

***** CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS *****

23th Annual Peace Studies Conference
A project of the Central New York Peace Studies Consortium

Conference Theme:
“GLOBALIZED RESTRUCTURING, NEW MEDIA, & MOBILIZATION”

Saturday, November 12, 2011

Le Moyne College, Syracuse, New York, USA
Sponsored by: Le Moyne College Peace and Global Studies Program &
Center for Urban and Regional Applied Research

CONFERENCE THEME:

“GLOBALIZED RESTRUCTURING, NEW MEDIA, & MOBILIZATION”

Accelerating global flows of people, money, technology, images, ideas and narratives are transforming the ways we humans connect, inspire one another, participate in informal economies, and organize social movements. The intersection of globalized economic restructuring and widespread access to Internet-based media provide an appropriate context in which to understand such phenomena.

International relations both in the colonial context and that of neo-liberal corporate capitalism have been characterized by “plunder” – the “often violent extraction by stronger international political actors victimizing weaker ones”*. Such plunder has produced tremendous social upheavals, dislocations, dispossessions, impoverishment etc., especially in the post-colonial world. It also entailed the globalized political-economic-social restructuring that set the stage for contemporary US/European strategic alliances with repressive regimes. The tightly intermeshed disposition of global capital and finance has made a recession with roots in US real-estate speculation into a worldwide crisis, in which the poorest have borne the brunt of further impoverishment, unemployment, hunger, dislocation, and desperation. The uneven impacts of climate change on food security are also shaped in part by this history of exploitative globalization.

Adding to this the phenomenal growth of Internet-based communication in recent years produced conditions for the massive demonstrations and popular uprisings that are transforming the world today. This form of network mobilization characterizes contemporary movements on many fronts; from anti-coal to pro-democracy. The revelations of WikiLeaks regarding regime leadership; access to web-based independent news coverage; and the use of handheld devices, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and blogging as organizing and reporting tools, can rapidly produce broad coalitions of activists and shift the power balance between repressive states, large corporations, and citizens, with results that are unfolding before the eyes of the entire world. Educated and media-savvy youth have played a central role in organizing and supporting these movements, connecting with expertise and resources worldwide to evade state surveillance and speak truth to power on a global stage. The full significance of these changes and of potential reactions remains to be seen. At a minimum, these events throw a new light on efforts of states and large corporations to control media access and to privatize the Internet.

The rise of globalized media also has its downside. The social disruptions attendant on neo-liberal restructuring and worldwide privatization of wealth have generated conditions of desperate need and impunity for wrongdoers in many parts of the world. This, combined with the speed, anonymity, deterritorialization and sheer volume of Internet communications have generated burgeoning opportunities for trafficking along with widespread dependence on illicit economic exchange for survival and social mobility.

The Peace Studies Consortium invites submissions for papers relating to any part of this general theme including but not limited to those suggested by these linkages:

- the participation of women
- resource conflicts (resource curses?)
- Internet-based organizing
- formal organizations vs. fluid networks
- "apolitical" coalitions vs. ideologically based organizing
- (educated) youth unemployment
- food security and political instability (green & local etc. food movements)
- relationship of weapons and other trafficking to conflict escalation
- military response to peaceful protest
- histories of plunder and resistance
- middle class participation in pro-democracy uprisings
- secularism in these movements
- globalized youth culture
- (your idea here)

* This is the definition offered by Laura Nader and Ugo Mattei in *Plunder: When the Rule of Law is Illegal* (2008, Blackwell, Oxford UK.).

ONLINE PARTICIPATION:

This conference will make full use of electronic media, offering real-time online participation to individuals and groups who sign up in advance. This way, we hope to have activists, citizen-reporters/bloggers, journalists and scholars around the world take part in the conversation – presenting papers (on big screen), in video-discussion with physical attendees, attending papers of their choice (via laptop), and even in video-conversation with each other (via laptops facing each other). The conference will also be streamed in real time, free to the first 100 to sign up, and include a real-time online chat-room. Syracuse is in the Eastern time zone of the U.S., and all times referenced will be in those terms.

If you wish to sign up for the streamed conference, or to attend via Internet, please communicate with Michelle Tarby (tarbymm@lemoyne.edu), our IT Social Media Specialist. If you wish to present a paper via live Internet please let Michelle know. When contacting her, please use “Peace Studies Conference” as the subject line. Abstracts and proposals for physical OR online participation should be submitted electronically to conference organizer Caroline Tauxe (tauxecs@lemoyne.edu), as described below.

We request your assistance in publicizing this event by forwarding the announcement to others. If you have contacts among activists engaged in online mobilization and could facilitate their participation, please let Michelle and Caroline know.

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL OR ABSTRACT:

- We invite proposals from faculty, researchers, and students across academic disciplines; as well as community members, activists, journalists, bloggers, NGO workers and others.
- The organizing committee is receptive to various formats for the conference, such as roundtables, panels, community dialogues, and workshops. You may propose individual or group presentations. A poster session will be scheduled. In any case, please clearly specify what format you propose to use, and whether you will physically attend the conference or participate online. Paper presentations should be twenty minutes in length.

****The deadline for proposals and abstracts is September 27, 2011**

- Proposals for *individual* papers or posters should include name, affiliation, title of paper, abstract (up to 500 words), and a bio (up to 220 words).
- Proposals for *organized* sessions, roundtables and other group programming should include names, affiliations, and bios (up to 220 words) of organizers and participants, and a description of the event proposed of no more than 500 words. If you are organizing a session of related papers, also include abstracts of all papers in the proposed session (each abstract no more than 500 words.)
- The organizing committee will review all proposals with preference given to those focusing on the program theme. Accepted presenters will be notified by email by October 1, 2011.

Please send all proposal materials electronically to:

Dr. Caroline Tauxe at tauxecs@lemoyne.edu
Please send all documents as attachments, doc or docx