

2016 RESRG Graduate Conference

Inequality – Landscapes - Resources

9:00 – 5:00 | 8 April 2016

Schedule of Events

9:00-9:30	Registration and Coffee (RB 2024)
-----------	-----------------------------------

9:30-10:45	Panel 1: Development, Sustainability, and the Environment (RB 2026)
------------	---

Opening Statement: **Dr. Chander Shahi, Dean of Graduate Studies**

Moderator: **Dr. M.A (Peggy) Smith, Associate Professor, Faculty of Natural Resources Management**

Anna England, “Seeing the Forest from the Trees: Analyzing the Positive and Negative Implications the Forestry industry has had on Northern Ontario”

Si Chen, “Economic and Ecological Trade-Off Analysis of Forest Ecosystems: Options for Boreal Forests”

Brandon Cordeiro, “‘We’ll be the only place in North America that glows in the dark’: Nuclear Waste, Northern Ontario, and the Metabolic Rift”

11:00-12:00	1st Keynote: Margaret Kenequanash Title: Chairperson, Wataynikaneyap Power, First Nation led Transmission Company Topic: Connecting Remote First Nations Communities to Clean Energy Dr. Andrew P. Dean Vice President, Research, Economic Development & Innovation Welcome & Keynote Speakers’ Introduction RB 2024
-------------	--

12:00-1:00	A light lunch will be provided for all conference participants in RB 2026
------------	---

1:00-2:00	2nd Keynote: Karen Peterson, PhD Title: Community-based Development Planner & Educator Topic: Complexity of Environmental Problems and the Move Toward Sustainability through Collaboration with Dissimilar Entities Roopa Rakshit PhD candidate, Natural Resources Management RB 2024
-----------	---

2:00-3:30	Panel 2: Land Use and Reconciliation (RB 2026)
-----------	--

Moderator: Dr. Michel Beaulieu

Michael Lucifora, “Mercury Poisoning at Grassy Narrows”

Dan Duckert, “Don’t Pimp My Land!”

Marc H. Bohémier, “Indian Reserves, Land Use, and the Role of Police”

Satenia Zimmermann, “Sustainability, viability and community well-being: Strengthening the future of northern Ontario's First Nations communities through mining”

3:30-3:45	Coffee Break
-----------	--------------

3:45-5:00	Panel 3: Nation, Empire, and the Rise of Neoliberalism (RB 2026)
-----------	--

Moderator: **Dr. Steven Jobbitt**

Steven DeAlmeida, “Puerto Rico as a ‘Camp,’ Colony, and a Nation”

Kim Young, “Neoliberalism and the New Imperialism: The Case of Syria to Present”

Kyle Gaudreau, “No Brexit: The Far Right and the Return of the Nation State”

Presenter Abstracts and Bios

Bohémier, Marc H. “Indian Reserves, Land Use, and the Role of Police”

Abstract: My proposed research will be seeking insight from First Nations leaders, police services, and corporate stakeholders to identify and entrench informed strategies and directions when addressing land use and/or resource development on First Nations and surrounding area.

This primarily theoretical and qualitative research project will address the historical tensions that continue to exist between Euro-Canadians (the legal system and public police services) and its indigenous peoples in an attempt to create a template for informed change and the reduction of conflict. A central aspect of this research will bring together foundational components of indigenous worldviews in an effort to impart and bring forth indigenous cosmological, temporal and spatial views of the land into the discussion.

Much of this research will focus on Canada’s public police services and the importance of their comprehensive involvement in an informed and mutually beneficial conversation surrounding land use on indigenous land. Central themes of the research will focus on the realization that an ethical space of engagement between the Euro-Canadian and its indigenous peoples exists. Once its presence is acknowledged, this ethical space can become a critical point of departure for a substantive exchange of ethnocultural discourse and understanding (Ermine, 2007).

The research will examine and focus on a mixture of Western and “Indigenous Systems Theory”. For example: Cultural Theory/ Social Ecological Systems/ Cultural Landscapes/ Historical Ecology/Complexity Theory (Adaptive Systems Theory and Panarchy, emergence, resilience, etc.) and Indigenous Systems Theory (Mino-Bimaadiziwin, the Medicine Wheel, the Two Row Wampum Belt, etc.).

Bio: Marc H. Bohémier is a first year candidate in the MES-NECU program in the Geography Department at Lakehead University. Marc was an RCMP officer for over 25 years, and served for the last 12 years of his career as the RCMP’s Aboriginal Liaison Officer for Northwestern, Ontario stationed in Thunder Bay. During this period Marc travelled extensively in Ontario’s far north working with Aboriginal communities developing and conducting non-enforcement community enhancement programs and activities. On a periodic basis he was also the Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of the RCMP’s Aboriginal Policing Section for the province of Ontario. Marc retired from the RCMP on September 4, 2015.

Chen, Si. “Economic and Ecological Trade-Off Analysis of Forest Ecosystems: Options for Boreal Forests”

Abstract: Intensive forest management practices for production forestry can potentially impact the sustainability of ecological functions and associated forest ecosystem services. Understanding the trade-offs between economic gains and ecological losses is critical for the sustainable management of forest resources. However, economic and ecological trade-offs are typically uncertain, vary at temporal and spatial scales, and are difficult to measure. Moreover, the methods used to quantify economic and ecological trade-offs might have conflicting priorities.

We reviewed the most current published literature related to trade-off analysis between economic gains and sustainability of forest ecosystem functions and associated services, and found that most economic and ecological trade-offs studies were conducted in tropical and temperate forests, with few having their focus on boreal forests. Analytical methods of these

published studies included monetary valuation, biophysical models, optimization programming, production possibility frontier and multi-objective optimization.

This review has identified the knowledge gaps in the understanding and measurement of the economic and ecological trade-offs for the sustainable management of boreal forests. While it remains uncertain how economic activities might best maintain and support multiple ecological functions and associated services in the boreal forests, which are susceptible to climate change and disturbances, we propose the use of optimization methods employing multiple objectives. For any tool to provide sustainable and optimal forest management solutions, we propose that appropriate and robust data must be collected and analyzed.”

Bio: Si Chen is a PhD Candidate in the Faculty of Natural Resources Management.

Cordeiro, Brandon. ““We’ll be the only place in North America that glows in the dark’: Nuclear Waste, Northern Ontario, and the Metabolic Rift”

Abstract: By 1975, there existed over 1,500 tons of irradiated fuel spent from nuclear power reactors and tailing ponds in Canada; by 1980, this amount had doubled, and was expected to continue to grow with the expansion of Ontario’s nuclear energy program. The Hare Report (1977), commissioned by the Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources, concluded that geological disposal of nuclear waste in the Canadian Shield served as both a ‘feasible and immediate solution’ to the growing problem. Due to its abundance of land and low population, Northern Ontario became the focus for further research and testing.

Between 1977 and 1998, Northern Ontario was embroiled in the nuclear waste controversy, as the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) began its search for communities willing to accept nuclear waste. This paper will show how the attempts made by the AECL, Ontario Hydro, and Provincial and Federal Governments to establish a nuclear waste repository in Northern Ontario further exemplifies the region’s subordinate role in its core-periphery relationship with Southern Ontario. By applying the theory of metabolic rift, this paper will show how Northern Ontario has played a crucial role in the development of the province’s nuclear energy program, and how the nuclear waste debate served as a continuation of the metropolis’ exploitation of Northern lands, resources, and communities for its own benefit. Finally, this paper will show that the unwillingness of Northern communities to accept nuclear waste was a response to the greater political, economic, and environmental inequalities between Northern and Southern Ontario.

Bio: Brandon Cordeiro is a first year Masters Student in the Department of History at Lakehead University. His research interests include Northern Ontario and the social and economic development of single industry towns.

DeAlmeida, Steven. ““Puerto Rico as a "Camp", Colony, and a Nation”

Abstract: There is no doubt that Puerto Rico is simultaneously a colony and a “camp” (i.e., a “camp” in the sense understood by the philosopher Giorgio Agamben, who in his book *Means Without End: Notes on Politics* defines “camp” in terms of a “state of exception”; in other words, a camp exists where people lose their human rights in a way similar to individuals in a concentration camp). However Puerto Rico is also a nation without being a sovereign state. By exploring the paradoxes of a nominally sovereign territory that is also a “camp,” this paper explores the ways in which the human rights of Puerto Ricans have been violated since the late nineteenth century by the U.S. government. By denying them their right to choose their own

political sovereignty, the U.S. government has denied Puerto Ricans the right to a nation that “serves the common cause of civilization” (Renan 265), and has thus contributed to the corruption of the notion of Puerto Rican civilization.

Biography: Steven DeAlmeida is in the second year of his MA in history at Lakehead University.

Duckert, Dan. “Don’t Pimp My Land!”
--

Abstract:

I love our land, she does so much.
With you, I have seen a different story
Did you love your land only for what she could do for you?
You felt the rewards when you dirtied your hands and sweat over hoe
She made strong bountiful plants of corn, wheat, peas and beans
She fed your cattle, hogs, chickens and lamb
And then you stripped her of her treasures and energy
Ordaining yourselves with jewels and Power

You were well, and felt rich and rewarded
You worked hard to make her what she is
You compartmentalized and classified her
You surrounded her in barbed shackles
She was good for - this here, and that there
You ditched her, drained her and injected stimulants in her veins when she could no
You applied ointments to kill her diseases as the cure filtered through her skin and
Her body is blemished with your tumours.
You isolated her and protected her from degenerates
Reserving her for your most valued, but distant clients

When she was tired, you deserted her, buried her under concrete, dissected her and transplanted
her organs to the back yards of suburbia.
You forced her, failed her and tried to rehabilitate her.
She looks tired and strung out.
You look perverse

In my land I am free, but bound to Her
We navigate life together, arm in arm
I do not know what She wants, but She speaks to me
I hear her pulse and feel the flow of her pure blood
Her blood gives me life, strength and spirit
I know when things are not right, She acts different
She changes, and then so must I.
We have lived this way since time immemorial
Working together in love and humility
My land is whole, functioning as Herself and I find my place in Her life.

I see you coming, your eyes are wide
Opportunities abound!

Reconciliation of the Canada/Indigenous relationship and resource development are two priorities in First Nations territories. The Canadian model of power and control over the Indigenous Peoples has failed. Since we apply this same model in our land ethic, are we destined to fail there as well? I assert that in order to meet both these priorities we must simultaneously reconcile our relationship with the people and the land.

Bio: Dan is a PhD Candidate in the Faculty of Natural Resources Management at Lakehead University.

England, Anna. “Seeing the Forest from the Trees: Analyzing the Positive and Negative Implications the Forestry industry has had on Northern Ontario”

Abstract: Forestry has been an undoubtedly defining industry within Northern Ontario. The amount of businesses, both direct and indirect, that rely on Canadian forest management is absolutely astonishing. This paper attempts to analyze the positive and negative consequences forest-based industries have had on Northern Ontario in terms of economics, environmentalism, and societal dependence. To begin, a brief overview is provided of the history of the timber industry in Canada as a whole and how technological change and innovation brought forth a new wave of rapid production and resource organization. The subsequent economic profits of forestry unfortunately skewed political and social response to forest management, as monetary success was, and maintains to be, the priority for resource governance. That said, however, recent decades have witnessed a surge in research which suggests a crisis in forestry. The environmental implications of clear-cutting large swatches of woodland has led to public outcry, despite timber companies’ attempts at forest regrowth and conservation.

Furthermore, communities which depend on direct and indirect lumber industries are beginning to feel the impacts of decline in forestry and the crisis of timber management. Indigenous communities are also subject to the ramifications of forestry, and have been for centuries, as relocation and ecological imperialism have altered their traditional values of subsistence living. Evidently, forestry is a very two-sided debate in which management and sustainability mean very different things for many different societies. This paper attempts to address these varying groups and their perceptions of forestry as it relates to defining Northern Ontario

Bio: Anna is an MA student in history. She has just completed her first year in the Masters program at Lakehead, and is pursuing research on Soviet Russia.

Gaudreau, Kyle. “No Brexit: The Far Right and the Return of the Nation State”

Abstract: In June 2016, British voters will go to the polls to cast ballots in a referendum that will determine whether or not the UK will remain within the EU. Driven by euroskeptic attitudes that have been on the rise since the early 2000s, the far right has been mobilizing behind the “yes” vote, and has played an important role in the return of nationalism and the nation state in recent years. This paper explores the resurgence of right-wing populism in the UK, and the intersection between far right politics and the Brexit campaign.

Biography: Kyle is an MA student in history at Lakehead University. His research interests include neoliberalism and the rise of the radical right in Europe since the 1980s.

Lucifora, Michael. “Mercury Poisoning at Grassy Narrows”

Abstract: In 1962 Dryden Chemical began dumping poisonous amounts of by-product into the Wabigoon-English river system. The by-product pollution was inorganic mercury. The inorganic mercury underwent a process of methylation, allowing it to enter the flesh of organisms in the river, specifically fish. Hundreds of kilometers down river was a small band of indigenous peoples known as Asubpeeschoseewagong (Grassy Narrows first nation) whose main diet consisted of fish from the river. Mercury was transferred from the fish to the First Nations people causing an illness known as Minamata disease. Knowledge regarding Minamata was high because 20 years early a similar mercury poisoning had occurred in Minamata, Japan.

The fallout from this poisoning caused devastating changes to Grassy Narrows. A large number of adult Asubpeeschoseewagong had tremors, movement and balance impairment, and numbness of the limbs. Infants, born to mothers who had been exposed to the mercury, had birth defects that caused them to develop severe impairments. Socially, Grassy Narrows was devastated. The government began to interfere with the cultural practices of the Asubpeeschoseewagong and their way of life. Employment levels dropped to 5% because the mercury poisoned local commercial fishing spots. Further, alcohol became a problem for many of the adults of the band because they were unemployed.

The relationship that the government of Canada and Ontario shared with Grassy Narrows was an unequal and unfair one. The poisoning of Asubpeeschoseewagong is a localized example of global events. Beck's risk society and Core/Periphery relations help to explain the organization of society and how first nations are targeted as a lower class citizen. This presentation will show how the negligence of the federal and provincial governments of Canada failed to prevent the mercury poisoning from occurring. The governments also failed to effectively rectify the problem once it had occurred. As a result the toxic levels of mercury are present today and still poison First Nations communities at Grassy Narrows.

Bio: Michael Lucifora is in the first year of the MA program in the History Department at LU.

Kim Young, “Neoliberalism and the New Imperialism: The Case of Syria to Present”

Abstract: A series of populist reforms that not only redistributed wealth but restructured the state were implemented in Syria following its independence in 1946. The postwar period in Syria can be defined according to political upheaval, particularly as a result of continuous struggles concerning economic development and state building which led to the failure of populist regimes and the consequent rise of the conservative military regime of Hafiz al Assad in 1971, which in turn began a new phase in Syrian economic development. The oil boom in cohesion with foreign sources of revenue allowed for the development and expansion of the Syrian military and bureaucracy, infrastructure and public services.

Syrian industrialization under Assad in the 1970s which was funded by public investment became increasingly reliant on foreign resources as public investment was re-allocated to military spending throughout the 1980s. Syria, in the 1980s experienced a state of economic crisis as a result of foreign debt and the transition to an export based economy which marked a neoliberal shift towards a capitalist free market economy model. This phase of neoliberalization in Syria saw a weakening of state control over the economy as the private sector and the Central Bank of Syria gained influence not only in monetary policies but as the main agent of economic change, which ultimately led to high levels of poverty and unemployment, the lack of significant and sustainable economic growth, as well as resistance in the form of Islamist groups.

Bio: Kim Young is a first year MA student in the History program at Lakehead University. She is pursuing research on Islamophobia and the refugee crisis in Europe.

Satenia Zimmermann, “Sustainability, viability and community well-being: Strengthening the future of northern Ontario's First Nations communities through mining”

Abstract: The purpose of this paper is to examine how the notions of sustainability, viability and community well-being are interconnected, and how they have been used to strengthen the future of Indigenous communities through natural resource development. I will examine how sustainable natural resource development in Alaska, Nunavut, and Nunivak has increased the viability of Indigenous communities, improved community well-being and strengthened the future of these communities. I argue, that despite the plethora of challenges currently impacting many of northern Ontario's Matawa First Nations communities, prospective mining development in the Ring of Fire region could increase viability and improve community well-being. Evidence to support my argument will be drawn from three development projects: oil and gas development in the North Slope Borough, Alaska; hydro development and the James Bay Cree, Nunivak; and mining development and the Baker's Lake Inuit, Nunavut. An analysis of these three projects will help to identify common key traits, including the importance of Indigenous knowledge, Indigenous rights, and Indigenous self-governance as critical factors contributing to successful natural resource development projects. This will assist First Nations peoples, industry leaders, government officials, and academic scholars to ensure that all sustainable mining projects proposed in northern Ontario increase viability, improve community well-being, and strengthen the future for First Nations peoples.

Bio: Satenia Zimmermann is a PhD Candidate in Natural Resource Management at Lakehead University. Her PhD research focuses on Matawa First Nations, and how free, prior, and informed consent relates to development in the mining sector.