6th Niagara Social Justice Forum

Our Own Backyard: A Global-Local Mash-up

Friday, February 1, 2013
Brock University
9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

SCHEDULE

8:45 a.m.	Doors Open, Pond Inlet, Brock University
9:00 a.m.	**OPENING PLENARY Ohnia:Kara Drummers and Idle No More**
9:50 a.m.	Transition to Workshops
10:00 a.m.	Session 1 Workshops
11:30 a.m.	**Light Lunch and Melodies of Justice Café, Pond Inlet**
1:00 p.m.	Session 2 Workshops
2:30 p.m.	Conversation Break
3:00 p.m.	Session 3 Workshops
4:30 p.m.	Conversation Break
5:00 p.m.	**CLOSING PLENARY** Academic South 215 **Film Screening, *Dal Puri Diaspora*** Niagara-Caribbean food will be served. Discussion with Director Richard Fung will help us further reflect on how this cuisine illustrates the politics of global migration.

SESSION 1: Workshop Descriptions (10:00 - 11:30 AM)

Conversation Café: The Occupy Movement and its Legacies **Pond Inlet**
Conversation cafés are informal gatherings to discuss engaging topics that have no easy answers. In this conversation we invite everyone to make sense of the Occupy movement, what we can learn from it, and its legacies. *Presented by Stacia Heaton, Continuing Education and Community Learning, with CRC in Social Justice, Dr. Janet Conway*

The Politics of Aid **Plaza 600F**
At a time when the Canadian federal government is shifting its approach to foreign aid to align itself with the private sector and advance Canada's economic interests abroad, increasing awareness about "The Politics of Aid" and aid literacy is critical. This workshop will invite discussions about such issues as the relationship between humanitarian and development aid, the criteria for determining the effectiveness of aid, the necessity of ensuring the aid recipients' ownership of the policies and projects that foreign aid supports, and the responsibilities of governments in providing and monitoring the use of aid dollars. *Presented by Development and Peace, Niagara*

Social Justice and the Global Mining Industry **PL500A**
In recognition of African Heritage Month, two Brock scholars discuss the politics and impacts of Canadian mining in Africa and Latin America. Dr. Hevina S. Dashwood draws on her recently published book to address the connections between global normative expectations regarding mining, and how that translates on the ground in Africa, with specific reference to Ghana. Dr. Ana Isla connects the destruction of nature and the housewifization of rural women, peasants, indigenous and Maroon peoples with the workings of Canadian mining corporations in Latin America.
Presented by African Heritage Month

Reimagining Consent **Sankey Chamber**
In this workshop, we introduce the concepts of Explicit Verbal Consent (EVC) for touch, and Enthusiastic Consent (EC) for sexual activity. EVC and EC are practical tools that give us a new way to respect our own and others' bodily autonomy and help dismantle the pervasive rape culture we live in. Our bodies can experience more pleasure under these models, as touch becomes both safer and more genuinely desired. Let's examine how EVC and EC, combined with other anti-oppressive practices, create safer academic and activist communities. *Presented by Malaika Baxter and Meagan Bowman*

Pseudo Phobia **Schmon Tower 105**
Why are we unable to accept difference in our lives? How do family tradition, personal experience and the media shape our prejudices and fears of others? Are the phobias we have natural and inevitable or are they a false stabilization of binary thinking? Written and produced by Mirror Theatre, 'theatre that serves.' *Presented by Mirror Theatre*

Student Justice Centre Open House **Decew 226**
Drop in to the Student Justice Centre and learn more about how the peers, interns and volunteers of the SJC are providing education, advocacy, safe space and equity for Brock University students. Participate in short activities that demonstrate the work we do.
Presented by Student Justice Centre

SESSION 2: Workshop Descriptions (1:00 - 2:30 PM)

Solidarity and Action against Poverty **Pond Inlet**

Niagara North Community Legal Assistance is one of many groups in Ontario speaking out against cuts to the Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit, an emergency fund that helps the most vulnerable in our community avoid homelessness. This workshop invites you to learn more and add your voice. You will also find out about the Commission on Social Assistance Review, as well as how you can take part in the Niagara Region's 10 Year Homelessness Plan.

Presented by Jennifer Pothier, Niagara North Community Legal Assistance

Engaging Men in Anti-Violence Activism **Plaza 600F**

This workshop will explore the potential for men's involvement in ending violence against women. We will do this by framing rape as more than a women's issue, unpacking traditional gender roles as detrimental to both men and women, making the connection between the performance of masculinity and violence against women, and talking about consent and healthy relationships.

Presented by Stephen Soucie, Men Advocating for Social Change (MASC)

Zine Scenes: Creating Action through Cultural Production **Plaza 500A**

This session will introduce participants to the history of zine making and distribution while also exploring contemporary zine scenes. The presentation features selections from a documentary with subsequent discussions that seeks to give participants insight into youth cultural production, conceptualize new ways of creating social action, and partake in a pop-up zine library, borrowing zines to read and share for the day.

Presented by Ally Watson

Self-reflection for Activists **Schmon Tower 105**

This workshop uses nonverbal and spatial approaches to lead participants through a journey of self-reflection and analysis of their own practice, and how they see it relating to activism, community development or conflict mediation. Connections are made through personal discovery and also in relation to the other nonverbal conversations in the room.

Presented by Jenny Jimenez and Stephen Sillett, Aiding Dramatic Change in Development

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SESSION 3: Workshop Descriptions (3:00 - 4:30 PM)

The Injured Workers Centre **Pond Inlet**

Workers Compensation is a century old social program in Ontario that is now undergoing drastic change. This workshop presents an historical play about Sir William Ralph Meredith and the origins of Workers Compensation Act. In addition, the workshop features injured workers, who are recent graduates of a 12-week speakers school. The workers tell their stories in their own words and present a short sketch about the proposed changes to Workers Compensation.

Presented by Start Me Up Niagara and the Injured Workers Centre

Proud to be an Ally **Plaza 600F**

This workshop will be a crash course on the history of the LBGTQ community, and a closer look at the issues the Pride community faces. The workshop will cover basic knowledge and terminology, debunk some myths, and discuss some of the less obvious issues that the Queer community faces. This workshop will give you the knowledge, terminology, and understanding to become a great ally. Regardless of how you identify, there is much to be gained from creating a dialogue around these issues.

Presented by Brandon Vrysen and Alyce Soulodre, Brock Pride

Drama as a Social Intervention **Thistle 253**

This workshop will explore how to incorporate arts-based activities into social justice practice in groups and classrooms. Participants will engage in a series of drama-based activities that will explore cyber-bullying. The use of drama techniques will allow participants to interactively problem-solve, with the ability to fast-forward, rewind, and pause the conflict to seek more effective solutions. Participants need to be dressed to be able to move.

Presented by Gillian Fournier

Get your state laws off my body! and community... and land, **Sankey Chamber**

This workshop will examine various ways the nation-state (Canada, the U.S., etc.) interferes with processes and understandings of Indigenous sexualities, decolonization and connections to land. Systems to be examined will be residential schools, Children's Aid, policing and law enforcement, as well as public health. A specific focus will be on the effects these systems have on *deliberately* marginalized people such as youth, people who use drugs, and people in the sex trade - and how we respond through community work and resistance!

Presented by Krysta Williams, Native Youth Sexual Health Network

Unpeeling the Banana Trade **Schmon Tower 105**

This interactive workshop will teach participants about the challenges faced by banana farmers though a simulation of the banana trade. By comparing the experiences of farmers working in conventional and fair trade systems, this workshop will challenge you to think about the people behind the products you buy, and the politics of trade between the Global North and South.

Presented by Brock Fair Trade