Welcome to all of our new members, and to those of you returning, welcome back!

We especially want to extend a warm welcome to our new assistant advisor, DeRoy Gordon, who is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Afro-American Studies and comes to us with a wealth of advising experience. We are very excited to be working with him!

And we want to express our deepest thanks to Tyler Rocco, a STPEC alum who has served STPEC in many capacities over the course of the last five years, most importantly as our assistant advisor. It is hard to imagine STPEC without him. He will still be on campus as he finishes his graduate degree in Labor Studies, and we hope we will see him often!

This new academic year will offer many opportunities for students to be deeply engaged in envisioning the future of our program. The important conversations we had last semester around race and racism in the program will continue, and we hope that the new programmatic questions we face this year will be good opportunities to pursue those conversations in productive and forward-looking ways.

Many of the discussions we will be holding on the future of the program will happen in Staff and Executive Committee meetings. Please see page 4 for more details on how you can be a part of these STPEC decision making bodies. If you would like to participate in meetings but are not able to commit to fulfilling all the responsibilities, you are always welcome to participate in whatever you have time for without signing up for credit.

One important task we will be undertaking this year is the search for our next Program Director. This year is the last in Sigrid’s three-year term as STPEC director, after which she will be returning to full-time work in the History department. We are still working out the process for this search, so please stay tuned. Although the parameters of this type of search are set by the SBS Dean, we will certainly plan to have student representation on this committee, and all members of the STPEC community will have the opportunity to interview the candidates and offer their input.

This year we also have what is known as an AQAD, a periodic programmatic review that requires STPEC to create its own report on STPEC priorities, current conditions, and needs for the future, along with an evaluation by faculty from other institutions whom we invite to campus. The report and evaluation will serve as a guide for the next director and the STPEC community as a whole for years to come.

If you are interested in participating in the process of drafting our AQAD statement and choosing the people who evaluate the program, please attend the first meeting of the AQAD Committee, which will be held Friday, September 11th, 2:00-4:00, Machmer W-13. If you are interested in participating but cannot make that time, please let Sigrid (sigrid@history.umass.edu) know and we will do our best to find a time for future meetings that fits everyone’s schedules.

MEETING TIMES FOR NEW STPEC MAJORS

We will be holding meetings for new STPEC majors beginning on Friday, September 11. If you are a new STPEC student please sign up for a meeting time by going to the Academics page of the STPEC website and clicking on the Sign Up for a New Student Meeting menu item. [http://www.umass.edu/stpec/new-student-meeting-signups] If you cannot make any of these times please speak to either the Program Coordinator or the Program Director to arrange an alternate time.
**ADD/DROP NOTES**

All STPEC seminars are currently available on SPIRE. If SPIRE will not let you add the desired class on-line, please 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 (available from the STPEC Office mailboxes).
- To request an Internship, please fill out an Internship Study Contract. For more instruction on registering for the STPEC Internship, please see page 6.
- Praxis: To register for the 2 credit Praxis class Praxis (497P) which will NOT count for the I.E. please speak with Katherine Mallory in the STPEC Office. 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 the STPEC I.E. 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). **You will also need to have attended the first two class meetings in order for us to consider your add request.**

- Students who would like to serve on STPEC’s Executive Committee should register on SPIRE for STPEC 291X. Please see page 4 for more details.

- Students who would like to serve on STPEC Office Staff should register on SPIRE for STPEC 198Y. Please see page 4 for more details.

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**STPEC Staff and Instructors for Fall 2015:**

- **Program Director**
  - Sigrid Schmalzer

- **Associate Program Director and Seminar Instructor**
  - Graciela Monteagudo

- **Chief Undergraduate Advisor and Internship Director**
  - Katherine Mallory

- **Assistant Academic Advisor**
  - DeRoy Gordon

- **Program Coordinator**
  - Deborah Reiter

- **Junior Writing Instructor**
  - Ethan Myers

- **Core Seminar II Instructor**
  - Shakuntala Ray

- **TA for 190A RAP section**
  - Anastasia Wilson

- **Miliann Kang**, Professor of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at UMass Amherst, will teach STPEC 491H: Reproducing Race, Sexuality and Citizenship

- **Tamara Stenn**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Social Entrepreneurship at Hampshire College, will teach STPEC 492H: Defining Sustainability, Well-Being and Justice

- **Chris Tinson**, Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies at Hampshire College, will teach STPEC 493H: Black Radicalism in the U.S. & Beyond, 1960s and 70s

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**The Stonewall Center Presents...**

**Gaveties**

*LGBTQIA+ & Ally Welcome Back ‘80s Dance*

Tunes by DJ Lady Spindrift

Saturday, September 12 9:00pm-1:00am

UMass Student Union Ballroom

Free Admission, Open to all students

Glow bracelets provided.

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**Mass Impact**

*Saturday, September 26th*

Mass Impact is an annual one-day event, during which UMass students, staff, and faculty contribute their time and energy to a host of local community organizations and projects. Join us for a day of service, camaraderie, community, and fun! To participate in Mass Impact as a student-volunteer, go to Campus Pulse to register.

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**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 or DeRoy about your situation.

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**CMASS Cultural Connections**

*September 10, 2015 5:30 – 8:00 pm*

Campus Center Auditorium

This annual event is designed to welcome new and returning students, faculty and staff to campus. Free and open to the campus and general public, Cultural Connections is a celebration of our campus’ cultural plurality.
Join us for the 
STPEC Fall 2015 Activist Brown Bag Lunch Series! 
Please join us and bring your lunch!

FRANCES CROWE 
of the Northampton Committee to Stop the Wars 
Monday, September 28  11:15am-12:45pm 
601 Herter Hall 
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.

Michaelann Bewsee 
of ARISE for Social Justice 
Monday, November 9  
11:15am-12:45pm 
917 Campus Center 
In 1985 a group of women on welfare organized Arise for Social Justice to support the rights of low-income people in Springfield, MA. Twenty-seven years later, Arise continues to work to provide direct services to people in need and to organize Springfield residents—especially poor, homeless, at-risk, unemployed, and otherwise marginalized people—to tackle the deep-rooted causes of poverty in their city.

Arise is currently focusing on three areas, all of which would benefit from the assistance of committed student interns: housing and homelessness; environmental health and climate justice; and reforming the criminal justice system. In tackling these three inter-related issues Arise is helping to create a vision of what a just, sustainable Springfield would look like.

Reclaim Our Schools/ 
Reclamar Nuestras Escuelas 
Tuesday, October 13  11:15am-12:45pm 
911 Campus Center 
Reclaim our Schools Holyoke is a community movement to fight back against high-stakes testing, school privatization, and other attacks on public education -- and to ensure that the direction of Holyoke’s public schools remains in the community where it belongs.

Reclaim Our Schools is an initiative led by the Holyoke Teachers Association in collaboration with Jobs with Justice, Holyoke Para Professionals Association, Mass Teachers Association, Taking it Back, teachers, students, parents, and the larger community.

Come learn about this important movement and find out how you can support Holyoke’s schools and defend public education!

OUT NOW 
Monday, November 23  11:15am-12:45pm 
917 Campus Center 

Since 1995, Out Now has been the only youth organization in Springfield, MA dedicated to supporting the agency of our queer families. Out Now provides a safe space for queer youth & allies to learn about themselves, create performance art, develop leadership skills, explore the history of the LGBTQ movement, and much more.

Out Now Programs include: Harm Reduction Education, Our Liberation! Theatre, QUEST, Youth Leadership Training, Drop-In Safe Space 
Out Now Campaigns: Community Coalition for Justice, Springfield Pride, Stop the Hate Coalition

Help us continue to support and empower LGBTQ youth, and let’s continue to struggle for liberation together!
**STUDENTS NEEDED FOR THE STPEC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!!!**

STPEC students have the opportunity as majors not only to make decisions themselves 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, 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 the syllabus and 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.
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.
Theory and Practice of Direct Action - a panel presentation
Thursday, September 17th
Reception at 6:00                       Panel from 6:30-8:30 pm
Cape Cod Lounge, Student Union Ballroom

Presented by the Social Thought and Political Economy Program (STPEC) at UMass Amherst
Part of the Social Science Matters Series on Resistance, organized by the UMass College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Direct action—from sit-ins, occupations, and blockades to tree-spiking, theft of government documents, and Internet hacktivism—has played a crucial but changing role in U.S. political movements from the mid-20th century to today. STPEC is proud to host a panel discussion with four activists and organizers from the Pioneer Valley who have participated in direct action to resist war, torture, racism, police violence, home foreclosures, and nuclear power. Their experiences shed light on the different philosophies that have guided direct action over time and on the different risks and stakes for activists based on race, gender, sexuality, age, and class.

Moderated by Dan Clawson,
Professor of Sociology, UMass;
longtime activist and
union organizer

Panelists:

Karen Gladden and Rose Smith:
Springfield No One Leaves: eviction blockades and protests to stop home foreclosures

Vanessa Gonzalez:
organizing against police violence, institutional racism, and the carceral state;
solidarity with Palestine

Randy Kehler:
organizing and activism against war and war taxes, nuclear weapons, nuclear power, governmental secrecy, and for democratically financed elections

Paki Wieland:
international solidarity in Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cuba, El Salvador, Gaza, Pakistan; activism against imperialism, torture, drones, nuclear power

Full bios available from the STPEC website: www.umass.edu/stpec
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!

Katherine will once again be offering Praxis (STPEC 497P (2 credits, does NOT fulfill I.E.) or STPEC 494PI (3 credits, fulfills I.E. requirement). This optional course helps students to further explore the relationship between theory and practice. This course will offer practical guidance on writing the Internship papers. You may register for STPEC 494PI on-line. Students taking STPEC 497P will not be able to take STPEC 494PI at a later date. To register for STPEC 497P please speak with Katherine.

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 stop by 420 Student Union – call 413 545-1288 – or email umbridge@stuaf.umass.edu

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!