Connections, Capitalism, Control

Call for Session Organizers

Society for Socialist Studies (SSS)
Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences
Concordia University, Montréal
31 May - 03 June 2010

The theme of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Montréal in 2010 is “Connected Understandings,” offering an opportunity for the Society for Socialist Studies to consider what “connected understandings” might mean for the left today.

We are pulled into a celebration of digital media and its implications for education, community involvement, and social change. Issues of concern to those on the left remain: issues of access, ownership, and control.

We face dis-connections, as a combination of academics and activists, meeting at a university as part of a congress of scholarly associations.

What are the implications of being part of the largest gathering of anglophone academics, meeting in the largest city in a francophone province? We are meeting twenty years on and forty kilometres away from the confrontation between the Canadian military and the Mohawks of Kanesatake. Connections and understandings seem particularly tested in these contexts.

What do these possibilities of connections and disconnections mean in terms of projects on the left, within Canada and around the world? The Society for Socialist Studies invites proposals for sessions addressing any aspect of the theme of “Connections, Capitalism, Control.”

Proposals may also be submitted for any and all topics in which you have an interest and are willing to chair. Please remember that all SSS sessions must be open to paper proposals from SSS members and others. Sessions cannot be closed or already full at the time the Programme Committee receives the session proposal. If you wish to organise an invited roundtable, please contact the Programme Committee chair directly.

A note on joint sessions: you are encouraged to coordinate sessions that could be run jointly with other organizations. Please make sure that you submit the full information to both (them and us) and meet the deadline of each. Also, please make it clear to all parties which organization will be in charge of scheduling your joint session.

If you are interested in organizing a session at the 2010 SSS Annual Meetings, please submit your proposal through the Open Conference System <http://ocs.sfu.ca/fedcan/index.php/sss2010/>. We will begin posting sessions available in a call for papers on 15 December 2009. Early submissions will be much appreciated.

Please contact Chad D. Thompson, Programme Committee Chair <chad.d.thompson@gmail.com> if you have any questions.
Twenty Years After Oka
Reflections, Responses, Analyses

Call for Submissions

In the summer of 1990, a long-standing dispute between the Mohawk of Kanehsata:ke and the town of Oka, Québec came to a head over the town’s decision to expand a golf course further into ‘The Pines’. That decision resulted in the erection of barricades by the people of Kanehsata:ke, an assault on the barricades by provincial police, and a 78-day stand-off between the Canadian military and the people of Kanehsata:ke and their supporters. This confrontation was broadcast around the world, generating debate about the relationship between First Nations and the Canadian state, about issues of colonialism and gender, and about national identity in Canadian, Quebecois, and First Nations contexts.

Two decades later, what is the meaning of Oka? Socialist Studies: The Journal for the Study of Socialist Studies invites reflections on, and scholarly considerations of, the impact and legacy of these events, for inclusion in a special issue of the journal to be released on 31 May, 2010. Further information about the journal is available at the website: www.socialiststudies.com

Submissions are welcome in a variety of forms. Those interested in contributing should contact Chad D. Thompson, Co-Editor, at chad.d.thompson@gmail.com. The deadline for scholarly articles (to be sent out for peer review) is 31 January 2010; the deadline for other contributions is 15 March 2010.
Call for Papers

Rosa Luxemburg’s Political Economy:
Contributions to Contemporary Political Theory and Practice

A Special Issue of

Socialist Studies: the Journal of the Society for Socialist Studies

Fall 2010

Since her assassination, Rosa Luxemburg has been treated as an icon while her political and theoretical work is largely forgotten, neglected, or rejected. Recently, though, David Harvey used her ideas on capitalist expansion to explain the new imperialism. Other elements of her work are promising for socialist studies and the left, today. Her analysis of mass strikes in Russia in 1905, for example, may cast new light on workers’ struggles in China. Luxemburg’s critical discussion of nations’ right to self-determination inform, or ought to inform, contemporary Latin American struggles against imperialist domination. Her writings on mass strikes, parties and trade unions, like her better-known writings on ‘social reform or revolution’, offer insights into the role of (weakly) organized labour in political change. Although Luxemburg didn’t engage much with women’s issues directly, her work and its reception nonetheless have an important gender dimension. In particular, feminist women scholars have been quicker to recognize Luxemburg’s contributions to socialist political economy than their male colleagues.

This call invites articles on Luxemburg’s political economy, assessing her contributions to socialist debates in light of current political challenges. Papers may consider the implications of her work for contemporary anti-imperialist struggle, the dynamics of worker organization and progressive political change, and feminist scholarship within the left, or any other topic concerning Luxemburg’s theoretical and political contributions to socialist political economy and political struggle. In keeping with the Socialist Studies mandate, perspectives from all disciplines are welcome.

Deadline: May 30, 2010. Please see: www.socialiststudies.com for information about submissions (word count, format, etc.).

Contact:

Ingo Schmidt: ingos@athabascau.ca, special issue coordinator