Science for the People: The 1970s and Today

April 11-13 2014

The Science for the People conference STPEC is hosting has grown bigger than we ever imagined. More than 60 people are presenting, including lots of former members of the Science for the People organization and well-known scientists and scholars. In addition to speakers and panels, there will be music, spoken word, and puppetry. More than 100 people have preregistered for the conference, most of them from out of town. We also have about thirty students registered for classes associated with the conference, a number of students are providing support for conference organizing, and some are even organizing guerrilla theater actions.

This is a fantastic opportunity for STPEC. Not only is it getting our name out to a wide audience and increasing our visibility among people in the sciences, but it’s also helping us explore the many ways that STPEC curriculum supports critical investigation of pressing issues of science and power. STPEC students are passionate about climate change, agricultural sustainability, health care inequities, and many other subjects that relate to the natural sciences. And students in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and medicine) fields are often driven by commitments to social justice and sustainability and could benefit from a STPEC education. I hope that STPEC students will participate in the conference in large numbers and will encourage friends in STEM majors to do likewise.

Full program information and a link to the registration site are available at http://science-for-the-people.org. Registration is not required unless you want to order t-shirts or participate in the dinners. (There’s a limited number of reduced-price dinner tickets for students. Sign up early if you want to participate!)

Translating Theory Into Practice: Our Alums in the Real World

Networking with STPEC, Afro-Am, History, Labor Center and Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Alumnae/i

March 27
4:30-6:30 pm
Cape Cod Lounge

Everyone Welcome!

This will be an informative social event with some of our wonderful alums. Come share food and conversation and learn about life after STPEC!

Participants include alumnae/i with careers in social services, union and community organizing, education, law, fundraising and more! Many of these alums have internships available for STPEC students.

Fall 2014 Registration and Advising Notes

ALL STPEC students will need to come to the STPEC office for advising before they will be able to register on SPIRE.

★ Don’t wait until it’s your day to start registering - come in early!!!

★ Advising appointments with Katherine and Tyler may be made on-line through the need Academic Advising? link on the STPEC homepage www.umass.edu/stpec.

Access to the SPIRE system for registration for fall 2014 courses begins MONDAY, MARCH 31. Students are ramped on to the system based on seniority, check SPIRE for your personal access date and time.

The STPEC Recommended Course List will be ready by March 31st. The Fall 2014 STPEC Course Description sheet is available now on the STPEC website.
Fall 2014 Registration and Advising Notes continued

If you have any suggestions for courses you would like to see - or not see - put on our lists, please let us know!

All STPEC seminars and Junior Writing will be on-line until May 2nd. Please be sure to register before May 2nd for the classes you want - after May 2nd we reserve the right to take classes off-line if they are full or almost full. Once a STPEC seminar is taken off-line you will need to fill out a STPEC add request form and wait until September to find out if you are in the class!

**Praxis:** If you’d like to sign up for the regular 2 credit Praxis (497P) which will NOT count for the I.E. Gen Ed requirement, you may do so on SPIRE. To register for the 3 credit Praxis (494PI) which WILL fulfill the I.E. 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 fulfill the STPEC I.E. please be sure to sign up for 494PI!

STPEC Independent Studies, Internships, and Praxis I.E. will be off-line. Please contact Katherine Mallory to add Internships or Praxis and Deborah Reiter to add Independent Studies.

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

**To register for an Independent Study, fill out a STPEC Independent Study Form.** Be sure to give your completed form to Deborah Reiter, STPEC’s Program Coordinator (you may leave it in her mailbox if she is not available in person).

Sophomores may add themselves to a request list for Junior Writing by filling out a STPEC course add request form available from the STPEC Office. The add request form may also be used to request a STPEC course which you have been unable to add on SPIRE for other reasons. On May 2nd we will review these written requests and add additional students to courses based on course enrollment size and special student needs. If you do not receive the STPEC course you have put in a written request for, you may attempt to add the course again by filling out an add request form in the STPEC office during the first week of the Fall 2014 semester.

Did you know….?
Depending on the topic, some STPEC Senior Seminars can be used to fill a STPEC upper level requirement. For the fall 2014 semester STPEC 491H, Economics, the Environment and Social Justice, may be used to fulfill the upper level Political Economy requirement and STPEC 492H, Marxism, Queer Theory, and Materialism, may be used to fulfill the upper level Social Theory requirement. Senior Seminars used in this way cannot be used to fulfill the senior seminar requirement at the same time.

**INCOMPLETES IN JUNIOR 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.

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

STPEC students have the unique opportunity 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.

If you are interested in participating in the STPEC Executive Committee for the Fall 2014 semester please speak to Tyler or Deborah in the STPEC office.

**Spring 2014 Student Executive Committee Members**

- Graham Greenland; STPEC 493H
- Liam Gude; 391H, 393A
- Darragh Heffernan; 391H
- Evan Heller; 491H, 494PI
- Emily Shepard; 391H, 393A
- Tara Smith; 491H, 493H, 494PI
- Nicole Villar Hernandez; 391H
- Juliana West; 391H, 393A
- Scott Wexler; 392H

STPEC’s final full Executive Committee meeting will be held Friday, April 25th from 3:00-6:00 pm in Machmer E-25.
SAVE THE DATE!

**STPEC RED STAR**

*End of Semester Potluck Party and Graduation Ceremony!*

Thursday, May 1

Potluck starts at 5:00 ★ Red Star at 6:00 ★★ ★★★Party continues after ★★★

76 Taylor Street, Amherst

All STPEC students, staff, alums, and friends of STPEC are welcome!

Come and say farewell to our graduating seniors!

**STPEC/SPRINGFIELD INTERNSHIP SCHOLARSHIP**

Interested in working with a grassroots organization in Springfield, but don’t have the $$ to support yourself?

NOW YOU DO!!

In line with our commitment to support local grassroots organizations working within social movements and the ability of our students to participate effectively in those movements, STPEC is now offering TWO PAID SUMMER INTERNSHIPS to enrolled students who choose to take on unpaid positions at grassroots organizations in the Springfield area. We are partnering with potentially 4 different organizations doing really exciting work on a wide array of local social justice issues.

If you are interested, please come talk to Katherine to pick up information and materials.

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:** April 15th.

**WELCOME TO NEW STUDENTS**

We are happy to welcome the following new students to the STPEC Program as of February 2014: Phoebe Arteaga, Will Kenny, Jameson Kidder and Douglas Vitagliano.

**T-SHIRTS & SWEATSHIRTS WE GOT ‘EM!!**

A reminder that we have both red and black STPEC t-shirts available for sale in the STPEC office. We also have a few hooded sweatshirts, in a variety of styles and sizes. See a staff person if you’d like to purchase one!

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**Distinguished Lecture Series**

*on Social Thought and Political Economy*

Co-sponsored with Commonwealth Honors College

**Race is a Verb**

*From Race as Genetics to the Biological Consequences of Racism*

**Wednesday, April 2**

4:00 pm

160 Commonwealth Honors College Bldg

Events Hall East

Alan Goodman, Professor of Biological Anthropology at Hampshire College speaks in conjunction with the upcoming Science for the People Conference.

The idea of race, that humans come in genetically distinct types with different abilities, became reified, made to seem real, by constant European and American scientists in the 18th to 20th centuries worked to prove that races differed genetically and in abilities. They failed because human genetic variation is too complex to be color-coded. Human variation is remarkable and it is not race-based.

Yet, we live in a society that still upholds this false but politically useful idea of race-as-genetics; this mythical notion of race is often in our heads and woven into our social and institutional fabrics. This disproven idea is alive and powerful. Racial ideology does work in setting the conditions for deplorable differences in wealth and health today. This paper explains in steps why race does not work as a genetic construct. Yet, race has biological consequences. I end by providing illustrations of the consequences of race and racism on stress and health and call for a new conception of race as a verb and new studies of the biology of racism.

**MEETING TIMES FOR NEW STPEC MAJORS**

We will be holding meetings for new STPEC majors on March 31-April 11. Please sign up for a time by following the link on our homepage for *Need a New Student Meeting?*. If you cannot make any of the times listed please e-mail Graciela Monteagudo at gracielamonteagudo@sbs.umass.edu to schedule an alternate time.

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

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?

Interning 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 talk to Deborah, Katherine or Tyler in the STPEC Office.

Social Thought and Political Economy Program E-27A Machmer Hall, UMass, Amherst, MA 01003 413 545-0043 stpec@sbs.umass.edu 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!

Want to get more out of your Internship experience? Want some extra help writing your Internship paper? We strongly recommend either STPEC 494PI or STPEC 497P Praxis. STPEC 494PI is a 3 credit course which fulfills the I.E. Gen Ed requirement. STPEC 497P is a two credit graded optional course for students who do not need to take the STPEC I.E. Students who take STPEC 497P will not be able to register for 494PI at a later date.

Praxis is an invaluable class which helps students further explore the relationship between theory and practice. This class is intended for students who are either currently fulfilling or have recently completed their STPEC Internship requirement. To register 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.

Labor Studies and Union Semester at the Murphy Institute at CUNY

NY Union Semester is an innovative academic and internship program based out of The Murphy Institute at CUNY School of Professional Studies. For a semester, participants intern with a union or worker organization in New York City while earning an undergraduate or graduate certificate in Labor Studies. Host organizations pay for a monthly stipend, unlimited transit pass and scholarship that covers much of the tuition. For more information please contact sarah.hughes@cuny.edu or go to www.unionsemester.org.

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

STPEC Students...