

**University of Guelph  
Department of History**

**Major Paper Presentation**



Student: Spencer Hamelin	Date: Wed., Dec. 2, 2015
Time: 12:30 - 2:30 pm	Place: MCKN EXT. 2020

<b>Title:</b>	A New Scale of Activism: The Canadian Labour Movement and the North American Free Trade Agreement
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Abstract:</b></p> <p>Free trade is an economic policy centered on the elimination of tariffs and trade barriers in order to allow market forces to dictate economic outcomes. Often controversial, free trade agreements have featured prominently throughout Canadian history and are central to contemporary Canadian trade policy. This paper focuses on Canadian organized labour's campaigns against the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA. During the period following the implementation of the NAFTA, the labour movement in Canada adopted tactical responses to challenge the adoption and implementation of free trade agreements as well as the political and economic thought on which these agreements rested. These tactical responses included the expansion of outreach efforts and solidarity activities in regions undergoing economic integration as well as the development of alternatives to free trade agreements and neoliberalism, more broadly. Transnational activism took on greater prominence following the implementation of the NAFTA as Canadian organized labour deepened its collaboration with its counterparts in countries experiencing trade liberalization. The implementation of transnational trade regimes and institutions encouraged and expanded coordinated action on multiple scales.</p>
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<b>Advisor: Matthew Hayday</b>	<b>Chair: Jesse Palsetia</b>
<b>Committee: Susan Nance</b>	