

# Work and Climate Change

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presented by

**Work in a Warming World**

and

**SFU Morgan Centre for Labour Research**

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Simon Fraser University Harbour Centre Downtown Vancouver

• SEPTEMBER 21 2012 •



# Work and Climate Change

**Simon Fraser University Harbour Centre  
September 21, 2012**

How can institutions of work adapt more effectively, and contribute more fully, to the struggle to contain global warming? How will the institutions of work be required to change in the face of climate change?

The Work and Climate Change Workshop highlights the overall objective and some of the initial research findings of the SSHRC-CURA, Work in a Warming World.

## **THE WORK AND CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT FROM:**

Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Simon Fraser University

York University

Morgan Centre for Labour Research

Work in a Warming World (W3) Research Programme



## **PROGRAM**

- 8:30am           **REGISTRATION**
- 8:45am           **INTRODUCTION AND WORKSHOP OVERVIEW**  
Welcome from Director of the Morgan Centre for Labour Research, Gary Teeple
- 9:00am           **OPENING PRESENTATION**  
Work in a Warming World: Research and Critical Spaces for Labour  
Carla Lipsig-Mummé, Principal Investigator, Work in a Warming World,  
York University
- 9:20am           **PANEL 1**  
Work in a Warming Urban World: Some Reflections on Toronto  
Steven Tufts, York University
- External Constraints on Green Industrial Strategies  
Steven McBride, McMaster University
- Making Green Work through Community Activism  
Charles Campbell, United Steelworkers
- Challenges in Reducing GHG Emissions in Greenhouse Agriculture  
Luis Aguiar, University of British Columbia-Okanagan
- Discussant  
Geoff Mann, Simon Fraser University
- 10:45am          **COFFEE/TEA BREAK**
- 11:00am          **PANEL 2**  
Does Gender Matter in the Political Economy of Climate Justice?  
Marjorie Griffin Cohen, Simon Fraser University
- Postal Workers and the Environment  
Geoff Bickerton, Canadian Union of Postal Workers
- Greening Apprenticeship and Trades in Construction  
John Calvert, Simon Fraser University
- Discussant  
Geoff Mann, Simon Fraser University
- 11:55am          **CLOSING**



## **GARY TEEPLE**

*Research Director, The Morgan Centre for Labour Research, Simon Fraser University*

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**GARY TEEPLE** is a Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and Director of the Labour Studies Program at Simon Fraser University. His research interests lie in the global division of labour, human rights, social theory, Hegelian and Marxist philosophy, and the sociology of art. His teaching follows these research interests. Currently, he is working on a book-length 'introduction to labour studies' and a critical analysis of modern liberal democracy. His most recent publications include *Relations of Global Power: Neo-liberal Order and Disorder*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011 (co-edited with S. McBride), *Globalization and the Decline of Social Reform* Garamond Press, 2005 and *The Riddle of Human Rights*, Garamond, 2004. He has a D. Phil. from the Department of Comparative Politics, University of Sussex, UK.

## **CARLA LIPSIG-MUMMÉ**

*Principal Investigator, Work in a Warming World (W3) and Professor, Work and Labour Studies, York University*

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### **WORK IN A WARMING WORLD: RESEARCH AND CRITICAL SPACES FOR LABOUR**

Starting with an overview of the Work in a Warming World CURA, my talk goes on to look at:

- What we've learned so far
- Disjuncture: Research and/in the national political scene
- New Canadian questions for both research and action
- Critical spaces for labour environmentalists in this chilly climate

**CARLA LIPSIG-MUMMÉ** is professor of work and labour studies at York University, and honorary professor of social and political inquiry at Monash University, Australia. Born into a labour family, Carla organised garment workers in New York and San Francisco, migrant farmworkers in the Coachella Valley, and worked as an educator and negotiator for Québec's CSN and CSQ. In the 1990s, she worked with Russian unions on their difficult transformation to independent workers' organisations. From 2004 to 2008 Carla was a national councillor of Australia's National Tertiary Education Union.

Lead researcher of 43 European, Australian and Canadian funded research projects, Carla is the author of more than 200 works and currently directs the *Work in a Warming World (W3)* research programme, a five year community-university initiative. In 2009 she jointly authored a report for the Australian Senate on *the Effects of Climate Change on Training and Employment Needs*. Her edited book, *Climate@Work* (2013), is published by Fernwood Publications. She is also a frequent commentator for Quebec, English Canadian and international media.

## **STEVEN TUFTS**

*Department of Geography, York University*

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### **WORK IN A WARMING URBAN WORLD: SOME REFLECTIONS ON TORONTO**

The global financial crisis of 2008 spurred a renewed call for investment in greening urban economies. Improvements in the built environment through energy efficient buildings, new state investment in public transit, re-agglomeration of production through local sourcing strategies, and shifts to immaterial and knowledge-based labour are all components of an urban 'green fix'. Further, it is clear that any just transition will require a significant role for government in urban (re)development and politics. A new 'green deal' for cities raises, however, important questions and contradictions. Specifically, this paper argues that green urban economic policy is not purely the domain of Left politicians and policy makers. In fact, right and right of centre governments are more than able to enact green urban initiatives that discipline labour and reproduce economic inequality and the concentration of capital – all in the name of reducing our carbon footprint. It is clear that an advanced *progressive* green urban economic agenda needs to be developed and advocated prior to the emergence of a more conservative green urbanism.

**STEVEN TUFTS** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at York University. He attained his PhD from York in 2003 and joined the department in 2007. His research interests are related to the geographies of work, workers and organized labour. His current projects involve the use of strategic research by labour unions and labour union renewal in Canada, the integration of immigrants in urban labour markets, labour market adjustment in the hospitality sector, the impact of climate change on workers and workplaces, and the intersection between labour and right-wing populism. He has contributed to a number of edited collections and published articles in journals such as *Geoforum*, *Antipode* and *Environment and Planning A*.

## **STEPHEN MCBRIDE**

*Department of Political Science, McMaster University*

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### **EXTERNAL CONSTRAINTS ON DOMESTIC GREEN INDUSTRIAL STRATEGIES**

Faced with the challenge of mitigating and adapting to climate change on the one hand, and reacting to economic crisis, on the other, a possible policy and political response is to experiment with green economic strategies that simultaneously address climate challenges and job creation/preservation. Indeed, building broad support for measures of climate mitigation and adaptation may depend on positioning the issue in such a way that it is perceived to promote employment. The paper poses the question: to what extent do trade treaties trump attempts to harmonize green economic development and job creation. In some North American jurisdictions efforts are underway to construct such strategies as, for example, with the case of the Ontario Green Energy Plan. This paper outlines the Ontario strategy and evaluates its record with a view to determining the obstacles posed to its implementation by international economic agreements.

**STEPHEN MCBRIDE** is Professor and Canada Research Chair in Public Policy and Globalization in the Department of Political Science at McMaster University. He has published widely on issues of political economy and globalization, and public policy. His most recent books are *Private Affluence, Public Austerity: Economic Crisis and Democratic Malaise in Canada* (Fernwood 2011) (with Heather Whiteside); and a co-edited collection (with Gary Teeple) *Relations of Global Power: Neoliberal Order and Disorder* (University of Toronto Press 2010).

## **CHARLES CAMPBELL**

*United Steelworkers of BlueGreen Canada*

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### **MAKING GREEN WORK THROUGH COMMUNITY ACTIVISM**

Blue Green Canada, in partnership with W3, has been exploring how grassroots activists and municipal officials have fared in different approaches to encouraging the greening of work in three Ontario communities. Since its founding in early 2009, BlueGreen Canada has focused on policy advocacy, information sharing and community engagement, but not exclusively, around the opportunities created through Ontario's Green Energy Act. At the community level, we have convened discussions with labour, environment and social justice advocates as well as small business owners about strategies that will support the development of a green economy.

**CHARLES CAMPBELL** has been Research department head for the Canadian National Office of the United Steelworkers since 2004. Previously, he was research director for the Ontario NDP Caucus and Washington, D.C.-based national environment writer for the Associated Press.

## **LUIS AGUIAR**

*Department of Sociology, University of British Columbia-Okanagan*

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### **CHALLENGES IN REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS IN GREENHOUSE AGRICULTURE**

This paper profiles the greenhouse industry in British Columbia and discusses the issue of climate change in the industry. I argue that climate change has yet to be forcibly articulated by the stakeholders in the industry and thus a significant gap exists in the industry and in the literature. The implications of this are also discussed. I also argue that the industry employs a large number of foreign migrant workers, who like most other workers in the industry, are on temporary employment basis. This status has consequences for workers and I describe what they are.

**LUIS LM AGUIAR** is an Associate Professor in Sociology in the Barber School of Arts & Sciences at the University of British Columbia. He co-edited the books *The Dirty Work of Neoliberalism: Cleaners in the Global Economy* (with Andrew Herod, Blackwell, 2006) and *Researching Amongst Elites: The Challenges and Opportunities in Studying Up* (with Chris Schneider, Ashgate 2012). His most recent work investigates the changing economic base of the Okanagan Valley and the recruitment of new labour forces for farms, tourism and other service work in the post-industrial economy of the Valley. His research on temporary migrant workers into the valley's agricultural and tourism industries has been published in *Interrogating the New Economy* (edited by Pupo and Thomas) and in *BC Studies* and in *Canadian Issues/Themes Canadiennes* (2010) special issue on "foreign workers". A co-edited book on *Fantasies of Whites: Whiteness in the Okanagan Valley* will be published by UBC Press in 2013. Dr. Aguiar is a recipient of a SSHRC Standard Research Grant award (2010-2013) for a project on global unions and transnational labour organizing, especially as it applies to building cleaners and the role of the SEIU.

## **MARJORIE GRIFFIN COHEN**

*Department of Political Science and Department of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies,  
Simon Fraser University*

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### **DOES GENDER MATTER IN THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF WORK AND CLIMATE JUSTICE?**

This paper will try to understand how gender issues fit into accepted concepts of climate justice. It will specifically examine the gendered nature of paid work-related contributions to climate change by quantifying emissions associated with major GHG emitters in Canada. It will also discuss the gendered nature of consumption as it relates to work with a particular focus on the problems of unpacking gendered work/consumption within the household. It will also explore some of the issues related to the gendered impact of public policy on labour and climate change.

**MARJORIE GRIFFIN COHEN** is a professor of Political Science and Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies at Simon Fraser University. She has written in the areas of public policy and economics with special emphasis on women, labour, electricity deregulation, gender and climate change, and the Canadian economy. Her most recent books are *Public Policy for Women* and, *Remapping Gender in the New Global Order*.

## **GEOFF BICKERTON**

*Research Director, Canadian Union of Postal Workers*

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### **POSTAL UNIONS AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

In many countries, including Canada, the national postal service operates the single largest fleet of vehicles and the largest number of retail facilities. While paper-based information is declining the delivery of packets and parcels, often generated by internet-based commerce, continues to grow at a rapid pace. In many countries unions play a significant role in determining work practices and equipment and influencing public policy with respect to postal services. This presentation will examine the role that postal unions can, and should play to promote environmentally responsible practices and reduce GHG emissions with respect to their own operations and those of the postal administrations.

**GEOFF BICKERTON** has worked as the Director of Research for CUPW since January 1977. As Director of Research he has been primarily involved in collective bargaining and public policy research in areas including the environment, health and safety, work process and technological change. He also participates in collective bargaining and the union's educational program. He has researched, written and presented papers at the annual Rutgers University Conferences on Postal and Delivery Economics since 2001 and serves as a member of the conference organizing committee. He is currently on the Committee of Management of Work in a Warming World (W3) based at York University.

## **JOHN CALVERT**

*Faculty of Health Science, Simon Fraser University*

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### **GREENING APPRENTICESHIP AND TRADES IN CONSTRUCTION**

There has been an enormous amount of research on ways to lower carbon emissions and reduce energy consumption in the built environment by scientists, architects, engineers and planners. However, the people who implement these new technologies and building methods at the worksite must be able to do the work properly if they are to fulfill the construction industry's environmental objectives. This research presentation will look at the skills and training challenges that Canada's construction workforce faces in the coming years. It will also examine some of the public policy and labour market options that governments will need to consider if they are serious about addressing climate change in Canada's construction industry.

**JOHN CALVERT** is a political scientist who teaches in the Faculty of Health Science at Simon Fraser University. As a member of the W3 research team, he has been examining how the construction industry and its workforce have been addressing climate change and his first W3 paper dealt with the role of labour in Germany, Denmark and the UK. In addition to his work on the construction industry, he has been extensively involved in electricity and energy policy research. He is the author of *Liquid Gold: Energy Privatization in British Columbia*, as well as a number of other studies on electricity policy in BC. He has a PhD from the London School of Economics.



## **The Morgan Centre for Labour Research Simon Fraser University**

The Morgan Centre administers the research side of Simon Fraser University's Labour Studies Program. It is dedicated to encouraging research on labour-related issues, soliciting funds, overseeing the progress of these projects, and disseminating their results on completion. The Centre offers the possibility of collaborative research ventures, open to SFU students and members of provincial labour organizations, foundations, individuals, and NGOs that are concerned about the interests of working people.

The history of labour studies at SFU stretches back over roughly 35 years; the program was created in 1975 by Jack Blaney, then Dean of Continuing Studies and later the President of SFU. Since that time, there has been a continuous presence of labour studies at the university. Initially, its role focused on sponsoring many different kind of programs designed for the union movement -- leadership schools, CLC weekend schools, forums on labour studies, the Summer Institute for Union Women, film and video series, to name some of the activities. But it has always had a strong outreach program to the larger community, and to trade unions and their members in particular – and this is an important part of its mission.

As a result of a generous donation from Ms. Margaret Morgan, a legacy to her husband, “Lefty” Morgan, the SFU Labour Studies Program has expanded significantly over the past three years. Students are currently able to complete a Minor in Labour Studies in their undergraduate program or a Certificate in Labour Studies. The Program anticipates offering a Major in Labour Studies in the coming years. Labour Studies is also active in providing financial support for students in the program and supporting a variety of events, conferences, colloquia, and guest-speakers.

A major part of the Program is also to expand the long relationship between the trade union movement and SFU and create a place of study that brings together trade unionists, workers and academics to examine and promote the understanding of work, workers, labour unions; to integrate labour-related research at SFU and make it relevant to the union movement; and to provide an opportunity for union members and research staff to acquire university degrees, with the knowledge of the social sciences and the skills of research methods. SFU's Labour Studies Program is the only university program of its kind west of Winnipeg.



# W3 | Work in a Warming World

Adapting Canadian Employment and Work to the Challenges of Climate Change 2010-2015

[www.workinawarmingworld.yorku.ca](http://www.workinawarmingworld.yorku.ca)

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**Global climate change may be on everyone's lips**, but the silence about its impact on the world of work is deafening. Climate change is already shaking up the nature of work and the distribution of employment within and between countries, regions and communities, dislocating people and industries and communities. In Canada, key economic sectors are affected directly by climate change, or indirectly by measures to mitigate its effects, and by the emergence of green technologies. New occupations and professions are springing up and the possibility of new ways of working are crystallizing.

**Yet here is the puzzle:** Despite our growing concern about environmental sustainability in Canada, research on the implications of climate change for employment and work and its flow-on impact on education and training, public investment, infrastructure and regulation, has scarcely begun. Workplaces of

every size and type—from farms to mines to factories to offices to stores to schools to hospitals to home offices—are both significant producers of greenhouse gas emissions, and potentially powerful actors in containing global warming.

**The central research question is this:** How can institutions of work adapt more effectively, and contribute more fully, to the struggle to contain global warming? How will the institutions of work be required to change in the face of climate change?

## Work in a Warming World has four goals:

- Map and evaluate how well labour market organizations are assessing and responding to the impact of climate change on work and employment in their sectors.
- Engage community partners specialising in training, environmental advocacy and work organization in identifying critical spaces for the adaptation of work and employment.
- Turn research into solutions for practical problems, on three levels: linking environment and employment policy; developing and introducing environmentally responsible employment and work practices; greening curriculum at all levels and broadening the environmental focus of active labour market transitions.
- Train a Canadian generation of researchers in the social dimensions of climate change.



In service to these goals, we are developing an ongoing dialogue between climate scientists, workplace organizations and academic researchers in the social and environmental sciences, and law.

***“We have options, but the past is not one of them”***

*Sauchyn, D., & Kulshreshtha, S. (2008). “The Prairies”. In D.S. Lemmen, F.J. Warren and J. Lacroix (Eds.),*

*From Impacts to Adaptation: Canada in a Changing Climate 2007. Government of Canada: Ottawa, ON*



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*W3 is Social Science & Humanities Research Council funded  
Community University Research Alliance that is affiliated with  
the Institute for Research & Innovation in Sustainability (IRIS)*



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## Partners

### UNIVERSITIES

#### York University, Lead Organisation

Auckland University of Technology  
Institute of Land and Food Resources, University of Melbourne  
Queen's University  
Ryerson University  
Simon Fraser University  
St. Thomas University  
University of British Columbia - Okanagan  
University of Manitoba  
University of Toronto

### ORGANIZATIONS

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - British Columbia  
Canadian Steel Trade and Employment Congress  
Canadian Union of Postal Workers  
Morgan Centre for Labour Research  
Clean Air Partnership - Ontario  
Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union  
Environmental Defence  
Forest Products Sector Council  
Institute for Research in Sustainability (IRIS)  
La Fondation Monique-Fitzback - Québec  
Labour Education Centre - Toronto  
Learning for a Sustainable Future  
National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy  
National Union of Professional and General Employees  
Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy/Professional Engineers Ontario  
Prism Economics and Analysis  
Royal Architectural Institute of Canada  
United Food and Commercial Workers Canada  
United Steelworkers of Canada  
UNITE-HERE Canada  
Wood Manufacturing Council

## Researchers

### ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS

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Sarah Winterton, Environmental Defence  
Nick Worhaug, UNITE HERE



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**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**  
THINKING OF THE WORLD

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