Swords, Pens, Armchairs and Sit-Ins: Engaging social transformation from everywhere

ENGAGE 2017

THE 17TH ANNUAL SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 25th, 2017
University of Guelph
Mackinnon Building, 3rd Floor
Swords, Pens, Armchairs and Sit-Ins: Engaging social transformation from everywhere

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THE 17TH ANNUAL SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Conference Schedule:
Saturday, March 25th, 2017
3rd floor Mackinnon Building, Rooms 304, 305, & 306

Registration and Light Breakfast: 9:00-9:30am
Morning Conference Sessions: 9:30-11:10am; 11:25-12:25pm
Lunch and Poster Presentations: 12:30-1:40pm
Afternoon Conference Session: 1:40-2:40pm; 2:55-4:10pm

REGISTRATION and BREAKFAST 9:00-9:30am
Location: Outside MACK 304

SESSION 1 - 9:30 to 11:10
Panel #1: Mother Earth vs. Father Time: A discussion of the ever-increasing tension between economic growth and sustainability
Room 304

Exploring Re-Peasantization: How Agrarian Reform and Agroecology Can Fulfill the Call for Food Sovereignty
Chelsea Masse, University of Guelph

The current dominant model of agriculture is failing peasant farmers through the promotion and realization of oppressive globalized neoliberal agricultural policies, and subsequently the marginalization of peasant agricultural operations. This model is allowing for the trend of mass de-peasantization of former peasant agricultural operations primarily through large-scale corporate land-acquisitions which allow for peasant displacement from their former lands, and the reconfiguration of these territories for commercialization by capitalist agribusiness and practices of commodity exportation. This is resulting in the ignorance of peasant agricultural operations in localized markets as these policies promote export subsidies and the importation of food, which undermines the peasant call for food sovereignty and the participation of peasant farmers in local agricultural markets. To allow for a more localized, food sovereignty paradigm approach to agriculture, there must begin to be a shift in the trend of de-peasantization to re-peasantization, allowing for prosperous small-scale peasant agricultural operations. The re-peasantization of agriculture can most effectively be realized through the implementation of agrarian reform, specifically land reform, and the adoption of ecological farming methods also known as agroecology. The movement of re-peasantization will allow for more diversified agricultural practices as well as a more localized approach to food allowing for the availability of healthy, local food and preserving cultural heritage and the peasant way of life.
Globalization has allowed for greater access to various types of food in many parts of the world while also affecting the social values of food, roles within a family unit, and coping strategies in relation to food choices and food availability. I will discuss how an increasingly globalized market has impacted not only the availability and demand for certain foods, but also how it can alter the way nutritional and social values of food are prioritized. Several studies have examined local strategies and explanations regarding food choice. However, less work has looked at the ways information and popular opinions on food, including perceptions of nutrition, are disseminated across local and cultural lines. Using examples from diverse food cultures, I will examine local strategies and explanations regarding food choice. Developing a better understanding of the ways food choices are made is critical for seeking out and assessing effective ways to promote healthy eating to the public and successfully promoting healthy food choices.

**A comparison between capitalist and steady-state systems in their ability to maintain a sustainable society**

*Mark Shakespear, University of Guelph*

Sociological and environmental literature present many pathways to sustainability that are said to be achievable from within the present day capitalist world-system. However, many of these strategies are grounded in theoretical frameworks that are not far-sighted enough to fully comprehend the social and environmental outcomes of the capitalist system in a global setting. This paper explores the relationship between worldviews, socioeconomic systems, and the environmental, social and economic policies that result from embeddedness in a given world-system-paradigm. Examining a society's perception of the societal-environmental relationship allows for a critical view of its socioeconomic systems in relation to the effectiveness of its sustainability strategies. Using such an approach as a starting point, this paper assesses the capability of the capitalist world-system to achieve sustainability; concluding that the capitalist approach would be ineffective due to grounding in a worldview that prioritizes domination of nature. Following from this is an exploration of a potential steady-state system, which results in the conclusion that such a system would be much more likely than the capitalist system to achieve sustainability due to grounding in a worldview that recognizes humans as both unique from and embedded in natural systems. Lastly, indicators of the transition to a sustainable steady-state society are examined and then compared to real world exemplars that can serve to show that such a transition has begun, albeit at modest levels.

**Ego-Village: Utopianism in the Post-Modern Experiment of Maia Earth Village**

*José Guillermo Sánchez, Trent University*

My research explores the concept of utopianism as a political, philosophical and economic strategy humans utilize to construct new modes of living. I define utopianism as the conscious construction of idyllic spaces of extra-familial groups. The idyllic, the basis of a utopian movement, reflects the optimal form and function of activities, artifacts, and spaces that generate perceptions of happiness and schemas of ideal forms. Utopianism taps into an impulse of new social development, typology, and analysis. Utopianism and utopian movements serve as blueprints for real-world action. These movements are highly malleable and subject to change, resulting in an end product that can look entirely different from its theoretical construct. I analyze the concept of utopianism using a qualitative ethnographic study of Maia Earth Village. Maia is part of the eco-village network, an emerging zeitgeist of ecologically minded communities attempting to address perceived maladaptive ecological practices of modern society. My data, through a summer-long investigation using interview, digital ethnography, and
participant-observation, has revealed that Maia is a community less concerned with ecological sustainability and more with personal development in a naturally integrated anthropogenic space. Consequently, Maia's continued historical emphasis on introspective spiritual practices has diminished its goals as an ecologically minded intentional community. In the place of an eco-village is an ego-village, a highly individualistic community utilizing nature for egoic-exploration and self-healing. My research explores this development and its implications for the development of sustainable and alternative communities as a whole.

**Exploring Ethnic Boundaries in a Contemporary Context: the Ogoni Then and Now**  
*Stacey Cook, Carleton University*

My project is focused on the Ogoni people within the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. I look at the issues that occur with the creation of nation states, and how ethnic relations are key in promoting political sovereignty with a focus on questions of belonging and how this creates political power when bargaining with the nation state. I’m exploring two main issues. First, the circumstances that arise when people make use of their ethnic identity, with a focus on economics and the use of natural resources. This will lead to a discussion of how ethnic identity is used as a political tool against the nation-state. Next, I will discuss the state and the role it plays in ethnic issues. In Nigeria, the state allows transnational corporations to develop natural resources in traditional Ogoniland, which creates a conflict of resources as those indigenous to the land do not benefit from its resources. This contention that exists between the indigenous groups and the nation state brings out issues of nationalism, resource competition, identity and belonging. Theoretically, I make use of Geertz’s ideas about centripetal interactions, and how this pushes a group toward a specific identity, in this case, the Ogoni identifying against the Nigerian nation-state. Further, I look at Yuval-Davis to understand issues of belonging and the politics of belonging, especially in relation to the environment. Yuval-Davis’ three levels on which belonging is constructed will form a foundation for my case study in understanding the boundaries that form around “belonging” for these two groups.

**Panel #2: Structuring Agency on Campus: A discussion of empowerment, diversity, sustainability, inflated grades and deflated careers**  
*Room 305*

**Reconceptualizing Diversity as an Anti-oppression Framework through Service Learning**  
*Taylor Pratt, Huda Al-Sharafi, Jamie Ouellet, University of Guelph*

This presentation will appeal to academics interested in understanding how conceptualizing diversity as an anti-oppression framework can be leveraged in the classroom to create diversity competent students. Specifically, we will explore how a service learning experience and Community Collaboration between a University Class, a private school and multiple public school boards, allowed students to become more socially aware and move towards creating positive social change. The students used the Power Flower tool developed by Canadian social change educators when working with groups to identify who we are and who we are not as individuals and as a group in relation to those in power in society. This paper critically analyzes the ways in which students described, assessed and analyzed their experiences, the student gains through facilitating Power Flower workshops in small community groups, and the benefits of community collaboration more broadly. Using a train the trainer model, this community collaboration (which culminated in an event for 250 attendees) built student leadership capacity, fostered community connections and contributes to a more inclusive and vibrant community.

**Modes of Empowerment and Self-care Strategies: Psychiatric Disability on Canadian Campuses**  
*Loa Gordon, University of Guelph*
The modes of empowerment used by university students living with mental health issues has not been adequately investigated using ethnographic methods in the anthropological literature. The purpose of this ongoing research is to explore the use and subjective understanding of self-care and empowerment practices among Canadian university student populations who identify as psychiatrically disabled. The questions that will be addressed in this project are: What are the strategies adopted by Canadian university students that lead to their empowerment? How do these modes of empowerment affect the negotiation of their agency during post-secondary studies? By using a critical disability studies perspective, this study will generate new insight concerning psychiatrically disabled students as having the agency to seek empowerment and inclusivity on Canadian university campuses. Semi-structured interviews with twenty University of Guelph students with self-reported psychiatric disabilities will be conducted. Additionally, participant observation of individual and collective empowerment discourses at a disability rights advocacy event aimed at students in Ontario will take place. In analyzing student experiences of empowerment in disability, I posit that knowledge regarding the structures that marginalize and stigmatize the people who live with them will be gained. The resulting data will generate insight regarding how campuses can better accommodate students, promote their wellbeing, and make universities more inclusive spaces.

**Self-Selection in Academia? Examining Influences of PhD Student Career Aspirations**  
Brittany Etmanski, University of Waterloo

A growing body of research has focused on the employment outcomes of PhD graduates, but substantially less literature has focused on their aspirations prior to graduation. As tenure-track positions have become increasingly less common, PhD students' aspirations may have shifted accordingly, effectively 'cooling out' students from aspiring to pursue academic careers. Drawing on the National Research Council's (NRC) 2006 Assessment of Research Doctoral Programs, this paper assessed the career aspirations of PhD students upon entrance to the program and at the time of the survey. Females and students in the biological and physical sciences were most likely to be cooled out of their academic career aspirations. Further, institutional prestige did not have a significant effect on students' career aspirations. Contrary to past research, the results suggested that although some students' aspirations shifted from teaching to industry, most remained relatively static over time, refuting the cooling out hypothesis. The implication of these results suggests that students may cool themselves out at another time point. Therefore, future research would benefit from examining whether students cool themselves out from pursuing academic employment prior to entrance into the PhD program.

**Two-tiered Hiring Practices and their Impact on Faculty Working Conditions and Student Learning Experiences**  
Anne-Marie Bresee, University of Guelph

Precarity in academia shapes faculty working conditions which, in turn, shape the student learning environment. This qualitative study examines how the pressures experienced by the both the professoriate and their students manifest themselves in the pervasive act of grade inflation. The focus is not on economic policies, but on the educational experience delivered by professors and received by students, and how that experience is influenced by two-tiered hiring practices. Fourteen tenured and non-tenured University of Guelph professors as well as five fourth-year students were interviewed. In the examination of grade inflation, there emerged three themes of institutional pressure, student pressure and job security. The emergent narrative suggests grade inflation is linked to casualization. The results are discussed within the framework of institutional theory and in relation to existing literature and studies of precarity in academia.
The topic of food waste is becoming a prominent point of discussion around the dinner table. There is scholarly work available about food waste in the context of Canada; however, there is limited research discussing institutions, such as the university campus. The university campus can be used as a living laboratory to explore sustainability initiatives related to the reduction of food waste. University campuses act as small communities, but also incubators for social innovation and social change. Exploring how university campuses in Canada reduce food waste is pertinent in understanding how to create an environmentally sustainable food system. The research includes surveys and interviews. This study involved surveying over forty universities in Canada and completing four in-depth Canadian university campus case studies, where interviews with university administration, food service providers, and students were conducted. This paper highlights the need to examine the reduction of food waste in an institutional setting, such as the university campus.

### SESSION 2 - 11:25 to 12:25pm

**Panel #3: Living with Poverty: A discussion of homelessness, women’s shelters and Feminist Participatory Action Research in Southern Ontario**

**Room 304**

**Class, Colourblind Intersectionality and Whiteness: Interviews with Economically Disadvantaged White Women within Women’s Shelters**

*Natalie Adamyk, University of Waterloo*

While intersectionality is an invaluable tool for investigating marginalized individuals and groups, an area that it has often under-acknowledged is class, or socio-economic status. This is likely because it is both difficult to measure, and is frequently intertwined with other intersectional aspects of identity, such as race. Whiteness is another aspect that frequently goes under-analyzed, because, as Corbado (2009) argues, it is often treated as a “default” category against which minority racial identities are compared. This does not easily allow one to understand how whiteness and class intersect in ways which uniquely position these individuals in terms of the respective advantages and disadvantages that being white, but also lower-class, confers on them within society. Lower-class white women, especially, face unique barriers which both lower-class white males and middle-class women do not, such as increased vulnerability to domestic violence. It was for these reasons that I chose to focus on white, lower-class (or socio-economically marginalized) female survivors of domestic abuse. In my research, I aim to better understand the lives of white, lower-class women within the Kitchener-Waterloo shelter system. I hope to reveal the ways in which class and whiteness impact these women's lives, by asking questions about their home and work lives, their family situation prior to living in the shelter, and their experiences within the shelter, such as their treatment by shelter staff, and their interactions with other shelter residents. I also hope to learn about these women's future goals and aspirations.

**Pathways to Homelessness**

*Madeline Porter, Trent University*

This research contributes to the knowledge about pathways into youth homelessness in Peterborough, Ontario. The recently released United Way report, “Giving Voice... Peterborough's 2016 Point-in-Time Count of Homelessness” found that 64% of participants entered homelessness before age 26 (United Way Peterborough & District, 2016). This finding demonstrates the prevalence of youth homelessness in our community and the urgency of addressing its’ prevention. The present study was conducted to
determine the known pathways into youth homelessness established in the Canadian literature and to engage the voices of formerly homeless youth in what they identify as the factors contributing to their first experiences of homelessness. Three individuals that experienced homelessness in Peterborough for the first time before age 26 participated in qualitative, art-based interviews. The result is three individual narratives that reflect the pathways into youth homelessness established in the literature. These pathways include difficult family situations, families struggling in the context of poverty, and interactions with the Criminal Justice and Child Welfare systems. The conclusions drawn from this study are to be presented as recommendations to the City of Peterborough Social Services Division and other community stakeholders. The recommendations include strengthening the relationships between the housing and homelessness sector and the Criminal Justice and Child Welfare Systems, and investing in early identification and family support programs.

Presenting FPAR research without compromise: Staying true to ourselves and others
Rachel Ewan, Wilfrid Laurier

This paper shares the planning process of presenting data, from a participatory community-based research project, at an academic conference. The project in discussion investigated the perceptions of women who live in Toronto public housing on what makes a community. A focus is placed on the approach and methods—Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) and narrative methods—which influenced the trajectory used to undertake this task. As a Doctoral Student researcher, I aimed to present this project at the conference in a way that aligned with social justice principles of FPAR, particularly the notion of “power-with”, as discussed by Ponic, Reid and Frisby (2010). The voices of the women who engaged in this project were heard, without compromise, vis-a-vis the methods I used to communicate their stories to the conference audience. In disclosing this process, I hope to provide insight and guidance to other community-based researchers who present Feminist Participatory Action Research in similar settings.

Panel #4: Biopolitics and Epistemic Imperialism: A discussion of colonial power, knowledge, and the body
Room 305

The Biopolitical Genres of Humanism
Ramanpreet Bahra, Wilfrid Laurier University

Biopolitics and its affective economy works to distinguish what bodies are valued and can claim the status of humanity within society. Such a process creates various biopolitical forms of life centralized around the idea of humanness. Biopolitics looks at the body, but ends up as an abstraction under the world of reason. I want to look at the notion of the body as it is within the realm of the affective. This paper will interrogate how theories of race have justified the categorization, governing and eradication of bodies. The two concepts to be discussed come from the field of Black Studies and Cultural studies, in which they provide a different understanding into the Foucauldian concept of Biopolitics by bringing ‘the affective turn’ to the forefront. Alexander Weheliye and Jasbir Puar's concepts of racializing assemblage and debility will be discussed to illustrate how bodies that fall outside the dominant Eurocentric paradigms are categorized and disciplined on the basis of humanism and neoliberal mandates. What I believe is crucial to understand is that whether it be racializing assemblages or debility, we can see biopolitics operate, naturalize and manifest under modern politics; where often times we see an economic value and negative rhetoric carry forward a sense of security and fear.
The Clash of Epistemologies
Yousr El Sharawy, University of Guelph

In recent history, the East and the West have been framed to be two incompatible poles. This is the assumption adopted by scholars and policy makers regarding conflicts in the so-called ‘Orient’. An argument presented in a paper and later in a book is brought forward by Samuel Huntington that acknowledges a divide of civilizations and bases that divide to an inevitable upcoming “clash” between them. This paper uses Seyla Benhabib's understanding of culture in order to debunk Huntington's claim, on the basis of the contending understanding of culture. The paper attempts to explain that the real “clash” between “civilizations” – to use Huntington's own terms – is one of epistemology and paradigms. The paper will aim to present Seyla Benhabib's understanding of culture to understand the epistemological contentions between Huntington and Said. This analysis will be employed to understand the power dynamics that do not only take place in the foreign policy world, but also trickle down to the academy during knowledge production. Benhabib's book, The Claims of Culture, and specifically her chapter on “The Use and Abuse of Culture,” presents premises to arrive at the definition of culture and identity, and how one – whether in the academy or as an individual in engagement with the collective – can negotiate cultural borders. The paper will employ Benhabib's understanding of culture as the framework to understanding the power dynamics entrenched in Huntington's paradigm.

From Foucault to Stoler and Razack: A Historical and Contemporary Analysis of Colonial Power
Helene Bigras-Dutrisac, University of Western Ontario

In this paper, I examine Ann Laura Stoler's "Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Gender and Morality in the Making of Race" and Sherene Razack's "The Body as Placeless: Memorializing Colonial Power" through a Foucauldian lens. I use Michel Foucault's "Right of Death and Power Over Life" to explore the functioning of bio-power and its effects on sexualized and racialized bodies in both historical and contemporary settings. More specifically, I examine how the exploitation of Indigenous women at the hands of European men throughout the 19th century as well as ongoing forms of colonialism and their effects on Indigenous communities in Canada today have developed and evolved over time. Through this comparative analysis, I draw attention to the particularities of colonial bio-power in relation to race and sex.

LUNCH + Poster Presentations - 12:30 to 1:40pm
Room 306

Alexa MacKenzie-Cooper, Ann Westbere, Annie Simpson, Carleigh Smith, Katya Pogrebtsova, Abhilash Kantamneni, Academic Supervisor: Dr. Mavis Morton, University of Guelph, Community Partner Contributions: Marlene Ham (OAITH), University of Guelph

Universities tackle complex social issues by forming mutually beneficial partnerships with key stakeholders outside the academy, a practice commonly known as community engaged scholarship (CES). CES aims to mobilize the expertise of all partners equitably towards social change. In this poster, we describe one such collaborative community partnership for social good. Ontario Association for Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH) is a provincial coalition of women shelters, second stage housing programs and community-based organizations that advocate for issues relating to violence against women. OAITH is engaged in an ongoing collaboration with researchers from the University of Guelph, which is aimed at understanding how femicide is documented in media, bringing attention to systemic issues and mobilizing knowledge about preventing the killing of females because they are females, defined as femicide. In particular, this partnership examines trends relating to femicide cases where
there is a history of intimate partner violence. The poster will present our analysis of femicide trends in Ontario between 2009-2014. The categories for our analysis are compiled with data from two sources: OAITH (which is compiled from media sources) and the Ontario Office of the Chief Corner. In addition, to further our analysis, we review how Ontario's victims of femicide were framed in local and national news media from 2015-2016, and compare these results to the results from 2009-2014. We will highlight our process, methods, key findings and future work while reflecting critically on our CES project challenges and the opportunities CES offers for social transformation.

Contact with forests, human health and environmental sustainability: Can a contextual analysis of Shinrin-yoku expose the research potential of integrating anthropological, biomedical and environmental criteria to identifying novel possible links and challenges?

Verena Kulak, University of Guelph

Shinrin-yoku is a Japanese public health initiative that was implemented in the 1980s, it loosely translates as taking-in the forest and it encourages city dwellers to spend unstructured time in forests and do walk-abouts at their own pace. Current studies of Shinrin-yoku health benefits focus on biomarkers associated to stress relief. I present a critique of the current research methods to expose the limitations of isolating biomedical effects from socio-cultural and environmental contexts, and to explore the potential of integrating anthropological and ecological contexts to clarify the effects of this practice on human and forest health. I suggest using a transdisciplinary approach and systems thinking to capture complexity and to understand how the various elements of practicing Shinrin-yoku interact in a system. In turn, a holistic approach can better inform public health decisions that respect socio-cultural nuances, assess the long-term success of Shinrin-yoku and determine its environmental impact, particularly now as the world faces climate change and ecosystem degradation.

The Political Ecology of Rainbow Herbicides

Ceileighn MacInnis, University of Guelph

In the latter half of the 20th century, the United States of America became involved in the Vietnam War. The terrain of the Vietnam posed tactical obstacles for the United States Forces, who chose to militarize commercial herbicides and use them to defoliate the dense Vietnamese jungle landscape. These herbicides destroyed crops, prevented regrowth, and poisoned the environment. Health effects were visibly immediate and these concerns have been heavily studied. The environmental destruction also spurred numerous political, economic and social ramifications. This poster will focus on two impacted populations: American Vietnam veterans and exposed Vietnamese citizens. Both populations are subject to similar physical health concerns as a result of the herbicides, yet health is not limited to physical illness brought about by the exposure to Rainbow Herbicides. A population's health can be dramatically altered in the long-term due to their environment. The American Veterans left the contaminated landscape to a population who found it easy to ignore the issue of Rainbow Herbicides, while the Vietnamese Citizens were trapped dealing with environmental devastation and the resulting social, political and economic upheaval. Through political ecology I will identify the environmental conflicts each population faced and explore how these conflicts manifested in the social environment, ultimately pushing the populations towards social transformation. Furthermore, I will discuss both the historical and contemporary issues surrounding this topic, including how ‘justice’ for health repercussions have been negotiated within the selected populations and on a global stage.

Mercury Contamination in Grassy Narrows, Ontario

Natalie Vasilivetsky, University of Guelph

Mercury Contamination in Grassy Narrows, Ontario Due to the release of mercury-contaminated waste products into the Wabigoon river by Reed Pulp and Paper Company in the 60's and 70's, the Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation in Grassy Narrows, Ontario, have an alarming prevalence of
mercury in their blood. Using a political ecology framework, I ask: what political, socioeconomic, and structural factors have contributed to the origin and persistence of the ongoing public health crisis in Grassy Narrows? Mercury affects the cardiovascular and nervous system, leading to a wide range of symptoms including kidney damage, memory loss, tremors, and nutritional deficiency. Methyl-mercury bioaccumulates in fish and marine mammals, which are food staples in this community. In addition, nearby resource extraction and subsequent pollution have led to waterway contamination and habitat destruction, further limiting the inhabitants’ ability to fish, hunt, and access non-contaminated water. As a result, mercury-related disability is frequent within the community. I conclude that the 2016 pledge of funding by the Ontario government to clean the Wabigoon river comes decades too late, and is reflective of a history of structural violence and systemic neglect by the federal and provincial government. Activism, partnership, and research are needed from the anthropological community to help understand and mitigate the pervasive effects of mercury contamination in Grassy Narrows.

SESSION 3 - 1:40 to 2:40pm
Room 304

Big Data, Little Certainty: Total Archive and the New Circuits of Power & Resistance
Brian Schram, University of Waterloo

The allure of Big Data is partially rooted in the unknown. We are captivated not only by the myriad ways it impacts and structures our day-to-day life, but also its seemingly nascent potential for totalizing insight and predictive power. This paper explores two aspects of Big Data’s unknowability. First, I situate Big Data inside Bauman’s (2000) concept of “liquid modernity”, which highlights the role of positivist teleology in the physics of contemporary statecraft. Here, I extend doxic interpretations of power/knowledge to include an emerging form of power that has come to reside inside systems of knowledge and truth-making that remain speculative and may never fully cohere. In these cases, power is not contained in the discursive or data-driven production of classificatory schema (Foucault 1970; Bowker & Star 1999; Haggerty & Ericson 2000; Beer 2016), but in the purposeful obscuration of the limits of processing power, empirical insight, knowledge, and knowability. Second, I examine how this new brand of latent power/knowledge has prompted a response consisting of novel forms of fictive resistance that rely on speculation and collective storytelling about the future of high technology. Drawing on ethnographic data gathered during 2014, I argue that these examples of “virtualized resistance” interpret technological prowess as a method of co-opting and redirecting the mechanisms of state and corporate hegemony, and as a way of reclaiming personal agency and freedom in uncertain political times.

Another Look at Flexicurity: Outcomes and Portability
Oldrich Bubak, McMaster University

The oft-cited criticisms of flexicurity—a complex set of related policies aiming to create a virtuous circle of employment flexibility, employability, employment security, and employment growth—target its dubious effectiveness as well as its suitability for and the portability to other countries. Due to common claims that the unemployment values in countries with implemented flexicurity policies are skewed by the fact the unemployed—on account of their generous benefits including the extended training—are less likely or promptly to seek work, a proper treatment of unemployment must be a prerogative of any robust analysis. Aiming to move the debates forward, this study sets out to examine flexicurity outcomes incorporating a broader measure of unemployment, the U-5, which includes individuals left out of the nearly universally referenced U-3 statistic. Other critiques include the compatibility of flexicurity policies
with liberal models, common to the Anglo-Saxon countries, given their views on the role of government, social composition, and public preferences. Such arguments will be considered as well, forming the second pillar of this contribution. The study proceeds in three steps. First, flexicurity will be described in detail and rationale given for the selection of the Danish model as the baseline for the study. An exploration of alternative approaches will follow. Next, an analysis based on a custom model incorporating suitable measures will be performed. Finally, the portability to liberal welfare models, namely Canada, will be examined and implementation will be explored. The work will close with some recommendations and a summary.

Empowering or Pandering? Exploring identity in the political debate
Sameha Alghamdi, York University

This discussion will explore the broader issue of identity in the political debate. This will consider the idea that there is a risk that an excessive focus on identity can sometimes cloud discussing underlying issues in public political debates. This discussion will look at a number of the psychological biases which can be present in public debates and how there is a risk that focusing too much on identity can lead to key issues were insufficiently explored. This discussion explore the role that identity politics played in the US Presidential election. This will consider how identity based issues (such as accusations of racism, sexism, homophobia etc.) resulted in public attention being diverted from the underlying substantive issues. As a result, questionable policy choices are being implemented by executive order (i.e. immigration bans, border walls, tariffs etc.). Such policies were not debated on the basis of merit, but rather in terms of identity politics. By focusing on identity, policies were not moderated to find common ground but rather made more extreme to pander to identity based voting blocks. This discussion will question if a strict focus on identity is the best way to advance social justice, or if we need to return to a more vigorous focus on debating policy and facts. It is anticipated that this discussion will result in some pretty vigorous debate on the extent to which placing identity central to the political debate has had a positive, or negative, impact on the political process.

Panel #6: Mobilizing Media: The cyber-playground, oppositional counter-publics, and cultural production
Room 304

The Online Culture of Cyberbullying
Molly Harper, University of Windsor

Youth culture today is based on the number of ‘likes’, ‘shares’, ‘retweets’, and ‘followers’ a person has on various social media sites. Reliance on technological devices, Internet connections, and a cyber presence has produced a generation where traditional face-to-face bullying has become more complex. Using the theoretical framework of cultural criminology, this paper illustrates the cultural construction of cyberbullying as a phenomenon, which emerged from the broader youth culture’s reliance on ‘being connected’, and designs the subcultures within as working in a cyclical fashion with one another to define and understand cyberbullying. Subcultures are characteristics of the entire umbrella of cyberbullying and include the subculture of the cyberbully, the cyber victim, and the cyber bystander. Through qualitative methodologies, this study aims to examine the portrayal of these subcultures of cyberbullying within popular film by analyzing and comparing both media constructions and representations of cyberbullying in popular culture films as compared to the way documentary film depicts real cases of cyberbullying that capture the Canadian public's attention. Findings indicate that popular film's portrayal of cyberbullying aligns with the literature associated with the construction of the cycle of the subcultures; however, largely reflects a gap in relation to the function of law, policies, and procedures to adequately address problems of cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is becoming problematic in present day society due to the way it is impacting the lives of youth. This study is providing the basis for
a new way of understanding such a phenomenon and its potential impact on the way individuals think and react to cyberbullying.

“Social Media Disclosures of Sexual Violence: Mobilizing Activism and Defining the Battleground of Oppositional Counter-Publics”
Chris Worden, University of Guelph

As survivor dissatisfaction with the legal process surrounding sexual assault cases gains media attention through high-profile examples such as Brock Turner and Jian Ghomeshi, alternative options to engaging with the criminal justice system appear to be on the rise as well. Among these, social media disclosures provide a public outlet for those alleging sexual violence, as well as their alleged assailters, supporters, and opponents. This name-and-shame approach can provide an opportunity for storytelling justice and validation from the online feminist counter-public, as well increasing solidarity within that group. It can also provide a nexus for mobilization of anti-feminist and “alt-right” social media users to engage with the online feminist counter-public. These interactions range from open debate to direct threats of violence against the person alleging assault and their supporters. This paper will seek to explore which cases generate which kinds of attention, and what factors increase or decrease the potential for acceptance of, or backlash against, disclosing sexual violence on social media.

A Retrospective Analysis of the Career Trajectories of Film Directors
Justin Doran, University of Guelph

The field of film is a complex entity whereby multiple agencies (critics, industry professionals, and the general audience) play a role in legitimizing members of the field allowing some the opportunity to rise to the top while simultaneously keeping others down. This research paper uses Pierre Bourdieu’s theory of cultural production to analyze the career trajectories of two film directors: Ang Lee and M. Night Shyamalan. By using Bourdieu’s theory, along with other cultural works (Levy, Jones, Becker, etc.) one can analyze the positions that these directors have taken (why and how) and hypothesize where their respective careers are heading based off of their past movement. Some ideas that will be discussed are as follows: What is a field? What is capital? What are the principles of legitimacy? How do these come together to effect the agents of the field? How did these directors move into the positions they hold in the field? and why is it so difficult to predict the career trajectories of agents in the field of film?

SESSION 4 - 2:55 to 4:10
Panel #7: Intergenerational Solidarity: Anti-racist feminism, grassroots folk-medicine, and dual cultural sex ed
Room 304

(White) Feminism and Muslim Womxn: Exposing the Feminist Divide
Mejgan Lashkari, Queen’s University

Simone De Beauvoir made an important point when she said that “you can't address yourself by speaking in a language which no average woman will understand.” However, she failed to acknowledge that you also can't address yourself to women by speaking on issues that only pertain to the interests of white, middle class, cisgender, able bodied women, which is essentially what white feminism does. Although Western feminism centres itself on the rhetoric of solidarity and sisterhood, in reality, it does not speak to the experiences of Black women and or women of color, and where it attempts to do so, it is often from a racist perspective. Western feminists often point to the evils imposed upon Muslim women in their justifications for wanting to rescue them yet they fail to recognize the significant political nuances surrounding the conversations. And while we should not ignore the unique challenges Muslim
women face, specifically in Muslim regions, criticizing Islam and Muslims is an inadequate way to fight patriarchy and, moreover, disrupts solidarity with Muslim women. Thus the aim of this paper is to address how Western feminists are able to employ and propagate white racial innocence when engaging with the experiences and issues of what Chandra Mohanty calls “third world women,” a term she uses interchangeably with women of color. By recentering whiteness as vulnerable and innocent, and Muslim women as the Islamist Other, White feminists foreground a relationship, and oftentimes a hierarchy, between race and gender. This paper will draw on postcolonial and anti-racist feminist analyses to map out the complex interactions of race, gender, religion and sexuality that pertain to the diverse experiences faced by Muslim women when engaging with feminism.

Thinking of the Children: How folk-medicine and grassroots movements aims to address diabetes and Zika virus in Trinidad and Tobago.

Chantelle Ramsundar, University of Guelph

Dissonance between two dominant political parties and a history of racial stratification have manifested in a stalemate when it comes to healthcare and policy in Trinidad and Tobago. In this presentation, I will talk about how the effects of this unwillingness to plan and collaborate have disproportionately impacted populations of children on these islands, specifically focusing on the empty Couva Children's Hospital. With an increase in the amount of children with diabetes, as well as fears surrounding Zika virus and microcephaly, grassroots movements in advocacy and folk medicine are becoming more and more popular. This resurgence of understanding healthcare as a local issue, as opposed to a national one, presents an interesting opportunity to re-evaluate the role of community activation and engagement at this juncture in Trinidad and Tobago's development. Contemporary theories in applied anthropology will be used to better understand this interdisciplinary topic, and to better evaluate present and past literature with a lens that addresses and categorizes bias, as most information on these subjects are highly influenced by author's political affiliation.

Sex Education in Nigerian Canadian Families: A Case Study of Sociocultural, Transnational and Intergenerational Relations

Ifeoma Nnagbo, University of Ottawa

This socio-anthropological study investigates the sociocultural, transnational and intergenerational transmission of sex education in Nigerian Canadian (NC) families’ from first generation (G1) parent to second generation (G2) child. Sex education encompasses subjective definitions of sex, sexuality, and sexual health. Sociocultural considerations are assessed through the Media, Accessibility, Religion, Culture, and School National Sex Education Framework (MARCS NSEF). This model provides a framework for cross-cultural considerations of sexually conservative versus liberal nations. The literature indicates inadequate home based sex education in Nigeria; therefore, transnational analysis is used to capture G1 NC migration history, settlement and integration into liberal Canadian systems. Given the dearth of scholarship, the specific research questions were designed to address the occurrence, rationale, and sociocultural dynamic of sex education in Nigerian Canadian homes. These factors will be assessed through Bengtson's Intergenerational Solidarity Model, which argues that social cohesion between parent and child generations is influenced by consensual and normative taxonomies (Bengtson & Oyama, 2007; Bengtson & Robert, 1991). The consensual taxonomy refers to the degree of agreement on values, attitudes, and beliefs amongst family, while the normative taxonomy encapsulates the strength of commitment to performance of familial roles and to meeting familial obligations. The case method was selected based on a broader fascination with sexually conservative Canadian immigrant families who integrate dual cultural frameworks into sex education instruction. While the qualitative interview methodology will provide diverse narratives from participants and permit the analysis and interpretation of shared cultural belief, values and sex education experiences.
Panel #8: Resisting the carceral Leviathan: Mass incarceration, borders, and wrongful conviction
Room 305

The Changing State of Mass Incarceration: Disrupting Self-Evident Rationale in Canadian Prison Policy

Kira Hogarth-Davis, York University

This presentation is an account of the changing state of mass incarceration in Canada. Though in recent decades theories on the prison industrial complex have largely influenced studies of penology, full privatization has not been realized in the Canadian legal system. Today punishment exists as a multifaceted social institution, but myths on the efficacy of imprisonment as a solution to social problems still dominate conceptions of law and order. As mass incarceration expands and evolves as a social phenomenon, it is essential to account for what forces are propelling the entrenched reliance on the modern prison. Just as it is necessary to reject the assumption of inevitability and status quo in crime control and criminality, the problem of mass incarceration must be addressed to resolve the longstanding contradictions in the current institutional framework. This presentation will offer a survey of the sociological journalism to contextualize modern phenomena of Canada's legal system, including the over-representation of Indigenous persons and the state of racialized policing. These examples will demonstrate the effect of the “regime of truth” within the institutional structure which prohibits attempts to undermine its reign of racial, class, and gendered domination. In the face of increasing modern interest and attention to the inefficiency of punishment and the high social costs of these measures, it is now essential to account for the material and symbolic changes of imprisonment and the implications of these analyses to policy.

Exploring the Experiences of Wrongfully Convicted Individuals: A Scoping Literature Review

Irena Djučić, York University

Recently, wrongful convictions have received a considerable amount of research attention. However, there exists a limited amount of research as to the specific experiences of those who have been wrongfully convicted, specifically their experiences post-exoneration. Without comprehensive research and evidence of the unique experiences wrongfully convicted individuals face, the needs of this distinctive population cannot be successfully addressed. This study will explore wrongful convictions, specifically what is known about the experiences faced by wrongfully convicted individuals and their experiences of re-integrating into society in relation to accessing re-integration services. To contextualize this research area, a comprehensive literature review has been conducted. Through a scoping literature review methodology, this study will utilize a social constructivism research paradigm coupled with Goffman's theory of social stigma (1963) to collect existing literature regarding wrongful convictions and exoneree's experiences of re-integrating into society. Utilizing a thematic analysis, key findings will be charted, reviewed and condensed into four key themes to highlight what is known from the existing literature, as well as existing gaps within the literature. Further, this study will aim to provide insight into the discriminatory experiences exonerated people face, in order to highlight and challenge prejudicial views and actions taken against this particular group of people. This study will conclude with a discussion of findings and their implications for policy, practice and future research in wrongful convictions. This study will advocate for targeted and effective methods of developing and providing exonerated individuals with the necessary resources for life after their release from prison.
In fall 2010, Citizenship and Immigration Canada invited members of the public to participate in an online consultation designed to study the impact of “Marriage of Convenience”, commonly referred to as marriage fraud. This study consisted of two parts: a backgrounder, which contained information such as the goals of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, the issue of marriage fraud, and strategies used by other countries to combat this problem. This was followed by a questionnaire which required participants to respond to questions about their awareness of marriage fraud and their connection to this issue. Respondents of this questionnaire noted that more awareness must be made to prevent Canadians from being misled by potential foreign partners. They also supported punishment of fraudulent applications including the introduction of new federal strategies such as sponsorship bars and conditional status. This research paper examines the ways in which sponsored migrants, more specifically, sponsored spouses are affected by Canada's stringent and time-consuming screening strategies. Using individual narratives obtained from archived immigration cases and my observations at numerous admissibility hearings, I draw attention to the practical repercussions of the Canadian government’s crackdown on “marriages of convenience”. I argue that in its efforts to punish people who engage in marriage fraud, the government has ignored the impact of this problem on the lives of sponsored immigrants who leave their homes behind in hopes for a successful married life in Canada.

Employer Discrimination Against Applicants with Criminal Records: An Ethnographic Audit

Janelle Douthwright, University of Toronto

Studies show that an absence of employment opportunities makes it difficult for exoffenders to reintegrate into society. My research contributes to the discourse of employment barriers to offender reentry and comes at a time when the use of criminal background checks in employment decisions is growing in Ontario. I question whether the time at which an employer becomes aware of an applicant's criminal record during the recruitment process affects the likelihood of an applicant being hired. I predict that the later an employer becomes aware of an applicant's criminal record, the more likely an applicant is to be hired because the applicant has been given the opportunity to make a personal, and perhaps positive, impression on the employer to mediate the negative effect of bearing a criminal record. To research this, I utilize a mixed method ethnographic audit study. I respond to 300 job advertisements for positions in Toronto, Ontario, and continue through the recruitment process accepting invitations for, and attending, interviews for these positions. Using stratified sampling, I control for the stage at which employers becomes aware of my fictional criminal record for the three stages of the recruitment process: the application, the interview, and the job offer. I then compare and analyze how the recruitment rates and the experiences of informing an employer of a criminal record vary across these three stages. The findings have implications for the ability of ex-offenders to mediate the negative effect of their criminal record on obtaining legal employment by strategizing when to inform an employer of their criminal record in the interest of better employment outcomes.
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