



MAPPING THE GLOBAL DIMENSIONS OF POLICY

March 10-11, 2023

L.R. Wilson Room 1003, McMaster University, Hamilton

Day 1 Friday, March 10, 2023

12:45 to 1:00 PM Welcome and Opening Remarks

Greg Flynn *McMaster University*
Chair of the Department of Political Science

1:00 to 2:20 PM *Opening Keynote*

Chair Alicja Krubnik, McMaster University

Nathan Andrews *McMaster University*
A Global Understanding of Extractive Bargains and the State-Society Nexus

2:20 to 2:30 PM *Break*

2:30 to 3:50 PM *Panel Session 1*

Ideas, Institutions and Interests: Whose Policy is it Anyway?

Discussant Greg Flynn, McMaster University
Chair Mackenzie Porter, McMaster University

Presenters **Annilea Purser** Brock University
Turning the 'Dark Page'? Assessing Canada's Policy Response to First Nations Organizations' Demands for Self-Determined Education
Hatice Esra Oney York University
Reimagining the Humanitarian Aid in the Age of Tech Dominance
Jordan Isnor Brock University
Teaching Coast Salish Traditional Knowledge in Ensuring Marine Conservation for Canada's West Coast
Sarah Arbaji McMaster University
Policy Learning and Provincial Poverty Reduction Strategies: Lessons from Ontario, Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador

3:50 to 4:00 PM *Break*

4:00 to 5:20 PM *Publishing Panel: Academic*

How to Publish in Academic Journals

Chair Noah Fry, McMaster University

Presenters **Marshall Beier** McMaster University
Editor-in-Chief for the Critical Studies on Security
Michelle Dion McMaster University
Co-Editor for the American Political Science Review
Peter Nyers McMaster University
Chief Editor of Citizenship Studies

5:20 to 5:30 PM *Break*

5:30 to 6:50 PM *Panel 2*

Navigating Empowerment and Resistance in Migration and Labour Debates

Discussant Peter Nyers, McMaster University
Chair Matthew D'Amico, McMaster University

Presenters **Adam Zvric** McMaster University
Essentiality During the Covid-19 Pandemic: National Fixes for International Economic Crises
Charlotte Mines McGill University
Sending Money Home: The Mixed Impact of Remittances on Development and How Policy Can Empower Remittance Receivers
Mehreen Shami McMaster University
Strategic Gratification: Conceptualizing Psychological Phenomena Through Tactful, Hegemonic Agendas in the 21st Century.
Natasha Sofia Martinez York University
Unpacking the Colonial-Migration Nexus and (Re)Imagining Resistance through 'Refugee Camps on the Move'

7:00-9:00 PM *Reception @ Phoenix*

Day 2 Saturday March 11, 2023

10:30-11:50 AM *Panel 3*

The Struggle for Influence in the Contemporary International Order

Discussant Tony Porter, McMaster University
Chair Rebecca Denyer, McMaster University

Presenters **Ayla Bahram** McMaster University
The Strategic Role of the US with Relations to Iraq: International Relations Analysis

Matthew D'Amico McMaster University
Canada's Risky Business with China: The Security Implications of Economic Interdependence with Hostile Powers

Rafael Morales Guzman University of Saskatchewan
Cryptocurrencies: An Analysis of Policy Change and Agenda Setting in the Financial System

Tatiana Velickovic University of Toronto
Grounding Geopolitics Along China's Belt and Road Initiative: A Case Study of Zijin Copper Mine in Serbia

11:50 to 12:00 PM *Break*

12:00 to 1:20 PM *Second Keynote*

Chair Mackenzie Porter, McMaster University

Emily Merson McMaster University
Out of This World: Speculative Fiction, Decolonial Feminist Reading and Climate Justice

1:20 to 1:30 PM *Break*

1:30 to 2:50 PM *Panel 4:*

Integrating New Ideas and Approaches into Environmental Governance

Discussant Robert O'Brien, McMaster University
Chair Alicja Krubnik, McMaster University

Presenters **Indra Prasad Dahal** University of Saskatchewan
Cleaning up After Ourselves: Solid Waste Management and Community Engagement in Katmandu, Nepal and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
Jenna Phillips University of Waterloo
Women in Waterloo: An Ecofeminist Approach to Sustainable Development Challenges
Leah De Mey McMaster University
Global Climate Governance: Arguments for Policy Paradigm Change
Mark Pompili Wilfrid Laurier University
Proactive Protections for Environmental Refugees

2:50 to 3:00 PM *Break*

3:00 to 4:00 PM *Publishing Panel: Popular Press*

How to Publish in Popular Press
Chair Noah Fry, McMaster University

Presenters **Wade Hemsworth** McMaster University
Public Relations Manager,

4:00 to 4:10 PM *Day 2 Closing*

Abstracts

Keynotes:

Nathan Andrews, McMaster University

A Global Understanding of Extractive Bargains and the State-Society Nexus

Extractive activities have come under increasing scrutiny especially within the context of factors such as climate change, environmental degradation, rampant socio-economic inequalities, and an increased recognition of Indigenous rights. This is in addition to research that questions the optimism surrounding resource abundance as an economic advantage or strategy. In response, states have sought to justify ongoing extractive activities by appealing to their ability to support other goals such as climate change mitigation, social equity and economic development. This process of justifying a state's preferred extractive policies in exchange for delivering on wider societal goals is what we define as "extractive bargains." This presentation examines the novel approach to exploring such bargains within the spectrum of both analytical and normative ideal types, drawing upon some case studies from the Global South and Global North captured in our forthcoming book with Palgrave.

Emily Merson, McMaster University

Out of This World: Speculative Fiction, Decolonial Feminist Reading and Climate Justice

How do we know what we know about global warming? What kinds of knowledge form the basis for mobilizing collective action through international climate action state mitigation efforts and transnational climate justice movements? I argue that the reparative work of climate justice requires analysis of how epistemological hierarchies inform which kinds of knowledge are considered to be the authoritative bases for collective action in the governance of global warming. The International Relations aesthetics and popular cultures literature of the past twenty years has established that the systematic marginalization of the study of culture in global politics is not an oversight but rather is emblematic of how disciplinary Realist and Liberal theories have framed state-centric positivist knowledge production as the authoritative source of knowledge claims. Here, I focus on how authors and readers reclaim epistemological authority and political empowerment through writing and reading speculative fiction about global warming. International Relations scholarship on Cold War era science fiction has demonstrated the authority of intertexts of colonialization of other planets in science fiction and world politics as a method of understanding the global hegemony of the United States in the making of the liberal world order. In my decolonial feminist reading of Octavia E. Butler and Amitav Ghosh's work, I investigate how their point of departure in decolonial speculative fiction in the era of global warming is *out of this world* as they name systemic injustices of patriarchal colonial impunity through world-building that foregrounds characters who create relationships of accountability and care on planet Earth.

Panel 1:

Annilea Purser, Brock University

Turning the 'Dark Page'? Assessing Canada's Policy Response to First Nations Organizations' Demands for Self-Determined Education

Indigenous self-determined education is an entrenched right under the Canadian Constitution Act (1982), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and numbered treaties one through seven. Yet, federal Indigenous education policies continue to lack substantive implementation, with most calls for action coming from First Nations-led organizations. After decades of failed policies, the government's most recent attempt to respond to said calls is through the informal 2019 First Nations Education Transformation Policy, which promises to turn the "dark page" of Canada's colonial schooling history. Within this policy, it's explicitly stated that the government will provide solutions that respond to the demands of First Nations organizations but the validity of this claim remains open for judgment. Thus, this research uses a critical discourse analysis of both First Nations organizations' publications and government documents to explore the power relations central to achieving self-determined education, centering how First Nations organizations' demands for self-determined education are responded to by

the government through the First Nations Education Transformation Policy. Ultimately, it is argued that while recent policy attempts from the federal government have approached First Nations organizations' self-determined education requests with increasing seriousness, the positionality of the state has resulted in limitations that are akin to the greater confines of settler-colonialism and faults of the politics of recognition. This is established by reviewing the role of First Nations organizations in advocating for self-determined education throughout history, then unraveling the consistencies and discrepancies between First Nations organizations' demands and the federal government's response, and finally situating these findings in the context of settler-colonialism and the politics of recognition. This analysis will offer a window into the government's limitations in granting self-determination, not only in the context of education, but in the larger scheme of Indigenous self-determination as a whole.

Hatice Esra Oney, York University

Reimagining the Humanitarian Aid in the Age of Tech Dominance

This paper aims to address current gaps and challenges faced by the humanitarian aid structure as it seeks to apply more data and tech-friendly approaches in humanitarian crisis management. The growing hype around tech-determinist aid structure became particularly evident when the World Food Programme launched a strategic partnership with the US-backed tech monolith Palantir technologies in 2019 to better serve the aid recipients at a greater speed and efficiency. Much has been written by academics, legal scholars, and advocates for responsible and just data, given their lack of trust in the partnership due to problems of data privacy and protection rights. Yet to date there is still an absence of literature addressing how both the use of humanitarian technologies and data extracted from communities in need of assistance might pose socio-political risks which can turn into future harms that aid recipients are locked in, reaching far beyond the bounds of ethical and legal frameworks. This paper calls for attention to the way an overreliance on the technologies and data infrastructures, which are primarily developed in and deployed by the West, might come to the detriment of locally envisioned futurities of food security and food sovereignty. I take this line of argumentation then to ask: what it takes to co-create an infrastructure of responsibility through meaningful inclusion and participation of intended users of humanitarian food assistance in the definition, design, and implementation of humanitarian technologies to realize the right to food as a human right and right to adequate food beyond the aggregate exercise of feeding the global poor.

Jordan Isnor, Brock University

Teaching Coast Salish Traditional Knowledge in Ensuring Marine Conservation for Canada's West Coast

The modern world is changing rapidly; while the population increases, so do human actions using fossil fuels such as oil, charcoal, and gas. As a result, fossil fuels release significant carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, concentrating on and heating the planet. The result of climate change has devastating effects on the earth, including the oceans, due to the rising temperatures, causing migration of species to higher latitudes and altitudes where the water is cooler. Therefore, society must find solutions to combat climate change to ensure marine conservation.

Indigenous ways of knowing are one solution to preserve marine life, providing insights into implementing efficient uses of land and spiritual connections with nature. Furthermore, giving crucial areas for fishing and collecting distinct species and seasonal rounds for when and where species are harvested. In particular, Canada's west coast in British Columbia provides habitat for endangered species such as sea otters, eulachon, abalone, and housing salmon, a significant food and economic resource for many communities along the coast. This impact can significantly affect human societies along the coast of British Columbia that depend on those species, such as fish, for food and trade.

In my proposed presentation, I will discuss how teaching Coast Salish Traditional Knowledge is crucial for ensuring marine conservation on British Columbia's west coast, which is being impacted by climate change. I will address the implications of using Indigenous Knowledge behind the various approaches to teaching these new ways of knowing to colonial settlers. I will also discuss strategies to embed Traditional Knowledge into Canadian society that challenge settlers to move beyond their colonial ways of knowing. Finally, I will address the significance of Traditional Knowledge in managing marine conservation due to their close observation of generations of the natural lands.

Sarah Arbaji, McMaster University

Policy Learning and Provincial Poverty Reduction Strategies: Lessons from Ontario, Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador

The Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS) developed in Canada over the last twenty years have not been the subject of much scholarship. This is especially so in the context of social learning in relation to policy development. This paper is an attempt to provide an overview of the development of the PRS across provinces in Canada and how certain theoretical understandings of social learning can provide insights into their development. The first section of this paper will trace the international origins of the PRS. The second section will provide an overview of provincial jurisdictions' experience in developing a PRS, paying particular attention to the vanguard in Canada, Quebec. The next section will apply Beland's (2006) social learning concept of high- and low-profile learning to the first three provinces to adopt a PRS, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Ontario. The following section will map out the changing ideas of poverty and governance that led to the development of PRS. Finally, a discussion of these changing ideas with some insights from Kollman (2011), in addition to high- and low-profile learning, will be provided to better understand the cross-jurisdictional learning of the PRS.

Panel 2:

Adam Zvrlic, McMaster University

Essentiality During the COVID-19 Pandemic: National Fixes for International Economic Crises

The Covid-19 pandemic presented an unprecedented public health crisis for governments around the world. However, the public health measures required to mitigate the threat to human health, namely the closure of non-essential businesses, meant creating a simultaneous threat to national economies and the global economic system. In response, the use of the designation and discourse of essentiality arguably expanded greatly during the Covid-19 pandemic to include work (and workers) not previously conceived of as essential. This paper will focus on the discursive and material role of essentiality in the Canadian political economy, in policy areas including international finance, trade, and social policy, as a means to temporarily 'fix' the economic threats faced. The paper will achieve this through situating the discourse of essentiality within a broader understanding of the capitalist social system of production. Through conceptualizing the neoliberal financial mode of accumulation that has dominated the global and Canadian political economy, this paper identifies the unique crises created by pandemic health measures and maps the various ways in which essentiality was employed in political discourse and government policies in order to address the economic threats faced by the State and the global market. This paper concludes by outlining two seemingly contradictory potentials for essentiality going forward – one as a means of control by the State and capital, the other a source of power for labour.

Charlotte Mines, McGill University

Sending Money Home: The Mixed Impact of Remittances on Development and How Policy Can Empower Remittance Receivers

"Sending Money Home" presents an argument for remittances as an underutilized form of development capital. It explores how remittances can, under the right conditions, consistently produce positive development results economically, socially, and communally, especially when the remittance-development relationship is cultivated by international policy. Drawing from economics and international development literature, the paper asserts that while there are economic risks associated with high remittance-receiving countries, on both a micro and macro level, we find remittances, when harnessed correctly, can provide stability through economic and political upheaval, a lifeline out of poverty, an investment in health and education, especially for children, and when used collectively, a way for migrants to serve their local communities. This paper examines the case of Mexico as an example of a top remittance receiver that has successfully harnessed remittances in development projects. After reviewing existing literature on remittances and conflicting findings concerning development outcomes, we analyze source data at the household, state, and national levels with positive results, mediated by the

economic environment's prosperity, state institutions' capacity, and political agenda of leadership. The positive potential for remittances in development has direct and urgent policy implications in a global financial environment where most foreign money comes with strings attached. Using Mexico as a case study, we see instances where research findings on remittances have positively influenced policymakers' decisions. With ever-increasing globalization and labor migration, there is more to come in the near future. Remittances provide households, communities, and nation-states with a great deal of agency over the investment of financial capital in development, allowing for more efficient operationalization and implementation of development initiatives that are contextually appropriate to their local environments.

Mehreen Shami, McMaster University

Strategic Gratification: Conceptualizing Psychological Phenomena Through Tactful, Hegemonic Agendas in the 21st Century

The smallest unit upon which mainstream international relations is reliant upon is the individual civilian. These civilians hold varying amounts of power and influence - but each one shares the quality of being human. As I will argue, the individual mindset is greatly susceptible to influence, but such influence must be analyzed beyond normative psychology and hard science. Too often, the influence upon societal beings favours hegemonic, capitalist interests and agendas. By strategically concerning the masses with a tainted version of freedom and will, the focus shifts away from the owners of production and, instead, to the impact of the produced commodities themselves.

The masses are strategically deluded under the capitalist influence, under a phenomenon coined psychologically as instant gratification. Throughout this paper, I will argue that the discourse surrounding this phenomenon should be attributed to uneven patterns in international development. Echoing Karl Marx's commodity fetishization, I will employ a poststructuralist lens to critique the strategic shortcomings of mainstream literature and discourse. The attraction of the proletariat to their very production is set up so that the actual owners of production can continue their exploitation without question, arguably a modern example of Foucault's panopticon. Undermining these attractions to mere, unit-level psychological phenomena instead of a matter of classism and international relations empowers the owning class. After a thorough understanding of capitalist control in hegemonic societies, from impacts on the individual psyche to the construing of common sense and societal norms, I beg the question: how, if possible, can the veil of consumer capitalism over the masses be dismantled? Through an analysis of instant gratification theories and international relations, a need for interconnectivity and collaboration between the two subjects shall be pronounced.

Natasha Sofia Martinez, York University

Unpacking the Colonial-Migration Nexus and (Re)Imagining Resistance through 'Refugee Camps on the Move'

In October 2018, thousands of transnational migrants demanded entry into Mexico after marching from the Northern part of Central America to the Mexico-Guatemala land border, with the goal of transiting through Mexico to reach the U.S. border and claim asylum. While the phenomenon of transnational "collective migration" finds its origins in the late 20th century (Torre & Mariscal, 2020; Marchand, 2021), the grass-roots configuration of the Migrant Caravan has led scholars to classify it as a "transnational social movement" or "refugee camp on the move" (Rizzo Lara, 2021; Ramos, 2018, as cited in Varela Huerta, 2020). These have occurred in the backdrop of regional commitments, like the 2017 Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) which was established to encourage "regional cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination for a greater responsibility sharing in matters of prevention, protection and durable solutions" ("MIRPS", 2022). Thus, my paper argues that border externalization and migration management policies within transit countries in the global South are contemporary manifestations of colonialism (Menjívar, 2014; Mayblin & Turner, 2021; Bauder, 2022). This paper will respond to the following research question(s): (1) how can we understand the global-local impacts of the global management regime on transit countries in the global South? and (2) in what way do Migrant Caravans (re)shape our understanding of resistance? It contributes to this year's theme because it focuses on the global-local impacts of the global migration management regime on transit countries in the global South, and the experiences of those within Migrant

Caravans, which can bring greater awareness to improve regional and international policies by balancing agency and collective security.

Panel 3:

Ayla Bahram, McMaster University

The Strategic Role of the US with Relations to Iraq: "International Relations Analysis"

The Strategic Role of the US with Relations to Iraq: A 'Comparative Ethnic' and 'International Relations Analysis' will focus on three main arguments: first, the initial push of American power through the United Nations' five permanent members of the Security Council, directly this argument will examine the first encounter of US foreign sovereignty in Iraq. In 2002, the United States motioned to the United Nations security council that Iraq harboured Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Regardless of the attempts by George W. Bush, the UN Security Council ultimately discouraged the idea of the invasion and assured George W. The strategic role of US power in world politics proved that using their security council privileges to encourage and begin the war in Iraq regardless of the evidence, allowed the US to veto the UN's decision and unleash the terrors that the world knows today as the Iraq War of 2003. The second argument will discuss the failed democratization of Iraq post-2003 war. The American government believed that regardless of the situation in Iraq, a new constitution and judiciary should be implemented to promote 'American values' within Iraq. However, in my primary research paper, I will present that the American government's implementation of the new constitution and judiciary failed the Iraqi people and, most notably, the ethnic minorities within Iraq. Thirdly I will examine the impacts of American sovereignty on minority groups within Iraq. Prior to the Iraq War (2003) Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi Judicial system was incredibly corrupted to favour the elites within the Iraqi government and to protect Saddam Hussein and his people.

The methodology will be a qualitative research paper. The paper will heavily rely on content analysis from previously written scholarly articles. Due to the sheer nature of the Iraq invasion, I will limit my secondary research findings to scholarly peer-reviewed articles. Therefore, to ensure that the evidence of the arguments and evidence are the truth and I will only use peer-reviewed academic sources throughout my paper. Due to the time restriction, using primary sources will limit the nature of the research scope (Interviews or Human participants). However, the use of primary sources is necessary, therefore, I will have to rely on documentaries that outline the experiences of Iraqis post-2003 and the impacts of the US until the present day. My research paper will contribute to the overall literature on post-2003 Iraq analysis and provide a unique addition when analyzing minority rights, specifically the Iraqi Turkmen and the role of Global Dimensions of 'MENA Law' and International Development Policies' that impact current day Iraq.

Matthew D'Amico, McMaster University

Canada's Risky Business with China: The Security Implications of Economic Interdependence with Hostile Powers

Economic interdependence with China was previously regarded as a major geopolitical accomplishment for the global market liberalization project; however, its side effects have raised dire concerns. While Chinese market reforms have lifted millions out of poverty, they also strengthened the state's international apparatus to influence foreign entities. This research addresses the security implications of Canadian economic interdependence with China. Specifically highlighting the financial illiteracy of the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) and university endowment funds to link Canadian tax-payer dollars to hostile foreign governments.

In practice, such economic interdependence gives the Chinese Government a financial weapon to hold against the Canadian Government in future diplomatic relations and Canadian financial institutions in international investment strategy. As enormous pension and endowment funds possess outsized domestic political significance, the evident strategic imbalances prove to be an immense financial and strategic liability. The research method will review specific foreign investments and the potential leverage the Chinese Government would have over Canadian institutions. Trade journals and financial reports will be paired with an argument that economic interdependence with hostile powers has had contradictory results for Western Governments.

Recent scholarship has noticed the vital Chinese-American economic relationship as an arena for great power struggle, but less attention has been directed towards the equally vital Chinese relationship with adjacent powers like Canada. In Canada, suspicion of China as an actor is warranted, with a recent but rich history of FDI in firms linked to national security being sites for corporate and clandestine espionage. It is evident that economic openness with a hostile hegemonic state like China shifts political and financial interests away from the rightful control of domestic Canadian institutions. The current risk of Chinese state influence must be mitigated to navigate any forthcoming geopolitical power struggles successfully.

Rafael Morales Guzman, University of Saskatchewan

Cryptocurrencies: An Analysis of Policy Change and Agenda Setting in the Financial System

Discussions about "cryptocurrencies," such as bitcoin, are now at the forefront of the regulatory agenda across several jurisdictions. Over the last decade, policymakers have generally adopted a four-stage approach: (1) a period of discovery with limited attention on cryptocurrencies, followed by (2) increased attention, mostly from actors like central banks and private institutions; (3) early regulatory approaches based mostly on identifying risks to prevent misbehaviors; and (4) a recent shift to actively seeking the potential of the underlying technology, including the idea of issuing a digital version of the national currency.

How did this four-phase process happen? When and why did governments begin to prioritize cryptocurrencies? In other words, how did governments shift their perception of digital currencies and place them as a regulatory agenda priority? This study answers these questions by building on an in-depth analysis of the debates and government discourses surrounding cryptocurrencies, following a modified version of the multiple streams of the policy framework to consider a technological stream (proposed by Goyal, Howlett, & Taeihagh, 2021). This paper aims to understand how governments engage with innovation-specific regulatory responses and what drives the choice of regulatory strategy regarding emerging technologies.

The data collection will come from a systematic review of press releases, speeches, statements, policy briefings, institutional reports, and newspaper reports from international regulatory standard-setting bodies and relevant central banks. The analytical method consists of conceptual-thematic analysis, including content analysis to operationalize the stated phases, mapping them to a correlative stream under the analytical framework.

This research contributes to the existing literature by advancing our understanding of government responses to technological innovation in fast-growing sectors by considering a broader set of relevant actors to examine interactions within the multiple streams of policymaking.

Tatiana Velickovic, University of Toronto

Grounding Geopolitics Along China's Belt and Road Initiative: A Case Study of Zijin Copper Mine in Serbia

As China's economic influence abroad grows through its signature Belt and Road Initiative, so too has host states' ability to leverage it to their own benefit. This is especially true for the Western Balkan region in general and for Serbia in particular, who is a key investment hub for various projects under the BRI umbrella but is also an EU candidate country. In 2018, a Chinese-owned mining company took over the previously state-owned Bor Copper Mine in Bor, Serbia. This paper considers local perspectives and narratives of this investment within the wider geopolitical context of Serbia's and China's foreign policy priorities. I argue that the recognition of China's normative power in Serbia to be in flux and in constant negotiation; host state agency is just as important, but often overlooked, in analyzing the effects of China's economic expansion. Using source-language media as data, the paper explores the disjuncture between Serbia and China's strategic foreign policy narratives and grounded experience through the Bor copper mine as an example of contingent normative power. I analyze the effects of changing labour and environmental policies at the local level and in the larger geopolitical arena. My research explores new policy avenues by not only geographically grounding the often-abstracted BRI discourse but also by emphasizing host state agency in producing new policy norms along the BRI, especially in a centralized state such as Serbia.

Panel 4:

Indra Prasad Dahal, University of Saskatchewan

"Cleaning Up After Ourselves": Solid Waste Management and Community Engagement in Katmandu, Nepal, and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Human beings create a great of waste. Managing and removing solid waste becomes increasingly critical as the world urbanizes rapidly. The development world is represented in this paper by Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Cities started creating community-wide systems before 1900. These systems have become increasingly sophisticated, with careful monitoring, solid environmental and pollution protections, and such efficient processes that most residents give little attention to the accumulation and disposal of solid waste. In the developing world, represented here by Katmandu, Nepal, The rapid growth of urban populations has overwhelmed historical waste management systems. The accumulation of waste and the lack of proper disposal has resulted in dangerous, if not fatal, problems associated with accumulated waste.

The primary challenges facing cities in the development work are simple. Typically, they lack the financial resources, political authority, respect for the rule of law, and administration needed to cope with growing volumes of solid waste. They can observe systems in the developing world and, if they had the resources and governmental power, could bring these waste management approaches into communities like Katmandu. Unfortunately, they do not have the funds, the political power or the level of community engagement needed to produce comparable outcomes.

The cities in the developing world face the formidable challenge of producing the highly desirable developed world outcomes with the restricted and inadequate resources of the developing world. This situation calls for creative and transformative approaches to solid waste management. A city like Katmandu, desiring the waste outcomes experienced in communities like Saskatoon, must develop original methods matching available resources and local authority. To do this, they must build community engagement from the group up, explaining the importance of solid waste management to the residents and securing their voluntary and neighbor participation in waste management approaches that, in nations like Canada, are seen as the responsibilities of local governments.

Achieving developed world results with developing world resources will not be easy, but the challenge is accurate, and the need immediate. Through a comprehensive engagement process, residents must understand that their health and well-being are tied directly to the success of solid waste management systems. By mobilizing the citizenry, primarily by drawing on examples of successful engagement from cities like Saskatoon, governments in the developing world can attract a collective and community-monitored approach to solid waste management. The transition will not be easy, but governments will secure significant savings in health care and social costs while empowering residents to assume greater responsibility for managing their communities.

Jenna Phillips, University of Waterloo

Women in Waterloo: An Ecofeminist Approach to Sustainable Development Challenges

The greatest development challenge of the 21st century is balancing urban growth with environmental wellbeing. The dominant approach in Waterloo Region, Canada, is to use a neoliberal sustainable development agenda, which reinforces "gender-blind" modes of governance that oppress women. That is, by assuming that men and women experience their communities equally, political solutions to issues of income, housing, and mobility reinforce these challenges for women. If the Region continues to use this gender-blind, market-oriented political lens, women in the Region will suffer severely.

Combining a literature review with a multimedia analysis, I demonstrate that Waterloo Region's sustainable development strategy, TransformWR, cannot achieve its vision of an Equitable, Prosperous, Resilient Low Carbon Community by 2050. It makes gender inequity invisible. Using an "ecofeminist" lens of analysis, I trace local gender barriers of income, housing, and mobility back to decades of patriarchal political reform that shaped Waterloo's modern sustainable development agenda. I link traditional feminist theory to real-world examples in the Region, illustrating how TransformWR's recommendations for sustainability will worsen gender inequity despite its strategies to improve local income, housing, and transportation issues. I then propose recommendations for reimagining TransformWR through an ecofeminist lens, supporting equity for all in Waterloo.

This research represents the first known theoretical linkage of ecofeminism and neoliberalism to a Canadian case study. It contributes to the emerging body of literature about building ecofeminist cities. Practically, it offers tangible steps that local government can take to achieve gender equity and sustainability simultaneously.

Leah De Mey, McMaster University

Global Climate Governance: Arguments for Policy Paradigm Change

Despite widespread dissemination of scientific knowledge about climate change and its causes, there is a dearth of tangible action across national and global scales. Indeed, the worsening of this crisis indicates structural blockages to effective environmental policy. This paper seeks to expose and critique the inadequacy of contemporary global climate governance, and points towards more ethically just and truly sustainable models of climate governance. The thesis proposes that the failure of global climate governance can be attributed to its intrinsic neoliberal, growth-oriented ideology. Such a framework forecloses political capacity and willingness to tackle the causes of the climate crisis. Adopting a macro-theoretical approach facilitates an analysis of the structural flaws plaguing the current climate policy paradigm. The empirical dimension considers the global governance support for the aquaculture sector in Bangladesh, where economic and climate change policy framings are paradoxically interlinked, to the detriment of the local ecology and inhabitants. While the first section provides a contextualisation of critiques leveraged at global climate governance attempts, the following parts argue the case of a deficient policy framework. Discourse analysis is utilised to consider the narrative construction adopted by the World Bank and the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The complementary analytic lenses of discourse and temporality expose an embedded neoliberalism. The final section theorises the unsustainable commodification fetish at the heart of capitalism. This is brought into conversation with calls for the radical transformation of the the framework that informs policy generation from social-economic to socio-ecological. The paper concludes by promoting the inclusion of emancipatory epistemologies, acknowledging that insights of those directly affected by climate change will not necessarily produce direct solutions to crisis, but do subvert and expose the faults in the neoliberal ideology of global climate governance.

Mark Pompilii, Wilfrid Laurier University

Proactive Protections for Environmental Refugees

The title of my paper is "Proactive Protections for Environmental Refugees." This paper considers policy responses to the emergence of environmental refugees and whether Canada should adopt environmental refugees as a class eligible for refugee status/protection. This paper understands environmental refugees – also referred to as climate migrants – as a group of people forced to relocated due environmental catastrophes in both the short-term such as typhoons, hurricanes, and wildfires and long-term disasters such as rising temperature, deforestation, and rising sea-levels. This memo recommends the Canadian government develop a proactive response to include environmental refugees as a class eligible for refugee status/protections. The preferred policy option to do so sees environmental refugees being incorporated into Canada's private sponsorship of refugee's program. This option is beneficial as it (1) provides humanitarian assistance to environmental refugees, and (2) allows Canada to emerge as a leader on the international stage. Moreover, this option establishes a collaborative commitment towards environmental refugees as it requires efforts by both government officials and community groups. This paper draws on this recommendation by using the comparative method to assess how other jurisdictions (Sweden, Finland, & Fiji) have approached the subject of environmental refugees. Through this method of analysis, comparative policy responses can be shown to be either insufficient or unable to translate to the Canadian state. This paper contributes to this years theme as migration and the environment have always been parts of public policy, however the emerging concept of climate migration brings the two together. Moreover, Canada's approach towards migration is often highly regarded on the international stage and by developing proactive responses towards environmental refugees, this paper show how Canada can emerge as a leader as climate based migration gains more traction on the international stage.