MA IN SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY STUDENTS INFORMATION NEWSLETTER 2018-19

Information for prospective graduate students

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Department website:
Welcome to Social Justice and Equity Studies!

We are a scholarly community of graduate students and scholars working to address important political and ethical questions concerning social justice and equity.

Our student numbers are small - up to 12 new students each year - allowing for a close cohort experience and individualized attention. Students select academic mentors from over 50 affiliated faculty members who represent 16 academic departments across the Faculties of Social Sciences, Humanities, Education and Applied Health Sciences.

Through advanced coursework, students broaden their knowledge before undertaking an original research project with faculty guidance. The breadth of expertise available to students, and the opportunity to form interdisciplinary supervisory committees, makes the SJES program unique in Canada.

The SJES program has close ties with Brock’s Social Justice Research Institute, which provides students opportunities to work with preeminent scholars in the transdisciplinary field of social justice. SJES-sponsored events, such as the annual Niagara Social Justice Forum, bring students into connection with social movement and community organizations in the Niagara Region. At all times, students are encouraged to examine the relevance of their studies to their interests in activism and solidarity.

Graduates say they most appreciate the culture of collaboration, mentoring, and radical inquiry in SJES, which helps them develop as thinkers, researchers, and contributors in their fields.

We welcome your inquiries, by email or in person. Whatever your interests in social justice and equity studies, we invite you to apply to the program.

Mary Breunig
The MA in Social Justice and Equity Studies is a community of graduate students and scholars working to address vital political and ethical questions concerning social injustice in the global context and in everyday life.

SJES offers a small cohort experience

Contact Information

Initial Consultation

Faculty Liaison Member
The Graduate Program Director assigns an academic faculty liaison to each MA student upon entry into the program. Your faculty liaison will provide academic mentoring and address any questions about the program prior to September and during the first few months of the first academic term.

Faculty of Graduate Studies
brocku.ca/graduate-studies/contact-us
905-688-5550 X4490
Mackenzie Chown Complex D250
Hours: Monday-Friday
8:30am-4:30pm
Closed daily from 12-1pm

Program Administration

Graduate Program Director
Dr. Mary Breunig
mbreunig@brocku.ca
905-688-5550 X5387
Academic South 348

Graduate Administrative Coordinator
socialjustice@brocku.ca
905-688-5550 X5591
Academic South 400B
Welcome to the MA Program in Social Justice and Equity Studies!

The ability to understand and analyze struggles and inequities associated with age, ability, gender, sexuality, racism, and class has become increasingly important in the twenty-first century. This innovative interdisciplinary MA in Social Justice and Equity Studies responds to the growing need for individuals trained in the expanding field of social justice and equity scholarship by offering preparation in theory and research methods that explicitly link local, national, and global processes to social justice and equity issues.

Scheme A: Course Work and Major Research Paper

Course Work
The program of study includes:
SJES 5P01: Graduate Seminar
SJES 5P02: Theorizing Social Justice & Equity Studies
SJES 5P03: Research Methods
SJES 5P91: Major Research Paper
Three half-credit electives

Of the three half-credit electives, two will be offered as electives within the Social Justice and Equity Studies program and one will be a course offered by another Brock graduate program, a graduate course at another Ontario university (OVGS), or a Directed Studies course. All courses must be pre-approved by the Graduate Program Director. Scheme A is usually completed in four terms.

Full-Time Students
Full-time students in Scheme A enroll in SJES 5P01 (this workshop runs over two terms), SJES 5P02, and SJES 5P03 in the fall term. In the winter term, students in Scheme A enroll in three elective courses.

Major Research Paper
To complete the requirements of SJES 5F91, each student must complete a major research paper that demonstrates capacity for independent work and original research or thought. The major paper shall be chosen in consultation with a supervisor and will be evaluated by the supervisor and a second faculty reader. Students interested in pursuing a broader range of courses should enroll in Scheme A. Full-time students complete four terms of study.

Part-Time Students
Part-time students take one of either SJES 5P02 or SJES 5P03 in the first term and at least one half-credit course per year thereafter.
Scheme B: Course Work and Major Research Paper with Co-op

The program of study mirrors Scheme A, except students also complete two work terms in the Fall and Winter of their second year. Co-op students register in SJES 5N90, a mandatory non-credit pre-employment seminar, during their first term of the program. The course provides a series of in-depth workshops to provide career training and prepare for their co-op work terms. Upon successful completion of SJES 5N90, co-op students apply for employment with organizations doing social justice work. They are not limited to work in the Niagara Region but may find suitable work elsewhere for two terms (8 months) in the summer and fall.

The co-op work terms extend duration of the program by two terms to a total of six terms (24 months). Students normally take two electives in the second term, and return from their Co-op work terms to complete the third elective in their fifth term (winter), while also writing their MPR proposal and commencing MRP research. They complete the Major Research Paper in their sixth term (summer).

The Co-op Program is open to full time students only.

Scheme C: Course Work and Thesis

Course Work
The program of study includes:
SJES 5P01: Graduate Seminar
SJES 5P02: Theorizing Social Justice & Equity Studies
SJES 5P03: Research Methods
SJES 5P91: Thesis
One half-credit elective.

Electives are offered within the Social Justice and Equity Studies program; however, subject to the approval of the Director, students may complete one elective credit offered by another Brock graduate program, a graduate course at another Ontario university (OVGS), or a Directed Studies course. Scheme C is usually completed in six terms.

Full-Time Students
Full-time students in Scheme C enroll in SJES 5P01 (note that this workshop runs over two terms), SJES 5P02, and SJES 5P03 in the fall term. In the winter term, students in Scheme C enroll in one additional elective course.

Thesis
To complete the requirements of SJES 5F90, each student must complete, and defend at a public oral examination, a thesis that demonstrates a capacity for independent work and original research or thought. The thesis topic shall be chosen in consultation with the supervisor and other members of the supervisory committee. A formal thesis proposal must be approved by the committee. Scheme C is intended for students who are prepared to do an in-depth project on a specialized topic.

Part-Time Students
Part-time students take one of either SJES 5P02 or SJES 5P03 in the first term and at least one half-credit course per year thereafter.
Upon applying through the student portal on the Faculty of Graduate Studies website, you will receive a student number and an email address. You will need this information to log on to the Brock Portal in order to view the outcome of your application, accept an offer of admission and register.

**Course Offerings for Fall/Winter 2018-19**

**Core Credits**
SJES 5P01: Graduate Seminar (September-April, every other week)
SJES 5P02: Theorizing Social Justice & Equity Studies (September-December)
SJES 5P03: Research Methods in Social Justice & Equity Studies (September-December)

**Electives**
Course offerings for 2018/19:

SJES 5P45 (Winter 2019)

Active Voice: Social Justice and the News Media
Theories, case studies, and other texts examining the representation of social justice and equity issues in the mainstream news media and the struggle and strategies of alternative news media to intervene in those representations.

SJES 5P70 (Winter 2019)
Social Justice and the Arts
Theories, case studies, and other texts examining how social justice and equity issues emerge in literary texts, plays, films, music, and other media, and how the arts and media are linked to struggles for social justice at local, national, and global levels

**Web registration for graduate programs will begin in July 2018.**
1. “The SJES MA program offered me a small, intimate program where I had an incredible amount of one-on-one support with many of the faculty. This kind of learning environment fostered a strong foundation for developing theoretical, methodological and critical analysis skills, which were all incredibly important through the completion of my doctoral work.”

— Allison Burgess, PhD
Sexual & Gender Diversity Officer, University of Toronto

2. “SJES helped me hone my critical thinking and research skills. It also helped me learn how to work with diverse groups of people and how to persevere. I learned very useful transferable skills and gained an appreciation for and understanding of various social justice issues.”

— Kate Williams, Manager
Research Ethics and Compliance
Research Services, University of Calgary

3. “Entering the SJES program was a watershed moment for me. It provided a progressive, interdisciplinary entry point for me into academia after a lengthy career in the arts. What I found was a program that honoured the diversity of students from a wide variety of backgrounds while also challenging all of us to work and think exceptionally hard. The strength of the program for me was in the small class sizes and the dedication and commitment of the faculty to close assessment, mentorship and student development. One is unlikely to find a stronger blend of cohesion and diversity, mentorship and independent study outside the SJES program.”

— Aaron Franks, PhD, Research Associate
The Centre for Environmental Health Equity
## Registration Sequence
### Full Time Stream Requirements

*Students may complete the MA degree requirements through Scheme A, B, or C. Students must inform the Graduate Program Director and the Administrative Coordinator by November of their first year which stream they intend to pursue and ensure that all requirements for the program are followed.*

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<tr>
<td>Fall Term (Year 1)</td>
<td>SJES 5P01, Duration 1</td>
<td>Fall Term (Year 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJES 5P02, Duration 2</td>
<td>SJES 5P02, Duration 2</td>
<td>SJES 5P01, Duration 1</td>
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<td>SJES 5P03, Duration 2</td>
<td>SJES 5P03, Duration 2</td>
<td>SJES 5P02, Duration 2</td>
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<td>SJES 5N90, Duration 1</td>
<td>SJES 5P03, Duration 2</td>
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**Winter Term (Year 1)**
- Elective, Duration 3
- Elective, Duration 3
- One other elective from another or a Directed Study (consult with Director required)
- Winter Term (Year 1)
- Winter Term (Year 1)

**Spring Term (Year 1)**
- SJES 5F91
- Spring Term (Year 1) Work Term 1
- Spring Term (Year 1)

**Fall Term (Year 2)**
- SJES 5F91
- Winter Term (Year 2) SJES 5F91 and Elective
- Winter Term (Year 2)

**Spring Term (Year 2)**
- SJES 5F91
- Spring Term (Year 2)

**Core Courses**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>SJES 5P01</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
<td>In a small group forum, students hone their skills in developing research projects. A broad range of topics and progressive approaches to social justice and equity research are introduced through guest speakers, workshops, and student presentations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJES 5P02</td>
<td>Theorizing Social Justice and Equity Studies</td>
<td>Critical analysis of classical and contemporary conceptualizations of social justice and social inequality.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJES 5P03</td>
<td>Research Methods in Social Justice and Equity Studies</td>
<td>Critical analysis of methodologies used in social justice and equity research.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJES 5F90</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>An in-depth research project involving the preparation and defense of a thesis that shall demonstrate capacity for independent work and original research or thought.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJES 5F91</td>
<td>Major Research Paper</td>
<td>A major research paper that shall demonstrate capacity for independent work and original research or thought.</td>
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<td>Electives</td>
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<td>SJES 5P20 Domination and Resistance</td>
<td>Theories, case studies, and other texts examining domination and resistance in both historical and global contexts. Topics may include exploitation, colonialism, postcolonialism, globalization, and counter-hegemonic social identities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJES 5P25 Social Justice and the City</td>
<td>Theories, case studies, and other texts examining social and economic inequalities and their relation to processes of urbanization. Topics may include oppressive urbanism, cultural politics of difference, contested terrains of justice, and urban social movements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJES 5P30 Social Justice and Environment</td>
<td>Theories, case studies, and other texts examining the interconnectedness of social and environmental problems, and struggles to overcome them, in the context of capitalism and globalization.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJES 5P35 Animal Liberation and Social Justice</td>
<td>Theories, case studies, and other texts examining social justice beyond the limits of the human species, including issues such as animal rights, animal liberation, speciesism in relation to other forms of oppression, alternative ethical and political relationships to animals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJES 5P40 Gender, Sexuality, and Social Justice</td>
<td>Theories, case studies, and other texts examining the social inequities and social movements associated with issues such as gender and sexual identities, and their articulation with other social inequities and struggles at local, national, and global levels.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJES 5P45 Active Voice: Social Justice and the News Media</td>
<td>Theories, case studies, and other texts examining the representation of social justice and equity issues in the mainstream news media and the struggle and strategies of alternative news media to intervene in those representations.</td>
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<td>SJES 5P50 Families, Households, and Social Justice</td>
<td>Theories, case studies, and other texts examining historical and current social inequities, social movements, and state policies associated with gendered and generational family relations and their articulation with other social inequities and struggles at local, national, and global levels.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJES 5P55 Labour, Workers, and Social Justice</td>
<td>Theories, case studies, and other texts examining historical and current social movements arising out of worker’s experiences and their articulation with other social inequities and struggles at local, national, and global levels.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJES 5P60 Human Rights and Social Justice</td>
<td>Theories, case studies, and other texts examining the historical development and implementation of legal initiatives in the broad field of social justice and equity at local, national, and global levels.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJES 5P65 Race, Ethnicity, Indigeneity, and Social Justice</td>
<td>Theories, case studies, and other texts examining the domination and resistance of racialized, ethnicized, and indigenous peoples and their articulation with other social inequities and struggles at local, national, and global levels.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJES 5P70 Social Justice and the Arts</td>
<td>Theories, case studies, and other texts examining how social justice and equity issues emerge in literary texts, plays, films, music, and other media, and how the arts and media are linked to struggles for social justice at local, national, and global levels.</td>
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<td>SJES 5P80 Directed Study</td>
<td>Specialized study on an individual basis under the direction of a faculty supervisor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJES 5V12 Directed Study</td>
<td>Specialized study on an individual basis under the direction of a faculty supervisor. Taught in conjunction with an honours seminar. Permission of the Graduate Director and supervisor required.</td>
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<td>SJES 5V80-5V89 Selected Topics in Social Justice and Equity Studies</td>
<td>A topic in social justice and equity studies that will vary by instructor.</td>
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Graduate Fellowships and Teaching Assistant positions are offered to full time domestic and international students in the Major Research Paper and Thesis Schemes. The difference is in the number of terms for this funding. A Major Research Paper scheme is funded for four terms (September to December of the following year), a Major Research Paper with Co-op scheme is funded for six terms (September to August for two years), and a Thesis scheme is funded for six terms. Those students who do not complete their projects within this funded period are responsible for full tuition costs with no funding assistance and Teaching Assistant positions are not offered on a preferential basis to students who are beyond their funded period.

Tuition and Ancillary Fees
(based on 2018 tuition information)
For more information on tuition and ancillary costs, please refer to: brocku.ca/finance/students/graduate

| Full time domestic student tuition fees per term | Cohort                  | MA (research scheme) |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Year 1                                          | $3,028.24               |
| Year 2                                          | $3,002.72               |
| Year 3                                          | $2,977.42               |

| Full time student Ancillary Fees                 |                         |
| Health Services                                  | $27.90 FW, $6.30 SP/SU  |
| UHIP (Int’l Students)                           | $624.00 per year         |
| Athletics Fee                                   | $15.16 per term          |
| Recreation Facilities Fee                       | $4.62 per term           |
| Zone Fitness Centre Fee                         | $23.12 per term          |
| Mental Health & Wellness                        |                         |
| Health & Dental Plan                            | $475.00 per year (can opt out) |
| Universal Transit Pass                          | $247                    |
| Grad. Students’ Assoc. Fee                      | $12.70 per term          |
| Cdn. Fed. Of Students Fee                       | $8.37 (Fall/Winter only) |
| GSA Services Fee                                | $45.15 per year          |

All eligible qualified graduate students will receive financial assistance in the form of a Graduate Fellowship and a Teaching Assistant position during their funded period. This will vary from 4 to 6 terms, depending on the scheme selected. In the academic year 2018, the Graduate Fellowship for domestic full-time students was $7,500 (paid equally over each term) and the Teaching Assistantship was $8,076.00 for 240 hours of teaching (paid bi-weekly into the student’s account). Additional funds may be available for students whose incoming average is over 80%.
Teaching Assistantships
In your first year in the program, the Graduate Program Director assigns you Teaching Assistant positions in the Fall and Winter terms. After your first year, you are required to apply for Teaching Assistant positions yourself; however, you receive preferential hiring according to the CUPE Collective Agreement as long as you remain in your funded period. If you remain in the program after your funded period has ended, a Teaching Assistant position is not guaranteed. Keep in mind that there are limited Teaching Assistant positions available over the Spring/Summer term. You should be prepared to cover your tuition and living expenses without the income of a Teaching Assistant position during this period.

Research Assistantships
Professors may hire assistants from their own research budgets. This is done on an individual basis. If you are interested in a Research Assistantship with a professor, please contact him/her directly.

External Scholarships
Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and Ontario Graduate Scholarships (OGS) may be available to eligible candidates. These scholarships are due in October. The Faculty of Graduate Studies will have more information and workshops on how to complete these applications. Start thinking about your research now in preparation for these competitions.

Internal Funding and Bursaries
The Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Students’ Association have available bursary funds that are intended to assist full-time graduate students with unanticipated or non-typical financial needs. Please refer to their website for further information. https://brocku.ca/graduate-studies/scholarships-awards/internal/
Brock University’s interdisciplinary MA program in Social Justice and Equity Studies is unique in Canada. The emergence of the field of Social Justice and Equity Studies reflects recognition of the links between power and knowledge in the university. Social Justice and Equity Studies seeks to enact an emancipatory politics of knowledge in favouring voices and perspectives that have been historically marginalized and who are actively resisting domination. These legacies and commitments inform the teaching and research done under the auspices of the SJES program at Brock and the criteria for affiliation and admission to the program. The program unites scholars from distinct academic disciplines to provide an exciting breadth and diversity of perspectives. The program is made up of participating faculty from Child and Youth Studies; Communication, Popular Culture and Film; Health Sciences; Education; Dramatic Arts; English Language and Literature; Geography; History; Labour Studies; Political Science; Recreation and Leisure Studies; Sociology; Visual Arts; and Women’s and Gender Studies. Students will be equipped to pursue doctoral studies and to offer their expertise as policy makers or policy consultants to social advocacy and social movement organizations as well as a wider public.

**Niagara Social Justice Forum**

Hosted by the Social Justice and Equity Studies graduate program at Brock University, the annual Niagara Social Justice Forum includes a day-long program of concurrent activities, including workshops, performances, exhibits, and information tables in a fair-like atmosphere. Workshops attract people from Brock’s campus and the surrounding community. All of the workshops are proposed and organized by an open call to people and groups on campus and in the community committed to social justice.

**Unique Features of the Program**

*Independent reviewers rank the MA in Social Justice and Equity Studies “Category 1 Caliber: good Quality with National Prominence”*
Other General Program Information

Study Space
There is a graduate lab available for the sole use of the Social Justice and Equity Studies graduate students. You will find six computers, one printer, a small fridge, a microwave, and a kettle available for your use. Many students use this place as a collaborative meetings space with their fellow students.

In addition, there is a Graduate Study Room, Meeting Room, and lockers available for graduate student use only on the 6th floor of the James A. Gibson Library.

There are also many computer labs available to you scattered throughout the campus.

Program Standards
The program expects students to maintain both a satisfactory level and rate of performance while they are enrolled in the program. Students are expected to pass all courses with a B (70%) grade or better. Grades below 70% are considered failures.

The program also expects students to complete their requirements within a reasonable period of time. The Faculty of Graduate Studies allows a maximum of three years (full-time students) for completing MA programs. Students not making satisfactory progress toward the completion of their degrees may be required to withdraw.

Illnesses and Leaves of Absence
Students must be prepared to provide medical documentation for any prolonged illness. Please see the Administrative Coordinator for assistance.

Students must register each term until they have received their degree. If students need to interrupt their studies, they may be eligible for an inactive term or Leave of Absence. Please see the Administrative Coordinator for assistance.

We hope to hear from you!
socialjustice@brocku.ca