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**SUBMISSIONS FOR VOLUME X:**

Problématique is a journal of politics, culture and society. Three hard copies and an electronic version of papers should be submitted to the below mailing address. Submission can be wither in English or French and should not exceed 8000 words for articles and 2000 words for reviews. Papers should be free of sexist, racist, supremacist, homophobic and other forms of oppressive language.

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## Editors' Notes

Problématique is a journal organized and operated by graduate students in the Political Science Department of York University. It provides a venue for crucial aspects of scholarly development – peer feedback, criticism and the sharing of ideas. It also provides an opportunity for graduate students to gain experience as critical reviewers and as editors. Graduate students carry out all vetting and decision making according to standard academic practice.

The articles in this volume reflect the diversity of research interests found principally, though not exclusively, in our graduate programme.

*Sean Kheraj* examines acts of commemoration associated with Canada's second largest national historic site, the Buxton Settlement. He argues that different commemorations of this single site tell us more about the people commemorating the settlement than about the founding of the settlement itself. He illustrates how successive commemorations of Buxton have been intimately linked to the process of local, regional and national collective identity formation. The commemorative plaques placed at the site over the period from 1950 to 2000 are viewed as particularly important in that they demonstrate how the meaning of the settlement has shifted and how the settlement itself has taken on greater importance as Ontarian regional and Canadian national narratives have increasingly emphasized tolerance, diversity and the plurality of experiences in Canada. The plaques that were placed in South Buxton in 1950 and 1965 are thought to be linked to local and regional identity formation, respectively. As such, the plaques portray the site as a haven for refugee slaves under the freedom of the British flag. The most recent plaques, placed at the site in 2000 to commemorate the settlement's national historic significance, in turn, depict the site as an early example of immigration history and racial tolerance in Canada. Absent from these narratives are the racist values connected to the founding of the site, as well as the resistance of local whites to the creation of a settlement for black people in Buxton.

*Samuel Knafo* analyses the British banking system which is taken to be the liberal model. This model emphasizes the non-interventionist role of the English state as well as its tradition of "sound money". Knafo criticizes this model for its neglect of the central role of the English state in profoundly shaping the financial institutions in England to an extent not seen in continental Europe. His article can also be read as an endeavour to explain the peculiarities of the development of capitalism in England. As such, it can be taken as a contribution to comparative efforts to understand British developments against European ones.

*Kim Rygiel* examines new relationships of inequality that are being constructed and challenged in "globalizing cities" as spaces where globalization processes such as migration, production and finance are concentrated. Through the work of citizenship theorists such as Engin Isin and Saskia Sassen, the concept of diasporic citizenship is developed and applied to the situation of homeworkers in Toronto in order to illustrate how global restructuring might be directly contributing to complex new relationships of inequality among certain groups in globalizing cities, while simultaneously generating new forms of citizenship rights and practices.

*Susan Spronk* examines the *New Policy Agenda* (NPA), critically assessing its transformative impact upon the contradictory and shifting roles of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) within the international political economy. She argues that, far from 'new', the NPA thinly veils its unrelenting support for neo-liberal structural adjustment within discussions of democratization, participation and good governance. Pointing to recent historical developments in Mexico, Spronk shows that as development consultants promote initiatives like the NPA, shifting their attention from states to NGOs, they place increasing pressures on the latter to reproduce the top-down, problem-solving, technical development strategies favoured by international donors. A growing responsiveness to donor concerns may enable some NGOs to secure some of the material resources needed to provide short-term and incremental improvements within the lives of individuals and communities, but the cost of such ephemeral security is steep. NGOs have become increasingly unwilling to criticize and challenge either the new international economic order or the significantly weakened state that it produces. Far from promoting democracy, then, the shift from an oppositional to a bureaucratic stance contributes to the transformation of NGOs into domestic and international actors that are no longer able or willing to promote the strategic interests of the marginalised peoples and grass roots communities that they ostensibly represent.

*Michael Stewart* employs a Brenner/Wood approach to critique existing approaches in the debate about pre-Confederation Quebec's "failed transition" to capitalism. He argues that the historiography of the colony has either tended to pay insufficient attention to the fusion of political and economic power in the colony or to equate commerce with capitalism. In Stewart's view, commerce and commercialized agriculture were both compatible with extra-economic forms of exploitation, or "politically constituted property" as he refers to it, which according to Stewart, continued to dominate both agriculture and commerce at least until the mid-nineteenth century.

This volume would not have been possible without the help of many people. We are particularly grateful to our critical readers for the time they invested in reading the papers and preparing feedback for the authors of this volume's articles and book reviews. Donna Schatz deserves special thanks for proofreading the texts and Susan Spronk, the Graduate Political Science Student Association Liaison, for her assistance and support, and the authors for their efforts in revising their papers. We are also deeply indebted to the Graduate Programme of Political Science for their financial support.

The success of this journal depends upon the active participation of graduate students. We encourage all York graduate students with research interests in the areas of political economy, cultural studies, feminist and gender studies, development studies, urban studies, area studies, postcolonial studies and international relations to consider submitting papers, book reviews, cartoon and photos or serving as critical readers, proofreaders and editors.

The Editorial Collective