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SENIOR COLLEGE

The Thirteenth Annual Senior College Symposium Inequalities and Their Consequences

The Faculty Club, 41 Willcocks Street, Main Floor

Thursday, April 5, 2018

Co-Chairs: Margrit Eichler and Daphne Maurer

Harold Atwood (ex officio), Carl Baar, Cornelia Baines, Larry Bourne, Sandy Gregor,
Suzanne Hidi, John Kennedy, Ken Rea, Scott Rogers, Peter Russell.

9:15

Welcome



9:30-10:25

Stephen Gordon, Laval University

Income Inequality in Canada: Trends, Causes and Policy Directions

Growth in Canadian incomes has been uneven across the income distribution and across time. This survey outlines some of the basic facts of income inequality and their challenges for policy-makers and discusses possible solutions.

Bio: Stephen Gordon received his PhD in economics from the University of Toronto in 1990, and has been a professor of economics at Université Laval since 1992. His research has been published in several peer-reviewed journals, including the Canadian Journal of Economics, the American Economic Review and Social Choice and Welfare. In 2005, he started the economics blog Worthwhile Canadian Initiative, and he has written extensively for the Globe and Mail, Maclean's and for the National Post, where he has had a weekly column since 2015.



256 McCaul Street, Suite 412, Toronto, ON M5T 1W5 Canada

Tel: 1 416 978 7553 • senior.college@utoronto.ca • www.seniorcollege.utoronto.ca/

10:25-10:40

Coffee

10:40-11:25

John Myles, University of Toronto

Intergenerational Equity for Erstwhile Hippies: What's Happened Since the "Summer of Love"?

This talk will deal with changes in poverty and income inequality between Canada's 100th (1967) and 150th (2017) anniversaries with a focus on the changing fortunes of both young adults and the elderly. Canada's centennial coincided with the "summer of love" when my generation promised to build a better future for all. How well did we do? And how can we do better?

Bio: John Myles is Emeritus Professor of Sociology and Senior Fellow, School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Toronto. Until 2012, he was Canada Research Chair in the Social Foundations of Public Policy. He has written widely on issues related to the political, economic, and social foundations of economic inequality.

11:25—12:10

Suzanne Stewart, University of Toronto

Impact of Inequality on Indigenous Mental Health and Psychology: Why it Matters and What it Means

Indigenous peoples in Canada experience high rates of mental health problems despite many policies and programs that have been put into place to mitigate this. There are many barriers Indigenous individuals and families face in terms of mental health service interactions. Barriers to mental health identified by Indigenous peoples are the intersection of cultural identity and racism and the legacy of colonial intergenerational trauma; many Indigenous peoples feel oppressed by health care both historically and currently, largely due to colonialism and lack of culturally appropriate services. This presentation contains culturally safe approaches to mental health practices by a leading Indigenous scholar/practitioner who bases models and approaches in Indigenous knowledges. Results from the presenter's research and best practices indicate there is a need for cultural respect and resources from workers and systems of health; strong leaders and workers who promote and encourage cultural practice; acknowledgement and prevention of systemic oppression; and the importance of integrating Indigenous knowledges into all levels of client service.

Bio: Dr. Stewart is a member of the Yellowknife Dene First Nation. She is a registered psychologist and Director of the Waakebiness-Bryce Institute for Indigenous Health at the Della Lana School of Public Health at University of Toronto, where she is an Associate Professor in the Division of Social and Behaviour Health Sciences. She holds the current Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Homelessness and Life Transitions and is Chair of the Aboriginal Section of the Canadian Psychology Association

12:10-1:00

Lunch

1:00-1:45

Reading from *A Blow in the Face*, by Lisa Ryder.

Director: Monica Dottor. Introduced by Pia Kleber.

Discussion: Linking to Structural Inequality. Led by Margrit Eichler.

A Blow in the Face explores that intense, disorienting time after childbirth, a chrysalis which creates mothers out of women but is seldom acknowledged as a profound rite of passage in our society.

Alice's post partum experience takes on a nightmarish, fairy tale quality when her sacrifice of her body, mind, sleep, privacy and identity becomes too much to bear.

Lisa Ryder is an actor/theatre creator and writer based in Toronto. With her theatre company Bald Ego, she created original, movement based works such as *Put Me Away*, *Cafe Naked* and *Panting of the Victors*. Most recently Lisa completed a world tour of Canadian Stage's *Helen Lawrence* playing the title character. Her play, *A Blow in the Face*, will premiere in Nightwood Theatre's 2018/19 season.

Monica Dottor is an accomplished dancer, musician, choreographer, actor and director. She has recently brought her talents to *Bears* (National Tour) and *The Other* (Theatre Centre), which she directed, designed and choreographed and in which she played the lead. Career highlights include: *Malaria Lullaby*, *The Overcoat*, and *Chekhov's Shorts* at the Chekhov International Theatre Festival in Moscow.

Margrit Eichler is a retired professor from Social Justice Education at OISE. Her research includes studies of family policy, feminist methodology, and unpaid housework.

Pia Kleber is Professor of Drama and Comparative Literature at the University Toronto.

1:45-2:05

Coffee

2:05-2:50

Bruce Ryder, Osgoode Law School

Assessing the Impact of Charter Equality Rights: Successes, Disappointments and Hopes

The equality rights in s.15 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* have had important transformational impacts on the Canadian legal system. Legislatures passed many amendments to statutes to eliminate discrimination and achieve compliance with s.15 before it came into force on April 17, 1985. After the Supreme Court of Canada interpreted s.15 as prohibiting discrimination on the basis of marital status and sexual orientation in 1995, a similar process of widespread legal reform was initiated, culminating in the recognition of same-sex marriage across the country with the passage of the *Civil Marriage Act* by Parliament in 2005. In contrast, s.15 of the *Charter* has played a limited role in litigation before the courts in advancing equality for women, workers, racialized groups, vulnerable religious minorities, the homeless or those living in poverty. Equality concerns have often been addressed in judicial opinions under other provisions of the *Charter*, particularly s.2 (fundamental freedoms) and s.7 (the right to life, liberty and security of the person), rather than s.15. The Supreme Court has described the equality rights in s.15 as embodying "the fondest dreams, the highest hopes and finest aspirations of Canadian society." This presentation will explore the reasons for this pattern of successes and disappointments in *Charter* equality rights litigation, and will suggest ways that s.15 might contribute to the achievement of our "highest hopes" in the future.

Bio: Bruce Ryder is an Associate Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University where he teaches and researches constitutional law and human rights. He served for many years as Co-Chair of Osgoode's Annual Constitutional Cases Conference. He is Co-Director of Osgoode's Constitutional Law LLM Program and Academic Director of the Anti-Discrimination Intensive Program, a partnership he launched in 2011 between Osgoode and the Human Rights Legal Support Centre.

2:50-3:45

**Kwame McKenzie, Wellesley Institute
Inequality, Health and the Promise of the Basic Income**

With rising income inequality in many countries in the world and the fear that automation will lead to more unemployment, a wave of enthusiasm and intrigue from across the political spectrum has greeted the basic income experiments which now span the world. But what do we know about the possible impacts of the basic income on health?

Dr Kwame McKenzie is a Professor of Psychiatry at University of Toronto. He is the CEO of Wellesley Institute, a policy think tank focussed on the social determinants of health. He is the Chair of the Research and Evaluation Advisory Group of Ontario's Basic Income Pilot.

3:45

General Discussion: What can be done to reduce inequality? To increase fairness?

4:15

Reception

5:00

End



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Upcoming Events

Colloquium discussions 2-4 P.M., Senior College Centre

May 10 Why was there a resurgence of fundamentalism in the second half of the 20th century?

June 14 The Slow Professor (by Barbara Seeber and Maggie Berg)

Solstice Party

June 21 or thereabouts

Summer lunches

July and August, University of Toronto Faculty Club

September Wednesday talks resume, Faculty Club, 10 A.M.-12 P.M. (with optional lunch)

September 12 Reinhart Reithmeier

“The 10,000 PHDs Project at U of T: Whither our 2000-2015 Graduates?”

September 19 Harry Glasbeek

Law’s Responsibility for Corporate Irresponsibility

September 26 Ritu Birla

Title: TBA

Research grant applications

Due September 30

Keeping Wisdom Flowing!

The Senior College of the University of Toronto would like to take this moment to announce our exciting new program, starting today we launch, with your opportunity to participate, **The Senior College Advancement Campaign.**

Our present goal is to raise \$75,000.00 over a three year period, with the funds being used to support and enrich the College's currently successful programs.

Ways you can contribute to the Flow!

- **With ease** via credit card as a single, sporadic, annual or monthly gift.
- **A novel way** of contributing: a Fellow has given the royalties from his book sales to the fund.
- **At a later date** as a legacy from your estate.

For any of the above, or giving via life insurance, stocks and securities, RRSPs, etc., contact...

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