

## ACW INTERNATIONAL PANEL

### Dark Politics: Climate Change and Labour Transitions in an Unstable World

**Vancouver, November 26, 2016.**

**What a difference a year makes.** In October 2015 Canadians swept the climate-skeptic Harper government from office, replacing it with a Liberal government promising real action to slow global warming and include labour unions in strategic creativity. In December, the Paris Agreement and its burst of optimism promised global collaboration to slow global warming. Between October and December 2015 the internationalization of environmental legal activism — begun in the Netherlands, spreading to Belgium, Norway, Pakistan and the US—triggered a Canadian discussion. ACW's November Public Panel brought Roger Cox, the Dutch lawyer who led the successful court case forcing the Dutch government to speed up its GHG reduction, as well as five Canadian climate and labour policy experts. In discussions following the Panel, Canadian union leaders, leading labour and human rights lawyers and environmental groups came together to discuss the role for unions in leading environmental legal activism. All told, the last year has been a hotbed of creativity and confidence.

**Cut to November 2016.** With Brexit and the US election, the world has turned darker. The spread of extreme-right parties, movements, governments and private militia is growing globally, with increased danger for minorities, refugees, women and other vulnerable groups, including the institutions of democracy. Whatever you call it though, national populism is spreading at least through Turkey, Austria, Russia, Poland, Hungary, France, parts of Germany, the UK and the US.

The winds of the 1930s are stirring again. In this darkening world, what future for slowing global warming? What options and allies for labour unions, in their internal and external struggles to green the economy and shift to clean energy? What options, in some countries, for unions to just continue protecting the conditions of workers? The Trump ascendancy may become the next Thatcherism. Will the weakening of both climate and labour policy spread to other countries?

The 2016 Dark Politics panel addresses the question – What future for progressive climate policy and modernised labour policy, in this darker world? Our speakers and discussant will address the future for climate policy and union leadership, in the EU, UK, US, Canada, and transnationally.

Carla Lipsig-Mummé, Principal Investigator, ACW.

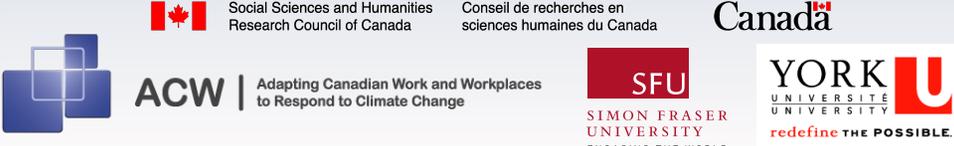
The **Dark Politics Panel** is organized by *Adapting Canadian Work and Workplaces to Respond to Climate Change*, a research programme of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Organisational members of ACW include York University, the Canadian Labour Congress, and 22 organisations in Canada, US, UK, EU. [www.adaptingcanadianwork.ca](http://www.adaptingcanadianwork.ca).



**INTERNATIONAL PANEL:  
DARK POLITICS:  
CLIMATE CHANGE AND LABOUR TRANSITIONS IN  
AN UNSTABLE WORLD**

**STRATEGY ROOM 420  
WOSK CENTRE FOR DIALOGUE - SFU  
580 W HASTINGS ST.  
VANCOUVER, BC  
NOVEMBER 26, 2016  
1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.**

**AN ADAPTING CANADIAN WORK & WORKPLACES  
OUTREACH EVENT**



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

ACW | Adapting Canadian Work and Workplaces  
to Respond to Climate Change

SFU  
SIMON FRASER  
UNIVERSITY  
ENGAGING THE WORLD

YORK  
UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY  
redefine THE POSSIBLE.

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**Chair - Jim Chorostecki**

Jim has been the Executive Director at B.C. Federation of Labour since 2010. In this role Jim has been responsible for initiating and overseeing a number of important projects that have been attempting to bring together various stakeholders to work together to solve the climate change crisis. Prior to this, he held positions at the Public Service Alliance of Canada, the Union of Postal Communication Employees and within the Canadian federal government. Jim is a former board member of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives in BC and is currently an advisor on the CCPA Good Economy Project. Within the ACW grant Jim is the Co-lead for the Manufacturing working group and a member of the steering committee.

**Discussant - John Calvert**

A political scientist specializing in public policy, John completed his BA and MA at the University of Western Ontario, and he obtained a PhD from the London School of Economics. His teaching and research interests are in the areas of Canadian public policy and health, disability issues, the health impacts of international trade agreements, greening the built environment and occupational health and safety. He has published a number of books and articles on Canadian and international public policy and economic issues. Within ACW, John is on the steering committee as Associate Director (academic), Co-lead for the Built Environment working group and a member of the International Policy working group.

**PRESENTATIONS & SPEAKER BIOS*****The Rise of Dark Politics in the EU - Bela Galgoczi***

Since 2003, Bela has been working as a Senior Researcher in economic and labour market policy at the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) in Brussels. He has a diverse academic background with degrees in electrical engineering, sociology and philosophy and a PhD in economics. Previously, Bela worked as an economic advisor at various Hungarian Ministries and as a researcher at several research institutes. Some areas of his current research interest include: labour market impacts of the transition towards a low-carbon economy; and, capital and labour mobility in enlarged Europe in the global environment. Bela is a member of ACW as a Co-Investigator.

***Does Brexit blur a low carbon future? - Linda Clarke***

Linda Clarke is Professor of European Industrial Relations at the University of Westminster, Co-director of the Centre for the Study of the Production of the Built Environment (ProBE) and on the European Institute for Construction Labour Research (CLR) board. She has extensive experience of comparative research on labour, equality and diversity, vocational education and training (VET), low energy construction and wage relations, particularly in the European construction sector. Within ACW, Linda is a member of the steering committee, leader in International Policy, and member of Built Environment team.

***Islands of Green in a Dark Sea? Climate Politics in Trump's USA - Dimitris Stevis***

Dimitris is professor of politics at Colorado State University, USA. He is currently researching green transition proposals by USA and global unions, just transitions, and environmental justice. As a principal investigator of the Environmental Justice initiative at Colorado State University, he is organizing the Environmental Justice in the Anthropocene Symposium, cosponsored by ACW, that will take place during April 2017. Within ACW, he is a member of the International Policy and Environmental Law and Labour Law working groups.

***What's Wrong with Globalization? - Larry Brown***

With degrees in political science and law, Larry, President of Canada's second largest union, has a wide range of experience in government, pension fund management, public administration, labour relations, teaching and legal issues. He has written and spoken extensively about public finances, debt and deficit issues, the changes in federal provincial financing, public sector restructuring and the resulting changes in the economic and political structures of Canada that have occurred in the last decade. As an elected Officer of the National Union of Public and General Employees for over 25 years, Larry has extensive experience overseeing NUPGE's policy on environmental issues. Larry is the Interim Leader of ACW's Environmental Law and Labour Law research group.

**Adapting Canadian Work and Workplaces (ACW)**

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