



CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN SOCIAL JUSTICE



NEWSLETTER
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SECURITY, EXCLUSION, RISKS, AND RIGHTS

Willem de Lint

On October 23-24, the Centre for Studies in Social Justice hosted a workshop focussing on exclusions linked to security practices. The workshop's goals were to investigate the problem of security differentiation, to foster understanding of the production of security exclusions and exceptions, and to project existential considerations beyond traditional realist concerns. Scholars considered identities, territories, and populations or cohorts through a number of prisms, including law and universalized claims (human rights, human needs, and ecological needs), risk, control and post-modernism, militarism and war, political economy, neoliberal doctrine, and governmentality discourses. Scholars participating in the workshop observed that while the prisms may sometimes be radically opposed and stem from a variety of epistemic assumptions, evaluation of the 'security' concept yields a consistent result: a way of speaking what or who is excludable from a variety of social, political and cultural goods.

Thinking on the new logics of exclusion is of crucial importance. Traditionally, security has been opposed to liberty, the latter expressed as protections of individual



Mark Neocleous (left) and David Mutimer

autonomy against authoritarian rule. After communism and post-9/11, lines demarcating internal and external, within and without state borders, citizen and non-citizen, warfare and peacekeeping have been stretched or blurred. Canada has used its "Crown prerogative" to justify the non-repatriation of citizens (e.g. Abousfian Abdelrazik, refused right of return from Sudan) and participated in projects that project border control practices well beyond traditional and sovereign border space (Project Shiprider, where Canadian law enforcement officers are designated as U.S. officers and vice versa). Furthermore,

Canada is involved in the internal policing of foreign nation-states in opposition to the Westphalian tenets of international law (Afghanistan). As asserted by some of the workshop participants (e.g. Mark Neocleous and William Walters) in their published work, the modern liberal binary has been threatened or displaced by post-modern and other views on subjects, agencies, and governance that incorporate alternative historiographies and knowledges.

Questions of agency also emerged as a key theme in this debate, particularly in the context of the glaring gap between North and South that characterizes the contemporary international order. Exclusionary forms of security emerge from the reality that the strong/secure monopolize both the discourse and the

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William Walters (left) and Daniel O'Connor

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Spotlight On Researcher: SUZAN ILCAN

Dr. SUZAN ILCAN is Professor of Sociology at the University of Windsor, Canada, and holds a Canada Research Chair in Social Justice and Globalization Studies. She has been awarded extensive funding by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) for her research. In light of new theoretical research on global governance and international studies, Dr. Ilcan's Canada Research Chair program concentrates on international governmental and non-governmental organizations and their social justice initiatives for the reduction of world poverty. This research examines how and the extent to which diverse programs, such as humanitarian and development aid programs, depend on particular types of knowledge and expertise, shape the subjects of poverty, and mobilize new kinds of responsibilities for certain citizens, impoverished groups, and community agencies. Through funding support of \$100,000 annually from SSHRC, Dr. Ilcan provides extensive research training and support to graduate students in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology as she continues her work on various research projects. "Many graduate

students and research assistants have made and continue to make valuable contributions to my research program" says Dr. Ilcan. Her research program has been aided by a \$250,000 grant from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and the Ontario Innovation Trust (OIT) to establish and expand the Social Justice and Globalization Data Archive at the University of Windsor. "With the superb work provided by Mr. Steven Richter, Data Archive Administrator, the archive provides a useful resource of research data and information on international agencies, government and non-governmental organizations, social justice-oriented studies, and other related fields," explains Dr. Ilcan.

One of Dr. Ilcan's most recent projects focuses on the way 'the poor' have become, since the 1980s, a target for new

forms of governing undertaken by international governmental organizations, implemented in alliance with various groups, networks, private sectors, and forms of professional expertise, and often linked to the objectives of advanced liberalism. As part of this project, she is completing a new book, with Dr. Anita Lacey (University of Auckland, NZ), to be published by McGill-Queen's University Press, titled *Governing the Poor: Exercises of Poverty Reduction, Practices of Global Aid*. Over the next few years as Canada Research Chair, she will continue to serve as co-editor of the journal, *Studies in Social Justice*, organize conferences and workshops, and engage in international projects on themes related to social justice and globalization studies. To learn more about Dr. Ilcan's research, see her web page: <http://sjg.uwindsor.ca/ilcan/>

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practices of security, with the weak/insecure typically characterized either as passive recipients of 'security' or as potential threats themselves. From food-for-aid programs to efforts to reform the security architecture of developing nations, probing the practices of contemporary security politics forces us to ask serious questions about the ultimate referent objects of contemporary security practices. In other words, whose security really matters? In the context of the "end of ideology" and information-age mobilities that play "above" national state boundaries in the redeveloping international system, in/security stimulates production and ensures recyclable "waste" by-product.

Selected papers presented at the workshop will be published in a special issue of *Studies in Social Justice* (vol. 3 no 1) in 2009.



Willem De Lint is an Associate Professor and Department Head in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology, University of Windsor.

Spotlight On Teaching: Dr. ABDEL SALAM SIDAHMED

Atoosa Ataellahi

Dr. Abdel Salam Sidahmed is an Associate Professor in the Political Science Department at the University of Windsor. His areas of expertise include Islam, the Muslim Diaspora, Human Rights and Middle Eastern Politics. Dr. Sidahmed received his Bachelor of Arts and his Masters at the University of Khartoum in Sudan. After being awarded a scholarship, he completed his Ph.D. at the University of Charles in the Czech Republic.

Dr. Sidahmed has worked at Amnesty International in London, UK where he started as a researcher and later was promoted to Middle East Program Director. He has a long history of teaching at various universities. Before teaching at the University of Windsor, Dr. Sidahmed was a full time professor at the University of Durham and sessional professor at the University of London and Cambridge where he mainly taught Middle Eastern Politics and Islamic Studies.

Dr. Sidahmed's philosophy is that teaching is guided by two principles: knowledge and encouragement. Dr. Sidahmed believes that critical thinking, research, and training in skills are fundamental components of teaching. When teaching, Dr. Sidahmed attempts to focus mainly on subjects and dimensions that students are not yet fully familiar with to advance their learning.

He encourages students to take a step further than the superficial understanding of subjects received from the media. Dr. Sidahmed does not allow the possibility of controversy to dissuade him from thoroughly examining sensitive subjects.

Academia has always been part of Dr. Sidahmed's professional and personal life. He has always maintained a key interest in research, especially when working with Non-Governmental Organizations like Amnesty International.

For Dr. Sidahmed, critical thinking is an important aspect of learning. Therefore, in every class he emphasizes the importance of engaging students in discussions and introducing them to methods that allow them to think outside of the box. "It is important that students



leave my lectures with the satisfaction that they have learned something", says Dr. Sidahmed. "Clarity is very important and every professor must provide clarity in their lecture and teaching in general," he explains. Dr. Sidahmed believes in the importance of personal teaching styles and disagrees with the idea that one teaching style is necessarily better than another. He believes in the importance of smaller class sizes in fostering students' and professors' ability

to communicate and build relationships. Dr. Sidahmed stresses the importance of students taking part more in seminars and discussions related to their area of studies not only at the university but also outside the university. This allows them to be more engaged in critical thinking advancing in academia.

Dr. Sidahmed introduced three new Political Science courses when he started teaching at the University of Windsor. These three courses include two undergraduate courses, Human Rights and Islam and Politics, and a graduate level course, Islamic Political Thought. Dr. Sidahmed currently has no immediate plans to introduce any additional new courses. However, he would like to place more emphasis on Middle Eastern Politics as the current course that he is teaching is only an introductory course.

Dr. Sidahmed is the author of many published works. One is entitled Islamic Fundamentalism: Islamic Countries, Politics And Government. This work focuses on the contemporary interest in the rise of Islamic fundamentalism. Another work he has published is Sudan: The Contemporary Middle East. This title is part of a series dealing with the Middle East and focuses on Sudan's contemporary politics. Both books have been very successful, and Islamic Fundamentalism: Islamic Countries, Politics and Government has been even more successful in academic circles. Currently, Dr. Sidahmed is working on a research paper examining Jihad.

Atoosa Ataellahi was the Centre's work-study student in the Fall 2008. She has recently graduated from the University of Windsor with a degree in Political Science.



TONIA ST.GERMAIN
An Inspiration to Feminist Lawyers
and Scholars

Steven Richter

"From time immemorial, rape has been regarded as spoils of war. Now it will be considered a war crime. We want to send out a strong message that rape is no longer a trophy of war."

UN's International Criminal Tribunal
Rwanda (ICTR)
Presiding judge Navanethem Pillay

On March 25, 2009, the Centre for Studies in Social Justice hosted a lecture by feminist and legal expert Dr. Tonia St. Germain on the development of the International Criminal Court, the creation of legal definitions of rape as a war crime and the key roles of feminist activists, scholars, and legal practitioners in making these important advances possible. With her unorthodox career as a feminist lawyer, activist and scholar, Dr. St. Germain is an inspiration to students and academics.

Tonia St. Germain obtained a law degree from Antioch School of Law in Washington D.C. in 1986. She practiced law in Bloomington, Indiana and also served as Clinical Advisor at Indiana University Law School's project for battered women. A move to Albany in 1994 to become Public Policy Director for

NYS Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the statewide coalition that represented rape crisis centres, resulted in a successful lobbying effort for state legislation preventing sexual violence against women and children. Her most recent example of feminist political activism includes running for State Representative for Oregon House District 57 in 2006. She did not win the election but garnered 30% of the vote, which was seen as a very good showing for a first time Democratic candidate running in a conservative rural district.

Tonia came to academia in 1998 after a 12 year career as a feminist legal and political activist. Tonia joined the faculty at Eastern Oregon University in 1998, was appointed Coordinator of the Gender Studies Program, and holds the position to date. She was selected by the Five College Women's Studies Research Center to become a fellow-in-residence in 2009 to pursue her current research project on human rights law as it relates to the most serious and pervasive human rights abuses that the international community now confronts - sexual violence against women during armed conflict. The rest of this article is a summary of the main ideas presented in the lecture.

After the second World War, during which rape was committed en masse by both Allied and Nazi forces, there were no convictions for the mass rapes whatsoever, not even in cases of those tried at Nuremburg. It was not until the atrocities in Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia during the 1990s, and after exhaustive work by a commission of feminists legal experts including Catharine MacKinnon and Hanne Sophie Greve, that rape began to be prosecuted as a war crime and men began to be convicted for the atrocities committed against women during war.

During the 1990s Nationalist Serbians conducted home invasions on Muslims, during which women, and females of all ages, were brutally raped and tortured in front of their families. To further ensure Muslims would not feel comfortable returning to their communities, public rapes of women, including elderly women, were regularly held. Once in sex segregated detention centres, women were gang raped daily by soldiers. Older women would regularly be forced to protect the young by offering themselves for the atrocities during selection of victims. Women were also forced to be sex slaves to individual soldiers and their resistance to this was only reduced by the fact that it would, in many cases, save them from the gang-rape activities faced by the rest of the captive Muslim women. In other cases, rape was used as a means of impregnation for ethnic cleansing to breed out the minority population. It is estimated that there were 20,000 to 50,000 incidences of rape during the Yugoslav War. In Rwanda the genocide resulted in the brutal murder of almost 1 million civilians and between 250,000 to 500,000 rapes. The gap in the estimated number of rape cases is due to the fact that in most cases the Tutsi women were murdered immediately afterwards.

One would think that with numbers like this, the convictions would have been widespread and judgements severe; however, the results have been less than favourable and the convictions comparatively few. In the case of the former Yugoslavia, the ICTY has charged over 160 persons, more than 60 individuals have been convicted and currently more than 40 people are in different stages of proceedings before the Tribunal. In Rwanda, the ICTRT has finished 21 trials and convicted 29

“It is important that students come attend these events, ask questions, and inform themselves and others of the realities of campus life, no matter how brilliant or discouraging they may be. Our education on campus should not be limited to the confines of the classroom. We encourage all students to become a part of making this campus a better place for all students, present and future, by various means, large or small. Great things are beginning to happen here at the university. Now is not the time to rest, but to continue to fight for change.”

*Burton Taylor and Kirsten Francescone
Advocates for Social Justice and
Change on Campus*

On March 19, the Centre for Studies in Social Justice hosted its Anti-Racism forum to commemorate the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Observed annually on March 21, the day commemorates the 1960 violent attack by police on peaceful protestors fighting against apartheid in South Africa, during which 69 people were killed. Such events, horrifying as they are, represent only the tip of the iceberg when dealing with racial discrimination. Although progress has been made and apartheid was abolished in South Africa, religious intolerance, racial profiling, institutional racism, genocidal and assimilationist government policies, and anti-immigrant sentiment among the general public are all issues that still face minorities globally, nationally and locally, even within the University of Windsor. Six speakers from the University community discussed the achievements and the setbacks in fighting racism and racial discrimination ranging from the international and national to very local levels, both in historical and current contexts.

Dr. Abdel Sidahmed's introduction provided a brief yet very detailed overview of racism throughout history, indicating that although the events that led up to the UN Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination may be behind us, a recent increase of intolerance along cultural, political, religious, and ethnic lines demands a much greater effort on the part of all citizens to do what they can daily to fight every instance of discrimination in their workplaces, neighbourhoods and schools, and to become aware of the issues facing racialized Canadians by attending forums like the one held at the CAW.

Jane Ku addressed racism and discrimination as it is experienced by new citizens and those that have been here for a generation or more, with a focus on Chinese and Asian Canadians. According to Dr. Ku, there is a tendency to underreport incidents of racism among new citizens. In many cases, new students will blame their own lack of

knowledge of English for their inability to fit in rather than recognizing racist behaviour and attitudes of those around them, while those who have been here longer are more likely to speak out. How can staff and students create a better atmosphere for newly arrived Canadians? Dr. Ku says even an action as simple as introducing ourselves and offering a handshake is an important step in making people feel welcome and more like citizens.

While these ideas are very important in making small steps to fight discrimination, there are more insidious forms of racial discrimination that go undetected, due to wilful ignorance or just a lack of experience by non-racialized populations. Racial profiling is a daily reality for a large portion of the Canadian population who are monitored, stopped for identification checks, harassed, detained, falsely arrested, falsely accused of “fitting a description”, and in

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ELIMINATION OF RACISM ON CAMPUS AND BEYOND

Steve Richter



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every way made to feel like criminals and deviants because they are not white. David Tanovich pointed out that what is even more problematic are the glaring discrepancies between what is gained by the racial profiling and what it costs financially, emotionally and psychologically for the victims of profiling, and what it costs in wasted resources, wasted hours, deteriorated public image of the police and distrust of authority for law enforcement. Statistically, the majority of crime is committed by white people in Canada and racial profiling does nothing in combating criminal activity. Unfortunately, profiling is still quite pervasive in many places, including our own city.

Kirstin Francescone of SAABR (Students Against Anti Black Racism) addressed incidents of discrimination on campus such as the dress code banning 'urban' style clothes at the Thirsty Scholar pub, reminding us of the progress still needed in our own community. However, she also indicated that there has in fact been some progress made.

Along with the issue of racial profiling already addressed, First Nations in Canada have faced the constant threat of assimilation into the mainstream Canadian society through government policy designed to eradicate their cultural practices and traditional activities. Russell Nahdee of the Turtle Island Aboriginal Education Centre addressed several issues for First Nations regarding racism, and the very subtle ways in which institutional racism and assimilationist policies have held back First Nations in their attempts to gain the same rights many other Canadian citizens take for granted. Often they must give up some rights to gain others, or give up part of their cultural heritage to be considered Canadian citizens. While the residential school system is gone, its effects are still deeply felt throughout First Nation

communities in the loss of familiarity among families, loss of knowledge of the culture and language among those who attended the schools, and the severe psychological and emotional damage caused by the abuse that occurred in these institutions. First Nations communities and their schools are also severely underfunded and understaffed, and First Nation employees face equality of pay issues in the administrative and educational system. Their schools are lacking in supplies, basic utilities such as heat and clean water, and in some cases would be condemned if not located on a reserve. Recently, the Harper government has indicated the possibility of allocating the funding for First Nations' post-secondary education through Canada Student Loans which would be repayable, thereby denying that Post Secondary Education is an Aboriginal and Treaty Right. When First Nation students make it to university, they face many of the same problems that other racialized citizens face in their day-to-day activities. Making them feel welcome and making their educational experience enjoyable, will require all of us to be aware of racist behaviour and speak out against incidents of racial discrimination. Again, creating a positive atmosphere can be as easy as doing more to learn about the students by talking to them, getting to know them, and hearing their stories and their perspectives.

Finally, Burton Taylor acknowledged that significant advancements have been made to promote equity and enrich student life on campus. He pointed out that despite some discouraging and explicit acts of racism over the past few years, this year seems to have been the most successful in bringing issues of racism and discrimination to the forefront of issues that need to be addressed. From the Anti-Racism and Discrimination Panel in the CAW commons to the CFS

Task-Force on Campus Racism, steps are being taken by students, faculty, staff and administration alike to make this campus a more equitable space. However, Burton made it clear that there is still a need to promote and pursue equity on campus. Both Burton Taylor and Kirsten Fransescone called on their fellow students to take an active role alongside administration and faculty to become involved in this process of change.

Steve Richter is Acting Research Coordinator at the Centre for Studies in Social Justice

WORLD WATER DAY:
Focusing on Transboundary Water Issues
Steve Richter

A large volume of the fresh water resources in Canada are shared with the United States. Globally, approximately 40 percent of the human population live in a transboundary water setting and in the future it is likely that these resources will be a main source of tension and conflict as the global population increases. The Centre for Studies in Social Justice hosted a World Water Day celebration on March 23 in the CAW Centre Commons. The theme of this year's water day was "Shared Resources, Shared Opportunity." Four guest organizations provided information on water quality, water conservation, bottled water and its effect on the environment and on public access to water, as well as the effects of industrial pollution on water in the Great Lakes region. The Centre screened water related documentaries including

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REACHING OUT TEACHING - The STITCHES - DOLL PROJECT FOR HIV + WOMEN

Kathleen Gerus-Darbison

The STITCHES Doll Project is an innovative and creative project with both therapeutic and educational components. First, it offers women living with HIV a safe platform to express how HIV has impacted their lives. This is accomplished through the creation of dolls and the writing of brief monographs. These artifacts preserve women's life histories so others may learn from them. Giving women a safe opportunity to



speaking about their HIV infection restores some of the things that were lost to them, including self-esteem, empowerment, childhood innocence, a feeling of belonging, and a way to express their feelings. Secondly, the completed dolls become part of a traveling exhibit and are displayed on the web (www.stitchesdollproject.org) to promote HIV/AIDS awareness for everyone who views it. The doll collection is used for many innovative educational purposes with various groups: middle school, high school, agencies, and at conferences.

Together with my former co-worker, Candice Moench, I designed STITCHES in July of 1999 specifically for women living with HIV infection. Both of us were working as AIDS Educators and activists in the state of Michigan. Our desire was to create a project that combined art and life, as an interactive way to educate the community at large. We wanted to find a way to preserve the stories of HIV positive women everywhere. Accordingly, the dolls in the project are created by HIV positive women all over North America and then returned to the project to become part of a continuing traveling exhibit.

Not only is this project a safe place for women to voice their feelings about how HIV has affected their lives, but it is also a gift that others can learn from. At local exhibits or on the website you are able to see the 140 completed dolls received thus far. Along with each doll is written text from each woman artist answering the following question: "If your doll could talk what would she say?" The answers will amaze and touch you.

MISSION PART ONE:

Preserving the life histories of women and telling their stories in a confidential way.

METHODOLOGY:

Agencies/individual women contact the project directly at 1-866-554-2368 or by email. When possible, Stitches staff facilitate the doll making workshop. Where geographic distance presents an issue, plain dolls are sent to the requesting agency or woman along with step-by-step instructions. Staff then present the project overview and facilitate the workshop accordingly. When dolls are finished, agencies/women are

encouraged to have a "going away party" before they send their dolls back to the project.

PARTICIPANTS:

Women doll makers have a safe way to express their feelings about HIV infection. As they create their doll, thoughts and emotions resurface and can be more effectively dealt with. Each doll carries its maker's message to a wider audience. The dolls have the ability to assume much of the negative aspects of what it means to be a woman living with HIV infection. This has a healing effect on the doll makers.

"The project of making the STITCHES doll was very helpful for me. It allowed me to be the way in which I would like to be. I projected myself as a young beautiful woman full of energy and vibrant. However, I don't always feel pretty. Writing the poem to go along with my doll I believe best describes me. I try to be as optimistic as possible and try to be the best I can for that day. I do know that one day I will die, but I want to live my life to the fullest."

56-year-old women from Arizona

MISSION PART TWO:

Teaching others about what puts girls and women at risk for HIV infection.

Through educational sessions in agencies and in schools, from middle school through college, the dolls are used to transcend the barriers of race, socio-economic status, religion, and gender bias.

UNIVERSITY:

In the Fall semester of 2006 an anthropology class at the University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada created an exhibit using the STITCHES dolls. This class designed, planned, and implemented the entire museum style

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REACHING OUT TEACHING DOLL PROJECT FOR HIV + WOMEN

Kathleen Gerus-Darbison

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exhibit. They printed info cards and posters to promote the event which began on World AIDS Day, December 1 and ran for a month and a half.

"My first exhibit and hopefully not my last. Never have I learned more about HIV/AIDS then working on this exhibit. The stories of the dolls allowed me to connect with the women with AIDS in a way that is similar to hearing them personally... The information supplied in addition was helpful. All in all the Stitches doll project is unique and I hope it continues to grow.

24-year-old male University of Windsor student

IN PRACTICE:

The STITCHES Doll Project is very flexible in both its creation portion and in its educational component. Girls and women who wish to make a doll but are not involved with an agency can contact the project individually and a doll will be sent out to them free of charge. Doll making workshops can be added to existing events such as conferences, retreats, and support groups, or they can be held as stand-alone sessions. Several clinics have used a doll workshop to create a support group where none existed before. This flexibility makes it easy to adapt to many different types of environments and logistical circumstances.

Regarding the educational sessions, again flexibility is the key point to re-

member. Church groups, after school programs, specific high school or college courses, yoga classes, and ROTC meetings are all places where programs have been held. Any group of people who would like a STITCHES educational session can contact the project by phone or email to arrange it. If geographic distance makes doing so cost-prohibitive a DVD hosted by the founder of the project will be available soon.

Kathleen Gerus-Darbison is the Founder and Current Director of the STICHES doll project. She is a graduate student in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology, University of Windsor.

She can be reached by phone:
Phone: 1-866-554-2368 toll-free US
and Canada or by Email: hivdolls@comcast.net
Her mailing address is 18012 Rose Ct. Macomb, Michigan 48044.

WORLD WATER DAY:

Focusing on Transboundary Water Issues

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Thirst, a film about water privatization, The Waterfront, about the state of Detroit and Windsor's water resources and The Beloved Community, which focuses on the pollution of water resources on the Aamjiwnaang First Nation located in the Southwestern Ontario region infamously known as "Chemical Valley," and the effects this pollution has had on the health of the community's citizens.

Vittorio Sbrocca of the Citizens Environmental Alliance provided students and staff with information on how pollution from various industrial sources in both Canada and the United States affects our water supplies and how, under the current Canadian government, there is a lack of action in the reduction of coal burning power

plants which threaten our shared water sources as long as we allow them to operate. Susan Tomkins of the Essex Region Conservation Authority discussed the small steps we could take in protecting source water including using barrels to collect rain water that can be used for watering plants, washing cars and other small jobs requiring water around the house and yard. Natalie Green of the Detroit River Canadian Clean-up was also at the CAW with information on the proper disposal of household chemicals to ensure that they do not contaminate the Detroit River and other transboundary water resources. This includes prescription medications, which should always be taken to a pharmacy or to a household chemicals waste disposal centre. Pete Hayfield, president of CAW local 200 environment committee, and Chris Vilag CAW local 200 environment coordinator for Ford and Nemak, brought along information on

the problems caused by the mass consumption of bottled water. Companies increasingly look to privatize water sources and therefore buying water puts our public access to fresh water resources at severe risk. As water becomes an increasingly scarce resource, the possibility arises that these companies could one day charge astronomical prices for water that was at one time a public resource. Bottled water also causes health issues as the recycleable plastic that people are drinking out of is designed for single usage and, in some cases, there is breakdown of the plastic leading to harmful chemicals getting into our bodies. Lastly there is often no difference between the tap water we drink and that which comes in the bottle. Both are coming from fresh water sources, and therefore we are already in a habit of paying astronomically high prices for something we can get from a tap virtually free.

BORDER CITIES BICYCLISTS RECLAIMING CITY STREETS

Alexandra McLean

The Border Cities Bicyclists Union was born several years ago in Detroit. A successful Alleycats bike race through the nighttime streets of Detroit put people in the mood, and beer was the catalyst. Flushed and happy cyclists moved from talk of Park tools (a popular brand of American bike tools) to talk about politics and what needed to be done.

Detroit's cyclists face many issues, ranging from giant potholes to thefts of bikes at gunpoint. Velocitized drivers coming off the freeways are a serious hazard for cyclists, as is the regional preference among drivers for wide vehicles with large blind spots. Detroit has both limited cycling infrastructure and a large bike-dependant homeless population whose needs are rarely considered and never met.

Detroit also has an obesity problem, inadequate public transport, many uninsured drivers driving poorly maintained cars, and a host of other concerns, some obviously connected to transportation, and others related to cycling only for those of us already living in a self-propelled paradigm. Detroit's cycling community is part of the effort to restore the health of people and neighbourhoods, and to re-localize food production and distribution, and the economy as a whole.

The Border Cities Bicyclists Union was not only created to work on cycling issues in Detroit and its environs, but also to look at the matter of how to make the international border accessible to cyclists without requiring them to have a car, to look at the needs of cyclists in Windsor-Essex, and to consider the

cycling infrastructure. The Border Cities Bicyclists Union is also examining intermodal transit issues (we are approaching the unions of transit and hotel workers in both countries to determine how to work in solidarity with them) and the cycle tourism potential of the region as a whole.

As it was founded by and consists of cyclists from both Canada and the USA, some of whom have lived and cycled on both sides of the border, the BCBU approaches this region as an international metropolitan area of over five million people.

The question of bikes at the border is complex. It involves dealing with Windsor Transit, Homeland Security, and all the companies, agencies, and governments who classify a bike as "freight" for the purposes of a border crossing. Greyhound, for example, will take a bike off a Toronto-Detroit bus and cache it at the Windsor station. It cannot go across with other luggage, as it is "freight". Cycle tourism brings in over \$134 million dollars annually for Quebec, and the "bikes as freight" rules are hurting our chances of developing this as a lucrative local industry. The BCBU is committed to changing these rules.

While some issues overlap, such as the issue of developing a bike parking and a community bike repair infrastructure, increasing ridership in measurable ways, promoting cycling cultures, and pressing for planning documents with hard targets and timelines, some of the problems the cycling communities face on the Canadian side of the border are different from the ones faced in Detroit.

One is not likely to face a bike theft at gunpoint in Windsor. However, Windsor's propensity to view cycling primarily as a recreational activity, rather than as a form

of daily transportation, leads to an emphasis on creating trails as a solution to the "problem" cyclists pose to the auto-only culture. Trails are great for summer Sundays, but they are neither a practical daily option for commuter cyclists, nor for those who also cycle in the winter, as they are not cleared of snow. Trails are rarely evaluated to determine how safe they are for women and other vulnerable groups.

The BCBU has identified a need to help Windsor cyclists exercise their existing legal right to share ordinary city streets with motorists, with or without the teaching aid of bike lanes. Encouraging police enforcement of traffic laws for both motorists and cyclists, and working at the level of the provincial ministry to change driver education, are current BCBU endeavours. An effort to educate car designers and purchasers about what features make a car or truck bike-friendly is in the works.

The BCBU is still in the process of connecting with existing Windsor-Essex cycling groups, with the broader Share the Roads cycling community, and with other cycling groups across Ontario, Michigan, and beyond. We are particularly excited to be making friends with migrant workers, who are the cyclists most often killed on our roads. These cyclists are so vulnerable and under-represented that the broader cycling community has a name for them. They are known as "invisible riders." We would like that invisibility and vulnerability (and death toll) to change for them as it changes for us.

It's spring: your bike is calling to you. Let's change the world.

Alexandra McLean, a member of the Centre for Studies in Social Justice, is an artist and community activist.

MAKE WINDSOR FAIR

Meaghan Ruston, Ayesha Drouillard and Danielle Sabelli

Fair Trade is an organized social movement with a market-based approach dedicated to helping producers in developing nations attain economic stability, independence, and improved livelihoods. It helps them move from a position of vulnerability to one of security and economic self-sufficiency through empowerment and promotion of equity.

Fair Trade's goals are achieved through offering better trading conditions, promoting fair pricing and equipping producers with the tools necessary to build their social infrastructures while rewarding and encouraging environmentally sustainable practices. Producers are monitored, audited and certified by Fair Trade Labeling Organizations International (FLO), the organization that works to ensure the Fair Trade standards are upheld.

The Fair Trade Town movement began in the U.K. in 1999 and has spread throughout the world. It has just recently come to Canada with two official Canadian Fair Trade cities already established and many other cities becoming a Fair Trade city. We would be validating Windsor's dedication to supporting Fair Trade and improving the livelihoods of millions of producers in developing nations while uplifting our collective spirit. It would help to empower the city, creating a network of citizens dedicated to achieving specific Fair Trade oriented goals which encourage access to Fair Trade certified products and the promotion of education and awareness of Fair Trade as well as other ethical and sustainable initiatives within the community. Cities are encouraged to make the Fair

Trade City initiative unique to their particular communities. Fair Windsor hopes to do this in two ways. First, by helping to promote and make visible local goods that are ethically produced. Second, by attempting to resurrect a system of bartering goods and services amongst Windsorites by introducing the system to the digital age.

Creating a Fair Trade Windsor will set the city apart from the common Ontario city. The progressive nature of the project would encourage local churches, schools, city council, community groups and the local consumer to become more aware of their purchases and be inspired to partake in this revolution while promoting dignity, respect and hope so people can earn fair value for their work.

Fair Windsor meets regularly at the Ten Thousand Villages store on Sandwich Street. If you wish to volunteer with this innovative project, email: fairwindsor@gmail.com.

Your participation is key in revamping the city of Windsor into a unique community we can all be proud to call home.

For more information regarding the Fair Trade initiative and to view all other Canadian cities undertaking this initiative please visit Transfair Canada's website at: www.transfair.ca

Ayesha Drouillard is a breastfeeding advocate (lactivist) who promotes natural parenting, home birthing and community gardening. She is actively involved in building her community through various social justice related endeavours.

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TONIA ST.GERMAIN An Inspiration to Feminist Lawyers and Scholars


Steven Richter

From P4

accused persons. An additional 11 trials are in progress. Given this knowledge, one might be inclined to reconsider the effectiveness of the International Criminal Tribunals and of International law itself. However, there is much more to consider than mere numbers when evaluating the outcomes. In both Tribunals, there were precedent setting cases that will remain a basis for convicting war criminals who commit rape from now on. In the ICTY Foca case rape was prosecuted as sexual slavery and determined a crime against humanity. The precedent setting case in the Rwandan Tribunal was that of Jean-Paul Akayesu, during which it was established that rape be prosecuted as a crime of genocide. In 1998 the International Criminal Court, through the Rome Statute, outlawed rape as a crime against humanity and called for greater representation of women in all positions at all levels of the International Criminal Court. Great progress was made in gender mainstreaming in the 1990s in the International Criminal Court, the ICTY, ICTR and the media, as women fought for and obtained high ranking positions in the International Legal and Political Institutions and also gained prominent high profile positions in journalism especially in the male dominated war correspondence genre. Although there is still much to be done, feminist activists have demonstrated that there is a place for 'women's interests' under international law and that taking these interests into account can make a real difference to women's lives in times of conflict.


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IN THE AGE OF OBAMA**

Michael Burawoy



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Basement G141**


MICHAEL BURAWOY

Professor of Sociology
University of California, Berkeley

One of today's leading scholars, Michael Burawoy is a Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of *Manufacturing Consent: Changes in the Labor Process Under Monopoly Capitalism* and countless other publications in which he has cast light on the nature of postcolonialism, the organization of consent to capitalism, the peculiar forms of working class consciousness and work organization in state socialism, and on the dilemmas of transition from socialism to capitalism. Most recently he has turned to the study of his own workplace - the university - to consider the way sociology itself is produced and then disseminated to diverse publics.

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The Transnational Circulation
of Women's Human Rights**

Sally Engle Merry



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SALLY ENGLE MERRY

Professor of Anthropology
Director of the Program in Law and Society
New York University.

Sally Engle Merry is a Professor of Anthropology and Director of The Program in Law and Society at New York University. She is the author of over one hundred articles and reviews on law, anthropology, race and class, conflict resolution, gender violence, and human rights. Her publications include: *Colonizing Hawai'i: The Cultural Power of Law, Law and Empire in the Pacific: Hawai'i and Fiji, The Possibility of Popular Justice: A Case Study of American Community Mediation, Getting Justice and Getting Even: Legal Consciousness among Working Class Americans, Urban Danger: Life in a Neighborhood of Strangers, and Human Rights and Gender Violence: Translating International Law into Local Justice.*

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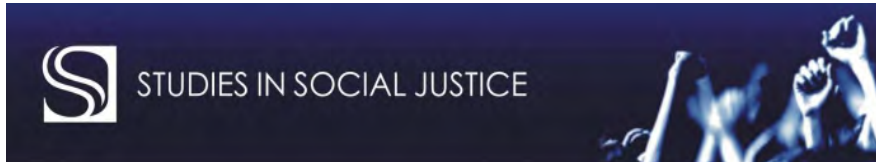
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