

The Power of Marxist Thought Conference

**York University, Toronto
HNES Building
September 26–27, 2025**

Day 1—Friday, September 26

Registration and Coffee | 8:30 am to 8:50 am

Welcome

HNES Room 140, 8:50 am to 9:00 am

Professor Alice Hovorka, Dean, Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, York University

Professor Carlota McAllister, Associate Dean (Research, Graduate and Global Affairs), Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, York University

Professor Dennis Pilon, Chair, Dept of Politics, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, York University

Inaugural session

Thinking the Power of Marxist Thought

HNES Room 140, 9:00 am to 9:40 am

Raju Das, Robert Latham & David Fasenfest

**COFFEE BREAK
9:40am to 9:50 am
Student Lounge**

Day 1, Session 1: 9:50 am to 11:20 am

Panel: Foundational Marxist Philosophy & Methodology | Focuses on distinguishing core Marxist concepts and methodologies from other traditions.

HNES Room 102

Murray Smith & Tim Hayslip (Brock University, York University): Reason, Faith and Morality: Marxism versus Bourgeois Dualism

Tobias Reichardt (IU International University): Society as Second Nature. Why Marx's Theory of Social Development is Crucial Today

Gökbörü Sarp Tanyildiz (Brock University): Two Tales of a Concept: Social Relations

Danny. Goldstick (University of Toronto): Is the World a Dialectical Place?

Chair: Tarique Niazi (University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire)

Panel: Fascism, Authoritarianism & Political Formations | Examines Marxist analyses of fascism, right-wing authoritarianism, and specific political projects.

HNES Room 142

Panagiotis Sotiris (*Historical Materialism* journal): Nicos Poulantzas and the Possibility of a Marxist Theorisation of Fascism

Kristin Plys (University of Toronto): Gramsci, Althusser, and Mao on (Anti-)Fascism and (Anti-)Imperialism

Thibault Biscahie (Université de Montréal): An Autopsy of Macronism through Gramscian Eyes

Blake Stewart & Thibault Biscahie (York University; Université de Montréal) : The Synergy between (Neo)liberalism and Fascism: A Gramscian Analysis over the Long 20th Century

Chair: John Simoulidis (York University)

Panel: Labour & Exploitation | Focuses on the conceptual understanding and specific manifestations of labour exploitation and alienation within capitalist social relations.

HNES Room 138

Joshua McDermott (Southeastern Louisiana University): A Marxist Critique of Informality and the Informal Economy Paradigm: Uncovering the Realities of Irregular Labor and New Peripheral Capitalism

Juntian Cai (New School for Social Research): The Social Relation of Things and its “Personification”

Arkayan Ganguly (York University): Alienation and Private Property

Steff Huì Cí Ling & Lily Jue Sheng (Simon Fraser University; artist filmmaker, organizer, and theatre/technical worker): Paying to work — Wage theft, art workers and our peculiar labour process

Chair: Ingo Schmidt (Athabasca University)

Panel: Imperialism & Global Economic Structures | Examines imperialism as a global phenomenon, focusing on its economic mechanisms, historical manifestations, and impact on global power dynamics and value transfer.

HNES Room 105

Adrian Cohen-Gallant (Carpenter at UBC Local 27) & Sophia Ilyniak (York University): The Geography of the Imperial Mode of Production

Paolo Lattanzi (Universität Siegen): Imperialism Today and the Ukraine War: A Historical-Materialist Perspective

Paul Kellogg (Athabasca University): Revisiting Preobrazhenskii – Non-equivalent Exchange and Its Implications for Value Theory

Neethini Prathipan (York University): Legacies of Imperialism: Racialization and the Development of Finance Systems

Chair: Joe Pateman (York University)

Break
11:20 pm to 11:30 pm
Student Lounge

Day 1, Session 2: 11:30 am to 1 pm

Panel: Marxism and the Global South | Centres on Marxist analyses originating from or focusing on anti-colonial struggles and material conditions of the Global South.

HNES Room 102

Thiti Jamkajornkeiat (University of Victoria): Port Workers of Four Continents Unite for West Papua: Global Marxism and Internationalist Struggles from Left Third-Worldist Indonesia

Arianna Afsari (University of Michigan): Mariátegui in Motion: The Untimely Timeliness of José Carlos Mariátegui

Lavanya Nott (University of California, Los Angeles): The Socio-Ecological Dimensions of 20th Century Anticolonial Marxism

Kasim Tirmizey (York University): The Marxist Concept of 'Imperialism' and Theorizing a Global Food System

Chair: Jason Funke (Western Connecticut State University)

Panel: AI, Technology & Digital Capitalism | Marxist analysis of contemporary technological developments and related topics such as 'technofeudalism.'

HNES Room 142

Shahram Azhar (Bucknell University): Artificial Intelligence and Marxian Value Theory: The Real, the Symbolic, and the Imaginary

Karl Patrick Norberg (King's College London): A Feudal Regression? A Review of the Technofeudal Hypothesis in the Context of the Transition Debate

Wu Yihao (Peking University): The Illusion of Empiricism Under the Posture of Resistance: Rethinking Fuchs' Theory of "Digital Labor"

Chair: Robert Latham

Panel: Marxist Engagements with Social Oppressions | Marxist analyses to understand and combat oppression based on social categories like race and disability, often challenging mainstream or liberal interpretations.

HNES Room 138

Joe Pateman (York University): Marxist and Bourgeois Approaches to Black Liberation

Nic Cottone (Michigan State University): Reification and the Historical Production of Impairment: Marxism and Disability Studies

Yifan Liao (Peking University): Die Arbeiterräçe: An Underexplored Lens into Marx and Engels' Ideas of Race

Chair: David Fasenfest (York University)

Panel: Primitive Accumulation & Historical Transitions | Explores primitive accumulation and social-political transitions to capitalism

HNES Room 105

Bilal Zahoor (York University): British Punjab and the Dialectics of Primitive Accumulation

Aaron Jaffe (Juilliard School): The Commitments and Power of Marx's "Primitive Accumulation"

Aman Bardia (The New School for Social Research): Revisiting the Agrarian Question Through a Marxist Method Today

Chair: Chris Little (York University)

Lunch
1 pm to 2 pm
Student Lounge

Day 1, Session 3: 2 pm to 3:30 pm

Panel: Critique of Other Economic/Social Theories | Critically engages with and compares Marxist approaches to non-Marxist ideas.

HNES Room 102

Tony Smith (Iowa State University): Normative Social Philosophy and the Invisibility of Capital

Iliia Farahani, Mads Barbesgaard, Jostein Jakobsen & Peter Rosendal Dau Jensen (Lund University; Lund University; University of Oslo; Lund University): Political economy in geographic research: Institutionalist versus Marxist approaches

Patrick Hallan & Iargo de Souza Santos (University of Utah; Universidade Federal de Sergipe): Exchange Rates Revisited: Integrating Labor Value and Financial Globalization

Patrick Galba de Paula (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro): Land rent and unequal development: Marginalist and Ricardian approaches and the Marxist alternative

Chair: David Fasenfest (York University)

Panel: Migration & Labour Mobility | Examines the dynamics of migration and labour mobility and the implications for working-class power.

HNES Room 142

David Feldman (DePauw University): No Easy Answers: Migration Politics and the Reserve Army of Labor

Ron Hayduk (San Francisco State University): Marx and Migration: Untangling the Roots of Immigration and Inequality in the United States

Gregory Urbanczyk (Independent scholar): Racial Capitalism and the Exploitation of Temporary Foreign Agricultural Workers in Canada as Second-Class Workers

Chair: Christopher Sorio (York University)

Panel: Military-Industrial Complex, War & Geopolitics | Focuses on militarism, the military-industrial complex, and the role of war in capitalist geopolitical competition.

HNES Room 138

Daniel Auerbach & Brett Clark (University of Wyoming; University of Utah): Deadly Second Mediations: Militarism, Depleted Uranium, and Metabolic Rifts

Victor Wallis (Berklee College of Music): Capitalism, Perpetual War, and the Gutting of Bourgeois Democracy

Sajid Khurram (University of Illinois at Chicago): Polycrisis or Totality? A Materialist Balance Sheet of the World-historic Conjunction.

Ronald W. Cox (Florida International University): The U.S. Military-Industrial Complex and the Crisis of Global Capitalism

Chair: Tamanisha J. John (York University)

Panel: Urban & Housing Studies | Analyzes urban phenomena, housing crises, and spatial dynamics, connecting them to capitalist accumulation, class relations, and state policies.

HNES Room 105

Anna Kramer (McGill University): Housing Supply Myths

Robert Butrym (York University): The Reserve Army of Tenants: An Assessment of Rental Housing in a Student Ghetto

Priyansh (University of Toronto): Circular Exploitation: Construction Workers on the Move Amidst Capitalist Spectacle

Chair: Ilia Farahani (Lund University)

COFFEE BREAK
3:30 pm to 3:40 pm
Student Lounge

Day 1, Session 4: 3:40 pm to 5:10 pm

Panel: China-focused Marxist Analysis | Analyzes China's political economy (including state capitalism) in the context of capitalism in the Global South

HNES Room 102

Zhen Yan (Peking University): Rural Revitalization through Party-Led Cooperatives: Logic and Practice Tensions in a Chinese Village

David (Dawei) Chen (University of Toronto): Chinese Corporations, New State Capitalism, and Global Political Economy in the Twenty-First Century

Natalie Braun (York University): State Capitalism and Class Struggle: the Case of China from a Marxist perspective

Chair: Jaivika Kataria (York University)

Panel: Intersectionality, Gender, & Social Reproduction Theory | Explores the intertwining of gender, race, and class oppressions focusing on unpaid/domestic labour.

HNES Room 142

Gao Chenxi & Bai Mingze (Kyushu Sangyo University; University of Hong Kong): Rethinking Domestic Labor: Marx's Theory of Need and the Reproduction of Labor Power

Carolina Flores Gusmão & Susan Spronk (University of Ottawa; University of Ottawa): Intersectionality and Marxism: Legal Studies, Social Reproduction Theories and the Critique of Value

Varsha Gangadharan (University of British Columbia): Rethinking Resistance to Racism: Conceptualizing an Intersectional Paradigm in Relation to Foucauldian Subjectivity

Chair: Joe Pateman (York University)

Panel: Ideology, Culture, & Social Forms | Analyzes cultural phenomena (like nationalism or identity formation), and their role in reproducing or resisting capitalism

HNES Room 138

Youngkyun Choi (University of Michigan): The Infrastructure of Revelation: Christianity, Marxism, and the Making of Minjung Theology

Ece Arslan (Independent scholar): Proficiency and it's the Same but There's (an attempt for) a Political Economy Framework So it's Not

Christian Uhl (Ghent University): Ishikawa Takuboku's Poetry and Poetology in the light of Marxist Theory, and Vice Versa: Unevenness, Noncontemporaneity and the Everyday

Marcelo Hoffman (Pace University): Taking a Cue from Marx: A Coup d'État in Brazil After Its "June Days"

Chair: Ken Kawashima (University of Toronto)

Panel: Ecology & Nature | Explores the intersection of Marxist theory with ecological concerns, and critiques non-Marxist environmental approaches.

HNES Room 105

Qi Xinyao (Renmin University of China): Is There Ecological Limit in the Dialectics Of Capital? A Rethink of Marx's Ecologic Method

Theryn D. Arnold (York University): Ecological Marxism and Beyond: A Comparative Analysis

Alan Rudy (Central Michigan University): Denaturing N/nature: Marx, EcoMarxism, and Environmental Socialism

Chair: Salvatore Engel-Di Mauro (SUNY New Paltz)

CONFERENCE RECEPTION & DINNER

Welcome by

John Simoulidis on behalf of the Organizing Committee

Friday, 6:30 pm

Location: Orange Snail, Stong College (Basement floor)

Day 2—Saturday, September 27

**COFFEE and TEA
8:30am to 9am
Student Lounge**

Day 2, Session 1: 9:00 am to 10:30 am

Panel: Value Theory & Abstract Domination of Capital | Analyses Marx's value theory, commodity fetishism, the role of money, and critiques of economic systems.

HNES Room 102

Paul Brienza (York University): Modernity, and the Metaphysics of the Profane: Simmel, Marx, and the Theory of Money

Talita Yaltırık (York University): Revisiting Marx's Analysis of Value-Form: Possibilities and Limitations of "Value-Form Theory"

Waqar Ahmed (with Ipsita Chatterjee & Richard Kirk) (University of North Texas): 'Fetishism of the Commodity': Theorizing Value and the Value of Bourgeois, Marxist and post-Marxist theories

Lenart Nici (York University): The Impossible Socialism: Redux

Chair: Theryn Arnold (York University)

Panel: The State & Its Transformations | Explores the state centering on its relative autonomy, and its relation to capitalist reproduction, civil society and post-capitalism.

HNES Room 142

Liu Li (Central University of Finance and Economics): Revisiting the Poulantzas-Miliband Debate: Two Approaches to Constructing the Relative Autonomy of the State

Bogdan Ovcharuk & Isabelle Le Bourdais (York University): Mis-recognition, Production, Appropriation: Framing the Contemporary Debate between Social Democracy and Marxism

Tamara Caraus (University of Lisbon): Marx's Republic

Chair: Joe Pateman (York University)

Panel: Class Consciousness & Subjectivity | Explores the (trans)formation of class consciousness, and how capitalist social-technical relations shape class identity.

HNES Room 138

DW Livingstone (University of Toronto): Class for Itself: Inquiry into Higher Levels of Class Consciousness

Eugenio Capitani (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia): Class, Alienation, and the Fetishism of Emotions in the Digital Techno-capitalist Market

Benjamin Curtis (Rhodes College): Class Consciousness and the Party Form

Kuba Malec (Polish Academy of Sciences): Socialist Disruption of Homosexuality's Reification: The Political Economy of Polish Gayness

Chair: James Brittain (Acadia University)

Panel: Historical Case Studies / Regional Political Economy | Offers analyses of regional/national political economies in relation to broader capitalist dynamics.

HNES Room 105

Kadir Selamet (University of Toronto): Thinking Ottoman History Through the Concept of Bourgeois Revolution

Zhou Yipeng (University of Michigan): Commodity Against Market: The Moral Economy of Copper Pricing in Imperial Russia

Mahyar Mohaghegh Dolatabadi (York University): The Role of Ideology in Iranian Capitalism

Chair: Tamanisha John (York University)

COFFEE BREAK
10:30 am to 10:40 am
Student Lounge

Day 2, Session 2: 10:40 am to 12:10 pm

Panel: In Living Conversation with Michael Burawoy

HNES Room 102

David Fasenfest (Editor, *Critical Sociology*, and York University): Michael Burawoy: Compassionate Sociologist

Gökbörü Sarp Tanyildiz (Brock University): Genocide *contra* Sociology: Decolonization, Du Bois, and Burawoy

Jennifer Jihye Chun (University of California, Los Angeles): Rethinking Burawoy's Labor Politics under Racial Capitalism.

Emine Fidan Elcioglu (University of Toronto at Scarborough): What We Consent To: Tracing Political Desire through the Extended Case Method

Chair: Hyun Ok Park

Panel: Marxist Critiques of Development & Global Order | Critiques mainstream development theories emphasizing anti-colonial and anti-imperialist standpoints.

HNES Room 105

Muhammad Azeem (Toronto Metropolitan University): Business and Human Rights: Anticolonial Marxist Critique Beyond Discursive Decolonial and Postcolonial Theory

Ricardo Dello Buono (Cuban Academy of Sciences): Marxist Development Theory: Overcoming the Weberian Legacy

Alys Moody (Bard College): Towards a Marxist Theory of (World) Hunger

Hamish Evans (King's College London): From the Economic to the Political: A Critique of the Developmental Framework

Chair: Waquar Ahmad (University of North Texas)

Panel: Human Well-being & Social Conditions Under Capitalism | Explores human well-being in relation to capitalist exploitation and systemic structures.

HNES Room 142

James J. Brittain (Acadia University): (The Prevention of) Proletarian Well-being: Wading Through the 'Muck' of Mental Health

Dennis Raphael & Toba Bryant (York University; Ontario Tech University): It took 175 Years, but Marxist Insights into the Health Effects of Capitalism are Entering Mainstream Public Health Discourse

A. T. Kingsmith (Humber College and OCAD University): Chatbots and Capital: Rethinking Mental Health Through Marxian Analysis

Chair: Theryn Arnold (York University)

Panel: Theory and Rethinking Praxis | Focuses on the connection between theory and revolutionary ideological and political practice.

HNES Room 138

Corey W. Dolgon (Stonehill College): Towards a Popular Sociology: Bringing Praxis Back In

Ingo Schmidt (Athabasca University): The Dialectics of Economism

Sean Isaacs (York University): Romantic Marxism and Communist Freedom

Timothy Barr (De Pauw University): Marxism and Rhetoric: Problems and Possibilities

Chair: Tony Smith

Panel: State & Democracy: Analyzes the state and bourgeois democracy, exploring possibilities for revolutionary transformation or alternative political arrangements.

HNE 104

Jeremiah Gaster (York University): There Ain't No Such a Thing as A Bourgeois Revolution: Reclaiming Revolutions From Elite Circulation

Dennis Pilon: Governing Capitalism: Reviving Marxist Analysis of 'Actually Existing Democracy'

Wu Xinyi (Renmin University of China): Comparison and Dialogue Between Marxist and Non-Marxist Party Views: Historical Evolution and Contemporary Implications

Cui Bingjie (Central University of Finance and Economics): Comprehend Equality in Three Dimensions—Marx's Criticism of Proudhon's View of Equality in Political Philosophy

Chair: Joe Pateman (York University)

LUNCH 12:10 pm to 1:10 pm

Day 2, Session 3: 1:10 pm to 2:40 pm

Panel: Elaboration of Specific Marxist Economic Concepts | Offers theoretical elaborations and applications of particular concepts in Marxist economics.

HNES Room 102

Viren Murthy (University of Wisconsin-Madison): Value Theory, Unevenness and the Possibility of Socialism in Asia

Nicolette Lukibanova (Princeton University): Logistics in the Open Veins of Peru

Karl Beitel (Independent scholar, New York): Marxist, Keynesian, and Post-Keynesian Explanations of Capitalisms Long-Term And Unresolvable Structural Contradictions

Josh Watterton (York University): Tendency, Countertendency, and Trigger: Profitability, Economic Dynamics, and the 'Anatomy Of Crisis'

Chair: Joshua McDermott (Southeastern Louisiana University)

Panel: Critiques of Political Ideological-Constructs | Critiques various political ideologies and conceptual frameworks, exposing their underlying class interests or limitations.

HNES Room 142

Daniel Egan (University of Massachusetts): Are Military Metaphors Still Relevant for Marxism?

Elliot Goodell Ugalde (Queen's University): Abstraction and its Limits: Dialectics of Nature and All That Is Solid Melts into Air

Jason Wright (Bolshevik Tendency): The End of the 'American Century'

Suddhabrata Deb Roy (University of Alberta): The Paradoxes of 'Indian Socialism': A Marxist Analysis on Popular Socialisms in India

Chair: Sophia Ilyniak (York University)

Panel: Education & Social Reproduction of Inequality | Examines how educational systems and pedagogical approaches function within capitalist societies.

HNES Room 138

Molly Sutherland (Acadia University): The Ideological Work of 'Progressive' Education: Alienation and the Illusion of Choice in Public High School Organization

Douglas Fleming (University of Ottawa): Interrogating Plurilingualism: A Deleuzian/Marxist Stance

Ding Wang (York University): The Ignorant Schoolmaster and the Decline of the Humanities In Our Time

Nadine Violette (York University): Education for Whom? Toward A Maoist "Peoples' Pedagogy" of Liberation

Chair: Evmur Taran (York University)

Panel: Capitalism and Crisis: Dimensions and Developments | Examines ways of thinking about crisis, including political and imperialist developments relating to crisis.

HNES Room 105

Hyun Ok Park (York University): The Capitalist Crisis and Global Fascism in the Present

Ken Kawashima (University of Toronto): From the Crisis of Narration to the Narration of Crisis

Kanishka Goonewardena (University of Toronto): Reflections on the Variety of Theories of Imperialism and Crisis

Emanuele Saccarelli (San Diego State University): The Crisis Within and the Crisis Without: Ignazio Silone's "Fascism. Origins and Development."

Chair: David Fasenfest (York University)

COFFEE BREAK
2:40 pm to 2:50 pm
Student Lounge

Day 2, Session 4: 2:50 pm to 4:20 pm

Panel: Marxist approaches to Ecology | Applies Marxist thought to ecological issues, including neo-extractivism, and integrates indigenous philosophies, as well as the relationship between Marxism and science in understanding ecological realities.

HNES Room 102

Kürşad Atalay & Renan Funda Barbaros Özay (York University; Ege University): From Resistance to Silence: Eco-Marxist Reflections on Turkey's Extractivist Conflicts

Tiffany Montoya (Muhlenberg College): Marxism, Indigenous Philosophy, and Ecological Solidarities: Rethinking Nature as a Worker

Tarique Niazi (University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire): Competing Marxist and non-Marist Perspectives on Eco-social Relations

Salvatore Engel-Di Mauro (SUNY New Paltz): Marxism and science: Amílcar Cabral's application of dialectical historical materialism to soil science

Chair: Victor Wallis

Panel: The Capitalist State: A Force for Racism and Imperialism | Examines the capitalist state's promotion of racism and imperialism through specific case studies.

HNES Room 142

Viktoriya Vinik (York University): Constructing Class: The Ministry of Construction and Housing (MoCH) and Colonial Expansion

Mina Mir (York University): Strange Punishment: A Marxist Reading of the Racial Capitalism of Photography

Tamanisha J. John (York University): Making Space for Caribbean Anti-Imperial Thought (amidst Neoliberal Machinations)

Christopher Sorio (York University): Talking Peace, Waging War: The Philippine State, the Peace Process, and the Struggle for National Democracy

Chair: Joe Pateman (York University)

Panel: Pathways of Complexity in Marxist theory | Focuses on methodological and theoretical innovations seeking to convey the complexity of Marxist theories and concepts.

HNES Room 138

Nazanin Zarepour (Cornell University): Toward a revolutionary theory of inscription: Althusser, "theoretical practice", and materialist hermeneutics

Uros Kranjc (Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts): The Concept of Class between a Set (of Multiplicities) and an Institution – a Marxist Perspective

Eric Cazdyn (University of Toronto): Marx as Japanese Dissident

Chair: Kanishka Goonewardena

Panel: Interventions: Solidarities; Cultures and Political Formations | Combines themes of international solidarity, critiques of political phenomena, and analyses of cultural heritage.

HNES Room 105

Daniel Benson (St. Francis College): Internationalism Before and After Marx

Aaron Irion (George Washington University): Populism as Transfiguration: A Losurdian Critique of Post-Marxist Left Populism

Alexandra Moss (York University): Towards Marxist Critique in Heritage Conservation

Donghyung Lee (Yale University): From Practical Atheism to Practical Theism: Reassessing Marx's Critique of Religion from a Practical Perspective

Chair: Stefan Kipfer (York University)

BREAK
4:20 pm to 4:30 pm
Student Lounge

Closing Remarks and Publication Plans
HNES Room 140, 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Organizing Committee Members

Closing Social Event
Sugar Brown quintet (featuring Ken Kawashima)
September 27 (Saturday), 9:00 pm - 11:30 pm EDT
Grossman's Tavern
377 Spadina Ave.

Free, but donations welcome.
Details below!

<https://torontobluessociety.com/event/sugar-brown-quintet-7/>