



# Mapping the Global Dimensions of Policy **10**

Building Beyond Uncertainty

March 11-13, 2021

Hosted on Zoom – All times are in EST

McMaster University, Department of Political Science

## Day 1 Thursday March 11, 2021

1:30-1:45 pm

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

**Rebekah Pullen** McMaster University

**Stephen McBride** Department of Political Science, McMaster University  
Canada Research Chair in Public Policy and Globalization

1:45-3:00 pm

*Keynote 1*

*Chair* **Rebekah Pullen** McMaster University

**Simon Dalby**

Balsillie School of International Affairs, Wilfrid Laurier University

*Anthropocene Geopolitics:*

*Governance Challenges in a New Epoch*

3:00-3:10 pm

*Break*

3:10-4:25 pm

*Panel Session 1*

**Climate Solutions: Considering Evolving Policy**

*Discussant* **Robert O'Brien** McMaster University

*Chair* **Michael Gordon** McMaster University

*Presenters* **Andrew Heffernan** University of Ottawa

*Green Global Assemblages: The Evolution of CBNRM in Response to Climate Change in Namibia*

**Micah Ton** Carleton University

*Nature-Based Solutions for Flood Risk Mitigation in Canadian Urban Areas: Lessons from Abroad*

**Zhanna Shishko** West Ukrainian National University

*Organic Production 3.0: Can the Ukraine Overcome State Disengagement in Implementation of this Global Directive?*

4:25-4:35 pm	Break
4:35-5:50 pm	<p><i>Panel Session 2</i></p> <p><b>From Home to Hospital: Shifting Health Impacts</b></p> <p><i>Discussant</i> <b>Susan Elliott</b> University of Waterloo</p> <p><i>Chair</i> <b>Kennedy Fung</b> McMaster University</p> <p><i>Presenters</i> <b>Ernesto Cardenas</b> University of Manitoba &amp; Sergio Arboleda University  <i>Incidence of Armed Conflict-intensity on Maternal Health Outcomes: The Case of Antenatal Care Visits in Colombia</i></p> <p><b>Spencer Naylor</b> McMaster University  <i>Political Discourse and the Promise of Qualitative Data Analysis Software: Lessons from the use of NVIVO to Analyze Home Care Policy Discourse in the Ontario Legislative Assembly</i></p> <p><b>Rodrigo Curty Pereira</b> University of Waterloo  <i>Troubled Waters: Health Inequalities in Water-deficient Populations in Brazil During the COVID-19 Pandemic</i></p> <p><b>Nicole Fiorillo</b> McMaster University  <i>Expert Opinion and Mental Health Policy Reform: Canada and United Kingdom</i></p>
5:50-6:00 pm	Day 1 Closing

**Day 2 Friday March 12, 2021**

9:00-10:15 am	<p><i>Keynote 2</i></p> <p><i>Chair</i> <b>Joy Schnittker</b> McMaster University</p> <p><b>Johnna Montgomerie</b>  King's College London  <i>Forming a Global Progressive Agenda:  A Vision of Economic Democracy</i></p>
10:15-10:25am	Break
10:25-11:40 am	<p><i>Professional Development Panel</i></p> <p><i>Chair</i> <b>Rebekah Pullen</b> McMaster University</p> <p><i>Presenters</i> <b>Sorin Mitrea</b> Natural Resources Canada, Government of Canada  <b>Alyssa Scott</b> Ontario Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines,  Government of Ontario  <b>Meagan Kinsella</b> Office of the Dean, Faculty of Science, McMaster University  <b>Liam Midzain-Gobin</b> Department of Political Science, Brock University</p>
11:40 am-12:45 pm	Break

12:45- 2:00 pm

*Panel Session 3*

**Developing Context, Building Sustainability**

*Discussant* **Adrienne Davidson** McMaster University

*Chair* **Mackenzie Porter** McMaster University

*Presenters* **Christian Ladores** McMaster University

*SDGs: Theoretical Approaches to Social Policy Implementation in Canada*

**Erin Rodenburg** University of Guelph

*Disability and Poverty: Learning from the South*

2:00-2:10 pm

*Break*

2:10-3:25 pm

*Panel Session 4*

**Canada and the Global Context**

*Discussant* **Greg Flynn** McMaster University

*Chair* **Anwar Sheluchin** McMaster University

*Presenters* **Noah Fry** McMaster University

*Canadian Trade Policy in an Age of Global Uncertainty: Beyond the Neoliberal Paradigm?*

**Kennedy Fung** McMaster University

*The Role of Political Ideology and Judicialization in the Determination of Refugee Cases for Stateless Individuals in Canada*

**Justin Rain** Ryerson University

*Bringing Accountability Back into the Realm of Canadian Politics: A Multi-level Governance Analysis of Canadian Housing Policy*

3:25-3:30 pm

*Day 2 Closing*

**Day 3**

**Saturday March 13, 2021**

10:30-11:45 am

*Panel Session 5*

**The Past in the Future of Global Policy**

*Discussant* **Tony Porter** McMaster University

*Chair* **Regan Johnston** McMaster University

*Presenters* **Val Muzik** University of British Columbia

*Interfaces, International Theory, and the Limits of Recognition*

**Gil Niessen** McMaster University

*A Space Race for the 21st Century: Global Internet Policy, Satellite Internet, and Digital Colonialism*

11:45 am-12:45 pm

*Break*

12:45-2:00pm

Panel Session 6

Resource Neoliberalism and Economic Policy

Discussant **Nowrin Tabassum** McMaster University

Chair **Joy Schnittker** McMaster University

Presenters **Rida Mohsin** McMaster University

*The Oil Curse: Exacerbation of Colonial Legacies in Africa Through Predatory Practices Within the Extractive Sector*

**Inga Shishko** Carleton University

*A Forged Neoliberal Path: The IMF, and Ukraine's Continuation of Social Dismantlement*

**Emmanuel Graham** York University

*Neoliberalism, Corporate Capitalism and Failed Petro-developmental State in Africa: A Critical Reflection on Ghana's National Petroleum Company (GNPC)*

2:00-2:10 pm

Break

2:10-3:25 pm

Closing Roundtable

How to Build Beyond Uncertainty?

Chair **Anwar Sheluchin** McMaster University

Presenters **Lana Wylie** Department of Political Science, McMaster University

**Bruce Newbold** School of Earth, Environment & Society, McMaster University

**Liam Midzain-Gobin** Department of Political Science, Brock University

**Susan J. Elliott** Department of Geography and Environmental Management, University of Waterloo

3:25-3:30 pm

Day 3 Closing



## Presenter Abstracts

**Ernesto Cardenas, University of Manitoba & Sergio Arboleda University**

***Incidence of Armed Conflict-intensity on Maternal Health Outcomes: The Case of Antenatal Care Visits in Colombia***

Armed conflict hinders the use of health services for the whole population. This limitation has been explained in the literature by the destruction of health infrastructure, the lower availability of workers in the health sector, the risk-increase of safety mobilization, or by imposing psychological side-effects such as fear on people living in specific zones affected by conflict. In this paper, we analyze the incidence of civil war on the use of maternal health services in Colombia. We construct a composite index of conflict-intensity using principal component analysis and explore the role of the mother's individual characteristics such as education and wealth status on the use of health services but in the context of civil war. For doing so, we use a multi level approach encompassing information from women and Colombian first administrative subdivisions (departments). Our data come from the Colombian Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) for 2015, the latest available data set, and datasets from the National Centre of Historical Memory Observatory in a period between 1985 and 2015. Our preliminary results show the importance of the context for the use of maternal health services. Departments with a high level of conflict-intensity have a lower probability of the use of antenatal care compared to those with low conflict-intensity (OR=0.737,  $p < 0,005$ ). At the individual level, higher levels of wealth and education level increase the probability of attending more than four antenatal visits, controlling by the intensity of the conflict.

**Nicole Fiorillo, McMaster University**

***Expert Opinion and Mental Health Policy Reform: Canada and United Kingdom***

My paper "Framing and Expert Opinion in Mental Health Policy Reform: Canada and United Kingdom" utilises a comparative content analysis of the policy approaches on the issue of mental health in Canada and the United Kingdom based on the role of experts in the creation of mental health policy, particularly how experts frame their policy recommendations to governments in this specific policy area. While both of these regions were facing similar policy issues around the same time and consulted with mental health experts to receive policy recommendations, only England saw mental health policy reform in their healthcare system. As expert advice was consulted in both of these initiatives, this paper will explore whether this is a viable factor to explain the difference in outcomes through the following research question: Are differences in expert recommendation instrumental in policy outcomes regarding mental health policy? The answer to this question that will be explored in the paper is that the reason for differing policy outcomes regarding the issue of mental health is that in the policy recommendations made by experts in the field frame the issue differently and therefore set a different policy agenda. This paper will contribute to the existing literature on issues of health policy as it seeks to explain deviations in policy outcomes on a global scale by focusing on who or what informs the decisions made by policymakers.

**Noah Fry, McMaster University**

***Canadian Trade Policy in an Age of Global Uncertainty: Beyond the Neoliberal Paradigm?***

Contending with global uncertainty within the last decade, Canada practiced three distinct trade policy postures. Harper's 'Economic Diplomacy' fixated on expanding access to developing countries to the benefit of the resource-extraction sector. Trudeau's 'Progressive Trade Agenda' sought to include historically sidelined groups into the trade process while advocating for greater labour and social provisions within agreements. Trudeau's 'Team Canada' approach has abandoned the perceived ideological commitment of their previous trade agenda in favour of building the largest domestic coalition of interests possible. To what extent are these shifts in Canadian trade policy in tension with the overriding view of a neoliberal paradigm? This paper submits that the neoliberal paradigmatic approach is insufficient in accounting for this change. In its place, a rational choice two-step game of coalition-building provides a compelling causal account of the last decade. In the first step, political elites define the bounds of their ideological preferences. In the second step, elites trade influence with domestic interests within that bounds. In support of this thesis, this paper brings together a combination of documentary analysis and descriptive statistics. On the latter method, this paper will incorporate the lobby communication dataset from the Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying of

Canada with a novel categorization of interest groups. The findings of this paper challenges the utility of policy paradigms as explanatory approach to domestic trade policy, and suggests greater capacity for change than often assumed. During this period of uncertainty, domestic interests continue to play an important role in shaping global exchange.

**Kennedy Fung, McMaster University**

***The Role of Political Ideology and Judicialization in the Determination of Refugee Cases for Stateless Individuals in Canada***

Are legal decisions regarding immigration claims on humanitarian and compassionate grounds in Canada influenced by party politics? The SNC Lavalin scandal demonstrated the importance of judicial independence to Canadians, with two-thirds believing the PMO's activities were a significant issue. At the same time, in the lead up to the 2019 federal election, Canadians ranked immigration in the top ten important issues that would influence voting decisions. The ability of judges to make decisions free of influence and based solely on fact and law is integral to our political system. Judicial independence is foundational for the rule of law in Canada and other liberal democracies. However, has this principle been compromised in less visible instances? The Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB), which is Canada's largest independent administrative tribunal, is responsible for making efficient and fair decisions regarding immigration and refugee matters in accordance with the law. This research focuses on whether there is a difference in how the IRB decides on cases of humanitarian and compassionate (H&C) immigration claims under a Federal Conservative vs. Liberal government. There is little to no research regarding the role of party politics on decisions regarding humanitarian and compassionate immigration claims. Through quantitative analysis this research revealed that there is a difference in how the IRB decides on cases of appeals on H&C grounds under a federal Conservative versus a federal Liberal government. These findings have implications for immigration and refugee policy within Canada, and could be a starting point for similar research in other jurisdictions. Immigrants are often among the most vulnerable international actors, and this research offers insight into whether the government of the day exerts influence on the IRB's decisions.

**Emmanuel Graham, York University**

***Neoliberalism, Corporate Capitalism and Failed Petro-developmental State in Africa: A Critical Reflection on Ghana's National Petroleum Company (GNPC)***

For several decades many African states with rich mineral resources have not translated their resource wealth into economic growth and development, a situation known as the 'paradox of plenty'. Some of these countries such as Nigeria, Angola and South Sudan have failed to become petro-developmental states. In trying to learn from these failed petro-states, when Ghana discovered oil in 2007 and began oil production in 2010, there were several national consultation and workshops held in collaborations with experts from Norway and other international bodies from the west, these initiatives created a sense of optimism. This optimism was further encouraged, at the continental and regional level with a sense of 'Africa Rising' which called for state led-development through what became known as the African Mining Vision (AMV) in 2013. The AMV was an initiative led by various African states leaders who sought to use Africa's extractive resources as a panacea for development through policies such as resource nationalism and local content development. Though these initiatives were well received, its implementation has been limited by neoliberalism and corporate capitalism which seeks the interest of global north who are at the core, vis-a-vis the global south countries who are at the periphery supplying raw material to the global north to be processed. These complex political economy arrangement between the global north and the global south have contributed to the failure of developmental projects of the global south such as Nigeria and Angola, making them failed petro-states. Disappointingly, Ghana's oil and gas sector reveals similar occurrences. Using Ovadia's petro-developmentalism as theoretical taxonomy and GNPC as a case study, the paper argues that after ten years of oil production, Ghana could be classified as another failed petro-developmental in Africa. The paper shows that despite having some characteristics of petro-developmentalism, Ghana has failed to use its national oil company (GNPC) as a pilot agency to champion national interest and national development, instead GNPC has sought the interest of Ghanaian political elite, in collaboration with their neoliberal corporate capitalist counterpart at the expense of oil-producing communities. Oil has rather led to socio-economic and ecological impact on fishing communities near West Cape Three Point (WCTP).

**Andrew Heffernan, University of Ottawa**

***Green Global Assemblages: The Evolution of CBNRM in Response to Climate Change in Namibia***

Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) is a technique of resource governance that has developed across much of southern Africa. It intends to devolve control of natural resources from central governments to local communities. While research demonstrates that CBNRM produced a great deal of benefits in its initial years, studies have pointed to ways this has changed over time. Scholars tend to approach CBNRM as a domestic policy tool/technical fix for issues of sustainable development and point to various issues with policy formulation or implementation. However, here I argue that this ignores a great deal and that CBNRM cannot be understood solely as a domestic policy but should instead be viewed as a global policy assemblage. CBNRM policy has been crafted in a variety of countries as a result of countless actors and shaped by the power of the very social interactions. These include state governments, international financial institutions, both domestic and international NGOs, environmental organizations, activists, tourism companies as well as other public and private actors that operate at once globally and locally. My recent fieldwork in Namibia has pointed to climate change as the binding constraint for CBNRM program success. Despite this, climate change has yet to be treated by the predominant literature on CBNRM and this I argue is a result of this technique of resource governance being viewed as an apolitical domestic policy. My research aims to analyze how CBNRM has and must continue to evolve in response to climate change. I argue one useful avenue for doing so is by understanding CBNRM as a green global assemblage that exercises specific forms of power based on the global environmental movement and its many actors.

**Christian Ladores, McMaster University**

***SDGs: Theoretical Approaches to Social Policy Implementation in Canada***

How do international pledges like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) get translated into national and subnational social policy? Academic scholars have taken several theoretical and methodological approaches to addressing the challenges that arise from complex policy networks, from competing political interests to incohesive governance frameworks. Using a case study of SDG 10: "Reduce inequality within and among countries" and Canada's policy implementation processes, this paper argues that provincial-level social policy does not reveal a clear translation of the goals. A qualitative analysis of government and non-government reports finds little evidence of effective collaboration between Canada's national (federal) and subnational (provincial) jurisdictions. Institutions within a federalized system have competing interests and agendas, resulting in ineffective measures for policy change. This lack of cohesiveness continues to exacerbate social inequalities within the country, especially for individuals from marginalized demographics.

**Rida Mohsin, McMaster University**

***The Oil Curse: Exacerbation of Colonial Legacies in Africa Through Predatory Practices Within the Extractive Sector***

The current lack of regulatory measures on a global scale within the extractive sector, specifically the oil industry, have allowed resource-rich developing states in Africa to fall prey to predatory extraction processes that are based on and further reinforce colonial economic exploitation. This paper examines how mismanagement and predatory practices within the extractive sector deter development in resource rich developing states, seeking to understand if international initiatives have effectively addressed concerns regarding corruption and stalled domestic development that follow the oil curse. A neocolonial framework is applied to understand how predatory practices and their facilitation within the industry is reinforcing colonial legacies; prompting a 21st century 'Scramble for Africa'. Nigeria, and the Ogoni region specifically, are examined as case studies within the paper as Nigeria has consistently been the biggest oil producer in Africa, yet falls victim to the oil curse. These cases are representative of impacts of the oil curse that many developing African oil-rich states fall prey to. Nigeria is the largest oil producer in the continent which is why the contrast in oil revenue and level of poverty is stark. However, states like Angola, Congo, Chad, Sudan and other sub-Saharan African states face the same fate; Africa has suffered the effects of the resource curse more than any other states with such levels of oil abundance. This paper will also examine existing efforts including multi-stakeholder initiatives like the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and self-regulated Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Generally, such measures are unable to address larger concerns of corruption

within state governments and corporations. These initiatives also don't tackle the foundational issues of extractive practices, instead favour the needs of corporations over communities in the region. Thus, these reforms are unable to produce redistributive effects.

**Val Muzik, University of British Columbia**

***Interfaces, International Theory, and the Limits of Recognition***

Notwithstanding a recent uptick in interest in IR, communications technologies have largely commanded an understated presence in the field despite their ubiquity in political, not to mention everyday, life. Engaging with philosophy of technology and critical data studies, this paper contributes an interdisciplinary perspective on the implications of digital technologies for the practice of global politics, arguing that data-intensive communications assemblages, including software, devices, infrastructures, and nonconscious cognitive apparatuses like AI, have been figuring in the emergence of a novel logic of global governance which centres on the interface. Whereas these technical assemblages are simultaneously constitutive and constraining of emerging styles and techniques of governance, I argue that it is at the interface—an intrinsically intersubjective space that functions simultaneously as medium, message, and messenger—where political claims dis/appear, and accordingly, where governance also becomes enacted. However, whereas the interface has become of undeniable importance for Information Age societies, and is therefore of particular salience for the study of global politics, their existence is far from novel, and are instead a feature of embodied beings who dwell in a social field of symbolic meanings. Noting the shortcomings of both aesthetic theory and phenomenology towards gaining a complete enough understanding of interfaces and their roles, the paper concludes by indicating a potential new direction for research, as well as by highlighting several of the most important implications that interfaces, in many of their present iterations, may have for ongoing political claims for justice.

**Gil Niessen, McMaster University**

***A Space Race for the 21st Century: Global Internet Policy, Satellite Internet, and Digital Colonialism***

Over the last two decades, various international agencies have dedicated themselves to the ideals of international cooperation and sustainable development facilitated by universal access to the internet. United Nations agencies such as the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the International Telecommunication Union; and the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development have policy reports, guidelines, and action plans meant to inform and guide the world's internet policy makers and regulators. Ostensibly, international policy that encourages universal internet access celebrates outcomes such as building knowledge societies, encouraging intercultural dialogue, supporting sustainable development, and ending poverty. More recently, Big Tech giants such as Facebook, Google, and SpaceX have begun to develop their own visions of universal internet with satellite internet constellations, often employing similar discourses and narratives as UN agencies. This paper compares UN policy and tech industry discourses of universal internet access, considering them both as tools of Western modernization and technological altruism. Rather than deliver on their vision of a global, technologically-level playing field, UN agencies reinvigorate the colonizing rhetoric of knowledge societies. I theorize that as Big Tech's satellite internet initiatives parrot international internet access policies, they too belie their role in digital colonialism and corporate imperialism. This paper utilizes an anti-colonial framework that aims to answer the research questions: How do foundations of cable colonialism influence international internet policy? In what ways, and for what purposes, does Big Tech utilize international agencies' rhetoric of universal internet access? How can Big Tech's satellite internet projects reimagine, or bolster, digital colonialism? In what ways can satellite infrastructure centralize global internet access in American corporations, and with what economic, cultural, and social impacts?

**Spencer Naylor, McMaster University**

***Political Discourse and the Promise of Qualitative Data Analysis Software: Lessons from the use of NVIVO to Analyze Home Care Policy Discourse in the Ontario Legislative Assembly***

The emergence of COVID-19 has served as a jarring reminder to industrialized nations of the vulnerability of senior populations. Canada has seen particularly tragic results with its shockingly high death tolls in long term care homes. As a result, the importance of home care as a means of shifting care burdens from institutions within health systems has become more evident than ever. Looking abroad, we can draw inspiration from



models adopted in Germany and Japan to see how the development of long term care insurance has increased the utilization of home and community care options, and subsequently reduced the care burden on hospitals and long term care institutions. This paper will argue that the similarity of the policy issue Canada now faces to that which led to the development of long term insurance models in Germany and Japan – the rapid expansion of the aging demographic – should serve as a call to action in the form of health policy change. Though differences exist between Canada and these international comparators regarding their political structures - making the feasibility of long term care insurance models somewhat questionable – there is still much we can learn from these countries. Specifically, a comparative analysis of outcomes in Japan and Germany offers lessons on the importance of alleviating the burden of care on institutions, as well as how to improve the status of informal caregivers, who are primarily migrant women. Policy implications for the Canadian context – bearing in mind our unique federalist structure – will be discussed.

**Rodrigo Curty Pereira, University of Waterloo**

***Troubled Waters: Health Inequalities in Water-deficient Populations in Brazil During the COVID-19 Pandemic***

Handwashing is fundamental for stopping COVID-19 transmission, yet 2.2 billion people across the globe lack access to safe water and 4.2 billion live without adequate sanitation. In Brazil, where 12% of the world's freshwater is located, 35 million people have no access to safe water at home. The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a spotlight on existing global inequalities in health. The goal of this research is to understand the health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on populations in water-deficient communities, how civil society organizations (CSO) are helping communities cope, and to determine the characteristics of successful coping strategies, focusing particularly on the most vulnerable (low income; inadequately housed; women). Interviews were conducted with key-informants from civil society organizations working directly with these populations (n=20) in the metropolitan region of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. These interviews were recorded with permission and transcribed verbatim for subsequent thematic analysis. Preliminary findings from this investigation will be presented. These results can be used to inform policy specifically tailored to meet the needs of these vulnerable populations in Rio and beyond, during this and any future health crises. This research will also contribute to the advancement of the political ecology of disease framework in health geography by proposing the study not only of the disease itself, but of health and its societal, economic, political, and environmental determinants.

**Justin Rain, Ryerson University**

***Bringing Accountability Back into the Realm of Canadian Politics: A Multi-level Governance Analysis of Canadian Housing Policy***

The following study is an evaluation of housing policy in Canada. Canadian citizens get only one opportunity every four years to hold their government accountable. Yet, thousands of people across Canada are in desperate need of adequate housing. For those Canadians suffering from housing inadequacy, that is just not sufficient in protecting their internationally ratified right to housing. Canada has historically neglected the right to housing, which has left Canadians with no political or legal power to exercise this right. Political actors, and their core beliefs, play an influential role in maintaining this omission. Hence, I have posed the question, is Canadian housing policy sufficiently accountable to those suffering from inadequate housing? Through a multi-level governance lens, a case study of Canada will demonstrate how a lack of communication and federalist implications have resulted in little execution in protecting those in need of adequate housing. A human rights-based approach will shed light on the effectiveness of Canada's current housing policy. Then through a combination of survey and interview data, I will be able to gain valuable insight from key actors in the field of housing in Canada. While the current policy arena is looking better with the implementation of the new housing policy, it is necessary now to evaluate the new legislation to see if it will really rectify the current housing struggles in Canada.

**Erin Rodenburg, University of Guelph**

***Disability and Poverty: Learning from the South***

This paper begins with the observation that disability and poverty is an intractable societal challenge in the global North as is the correlated problem of disability and employment. A new approach that goes beyond anti-discriminatory legislations and policies is needed to break down the vicious unemployment-poverty spiral

that traps disabled individuals in countries such as Canada. Accordingly, the paper turns to the sustainable livelihoods approach (SLA) that has developed in response to the ever-growing need for poverty alleviation in countries where employment is nonexistent and/or unreachable. Livelihood as such is understood as the means to secure the basic necessities of life without making them dependent on cash-based employment that is ultimately linked to the global market forces. Both as a subject and as a methodology, SLA has influenced academic research, government policies and NGO's actions in international development over the past 25 years. Supporters of SLA maintain that it is a sustainable approach to development without duplicating the patterns of domination and dependency in postcolonial global South. Yet despite the correlation between disability and poverty, current support programs for disabled individuals in the global North largely focus on employment and work opportunities and do not consider additional factors known to influence livelihoods such as social policies, identity, context, and perceptions. A scoping review is thus executed and concludes that the majority of disability-centred research is conducted in the global North and the majority of livelihoods research is conducted in the global South. It is suggested that disability studies as a burgeoning field in the global North can turn to more established development studies for insights on policies that aim to enable individuals to live in a sustainable and dignified manner despite lack of marketability in the globalized economy.

**Inga Shishko, Carleton University**

***A Forged Neoliberal Path: The IMF, and Ukraine's Continuation of Social Dismantlement***

While the global pandemic crisis is forcing states around the world to rethink their social and economic platform and turn to socially progressive policies to alleviate the financial burden of the public, Ukraine does the contrary. An unexpected for many of his constituency and contrary to his election campaign promises, president Volodymyr Zelensky and his office have not only strictly adhered to ensure the continuation of his predecessor's neoliberal course, but what is more, these neoliberal prescriptions are acquiring a new meaning as they become more rampant and palpable to the public. My paper explores the relationship of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as one of the key actors in determining the course of social policy and economic reforms in Ukraine through not only imposing their infamous austerity politics, but forcing privatization. My research examines what privatization of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) mean for social security of Ukraine's population. I argue that by forcing the privatization of SOEs, the IMF is eliminating its strong 'competitor', as the latter historically forms a significant portion of the state budget, a portion of which was allocated towards social redistribution. I aim to demonstrate that the removal of SOEs has contributed to Ukraine's dependency on IMF loans. This is problematic in two significant ways: First, the removal of SOEs revenues shifts the burden to close the state budget gap onto the already economically and socially frail population. This is a social security threat for the following reasons, a) the budget is forced to revert to austerity politics - cuts to social provisions; b) the general population is not in an economically and financially sound position to contain this deficit, nor should it be their responsibility; Second, dependency on IMF loans undermines Ukraine's sovereignty placing her in a geopolitically and economically vulnerable (dependent) position. My research design involves the adaptation of a historical institutionalist approach, where the methodology will include analysis of economic indicators such as real GDP growth, the decline of state budget as a result of the ratio decline from the diminution of SOEs and the implication of IMF loans on the Ukraine's budget, and, finally, how this impacts social welfare of the public.

**Zhanna Shishko, West Ukrainian National University**

***Organic production 3.0: Can the Ukraine overcome state disengagement in implementation of this global directive?***

In the face of emerging health, environmental and climate crises the Organic Production 3.0 (O3) envisaged to tackle these challenges at a global level. O3 attempts to combine strategy and policy to produce healthy and affordable food, while reducing pollution and green house emissions involved in food production, processing, trading and consumption, while protecting soils, water, air, biodiversity, landscapes etc. In accordance with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a global policy that promotes health and well-being especially of those in vulnerable social strata, my paper will examine to what extent can O3 be implemented in the context of the Ukraine. The country is known for her agricultural sector, one of the highest quality of black soil in the world, forestry and farming. I argue however, that in recent years, the reforms and policy in the sphere of agriculture, in tandem with the gradual disengagement of the state as the regulatory

body for adherence to quality standard production, health and safety, obstacles emerge on many issues. I examine why no or barely any government subsidies are provided to small and medium farmers, placing them at a disadvantage compared to large scale agrohholdings that take advantage of state supported kickbacks. In addition, I explore the cost-benefit analysis of small and medium scale farmers being able to afford a work force, ensure to keep production costs at market value, while keeping prices affordable without government subsidies or the very low subsidization that they currently receive. This also brings into discussion the labour deficit. The labour force flees Ukraine to temporarily seek (seasonal) work in the European Union. My research is based on conducting extensive interviews of seasonal workers, of small and medium farmers, as well as employees working for large agrohholdings. In addition, I analyze policy in organic and agricultural sphere as they relate to small and medium scale farmers. In sum, my question revolves around whether organic production can be sufficiently competitive in the face of non-organic agrohholdings who take advantage of state disengagement as a regulatory body?

**Micah Ton, Carleton University**

***Nature-Based Solutions for Flood Risk Mitigation in Canadian Urban Areas: Lessons from Abroad***

As average temperatures rise around the world, the risk, frequency and intensities of floods rise as well. According to flood preparedness scores, Canada is ill equipped to manage the consequences. Canada's current approach to flood mitigation solutions are largely based on engineered infrastructure, such as dams and sewage systems. However, implementing nature-based solutions (NBS) in high-risk urban areas can not only help improve their resiliency to flooding, but also greatly enhance the overall benefits that ecosystems provide to local communities. There is growing evidence that when NBS are applied strategically and equitably, they often provide low-risk, low-cost solutions to climate change hazards, and offer co-benefit advantages over engineered solutions. However, despite Canada's vast natural capital, NBS are scarcely integrated into flood mitigation strategies. In contrast, the European Commission (EC) has committed to becoming a leader in integrating innovative NBS into climate change strategies. Through an examination of the EC's NBS policies, this paper seeks to understand how the EC's success can be transferred into a Canadian context. An assessment of the EC's NBS policy instruments and implementation frameworks will be used to inform how Canada can develop a comprehensive, hybrid (NBS and engineered solutions) approach to urban flood risk mitigation moving forward. Climate change has prompted unprecedented changes to the global system, and NBS present new governance opportunities to integrate holistic, inclusive policies into climate mitigation strategies. This poster presentation will contribute to this year's conference theme by highlighting NBS as an innovative solution to rising global climate uncertainties.

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