

2010 Global Citizenship Conference: *Panel Sessions*

Saturday

Panel Session 1 – 9:45-11:00 (Plenary):

Global Citizenship & Myth of Canada – BA201

This session will look at how our conceptions of Canada as a “global citizen” are in many ways misplaced. Is Canada actually welcoming of diversity, a peace-keeping nation and an environmentally conscious global actor? While there is some truth to these conceptions, they are not entirely accurate either. By examining these conceptions of national identity, this session will consider whether Canada is truly the global citizen we conceptualize it to be.

Panel Session 2 – 11:15-12:30 (Concurrent):

Canada and the War in Afghanistan – BA102

This session will consider how public dialogue about Canada’s role in the war in Afghanistan is engaged through cultural production, particularly the work of Canadian War Artists. How do these representations bring war at a distance closer to home? It will also consider whether Westernized democracy is an appropriate export to Afghanistan, or whether it still possesses a colonizing and dominating nature that does little to take stock of the actual problems and hardships that exist within the country.

Environmental Accountability: Beyond Copenhagen – BA101

Copenhagen has shown us that international leaders have been unable to reach agreement in terms of environmental accountability, leaving it to us as (global) citizens to ensure our own individual and collective environmental accountability through a variety of measures and at various levels (including personal, institutional, regional, etc.). This session looks at local environmental accountability initiatives, including how students can ensure environmental accountability on their campuses (as well as globally), efforts to reduce greenhouse gases emissions in Waterloo Region, and how environmental sustainability can be built into business strategies.

Public Pedagogy and Media – N1001

The media transmit and reinforce official knowledge and the dominant worldview. News, documentaries and popular culture shape the way we understand our world and our role in it as global citizens. This session will look at how alternative and social media are increasingly being used to challenge dominant discourses, to pursue radical politics and to promote global citizenship.

Panel Session 3 – 4:45-6:00 (Plenary):

Educating for Global Citizenship – BA201

This session will examine the extent to which the existing education system does or does not prepare students to play a role as global citizens. What are the obstacles? Where is there hope? Particular focus will be placed on anti-colonialism in education and the intersections of race, class, gender and identity in education, both of which need to be examined if educators are to help students become global citizens. The session will also look at the potential and limitations of education opportunities outside the classroom to shape students into global citizens.

Sunday

Panel Session 4 – 10:00-11:15 (Concurrent):

Vancouver Olympics Debate – N1001

The 2010 Vancouver Olympics are drawing near, as the Olympic Torch Relay winds its way across Canada, inspiring feelings of national pride. But not everyone is pleased about where and how Olympics and the Relay are being organized. This session is about Indigenous resistance to the Relay coming through their territory and to the 2010 Games, infringements on civil liberties and the criminalization of poverty and dissent for the Olympics in Vancouver, corporate “greenwashing” and other Olympic propaganda, as well as anti-Olympic resistance in Ontario.

Prorogation of Canada’s Parliament – BA101

For the second time in as many years, Prime Minister Stephen Harper on December 30, 2009 prorogued parliament. The decision to prorogue is the sole discretion of the Prime Minister and typically signals the end of the parliamentary session, but has Harper abused this power? What are the issues that will be ignored as a result of the prorogation? What can concerned citizens do to voice their concerns?

Responsibility of Academics – BA102

Is the role of academics limited to mere presentation of course material and methods of analysis, without advocating personal, political, moral, or any other kind of views? Or is it their moral imperative to make political and moral pronouncements in matters of fundamental human rights? How do the methods that academics use in teaching replicate, reinforce or dismantle the power structures of the broader society? What is the importance of historians in particular in society and in public debates?

Panel Session 5 – 2:15-3:30 (Plenary):

Western Tradition of Knowledge – BA201

There are different ways of knowing and of framing knowledge, but that scientific realism has become the dominant – and dominating – view. As a result, Aboriginal and gendered knowledge and ways of knowing, for example, have been left out. The dominant view determines our political structures, making them oppressive in many ways, and also our individual and collective identities as citizens and global citizens.

2010 Global Citizenship Conference: *Workshops*

Carlos Andrés Gómez Workshop (1:30–2:30pm)

“Politics of the Passive and Personal” (BA201)

During this hour-long workshop, participants will grapple with and discuss the hidden power and meaning of everyday words. What commonly used words and expressions unwittingly hurt and demean? What are the most powerful words of the English language? Can epithets be reclaimed by the community they are meant to belittle and used for empowerment? These and other questions will be addressed in this provocative discussion of the often ignored and overlooked in our everyday discourse.

Saturday (2:45 - 3:30 pm) and (3:45 – 4:30 pm)

1. "Exploring Seemingly Distinct Approaches to Corporate Sustainability: The Incremental and Transformative Pathways to Change"(BA210)

This workshop, presented by Sustainable Waterloo, will compare and contrast the effectiveness of incremental and transformative change models on corporate sustainability. An examination of Sustainable Waterloo's business model, as well as various conceptualizations of the 'triple bottom line', will be discussed.

2. "The Global Citizen As Designer, Nudger, Nurturer of Collaborative Culture?" (BA111)

A micro-collaborative culture experience to explore resources, maps, & processes for building trust; shifting systems from coercive to collaborative dynamics; & releasing power & appetite for change on all scales from personal to global. This workshop will be facilitated by Jean Robertson & Tanya Williams; "The Living Room Context" - learning communities for collaborative culture; Household-As-Ecology; & the WARMER Project . livingroomcontext.org, tanyawilliams.ca

3. "Women in Academia" (BA113)

This workshop will focus on the challenges faced by young, female leaders (particularly professors, TAs and student leaders) as well as the importance of encouraging the women around you to become leaders. This workshop will be run as a conversation between participants. Facilitated by Melany Banks.

4. “Theatre for Social Change” (BA112)

Art can move you. Theatre is a medium that can be used purposefully and with a social conscious. Join local actor/directors Kate Klein and Janice Lee in an interactive workshop to learn about and practice the ways in which theatre can be used for social change: through content that addresses relevant issues, forms that are accessible to actors and audiences, processes that are non-hierarchical, and presentation styles that address audiences in a critical, and constructive manner. Please come ready to participate. No acting experience or pretensions necessary.

5. "Journalists for Human Rights Presents: Knowing Your Rights & Shining a Light on Human Rights Abuses" (BA202)

What are our rights? This workshop will explore Human Rights from the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, and from the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, perspectives. After this introduction, the workshop will then apply 'rights discourse' to a case-study inspired by Journalists for Human Rights 'Train-the-trainer' sessions. Time permitting, this workshop will also include information about Critiques of Human Rights, and possibly a brief primer on Canadian Civil Rights.

6. "Peace Café Project: Opening Your Own Community Centre for Peace Education and Global Citizenship" (BA208)

A peace café is a café with ethical and sustainable food & drink, development workshops for individuals and groups, a peace resource library, and engaging social justice oriented events. This workshop explores, in more detail, what a Peace Café is, who is running them, where they

7. "Permaculture Philosophy & Principles of Design: a systems design approach to permanent agriculture/culture where people work with the natural world to care for themselves and the earth as a whole." (BA209)

This workshop will begin with an overview of permaculture principles of design and how they can be applied to global or local sites and systems. In the second portion of this workshop participants will have a chance to split up into smaller work groups so that they can actually begin applying permaculture principles to their own real life projects with assistance from volunteers. Due to the limited time of workshops, participants are welcome to repeat this workshop in order to continue working on their projects in more detail.

8. "Global Citizenship vs. REAL Democracy" (BA211)

Democrates, the author of the Manifesto of REAL Democracy, re-evaluates the concept of "Global Citizenship" in today's brave new world of global feudalism and global Democracy Fraud. This workshop offers new concepts, a new perspective on oppression past, present, and future, and a new political structure – the Democracy Circle – that gives each and all of us equal ruling power. For an introduction to this alternative way of thinking and acting, go to circleofdemocracy.net

Sunday (11:30 – 12:15 pm) and (1:15 – 2:00 pm)

1. "Urban Homesteading - Fostering Local Self-reliance in an Interconnected Global World" (BA210)

This workshop will explore the issues around local production and consumption, and global trade. How does what we consume here in Canada affect people in developing countries? The presenters argue that by building locally productive lifestyles within collaborative communities we model the very relationships needed to develop equitable trade with people in other communities throughout the world. (an added line) This workshop will also provide resources and projects that you can undertake in order to become more locally self-reliant.

2. "Leveraging Grass Roots Democracy: voter mobilization & nGaging citizenship" (BA111)

It's not true that you can't fight City Hall. Learn how ten ordinary citizens were able to put important issues onto the political agenda, help with voter education, and redraw the political map for Waterloo. A blueprint will be given for how any group anywhere with common interests can have an impact on not only the upcoming municipal election but also keep politicians engaged in your concerns.

3. "Creating a Culture of Resistance: Organizing Alternative Spaces" (BA113)

by Adam Lewis and Alex Hundert of the Kitchener Waterloo Community Centre for Social Justice (KWCCSJ)

This workshop will examine the creation of alternative political spaces within the broader capitalist and neoliberal political order. Ideas around alternative forms of political and social justice organizing will be presented as a framework to enacting permanent autonomous spaces for resistance and action. Community organizing outside of the university and corporate sanctioned spaces will set the basis of discussions emanating from this workshop. Find out about the KWCCSJ and catch a glimpse into alternative social and political organization.

4. "So you want to change the world, huh?" (BA202)

Renjie from Social Innovation Generation (SiG), a collaborative initiative seeking to address Canada's social and ecological challenges by creating a culture of continuous social innovation, will lead the participants of this workshop through understanding the process of transformational change for broad impact, durability, and scale. Social Innovation Generation is a group who believes that serious social problems can be solved. Their focus is on fostering social innovation to achieve impact, durability and scale by engaging the creativity and resources of all sectors.

5. "Transition KW presents: an exploration of global & local transition culture, from oil dependency to local resilience" (BA208)

In this workshop participants will explore the global transition town movement (popularized by Rob Hopkins) and its response to peak oil and climate change at the local level. We will look at this unique movement and many of the strategies that are helping create resilient communities all over the world and what that could look like in Waterloo Region in the years to come.

6. "Ambient Violence in the Institution: Barriers and Resistance" (BA209)

This workshop will focus on the ways in which everyday instances of violence that may normally go unnoticed are perpetrated, affirmed, and enabled through the institution of the university. It will discuss how such ambient violence acts systemically as a barrier for individuals and communities, and ways in which we can resist the perpetuation of this normalized violence.

7. "Food Systems and the Culture of Silence" (BA211)

We vote daily for the kind of planet we want to live on each time we buy food. During this workshop we will examine the "Culture of Silence" that surrounds our food system: from the near complete saturation of the global food market with GMO foods to animal rights, a Culture of Silence exists that must be broken if we are to produce and consume food in a sustainable, equitable way. Participants will leave with concrete actions they can take and information they can explore more deeply. Come prepared to share your ideas, concerns and dreams about the kind of food system you want.

Presenter: Jodi Koberinski. Jodi is the Executive Director of the Organic Council of Ontario. www.organiccouncil.ca Jodi has been active in the organic food movement for over a decade.

8. "Complementing your Education: Exploring Alternative Approaches to Learning" (BA112)

This workshop will provide the space and opportunity for participants to engage in a critical dialogue that explores the pros and cons of the university experience and its approach to learning. Participants will also explore what alternative approaches to education, that include vulnerable populations and/or non-traditional students, may look like, as well as what opportunities exist for participants to engage in alternative education locally and globally.