

**Global Labour Research Centre**  
**Annual Report**  
**May 1, 2013 – April 30, 2014**

**1. Contact Information**

<b>Co-Directors</b>	Mark Thomas; Stephanie Ross
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<b>ORU Website</b>	<a href="http://www.yorku.ca/glrc">www.yorku.ca/glrc</a>

**2. List Faculties that supplied active members to the ORU, indicating the number of active members from each.**

As York's only Organized Research Unit fully located within the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, the GLRC draws its principal membership from LAPS' departments and programs (18), including Sociology (4), Political Science (3), Geography (3), Women's Studies (2), History (2), Social Science (2), and Human Resource Management (2). Membership is also drawn from the following faculties Osgoode Hall Law School (2), Health (1), and Fine Arts (1).

The GLRC also has 20 student affiliates and 16 external faculty affiliates.

**3. Charter dates: 07/2013 – 06/2018**

**4. Mandate**

The Global Labour Research Centre (GLRC) engages in the study of work, employment and labour, organizing its activities around four globally situated research clusters: (1) the impact of the changing nature of work and employment on labour rights; (2) the interrelationships between migration, citizenship and work; (3) gender relations in work and labour movements; and (4) the revitalization of workers' movements. A hub for pan-university research collaboration, the GLRC's community engagement model encompasses a range of labour and community partners and the centre aims to promote internationalization through the study of work, employment, and labour by engaging in research activities with leading international scholars, public figures, organizations, and research institutes.

## 5. Membership and Governance

<b>Faculty Associates</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Title / Affiliation</b>	<b>Research Theme</b>
Pat Armstrong	Sociology	Work, Employment and Gender Relations
Linda Briskin	Social Science / School of Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies	Work, Employment and Gender Relations
David Doorey	Human Resource Management	Work, Employment and Labour Rights
Scott Forsyth	Film (Fine Arts) and Political Science	Labour Movement Revitalization
Luin Goldring	Sociology	Labour, Migration and Citizenship
Craig Heron	History / Work & Labour Studies	Work, Employment and Labour Rights
Jan Kainer	Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies / Work & Labour Studies	Work, Employment and Gender Relations
Philip Kelly	Geography	Labour, Migration and Citizenship
Leo Panitch	Political Science	Labour Movement Revitalization
Viviana Patroni	International Development Studies / Social Science	Work, Employment and Labour Rights; Labour Movement Revitalization
Dennis Pilon	Political Science	Labour Movement Revitalization
Valarie Preston	Geography	Labour, Migration and Citizenship
Norene Pupo	Sociology	Work, Employment and Gender Relations
Dennis Raphael	Health Policy and Management (Health)	Work, Employment and Gender Relations
Stephanie Ross	Work & Labour Studies / Social Science	Labour Movement Revitalization
Sarah Slinn	Osgoode	Work, Employment and Labour Rights
Jennifer Stephen	History	Work, Employment and Gender Relations
Mark Thomas	Sociology	Work, Employment and Labour Rights; Labour, Migration and Citizenship; Labour Movement Revitalization
Eric Tucker	Osgoode	Work, Employment and Labour Rights; Labour, Migration and Citizenship;
Steven Tufts	Geography	Labour, Migration and Citizenship; Labour Movement Revitalization
Leah Vosko	Political Science / School	Work, Employment and Labour Rights;

	of Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies	Work, Employment and Gender Relations
Jelena Zikic	Human Resource Management	Labour, Migration and Citizenship

<b>External Associates</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Title / Affiliation</b>	<b>Research Theme</b>
Jenny Carson	Associate Professor, History, Ryerson University	Work, Employment and Gender Relations; Labour Movement Revitalization
Nicole Cohen	Assistant Professor, Communication, Culture, Information and Technology, University of Toronto, Mississauga	Work, Employment and Labour Rights; Labour Movement Revitalization
Aziz Choudry	Assistant Professor, McGill University	Labour, Migration and Citizenship; Labour Movement Revitalization
Jennifer Chun	Associate Professor, Sociology, University of Toronto	Labour, Migration and Citizenship
Thomas Collombat	Assistant Professor, Département des Sciences Sociales, Université du Québec en Outaouais	Labour Movement Revitalization
Kendra Coulter	Associate Professor, Centre for Labour Studies, Brock University	Work, Employment and Gender Relations; Labour Movement Revitalization
Bryan Evans	Associate Professor, Political Science, Ryerson University	Work, Employment and Labour Rights
Tony Fang	Human Resource Management	Labour, Migration and Citizenship
Ian MacDonald	Assistant Professor, Industrial Relations, Université de Montréal	Labour Movement Revitalization
Suzanne Mills	Associate Professor, School of Labour Studies, McMaster University	Work, Employment and Gender Relations; Labour Movement Revitalization
Jason Russell	Assistant Professor, Labour Studies, Empire State College (Buffalo, NY)	Work, Employment and Gender Relations; Labour Movement Revitalization
Peter Sawchuk	Associate Professor, Leadership, Higher and Adult Education, OISE/University of	Labour Movement Revitalization

	Toronto	
Larry Savage	Associate Professor, Centre for Labour Studies, Brock University	Work, Employment and Labour Rights; Labour Movement Revitalization
Charles Smith	Assistant Professor, St. Thomas More College / University of Saskatchewan	Work, Employment and Labour Rights
Susan Spronk	Associate Professor, International Development, University of Ottawa	Labour Movement Revitalization
Don Wells	Professor, School of Labour Studies, McMaster University	Labour Movement Revitalization

<b>Student and Postdoctoral Associates</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Title / Affiliation</b>	<b>Research Theme</b>
Kritee Ahmed	PhD Candidate, Sociology	Work, Employment and Labour Rights
Jason Aprile	PhD Candidate, Sociology	Work, Employment and Labour Rights
Chris Bailey	PhD Candidate, Political Science	Labour Movement Revitalization
Simon Black	PhD Candidate, Political Science	Work, Employment and Gender Relations; Labour Movement Revitalization
Paul Bocking	PhD Candidate, Geography	Labour, Migration and Citizenship; Labour Movement Revitalization
Peter Brogan	PhD Candidate, Geography	Labour Movement Revitalization
Andrea Campbell	PhD Candidate, Sociology	Work, Employment and Labour Rights Work, Employment and Gender Relations
Lacey Croft	PhD Candidate, Sociology	Work, Employment and Labour Rights
Janet Dassinger	PhD Candidate, Social Work, McMaster University	Labour Movement Revitalization
Thierry Drapeau	PhD Candidate, Social & Political Thought	Labour Movement Revitalization
Ian Hussey	PhD Candidate, Sociology	Work, Employment and Labour Rights
Adam King	PhD Candidate, Sociology	Work, Employment and Labour Rights
Guio Jacinto	PhD Candidate, Political Science	Labour Movement Revitalization
Gizem Kezban	PhD Candidate, Sociology	Work, Employment and Labour Rights
Janine Mueller	PhD Candidate, Sociology	Work, Employment and Gender

		Relations
Katherine Nastovski	PhD Candidate, Social & Political Thought	Labour Movement Revitalization
Justin Panos	PhD Candidate, Social & Political Thought	Labour Movement Revitalization
Geraldina Polanco	Postdoctoral Fellow, York University	Labour, Migration and Citizenship
Nikolina Postic	MA Candidate, Sociology	Work, Employment and Labour Rights Work, Employment and Gender Relations
Sarah Rogers	PhD Candidate, Sociology	Work, Employment and Labour Rights Labour Movement Revitalization
Vivian Stamatopolous	PhD Candidate, Sociology	Work, Employment and Labour Rights Work, Employment and Gender Relations
Elliot Siemiatycki	Postdoctoral Fellow, York University	Work, Employment and Labour Rights

### Executive Committee

- Mark Thomas, Associate Professor, Sociology
- Stephanie Ross, Associate Professor, Work & Labour Studies/Social Science
- Pat Armstrong, Distinguished Research Professor, Sociology
- Leo Panitch, Distinguished Research Professor / Canada Research Chair in Comparative Political Economy, Department of Political Science
- Leah Vosko, Canada Research Chair in the Political Economy of Gender & Work / School of Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies / Political Science
- Craig Heron, History / Work & Labour Studies
- Simon Black, PhD Candidate, Political Science
- *Faculty Member Outside LAPS (TBD)*
- *Undergrad student, Work & Labour Studies (TBD)*

### External Advisory Committee

- Jennifer Chun, Associate Professor, University of Toronto
- Bryan Evans, Associate Professor, Ryerson University
- Andrew Jackson, Packer Chair in Social Justice, York University
- Manzur Malik, Ontario Public Sector Employees Union
- Larry Savage, Associate Professor, Centre for Labour Studies, Brock University
- Sharon Simpson, Labour Community Services, United Way Toronto
- Susan Spronk, Associate Professor, University of Ottawa
- Jim Stanford, Unifor
- Evelyn Encalada-Grez, Justice/Justicia 4 Migrant Workers
- Mary Gellatly, Workers Action Centre

## 6. Annual Progress in Fulfilling Mandate

### Funding Applications

In 2013-14, the GLRC's Co-Directors and Faculty Affiliates developed four major SSHRC research grant proposals:

Project	Funding	Principal Investigator	GLRC Role
Raising Job Standards: Economic Growth, Employment Generation and Inclusive Development in Latin America	SSHRC – IDRC International Partnerships for Sustainable Societies \$2.5m November 2013	Viviana Patroni, IDS / Social Science, York University	Dr. Patroni is a faculty affiliate of the GLRC. Drs. Thomas and Ross both joined the research team as co-applicants. The GLRC offered institutional support in the form of conference organization, research dissemination, research networking, and a Graduate Assistant.
Strengthening the Resilience of Diverse Migrant and Ethno-cultural Communities	SSHRC Partnership Grant (LOI) \$2,499,621 February 2014	Valarie Preston, Sociology, York University	Dr. Preston is a faculty affiliate of the GLRC. The GLRC offered institutional support in the form of conference organization, research dissemination, research networking, and involvement in project governance.
Global Labour Movements for Workers in Informal and Precarious Jobs	SSHRC Partnership Grant (LOI) \$2,336,445 February 2014	Jennifer Chun, Sociology, University of Toronto	Dr. Chun is a faculty affiliate of the GLRC. Dr. Ross joined the research team as a co-applicant. The GLRC offered institutional support in the form of conference organization, research dissemination, research networking, involvement in project governance, and Graduate Assistants.
Labour and Management Workplace Innovation Network	SSHRC Partnership Grant (LOI) \$2,427,257 February 2014	Bryan Evans, Political Science, Ryerson University	Dr. Evans is a faculty affiliate of the GLRC. Dr. Ross, Dr. Larry Savage from Brock University, and Dr. Nicole Cohen from University of Toronto (both GLRC affiliates) joined the research team as co-applicants.

## **Faculty Engagement**

### ***Global Labour Speaker Series***

The GLRC organized the Global Labour Speaker Series, now in its second year. The series featured eight talks or panel discussions focused on the Centre's four research themes, and drew healthy and diverse participation from across York, from other universities in the region, and from community members. Three speakers were from outside Canada, two from the United States and one from Argentina. The average attendance at these sessions was 20, and 18 York departments and programs were represented (see Appendix 1 for details). The series was financially supported by the following York units: International Development Studies, Geography, Social Science, Sociology, Work & Labour Studies, the CRC in Comparative Political Economy, the CRC in the Political Economy of Gender and Work, and the Closing the Employment Standards Enforcement Gap Research Initiative.

## **Student Engagement and Training**

### ***Global Labour Reading Group***

The GLRC continued to host the Global Labour Reading Group in Fall 2013 and Winter 2014. The reading group met for a total of five sessions through the academic year.

Participation ranged from 6 to 20 members per session, including graduate students from Sociology, Political Science, Geography, and Gender, Feminist & Women's Studies, two post-doctoral fellows (both hosted at York University), a doctoral student from OISE, and a visiting doctoral student from Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar (Ecuador).

### ***Graduate Student Training***

The Centre's work was supported by three PhD Graduate Assistants (Guio Jacinto, Chris Bailey and Brad Walchuk, all Political Science) in Summer 2013, and three MA Graduate Assistants (Saadna Sheriffdeen, Sina Azimi, and Keith Gonzalez Sujo, all Political Science) from September 2013 to April 2014. The GAs' tasks included coordinating the Global Labour Reading Group, promoting GLRC events (including the Global Labour Speaker Series), and developing the GLRC website. On November 6, 2013, the GLRC also co-sponsored with the MA Program in International Development Studies a methods workshop for graduate students planning to conduct fieldwork with union and social justice organizations, led by Dr. Maurizio Atzeni from CONICET in Buenos Aires, Argentina and attended by 19 MA and PhD students.

### ***Know Your Rights: High School Labour Rights Project***

In collaboration with the Workers' Arts and Heritage Centre, Dr. Suzanne Mills of McMaster University's School of Labour Studies (and GLRC Faculty Affiliate), and District 21 of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (Hamilton-Wentworth), the GLRC continued to develop its Know Your Rights workplace rights education program. This year, using GLRC materials on the Employment Standards Act, this group developed a 70-minute curriculum for high school students on identifying and responding to workplace rights violations. This curriculum was delivered at Hill Park Secondary School in Hamilton to 60 co-op students on April 9, 2013 by a fourth-year McMaster labour studies student.

## **Community Engagement**

### **Workshops**

In February 2014, the GLRC hosted a workshop for union activists entitled “Whole-Worker Organizing: Building an Effective Contract Campaign” led by US labour organizer Jane McAlevey. Co-organized with Sarah DeClerck and Jonah Gindin (CUPE staff) and Morna Ballantyne (former staff with CUPE and PSAC) and delivered on a cost-recovery basis, the 35 workshop attendees represented ten different labour organizations from Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa and Windsor (see Appendix 1).

## **Knowledge Mobilization**

### **Publications**

The GLRC continued to host the e-journal *Just Labour* through 2013-14. Co-Directors Ross and Thomas served on the *JL* Editorial Committee along with Professor Norene Pupo (Sociology) and Editorial Assistant Jason Aprile. In Summer 2013, *Just Labour* Volume 20 was published, which contained a series of articles responding to a commentary originally presented by Andrew Jackson (2012-2014 Packer Chair in Social Justice) in December 2012 as part of the Global Labour Speakers Series. This volume has received 260 hits since its publication. Overall, *Just Labour* has received 3597 unique hits in the past year. In addition, Centre faculty affiliates have been very active in the dissemination of published research linked to the GLRC's core themes (see Appendix 2).

### ***Online Profile and Communications Infrastructure***

The GLRC began to develop an online presence with the launch of a GLRC website ([www.yorku.ca/glrc](http://www.yorku.ca/glrc)), Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/glrcyork>), and Twitter feed ([https://twitter.com/GLRC\\_York](https://twitter.com/GLRC_York)). The Facebook page has also been used to create specific event pages for the Global Labour Speaker Series. As of April 30, 2014, the Facebook page is followed by 181 people, and the Twitter feed by 86 people. The GLRC also established two email listservs (GLRC-Announce (317 subscribers) and GL-Reading (50 subscribers), one for general announcements and the other to support the graduate student reading group. Finally, the GLRC was featured in 8 YFile stories highlighting our Speaker Series.

### **Visiting Scholars**

In Fall 2013, the GLRC hosted Kevin Skerrett, National Pension Researcher for the Canadian Union of Public Employees, who was on a year-long sabbatical. Skerrett participated actively in Centre activities, including speaking in the Global Labour Speaker Series and leading the six-session workshop series Pension Funds, Unions, and Working Class Strategy. The GLRC co-sponsored this series in conjunction with Toronto's Centre for Social Justice, the CRC in Comparative Political Economy, and Socialist Project. The GLRC also continued to co-host (with Political Science) Andrew Jackson, the Packer Visiting Professor in Social Justice, in the final year of this appointment. The GLRC Co-Directors also participated in the selection of the next Packer Visiting Professor, Fay Faraday, whom the Centre will co-host from 2014-2016.

## 7. Financial Accountability

*See attachment.*

## 8. Objectives for Upcoming Year

### Funding Applications

GLRC Co-Directors and Faculty Affiliates will develop the following research funding applications:

Project	Funding	Principal Investigator	GLRC Role
Labour and Populism in an Era of Uncertainty	SSHRC Insight Grant	Mark Thomas	Dr. Steven Tufts, GLRC Faculty Affiliate will be a co-applicant. The GLRC will offer institutional support in the form of conference organization, research dissemination, research networking, and a Graduate Assistant
The Rise of Anti-Unionism in Canada	SSHRC Insight Development Grant	Stephanie Ross	The GLRC will offer institutional support in the form of GA and the Centre Coordinator to prepare the application.
Raising Job Standards in Latin America	SSHRC Connection Grant	Viviana Patroni	The GLRC will offer institutional support in the form of a GA for conference organization, and will host the workshop.
Union Administrative Practices project		Stephanie Ross	This project, comparing union administration in the US, UK, Australia and Canada, will be developed in collaboration with Paul Clark (Penn State) and Lois Grey (Cornell), as well as the Canadian Labour Congress. The GLRC will provide support in the form of a graduate assistant to work on data collection and analysis.

### Faculty Engagement / Conferences / Workshops

In 2014-15, the GLRC will:

- host an open house event in September 2014, to invite university and community members to hear about the Centre's work and future plans. This event will include a

presentation by US-based author, labour activist, and scholar Bill Fletcher Jr. This event will be funded through contributors to the Global Labour Speaker Series as well as the LA&PS Research Events and Outreach Fund;

- deliver The Global Labour Speaker Series, which will include three public events in each of the Fall and Winter terms;
- co-sponsor the *Union Matters* book launch May 21, 2014, in conjunction with the Canadian Foundation for Labour Rights;
- organize conference panels (at the Canadian Association for Work and Labour Studies conference, May 2014) and a stand-alone workshop (in Fall 2014) on deindustrialization, which will include researchers from academic institutions, trade unions, and community organizations.

## **Student Engagement**

The GLRC will:

- continue to host the Global Labour Reading Group, which will meet four times per semester in each of the Fall and Winter terms;
- fund three PhD students as MFGAs (Lacey Croft, Chris Bailey, and Guio Jacinto) in Summer 2014, who will work on a range of research and community engagement projects;
- develop the Know Your Rights project, working with undergraduate students in the Work & Labour Studies Program to deliver peer education about workplace rights on campus. We will add two new fact sheets to the KYR series, update the two existing fact sheets as well as the larger KYR booklet. We will also expand the KYR program to Toronto-area high schools in collaboration with members of the OSSTF. This project will also include an application to the Law Foundation of Ontario for funding to develop a workplace rights smartphone application.

## **Community Engagement**

In 2014-15, the GLRC will continue to develop and deliver workshops on a cost-recovery basis to labour and community organizations. These workshops will focus on various aspects of capacity building, in keeping with our focus on labour movement revitalization. In October 2014, the Centre will deliver a workshop on Strategic Corporate Research for led by Dr. Tom Juravich of the Labor Centre at University of Massachusetts – Amherst.

## **Visiting Scholars**

In addition to co-hosting Fay Faraday, incoming Packer Visiting Professor in Social Justice, the GLRC will support an application by Theodoros Fouskas (PhD, Sociology, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Greece) for a Banting post-doctoral fellowship, to be held the GLRC and supervised by Prof. Mark Thomas. The GLRC will also apply for a visiting professorship for Jane McAlevey, to be held in 2015-16 and during which she will contribute to teaching in the Work and Labour Studies Program, write a manual on innovative union organizing strategies, and deliver additional training workshops for union and community members.

## **9. Other relevant items the Director wishes to report**

In April 2014, Adam Charnaw was hired as the GLRC's part-time Centre Coordinator.

**10. Appendix 1 – Additional Information about Progress in Fulfilling Mandate**

*See attachment.*

**11. Appendix 2 – Individual Member Contributions**

*See attachment.*