



NEWSLETTER

Social Justice Research Institute (SJRI)

February 2020

The SJRI is a vibrant collective of affiliates, associates, fellows, and members brought together by a shared concern for pressing social justice issues.

This month's newsletter is dedicated to providing some highlights from this year's Niagara Social Justice Forum (NSJF), as well as other upcoming event and funding opportunity announcements.

Niagara Social Justice Forum: Highlights

This event took place at Brock University on Saturday February first. It was well attended by community members and groups, as well as Brock students and faculty. The SRJI was a proud co-sponsor of this event.



Among the morning sessions was one facilitated by [SJRI MA Fellows](#), Zabrina Downtown and Elvia Lopez titled *Immigration Facts and Fictions*. During the session, Elvia and Zabrina presented common myths related to immigration and immigrants in the U.S. and Canada (e.g. most immigrants are in the U.S. illegally; refugees receive higher social assistance than Canadians). They drew on a combination of social scientific research and official statistics to debunk each of these myths in turn and then facilitated a group discussion, which helped to underscore the roles of such myths in criminalizing already marginalized people (who often are themselves fleeing crime and violence) and bolstering misinformed understandings of national - and international - political and legal processes.

When asked why they organize this workshop, Elvia noted, “My identity as an immigrant has defined me all my life; I’m not sure if that was out of choice or if it was forced upon me by the US legal system, but one thing I do know is anti-immigrant rhetoric has impacted me in harmful ways... I refuse to allow people to spread false statements about me and my fellow immigrants.”

Upcoming Events



Mark your calendars to join us on for an engaged, interdisciplinary workshop with SJRI affiliates Diane Collier, Shannon Moore, Rachel Rhoades, and Dawn Trussell about *Navigating Ethics in Community-University Research Relationships*.

Light, vegan refreshments will be available

WHEN: Wednesday March 4 from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

WHERE: SJRI office (WC 251)

Kindly RSVP to SJRI@brocku.ca by Monday February 24

In addition to hosting the above workshop, SJRI proudly provides financial support to:

- The latest event associated with St. Catharines' reading series, ***Waking Dream***. This event will take place on Fri. February 14 at 8pm at Mahtay Café and will feature readings by Lillian Allen and Maureen Hynes as well as performances by a selection of Brock's emerging creative writers. The evening will conclude with a question and answer period centering around the theme of social justice.
- This year's **Marilyn Rose Lecture Series**, featuring a public lecture by Rick Monture and poetry by Alice Notely. This event will take place in Room 156 of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine & Performing Arts at 7pm on Fri. March 13.

Click [here](#) to keep up-to-date on these and other upcoming and recent events and here to learn more about [SJRI workshops](#).

Funding Opportunities

The deadline for the next SJRI Grants competition in March 31, 2020. There are two types of grants available (Community Engagement and Research Seed), both of which are offered to support SJRI affiliates' transdisciplinary social justice research.

SJRI affiliates: click [here](#) to learn more about these grants and [here](#) to access a special edition of Brock's Research Enterprise e-bulletin about local funding opportunities.

Please contact SJRI Project Facilitator, Julie Gregory (jgregory@brocku.ca) if you would like support in pursuing any of these funding opportunities in relation to your transdisciplinary social justice research.

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