WELCOME TO NEW STUDENTS
We are happy to welcome the following new students to the STPEC Program as of November & December 2014:
Carly Burgess, Ryan Christensen, Erika Civitarese, George Condon, Anh Quang Duong, Douglas Hornstein, Celia Jailer, Justin Kilian, Desdemona Kusi, Jacklyn Moreno, Joshua Strassman, Jesse Tucker, and Hannah Youssef.

MEETING TIMES FOR NEW STPEC MAJORS
We will be holding meetings for new STPEC majors on February 4th and 6th. Please use this URL to sign up for a time: http://tinyurl.com/pah9ure.

STPEC Staff and Instructors for Spring 2015
Program Director
Sigrid Schmalzer
Associate Program Director
Graciela Monteagudo
Chief Academic Advisor and Internship Director
Katherine Mallory
Assistant Academic Advisors
Tyler Rocco-Chaffee
Aaron Hirst
Program Coordinator
Deborah Reiter
Recruitment Assistant
Aja'Lee Gaskins
STPEC Seminar Instructor
Shakuntala Ray
Junior Writing Instructor
Ethan Myers

AND more...!

Don’t miss this fantastic
STPEC career networking event!

Speednetworking:
STPEC Alums and STPEC Futures
Wednesday April 8
4:00-6:30 pm
Bernie Dallas Room, Goodell
Come talk to STPEC alums about their current jobs and career paths at this informal and fun event. Small group sessions, timed so that you get to talk to everyone. Time for snacks and schmoozing afterwards.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
To reserve please email Deborah at stpec@sbs.umass.edu no later than April 5.

ALSO in this newsletter...
Activist Brown Bag Series... page 5
Add Drop Notes... page 2
BA/MA 5 Year Masters Program... page 3
Distinguished Lecture Series... page 6
Executive Committee... page 4
Internship Info... page 4
New Leadership & Involvement Req... page 3
Non-profit career fair... page 3
Office Staff... page 5
And more...!

One $1,000 STPEC Scholarship available for Spring 2015
Apply now!
This STPEC scholarship is provided for by the Sara Lennox Scholarship Fund. The award will be based on previous, current and future plans for activism and community service. In order to apply you must be in Good Academic Standing with the University and have either completed or be currently enrolled in STPEC Seminar I for the Spring 2015 semester. For more details please go to: http://www.umass.edu/stpec/academics/ScholarshipLists/stpecscholarship.html

Deadline for application is Monday, March 2, and the scholarship will be awarded in early April 2015. You can find applications online or in the STPEC office mailboxes.

STPEC Seminar Instructor
Shakuntala Ray
Junior Writing Instructor
Ethan Myers

and a warm welcome to our senior seminar instructors

Mwangi wa Githinji, Associate Professor of Economics at UMass Amherst will teach STPEC 491H: Return to the Source: The Political Economy of Nationalism and Development in Africa

Whitney Battle-Baptiste, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at UMass Amherst will teach STPEC 492H: Racialized Bodies
ADD/DROP NOTES

For the Spring 2015 semester most STPEC courses will remain on-line. STPEC Independent Studies and Internships will be off-line.

★ If you cannot add a class using SPIRE you may request the course by filling out a STPEC Course Add Request Form (available from the STPEC office). If you are on a wait list, be sure to go to the class you are requesting. You will 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.

★ To register for an Independent Study, fill out a STPEC Independent Study Form.

★ To register for an Internship, fill out an Internship Study Contract. For more instruction on fulfilling the STPEC Internship requirement, please see page 4.

★ Praxis: The 3 credit Praxis (494PI) class, which DOES fulfill the I.E. requirement, is available for registration on SPIRE. If you’d like to sign up for the 2 credit Praxis (497P) which will NOT fulfill the I.E. Gen Ed requirement please speak with Katherine Mallory, STPEC Internship Director. Please note that students who take Praxis for 2 credits (497P) will NOT be able to register for the 3 credit Praxis (494PI) at a later date. So if you need to take your I.E. this year please be sure to sign up for 494PI!

★ 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).

INCOMPLETES IN STPEC SEMINAR I

Once again a reminder that STPEC 391H is a pre-requisite for all other STPEC seminars. You will not be admitted to other STPEC seminars until you have completed (with a grade of C or better) STPEC 391H. If you find yourself in an extreme panic due to this policy please come and talk to an Academic Advisor about your situation.

Fill out your Spring 2015 schedule with these 1 credit offerings from STPEC

STPEC 291R: Activist Brown-Bag Lunch Series
1 credit, Pass/Fail Wed 11:15-1:15 Schedule #51023
Brown Bags on: 01/28: No One Leaves; 02/18 Pioneer Valley Worker Center; 03/25 Sexual Minorities Archive; 04/08 Prison Birth Project. Classroom meetings on 02/25 and 04/15

Attend talks by local activists and explore opportunities for activism in the Valley, all while eating your lunch! This class will meet select Wednesdays from 11:15am-1:15pm. We will have 4 talks by local activists, with lots of time for questions and answers. We will also meet Wednesday, February 25 and Wednesday, April 15 to discuss the talks and a few short readings. A modest final paper will be required. Registration available on SPIRE. See page 6 for more details.

★★★ New Class!

STPEC 291EV: STPEC Events – Sigrid Schmalzer
1 credit, mandatory pass/fail Schedule # 29167

Students will choose from a list of STPEC sponsored and co-sponsored events, attending six and posting comments to a Moodle discussion board.

STUDENT CO-TEACHER NEEDED

This past fall STPEC ran a very successful new two-credit seminar open to all students called Making Change: Introduction to Activism and Social Justice. It was co-taught by an intern at American Friends Service Committee and a BDIC student, Jishava Patel. One of the students who took the class, a new STPEC major named Hannah Youssef, is interested in running the class again next Fall (2015) but needs someone to co-teach with her.

Though it’s not a requirement, we would very much encourage whoever wants to do this to enroll in a one-credit UACT course this fall that provides a wonderful introduction to facilitating this kind of student-led course. Hannah will be taking it, and it would be great if both co-teachers could be in it together. If for some reason you can’t or don’t plan to do that, you would need to demonstrate other kinds of experience teaching and/or facilitating discussions around race, class, gender, and other social justice issues.

If you are interested in pursuing this fabulous opportunity, please contact Hannah directly at hyoussef@umass.edu.
New Leadership and Involvement Requirement
Test Run for Spring 2015

Engagement, involvement, activism, leadership... More than anything else, these are the priorities that separate STPEC from other majors on campus. At the most recent meeting of the full STPEC Executive Committee, we decided that participation in STPEC leadership structures (specifically, Student Staff and Student Exec) and in the various lectures and other events that STPEC puts on each semester is so important, we ought to consider making it a requirement.

This spring, you’ll be hearing from STPEC advisors about the idea of requiring all STPEC students:

1. enroll in at least one semester of Staff (a 2-credit commitment) OR Exec (a 1-credit commitment) during their time in STPEC; AND
2. enroll in at least one semester of the STPEC 291R Activist Brown Bag Lunch Series course OR STPEC 291EV STPEC Events.

We’ll be collecting your feedback on this plan this semester, and we’ll plan to make a final decision about whether to implement the requirements at the final full Executive Committee meeting in the spring. So please give some thought to this. If you’ve been involved in Staff, Exec, or Brown Bags, talk to your friends about your experiences. If you haven’t, ask people who have. And let us know what you think! Remember that Executive Committee meetings are open to all STPEC students... so you can help make this decision at the end of Spring semester (and in doing so you will be engaging in the very thing we’re seeking to promote!!).

UMass SCHOLARSHIPS
Alumni Association Scholarships

Each year the Alumni Association presents over $90,000 in scholarships and awards to eligible students.

Leaders in the Making Scholarship
Four $2,000 scholarships for sophomores and juniors with diverse records of achievement in academics and volunteerism.

Life Member Scholarship for Internships
Scholarships given to exceptional sophomores or juniors to help defray the cost of a summer, unpaid, away-from-home internship.

Michael W. Morris Scholarship
Scholarship for students from Lawrence or Lowell, MA.

For more information on these and other scholarships go to umassalumni.com/students/scholarships.html or visit Memorial Hall.

STPEC BA/MA 5 Year Masters Programs
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.

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. This program is still in development, please contact Eve Weinbaum: weinbaum@lrrc.umass.edu 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.

Amherst College
Nonprofit & Government Career Fair
Onsite at Amherst College - not at UMass
Friday, February 20    1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

The fair, hosted by Amherst College, highlights jobs and internships in nonprofit and public service and is open to students from all of the Five Colleges (Amherst, Mt. Holyoke, Hampshire, Smith and UMass Amherst). If you have any questions about the event, please contact Laura Litwiller, Assistant Director for Career Advising, llitwiller@amherst.edu or Pat Brown, Employer Engagement Coordinator, pebrown@amherst.edu, both can also be reached at (413) 542-2265.

CAREER SERVICES SPONSORED EVENTS
for full info go to: www.umass.edu/careers

Diversity Career Fair
Tues, Feb 24    1-5pm
Student Union Ballroom

Career Blast 2015
Wed, Feb 25    10am-3pm
Campus Center Lower Level

Service & Leadership Career and Internship Fair
Non-profit, government, education and camps
Tues, March 3       Student Union Ballroom
STUDENTS NEEDED FOR THE STPEC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!!!

STPEC students have the opportunity as majors not only to make decisions about their own education, but also to provide leadership and vision to the major itself. The STPEC Executive Committee is the official governing body of the major and is one very important way students are empowered to determine STPEC policy and educational vision. Consisting of STPEC students and staff and supportive UMass faculty, the Executive Committee is a representative body that uses a consensus decision-making process to determine policy. Issues are gathered by students and staff during the semester and presented to the Executive Committee for final approval or direction.

Students wishing to serve on Executive Committee should register for STPEC 291X, 1 credit, pass/fail. **Please read the course syllabus before registering for this credit.** The syllabus is available in the STPEC Office or on the STPEC website under People in STPEC/Executive Committee. In order to receive a P in this course, students will need to attend ALL of the student and full executive committee meetings, which are listed on SPIRE, and meet the responsibilities outlined in the bylaws and on the syllabus.

Serving on Executive Committee is a great way to network, gain experience, and have a real impact on your education. You will learn real, transferable skills pertaining to meeting facilitation and participation, make decisions horizontally with faculty and staff, as well as add a valuable credential to your résumé. Students in 291X are expected to serve as a link between the Executive Committee and the STPEC student body. This connection is essential to building a strong, active, and informed STPEC community.

**Course requirements**
1. Attend the orientation session to be held at the first meeting of Student Representatives.
2. Attend all Student Representative and Executive Committee meetings; every Tuesday 6:45-7:45 for student meetings and Fridays, Feb 27 and April 24, 3:00-6:00 pm for the full meetings.
3. Review the minutes of the previous Executive Committee or Student Rep meeting.
4. Deliver weekly announcements to your designated STPEC course.
5. If enrolled in a STPEC course, facilitate a 15 minute forum prior to both full Executive Committee meetings.
6. Adhere within reason to past or documented Student Representative and Executive Committee protocol.

All About the STPEC Internship Requirement (STPEC 498Y)

All STPEC majors are required to complete a 3 or more credit graded internship with a grade of C or better.

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.

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!**

**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.

**Labor Studies and Union Semester at the Murphy Institute at CUNY**

**New York Union Semester** is an innovative semester-away program, for both undergraduates and graduate students, who intern with a labor organization in New York City while taking college or Masters’ level courses in Labor Studies. Participants receive a partial tuition scholarship and weekly stipend to help cover their expenses. Please go to http://www.unionsemester.org/ for more information.

**National and international internship listings are available from the Peace and Collaborative Development Network:** look under “forums” at http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org/
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?

Interner in the STPEC office is one way students can help create a participatory major, support a community conducive to critical thought and social change, and contribute to the continual rethinking and revising of the STPEC 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. If you would like to participate in creating the present and future of your STPEC major please consider joining the STPEC office staff!

You can now sign up for this class on-line: STPEC 298Y, section 4, Schedule # 11029. Check the STPEC website for the syllabus (found under the Student tab) or talk to a staff member if you have questions.

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

*The first staff meeting will be on Monday, January 26 from 2:30-4:00 pm in the STPEC Office (E-27A Machmer Hall).*

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**STPEC Activist Brown Bag Lunch Series**

We are proud to announce the third year of the STPEC Activist Brown Bag Lunch Series. This semester, four extraordinary local activists will visit UMass to share their experiences and perspectives on activism in the Valley and beyond. Come ready to ask questions (for example, about internship opportunities!) and participate in a wider discussion of their work. The series is open to the general public, so please bring your friends. For more details on each speaker please see the STPEC web-site: www.umass.edu/stpec

An optional 1-credit course (STPEC 291R) is available for students who attend all four brown bags and two separate discussion meetings. Sign up directly on SPIRE.

All events are from 11:15 to 12:45 in the Campus Center (for specific dates and rooms, see below).

You are encouraged to bring your lunch!

**Springfield No One Leaves**
Jan. 28th Campus Center 168C
Springfield No One Leaves is a grassroots member-led organization which organizes residents most directly impacted by the housing crisis and economic inequality to build collective power, defend against displacement and win long-term community ownership & control over land and housing.

**Pioneer Valley Workers Center**
February 18th Campus Center 168C
The Pioneer Valley Workers Center (PVWC) seeks to build power for low-wage, and immigrant workers in Western Massachusetts. Through organizing, coalition building, education, research, service and leadership development the Center unites community allies to win real change in the lives of working families and our communities.

**Sexual Minorities Archive**
March 25th Campus Center 168C
The Sexual Minorities Educational Foundation, Inc. continues and expands the work of the Sexual Minorities Archives to collect, preserve, protect, and make accessible the literature, history, and art of all sexual minorities of all races and ethnicities. We seek to inform, educate, and inspire the TLGBIQ community and our allies to understand our unique stories, and individual and collective experiences.

**The Prison Birth Project**
April 8th Herter 601
The Prison Birth Project (PBP) works within a reproductive justice framework to provide support, advocacy, and leadership training with women and trans* people at the intersection of the criminal justice system and parenthood.
**Distinguished Lecture Series**
on Social Thought and Political Economy
Co-sponsored with Commonwealth Honors College
all talks take place at 160 Commonwealth Honors College Bldg; Events Hall East

### Black (im)Possibility: Ferguson and the Persistent Indictment of American Society

**Wednesday, February 11, 7:00 pm**

Chris Tinson, Assistant Professor of African American Studies at Hampshire College

This talk will engage the movement of our day as an ongoing, decentralized struggle for black humanity. The author argues that the direct action protests, mass marches, expressions of international solidarity, and the demands for community oversight of government and police point to the incompatibility of black radical protest, especially that which is comprised of black youth, black queer, and anti-capital. Rather than advance a convenient progress narrative, Ferguson, as the epicenter of this justice struggle, reveals the continuous tension between black political desires and notions of democracy.

Chris Tinson’s interdisciplinary research and teaching focuses on the intersections between Africana radical traditions, U.S. ethnic studies, hip-hop culture, critical media studies, incarceration, community-based education, and race and sports. His writings have been published in The Black Scholar, The Journal of African American History, The Nation, and Radical Teacher. He currently resides in Holyoke, Massachusetts and has conducted workshops at various college campuses, high schools, and juvenile detention centers in the area, and serves as a youth mentor. Since 2006 he has hosted TRGGR Radio, a Hip-Hop-rooted social justice radio program.

### Vietnam: An Unfinished War

**Wednesday, March 4, 4:00 pm**

H. Patricia Hynes, Director, Traprock Center for Peace and Justice in western Massachusetts

During the ten years (1961-1971) of aerial chemical warfare in Vietnam, U.S. warplanes sprayed more than twenty million gallons of herbicide defoliants, among them Agent Orange knowingly contaminated with the exceedingly toxic dioxin. In this methodical ecocide, up to one-fourth of South Vietnam was sprayed. In March 2014, environmental engineer and activist Patricia Hynes traveled to Vietnam to investigate the plight of third-generation Agent Orange-dioxin victims and the state of ecological restoration. Hynes will present photographs from her visit and discuss our responsibility for addressing this on-going legacy of the “American War” in Vietnam.

Pat Hynes is a former environmental engineer and Professor of Environmental Health from Boston University and author/editor of seven books. A feminist, peace and environmental justice activist, she directs the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice in western Massachusetts.

### Sixty Years of Working for Justice and Peace in the Valley

**Monday, April 13, 4:00 pm**

Frances Crowe, former Director of Western Mass AFSC and Activist Extraordinaire

Frances Crowe was born in 1919 and found her calling as a political activist in the wake of the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. For the past six decades she has been a leading activist in the Pioneer Valley, where she has played central roles in the anti-war, anti-nuclear, and anti-apartheid movements, among many other struggles. During the Vietnam War, she provided draft counseling for thousands of conscientious objector applicants, and she has frequently engaged in direct action, from climbing the fence of a nuclear submarine base and painting “Thou Shalt Not Kill” on missile tube casings (for which she served a federal prison term) to running a pirate radio station from her walnut tree in a successful effort to convince local radio stations to broadcast Democracy Now! At UMass, she was central to the campaigns to divest from South Africa and to ban anthrax research on campus. Her talk will cover many of these events, which are also recounted in vivid detail in her new memoir, Finding My Radical Soul.