

**CASC | ACÉC**

Canadian Association for  
Studies in Co-operation  
Since 1982

L'Association Canadienne pour  
les Études sur la Coopération  
Depuis 1982

*L'Assemblée Annuelle 2022 Annual Meeting  
Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation  
L'Association canadienne pour les études sur la coopération*

***Just Transitions: Reimagining Social Movement  
Solidarities Through and Beyond Crisis***

## **FINAL PROGRAM**

MAY 12 - MAY 14, 2022

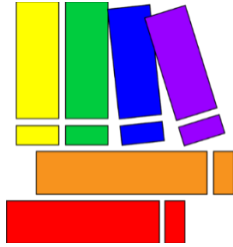
ONLINE CONFERENCE AS PART OF

CONGRESS 2022

of the



FEDERATION FOR THE  
**HUMANITIES AND  
SOCIAL SCIENCES**



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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We would like to acknowledge that the Federation office, and most of the staff, are located on unceded traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinabe Nation. We acknowledge the CASC / ACEC Secretariat is hosted at the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, University of Saskatchewan, on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

Audience members are participating from across the country, and so we also extend our respect to all First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples for their valuable past and present contributions to this land.

### PRONUNCIATION

- Anishinaabek (Ah-nish-in-AH-bek)
- Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-SHOW-nee)

## CASC 2022 Conference Organizing Committee

The Conference Organizing Committee extends to all of you a warm welcome to our CASC 2022 Virtual Conference!

### **Committee Members**

Judith Harris  
Isobel Findlay  
Derya Tarhan  
Esther Awotwe  
Laurie Cook  
Mitch Diamantopoulos

**CASC Website:** [coopresearch.coop](https://coopresearch.coop)

**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/CASC\\_ACEC](https://twitter.com/CASC_ACEC)

**Email:** [casc.acec@usask.ca](mailto:casc.acec@usask.ca)

## TIPS FOR MODERATORS AND PRESENTERS

### Guidelines for Moderators

As session moderator it is your responsibility to be in the allocated Zoom room at least 5 minutes before the session begins. You will be accompanied by a virtual assistant assigned by Congress to address technical issues. In the time before the audience arrives, make sure that you have some information from all of the presenters about how they would like to be introduced. The order of presentations is set out in the Conference Program.

Due to this year's conference taking place exclusively online, each concurrent session is scheduled for 60 minutes. The amount of time for questions and clarification will depend on the starting time and time taken for introductions. There should be approximately 15 minutes for general discussion at the end of the session.

During the Session:

- Introduce the speakers
- Monitor time: Provide a 5-minute and 2-minute warning.
- Start discussion after the presentations are completed. If there are no questions, have one or two questions ready to ask to get the ball rolling
- Acknowledge and thank speakers and audience for their participation.

### Tips for Presenters

- Be prepared - you will have about 15 minutes to present depending on the number of presentations in your session. After three-four minutes you should be presenting your results.
- Remember that the presentations will take place over Zoom, so:
  - Make sure your camera and audio are working beforehand
  - Try to keep the presentation as engaging and short as possible
- Know what's important: highlight the most significant findings. Those with an interest in more detail will follow up with questions. Focus on purpose, method, findings and recommendations.
- Don't use power point as a virtual text. Highlight a few points which are easy to read and graphically interesting.
- State your final conclusions and end on time.

# ASTUCES POUR LES PRÉSIDENTS ET LES PRÉSENTATEURS

## CONSEILS POUR LES MODÉRATEURS ET LES PRÉSENTATEURS

### Directives pour les modérateurs

À titre de modérateur, vous devez vous rendre au local assigné à votre séance au moins 5 minutes avant le début de la présentation. Vous serez accompagné par un assistant(e) virtuelle qui aidera les présentateurs avec accès au matériel audiovisuel dont ils ont besoin. Avant l'arrivée de l'audience, assurez-vous d'avoir en main les informations qui vous permettront d'introduire adéquatement les présentateurs. L'ordre des présentations est inclus dans le programme de la conférence.

Chaque séance est d'une durée de 60 minutes car l'assemblée aura lieu exclusivement sur Zoom. Le temps alloué pour les questions et les clarifications dépend de l'heure à laquelle débute la séance et du temps accordé aux introductions. À la fin de la séance, environ 15 minutes devraient être réservées aux discussions générales.

Déroulement de la séance:

- Introduisez les présentateurs
- Gérez le temps : indiquez aux présentateurs qu'il reste 5 minutes, puis 2 minutes à leur présentation
- Débutez les discussions après que les présentations soient complétées. Prévoyez une ou deux questions à poser, dans le cas où aucune question n'émergerait du public, afin d'encourager les discussions
- Remerciez les présentateurs de même que l'audience pour leur participation

### Conseils pour les présentateurs

- Soyez préparés - vous aurez environ 15 minutes pour présenter, tout dépendant du nombre de présentations prévues lors de votre séance. Après trois-quatre minutes, vous devriez normalement en être à la présentation de vos résultats.
- N'oubliez pas que les présentations auront lieu via Zoom, donc:
  - Assurez-vous au préalable que votre caméra et l'audio fonctionnent;
  - Essayez de garder la présentation aussi captivante et courte que possible.
- Sachez reconnaître ce qui est important - mettez en évidence les éléments significatifs. Les personnes intéressées à obtenir davantage de détails pourront toujours poser des questions à la fin de la séance. Concentrez-vous sur l'objectif, la méthode, les résultats et les recommandations.
- Utilisez le PowerPoint en tant que support visuel - présentez quelques points faciles à lire et intéressants d'un point de vue graphique.
- Pratiquez votre présentation.
- Présentez vos conclusions finales et terminez votre présentation dans les temps.

# CASC/ACÉC 2022: PROGRAM AT A GLANCE/ VUE D'ENSEMBLE DU PROGRAMME

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL TIMES ARE EASTERN TIME (ET)**

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 11th

9:30 – 2:30	<b>Student Case Study Competition Prep (Zoom link to be provided)</b>
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## THURSDAY, MAY 12th

11:00 – 12:00	<b>A1: Student Case Study Competition Showcase</b> Moderator: Esther Awotwe
12:00 – 1:00	<b>BREAK / CONGRESS BIG THINKING SERIES</b>
1:00 – 2:00	<b>B1: Keynote Address:</b> <b>Civilizing the State: Reclaiming Politics for the Common Good</b> John Restakis <i>CASC/ANSER Joint Session – Generously funded by the International Keynote Fund of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences</i> <i>This is an Open Event available to all Congress attendees</i> Moderator: Judith Harris
2:00 – 2:30	<b>BREAK</b>
2:30 – 3:30	<b>C1: Changing the Narrative: International Perspectives on Reshaping a Just Recovery for All</b> Kelly; Heras; Van Den Borre <i>Generously funded by the International Keynote Fund of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences</i> <i>This is an Open Event available to all Congress attendees</i> Moderator: Derya Tarhan
3:30 – 4:00	<b>BREAK</b>
4:00- 5:30	<b>D1: CASC Annual General Meeting</b>

## FRIDAY, MAY 13th

11:00 – 12:00	<b>E1: Co-operative Development and Data for Just Transitions</b> Corcoran; Krueger; Brunette Moderator: Isobel Findlay	<b>E2: Solidarity within and between co-operatives</b> Jankovic; Vieta & Heras; Gray Moderator: Esther Awotwe
12:00 – 1:00	<b>BREAK / CONGRESS BIG THINKING SERIES</b>	
1:00 – 2:00	<b>F1: Keynote Address:</b> <b>Bringing Our Whole Selves to Work: Creating Co-op Culture Welcoming to BIPOC</b> Christine Clarke <i>This is an Open Event available to all Congress attendees</i> Moderator: Hazel Corcoran	

2:00 -2:30	<b>BREAK</b>	
2:30 – 3:30	<b>G1: A Just Digital Transition</b> Oemichen & Pigeon; Cousin & Jankovic; Sadownik Moderator: Iva Jankovic	<b>G2: Evaluating Co-operative Practice: Financial, Environmental, and Gender Justice Lenses</b> <i>CASC/ANSER Joint Session</i> Geobey; Duguid, Rixon, & Charbonneau; Ortiz & Hodgeboom Moderator: Derya Tarhan
3:30 – 4:00	<b>BREAK</b>	
4:00 -5:00	<b>H1: Human Books Library</b> Esse; Gosselin, Cooper-Iversen; Magnus-Johnston; Mikulec; Pontinen Moderator: Judith Harris	
5:00 – 5:30	<b>BREAK</b>	
5:30 – 6:30	<b>I1: Prison Co-operatives: Opportunities and Challenges</b> Corriveau; Jonasson; Le; Harris; Latimer Moderator: Judith Harris	

**JOINT SESSION HOSTED BY ANSER – FRIDAY MAY 13th:**

5:00 – 6:00	<b>Co-operatives</b> <i>ANSER/CASC Joint Session (hosted by ANSER)</i> Piscitelli, McGowan, & Geobey; Boudohay & Sadik; Kim & Mandiberg
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**SATURDAY, MAY 14<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 – 12:00	<b>J1: A look at Canadian Co-operative and Mutual Enterprises through the COVID-19 pandemic</b> Merrien, Charbonneau, Guillotte, & Fouquet; Duguid & Karaphillis; Jankovic & Fouquet. Moderator: Mitch Diamantopoulos	<b>J2: Co-operatives, Housing, and Land</b> O’Leary; Leviten-Reid & Parker; Campbell & Piscitelli Moderator: Isobel Findlay
12:00 – 1:00	<b>BREAK / CONGRESS BIG THINKING SERIES</b>	
1:00 – 2:00	<b>K1: Humanistic Governance in Co-operatives</b> Miner; Novkovic; McMahon Moderator: Karen Miner	<b>K2: Child Care Centres in the Urban Core: Challenging Standardized Structures</b> Budney; Harde; Prymak; Harris Moderator: Judith Harris
2:00- 2:30	<b>BREAK</b>	
2:30- 3:30	<b>L1: Learning to be ethical allies: Sharing lessons learned</b> Gordon-Nembhard; Cook; Findlay Moderator: Laurie Cook	<b>L2: Exploring Tensions, Disparities, and Opportunities in Co-operative Practice</b> Spitzberg; Diamantopoulos; Vieta Moderator: Darryl Reed



3:30-4:00	<b>BREAK</b>	
4:00-5:00	<b>M1: Renewable energy co-operatives in Canada</b> Leonhardt, Pigeon, & Boucher; Tarhan Moderator: Fiona Duguid	<b>M2: Exploring Diverse Approaches of Curriculum to Support Broader Learning about Co-operation and Co-ops</b> <i>Joint session with the Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education (CASAE)</i> Kumar, Sobaz, Benjamin Moderator: Laurie Cook

## CO-OP FILMS ON-DEMAND

The following films will be available on-demand during the CASC conference (May 12, 13,14) and until June 3, 2022.

### A SILENT TRANSFORMATION

Created by Simon Brothers, Luke Mistruzzi, Anton Smolski, Mark Preston (Produced by Powerline Films).

The co-operative movement was built by people who took on the responsibility for their collective well-being in the face of government neglect, economic exclusion and cultural discrimination. As the modern economy increasingly denies vast sectors of the population basic amenities for decent life, this co- operative spirit is as critical as ever. However, over the years the co-op sector has become insular and poorly understood. A SILENT TRANSFORMATION sets out to explore the innovative self-help efforts of different communities across the Province of Ontario, Canada. By addressing their needs collectively, they are helping to regain the radical vision of co-operation. In these communities are the seeds of economic democracy, global solidarity, and a new popular movement to transform society! Will it grow and flourish?

### THE CO-OP WARS

Deacon Warner - Director, Eric Esse - Producer, Peter Coyote - Narrator, Hilary Johnson - Assoc. Producer ([radicalrootsfilm.com](http://radicalrootsfilm.com))

The CO-OP WARS tells the story of the idealistic youth who tried to build an alternative corporate capitalism, the violent struggle that almost tore them apart, and the eventual success in ways they never foresaw. In the 1970s, young people in Minnesota radicalized by the Vietnam War created a thriving counterculture economy featuring dozens of food co-operatives. But they had differing ideas about what the co-ops were for: Hippie socializing? Cheap bulk foods? Black liberation? Whole foods education? Anarchist experimentation? Marxist revolution? In the midst of this burgeoning movement a charismatic stranger formed a secretive revolutionary group that was willing to seize the co-ops by force to bring about their vision of social transformation. The ensuing struggle pitted friends and comrades against each other in a passionate clash of ideas about equity, inclusion, health, and democracy. Long after natural foods have become mainstream, this debate over who and what the co-ops are for finds echoes in the struggle for food justice today. THE CO-OP WARS captures a pivotal moment in the history of Baby Boomer politics and demonstrates the unique nature of co-operatives as vessels for community-directed social change. It is a documentary sure to be thought-provoking for co-op members and everyone interested in creating a better world.

## SESSION AND PAPER ABSTRACTS

### **THURSDAY, MAY 12th**

#### **A1: Student Case Study Competition Showcase**

Moderator: Esther Awotwe

The case used in this year's student case study competition will focus on governance or policy issue relevant to co-operatives. The competition is designed to test graduate and senior undergraduate students' ability to apply concepts from the classroom to real world issues and will allow them to showcase their problem-solving capabilities using the case-study method. During this opening session, each team will present its case analysis using a modified Three Minute Thesis format.

#### **B1: Civilizing the State: Reclaiming Politics for the Common Good**

Keynote Address by John Restakis

*CASC/ANSER Joint Session – Generously funded by the International Keynote Fund of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences*

This is an Open Event available to all Congress attendees

Moderator: Judith Harris

This keynote, hosted by CASC and ANSER, envisions the evolution of new forms of governance that deliver decision-making power to citizens. The presentation will highlight reachable goals for a world faced with an uncertain future and will offer guiding ideas for new systems that address failures of the global economy. The values, structures, and models referenced, provide a practical vision of a cooperative commonwealth and confront “one of the most important and neglected issues of our time” (David Korten Living Economy Forum, 2021). The research into the social economy that encompasses the commons, civil society and the co-operative movement is multi-disciplinary and will be of interest across the humanities and the social sciences. Pandemics are just one dimension of the philosophical, social, political, economic, and environmental factors that are at the root of the current existential threat. The literature in this field is, as one would expect wide-ranging, owing to the fundamental need for a more holistic way of addressing the critical issues that we face. There is evidence that a more just, equitable, diverse new economy is in fact emerging. The lecture will expand on the work of academics and practitioners who detail where we are at, where we are going, and what the future could look like for the planet, families, communities, nations and “all our relations”. Live captioning and simultaneous interpretation are available.

Ce discours, organisé par CASC et ANSER, envisage l'évolution de nouvelles formes de gouvernance qui confèrent un pouvoir décisionnel aux citoyens. La présentation mettra en évidence des objectifs réalisables pour un monde confronté à un avenir incertain et proposera des idées directrices pour de nouveaux systèmes qui répondent aux échecs de l'économie mondiale. Les valeurs, les structures et les modèles référencés offrent une vision pratique d'un Commonwealth coopératif. et affronter "l'un des problèmes les plus importants et les plus négligés de notre temps" David Korten (Living Economy Forum, 2021). La recherche sur

l'économie sociale qui englobe les biens communs, la société civile et le mouvement coopératif est multidisciplinaire et intéressera les sciences humaines et sociales. Les pandémies ne sont qu'une dimension des facteurs philosophiques, sociaux, politiques, économiques et environnementaux qui sont à l'origine de la menace existentielle actuelle. La littérature dans ce domaine est, comme on pouvait s'y attendre, très variée, en raison du besoin fondamental d'une manière plus holistique d'aborder les problèmes critiques auxquels nous sommes confrontés. Il est prouvé qu'une nouvelle économie plus juste, plus équitable et plus diversifiée est en fait en train d'émerger. La conférence développera le travail d'universitaires et de praticiens qui détaillent où nous en sommes, où nous allons et à quoi pourrait ressembler l'avenir pour la planète, les familles, les communautés, les nations et "toutes nos relations". Le sous-titrage en direct et l'interprétation simultanée sont disponibles.

### **C1: Changing the Narrative: International Perspectives on Reshaping a Just Recovery for All**

Ana Inés Heras, Universidad Nacional de San Martin (Argentina)

Esteban Kelly, U.S. Federation of Worker Cooperatives

Martin Van Den Borre, Social Economy Consultant

Moderator: Marcelo Vieta

Attendees of this session will learn from co-operative leaders from across the world regarding their demands and strategies around a just recovery from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

*Workers Social Cooperativism in the Area of Public Mental Health in Argentina. Lessons from Pandemia and Beyond*

Ana Inés Heras, Universidad Nacional de San Martin (Argentina)

The presentation will start by framing very briefly the concept of "collaborative research of collective property" to explain how our team has been working with several different types of cooperatives of workers in Argentina. I will then introduce the characteristics of a specific type of cooperative (i.e., "social cooperative") a type of organization designed to support the inclusion of people who are usually discriminated against by the general public, and who are simultaneously supported by professionals at the mental health public system to co-create their working space with others, within a social solidarity framework. I will explain how during Pandemia several of these organizations faced serious challenges and yet supported their collective work, and also how during these years the collaboration across these cooperatives was maintained by what they call the Network of Social Cooperatives and Other Organizations. This type of networking (sustained during 2020-2022 via virtual meetings) allowed to identify and analyze the challenges faced by these types of cooperatives over the last decade, and to propose changes of public policy as well, which were taken up by officers in administration at the national level. Thus, there are several lessons to be learned and shared from this type of collaborative work in this specific sector of "social cooperativism".

*Esteban Kelly, Executive Director of the US Federation of Worker Cooperatives and board member of the National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International (NCBA)*

Kelly will review the trajectory of the worker cooperative sector in the United States. Across the country, the pandemic unevenly impacted a modest and unevenly developed social solidarity economy, yet it demonstrated the resilience offered by a cooperative economy. Workers and volunteers levered cooperative and community controlled assets to address food insecurity, public health, housing, and networks of trustworthy information. The crisis also highlighted some of the structural deficiencies of underinvestment in the social economy. He will share some of his strategic takeaways for how the social solidarity economy can scale for crises ahead, including achieving parity for accessing public infrastructure, utilizing the cooperative advantage to its full potential, and building broader movement power.

*The SILK Project: Toward a more resilient and internationally agile social economy ecosystem*

Martin Van Den Borre, Social Economy Consultant

During the year 2021, the project "social solidarity economy international learning and knowledge community of peers (SILK)", mobilized a consortium of 15 organizations and experts led by DIESIS-Network in the framework of the Global Action for the promotion of ecosystems of the social and solidarity economy promoted by the OECD. The consortium had agreed on the definition of Internationalization as being the process involving multilateral flows of goods, services, financial resources, and intangible assets such as information, skills, and knowledge within and between organizations, and across countries. The issue of internationalization of social and solidarity economy organizations has undergone recent developments and evolutions that the SILK project analyzed, showing that SSE can be key in a new way to understand and address internationalization as it adapts to ever evolving social and environmental challenges. One of the main conclusions of the analysis and comparison of policy and business cases from the European Union, Canada, Korea, Mexico, India and Brazil, is how the generation of certain economic, social, cultural, and environmental values considered as secondary or indirect in the internationalization activities of conventional economic systems are often primary and direct in social economy systems. Also how these exchanges would be enhanced by support policies that better embrace a holistic and comprehensive vision of these values as they relate to many international challenges. We identify practices and policy adaptations that can help make significant steps towards a more resilient and internationally agile social economy ecosystem.

## **FRIDAY, MAY 13th**

### **E1: Co-operative Development and Data for Just Transitions**

Moderator: Isobel Findlay

*The Role of the Worker Co-op Sector in Just Transitions to a Solidarity Economy*

Hazel Corcoran, Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation

The current multiple crises point to the urgent need to transition from an economy which exists to maximize profit, to one whose purpose is to meet the needs of people, and regardless of their race, gender identity, age, or ability. The just transition to a Solidarity Economy with workplace democracy a key component, simply must take place. To get there, a key requirement is the successful development of worker co-operatives, enterprises which empower workers and

communities. At the Canadian Worker Co-op Federation, we are seeing significant growth in interest in worker co-ops, notably but not only among young adults, racialized people, trade unions, environmental activists, social care workers, non-profits, churches, and people working in the gig economy (platform co-ops). Racial Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion work is critically important, CWCF can now, along with partners, make some resources available for start-ups and conversions, and the federal government seems reasonably positive and receptive on employee ownership. We are viewing the current liminal time as the Great Turning, to that Solidarity Economy.

*Celebrating abundance: The Kananakachiwewat Community Service Co-operative*

Audra Krueger, Co-operatives First

Co-operatives First has been supporting Indigenous leaders as they seek justice and creative solutions to longstanding inequalities in their communities. Elders from Cote First Nation have formed a co-operative to better support youth in their community and help preserve their traditions and language. Kananakachiwewat Community Service Co-operative, which translates to Elderly Knowledge Keepers, is a way to preserve the Onakawawin language and traditional cultural activities. Since 2016 Co-operatives First has focused on developing stronger relationships with Indigenous people by understanding the abundance offered in communities and by walking alongside leaders as they explore additional ways to work together.

*CMC's Database & Online Directory*

Dan Brunette, Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada

CMC has updated its inventory of co-ops, credit unions and mutuals in Canada to include information on nearly 7500 active co-operative organizations. CMC's database powers a searchable, interactive co-operative directory and map featuring co-op names, addresses, co-op sector and type, and date of incorporation. There are also new search functions allowing users to filter through DEI tags and search through various categories of Canadian co-operative products and services to encourage co-operation among co-operatives. This directory is used by the public to locate co-ops in their regions, by co-operatives looking to partner with other co-ops, and by researchers, academics, and government departments to learn about the various aspects of Canadian co-operatives.

## **E2: Solidarity within and between co-operatives**

Moderator: Derya Tarhan

*Intercooperation as a Resilience Factor*

Iva Jankovic, Saint Mary's University

Cooperative enterprises have historically been resilient in times of crisis, and there is evidence to suggest that this extends to the experiences of cooperatives during the COVID-19 pandemic as well. The cooperative identity, as expressed through the Cooperative Values and Principles may be a source of resilience advantage for cooperatives at all stages of crisis response: anticipating, coping with, and adapting to changing conditions after a crisis. However, to date, research and storytelling have hyper focused on the operationalization of Cooperative Values and Principles at the micro-level of the individual cooperative, with very little work done to understand the role of cooperative networking and inter-cooperation (P6) as integral to cooperative identity and the

cooperative business model. This chapter presents evidence to suggest that cooperative networking played an important role in individual cooperatives' crisis resilience (micro-level), as well as the resilience of entire regional or industry subsectors (meso-level) and the broader Canadian society during COVID-19.

*Organizational Solidarity in Practice in Latin America: Building Cooperatives and Coalitions of Resistance and Creativity*

Marcelo Vieta, University of Toronto

Ana Inés Heras, Universidad Nacional de San Martín (Argentina)

Our paper, accepted and soon to be published in the journal *Organization*, develops the concept of organizational solidarity in practice – modes of cooperative organizing rooted in solidarity, relationality, coalition-building, and difference – witnessed in Indigenous and working-class practices in the region commonly known as Latin America. We do so via two illustrative cases: Bolivia's campesino-indígena movements coalescing traditional practices and urban-neighborhood experiences in order to self-organize socio-political spaces, and Argentina's worker-led *empresas recuperadas por sus trabajadores* (worker-recuperated enterprises), where workers have been drawing on working-class self-activity to convert companies to cooperatives in order to self-manage spaces of production. Grounded in a community economies approach, our paper inventories, describes, and provisionally theorizes four common threads interlacing these inventive cooperative proposals, including: resisting neoliberalism, mobilizing collective memory, organizing horizontally, and creating coalitional possibilities.

*Problematic Solidarity in Agricultural Cooperatives*

Thomas W. Gray, United States Department of Agriculture, Program on Co-operatives

This presentation is an analysis of the written comments of a farmer-member survey of two large agricultural cooperatives in the mid-west U.S. (confidentiality promises prohibit disclosure of firm names and exact locations). Approximately 2000 written comments were analyzed. A social work "life model" and a content analysis are used to organize comments, utilizing a content analysis methodology. Nearly all comments expressed levels of frustration and/or discontent. Frustration and problematic solidarity within the organization are understood results of: maladaptive transactions--breakdowns in communications, changing and inconsistent expectations, perceived exploitive relationships--as well as general unresponsiveness to meet specific member needs within the organization, and larger environment. Recommendations are drawn from the analysis.

**F1: Bringing Our Whole Selves to Work: Creating Co-op Culture Welcoming to BIPOC**

Keynote Address by Christine Clarke

This is an Open Event available to all Congress attendees

Moderator: Hazel Corcoran

The experience of BIPOC workers is one where we cannot bring our whole selves to the job. Instead, we bring parts: the ones deemed most "appropriate" or "professional" to predominantly white workspaces, which often translates into leaving parts of our culture behind. With its values of democracy, equality, equity and solidarity, co-ops hold the promise of a business model where those most marginalized at work have the decision-making power to create work cultures that uplift and empower them. Despite this potential, the Canadian co-op sector continues to struggle

in its efforts to diversify leadership and attract BIPOC membership. Where does the disconnect lay? Freedom Dreams Co-operative Education Co-Founder Christine Clarke will discuss how the co-op sector can better communicate its message to BIPOC workers and how to create a sector-wide culture that can lead to deep and meaningful reach within BIPOC communities. Closed captioning and simultaneous interpretation are provided in this session

### **Amener tout le moi-même au travail: créer une culture coopérative accueillante pour BIPOC**

L'expérience des travailleurs du BIPOC est une expérience où nous ne pouvons pas nous mettre tout seuls au travail. Au lieu de cela, nous apportons des pièces: celles jugées les plus "appropriées" ou "professionnelles" aux espaces de travail à prédominance blanche, ce qui se traduit souvent par l'abandon de certaines parties de notre culture. Avec ses valeurs de démocratie, d'égalité, d'équité et de solidarité, les coopératives ont la promesse d'un modèle d'affaires où les personnes les plus marginalisées au travail ont le pouvoir décisionnel de créer des cultures de travail qui les élèvent et les habilitent. Malgré ce potentiel, le secteur coopératif canadien continue de peiner dans ses efforts pour diversifier son leadership et attirer les membres du BIPOC. Où se situe la déconnexion? La cofondatrice de Freedom Dreams Co-operative Education, Christine Clarke, discutera de la façon dont le secteur coopératif peut mieux communiquer son message aux travailleurs du BIPOC et comment créer une culture sectorielle qui peut mener à une portée profonde et significative au sein des communautés du BIPOC. Le sous-titrage codé et l'interprétation simultanée sont fournis dans cette session.

### **G1: A Just Digital Transition**

Bill Oemichen, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Marc-Andre Pigeon, University of Saskatchewan

Louis Cousin, Laval University

Iva Jankovic, Saint Mary's University

Bryn Sadownik, Demonstrating Value Initiative

Moderator: Iva Jankovic

The full-scale digital transition brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic has created fantastic opportunities for distributed collaboration and solidarity building. Meanwhile, it has consolidated information and power in the hands of technology companies who have created dependency on their services and enjoy unrestrained access to user data. For better or for worse, we can expect the digital transition to continue. Thus, now is a critical moment for co-operators to ask ourselves, what might a just digital transition look like? And how can co-operative organizational forms, built on co-operative principles and values be applied to harness digital innovation for the common good, while combating injustice in the digital realm? Join us for an interactive session co-presented by members of the Co-operative Intelligence Unit - an international co-operative "think and do tank" focused on strategic foresight, innovation, and mobilization of co-operative solutions. Our presenters provide theoretical tools, research insights, and practical approaches for a just digital transition.

The session will be divided into the following presentations:

1. Challenges and Opportunities for Big Data in Agriculture, and the role for Co-operatives
  - a. Bill Oemichen, PhD Candidate at the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, University of Saskatchewan
  - b. Dr. Marc-Andre Pigeon, Director of the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, University of Saskatchewan
2. Collective Leadership and Intercooperation for a Just Digital Transition
  - a. Louis Cousin, PhD Candidate at Laval University
  - b. Iva Jankovic, MBA Student at the International Center for Co-operative Management, Saint Mary's University
3. Co-operative approaches to using Data for Good
  - a. Bryn Sadownik, Project Lead at Demonstrating Value Initiative

## **G2: Evaluating Co-operative Practice: Financial, Environmental, and Gender Justice Lenses**

Moderator: Derya Tarhan

### *What is a Cooperative Worth? Contesting Investor-Centred Valuations of Enterprise*

Sean Goebey, University of Waterloo

Investors seeking to develop tools to value and manage an enterprise have a wide variety of tools that they can draw from accounting, economics, and finance to evaluate what the expected value of an enterprise is likely to be. These are all based on the reasonable goal of seeking profits from an enterprise as an investor, with profits being the difference between revenues and costs in a given period of time. Yet these reasonable tools may not be appropriate for all enterprises, particularly cooperatives. Most clearly, for worker-owned firms profit-maximization is unlikely to be a reasonable goal, as the primary cost of most enterprises are the worker wages that the owners benefit from, and for consumer-owned firms the higher-prices that lead to greater revenues are the owners direct expenses. In this presentation we suggest an intuitive reprioritization of valuation away from an investor-led model to a variety of cooperative-focused models and suggest the implications of new approaches to enterprise valuation.

### *Co-operative-designed indicators for the SDGs*

Fiona Duguid, CEARC at Saint Mary's University

Daphne Rixon, CEARC at Saint Mary's University

With the growing interest in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since the UN signing in 2015, the opportunity for co-operatives and the co-operative sector to measure and report on their impact has grown and is immediate. This action research project examines how co-operatives can measure the SDGs in a way that reflects the co-operative difference. In particular, this research explores why it is important for co-ops to measure and report on the SDGs and to link the SDGs to the seven principles of co-operatives. We argue that reporting on the SDGs in the context of the seven principles enables co-operatives to illustrate their co-operative difference from investor-owned businesses (IOB) who are increasingly reporting on SDG performance. Through working with co-ops as co-creators we have identified indicators and metrics that are co-operative specific and allow co-operatives of all sizes, industries, types and maturity to report and measure their SDG impact.



*Centring Equity: Learnings from the Women of Ontario Social Enterprise Network*

Jude Ortiz, NORDIK Institute

Online Hodgeboom, Lean4Flourishing

The Women of Ontario Social Enterprise Network (WOSEN), a province-wide collaborative comprised of five social change organizations supporting the social enterprise model, has created an equity centred, cogenerating knowledge network designed to engage women underrepresented and underserved in business and broader ecosystem stakeholders in co-creating the critical resources, relational networks and stakeholder capabilities to support the development of women-owned and women-led ventures, fostering a healthy ecosystem that embraces more inclusive economies.

WOSEN has developed an innovative operational model that integrates current system change approaches and foundational community development principles, specifically: i) equity centred collective impact; ii) principle-focused developmental evaluation; and, iii) a system change assessment framework that evaluates project and program level progress.

The presentation will highlight the co-creation aspects of the model, and focus on learnings, impact and the Design Principles, an inclusive, antiracist and decolonizing framework.

## **H1: Human Books Library**

Human libraries have become an international cultural movement since their introduction in Denmark in 2000. A human library is a way for individuals to connect with others in their community in order to engage in conversation, promote tolerance, celebrate differences and encourage understanding of people who come from varied cultural or lifestyle backgrounds. Human books are volunteers who are willing to share their stories with others in a safe environment. Readers participate in one-on-one or small-group conversations with Human Books to ask questions and to learn about other's life experiences or special interests. This year at CASC, a human library will be included as an interactive session and will feature cooperative practitioners representing various sectors and regions with the aim to share their "co-op stories" about personal, professional organizational journeys. Readers will be able to move from one "room" to the next and engage with a number of human books during the session. The great advantage of human books is that they can respond to your questions.

**Erik Esse**, Filmmaker, Radical Roots Film

Title of Book: *THE CO-OP WARS: A 1970s Story of Social Change with Resonance for Today*

Erik Esse is a co-operator and filmmaker based in Seattle. His work in the co-op and Fair Trade movements includes serving as Director of the Local Fair Trade Network, as a staff member of Central Co-op in Seattle and North Country Co-op in Minneapolis and as organizer of the US Conference of Workplace Democracies, the Midwest Worker Cooperative Conference and the Farmworker Conference for Fair Trade. He is the producer of documentary THE CO-OP WARS, which tells the story of the young people who founded the thriving Minneapolis/St. Paul natural food co-ops and the political struggle that nearly destroyed their movement in its infancy. The film is currently streaming at the Congress with the sponsorship of CASC.

**Eric Gosselin**, Research Associate CEARC

Title of Book: *Rebel with a cause: an unlikely co-operator?*

Eric Gosselin is co-founder of Coop Vélo-Cité, a community bike shop in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He still shovels the snow in front of the shop occasionally. Eric has a Master's in Management of Co-operatives and Credit Unions from Saint Mary's University. He still works with that crew as a research associate at the Centre of Excellence in Accounting and Reporting for Co-operatives (CEARC). He also works at University of Toronto in co-op research. Eric still plays in a band and spends time in high schools helping kids learn how to perform improvisational theatre. Eric loves a good design, especially in the following departments: thinking, music, art, bicycles, gardens, and buildings.

**Michelle Cooper-Iversen** Chief Operating Officer, Co-operative Housing Federation of B.C.

Title of Book: *So Many Ways to Get There*

Michelle Cooper-Iversen is the Chief Operating Officer of the Co-operative Housing Federation of BC (CHF BC) based in Vancouver and representing almost 15,000 co-op homes. Michelle oversees the day-to-day operations of the team of almost 120 employees and provides leadership in developing and executing an annual operating plan that supports the strategic direction set by the CEO and the board of CHF BC. Michelle is a passionate about for the co-operative business model as one solution to an ethical, social and sustainable approach to business. She has been involved in the co-operative movement for fifteen years, and serves of the board BC Co-operative Association and the Community Housing Transformation Centre. She is Chartered Professional in Human Resources (CPHR), and is in her final year of the Masters of Management, Co-operatives and Credit Union at the International Centre of Co-operative Management at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Michelle is working on her final research paper, which is a comparative analysis of different co-operative living models and their suitability in a BC context.

**James Magnus-Johnston**, Assistant Professor & Director of the Centre For Resilience, Canadian Mennonite University

Title of Book: *Living together for a living planet*

James Magnus-Johnston holds an MPhil in Economics from Cambridge University and teaches in political studies and economics. He is interested in the political, cultural, and institutional shift toward "post-growth" policy and business frameworks. James has spent much of his working life testing and integrating forward-looking principles in applied business and organizational settings. He is the Director of the CMU Centre for Resilience, a Board Director with the Assiniboine Credit Union, and a founding member of Prairie Rivers CoLiving. He previously worked as a financial counsellor and business advisor, in public policy positions with lawmakers, and as a social entrepreneur—co-founding a food cooperative (The Fireweed Food Co-op), a coffee shop (Fools + Horses), and a composting service (Compost Winnipeg).

**Philip Mikulec**

Managing Director, Peg City Car Co-Op, Winnipeg, MB

Title of Book: *Defying the odds: How Peg City Car Co-op grew carsharing in Winnipeg*

Philip Mikulec is the Managing Director of Peg City Car Co-op, Winnipeg's first and only carsharing company. Over the last five years, Philip and his team have worked tirelessly to grow Peg City Car Co-op to a fleet of nearly 90 vehicles with over 2,300 members. Before joining Peg City Car Co-op, Philip completed a four-year Environmental Studies Degree at the University of Winnipeg. After taking some time to travel and work, Philip went back to university to complete a Master's in City planning at the University of Manitoba. During Philip's scholastic years, he had the opportunity to research urban agriculture policy in Winnipeg and is published in the Canadian Journal of Urban Research. Outside of professional pursuits, Philip enjoys gardening, long sojourns into the backcountry with his canoe and dog, and travelling with his partner Andrea.

**Michael Pontinen**

Chair of Climate Emergency Task Force

Co-operative Housing Federation BC

Title of Book: *Not All Who Wander Are Lost: Climate Change, Co-ops and a Just World*

Michael Pontinen is the current chair of the Co-operative Housing Federation of BC Climate Emergency Task Force, and a past housing co-op president and current resident board advisor. Growing up in the rural interior of BC developed a strong respect for conservation and the environment. His career has included small business ownership, consulting, information technology, and shareholder-owned large enterprise before joining the co-operative movement. Michael has been employed at Vancity Credit Union for the last eleven years in analyst, consultant and product owner roles and sits on the mental health employee resource group. He holds a master's degree in the management of co-operatives and credit unions and wrote his capstone research paper on how BC housing co-operatives could help fulfill the United Nations Sustainable Development goals. Michael is a Fellow of Credit Union Institute of Canada (FCUIC) and a Credit Union Development Educator (CUDE).

**II: Prison Co-operatives: Opportunities and Challenges**

Stacey Corriveau, BC Centre for Social Enterprise

Karen Jonasson, Stony Mountain Institution, MB

Tam Le, Stony Mountain Institution, MB

Judith Harris, Walls to Bridges Program, Winnipeg, MB

Catherine Latimer, John Howard Society of Canada

Moderator: Judith Harris

Research on established prison cooperatives “shows how the co-operative culture and relational environment of these ‘social co-operatives’ is as important as the provision of paid work in contributing to prisoner rehabilitation” (July 17, 2016; and Mills & Nicholson, 2016). This panel

highlights research conducted by the John Howard Society, views on co-operation in a prison setting, and first-hand experience in establishing a prison co-op. Panelists address the question of what is needed to initiate action on the development of co-operatives in Canadian prisons.

*Stacey Corriveau (Executive Director, BC Centre for Social Enterprise)*

Stacey Corriveau is the founding Executive Director of the BC Centre for Social Enterprise, a virtual organization that has been assisting Canadian community-based social enterprises with formation and start-up support since 2005. The Centre advocates a Lean Start-Up approach to social enterprise development, and offers advice on structuring social enterprises that are operated by non-profits and charities. Stacey is passionate about social enterprise, business development, and sustainable community development. She holds a Master's degree in English (Queens), plus two professional certificates from Simon Fraser University: Community Economic Development and Sustainable Community Development. Stacey is an APEC-IBIZ Certified Business Counselor.

*Karen Jonasson, Correctional Educator, Stony Mountain Institution, MB*

Karen Jonasson is a Correctional Educator at Stony Mountain Institution in Manitoba. She is a proud Metis woman with roots in the province's Interlake community, historically called Minnewaken; the lakeside of Lundar, Manitoba. Karen's teacher education and post-baccalaureate degrees from the University of Winnipeg's Access program, started her journey into her own family's culture and lit a passion in Social Justice. Her work place, which houses an Indigenous population of between 58-78% at any given time, has her working on many special projects. Some involve her colleagues, helping to broaden thinking on Indigenous Social History of their students, others involve her students, with Indigenous language revitalization, cultural exploration, and higher education opportunities for their time inside, as well as upon their release to their communities.

*Tam Le, Peer Offenders Prevention Service, Stony Mountain Institution, MB*

Currently I am working for Peer Offenders Prevention Service (POPS) at Stony Mountain Institution. I am the first in my family to attend university. My ultimate goal is to receive a degree in the helping field, for example healthcare, sociology, teaching and/or counselling. With that being said, growing up I had no positive role models and limited resources, therefore, my biggest achievement is helping my fellow inmates during times of crisis and being a positive role model in my community. Going forward, I have a great appreciation for such programs as "Walls to Bridges" because it has given me the opportunity, the confidence, and the skills I need for my rehabilitation back into society.

*Judith Harris, Research Associate, Walls to Bridges Program, Winnipeg, MB*

Judith has been active in community development for 30 years. She worked to establish a number of community development projects in Winnipeg including the Spence Skills Bank, Frontstep Research Workers' Co-op, the Village Co-op in Winnipeg's north end, and the Langside Learning Garden. Judith works with a growing team of 9 instructors and the many alums of the Walls to Bridges Program at the University of Winnipeg. In 2021 Judith retired from her position as Associate Professor in Urban and Inner-City Studies at the University of Winnipeg. She currently teaches and coordinates research for the Walls to Bridges Program at the University of Winnipeg.

*Catherine Latimer, Executive Director, John Howard Society of Canada*

Catherine Latimer has been the Executive Director of the John Howard Society of Canada since 2011. Previously, Ms. Latimer was a policy lawyer for the federal government providing analysis and policy advice for the Departments of the Solicitor General, the Privy Council Office, and Justice and had a lead responsibility in the development of the Youth Criminal Justice Act. Her law degree is from Queen's University, Kingston and her Masters in Criminology is from Cambridge University. She is a Broadbent Fellow, past President of the National Associations Active in Criminal Justice and a Member of the Order of Canada.

**5:00-6:00 PM**

**ANSER/CASC Joint Session: CO-OPERATIVES**

Chair: Lucille Perrault

*The best interests of cooperatives*

Anthony Piscitelli, Conestoga College; Katherine McGowan, Mount Royal University; Sean Geobey, University of Waterloo

Academic and grey literature has given cooperative boards virtually no consideration in how to understand/express and act in their organization's best interest. First, we ground our discussion in the importance and understanding of the co-operative's purpose and the overall Co-operative principles. From this grounding, we explore two broad theoretical frameworks, shareholder (member) primacy and stakeholder approaches as options to ensure boards are acting in the best interest of the co-operative. In particular, we consider two stakeholder models, the Trustee Model, and the Team Production Model, for boards to consider applying to express and uphold their duty.

*Les organisations solidaires marocaines et la lutte contre les inégalités sociales dans un contexte de crise sanitaire: Le cas de la coopérative agricole COPAG / Moroccan solidarity organizations and the fight against social inequalities in a context of health crisis: The case of the agricultural cooperative COPAG*

Youness Boudohay & Abdallah Sadik

In Morocco, and during the last 2 years, the COVID-10 pandemic will further deepen the social inequalities of which a large part of the population are victims. And it is in this context that several initiatives from the social and solidarity economy will see the light of day mainly in disadvantaged areas or commonly called working-class neighborhoods. In the same vein, the actors of the social and solidarity economy will introduce innovative managerial practices with the aim of creating wealth and jobs. Indeed, our research work aims to show that the SSE could both resist the crisis, allowing the mitigation of the socio-economic impacts of COVID 19 and participating in the key elements of post-crisis change.

*Management strategies for precarious workers' job crafting*

Seon Mi Kim, Ramapo College of New Jersey; James Mandiberg, Hunter College

Precarious work and workers have increased due to economic changes, new forms of "gig" work, and environmental conditions (e.g., Covid.) Our research on home healthcare workers in co-operatives and unions indicates that job crafting helps to mitigate the negative impacts of precarious work on workers. Some of the work and working conditions of human service workers can be viewed through a precarity lens. This includes paraprofessional workers, peer workers, and

others with structurally limited access to professional educations. This paper utilizes our research on precarity and job crafting among home healthcare workers and applies it to precarious work in HSOs.

## **SATURDAY, MAY 14th**

### **J1: A look at Canadian Co-operative and Mutual Enterprises through the COVID-19 pandemic**

Moderator: Mitch Diamantopoulos

#### *Exploring CMEs' responses to crisis*

Anne-Marie Merrien, Josée Charbonneau, Claude-André Guillotte and Étienne Fouquet, IRECUS at the University of Sherbrooke

In this first presentation, we will share a summary of our findings from Parts I, II and III of our study, in which we engage with the ongoing question of co-operative resilience in times of crisis, and specifically aim to understand the recent experiences of Canadian CMEs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Part I of the study consisted of a literature review that aimed to learn about how CMEs have weathered and responded to past crises. Part II was a media review that surveyed the actions taken by Canadian CMEs in the first year of the pandemic. In Part III, we conducted a survey among Canadian CMEs regarding the pandemic's impact on them as well as their responses throughout the first 18 months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Join us in exploring the findings from this research and deepening our shared understanding of co-operative resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### *The Canadian Co-operative Sector and Economic Impact (2019)*

Fiona Duguid, ICCM at Saint Mary's University  
George Karaphillis, Cape Breton University

How many co-ops are active in Canada? What types or industries predominate? What province has the most co-ops? What is the co-operative sector's total contribution to the GDP in Canada? To find out the answers to these questions and more, join the COVID-19 and Co-operatives research panel. The scope of this research attempts to cover all reporting co-operative and mutuals activity in Canada by including incorporated co-operatives, credit unions, caisse populaires and mutuals. Using 2019 data this research employs the headcount analysis to reveal the profile of the co-operative sector, as well, it also quantifies the direct, indirect and induced (spinoff) impacts. This research also provides year over year trend analysis. The input/output model is implemented as with other economic impact studies on the co-operative sector and taking into consideration the challenges.

#### *Perspectives on Co-operative Resilience from Canadian Co-operative Associations and Federations*

Iva Jankovic, ICCM at Saint Mary's University  
Étienne Fouquet, IRECUS at the University of Sherbrooke

As keystone actors in the Canadian co-operative ecosystem, the insights of co-operative associations and federations contributed significantly to our understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 on various regions and sectors of the Canadian CME economy. Interviews were conducted with 14 provincial associations and sector federations across Canada during which they shared their perspectives on the general trends of pandemic impacts, the resilience of CMEs in their regions and sectors, and the role of co-operative associations and federations in facilitating effective crisis preparation, coping, and adaptation across the Canadian CME sector. These interviews helped to inform the design of the survey employed in Part III of our research project as well as an independent book chapter submitted to CIRIEC entitled “Intercooperation as a Resilience Factor”. This presentation will showcase some of our interview findings and present reflections on the roles and experiences of co-operative associations and federations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **J2: Co-operatives, Housing, and Land**

Moderator: Isobel Findlay

### *Cooperatives and Gendered Housing Needs in North America*

Catherine Leviten-Reid, Cape Breton University

Brenda Parker, University of Illinois at Chicago

In this presentation, we draw upon feminist and intersectional literatures on gendered inequalities and social structures, which provide the often forgotten or overlooked context for women’s experiences in housing. Second, we describe women’s housing-related precarity and some of its implications, grounding this research in a political economic critique of the way that housing and resources are allocated and the neoliberal climate that values profit over people. We then discuss how cooperatives are ideally situated to provide housing for women, and offer examples of cooperative and collective organizations and initiatives that work to address the disparities identified in our presentation. We also invite participants of this session to bring their own examples to share.

### *Community Land Trust Policy Initiative*

Colin O’Leary, O’Leary and Associates

Canada is facing a continued affordable housing crisis, yet effort made by all levels of government have made very little discernable difference to Canadians. Community Land Trusts already exist across Canada and a proven vehicle to combat the affordable housing crisis in perpetuity, but they are crippled by current Federal tax law in their ability to acquire land donations. This policy looks to mirror a proven, and robust mechanism which was implemented in Canada in 2006 for ecological land donations, so that it also covers land donations to Community Land Trusts. This will provide a powerful incentive for individuals and corporations to donate land to Community Land Trusts across the nation, enabling them to provide affordable housing solutions in perpetuity, unlike any other models currently in existence in Canada.

### *Developing a CMHC Co-operative Capital Model*

Sean Campbell, University of Waterloo

Anthony Piscitelli, Conestoga College

Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) insurance rules set a standard for driving investment in rental apartment buildings throughout Canada. Union: Sustainable Development Co-operative is developing a model to buy residential and commercial properties in Waterloo Region for permanent affordability through community ownership. Success of the Union Co-operative (Union Co-operative) model will be partially contingent on developing a framework that fits CMHC capital and net value requirements. The process of developing a model meeting CMHC net value requirements for mortgage loan insurance and similar financing programs. Union Co-operative's purpose will be explored in this presentation. Promising ideas for further consideration and concepts that were not seen as viable solutions will be discussed in detail before revealing the details of the final model being adopted.

### **K1: Humanistic Governance in Co-operatives**

Karen Miner, Saint Mary's University  
Sonja Novkovic, Saint Mary's University  
Cian McMahon, Saint Mary's University  
Moderator: Karen Miner

The proposed panel session will showcase ongoing research into the theory and practice of humanistic cooperative governance. Humanistic organization aims at promoting human dignity and enhancing wellbeing, with an emphasis on interpersonal and socio-ecological relationships such as stewardship, reciprocity, loyalty, trust, care, regeneration, etc.

This perspective builds upon the humanistic economics and management traditions (Lutz & Lux, 1988; Pirson, 2017), while underscoring the unique aspects of the cooperative identity (purpose/values/principles) and enterprise model – combining three inherent properties of cooperatives (Miner & Novkovic, 2020). The panel session will be divided into three 20-minute presentations followed by Q&A/Discussion.

### **K2: Child Care Centres in the Urban Core: Challenging Standardized Structures**

Jennifer Budney, University of Saskatchewan  
Danielle Harde, Spadina Early Learning and Childcare Co-operative  
Judith Harris, University of Winnipeg  
Gerrie Prymak, North End Stay and Play  
Moderator: Judith Harris

Our children are our future, and the early years (0-6) are the most critical in a child's development, yet Canada ranks very poorly among peer nations for overall quality and rates of access to regulated child care. The recent signings of provincial-federal Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreements provide a glimmer of hope that improvements are coming. However, the absence of robust data on provincial and territorial child care use suggests that more needs to be known about the families and children using child care. How do child care needs vary with income, Indigenous identity, and parental education? The number of parents who do not use child care is much higher in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon and Nunavut than in other provinces. This panel focuses on the child care needs of families in urban core neighbourhoods who endure multiple forms of oppression and the challenges that child care centres in these areas face in meeting their communities' needs for child care.



**Jennifer Budney** is a researcher with the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives and an Instructor at Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan. For several years, she was chair of the board at Spadina Early Learning and Childcare Co-operative, Saskatoon. She has published on childcare in Saskatchewan with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and recently hosted a panel discussion in the challenges and opportunities of implementing the new Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-wide Child Care Agreement.

**Danielle Harde** is the Assistant Director and Inclusion Co-ordinator at Spadina Early Learning and Childcare Co-operative (SELCC), which has four locations serving central and west-side Saskatoon. She is a proud Métis woman and foster mother, who took her ECE training in Alberta. Danielle has been employed at SELCC for 12 years.

**Judith Harris** has been active in community development in urban and rural Ontario and Manitoba and in international contexts for 30 years. She helped to establish a number of community development projects including the Spence Skills Bank, Frontstep Research Workers' Co-op, the Village Co-op in Winnipeg's north end, the Langside Learning Garden, and the Little Stars Playhouse. In 2021 Judith retired from her position as Associate Professor in Urban and Inner-City Studies at the University of Winnipeg. She currently teaches and manages research for the Walls to Bridges Program at Stony Mountain Institution. Dr. Harris has published in the *Journal of Co-op Studies*, *the Review of International Co-operation*, *the Annual Review of Interdisciplinary Justice Research* and *Engaged Scholar Journal*.

**Gerrie Prymak** was born and his lived most of her life in Winnipeg. She holds a B.H.Ec. and B.Ed. from the University of Manitoba. Before retiring, Gerrie taught elementary years for 28 years in the River East Transcona School Division. Her philosophy centred on the inquiry approach to learning, reading high quality books to children, encouraging good citizenship, and doing what is meaningful and purposeful for children. For over a decade, Gerrie provided a weekly program for children. North End Stay and Play provided learning experiences for children and their care-givers before she and local families established the Little Stars PLAYhouse childcare and family centre. Gerrie sits on the Leadership Circle for the Little Stars PLAYhouse in Winnipeg's North End.

### **L1: Roundtable: Learning to be ethical allies: Sharing lessons learned**

Jessica Gordon-Nembhard, John Jay College of the City University of New York (CUNY)

Laurie Cook, Nova Scotia Inter-University Educational Studies

Isobel Findlay, University of Saskatchewan

Moderator: Laurie Cook

Consistent with our theme Just Transitions: Reimagining Social Movement Solidarities Through and Beyond Crisis, this roundtable is an opportunity to reflect on how we might support social movement energies, creativity, and coalition that have never been more needed than in the current crises of COVID, climate change, aggravated inequality, and systemic racism and sexism. The team of moderators (Laurie Cook, Isobel M. Findlay, and Jessica Gordon-Nembhard) will pose questions, share their own efforts to engage in ethical alliances, the learning, unlearning, and relearning involved, and engage the audience in conversation on topics such as these:

- How do we become more vigilant about colonial damage and ongoing realities?
- What lessons can you share about successful co-articulation of co-operative and diverse social movement thought and action?
- What blindspots persist in progressive theory and practice?
- What stories and actions give you hope for the future?

## **L2: Exploring Tensions, Disparities, and Opportunities in Co-operative Practice**

Moderator: Darryl Reed

### *Making Sense of the World Co-operative Movement's Regional Disparities*

Mitch Diamantopoulos, University of Regina

This paper uses Rogers' diffusion of innovations theory to examine the historical roots of contemporary co-operation's vast global disparities. Comparing Global Census on Co-operatives data with literatures on international movement history, the analysis explains the leading positions of Europe, North America, and Oceania. By focusing on how fractured diffusion channels shaped movement divergence, this account challenges ahistorical, reductive, and Eurocentric conceptions which normalize uneven sector development. Instead, it situates world co-operation's stratified structure in the comparative perspective of Rogers' communications theory."

### *The Awkward Oversimplification of Platform Co-operativism*

Danny Spitzberg

After six years of promoting "platform cooperativism" as a response to platform capitalism, academics have mobilized, as well as confused, many practitioners building the digital economy. While the idea is compelling, its oversimplified goals risk a backslide to worker exploitation for two reasons: cooperatives are not inherently liberatory, and platform startups value scale over accountability. However, by addressing practitioner confusion and following worker leadership, academics and allies can help advance more principled cooperative enterprises.

### *Why not become a co-op? Addressing succession issues and crises by converting to a co-operative*

Marcelo Vieta, University of Toronto

A major challenge for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and their employees around the world today is the potential for large-scale closures. In Canada and the US, for instance, roughly one in five retirement-aged owners do not have a succession plan, risking the socio-economic wellbeing of communities and in Canada potentially affecting one third of the private sector workforce. At the same time, in Southern Europe, Latin America, and parts of Asia and Africa, lingering socio-economic crises, neoliberal austerity, or cheaper labour elsewhere contribute to stubbornly high unemployment rates, waves of business shutdowns, and growing socio-economic displacement. The impacts of the pandemic on SMEs has been adding to these issues. One option, deployed in different parts of the world for saving either healthy or failing firms, jobs, and local economies, are business conversions to co-operatives (BCCs), including conversions to worker co-operatives, multi-stakeholder co-operatives, or other employee or community ownership models. This paper highlights findings of the SSHRC-funded Conversion

to Co-operatives Project ([www.CoopConvert.ca](http://www.CoopConvert.ca)), a three-year university–co-operative sector partnership exploring BCC experiences, policy, and cases in Canada and around the world. The paper homes in on developing models of BCCs, compares BCC enabling environments, and draws attention to the advantages and challenges of BCCs for sustainable community and co-operative development in Canada.

## **M1: Renewable Energy Co-operatives in Canada**

Moderator: Fiona Duguid

### *Renewable Energy Co-operatives in Canada: A Census Update*

Renata Leonhardt, University of Victoria

Marc-Andre Pigeon, University of Saskatchewan

Martin Boucher, University of Saskatchewan

Canada has set a target to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. One of the paths to reach this target is through the adoption of renewable energy technologies. This adoption requires however citizen engagement and participation. Renewable Energy Co-operatives (REC) emerge in this scenario as one of the opportunities for citizens to engage and participate in a local and democratic form of energy production. This paper examines the role of RECs in accelerating the energy transition and discusses challenges and opportunities for advancement, using sustainability transitions and strategic-niche management as our theoretical underpinnings. Employing a mixed-method approach, we created a REC census database, analyzing more than 250 web pages. The information collected was then aggregated, graphed and geographically mapped to identify past and current trends. In parallel, we conducted 24 semi-structured interviews with representatives from RECs and co-operative associations across Canada. We conclude by recommending formation of a second-tier cooperative association

### *Community Energy's Problematic Relationship with Social Justice: Insights from Ontario*

Derya Tarhan, Royal Roads University

A recent surge of studies from Europe has shown that membership bodies of community energy (CE) initiatives predominantly consist of affluent white men. This demographic concentration points at a disconnect between CE activity and its often-assumed potential in simultaneously advancing decarbonization and social justice. Through a documentary policy review and interviews with leading members (N=11) of renewable energy co-operatives (RE co-ops) in Ontario, Canada, this qualitative study sets out to identify factors driving the exclusion of marginalized and frontline communities from CE initiatives. Overall, this study reinforces the importance of marginalized groups' engagement in policy design processes and of explicitly addressing practical capacity inequities between and within communities to ensure just outcomes of CE policies and activity. Further, it problematizes the promotion of CE activity through competitive energy procurement policies such as FITs as inherently advantageous for groups with greater and more immediate access to practical capacities.

## **M2: Exploring Diverse Approaches of Curriculum to Support Broader Learning about Co-operation and Co-ops**

Moderator: Laurie Cook

Ashwani Kumar, Mount Saint Vincent University

Sobaz Benjamin, In My Own Voice Arts Association

Susan Brigham, Mount Saint Vincent University

In this interactive joint session cohosted by the Canadian Association for the Study of Co-operation (CASC) and the Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education (CASAE), panellists will discuss and inquire together about new approaches to curriculum that could enhance learning about co-operation and co-ops within a community education / development context, and enhance inclusion of diverse learners in these topics.

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