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# *SOCIAL THOUGHT AND POLITICAL ECONOMY NEWSLETTER*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *SEPTEMBER 2010*

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## **Welcome to New Students**

We are happy to welcome the following new students to the STPEC Program as of Spring 2010:

Lovis Axon, Catalina Baker, Margaret Hersey, Nina Hutchinson, Ruth Karasik, Alex Keane, Lauren Lynch, Michael Risberg, Brenda Stacey, Megan Whiteford, and Jonathan Wolf.

*Many thanks to all who helped with these new student meetings!*

## **MEETING TIMES FOR NEW STPEC MAJORS**

We will be holding meetings for new STPEC majors on Wednesday, September 22nd through Friday, September 24th. If you are a new STPEC student please come into the STPEC office to sign up for a meeting time (the sign up sheet will be posted behind the main desk) and obtain a STPEC Application Form. If you cannot make any of these times please speak to either the Program Coordinator or the Program Director so that they may arrange an alternate time for you.

As always, we're looking for volunteers to help with the new student meetings - it's fun and easy and a good way to meet new STPEC students! Please see Deborah in the STPEC Office if you'd like to help - or just show up!

## **STPEC MOVIE NIGHTS!!!!**

Every third Thursday of the month, STPEC will be holding a movie night featuring a movie/documentary of staff choice. These are open to anyone interested and will be held in the STPEC office (until it gets too big and we have to move it). We'll start at 7:00 pm and there will be snacks. Themes might include: colonization: histories and legacies; gender and international (imperial) wars; US social history (race, etc); immigration and borders. We have some movies in mind, but if you have suggestions please contact Katherine in the STPEC office.

## **NEW PATHS THROUGH STPEC**

To allow STPEC students to take advantage of opportunities like the five-year M.A., study abroad, internships, and "Intro to STPEC," we will be encouraging you to satisfy many STPEC requirements earlier than used to be the case.

STPEC 391H and STPEC 392H will now be called "STPEC Seminar I" and "STPEC Seminar II" instead of "Junior Seminar I" and "Junior Seminar II." (This change was proposed by student representatives to the STPEC Executive Committee.) We will urge STPEC students to take these seminars in their SECOND (sophomore) year.

To meet the prereqs for STPEC Seminar I and II, we will urge students to take Intro to Social Theory, Intro to Political Economy, and Intro to STPEC in their FIRST year.

STPEC students will then be able to spend their THIRD (junior) year studying abroad or on domestic exchange, pursuing a more intensive internship experience, or taking courses required for a five-year M.A.

In their FOURTH (senior) year, STPEC students will continue to take STPEC's special topics courses, STPEC 491H, 492H, and 493H (two of these courses are required for graduation).

All STPEC students, including those who enter the STPEC Program late or as transfers will of course still be able to take STPEC 391H and 392H in their third or even their fourth year if that works best for them.

If you have questions about whether these "New Paths through STPEC" are right for you, please come to the STPEC Office to talk to Katherine, Danielle, or Deborah.

## **WANT TO JOIN THE STPEC OFFICE STAFF?**

**The first STPEC Office staff meeting will be on Monday, September 13th from 1:00-2:00 pm in the STPEC Program Office.** If you'd like to join the STPEC office staff (and help run the STPEC Program for academic credit) please see page 5 for more details or talk to Deborah or Katherine in the STPEC Office.

◆◆◆◆◆ ADD/DROP NOTES ◆◆◆◆◆

STPEC 391H and 393A are currently full. To request either of these courses please fill out an add request form in the STPEC Program Office. 392H is on-line for STPEC sophomores, juniors and seniors and 491H, 492H and 493H are on-line for STPEC juniors and seniors. If SPIRE will not let you add the desired class on-line, you will need to come into the STPEC Office and fill out a STPEC Add Form *before the second meeting of the course* in order to add it.

- To request an Independent Study, please fill out an *Independent Study Form*.
- To request an Internship, please fill out an *Internship Study Contract*. For more instruction on registering for the STPEC Internship, please see page 4.
- Be sure to give your completed form(s) to Deborah Reiter, STPEC's Program Coordinator (you may leave it/them in her mailbox if she is not available in person). **You will also need to have attended the first two class meetings in order for us to consider your add request.** If a course is less than 75% full at the time of your request we will put you immediately into the course. For courses which are over 75% full, requests will be prioritized according to the following guidelines:
  1. Special Needs Students (ie. a Junior who is going abroad for a year and who needs to graduate on time).
  2. Seniors will have priority over Juniors who will have priority over Sophomores.
  3. Students with the same graduation status will be prioritized on a first come first serve basis.

**INCOMPLETES IN JUNIOR SEMINAR I**

Once again a reminder that STPEC 391H is a *pre-requisite* for all other STPEC courses, except for Junior Writing. In most cases, you will not be admitted to other STPEC seminars until you have *completed* STPEC 391H with a grade of C or better. If you find yourself in an extreme panic due to our standard policy please come and talk to Katherine Mallory about your situation.

To register for **STPEC 298Y section 4: STPEC Office Staff**, please speak to Deborah Reiter or Katherine Mallory in the STPEC Office. For more details on the STPEC Student Office Staff Internship, please see page 5 or ask a staff member for a syllabus.

**CHANGE IN TOPIC AND INSTRUCTOR FOR STPEC 493H for FALL 2010!**

Our original 493H seminar, *The Battle between Science and Religion in Sexual and Reproductive Health* with Marlene Fried, has been **canceled** due to Professor Fried's recent appointment as Acting President of Hampshire College. *Our replacement seminar will be:*

**STPEC 493H section 2**

***Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity***

*taught by Flavio Risech, Professor of Critical Social Inquiry at Hampshire College.* The class will meet on Wednesday from 6:30-9:00 pm and we hope to have it listed on SPIRE soon. Junior and Senior STPEC majors who have completed Junior I with a grade of C are eligible to register for this course on SPIRE.

**STUDENT TAUGHT COLLOQUIUMS**

We have two great student taught colloquiums being offered for Fall 2010:

STPEC 291E: *Slavery Today*, facilitated by Benjamin Durfee.

STPEC 291K: *Food Movements*, facilitated by Nicole Brownstein and Nora Murphy

For more information on all of these courses please see the STPEC Course Description Sheets available from the STPEC office or on-line at <http://www.umass.edu/stpec/>. Look under Academics - Course Descriptions.

***What is STPEC 197I?***

**Intro to Social Thought and Political Economy**

What is social theory? Social constructionism? What about postcolonial, neocolonial or postmodern? Ever feel somewhat unclear about white privilege, queer theory, immigration debates or the prison industrial complex? What about "disaster capitalism"? What is Social Thought and Political Economy and why do you care about social justice anyway?

The intro class (STPEC 197I) is a 3 credit class offered every spring for incoming STPEC students. It is a discussion-based, interactive primer on the terms/concepts that both illuminate and limit our comprehension of social justice issues. The class is constructed on strategies of critical and liberatory engagement and is based on your learning. This course is intended to ensure that you will be generally on the same page as other STPEC students and well prepared for the STPEC seminars.

### **STUDENTS NEEDED FOR THE STPEC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!!!**

All long range policy decisions for STPEC are made by the STPEC Executive Committee—and student spokespersons have an equal voice!

We'd like to have at least one spokesperson from each STPEC class: 298Y(4), 391H, 392H, 393A, 491H, 492H, 493H, Praxis, the first year student class and the sophomore student class. As a spokesperson your job is to collect the concerns and ideas of the students in your class, meet with other STPEC student spokespeople to decide on issues to take to the Executive Committee meeting, present those issues at the meeting, and report back to your constituents about what decisions were made. Each class will have one vote apiece at the full Executive Committee Meeting, although classes may have more than one spokesperson.

We'll start recruiting for spokespeople during the second week of classes. Please consider volunteering - help make democracy happen in STPEC! If you know already that you'd like to be a spokesperson for the Fall 2010 semester please contact Deborah in the STPEC Office with your name and the class you'd like to represent; 545-0043 or [stpec@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:stpec@sbs.umass.edu).

Other members of the Executive Committee are all the STPEC teaching and office staff paid on a more than one semester basis and faculty associated with STPEC. The full Executive Committee meets at least once a semester and can meet more often if its members decide it's important to do so.

### **[www.umass.edu/stpec](http://www.umass.edu/stpec)**

Check this site for STPEC events, scholarship announcements, newsletters, course lists, recent news items, and more. We are still looking for more photos for these web pages! So if you have a photo of STPEC students or a STPEC event that you'd be willing to share please e-mail it to [stpec@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:stpec@sbs.umass.edu).

### **CRITIC-L: STPEC ON-LINE**

Not yet on the STPEC discussion list-serv? You can use this list to discuss hot topics, find jobs and internships, references and help in courses, or just chat with other STPEC students. The STPEC Office will also be using the list to inform you about events and other announcements. Some of the many departmental decisions we will have to make may end up being discussed on-line as well. To sign up for critic-l send your request to [stpec@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:stpec@sbs.umass.edu). This list is for STPEC students, alums, staff and instructors only.

### **CHANGES TO THE STPEC CURRICULUM**

**As approved by the STPEC Executive Committee April 26, 2010.**

- History elective: we will now allow students to double count the STPEC History Elective with another STPEC Program requirement.
- The category Modern Western Social Theory has been changed to Modern Social Theory.
- STPEC Junior Seminar I and Junior Seminar II will now be titled STPEC Seminar I and STPEC Seminar II. We'll see this change up on SPIRE in Fall 2011.
- STPEC Seminar I and II are now open to STPEC sophomores, as well as juniors and seniors, on SPIRE.
- STPEC Senior Seminars I, II and III will have a name change which will be decided on by the Fall 2010 Executive Committee.
- STPEC Senior Seminars will now be open to STPEC juniors and seniors on SPIRE.

### **STPEC Staff and Instructors for Fall 2010:**

<i>Program Director</i>	<b>Sara Lennox</b>
<i>Chief Academic Advisor and Internship Director</i>	<b>Katherine Mallory</b>
<i>Assistant Academic Advisor</i>	<b>Danielle Nelson</b>
<i>Program Coordinator</i>	<b>Deborah Reiter</b>
<i>Office Assistant</i>	<b>Tyler Rocco-Chaffee</b>
<i>Junior Writing Instructor</i>	<b>Ethan Myers</b>
<i>Junior I Instructor</i>	<b>James Fiorentino</b>
<i>Junior II Instructor</i>	<b>Sreela Sarkar</b>

**and a warm welcome to our Senior Seminar Instructors:**

**Preston Smith**, a Professor of Politics at Mount Holyoke College, will teach STPEC 491H: *Race and Urban Political Economy*;

**Jerrold Levinsky**, a Lecturer in the Department of Legal Studies at UMass Amherst, will teach STPEC 492H: *Labor Theory and Ideology*;

**Flavio Risech**, a Professor of Critical Social Inquiry at Hampshire College, will teach STPEC 493H: *Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity*.

## All About the STPEC Internship Requirement (STPEC 498Y)

All STPEC majors are required to complete a 3 or more credit graded internship before graduation.

If you have not yet completed this requirement, you can do so by registering for STPEC 498Y, section 1. Your faculty sponsor will be Katherine Mallory, STPEC's Internship Director. *You are responsible for finding your own internship placement, and having it approved by Katherine prior to registering for the course.*

Grades for the STPEC Internship requirement are based on your written analysis of your experience and observations. We therefore recommend that you complete at least one semester in the STPEC program before registering for an internship, so that you have an analytical framework to use as the basis of your written work.

*Occasionally* we accept prior internships or internships completed through other departments for the required internship. In order for such a course to count, it must be graded, worth three or more credits, and involve at least 100 hours of work. In addition you must have written an analytical paper of at least twelve pages based on your experience, which you must submit to Katherine for approval.

Regardless of how you plan to fulfill your internship requirement, **you must have Katherine's prior approval. Please don't wait until your final semester** to talk to Katherine, or you may find that you have to stick around for an extra semester!

Katherine will once again be offering **STPEC 494A, Praxis**. This is a two credit graded optional course offered to help students further explore the relationship between theory and practice. This class will offer practical guidance on writing the Internship papers. To register please speak with Katherine. Class meeting times will be scheduled at the beginning of September.

### Internships as Electives

We welcome and encourage STPEC students to do internships beyond the 3 credits required for the major. The University allows you to count up to 15 internship credits toward graduation. You can earn up to 15 credits in one placement, or you can complete two or more smaller internships. Students doing elective internships may work with the Faculty Sponsor of their choice.

## Student Bridges Program

Student Bridges is a student-initiated outreach program that connects UMass students with local community-based organizations and schools through tutoring-mentoring partnerships, college awareness activities, and policy advocacy. The program has primarily partnered with schools and programs in the Holyoke-Springfield area.

For more information: visit [www.studentbridges.org](http://www.studentbridges.org) stop by 306 Student Union – call 413 545-7676 – or email [studentbridges@gmail.com](mailto:studentbridges@gmail.com)

## PHENOM INDEPENDENT STUDY

Help the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts organize a powerful movement for affordable, accessible, well-funded public higher education!

In this independent study, students will work with other PHENOM activists to expand and strengthen PHENOM's organizing and advocacy work.

Students will have a choice of whether to

- Organize on the UMass Amherst campus,
- Reach out to students on other campuses, or
- Make connections with community organizations in Western Massachusetts

On-campus work could include outreach to student organizations, contact with union leaders and members, planning educational events, and organizing lobbying activities. Off-campus work could include speaking with local organizations, preparing and disseminating literature, and involving community members in legislative outreach.

In addition to the hands-on experiential work, students will also read, discuss, and learn a great deal about the major economic and political issues facing public higher education in Massachusetts.

Students will be supervised by PHENOM's Organizing Director, Ferd Wulkan, and will meet periodically throughout the semester for support, review of their work, and suggestions.

If you think you might be interested, read about PHENOM at [www.phenomonline.org](http://www.phenomonline.org).

To register contact Ferd at [wulkan@external.umass.edu](mailto:wulkan@external.umass.edu) or 577-4121.

## STPEC BA/MA 5 YEAR MASTERS PROGRAMS

Some of you have been asking about these so here's what we know: STPEC students will now be able to graduate in 5 years with a BA in STPEC and either an MS in Labor Studies or an MA in Public Policy. We have more hashed out for the Labor Studies option than the Public Policy, see below.

**BA/MS Labor Studies:** Coursework provides the skills necessary to work in the labor movement - expertise in organizing, collective bargaining, strategic corporate research, and union leadership - and you will have an opportunity to examine the larger theoretical and strategic issues confronting workers and their unions in the new millennium. Classes open to undergrads this fall:

- **597C Intro to Labor**
- **697C US Labor History**
- **697BB Work and the Labor Process**
- **697P US Labor in the Global Economy**

The first 2 (597C and 697C) are required for the MS. Before graduation (with the BA), students must complete 9 credits toward the MS. At least 3 of these credits (or one class) will double count for STPEC and Labor Studies. Contact Katherine in the STPEC office for more details.

**BA/MA Public Policy:** This professional academic program offered through the Center for Public Policy and Administration (CPPA) prepares students for careers as public managers, policy analysts, advocates, and public leaders. Students are encouraged to specialize in a substantive or methodological field of interest. Core courses provide students with a strong analytical foundation, applicable to a wide variety of policy issues. They are organized into four categories:

- 1) **Politics and Management;**
- 2) **Economics and Public Finance;**
- 3) **Methods; and**
- 4) **Integration and Application.**

David Mednicoff, Associate Director of STPEC, is also associated with CPPA. Contact him with questions about classes, prerequisites, the application process and specialization options: [dmednic@legal.umass.edu](mailto:dmednic@legal.umass.edu).

## STPEC SWEATS and Ts

Just a reminder that we still have STPEC t-shirts (both black on red and red on black), and a few leftover sweatshirts, for sale in the STPEC Office. See a STPEC office staff member if you want one!

## Want to help us

## **RUN THE STPEC PROGRAM?!?**

Do you...

- ★ want to have a voice in your major?
- ★ yearn for democracy?
- ★ want something GOOD to put on your resume?

In addition to being a unique academic program in terms of critical focus, we have one of the few consensus-run majors in the nation, where staff and students create the program along side one another. Interning with the STPEC office staff is one way students can help create a participatory major, supporting a community conducive to critical thought and social change, as well as contributing to continually rethinking and revising our major. Office staff duties and projects reflect the needs of the program and the interests of the students and include attending weekly staff meetings, assisting with STPEC office work, working on program publications like the STPEC newsletter, organizing student events, and making weekly program decisions. STPEC office staff members also learn useful skills like consensus decision-making, meeting facilitation, peer-advising and mentoring, and negotiating bureaucracy.

So, if you would like to participate in making the present and future of your STPEC major through advising, envisioning, collaborating and working with our educational counterparts, you should talk to Deborah or Katherine in the STPEC Office.

### **All STPEC Office Staff meetings are mandatory for all office staff members!**

The first staff meeting will be on Monday, Sept. 13th from 1:00-2:00 pm in the STPEC Office (E-27A Machmer Hall). *If you cannot make this meeting but would like to participate in Office Staff you MUST contact Deborah beforehand and provide a schedule of times you are and are not available so that we can plan for future meetings accordingly.*

## Web Resources for STPEC students!

### **STPEC Research Guide!**

Barbara Morgan, Librarian extraordinaire, has put together an on-line research guide specifically for STPEC students.

<http://guides.library.umass.edu/stpec>

**Social Thought and Political Economy Program**

**E-27A Machmer Hall**

**University of Massachusetts**

**240 Hicks Way**

**Amherst, MA 01003-9278**

**Office phone: 413 545-0043**

**E-mail: [stpec@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:stpec@sbs.umass.edu)**

**Website: [www.umass.edu/stpec](http://www.umass.edu/stpec)**

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**Immigration, Population and Racism**

*a talk by STPEC alum **Rebecca Poswolsky**,  
Field Organizer on Race, Migration and the  
Environment with the Center for New Community*

**Wednesday, September 22nd**

**Hampshire College**

**time and room tba**

We know that the environmental crises we face today are real and we must not be silent in the wake of anti-immigrant bigotry masquerading as environmentalists. This talk will provide an overview of anti-immigrant frames attacking immigrants for environmental degradation as well as community responses opposing such racism.

The anti-immigrant movement is attempting to channel environmental concerns into racism and bigotry. White Nationalist, John Tanton is the progenitor of the most influential anti-immigrant network in the country. Tanton launched Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) and U.S. Inc. 30 years ago and from there seeded most of today's anti-immigrant groups, including the Center for Immigration Studies, Negative Population Growth(NPG), Progressives for Immigration Reform (PFIR), and NumbersUSA.

Tanton Network groups and other pseudo-environmental groups like Carrying Capacity Network and Californians for Population Stabilization (CAPS) are recasting themselves so that it appears to the broader public that they are speaking on behalf of the U.S. environmental movement as a whole. In addition, the Apply the Brakes Network (made up of population control activists and environmentalists with deep environmental backgrounds) is another network that focuses on calling for U.S. population stabilization as a way to divide progressives and environmentalists by using issues of sustainability and in order to build support to push for an America First-style immigration policy.

Rebecca Poswolsky is currently working as a field organizer on race, migration and the environment with the Center for New Community, based in Chicago. The mission of the Center for New Community is to build community, justice and equality.

[www.newcomm.org](http://www.newcomm.org)  
[www.imagine2050.net](http://www.imagine2050.net)  
[www.turnitdown.com](http://www.turnitdown.com)