

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2 DECEMBER 2006

## LEDDY LIBRARY AND CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM UP TO CREATE ON-LINE JOURNAL

On September 25, 2006 the Centre for Studies in Social Justice marked the creation of its new on-line journal "Studies in Social Justice" with a lecture by renowned urban geographer Dr. David Harvey. The title of Dr. Harvey's talk was "Neoliberalism and the City" and drew a crowd of over 130 faculty, students and community members. Dr. Harvey is also a member of the editorial board of this new journal whose first issue will appear in Winter 2007.

Studies in Social Justice will publish articles on issues dealing with the social, cultural, economic, political, and philosophical problems associated with the struggle for social justice. This interdisciplinary journal aims to publish work that links theory to social change and the analysis of substantive issues. The journal welcomes heterodox contributions that are critical of established paradigms of inquiry.

Some of the contributors to the inaugural issue include David Harvey, Tony Evans, Nancy Fraser and William Carroll. No subscription is required as this is an on-

line journal made available through the assistance of the Leddy Library using open source software.

"Studies in Social Justice", published using Open Journal Software, is the first title in the University of Windsor's contribution to the Synergies project. Synergies, a cooperative effort amongst 25 Canadian universities, aims to promote Canadian research through the digitization of print journals and the creation of digital journals in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Joan Dalton, Art Rhyno and Edyta Saklak of the Leddy Library along with the journal's editors: Tanya Basok, Suzan Ilcan, Jeff Noonan; and Nicole Noël, the journal's managing editor, all of the Centre for Studies in Social Justice, worked closely together to realize this journal.

If you are interested in submitting an abstract, please visit our website: [www.uwindsor.ca/socialjustice](http://www.uwindsor.ca/socialjustice)

*Also see "Neoliberalism and the City..." on page 5 and "Leddy Library promotes the Use of Open Source Software..." on page 6.*



Centre for Studies in Social Justice

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## DR. UZO ANUCHA PRESENTS FINDINGS FROM HOMELESSNESS RESEARCH BY AKIN TAIWO

Over one hundred people attended the Homelessness and Housing Research Forum in Windsor on Tuesday, November 28, 2006. The program was held at Fogolar Furlan, and it featured Dr. Uzo Anucha who, until recently, was an Assistant Professor with the School of Social Work, University of Windsor. Now at York University, Toronto, Dr. Anucha still has the passion to ensure that the plight of the homeless in Windsor-Essex County is properly addressed.

As the principal investigator of the research studies, Dr. Anucha worked closely with a host of other researchers, professionals, and students. Each presentation was followed by a best practice example from similar situations from other areas in Ontario, like WoodGreen's Homeward Bound Program in Toronto, Casa El Norte in the Niagara Region, and the THRIVE (Transitional Housing Resources Improving Vitality in Essex County)

Program in Essex. Some of the co-presenters were Mary Medcalf, the field administrator in the School of Social Work, University of Windsor, Graham Watts from WoodGreen, Lyn Hanigan and Debbie Sexsmith from Casa El Norte, and Nancy Newhan and Michelle Quaglia from THRIVE. The student co-presenters were Amy Wilkinson, Akin Taiwo, and Susanne Friesen, all from the School of Social Work, University of Windsor.

While the first two presentations were on homelessness in Windsor, the last one focussed on Essex County. The "Longitudinal Study of Exits and Returns to Homelessness," focussed on understanding the housing patterns of homeless people and the factors associated with their exits from homelessness. "Growing New Roots: The Housing Conditions of Newcomers" focussed on understanding the housing and homelessness experiences of immigrants and refugees in Windsor.

The third presentation was on "Homelessness in Rural Areas: Patterns, Causes, and Best Practices for Program Delivery." There was a round table discussion on all the research findings.

This forum is very enlightening for me," commented a participant who does not want to be named. "I wish Windsor could one day totally solve the problem of inadequate housing and drive the Coalition out of agitation," she concluded. "I have to credit Dr. Anucha for doing all these work," someone else commented, "it is just a pity that we lost her to another university."

The Homeless Coalition of Windsor-Essex County sponsored the full day forum in partnership with the University of Windsor, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Service Canada, the County of Essex, and the City of Windsor.

*Akin Taiwo is an advanced-year Masters of Social Work student and was a research assistant for Dr. Anucha.*

## FILM SCREENING OF "PAUL ROBESON: HERE I STAND" IN FEBRUARY

On February 13, 2007 the Centre for Studies in Social Justice will host a screening of a documentary film about Paul Robeson, a remarkable



African-American who was at one time revered as a talented athlete, actor, singer, scholar, author, and political activist and later suffered the affects of McCarthyism

which nearly ruined his career.

Robeson, the son of an escaped slave, was born in New Jersey in 1898. After studying law and excelling in sports at university Robeson began practising law. He switched to acting after facing racism and discrimination as a lawyer. Throughout the late 1920s and 1930s, he was a widely acclaimed actor and singer. With songs such as

his trademark "Ol' Man River," he became one of the most popular concert singers of his time. His "Othello" was the longest-running Shakespeare play in Broadway history, running for nearly three hundred performances. While his fame grew in the United States, he became equally well-loved internationally. He spoke fifteen languages, and performed benefits

*(Continued on page 4)*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, January 10, 2007, 12:00** Brown Bag Seminar: Dr. Anita Lacey will be presenting a brown bag seminar entitled "Coalitions of Development NGOs in the South Pacific". Room 255 in Chrysler Hall South.

**Monday, January 22, 2007, 12:00** The Centre for Studies in Social Justice has adopted as a major research focus over the next five years, the topic of "Human Rights, Security, and Peace." There is room within this topic for many approaches, and in order to find out who is interested in this research, we have scheduled a brown bag meeting at 12:00 in room 255 Chrysler Hall South.

**Thursday, January 25, 2007, 4:00 p.m.** Dr. Patrick O'Malley, Carleton University, "Experiments in risk and justice: Governmental analytics and a strategic knowledge of risk" Rose Room, Vanier Hall.

**Tuesday, February 13, 2007, 7:00 p.m.** Film Screening *Paul Robeson: Here I Stand*

Location to be announced

Presented by the Essex County Black Historical Research Society and the Centre for Studies in Social Justice.

**February** Murray Sinclair, Court of Queen's Bench of Manitoba, "Aboriginal Legal Issues the Courts are Going to Have to Decide Some Day" Day, time and location to be determined.

## CALL FOR PAPERS: CITIZENSHIP, IDENTITY, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

This international conference, hosted by the Centre for Studies in Social Justice at the University of Windsor, will take place from May 17th to May 19th, 2007. Our objective is to provide an interdisciplinary forum in which critical issues and themes related to citizenship, identity, and social justice can be explored across a range of intersecting debates and perspectives.

Notions of citizenship have long been conceptualized as rights and responsibilities linked to membership in a political community. These notions are intimately related to our identities as citizens and to issues of social justice. The extent to which citizenship institutions and practices are inclusive or exclusive of the interests and concerns of most vulnerable groups, serves as a barometer of the values of social justice linked to particular groups

and communities around the globe. The degree to which citizens' rights are given priority over citizens' responsibilities is also indicative of the commitment to social justice by powerful elites and organizations. In-so-far as social justice calls for the mobilization of an equitable distribution of fundamental resources, and respect for human dignity and diverse practices of belonging, issues of identity have been used as a language to demand, and also deny, an extension of citizenship rights.

The international conference on Citizenship, Identity, and Social Justice will explore historical, political, social, cultural, and intellectual trends in the conceptualization of social justice and its relationship to institutions and practices of citizenship. It will also consider how social and political

struggles surrounding identity are interlinked with notions of citizenship and social justice. The conference will bring together internationally acclaimed scholars, researchers, and activists whose work addresses the complex relationships among citizenship, identity, and social justice.

Confirmed keynote speakers are Dr. Janine Brodie, Professor of Political Science and Canada Research Chair (Political Economy and Social Governance), Department of Political Science, University of Alberta, and, Dr. Eleonore Kofman, Professor of Gender and Migration (Social Policy), Centre for Racial Equality Studies, Middlesex University, UK.

Visit our website to submit an abstract on-line.

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throughout the world for causes of social justice. This included a 1945 visit to Windsor when he sang to striking Ford workers. More than any other performer of his time, he believed that the famous have a responsibility to fight for justice and peace. Besides speaking out for workers, Robeson also sang and spoke out against racist conditions experienced by Asian and black Americans; he condemned segregation throughout the United States. Like many intellectuals and artists of the time, Robeson supported the Soviet Union. Robeson was a national symbol and a cultural leader in the war against fascism abroad and racism at home. While his varied talents and his outspoken defence of civil liberties brought him many admirers, it also made him enemies among conservatives trying to maintain race and class divisions in US society.

During the 1940s, Robeson's black nationalist and anti-colonialist activities brought him to the attention of Senator Joseph McCarthy. Despite his contributions as an entertainer to the Allied forces during World War II, Robeson was singled out as a threat to American democracy. Every attempt was made to silence and discredit him, and in 1950 his passport was revoked when he refused to sign an affidavit stating that he was not a Communist. Unable to travel abroad his career was stifled. Due to the controversy surrounding him, many of Robeson's films and recordings were withdrawn from circulation further damaging his career.

It was eight years before his passport

was reinstated. Robeson began to travel and give concerts again in England and Australia. But the years of hardship had taken their toll. He retired to Philadelphia and lived in self-imposed seclusion until his death in 1976.

To this day, Paul Robeson's many accomplishments remain obscured by the propaganda of those who wished to discredit him for his political activities. His role in the history of civil rights and as a spokesperson for the oppressed of other nations remains relatively unknown. Today, more than one hundred years after his birth, Robeson is just beginning to receive the credit he is due.

During the 1945 UAW strike at Ford in Windsor, the union sponsored a concert in December, where Robeson played the Capitol Theatre. The packed performance was to help provide a Christmas dinner for Ford workers, and brought in \$1,500 in ticket sales, out of which Robeson and his pianist, Lawrence Brown, only charged their expenses. Director George Burt later thanked the entertainer profusely, commenting: "Those who were fortunate enough to hear you, some for the first time, are still talking about the concert. The Ford workers were particularly pleased because they know of no other artist who would give his services so unselfishly in this cause."\*

\*George Burt to UAW locals in the United States, 4 December 1945; J.P. McCool, financial secretary, to Catharine Duncan, women's auxiliary, 14 December 1945; Harry Rowe, International Rep UAW, application for exemption from payment of excise tax, Folder 7, Box 136; George Burt to Paul Robeson, 9 January 1946, Folder 8, Box 136, United Automobile Workers, Region 7 collection, Wayne State University Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University, Detroit,

## Building Bridges: A Labour Studies Conference

February 2nd and 3rd, 2007

University of Windsor

Registration Open

How can we defend and create good jobs, protect the environment, challenge injustice and inequality, and create peace? It's a tall order, but there is a lot at stake. We've got lots of experience winning, but face some new and daunting challenges, too. Neoliberal globalization, labour market restructuring, war, and other major challenges to social justice have meant that labour and social movements are struggling to create solidarity and overcome many sources of division. This conference will explore those issues which both divide and unite labour and social movements, and discuss current and possible strategies for improving unity within and across movements and borders. Join union activists, researchers, students and artists from across the continent at this free conference to share strategies, find out what works, and discuss how we can work together to build a stronger movement for progressive social change.

The conference is being held at the same time as the **9th Annual Labour Arts Festival**, which will allow participants to take in a variety of arts events over a three-day period.

**Please address any questions to [bridges@uwindsor.ca](mailto:bridges@uwindsor.ca)**

## NEOLIBERALISM AND THE CITY SUBJECT OF TALK BY RENOWNED URBAN GEOGRAPHER DAVID HARVEY BY ANDRZEJ BOLEK

The Centre for Studies in Social Justice had the honour of hosting a lecture by Dr. David Harvey, on September 25, 2006. A renowned urban geographer and scholar at the City University in New York, Harvey also serves on the editorial board of the new online journal, *Studies in Social Justice*.

The title of Dr. Harvey's lecture was "Neo-Liberalism and the City." This topic suggested an answer to a question that many in his field have been trying to answer, that is, what kind of freedom do we have in the cities? More specifically, how does the evolution of the city environment have an affect on the global environment? Dr. Harvey starts by taking us back in time to the 1970's, to identify how the global environment got to be the way it is today. Today's version of freedom as the freedom of the markets is increasingly being viewed as a



universal freedom, as part of the natural law of nature. According to Harvey, it is in New York City that this idea first gained prominence. New York in 1975 was a bankrupt city, it had no more money to pay its garbage collectors and had one of the lowest industrial employment rates in the country. In 1973, when the crisis began, the Federal Government under President Richard Nixon attempted to alleviate the problem with an expansion of the public sector in New York, including an affirmative action program for the minorities in the city. New York City officials also borrowed heavily from local investment bankers to expand even further. Then the funding stopped. World markets had changed and there was now no more money to be given or loaned. New York was on its own. What was New York doing that forced others to stop funding the city? Essentially, the administration of the city was being fair with the money and not distributing it solely to companies, but to unions and minorities, not strictly to corporate capitalists. This had to stop; New York's finances were taken over by external auditors called the **Municipal Assistance Corporation** (MAC). The MAC consisted mainly of the same investment bankers that loaned New York the money in the first place. They repaid all of New York's debts and transformed it from an industrial centre, to a financial centre. How did this affect the people in the city? New York erupted into a chasm of crime, pollution, and poverty. Gangs started

roaming the streets and attacking anyone nearby, garbage would go uncollected for weeks, homelessness rates increased, wages were frozen. At the same time the MAC needed funds to get New York out of the situation it was in, it got it by taking advantage of the extra profits that oil companies in the Middle East, particularly Saudi Arabia, were making in lieu of the oil embargo that had raised prices substantially above normal. These "*petrol dollars*" were invested in the same investment banks that had loaned money to the city of New York years before. The MAC also created the **Downtown Business Partnership**, and the slogan "I love New York" to attract tourism in the city. These two events would be what transformed New York from a populist to a corporate and financial hub of the world. As the investment bankers were making Manhattan Island the most important piece of real estate in the world, the rest of New York was on the verge of collapse, a crime wave that had been unprecedented swept the city, the city also experienced a rapid rise in the number of residents who became addicted to crack and other drugs. While the city's financial situation improved, the MAC decided to invest some of their holdings into loans for other countries, after all they assumed, companies come and go, but countries stay. The point that Dr. Harvey makes is that these changes to New York from 1975 onwards caused a transformation in the labour environment in New

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## LEDDY LIBRARY PROMOTES THE USE OF OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE FOR RESOURCE POOR REGIONS

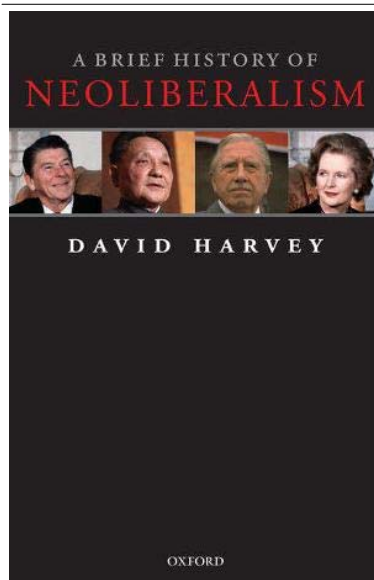
BY ART RHYNO

In May, 2005, Art Rhyno, a librarian at the Leddy Library and author of a book on Open Source Software (OSS), wrote a report on the state of OSS for an organization called eIFL.net (eElectronic Information For Libraries), an OSI (Open Society Institute) supported initiative to promote information access issues in developing and transition countries. eIFL represents over 2000 libraries and has been extensively involved in

database licensing projects in many of the world's poorest regions. The report and recommendations were accepted by the eIFL Board in a meeting in Ancona, Italy in June 2005, and Rhyno has been extensively involved in OSS activities for eIFL ever since, including work as a coordinator for a joint project between Google Scholar and eIFL, and conducting OSS workshops for eIFL/OSI in Vilnius, Lithuania (Oct.

2005), and Beirut, Lebanon (March 2006). Collaborating with Tigran Zargaryan, an eIFL country representative for Armenia and Head of Automation at Yerevan State University Library, Rhyno helped define a blueprint for an OSS Advisory Board to implement Open Source solutions in libraries around the world. The Board was initiated at a meeting in Cupramontana, Italy, at

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*David Harvey's latest book*

*(Continued from page 5)*

York, it told New York and the rest of the country and the world that when there is a conflict in a major city centre, between the interests of the individual population and investors, the well-being of the investors has priority always. The MAC worked only towards promoting the interests of the investors and did nothing while the city became divided into numerous microstates, with each one only worried about its own survival. This

pattern would continue into the future, not in New York, but in Mexico, Argentina, and Chile. There the lessons learned from New York would point to fact that that if you are unable to pay your debts, then to help you pay them we, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, will help you. We will help you by initiating **Structural Adjustment Programs** that will privatize your economy, deregulate your industry, and as Dr. Harvey says, "squeeze the little guy." New York has now become a place of fictitious industry, where money is made not through creating ideas and products, but by Hedge Funds, Interest Rate and Currency Derivatives, and Credit Default Swaps. These are multi-trillion dollar a year industries, that among other things have increased the levels of poverty and social inequality in Latin America, where due to poverty, as in New York, criminal gangs are rampant and in some instances running whole cities amongst themselves.

How do we fight this system that has been created? Dr. Harvey reminds us that this is the essence of the Class Struggle that was written by Marx over 100 years ago, only as a class can we overcome it, if it is still possible. As a class we can develop a more equal redistribution of income, "united we stand, divided we fall," it is a old saying, but it applies none the less.

*Andrzej Bolek is a fourth year International Relations student and he works at the Centre for Studies in Social Justice.*

The Centre for Studies in Social Justice has adopted as a major research focus over the next five years, the topic of "Human Rights, Security, and Peace." There is room within this topic for many approaches, and in order to find out who is interested in this research, we have scheduled a brown bag meeting on **January 22, 2007** at 12:00 in room 255 CHS.

Possible seed grants may be provided to help individual researchers or research teams get started working on grant proposals that fall within this area of research.

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the end of October, 2006, and the gathering included software developers, information access advocates and library representatives from eIFL countries. Participants included Erik Hatcher, author and a leading developer on Lucene, one of the world's premier search engine technologies, Marek Tuszynski, co-founder and partner of Tactical Technical Collective (TTC), an organization that conducts regional training workshops for non-profits in developing and transition countries, and Michel Loots, Director of Humanitarian Information for all, a group widely known and highly respected for producing CD-ROMs

containing health documents of interest to the developing world. The event and initiative has since been well publicized, including an interview with Hatcher, Rhyno, and Bess Sadler, a librarian and software developer for the University of Virginia library who will be a coordinator for the initiative, on the "Library Geeks" podcast series.

The Leddy Library hosted a one day symposium a few weeks after the Cupramontana meeting which focussed on the state of library systems, and invited representatives from the biggest library-based Open Source project in the world, which is run by a consortium in Georgia. As a result of the symposium, and in order to demonstrate the strong level of

commitment the library has to OSS solutions, the library will work with PINES to build missing layers in the system. This work will benefit libraries everywhere, and puts the University of Windsor in a leadership position for promoting the use of Open Source to empower libraries to offer stronger services and better leverage technological solutions.

*Art Rhyno, Systems Librarian, Leddy Library, University of Windsor.*

## THE CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN SOCIAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Howard Pawley	Acting Director, Centre for Studies in Social Justice
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Gail Campbell	Designate for the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
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## MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in joining the Centre for Studies in Social Justice you can join on-line by visiting our website, [www.uwindsor.ca/socialjustice](http://www.uwindsor.ca/socialjustice), and following the links to **Membership**. Membership gets you invitations to our events and you will receive our e-mail announcements and newsletters.

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Andrzej Bolek



The Centre for Studies in Social Justice  
presents a conference on:

# Citizenship, Identity, and Social Justice



**May 17-19, 2007**

University of Windsor  
Windsor, Ontario, Canada

**Confirmed keynote speakers include:**

Dr. Janine Brodie, Department of Political Science,  
University of Alberta, Canada

Dr. Eleonore Kofman, Centre for Racial Equality  
Studies, Middlesex University, UK

The international conference on Citizenship, Identity, and Social Justice will explore historical, political, social, cultural, and intellectual trends in the conceptualization of social justice and its relationship to institutions and practices of citizenship. It will also consider how social and political struggles surrounding identity are interlinked with notions of citizenship and social justice. The conference will bring together internationally acclaimed scholars, researchers, and activists whose work addresses the complex relationships among citizenship, identity, and social justice.

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For more information or to submit an abstract, please visit our website at

[www.uwindsor.ca/socialjustice](http://www.uwindsor.ca/socialjustice) or call the

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