

Materialisms Unbound: flows, temporalities, formations

Workshop Program

May 7-8, 2015

Verney Room (S674), 6th Floor, South Ross Building, Keele Campus
York University

May 7th, 2015

9.30AM – 11.00AM Perspectives in Marxist Materialisms

Chair: **Raju Das**, Department of Geography, York University

- Retrieving the Dialectic in Marx's Materialism. **Salmaan Khan**, Department of Political Science, York University.
- Materialism, Needs, and Dialectics: For a Dialectical View of Nature-Society Relations. **Mizhar Mikati**, Department of Geography, York University.
- An Aleatory Materialist Theory of Political Struggle: The Case of 300 Migrant Hunger Strikers in Greece. **Özgün Topak**, Department of Political Science, York University.

11.00AM – 11.15AM Coffee Break

11.15AM – 12.45PM Keynote Presentation

Cyber-Proletariat: Global Labour in the Digital Vortex

Nick Dyer-Witford, Faculty of Information and Media Studies, University of Western Ontario

12.45PM – 1.30PM Lunch Break

1.30PM – 3.00PM Digital Materialisms I

Chair: **Florence Pasche Guignard**, Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto.

- The Internets is SRS BZNS: Politicization, Monitization and Control in the Cybersphere. **William S. Jaques**, Department of Political Science, York University.
- A Hacking Aesthetic: (New) Materialism as Resistance Through Neoliberal Spaces. **Adam Kingsmith**, Political Science and Institute of Science and Technology Studies, York University.
- Privacy Stories (Ret)old: Corporate Programming, Neoliberalism and Hacktivism at Stanford University. **Thomas N. Cooke**, Department of Communication and Culture, York University.

- On the Rematerialization of Digital Objects. **Lance Stewart**, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto

3.00PM – 3.15PM Coffee Break

3.15PM – 4.45PM Digital Materialisms Panel II

Chair: **Mark Salter**, School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa.

- Prosumers and Private Public Spheres: The Socio-Digital Structural Limitations of Internet.org. **Julian von Barga**n, Department of Political Science, York University.
- Economy of Scale? An Examination of the Entrepreneurial State and the Development of Leading Chinese ICT and Internet companies. **Lianrui Jia**, Communication and Culture, York University.
- Assemblages of Electronic disturbance and Global Poetic/Positioning System at the US- Mexico Border. **Daniela Johannes**, The University of Arizona.

May 8th, 2015

10.30AM – 12.00PM Materialities of the Body

Chair: **Salmaan Khan**, Department of Political Science, York University.

- No Longer Caught Between Two Worlds: Towards a Decolonized Feminist Research in the Middle East. **Sabiha Allouche**, Centre for Gender Studies, SOAS, University of London.
- In/Visible Maternal Labour: Mediating the Material Aspects of Natural Parenting in Francophone Contexts. **Florence Pasche Guignard**, Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto.
- Multiple Materialities and Mobilities of Migrant Labour: Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker and International Mobility Programs. **Tyler Chartrand**, Department of Political Science, York University.
- Self(ie)-Surveillance: Junk-Control, Recording Instruments and the Body. **Kurosh Amoui-Kalareh**, Department of Social and Political Thought, York University.

12.00PM – 1.00PM Lunch Break

1.00PM – 2.30PM Politics and Materiality of Things

Chair: **Thomas N. Cooke**, Department of Communication and Culture, York University.

- The sovereign and the ANT. **Mark B. Salter**, School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa.

- Articulating an ethics in response to the materiality of climate change in the Arctic. **Mark Vardy**, Department of Sociology, Queen's University
- "Matters" of Importance: Contamination in the Aftermath of the Fukushima Disaster. **Maxime Polleri**, Department of Anthropology, York University.

2.30PM – 2.45PM Coffee Break

2.45PM – 3.45PM Producing Materialities

Chair: **Daniela Johannes**, The University of Arizona.

- Eco-Material Intrusions: Jeff Vandermeer's 'Southern Reach Trilogy' and Thinking Again About Other-Than-Humans in an Ecological Age. **Justin Derry**, Department of Humanities, York University.
- Transmetropolitan: Reading Embodied Materiality in the Streets of the City. **David Milman**, York University.

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York University, Toronto, Canada

Workshop Theme

The humanities and social sciences have recently seen a growing emphasis on materiality in relation to bodies, discourses, economies, affects, nature, culture, technologies, ideologies, assemblages, networks, entanglements, social formations, and latent potentialities. How, in this attention to the material, is our understanding of the social being recast for example in relation to transformations in capitalism, bearing on such topics as im/material labour and precarity? How might conceptions of the relationship between temporality and materialism be changing, especially in regard to the ephemeral, the enduring, to history and to moments and events? How can materialist methodologies be utilized to explore various empirical sites? Emerging out of recent debates on and attention to materialism, as well as variants of realism, this workshop aims to put different materialisms (e.g., “new materialism,” historical materialism) in dialogue and explore the potential and limits of various approaches in diverse research domains, including but not limited to literature, political economy, the arts, security studies, environment, design, science and technology studies, development studies, and political geography.

Workshop Organizing Committee: Robert Latham (Political Science, York), Özgün Topak (Political Science, York), Raju Das (Geography, York)

Workshop Administrator: Chris Hendershot

Sponsors and Co-Sponsors

The following faculties/departments/programs have generously co-sponsored this event: LA&PS; CSST; Humanities; Geography; Geography Graduate Program; Sociology; Political Science; Communications; Social & Political Thought.

Venue Details

All presentations will take place at the Verney Room (S674), 6th Floor, South Ross Building, Keele Campus, York University.

Transport and Maps

See: <http://maps.info.yorku.ca/keele-campus/>