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# SOCIAL THOUGHT AND POLITICAL ECONOMY NEWSLETTER

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## STPEC MOVIE NIGHT!!!!

Our first movie night of the semester will be Tuesday, September 13 at 7:00 pm in the STPEC office. Snacks will be provided.

## INSIDE JOB

In this documentary producer/director Charles Ferguson (*No End in Sight*) speaks at length with journalists, politicians, and financial insiders in order to offer a clearer picture of the economic meltdown that hit America starting in 2008. Academy Award winner Matt Damon narrates this unflinching look at the deep-rooted corruption that has left millions of middle-class Americans jobless and homeless as the major corporations get bailed out while paying millions in bonuses.

## STPEC AUTUMNAL EQUINOX POTLUCK

Please join fellow STPEC students, faculty, and staff to eat and be merry in celebration of the autumn equinox and the beginning of another fall semester. The potluck will be held at Joe Brennan's new and improved digs in downtown Amherst on Thursday, September 22; contact the office or ask a fellow STPEC student for details. As always, information on this event will be available on FACEBOOK!

## Welcome to New Students

We are happy to welcome the following new students to the STPEC Program as of Spring 2011:

Ashley Boudrow, Gabriel Brunet, Brett Hausler, Nicole Mitchell, Zackary Rabel, Robert Schrag, Tara Smith, and Lucas Solorzano.

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

## WANT TO JOIN THE STPEC OFFICE STAFF?

**The first STPEC Office staff meeting will be on Wednesday, September 14th from 1:30-2:30 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 3 for more details or talk to Deborah or Katherine in the STPEC Office.

## Congratulations to Peter Thomson

***STPEC alumnus, '85, who has been named as an Eleanor Bateman Scholar in Residence.*** This program is offered by the UMass Amherst Alumni Association to promote synergy and communication between students, distinguished alumni and other members of the campus community. The program provides students with role models that exemplify achievement of the university's mission through professional accomplishments and/or public service. As part of this program, Peter will be offering a public talk at UMass Amherst on **JOURNALISM, THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE FUTURE** on Thursday, October 6, at 4:00 pm, place tba.

*a bio for Peter Thomson can be found on page 5*

## SAVE THE DATE!

### STPEC'S 40TH YEAR REUNION

will take place on April 13 and 14, 2012. All STPEC alums, instructors and students are invited. As part of this reunion we'll be holding a retirement/farewell party for Sara Lennox, who has been the Director of the STPEC Program for the last 31 years! More details on these events will be coming soon.

## MEETING TIMES FOR NEW STPEC MAJORS

We will be holding meetings for new STPEC majors on Wednesday, September 28th through Friday, September 30th. 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!

## ADD/DROP NOTES

STPEC 197I, 393A and 491H are currently full. To request any of these courses please fill out an add request form in the STPEC Program Office. 391H and 392H are on-line for STPEC sophomores, juniors and seniors and 492H is 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 STPEC SEMINAR I

Once again a reminder that STPEC 391H is a *pre-requisite* for all other upper level 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 3 or ask a staff member for a syllabus.

## BIG CHANGES FOR STPEC SEARCH FOR NEW DIRECTOR AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR!!!

This next year will bring some very big changes for the STPEC Program. Because Sara Lennox is retiring in May 2012, STPEC will be searching for a new Director from among tenured faculty at UMass. Of course this is a very special job, so we are really excited about finding exactly the right new Director who can guide STPEC into the future.

As well, our dean is allowing us to do a national search for an Associate Director. This is a new position for STPEC. The Associate Director will be a faculty member with a doctorate in a discipline related to STPEC and will teach one semester each of the STPEC Seminar series and Intro to STPEC. He/she will also be responsible for curriculum and pedagogy, recruitment and outreach, career counseling and grad school advising, and alumni relations and will help the Director with other STPEC-related tasks.

We'll be conducting these two searches in the fall and winter months and will keep you posted on how you can participate.

### STPEC Staff and Instructors for Fall 2011:

<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>Honors Coordinator</i>	<b>David Mednicoff</b>
<i>Junior Writing Instructor</i>	<b>Ethan Myers</b>
<i>Seminar I Instructor</i>	<b>Antonia Carcelén</b>
<i>Seminar II Instructor</i>	<b>Sreela Sarkar</b>

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

**Amilcar Shabazz**, who is currently the Chair of the Department of Afro-American Studies at UMass Amherst, will teach STPEC 491H: *Heritage of the Oppressed*;

**Banu Subramaniam**, an Associate Professor of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at UMass Amherst, will teach STPEC 492H: *Feminism, Science, and Religion: A Comparative Analysis*.

## **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: 197I, 298Y(4), 391H, 392H, 393A, 491H, 492H, 493H, and Praxis. As a spokesperson your job is to collect the concerns and ideas of the students in your class, meet with other STPEC student spokespersons 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 2011 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.

**The full Executive Committee meetings for this semester will be held on Friday, October 14 at 3:00 pm and Friday, December 2 at 3:00 pm. BOTH MEETINGS ARE MANDATORY FOR ALL STUDENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPS. Please plan accordingly!**

## **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)

**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 Wednesday, Sept. 14th from 1:30-2:30 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.*

### **The Writing Placement Test for English 112**

will be offered Tuesday, September 6, from 6:00-7:00 in Bartlett 212. All students must take this test before they will be permitted to enroll in EnglWrit 112. No pre-registration required. See [www.writingprogram@umass.edu](mailto:writingprogram@umass.edu) for details.

## 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.

## UMass Labor Center Conference: The Future of Work in Massachusetts

The UMass Amherst Labor Center will host a conference on *The Future of Work in Massachusetts: Labor's Agenda for Economic Development*, on September 22nd and 23rd.

The conference will begin at 7pm on Thursday, September 22nd, with a keynote by Amy Dean. Amy Dean's roots are in the American labor movement where she served for almost 20 years. She was the youngest person and first woman to lead a major labor federation of the AFL-CIO. She is also the author, with David Reynolds of *A New Deal: How Regional Activism Will Re-shape the American Labor Movement*, which offers a concrete strategy for building power for working people from the ground up.

The conference will continue on Friday, September 23rd, from 9-3:30, with talks by Robert Pollin, of the Political Economy Research Institute at UMass, on the green economy, and Dan Swinney, the Director of the Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council and founder of the Center for Labor and Community Research, and panels on public sector investment, organizing, and models for job creation and economic development and conversation break-out sessions.

There is no charge for this conference, but space is limited. Please pre-register ASAP by emailing or calling Dale Melcher; [dmelcher@lrrc.umass.edu](mailto:dmelcher@lrrc.umass.edu), 413 545-6166.

### Looking for an internship, fellowship, grant, volunteer opportunity or job?

#### Check out the Peace and Collaborative Development website:

<http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org/>  
This site is managed by a STPEC alum!

### A SOURCE FOR INTERNATIONAL

**INTERNSHIPS:** <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/about/employment/internships.aspx>

### **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!

## THE BRAND NEW STPEC ALUMNI/AE ADVISORY BOARD

STPEC is proud to announce the formation of the STPEC Alumni/ae Advisory Board! Our initial board is comprised of around 20 alumni/ae who range in graduation dates from 1979 to 2009. The board had its first official meeting in June, and will be meeting again in January. The board members are eager to foster alumni connections, fundraise, and promote STPEC. And they are excited about opportunities to foster connections with current STPEC students through networking and mentoring. Be on the lookout for events sponsored by the Alumni/ae Advisory Board starting this Fall. If you have any questions about the board, please ask Danielle Nelson in the STPEC Office; advisor@sbs.umass.edu or 413 545-0043.

## STPEC LIBRARY ROOM RENOVATED!

Stop by and check out some of the changes we've been making to the office. We've swept the mothballs out of the old STPEC library and are re-inventing it as a place for students to work, meet, and discuss. Currently we have a small conference table and one brand new computer station. Feel free to drop by and make use of this newly renovated space!

Over the course of the semester we will continue expanding the resources of the STPEC library, hopefully incorporating more computer stations and creating a nice space for students to take a break and relax.

In addition, we will be happy to consider quality donations that will contribute to the functionality of this new student space. Artwork to decorate the walls is especially appreciated, but must be approved by office staff before hanging. *Please make sure to check with someone in the office before bringing anything in!!!*

## 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. This list is for STPEC students, alums, staff and instructors only.

## JOURNALISM, THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE FUTURE

A talk by STPEC alum and Eleanor Batemen  
Scholar Peter Thomson

*Thursday, October 6, at 4:00 pm, place tba*

Peter Thomson has helped set the standards for environmental journalism across the country and internationally since his graduation from the Social Thought and Political Economy Program at UMass Amherst. He began his radio career on campus at WFCR and went on to an award-winning career in writing, reporting, producing and hosting international documentaries and programs including NPR and PRI's Living on Earth, Marketplace, and The World. For sixteen years, from 1991 to 2007, Peter was the founding producer, then senior editor, senior correspondent and then acting senior producer of the environmental news magazine Living on Earth.

Peter is the founding editor of Public Radio International's The World's Environment Desk that he continues to head today. He is also the author of *Sacred Sea: A Journey to Lake Baikal*, a work of narrative journalism about the history of and environmental threats to Siberia's giant lake, the largest and oldest body of fresh water on earth.

## ATTENTION NEW MEDIA MAVENS AND SOCIAL NETWORK NEPOTS!

Information on (hopefully) every STPEC event will be posted on the STPEC FACEBOOK FAN PAGE! Search for STPEC on Facebook and "like" us to get updates!

## Stonewall Center Grand Reopening

The Stonewall Center, the campus lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and ally center, will be holding its grand reopening after a summer of renovations on *Thursday, Sept. 8 from 5-7 p.m. in the center in Crampton Hall*. The event is open to all campus members and community supporters.

The Stonewall Center provides support, advocacy, and programming for LGBTQ and allied students, staff, and faculty at UMass Amherst and for the larger Pioneer Valley. We also seek to educate the campus and local community about heterosexism, genderism, and sexual and gender prejudice in order to create a more inclusive and welcoming climate for LGBTQ individuals and their allies.

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