

# NEWSLETTER

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## CENTRE HOSTS HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

BY FRANCES CACHON

Recent decades have witnessed the worldwide expansion and intensification of social, cultural and economic formations that in ensemble come under the general conceptual rubric of globalization. To be sure, one can hardly turn on the television, open the newspaper or tune into the radio without encountering the word globalization. Certainly, it has become *the* new buzzword of our time. Yet, increased attention and dialogue has not resulted in a great deal of consensus about the nature or effects of globalization. In fact, given that the multiple

processes that constitute globalization are highly complex and variable, the study of globalization remains hotly contested and great debate about its implications ensues. This was certainly evident at the recent international conference, *Human Rights in a Globalizing Era?* which was proudly sponsored by the Centre for Studies in Social Justice at the University of Windsor and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Aimed at considering the diverse ways in which issues of democracy, practices of citizenship and social security articulate with human rights,



*PRESENTERS CAME FROM AS FAR AWAY AS AUSTRALIA, NIGERIA, TURKEY, THE US AND THE UK*

the conference brought together such internationally known scholars as Alison Brysk, Rhoda Howard-Hassmann, John McMurtry, Tony Evans and Gary Teeple. Multidisciplinary as it was diverse the conference produced rich dialogue between participants and

*(Continued on page 2)*

## KUDOS RECEIVED FOR THE CONFERENCE

*"Congratulations to you and the Centre for Studies in Social Justice for an excellent conference! I was pleased to participate and I thank you and the organizing committee for a job well done."*

*"Thank you so much for making the conference a memorable intellectual experience."*

*"I just want to let you know that the Human Rights in a Globalizing Era? conference was definitely worthwhile attending. The socialization, hospitality, speakers and the participants were all exceptional!"*

## SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION DISCUSSION SERIES

Dr. Paul Boin of the Department of Communication Studies and member of the centre's community outreach committee, has organized a series of discussions at various branches of the Windsor Public Library.

The purpose of these discussions is to bring university and community members together to share knowledge on a variety of social justice issues and at the same time, raise awareness of the work done in the area of social justice at the

university. The series began on September 21, the centre presented the first program in its *Social Justice InAction Community Discussion Series*.

Professor David Tanovich from the Faculty of Law,

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## HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

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presenters, illuminating both the dilemmas and accomplishments of human rights discourses and practices in the global era. To be sure, the conference participants were as diverse as the broad range of topics discussed, from

compelling critiques of the universalism of human rights to the destabilizing effects of corporations around the world. Activists, researchers, academics and students contributed to an enriching and successful conference experience, one that has facilitated ongoing exchange

of ideas, research and continued activism around the pressing and related issues of human rights and globalization. Students contributed to an enriching and successful conference experience, one that has facilitated ongoing exchange of ideas, research and continued activism

around the pressing and related issues of human rights and globalization.

*Frances Cachon is a PhD candidate in sociology and was one of the organizers of the conference.*

**IF YOU WISH TO OBTAIN A CD-ROM OF CONFERENCE PAPERS PLEASE CONTACT THE CENTRE.**

## SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION DISCUSSION SERIES

*(Continued from page 1)*

Rodney Davis, President of the Windsor and District Black Coalition and Abdelkader Tayebi of the Windsor Islamic Association spoke on Racial Profiling in Windsor and in Canada at the Windsor Public Library Riverside Branch.

The series continues on October 19 at 7:00pm at the Budimir Library on the theme of Media and Society: Towards a People's News. The speakers included: Paul Boin, University of Windsor Communication Studies Professor and Coordinator of the Social Justice InAction Community Discussion

Series; Percy Hatfield, Canadian Media Guild/CBC Journalist; Hector Diaz, Colombian TV/Print Journalist and New Windsor Resident; Kelly Patrick, Award Winning Journalist of The Windsor Star; Ken Lewenza Jr., Windsor City Councillor and Editor of the City Times; and Karen Bon-

asso, Media Literacy Specialist/Library Manager, Windsor Public Library.

On November 16, the discussion will be held at the Central Library on Homelessness in Windsor and in Canada. These discussions are free and open to the public.

## 2006 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: SOCIAL JUSTICE PERSON/PROJECT OF THE YEAR

The University of Windsor Centre for Studies in Social Justice invites nominations for its "Social Justice Person or Project of the Year Award." Eligible nominees are: persons whose work has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the rights of the marginalized or oppressed, the health of people and the environment, or the well-being of animals; and, collective projects that demonstrate the same outstanding commitment.

Nominations should include a letter from the nominator explaining why the designated person/project deserves the award, two supporting letters from other individuals familiar with the nominee's contributions, a brief biographical statement from the nominee, in the case of persons, or a brief overview of the project from the participants, and any appropriate supporting documentation (articles that describe the work/project, testimonials, etc.)

### **Deadline for Nominations: December 16th, 2005**

Send nominations and all supporting documents to the Centre for Studies in Social Justice, 250 Chrysler Hall South, University of Windsor, Windsor, ON N9B 3P4

Please direct any questions to Dr. Tanya Basok, Director, Centre for Social Justice, at 253-3000 Ext. 3498 or E-mail [basok@uwindsor.ca](mailto:basok@uwindsor.ca)

## WINDSOR REFUGEE OFFICE WINS PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD



Front row L-R: University of Windsor President Ross Paul, Gilbert Iyamuremye, Dr. Tanya Basok, Sr. Helen Petrimoulx. Back row: Windsor Refugee Office volunteers.

The Windsor Refugee Office and the Diocese of London Refugee Office were awarded the Social Justice Project of the Year Award at a reception at the University of Windsor on February 24, 2005. The Award ceremony, hosted annually by the Centre for Studies in Social Justice at the University of Windsor was attended by about 80 faculty, staff and community members who came to celebrate the work of Sister Helen Petrimoulx, and Gilbert Iyamuremye, and the many volunteers of their offices.

The Windsor Refugee Office, directed by Sister Helen Petrimoulx, provides services to refugee

claimants, including community orientation, employment applications, and assistance with immigration processes. Its work extends to advocacy and public education on refugee and minority issues. The Diocese of London Refugee Office, which works closely with the Windsor Refugee Office, works mainly in the area of sponsorship. Its director is Gilbert Iyamuremye.

The award was presented by Dr. Tanya Basok, director of the Centre for Studies in Social Justice who explained that “the selection committee was impressed by Sr. Helen and Gilbert’s dedication and commitment, going far beyond their mandate, to assist refugees and to pro-

mote a just refugee policy in Canada.”

Sr. Helen Petrimoulx sees the award as a way to highlight refugees as a social justice issue, particularly in the post September 11 era when many countries are closing their borders to refugees. “The media largely ignored the passage of the Safe Third Country Agreement between the US and Canada on December 29.” The agreement, which stipulates that refugees must seek asylum in whichever of the two countries they reach first, allows Canada to turn back refugee claimants at the American border, forcing them to make their claims in the U.S., where deportation rates are much higher. Despite the challenges they face, Cathy Kolar of

the YMCA said that their offices are “a symbol of justice, peace and hope, for those that enter.”

This is the third time the centre has awarded its Social Justice Person or Project of the Year Award. Previous recipients were Tad Venkateswarlu for his work with handicapped and orphaned children in India, and Howard Pawley for his dedication to social justice.



Former award recipient Tad Venkateswarlu and Tanya Basok

TO NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR OUR  
SOCIAL JUSTICE PERSON OR PROJECT  
OF THE YEAR AWARD SEE THE CALL  
FOR NOMINATIONS ON PAGE TWO.

## PROFILE: DR. ANITA LACEY

*In this section we look at a community or university member doing social justice-related work. In this issue we profile Anita Lacey, PhD (Monash University, Australia)*

Dr. Anita Lacey came to the University of Windsor from Australia to take up a post doctoral fellowship in Social Justice and Globalization under Dr. Suzan Ilcan's Canada Research Chair in 2003. Since then, she has been doing research and presenting the results of that research in published articles and at international conferences (she has presented at two Global Studies Association conferences and two Congress of the Social Sciences and the Humanities conferences) both

on her own and with Dr. Ilcan. In addition, she has developed and taught courses in Women's Studies.

Her research interests cover many areas in social justice with two occupying most of her energies. The first area deals with the effects of the neo-liberal orientation of global financial institutions on the activities of development NGOs. This research is in collaboration on with Dr. Ilcan. The second follows from her PhD research on activism against neo-liberalism and its effects, physical spaces of protest and emotional communities of resistance.

Dr. Lacey has both an academic and a personal commitment to social

justice and she states that what attracted her to Windsor, beyond the appeals of the job, was the strong emphasis placed on social justice at the university as well as the historical commitment to social justice in the city of Windsor. She finds the opportunities to interact with members of the community through centre programs such as conferences, discussion series, etc, particularly rewarding.

As she completes her post-doctoral research, Dr. Lacey plans to stay in Canada and continue her work on, and with, communities actively resisting social injustices.

## INTER-DISCIPLINARY SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDENT CONFERENCE WAS A SUCCESS!

BY LISA SMYLIE

The University of Windsor's first ever inter-disciplinary student conference on social justice issues, held August 13 of this year, was a great success! Over 60 students and faculty members enjoyed a full day of student research presentations and an inspirational keynote address from Dr. Walter DeKeseredy, the American Society for Criminology's *Distinguished Scholar of the Year* 2004.

The conference, organized by a committee of graduate students from Sociology and Law, was intended to provide University of Windsor graduate and senior undergraduate students with the opportunity to showcase their work in a non-threatening environment.

The 20 presenters gained valuable experience in presenting their research in a professional conference setting. An award and bursary went to an exceptional paper and presentation by Mike Bratton, a PhD candidate in the department of Sociology and Anthropology.

The conference had a special focus on 'social justice,' including such topics as welfare/workfare, corporate social responsibility, community development, political autonomy, international trade disputes, issues of gender, educational inequities, domestic violence, aboriginal issues, private security and globalization.

The conference planning committee would like to extend congratulations and thank you to the talented stu-

dent presenters who helped make this conference a success. Special thanks to the University of Windsor sponsors, without whom this event would not have been possible, including the Centre for Studies in Social Justice, Humanities Research Group, Graduate Student Society, Dr. Ross Paul, Prof. Neil Gold, Dr. Susan McDaniel, Human Right Office, and the following faculties and departments: Sociology / Anthropology, Nursing, Engineering, Graduate Studies, Psychology, Dramatic Arts, Labour Studies, Music, Communication Studies, Arts and Social Science, and the School of Music.

*Lisa Smylie is a PhD candidate in sociology and was one of the organizers of the conference.*

## NEW GLOBALAWARE EXHIBIT IN DECEMBER

In February 2005, the Centre for Studies in Social Justice and GlobalAware Independent Media Organisation presented a photo exhibit in the Leddy Library entitled "The New Media". In December 2005, GlobalAware will be bringing its latest exhibit to the University of Windsor, entitled "Canadians at the Front." The exhibit includes works by local photographer and member of the Centre for Studies in Social Justice, Doug MacLellan.

The following is excerpted from the GlobalAware website:



*Wondering when they can go home in Chad.  
© Rodger Bosch / GlobalAware*

Canadians at the Front (CATF) highlights the work of seven people working in development and emergency relief at home and abroad. In exploring these case studies, it became clear that the noble goal of eliminating poverty and its consequences (war, humanitarian crises, hunger, disease, ignorance etc.) is as elusive as ever despite the hard work of individuals and organizations in the field. There are success stories, and we highlight some of them here, but overall, sixty plus years of development policy and theory have not been able to end poverty. Rather than

take the fatalist's option and declare development a failure, or the racist's view which would blame so-called innate human characteristics, CATF seeks to explore and explain what development aid is, how it works, why it often doesn't work on a macro level and what other global and local forces conspire to work against it.

Ending poverty means nothing less than changing the world from the micro-scale of individual decisions in the north and south on up to reform of global institutions. It is not a simple task; it is not only a question of

money though money goes very far to help in many cases; it is not something we can do in isolation from the fabric of our lives or that we can mandate our governments to do on our behalf. It is, however, urgent that we educate ourselves about the problem and the many small and large scale solutions devised to solve it in order to commit our energies to this Herculean task. There are many Canadians on the front lines of relief and development work and they need and deserve our informed support.

Source: <http://globalaware.net/catf/>

## NEW SOCIAL JUSTICE COURSE

In fall 2005, the University of Windsor introduced a new course: Introduction to Social Justice. The course is taught this term by Dr. Jeff Noonan. It explores diverse visions and dimensions of social justice, both past and present. It examines the role of political economy, culture, and identity in addressing

injustice in Canada and globally. It critically assesses different strategies for social change. Students are introduced to the principles governing the production and distribution of benefits and harms, and to such concepts as distributive justice, politics of difference, civil society, empowerment, critical

pedagogy, citizenship, and human rights. Students interested in social justice should consider a Combined Honours in Social Justice Degree.

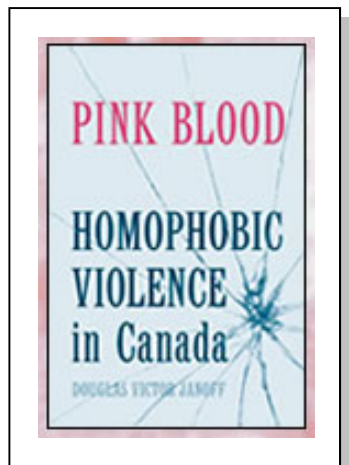
More information can be found by visiting our website.

<http://uwindsor.ca/socialjustice>

THE CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN SOCIAL JUSTICE ANNOUNCES THE CREATION OF A NEW REFEREED ELECTRONIC JOURNAL ENTITLED *STUDIES IN SOCIAL JUSTICE*.

FOR INFORMATION ON SUBMISSIONS AND RATES PLEASE CONTACT THE CENTRE.

## HOMOPHOBIC VIOLENCE IN CANADA



On Thursday, November 17, 2005 at 10:00 am Doug Janoff, author of *Pink Blood: Homophobic Violence in Canada*, will be at the University of Windsor to speak about his book.

*Pink Blood* is the first book in Canada to be published on the topic of homophobic violence. The author spent nine years collecting Canadian cases. He came up with 120 queer-related homicides and more than 350 hate-motivated assaults that occurred between 1990 and 2004. Although a few scholars have written about homophobic and transphobic vio-

lence in specific Canadian communities, this is the first extensive and detailed overview of queer-bashing in every Canadian province, territory and major city.

The talk will take place in the Oak room of Vanier Hall at the University of Windsor and will be followed by a book signing and sale. This talk is free and open to the public.

To learn more are about Doug Janoff's book visit his website: [www.pinkblood.ca](http://www.pinkblood.ca)

## CENTRE HOSTS FORUM FOR LOCAL GRADE EIGHT STUDENTS



In March 2005, the Centre for Studies in Social Justice hosted a forum on social justice for grade eight students in Windsor and Essex County. The event was co-sponsored by the Holocaust Education Committee of the Windsor Jewish Community

Centre and the CAW Local 200 Human Rights Committee. It was attended by over 70 area grade eight students. The students separated into groups to discuss the rights of the child, the environment, the lessons learned from the Holocaust, and poverty. They also had the opportunity to create art work with a social justice theme

As the event was so successful, the organizers have decided to make this an annual event with both the public and separate school boards participating. This year's student forum will be held on December 9, 2005. If your child is in grade eight and is interested in participating, please contact their school principal.



Students' Art Work

## ABOUT THE CENTRE

Following two years of planning by a steering committee, headed by the Deans of Arts and Social Sciences and Law, the Centre for Studies in Social Justice came into existence on July 1, 2002. In so doing "social justice" joined "automotive education and research" and "environmental research" as one of three "pinnacle programme areas" in which the University of Windsor sought to develop an international reputation for excellence. The centre is committed to interdisciplinarity in research and teaching, and to advocacy.

The Centre for Studies in Social Justice provides a place for researchers from the University of Windsor and other universities, centres and institutes, policy makers and community members to: address the causes and impact of widespread social and economic changes; research the elements that promote or impede social justice; access resources, training, and knowledge; stimulate discussion and debate on social justice issues; and to formulate recommendations on policies or strategies that could diminish existing injustice.

## THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Paul Boin	Communication Studies
Gail Campbell	Designate for the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Rupp Carriveau	Civil and Environmental Engineering
Sandi Curtis	School of Music
Anne Forrest	Women's Studies
Nicole Freeman	Law student
Greg Goulin	Lawyer
Vivian Herzenberg	Jewish Community Centre
Suzan Ilcan	Sociology and Anthropology
Gilbert Iyamuremye	Diocese of London Refugee Office
Brian Mazer	Faculty of Law
Linda Morrow	United Way
Jeff Noonan	Philosophy
Josette Reaume	Staff, Science
Leigh West	Designate for the Dean of the Faculty of Law

## 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.



## CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN SOCIAL JUSTICE

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We welcome your feedback about this newsletter at: [nnoel@uwindsor.ca](mailto:nnoel@uwindsor.ca)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 16, 2005, 7:00 pm**

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN-ACTION COMMUNITY DISCUSSION SERIES

**Homelessness in Windsor and in Canada**

Windsor Public Library, 850 Ouellette Avenue

**November 17, 2005, 10:00 am**

**Book Tour:** Doug Janoff on Homophobic Violence in Canada

Oak Room, Vanier Hall, University of Windsor

**November 24, 2005, 7:00 pm**

Two representatives of a Colombian trade union, FENSUAGRO, will be speaking about trade union repression in that country.

Oak Room, Vanier Hall, University of Windsor

**December 2005 to January 2006**

The Centre for Studies in Social Justice and GlobalAware present **Canadians at the Front**, a photo exhibit of Canadian aid workers around the world.

Leddy Library display cases near Williams Café.

**December 9, 2005, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm**

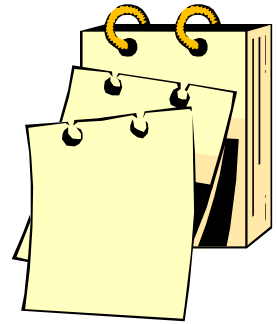
**Student Social Justice Forum**

University of Windsor

**February 22, 2006**

The Centre for Studies in Social Justice presents a reading of Naomi Wallace's **State of Innocence**.

Time and location to be announced.



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### Centre for Studies in Social Justice

251 Chrysler Hall South

University of Windsor

Windsor, Ontario N9B 3P4

CANADA