

Dept of Social Science – Job Talk

Work and Labour Studies (WKLS) - CLA

Katherine Nastovski

Date:

Monday,
May 13

Time:

**Teaching
Presentation**

13:30
– 15:30

Location:

701 Ross
South

All sessions will be
open to faculty &
students.

Light catering will
be available.

Labour and Globalization

Course Description: What is neoliberal globalization? Why is it so widely used to explain the ways in which work and working conditions have changed over the past forty years? How has neoliberal globalization affected work, workers and workers' organizations?

In the most basic terms, globalization describes a set of processes that have operated to create the inequalities of wealth we see today. We now live in a world where eight men have the same wealth as the bottom half of the world's population while the wage disparity between the Global North and South is estimated at 70:1.ii One of the processes of neoliberal globalization is the restructuring of global value and care chains, where new technologies, free trade agreements, and the rise of transnational corporations have changed the way production, distribution and social reproduction is organized on a global scale. This has meant the off-shoring of manufacturing jobs in the Global North and the undermining of older sources of livelihoods in the Global South thus producing dramatic increases in migration flows from the countryside to cities and from the Global South to the Global North. Simultaneously, privatization, deregulation, and contracting out have been operating to erode living and working conditions, while deepening existing inequalities between workers based on class, race, gender, and citizenship.

Katherine Nastovski (PhD) is an Associate of the Institute on Globalization and the Human Condition at McMaster University. Katherine completed her PhD in Social and Political Thought at York University and does research exploring the possibilities of transformative models of transnational trade union action, solidarity and coordination. Katherine's academic research grew out of her work as a union activist and her involvement within grassroots international labour solidarity organizations. In 2017 Katherine was involved organizing a joint trade union-academic conference entitled "Confronting Global Capital: Strengthening Labour Internationalism and Transnationalism Today." globalization.mcmaster.ca/conference which was held at McMaster University from October 12-14. She is currently working on a co-edited book with Dr. Thomas Collombat on Labour Internationalism in Canada. The book will be published by Fernwood in the Fall of 2018.