (Dr. Peter Nyers), International Trade and Economic Development (Dr. Don Kingsbury), and Global Actors Beyond the State: Methods and Cases (Dr. Julie Young). In addition, there are five cross-listed courses offered by IGHC members in Political Science (Drs. Inder Marwah, Robert O’Brien, Alina Sajed, and Netina Tan) and History (Dr. Michael Egan).

In the second semester IGHC will offer four courses: Designing Global Research: Approaches, Methods, and Techniques (Dr. Rachel Zhou), Global Social Policy (Dr. Rachel Zhou), Islam in a Global World (Dr. Liyakat Takim), and Global Health and Environmental Policy (Dr. Vito Buonsante). There are an additional four cross-listed courses offered by IGHC colleagues in English & Cultural Studies (Dr. Susie O’Brien), History (Dr. John Weaver), and Political Science (Dr. Robert O’Brien and Dr. Sandy Irvine).

The online application for the MA program in 2018-19 will be open in mid-November. Please promote the program to interested students.
Other IGHC News

✦ We are pleased to announce that the IGHC will be strengthening its institutional links with the Water Without Borders program by providing administrative support. Water Without Borders is a collaborative graduate program in water, environment, and health between McMaster University and the United Nations University – International Network on Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH). The Globalization MA program has consistently had graduate students complete the Water Without Borders diploma, which includes an annual field course in Ghana in February. The IGHC is pleased to continue and strengthen our involvement with Water Without Borders and its work on such an important issue in globalization studies.

✦ Graduate students are invited to submit proposals to present a paper at Mapping the Global Dimensions of Policy 7, McMaster’s seventh annual graduate conference on the internationalization of public policy. The conference will be held February 5-6, 2018 at McMaster.

✦ The IGHC co-sponsored the conference Education for Our Times: Towards a Culture of Peace, Nonviolence & Social Justice. Organized by IGHC member Dr. Chandrima Chakraborty (English & Cultural Studies), the conference was held on October 1, 2017 at McMaster Innovation Park as part of Hamilton’s Gandhi Peace Festival. The aim of the conference was to spark a critical discussion about the role of education in combating the spread of virulent nationalisms and challenging the increasing violence against racial, ethnic and religious minorities across the globe. In addition to reflecting on the role of scholarly research can help achieve these goals, the conference also featured panels on the roles of artistic, activist, and other critical pedagogical approaches. McMaster President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Patrick Deane, gave the opening remarks for the conference. A Plenary Lecture was provided by former Ontario Premier, Bob Rae, and the conference’s Closing Lecture was given by Dr. Henry Giroux, McMaster University Chair for Scholarship in the Public Interest and the Paulo Freire Distinguished Scholar in Critical Pedagogy.

✦ 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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