



Department of Politics and Public Administration
Faculty of Arts

Department Seminar Series Schedule

Winter 2013

17 January 2013 (12:00 – 2:00): [Dr. Susan Spronk](#)

JOR730

Assistant Professor
School of International Development and Global Studies
University of Ottawa

Title: Water Privatization and Workers in the Global South: Resistance and Restructuring in Bolivia and Uruguay

Biography: Susan Spronk is an active trade unionist and assistant professor in the School of International Development and Global Studies. Her research focuses on the experience of development in Latin America, more specifically the impact of neoliberalism on class formation and the transformation of the state in the Andean region. She obtained her PhD in Political Science from York University. Prior to joining the University of Ottawa faculty, she completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Cornell University. Her latest research project examined the role of public sector unions and social movements in promoting the democratic reform of public water utilities in Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador. She is also a research associate with the Municipal Service Project (2008-2013), an IDRC-funded research project that focuses on policy alternatives in municipal service delivery in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Her SSHRC-sponsored research project (2011-2014) focuses on local democracy and water service delivery in Bolivia and Venezuela.

25 January 2013 (2:00 – 4:00): [Karen Shepherd](#)

JOR730

Commissioner of Lobbying of Canada

Title: Canadian Lobbying Regime: Evolution of Increased Transparency.

Abstract: The Commissioner will present the *Lobbying Act* and will explain how the Act has been strengthened over time to ensure more transparency in lobbying activities.

28 February 2013 (12:00 – 2:00): [Dr. Stephen McBride](#)

JOR730

Professor

Department of Political Science

McMaster University

Title: Austerity: The New Normal

Abstract:

After initially experimenting with stimulus policies as a response to the global economic crisis, austerity emerged as a typical policy response to crisis. Some predicted that two decades of 'fiscal consolidation' might be necessary; others proclaimed an age of austerity or an era in which austerity would be the "new normal". While predictions of permanent austerity may prove unfounded, there is little doubt that the politics and policy of austerity is likely to be a feature of global and Canadian political economy and society for the foreseeable future. This presentation outlines the impact austerity has on society and groups and institutions within it, how austerity provokes resistance, how political elites seek to manage the turn to austerity and, if they do so successfully, the passive acceptance of its ramifications through political disengagement and malaise. Finally, the issue of the conditions under which austerity may or may not be a sustainable policy response to crisis is considered.

Bio:

Stephen McBride is Professor and Canada Research Chair in Public Policy and Globalization in the Department of Political Science at McMaster University. He has published widely on issues of political economy and globalization, and public policy. His most recent books are (with Heather Whiteside) *Private Affluence, Public Austerity: Economic Crisis and Democratic Malaise in Canada* (Fernwood 2011); and a co-edited collection (with Gary Teeple) *Relations of Global Power: Neoliberal Order and Disorder* (University of Toronto Press 2010).

08 March 2013 (2:00 – 4:00): [Dr. Anna Stanley](#)

Department of Geography

National University of Ireland

Title: Wasted life, difference and the politics of value

Abstract:

This paper explores aspects of how advanced liberal, capitalist society manages the relationships between contaminated and uncontaminated life (human and non-human). I am especially interested in the role played by contamination and contaminated, or "wasted" life in the constitution of value and quickening of accumulation. Drawing on recent engagements between biopolitical governmentality and broadly conceived Marxist political economy (e.g., Nally 2011, McIntyre & Nast 2011, Duffield 2007; Hannah 2010; Cooper 2010), I examine aspects of the highly uneven and deeply racialized geographies of Canadian nuclear production in order to consider the relationship between contamination, waste, difference and the politics of value. I ask whether in this case waste (as contaminated ecologies, lives, and livelihoods) can rightly be conceived of as the absence of value – i.e., that which is opposed to value or beyond value's pale (e.g., Reddy 2011) or whether waste (and along with it differentiated human and non-human life) plays a more constructive role in geographies of accumulation. I also consider the economic significance of difference making an element of the politics of rule through which geographies of accumulation are governmentally secured.

The 2013 annual [Phyllis Clarke Memorial Lecture](#).

Monday 18 March 2013

7:00 pm

Alumni Lounge, Mattamy Athletic Centre at Maple Leaf Gardens

[Amir Khadir](#) (Member of the Québec National Assembly, and former co-leader of Québec Solidaire)

Title: Québec and Québec Solidaire: Linking Sovereignty, Equality and anti-Neoliberalism

21 March 2013 (2:00 – 4:00): [Marg Rappolt](#)

JOR730

Deputy Minister, (Ontario) Community and Social Services

Deputy Minister Champion, Dept of Politics and Public Administration

Title: Transforming Ontario's Social Assistance Programs

Abstract: Marg Rappolt will speak about the final report of the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario. The Commission, led by the Honorable Frances Lankin and Munir Sheikh, delivered its final report and recommendations to transform Ontario's Social Assistance programs in October 2012. Deputy Rappolt will provide a substantive overview of the findings of the report and its potential implications for government policy makers going forward.