

# Graduate Sociology Workshop

The Graduate Program in Sociology and Resource Centre for Public Sociology present:

## Researching Amazon: Methodological Considerations

Mark Thomas, Rawan Abdelbaki, and Kritee Ahmed

This session presents reflections from two research projects that have recently engaged in case study research involving Amazon.com, Inc (Amazon). In the first project – *Spaces of Labour in Moments of Urban Populism* – case study research based in Seattle, Washington, focuses on a left-wing populist campaign for a corporate tax to generate funding for affordable housing, with Amazon targeted by the campaign for its role in leading the opposition to the tax. In the second project – *Clocked In: Work, Time, and Technology in the Digital Economy* – focus is placed on the role of new technologies in shaping the organization of working time in Amazon's warehouses (fulfillment centres) and courier services based in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). The session raises methodological considerations that researchers have encountered through the course of researching Amazon in both Seattle and the GTA.

### Speakers:

**Mark P. Thomas** is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, York University. He is former Director of the Global Labour Research Centre at York and has been a Visiting Professor at the Institute of Political Economy, Carleton University, and a Visiting Researcher at Institut de Recherches Sociologiques, Université de Genève.

**Rawan Abdelbaki** is a Doctoral Candidate in the Graduate Program in Sociology, York University, where she also earned her MA. She completed her BA in Sociology and Political Science at the University of Toronto. Rawan is a Nathanson Fellow, a graduate affiliate of the Global Labour Research Centre, and a labour activist. Her dissertation examines the dynamism of immigrant's class identities in the transnational social field.

**Kritee Ahmed** is a Doctoral Candidate in the Graduate Program in Sociology, York University. Kritee's research interests lie in the study of the dailiness of work in Toronto and London, UK public transit organizations, in which the importance of customer service is continuously emphasized. Kritee employs multi-methods in his field research, including interviews as well as archival and observational methods through an ethnographic sensibility.

**Monday, January 27, 2020 - 11:30 am - 2:30 pm**

**Resource Centre for Public Sociology (RCPS)**

**141 North Ross Building (main floor)**

Light refreshments will be provided.