Third, there has been an unprecedented attack on the union. The strike also coincides with a heated provincial election. Finally, the strike weakened with the split of one of its units and ended with the unconstitutional back to work legislation. This panel offers learnings from the strike, from three different perspectives: From the organization level, from the physical picket line level, and the virtual picket line level.

Devin Clancy discusses the impact of the neoliberal university model on the management of labour dispute at York University. Clancy claims that the emergence of the managerial class coincides with the redistribution of university monies for administrative salaries and the increased reliance on cheaper and more “flexible” precarious labour in place of traditional models of stable full-time employment. He examines the influence of the Board of Governors on York University’s anti-labour strategy and the university administration’s usurpation of decision-making power away from representative and democratic bodies during the strike. Notably, York’s managerial class utilized expensive public relations campaigns and private security forces in order to delegitimize and intimidate picketers, while hiding behind a discourse of liberal decorum to justify punitive attacks on union organizers.

Rana Sukarieh reflects on her first-hand experience in managing emotions at the front line, more specifically, forging sympathy and preventing rage from the public passing by the Shoreham Picket Line. Based on an embodied methodology where she was directly involved on a daily basis in communicating to the public, Sukarieh reflects on the dilemma of managing the public emotions without demotivating the picketers. She also analyzes the public reactions, which ranges from solidarity and sympathy to anger, humiliation and threat. Her presentation addresses a gap in the analysis of the bystanders’ emotions and its direct impact on the activists at the picket line.

Danielle Landry reflects on her experience and findings from research she completed for the union as a member of the ‘8th line’ (CUPE 3903 members requiring accommodations). She shares her research on legal precedence concerning the duty to bargain in good faith, situating this within the context of York’s unwillingness to meet CUPE 3903 at the bargaining table. The inability to meet the demands of the picket line, she connects her joint presence (as an active union member completing strike duties) and absence (as a sleep-deprived new mom following the action on social media), in relation to the administration’s months-long absence from the bargaining table. The research process served as her entry-point to mediate upon what good faith means in light of physically embodied presences and absences in specific strike spaces.

Panel 2 | 10:30 – 10:45 a.m. (Sociology Mailroom)

Identity and ... Theorizing the Intersections of Identity and Postcoloniality

Chair: Prof. Sylvia Bawa

Geographies of Dissonance: Rethinking the 'Making' of Classes in Transnational Spaces

Rawan Abdelbaki

A perennial problematic of conventional class formation theories has been the ways in which a class-in-itself becomes, through struggle, a class-for-itself. Though these formulations have gained much sophistication and nuance as they’ve move away from teleological conceptions of social transformation, this paper seeks to introduce another problematic that has yet to penetrate class theory. E.P. Thompson averred that class “happens” through social intercourse: classes are formed through communal bonds, through ways of navigating the social world collectively, and through the sharing of ideas and experiences. Taking this cultural formation of class as a starting point, I seek to advance a theoretical problematic by taking into account the spatiality of class identities. How might transnational migration inform our understanding of cultural class formation? What are the implications of these transnational dynamics on possibilities for social transformation both ‘here’ and ‘there’? I argue that migrants’ lives and their temporal reversals and projections of class positions across time and their contradictory class locations across space pose a serious challenge to how to understand class identity, and possibilities for cultures of solidarity.
Brazillian Student Migrants Turned Immigrants to Canada: An Analysis of Transnational Identity Formation

Alexandra Mirowski Rabelo de Souza

Science without Borders (SWB)/Ciência sem Fronteiras (CSF) is a Brazilian migration for development program that has sent post-secondary students to Canada or other developed countries around the world to study STEM subjects. The program began in 2011 and has seen thousands of students participate in coming to Canada. Despite the requirement to return to Brazil immediately after the study period in Canada has ended, some former SWB participants have decided to (im)migrate back to Canada, facing new experiences and challenges when compared to their first time in the country. In this paper, I will explore the factors affecting transnational identity formation for this group of student migrants turned immigrants to Canada. This research draws on findings from the analysis of personal narratives and self-perceptions obtained through semi-structured qualitative interviews with sixteen former SWB participants who have returned to Canada.

Re-Presenting the Gender-Queer Figure: Western Appropriations of Inappropirate/d Others

Toby Anne Finlay

In this paper, I will examine the aesthetic and representational practices involved in the appropriation of postcolonial third gender or gender-queer figures. Using Ikeda’s A Third Gender, Beautiful Youths in Japanese Prints exhibition as an exemplary case of queer curatorial practice, I hope to exumle the array of layered inclusions and exclusions, sameness and difference, (re)appropriations and (mis)recognition, that are at work in the construction of our queer visual imaginary. I will begin by walking through Ikeda’s A Third Gender exhibition and recounting the representational practices evoked therein. In doing so, I hope to examine the curatorial decisions involved in presenting the wakashu as an essentially gendered figure or “a third gender,” to exumle the historical and self-presentational qualities elided by this re-presentation. How is it, I will ask, that the wakashu has come to be constituted as a gender-queer figure appropriate to contemporary queer and trans experience? And yet, I will also suggest that the incommensurability of wakashu with Western transgender experience need not impede our recognition of this gender-queer figure. Rather, I will propose that the irreconcilable differences which resist simple appropriation into the Western model, the fundamentally queer failure of the wakashu to be appropriated in this way, might precipitate a cosmopolitan vision of our shared humanity. How might these inappropriate/d re-presentations illicit an effective relationality and ethical responsibility for the Other, which both upholds and transcends our spatial and temporal differences?

Migration of Mestizaje

Giovanni Carranza-Hernandez

This paper relies on the matrix of coloniality, critical race theory and the notion of Mestizaje conscious-ness in its analysis of Central and South American people’s unique experience of racialization. This analysis will also demonstrate how they continue to be shaped by their legacy of colonialism. First, this paper illustrates how Spanish explorers initially racialized non-Europeans to colonize them. Next, this paper explores how the idea of ‘Latin’ America arose, and in turn, continued the marginalization and erasure Indigenous and Black peoples’ histories and identities. Afterwards, this paper unpacks how race was again used as a tool to justify violence and triggered the massive migration out of the region. Finally, this paper theorizes how Central and South American people were re-racialized upon their arrival to Canada by the pan-ethnic labels that were placed upon them by Canada’s multicultural policies and non-governmental organizations, which facilitated the development of a Mestizaje consciousness. This paper concludes with a more in-depth examination of how Central and South American peoples developed a Mestizaje consciousness as an act of resistance toward the contradicto-ry and ambiguous expectations placed upon them.

Lunch 12:15 – 1:15 p.m. (Staff Room)

Panel 3 | 1:15 – 2:45 pm

Social Movements: Resisting Power
Chair: Prof. Luin Golting

The Changing Face of (Gay) Pride: #HeterosexualPrideDay as a Site of Tension for Politics of Sameness and Difference

Josh Armstrong

In 2015, Twitter users were asked to tweet #HeterosexualPrideDay on June 29th to declare and celebrate a Heterosexual Pride Day; this call had limited success. On the same day in 2016 and 2017, the hashtag resurfaced as a global trend. However, despite this popularity, in 2018 #HeterosexualPrideDay failed to gain traction and return as a trending topic. In this article I set out to better understand the rise and fall of #HeterosexualPrideDay by investigating endorsement of and resistance to Heterosexual Pride (as well as the competing discourses underpinning this tension) via a qualitative content analysis of a subsection of tweets containing the hashtag (n=1060). I argue that supportive tweets, which indicate that this manifestation of Heterosexual Pride is exemplary of hetero-activism, usurp the language of sameness (which currently dominates western LGBTQ politics) as a means of claiming Heterosexual Pride. However, these tweets are overshadowed by tweets disparaging #HeterosexualPrideDay. Oppositional tweets rebut the claim for Heterosexual Pride by emphasizing difference. Given the effectiveness of this counterstrategy, I call for a renewed politics of difference within LGBTQ politics and across social movements more generally.

Totalitarianism and Agonism: Strange Bedfellows

Reiss Kruger

In an attempt to bring together the disparate concepts of ‘totalitarianism’ and ‘agonism,’ this paper aims to provide grounds for a dialogue between the works of Hannah Arendt, Zygmunt Bauman, and Claudio Colagouiri. Comparing the component parts of totalitarianism as theorized by Arendt and Bauman with the historically omnipresent idea of ‘agonism’ which Colagouiri describes, the author seeks to add a new dimension to discussions of the causes and consequences of totalitarianism, especially pertinent for our contemporary moment. The author posits that agonism has been an undertheorized potential component in totalitarian historical instances, and that by including it as a theory in the conversation over totalitarianism and its developments, social theory gains a wider toolkit for examination and critique, and indeed for understanding. Adding agonism to the list of key terms and concepts which have hitherto been used in social theory as it relates to totalitarianism – science, rationalization, capitalism, modernity - will not just allow for better historical analyses, but will help act as a watchdog within social theory for contemporary developments in the direction of things humanity ought never to repeat.

Remembering AIDS Action, Now: Towards a Historical Memory of AIDS-based Toronto Organizing During the late 1980s and Early 1990s

Jade Crimson Rose Da Costa

This paper draws on the oral history interviews conducted by Gary Kinsman and Alexis Shotwell for their government funded AIDS Activist History (AAH) project to examine how gender and sex activists remember AIDS organizing in Toronto, Ontario, Canada in the late 1980s and early 1990s.
Building on the growing body of literature that uses the memories of activists to document histories of resistance, I use this data to confront the issues that arise when activists remember the history of their struggle in divergent, and often contradictory, ways and subsequently examine how this disjuncture affects the creation of collective memory making projects. I discuss three notable modes of remembering Canadian AIDS activism that emerge across the oral history reports, which are: 1) remembering the treatment-focused and action-oriented strategies of the movement; 2) remembering the ways in which the movement brought diverse sociocultural communities together in political solidarity; and 3) remembering how the movement fostered feelings of exclusion or inclusion among activists. Using these three thematic orientations as a starting point, the concluding section of my paper addresses the following question: what kind of history do memories reveal about past forms of resistance and how can we make sense of those memories that contradict or challenge one another?

*** Break 2:45 – 3:10 pm (Sociology Mailroom) ***

Panel 4 | 3:10 – 4:00 pm

Policy Analysis in Education and Immigration

Chair: Prof. Harris Ali

**Track Placement and Mobility: Are Students Stuck in Their Initial Tracks?**

Firrisa Jamal Abdulkarim

The practice of tracking or streaming students in high school has a long history in Canada. As proponents of tracking will argue, organizing students into more homogenous classrooms, where abilities are uniform, benefits both teachers and students. In a tracked system, teachers can better select an appropriate pace to cover material and students can better select courses that match their abilities and interests. However, opponents of tracking argue that these classes not only differ in pace, instruction or academic level of the material, but also that these classes differ in their students' demographic characteristics. Using Statistics Canada's Youth in Transition Survey, which is a nationally representative longitudinal survey, I examine to what extent demographic background factors influence initial track placement in three provinces – Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia. I also examine how flexible the tracking system is in these provinces. More specifically, I run a multi-nominal logistic regression only on those who took all-applied courses in grade 10 to examine the likelihood switching one or all their courses to academic level. Results indicate that demographic factors, such as socioeconomic status, are strong predictors of track placement and that regional differences exist in how students are tracked.

**Policymaking Process for Foreign Care Workers in Contemporary Japan—Changes and Continuations**

Izumi NIKI

This research analyzes the recent policymaking process regarding foreign care workers in Japan by conducting a process-tracing analysis of the government meeting minutes. By examining the policymaking process, although the Japanese government has not made major legislative changes, several ‘side-door’ strategies and market-driven policy development were evident. The government continues to utilize the ‘side-door’ immigration policy by using existing programs such as Technical Intern Training Program to avoid major legislative change. Although the government stresses that the purpose of the programs is cooperation for sending countries, it is clear that a large motivation of the reforms is to fulfill labour shortage in Japan.

Despite the fact that they hold two opposite attitudes toward care work: elder care is increasingly considered professional/skilled labour whereas housekeeping work is regarded as low skilled labour, they modify word usage and relevant legal definitions (e.g. ‘unskilled labour’) to avoid public discussion. While the Japanese policymaking processes have often been considered as bureaucratically driven, these policymaking processes were driven largely by economic motivations and deeply influenced by business leader’s opinions. By an in-depth analysis, this research highlights the continuity and changes of Japanese immigration policy as well as similarities with other countries-market-driven policy development in the neoliberal era.

Panel 5 | 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Mobilizing Health Discourses in Sociological Research

Chair: Prof. Pat Armstrong

Sociological research that takes up the issue of health allows for the complicating of knowledge rooted in taken-for-granted assumptions about health, health care, and health practice. Studying issues of health from a sociological perspective requires embodying both a macro approach, in understanding of the context, history, and social structure in which health is constructed and health care is practiced; as well as a micro approach, focusing on the analysis of individual experiences. This panel explores the different ways in which discourses of health can be mobilized in sociological research. It problematizes how these discourses are utilized by health care experts, and how different actors such as workers, patients, health care recipients, and different populations interact with and are affected by these discourses. Specifically, the three dissertation projects discussed in this panel take up discourses of health from three distinct perspectives: 1) by analyzing transformations in public services in line with the shifting focus of the state in governing social policy; 2) by examining health care access for fat women; and 3) by discussing public health and harm minimization programs of illicit drug use.

Gizem Çağmak’s dissertation work analyzes the specific ways in which state restructuring, healthcare reform, and privatization are implicated in the reorganization of healthcare work, and with what consequences for the workers who navigate these changes.

Nick Cristiano’s dissertation examines the ways in which information about risk is directed at drug users through different harm minimization and public health programs. His research looks at how this information is taken up by people who use drugs in different ways in different contexts.

Kelsey Ioannou’s dissertation looks at the intersection of fatness and health care. Through narrative interviews with fat identified women, she examines the ways in which fatness can act as a barrier to accessing healthcare services, and deconstructs the impact of fatphobic discourses in the practice of health care.

*** Social Starting at 6:00 pm (The Underground, York Student Centre) ***