

“WITHOUT COMMUNITY THERE IS NO LIBERATION”-AUDRE LORDE



**ANTI-POVERTY RANT-IN**  
an interdisciplinary and  
community-based conference

# !nstigate 2010: Anti-Poverty Rant-In Programme

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An interdisciplinary and community based conference

**October 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 2010**

**This conference would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors:**

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Society for Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS), Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), The Queen's University Department of History (through the Bernice Nugent Fund), The Queen's University Department of Sociology (through the Blakely Fund), Queen's University Office of Research Services, Queen's University English Department, Queen's University Graduate English Society, Kingston Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG), Kingston District Labour Council (KDLC), Queen's University Student Affairs Initiative Fund & Private Donations.

**Our supporters:**

Kingston Community Roundtable on Poverty Reduction, Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC), Kingston Coalition Against Poverty (KCAP), Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP), PSAC Local 901, Sexual Assault Centre Kingston (SACK), The Canadian Elizabeth Fry Society, Katarokwi Native Friendship Centre, Kingston Social Planning Council, Social Issues Networking Group (SING), Peacock Poverty Organization, Confederation Place Hotel, Queen's Printing Services, Kingston Interval House, Peer Support Network, Sisters of Providence, Wolfe Island Bakery, The Queen's Inn, Loving Spoonful, Four Directions, CFRC 101.9fm, Time to Laugh, Reelout, The Artel, Soul Shakedown, Pasta Genova, HIV/AIDS Regional Services (HARS), Food Basics, Limestone District School Board, Artillery Park, Kingston Frontenac Public Library, Queen's University Gender Studies, Tara's Natural Foods, Starbucks, Metro & the Common Ground.

**And our amazing volunteers:**

Jenn Dutra (volunteer coordinator), Usman Mushtaq (website & Logo), Vee Blackburn (t-shirts), Jordan Smith (promotional materials & Logo), Susan Belyea (outreach), Tara Kainer

(outreach), Sayyida Jaffer (outreach), Leda M(walking tour), Robyn Hartley (outreach, donations), Fiona Weber (outreach), Timothy Luchies Landertinger (media relations), Kyle Jackson (media relations), Peer Support Network (BBQ), Political Studies 318 and everyone else who has been helping throughout, facilitating and volunteering during the days of!

**Thank you to everyone who helped make this conference happen!**

**The Organizing committee: Cara Fabre, Krystle Maki, David Thompson, Tara Kainer & Susan Belyea**

**Instigate 2010: A Guide to Anti-Poverty Ranting**

“The learning process is something you can incite, literally incite, like a riot.” – Audre Lorde

1. Moderators are present at all panels and workshops to facilitate adherence to timelines, respect for panellists and to ensure the audience and participants are granted equal opportunity to rant and share their concerns, ideas and dreams. Please respect the moderator’s efforts to encourage inclusivity.
2. At Instigate 2010 there is no hierarchy of participants and audience members. Whether a community member, activist, social worker or scholar EVERYONE has valuable knowledge and ideas to share. Listening at Instigate 2010 is as important as ranting – please enable voices other than your own.
3. Many of the issues explored at Instigate 2010 are contentious and conversations may become heated. Feel free to challenge another’s ideas while still respecting their individual opinions. Remember that we will be exploring a variety of ways to mitigate poverty in Kingston and beyond – to do so, will require a variety of ideas, tactics and initiatives.
4. While we hope to !NCITE everyone to RANT, racist, homophobic, sexist, disablist and classist comments WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Instigate 2010 is an anti-oppressive environment.
5. Childcare is offered but evening events may include children. Please respect that Instigate 2010 is open to all ages.
6. Instigate 2010 hopes to be as environmentally responsible as possible. Please put your initials on coffee, water and juice cups and try to reuse! We encourage you to bring your own mugs!

## !NSTIGATE 2010: Anti-Poverty Rant-In Conference Programme

**October 14<sup>th</sup>: JDUC Building, Queen's University (University and Union st)**

<b>8:30am-all day</b>	<b>Foyer</b>	<b>Registration</b>		
9am-10am	Wallace Hall	<b>Welcome and Introductions: Four Directions Krystle Maki, Cara Fabre, and David Thompson Plenary: Dr. Margaret Little "Poverty: Let's face it. Let's change it" (**see pg 12-13**)</b>		
10:0-10:15am	Wallace Hall	<b>Refreshments</b>		
10:15-12pm	<b>Concurrent Session #1-----Concurrent Session #1-----Concurrent Session #1-----Concurrent Session#1-----</b>			
Theme	<b>Welfare, Activism, &amp; Ontario Works: Historical &amp; Contemporary</b>	<b>Environmental Justice and Labour</b>	<b>Workshop-"Solidarity Building between Community and Academe" Working Group</b>	<b>Workshop "Destigmatizing Poverty: Transformative Teaching and Learning"</b>
Room/Chair	<i>McLaughlin Room</i> Candice Pilgrim	<i>Robert Sutherland Room</i> Aric McBay	<i>John Orr Room</i> Annie Chau, Jeff Welsh, & Michelle LaMarche	<i>Polson Room</i> Laura Kinderman
Presenter 1	Cate Prichard, "Funding Social Change?: The United Community Fund of Greater Toronto Encounters the Welfare Rights Movement, 1969-1973"	Usman Mushtaq, "In Solidarity: Designing Pro-Poor Technology For the Built Environment"	Workshop	Workshop
Presenter 2	Tara Kainer, Kingston's Low Income Needs Coalition (LINC)	Luisa Lucero, "The Hidden Consequences of a Softwood Lumber War"		
Presenter 3	Cheryl Athersych, "Ontario Works: Working For Whom"?	Bridget Doherty Justice, Peace, & Integrity of Creation Office of the Sisters of Providence & Ted Hsu SWITCH, "Green Jobs and Poverty Energy"		
<b>12pm-1:30pm</b>	<b>Lunch BBQ City Park by the Peer Support Group</b>			
<b>1:30-3:00pm</b>				

	<b>Concurrent Session #2-----Concurrent Session #2-----Concurrent Session #2-----Concurrent Session#2-----</b>					
Theme	<b>Women Leadership in Anti-poverty Struggles</b>	<b>Social Determinants of Health, Poverty, &amp; Healthcare</b>	<b>Access to Higher Education at Queen's in "Times of Budget Crisis"</b>	<b>Cultural Resistance to Economic Violence</b>	<b>Anti-poverty Documentaries: Film Screenings &amp; Discussion</b>	<b>Moving from Charity to Solidarity in the Contours of African Struggles in the Global North and South</b>
Room/Chair	<i>Wallace Hall</i> Sayyida Jaffer	<i>Robert Sutherland Room</i> Corolyn Prouse	<i>Polson Room</i> Dana Olwan & Anne-Marie Grondin	<i>John Orr Room</i> Kristiana Clemens, CFRC	<i>JDUC Rm #351</i> Matt Salton, ReelOut	<i>McLaughlin Hall</i> Toby Moorsom
Presenter 1	Julie Lalonde, "The Road to Grandma's House: Elderly Womyn as Poverty Resisters"	Abe Oudshoorn, "Policy as a Barrier to Healthcare for Homeless Persons"	Roundtable	Kevin Partridge, "Cultural Resistance: The Power of Punk"	Andrea Schofield, "The 'Unity Project' (15 min)"	May Chazan, "Linking Across Distance and Difference: Critical Perspectives on Building Grandmother-to-Grandmother Solidarity"
Presenter 2	Ryan Higgitt, "Women's Leadership Building as a Poverty Reduction Strategy: Lessons from Bangladesh"	Louise Bark, wheelchairdemon.blog spot, "Disability: Trying to Avert a Lifetime Sentence of Poverty"	Roundtable	Candace Mooers, (Halifax Coalition Against Poverty Radio), "Anti-Poverty Airwaves: Dignity Through (Radio) Resistance in Fredericton and Halifax"	Ilona Alex Abramovich, "Out on the Street" (11min)	Dr. Eliza Johannes, "Empowering Pastoralist Women: States, Security and Poverty"
Presenter 3	Pam Cross, "Ontario Women's Justice Network, The Movement to End Violence Against Women and Women's		Roundtable	Gretchen King, (CKUT/Montreal), "History of the CKUT Homeless Marathon and Archive"		Dr. Grace-Edward Galabuzi, "The Racialization of Poverty in Canada and Globally"

	Poverty”					John Pringle, “The Militarization of Humanitarian Aid”
<b>3:00-3:30pm</b>	<i>Wallace Hall</i>	<b>Refreshments</b>				
<b>3:30-5:15pm</b>	<b>Concurrent Session #3-----Concurrent Session #3-----Concurrent Session #3-----Concurrent Session#3-----</b>					
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Gender, Age, and Sexuality: Intersections of Poverty Experiences</b>	<b>Methodological Concerns: Challenges of Activist-Oriented Research</b>	<b>Health and Wellness: Injustice and Activism</b>	<b>Recognizing Privilege: Academe, the Community, and Activism</b>		
<b>Room/Chair</b>	<i>McLaughlin Room</i> Julie James	<i>Robert Sutherland Room</i> Jobb Arnold	<i>John Orr Room</i> Andrew Stevens	<i>Polson Room</i> Mary Anne Laurico & Matt Silburn		
<b>Presenter 1</b>	Stephanie Rattelade, “Social Networks, Social Support, and Poverty in Women: A Theory Review”	Jason Michael Webb, One Dollar Down: The Invisible Structures of Classism in Canada and Their Implications for Ethnographic Fieldwork	Melanie Bedore, Queens U, “Poor retail food access as social injustice: A study of North Kingston”	Roundtable		
<b>Presenter 2</b>	Stacey Bishop, “The Right to Peace and Quiet’: Anti-poor grassroots activism and the expulsion of sex workers in Vancouver’s West End, 1980-85”	Jessica Braimoh, At-Risk Youth: The Situated Complexity of Stigmatized Identities	Andrew D. Pinto (Health Providers Against Poverty), and Lisa Schofield (OCAP), “Addressing poverty to improve health: the Special Diet Clinics”	Roundtable		

<b>Presenter 3</b>	Iiona Alex Abramovich, “LGBTQ Youth Homelessness: A Growing Epidemic”	Anita Jack-Davies, “ ‘I will teach anywhere but there’: Problematizing issue of race and place in ‘inner city’ schooling and implications for teacher education”	Dr. Adam Newman, Kingston Street Health	Roundtable
<b>5:15pm - 6:30pm</b>	<i>Wallace Hall</i>	<b>Reception and Dinner</b>		
<b>6:30pm- 7:30pm:</b>	<i>Wallace Hall</i>	<b>Introduction by David Thompson Plenary Francis Fox Piven: "Fighting Poverty in an Age of Austerity" (sponsored by the Department of History through the Bernice Nugent Fund)</b>		
<b>8:00pm- 10:00pm</b>	<i>The Artel ( 205 Sydenham)</i>	<b>Opening "Below the Line" Sound Installation and Reception by Kristiana Clemens and participants (brought to you by CFRC) Talk and Reception</b>		

**Friday October 15<sup>th</sup>: Various locations Downtown Kingston**

**\*\*\* Please NOTE Multiple LOCATIONS: Kingston Public Library (130 Johnson), Artillery Park (76 Ordnance), and the Katarokwi Native Friendship Centre (50 Hickson Ave) \*\*\***

<b>8:45am - 9:00am</b>	<i>Foyer of Wilson Room</i>	<b>Refreshments</b>		
<b>9:00am-10:30am</b>	<b>Concurrent Session #4-----Concurrent Session #4-----Concurrent Session #4-----Concurrent Session#4-----</b>			
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Criminalization and Poverty: Know your Rights</b>	<b>Voices From Below the Line: Housing &amp; Community Strategies of Resistance?</b>	<b>Workshop: What is Participant Action- Based Research? Research By and For the Community</b>	
<b>Room/Chair</b>	<i>Wilson Room, Frontenac Public Library Krystle Maki</i>	<i>Delahaye Room, Frontenac Public Library Trina Zeimbekis</i>	<i>Boucher room, Frontenac Public Library Scott Uzelman</i>	

<b>Presenter 1</b>	Kim Pate, Elizabeth Fry Society	Jocelyn Plane, “Do Neighbourhoods Matter? Exploring Neighbourhood Significance Through the Eyes of Women Who Have Experienced Housing Instability”	Workshop	
<b>Presenter 2</b>	Kristy Buccieri & Tara Patton, “Policing the Streets: The Criminalization of Youth Homelessness in Toronto”	Patricia Diaz Cummings, Peacock Poverty Organization, “Strength in Numbers, Distinctive in Character: Peacock in the Landscape of Grassroots Movements”	Workshop	
<b>Presenter 3</b>	Candace Pilgrim, “Welfare Legislation: Know Your Rights”	Dawn Sadler, Kingston Home-Base Housing, “Home Base Housing and Poverty”	Workshop	
<b>10:30am - 10:45am</b>	<i>Foyer of Wilson Room</i>	<b>Refreshments</b>		
<b>10:45am - 11:45am</b>	<i>Wilson Room, Frontenac Public Library</i>	<b>Introduction: David Thompson Plenary: John Clarke - "Austerity and Resistance: Lessons from the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty"</b>		
<b>11:45-1:00pm</b>	<i>Foyer of Wilson Room</i>	<b>LUNCH</b>		
<b>12:15pm - 12:45pm:</b>	<i>City Hall</i>	<b>Sisters of Providence Silent Vigil outside City Hall to mark social assistance rate cuts by Harris in 1995</b>		
<b>1:00-2:45pm</b>	<b>Concurrent Session #5-----Concurrent Session #5-----Concurrent Session #5-----Concurrent Session #5-----</b>			
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Food Security in Insecure Times</b>	<b>Poverty Reduction through Community Initiatives</b>	<b>Systemic Barriers to Violence Free Lives: A Participatory Workshop on Economic Advocacy for Women and Children</b>	<b>Local, Regional, and National Anti-Poverty/Labour Initiatives</b>



<b>Room/Chair</b>	<i>Wilson Room, Frontenac Public Library</i> Craig Simpson	<i>Delahaye Room, Frontenac Public Library</i> Elamin S. Abdelm Mahmoud	<i>Artillery Park Meeting Room #1</i> Annie Chau and Michelle LaMarche	<i>Artillery Park Meeting Room #2</i> Christopher Wilson
<b>Presenter 1</b>	Jillian Burford-Grinnell, “School Meal Programs: Are Canadian Children Entitled to Eat”?	Richard Priestman and Keith Wilde, Committee on Monetary & Economic Reform, Kingston Chapter, “Financing Poverty Solutions”	Workshop	Debi Wells, Kingston District Labour Council
<b>Presenter 2</b>	Pat Dawson, Desert Lake Gardens, “Perspectives from the Small Family Farm”	Jamie Swift & Mira Dineen, (Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition), “History of ISARC and the 2010 Social Audit”	Workshop	Louise Casselman, PSAC Social Justice Fund
<b>Presenter 3</b>	Debbie Field, Food Share	Marijana Matovic (SING), “Municipal Poverty Challenge”	Workshop	John Stapleton, Open Policy Ontario
<b>Presenter 4</b>	Susan Belyea, Loving Spoonful			
<b>3:00pm-4:15pm</b>	<i>Meet at Artillery Park (76 Ordinance)</i>	<b>Radical Urban Food Tour by Leda</b>		
<b>4:30pm - 6:00pm</b>	<i>Katarokwi Native Friendship Center 50 Hickson Ave (Indigenous Panel followed by a feast and talk by Dr Peter Kulchyski)</i>			
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Indigenous Land Rights and Poverty Chair: Janice Hill, Four Directions</b>			
<b>Presenter 1</b>	Shauna Shiels, “Racist Motivations Behind Government Social Spending”			

<b>Presenter 2</b>	Rodney Lee Nelson, “Issues in Ownership and Control of Research Conducted with Aboriginal Communities”
<b>Presenter 3</b>	Deborah Naybor, “Women of the Land: Poverty Reduction and Women’s Protection of Indigenous Land Rights”
<b>6:00pm - 7:00pm</b>	<b>FEAST</b>
<b>7:00pm - 8:00pm</b>	<b>Introduction: Cara Fabre</b> <b>Plenary: Dr. Peter Kulchyski , "The racial redistribution of wealth: affluence, poverty and resistance in Northern Indigenous communities"</b>

### Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup>: Rideau Heights Public School (77 MacCauley st)

<b>Reflection and Action</b>	
<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Set up for Social Justice Info Fair &amp; Refreshments</b>
<b>10am-all day</b>	<b>Social Justice Info Fair</b>
<b>10:00am - 12:00pm</b>	<b>Plenary Roundtable, Margaret Little, “Respecting Difference, Seeking Solidarity: Towards Sustainable Anti Poverty Actions”</b>
<b>12:00 - 1:30pm</b>	<b>Working LUNCH with Break out groups</b>
<b>1:30pm - 2:30pm</b>	Break out Groups Presentations:  1) Town/Gown relations in Kingston 2) Elections and Voting in Kingston  3) Activist and Front line workers in Kingston 4) Food Security and Justice in Kingston  5) Criminalization and Poverty in Kingston
<b>2:30pm - 3:30pm</b>	<b>Introduction: Cara Fabre</b> <b>Closing Plenary, Pat Capponi, “Redefining Ourselves for Ourselves”</b>

## **Poverty in Kingston: A Snapshot**

By Dr. Margaret Little

Kingston is a small city of great disparity. It has the distinctive trait of having the highest concentration of "eggheads" (people with doctoral degrees) and federal prisons in all of Canada. It is also the urban centre for a region characterized by rural and Aboriginal poverty. As a predominantly white community with a growing influx of immigrants and Aboriginal peoples, it also receives media attention for blatant racist incidents that occur all too frequently.

You have only to walk a few blocks in the downtown core to see examples of Kingston's disparity. On the South core of the city in Sydenham ward you find beautiful mansions and limestone heritage homes where those with the PhDs who teach at Kingston's three post-secondary institutions (Queen's, Royal Military College and St. Lawrence) tend to live. But just a few blocks away on the North side of Princess Street you can see a very different city, housing many low-income citizens. Here is where low-income single-moms and their children as well as ex-convicts tend to congregate, living in the cheaper and dilapidated rental housing or subsidized housing units. Here is also where you will find the majority of Kingston's housing shelters for the city's homeless, service agencies for welfare recipients, prisoners, immigrants and Aboriginal peoples. And if you travel further North you will find Kingston's food bank, inconveniently located off the bus line, and Rideau Heights, where you will find some of Kingston's poorest living in substandard and over-crowded housing. But if you travel back to the city's core and head over the causeway you will reach the Canadian Forces Base Kingston where you will see poor military housing and another group of low-income Kingstonians.

And there are many signs that this disparity is increasing as impoverished members of neighbouring communities flock to Kingston seeking work and opportunity. In the last 5 years Kingston's Aboriginal

community has grown by 63%.<sup>1</sup> This is partly a result of federal government cuts on reserves that have forced Aboriginal peoples to leave their homes and communities searching for work. Kingston's Aboriginal citizens often experience extreme poverty. The median income for Aboriginal people in Kingston is \$3,000 less than the median income for all Aboriginal peoples in the province and \$10,000 less than the median income for non-Aboriginal citizens of Kingston.<sup>2</sup>

Simultaneously the visible minority population in Kingston has also grown. In the last 5 years this population grew by 28%. This group is predominantly first generation Canadians who are well educated with the majority holding college or university degrees. Despite their advanced education, the median income for visible minorities is almost \$10,000 lower than the median income for white Kingstonians. And there is evidence that the income gap is increasing between white and visible minority Kingstonians.<sup>3</sup>

Another group that experiences more than its fair share of poverty is single mothers. Approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of all single mothers in the city are low- income.<sup>4</sup>

Many of these impoverished citizens of Kingston are part of the working poor, often juggling more than one job in order to try to pay the bills. This group includes some members of the Canadian Forces.<sup>5</sup> Those with full-time minimum wage jobs live below the poverty line.<sup>6</sup> And there are also many who want full-time jobs but are forced to work part-time at minimum wage jobs with few if any benefits or possibilities for advancement. Three-quarters of those who work at part-time jobs are women and the majority of them want full-time jobs but cannot find them.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Kingston Community Profile 2009: A Socio-Demographic Analysis of Kingston, Ontario, Canada*, Social Planning Council of Kingston and Area, May 2009, p. 3.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 4-5.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 13.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 16.

<sup>6</sup> By poverty line I mean the Low Income Cut-off Rate established by Statistics Canada and the most widely used measure of poverty in Canada.

<sup>7</sup> Leah F. Vosko, "‘No Jobs, Lots of Work’: The Rise of the Temporary Employment Relationship and the Emergence of Workfare-Driven Social Policy," *Temporary Work: the Gendered Rise of a Precarious Employment Relationship*, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 2000, pp. 230-250.

Other impoverished Kingstonians receive inadequate welfare benefits. The welfare rates are woefully inadequate forcing welfare recipients to choose between feeding their children or paying the rent.<sup>8</sup> As well as inadequate rates, welfare recipients are forced to live a life of close surveillance by welfare administrators, neighbours, friends and families.<sup>9</sup>

Another group that is impoverished are Kingston's prison inmates. When they are released from prison they often have extreme difficulty finding a job. And many of them will remain in poverty as part of the welfare or working poor once released because of few opportunities for them to learn skills that will lead to better paid employment. It is important to note that most of the inmates were low-income prior to their time behind bars. And many are Aboriginal or visible minority. In other words, the Canadian criminal system disproportionately punishes the poor. And recent federal legislation will result in harsher punishments and more imprisoned.<sup>10</sup> This is but a quick snapshot of Kingston but it does highlight that this city is one of great and growing disparity. And it is up to all of us to decide how we make it a more welcoming environment for all our citizens.

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<sup>8</sup> Caulette McBride and Karen Thorpe, *Can These People Afford to Eat Well?* Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington Health Unit, September 2005, pp. 1-14.

<sup>9</sup> Krystle Maki, "Guilty Until Proven Eligible: Welfare Surveillance of Single Mothers in Ontario," Master's Thesis, Sociology Department, Queen's University, 2009.

<sup>10</sup> Dorothy Chunn and Shelley Gavigan, "From Welfare Fraud to Welfare as Fraud: The Criminalization of Poverty," in Balfour and Comacks, eds., *Criminalizing Women*, pp. 217-232.

**NOTES:**