

Dept of Social Science – Job Talk

Work and Labour Studies (WKLS) - CLA

Kate Laxer

Dates

Monday,
May 13

Times:

Teaching Presentation

9:30 am
– 11:30 am

Location:

701 Ross
South

All sessions will be
open to faculty &
students.

Light catering will
be available.

Labour and Globalization

Course Description: This course examines the impacts of globalization on work and labour. We begin by exploring the global influence of neoliberalism on national and international regulatory bodies governing labour. Workers in the Global North have seen a decline in real wages and social wage packages, a rise in precarious forms of employment, and the erosion of workers' rights. Meanwhile, workers in the Global South struggle to combat the powers of transnational corporations and international trade agreements that challenge national sovereignty, deepen state indebtedness, and prolong poverty and dangerous working conditions. We will consider the evolution of employment regimes and industrial relations, with emphasis on the degree to which they represent the interests of workers. We will also examine policies and laws governing transnational migration, such as Canada's temporary foreign worker programs, along with examples of labour export policies of other countries. In addition to examining transnational production, we will review the rise of transnational social reproduction, with attention to the gendering and racialization of labour migration and globalization. Unions have faced challenges representing workers in the face of international trade agreements and transnational corporations. We will review examples of resistance and cross-national solidarities that have emerged to protect and defend labour. Throughout this course, we will consider the uneven consequences of globalization across social locations of gender, race, indigeneity, immigration status, class, disability, religion and sexual orientation. Primary focus will be on Canada with selected review of other national contexts.

Kate Laxer, PhD. Kate's research focuses on workers in health and social care with particular attention to issues of gender, race/ethnicity, immigration, support work, and precariousness. Kate is working on several projects with Tamara Daly, including researching caregivers in long-term care and investigating the relationship between heart disease, diabetes and the social determinants of health among South Asian populations in the Toronto area. Kate is a co-investigator on two projects, including with the SSHRC-funded Insight Grant, *What's Past is Prologue: Comparing Long Term Care Workers and Working Conditions Between Canada and Nordic Countries 10 Years Later* (PI Dr. Tamara Daly). Her background is in sociology and feminist political economy.