

Department Seminar Series Schedule

Winter 2015



29 January 2015 (12:00 – 2:00): POD-367

PETER WALLACE

Former Deputy Minister of Finance
Ontario Visiting Fellow
School of Public Policy and Governance
University of Toronto

Title: Balancing Budgets (Or Not): Exploring Workable Fiscal Policy Options for Ontario and Canada

Abstract: The lecture will critically explore the predominant perspective that our governments should pursue the goal of budget balance. However, the fiscal problem is much more complex than the simple binary balance being good and debt bad. Peter will draw on his fiscal policy expertise in unpacking the thorny details and paradoxes Ontario and Canada are confronting.

Biography: Peter Wallace recently retired from the Ontario Government where he served as Secretary of the Cabinet, head of the Ontario Public Service, and Clerk of the Executive Council.



05 March 2015 (12:00 – 2:00): JOR730

Title: Research and Science in Canada are in Danger

Dr. James L. Turk

- Distinguished Visiting Professor
School of Journalism – Ryerson University
- Former Executive Director
Canadian Association of University Teachers

Abstract:

Whether by malice or ignorance, the Canadian government is seriously undermining research and scientific inquiry in Canada. The talk will detail the many ways in which this is being done and how to undo the damage.

Biography:

Jim is Distinguished Visiting Professor at Ryerson University. He is also Adjunct Research Professor at the Institute of Political Economy at Carleton University. From 1998 to June 2014, he served as Executive Director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

Prior to joining CAUT, Jim was an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Toronto, specializing in Canadian Studies, and Director of the Labour Studies Program at University College. He also has held several senior staff posts in the Canadian trade union movement.

He has written extensively on education, academic freedom, civil liberties, commercialization of universities and related public policy issues. His most recent book is *Academic Freedom in Conflict: the Struggle over Speech Rights in the University* (2014).

Jim is a member of the Board of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, a member of the Steering Committee of the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, and a consultant to the American Association of University Professors' Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure.

The 2015 annual [Phyllis Clarke Memorial Lecture](#)

Thursday 26 March 2015

7:00 pm

POD-358



Title: Lifting Up Low-Wage Work: Global Perspectives

[Dr. Stephanie Luce](#)

Professor of Labor Studies

Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education

CUNY School for Professional Studies

Department of Sociology

CUNY Graduate Center.

Abstract: Low-wages are increasingly a problem for workers in many parts of the world. In the past two years, wages have remained flat in most wealthy countries and in some countries average wages are still below the levels pre-financial crisis. Workers in some global south countries like China have seen average wages rise, but these are usually still far below a living wage. Opponents claim that raising wages can lead to unemployment and higher prices. What do we know about the impact of minimum wage and living wage laws? What is the potential for these policies, and movements, to improve the lives of hundreds of millions of low-wage workers? In this talk, Dr. Luce will review the situation for low-wage workers globally and discuss the increased activity seen to raise wages through legislation, worker organizing and strikes.

Biography: Stephanie Luce is Professor of Labor Studies at the Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education at the CUNY School for Professional Studies, and member of the Department of Sociology, CUNY Graduate Center. Professor Luce received her both her Ph.D. in sociology and her M.A. in industrial relations from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She was a faculty member at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst Labor Center, and has worked at the U.S. Department of Labor, a Congressional Commission on Agricultural Workers, the Center for Wisconsin Strategy and the Political Economy Research Institute. Best known for her research on living wage campaigns and movements, she is the author of *Fighting for a Living Wage*, and co-author of two other books on wage standards: *The Living Wage: Building a Fair Economy*, and *The Measure of Fairness*. Her current research focuses on globalization and labour standards, labour-community coalitions, and retail work. She is co-editor of *What Works for Workers? Public Policies and Innovative Strategies for Low-Wage*. Her most recent book is *Labor Movements: Global Perspectives*.