



Alternate Routes  
Critical Social Research  
Since 1977

## **“Post-Pandemic” Inequalities in an Age of Global Capitalism**

*Alternate Routes: A Journal of Critical Social Research*

Conference Program

Thursday June 6 – Saturday June 8, 2024

University of Rome Sapienza, Edificio Marco Polo, Circonv. Tiburtina 4, Roma, Italy

### **THURSDAY JUNE 6, 2024**

**9:30-10:00am – Registration – Room: Aula T3 (Marco Polo, Ground Floor)**

**10:00-12:00am – Panel 1 – Opening Roundtable Plenary: The COVID-19 Pandemic in Asia and Africa: Political and Societal Implications and Cultural Representations. Room: Aula T2 (Marco Polo, Ground Floor)**

**Welcome Remarks:** Franco D’Agostino, Director, Dipartimento Istituto Italiano di Studi Orientali, Sapienza University of Rome; Tito Marci, Dean of the Faculty of Political Science, Sociology and Communication, Sapienza University of Rome

**Chair:** Sanjukta Das Gupta, Sapienza University of Rome

**Panelists:** Giorgio Milanetti, Sapienza University of Rome; Marina Miranda, Sapienza University of Rome; Marina Morbiducci, Sapienza University of Rome; Matilde Mastrangelo, Sapienza University of Rome; Laura Guazzone, Sapienza University of Rome; Astrid Zei, Sapienza University of Rome; Gianfranco Bria, Sapienza University of Rome; and Fabio Mangravati, Sapienza University of Rome

**1:00-2:30pm: Panel 2 – Post-Pandemic Urbanism: Crisis and Community in the City After COVID-19, Room: Aula T2 (Marco Polo, Ground Floor)**

**Chair:** Heather Whiteside, University of Waterloo

Ross Beveridge, University of Glasgow, *Living With and Beyond Crisis Urbanism: Towards an Egalitarian Politics of the Urban Commonwealth*

Chiara Camponeschi, York University, *Confronting Crisis: Challenging Post-Pandemic Insecurity Through Narrative Resistance*

Philip Harrison, University of the Witwatersrand, *A Tale of Two Pandemics in a Divided and Unequal City: Governing HIV/Aids and COVID in Greater Johannesburg, South Africa*

Roger Keil, York University, *Governing Inequality in the Toronto Region: Data, Community and Urban Space During the COVID-19 Pandemic*

**3:00-4:30pm: Panel 3 – Imperialism, Inequality and De-Democratization, Room: Aula T2 (Marco Polo, Ground Floor)**

**Chair:** Stephen McBride, McMaster University

Nalini Persram, York University, *Yemen 2023-24: Authoritarianism (Again) vs. The Protection of Palestine*

Stacey Haugen, University of Lethbridge, *Reconceptualizing the Rural Refugee Problematique: The Refugee as the Demonstrative Case for Policy Inertia in Canada*

Bryn Jones, University of Bath, *Inequalities and the Ends of Empires: Migration, Fiscal Failure and Global Trade Wars*

Loris Isabettoni, University of Windsor, *Inequality and (De)Democratization in the Post-Pandemic Era: A Multimodal Argumentation Perspective*

**FRIDAY JUNE 7, 2024**

**9:00-10:30am: Panel 4 – Imperialism, Inequality and De-Democratization, Room: Aula T2 (Marco Polo, Ground Floor)**

**Chair:** Carlo Fanelli, York University

Tracy Glynn, St. Thomas University, *Climate Change, Coal and Cars: A Case Study in Commodity Fetishism and the Energy Transition in Indonesia*

Garry Potter, Wilfrid Laurier University, *The Climate Emergency and the Necessity for Political Violence*

Gary Teeple, Simon Fraser University, *Party Politics at an End?*

Joseph Galbo, University of New Brunswick, *Post-Pandemic Cultural Politics*

**11:00-12:30pm: Panel 5 – Global Labour Struggles Past, Present and Future, Room: Aula T2 (Marco Polo, Ground Floor)**

**Chair:** Carlo Fanelli, York University

David Goutor, McMaster University, *Post-COVID-19 Inflation and Labour Militancy in Historical Perspective*

Laura Evangelista, Concetta Fonzo and Marianna Forleo, INAPP (National Institute for the Analysis of Public Policies), *The Contributions of the Quality Assurance for VET in Europe to Face Inequalities in an Age of Global Capitalism*

Vincenzo Maccarrone, Scuola Normale Superiore, *Global Labor Governance: An Integrated Approach*

Travis Fast, University of Laval, *Solidarity in an Emerging Multipolar World: Labour relations in the BRICS*

**1:30-3:00pm: Panel 6 – Work and Well-Being, Room: Aula T2 (Marco Polo, Ground Floor)**

**Chair:** David Goutor, McMaster University

Matteo Lupoli, University of Bologna, *Four-Day Workweek Trials in Northern Italian Firms in a Post-COVID-19 Period*

Carlo Fanelli, York University, *The Four-Day Workweek in Canada: Insights from 30 Firms and 3,500 Workers*

Dionne Pohler, University of Saskatchewan, *The Impact of COVID-19 Policies and Workplace Vaccine Mandates on Workers*

Fina Pirrone, University of Windsor, *The Forgotten Ones: The Reality of the Disparities Experienced by the Drug Overdose Death Crisis Coming Out of the COVID-19 Pandemic*

**1:30-3:00pm, Panel 7 – Disciplining Labour After the Pandemic: Monetary Policy, Inflation and Worker Bargaining Power, Room: Aula T3 (Marco Polo, Ground Floor)**

**Chair:** Heather Whiteside, University of Waterloo

Ellen Russell, Wilfrid Laurier University, *Disciplining Labour After the Pandemic: Canadian Monetary Policy, Inflation and Worker Bargaining Power*

Stephen McBride, McMaster University, *There and Back Again: Capitalism and Its State*

Heather Whiteside, University of Waterloo, *Neoliberal New State Capitalism and Its Limits*

Gavin Grant, University of Windsor, *Question for the Hemlock: Loss of Dialectics to Corporations and the State*

**3:30-5:00pm Panel 8: Digital Labour Platforms and the Gig Economy, Room: Aula T2 (Marco Polo, Ground Floor)**

**Chair:** Marco Marrone, University of Salento

Marco Marrone, University of Salento, Potential Labour and Platform Labour Process: Empirically Discussing the Notion of Industrial Reserve Army in the Food Delivery Sector

Alberto Lacchia, University of Valle d'Aosta, *Digital Divide: New Labor Inequalities in the Post-Pandemic Society*

Massimo De Minicis, INAPP (National Institute for the Analysis of Public Policies), *Lean Platform Workers in Italy During the Pandemic Crises*

Mattia Frapporti, University of Bologna, *The Aesthetic Power of Digital Platforms*

**SATURDAY JUNE 8, 2024**

**9:00-10:15am, Panel 9 – The Case for Prison Labour Organizing, Room: Aula T2 (Marco Polo, Ground Floor)**

**Chair:** Alexandria Bonney, University of Ottawa

Alexandria Bonney, University of Ottawa, *Exploiting Prison Labour: An Ontario Case Study*

Lydia Dobson, University of Ottawa, *Selective Solidarity*

Jessica Evans, Toronto Metropolitan University, *Canadian Carceral Capitalism: Recent Developments in Ontario*

**10:45-12:30pm – Panel 10 – Labour, Public Policy and Social Movements, Room: Aula T2 (Marco Polo, Ground Floor)**

**Chair:** Bryn Jones, University of Bath

Luca Vilaggi, University of Padova, *Labouring Citizenship: Welfare State Transformations Between Italy and Poland*

Wendy McKeen, York University, *The Continued Critique of the Anti-Poverty Advocacy Community's Inclusive Liberal Agenda*

Hugh Shewell, Carleton University, *Stretcher Bearers of Society: Post-Pandemic Social Work and Neoliberalism in Canada*

Alexandra Szake, HUN-REN Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, *Enjoy the playing!?! De-Professionalization and its Related Challenges Amongst Kindergarten Teachers in Hungary*

Tim Maguire, Independent Scholar, *Failing to Build Back Better: Sectoral Solutions to Systemic Racism in Labour and Employment Law*



**SAPIENZA**  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



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**Conference Organizing Committee:**

Sanjukta Das Gupta, Sapienza University of Rome;

Carlo Fanelli, York University;

Marco Marrone, University of Salento;

Mario Prayer, University of Rome Sapienza;

Heather Whiteside, University of Waterloo