

# THE SOCIETY FOR SOCIALIST STUDIES LA SOCIÉTÉ D'ÉTUDES SOCIALISTES

Dear all,

We are contacting you with an invitation on behalf of the Society for Socialist Studies (SSS). We thought that your interests align well with the Society's aims. We thought you might like to [join the Society](#) and participate in its life.

The SSS has been contributing to socialist thinking and action for more than half a century, mainly through its [journal](#) and its [annual conference](#). During these decades, our conception of socialist scholarship and action has evolved to include more feminist, anti-racist, Indigenous and environmental matters. What hasn't changed is our original commitment to socialist thought, socialist movements, and socialist change.

This year, we are considering some new initiatives, including more outreach to **younger scholars** and **activists**, and the launch of **local chapters**. Our aim, as always, is to contribute to a more progressive politics in Canada and the world.

Further details follow below. Your membership and participation would be an important contribution to their success. Membership is geared to income, and is very affordable. It lasts for a calendar year, and is required for participation in our annual conference (this year, in London, ON, June 1-3).

Details about [signing up](#) are simple, and we outline them below. We hope to see you soon at the conference, in future local chapters, or in the pages of our journal. Thanks for considering this opportunity.

All the best,

Socialist Studies Membership Committee

Bill Carroll (Chair, Executive Membership Sub-Committee)  
Radhika Desai (Society President)

*Sub-committee members:*

Megan Aiken  
Debbie Dergousoff  
Cheryl Hewitt  
Jamie Lawson  
Sandra Rein  
Liujia (Ian) Tian

## A Tradition of Linking Scholarship and Activism

In 2017, we marked the Society's 50th anniversary. The SSS began amidst movements to assert civil rights, wages for housework, and an end to war in Vietnam. Today, Black Lives Matter, Idle No More, and Eco-Socialism are again re-shaping socialist and emancipatory movements.

Our members work to demonstrate the centrality of socialism before scholars, activists, and the wider public, and to build a socialist society. We also continue to widen and deepen our understandings of what socialism means.

## Core SSS Activities

Our [annual conference](#) and our [peer-reviewed open-access academic journal \*Socialist Studies\*](#) provide important platforms for established scholars. The efforts of our members and our volunteer executive, our journal editor and editorial board, as well as other volunteers, the conference and journal have also become important platforms for new scholars to disseminate their work.

This year, we are also launching three **new initiatives** that we think might interest you.

### *The Conference*

The 2020 SSS conference and annual general meeting take place on June 1-3, at the University of Western Ontario in London, ON. As always, we welcome participation on the full range of socialist inquiry. We are particularly excited about **our conference theme, "Socialist perspectives on racial capitalism, colonialism and anti-blackness"**.

This reflects Congress' own unprecedented theme: "Bridging divides: Challenging colonialism and anti-blackness". But our theme also reflects the Society's socialist commitments, re-casting them over time along compelling and timely new paths. This year's line-up of plenary speakers is exciting: watch our website for more news.

The AGM occurs in an open slot in the conference programme, and is open to all members. The executive values member participation and we hope to see both familiar faces and new ones at London. Again, watch the website for the agenda and supporting documents.

We also operate a **travel grant programme** to aid younger, unwaged, low-waged, and overseas scholars to travel to our annual conference. This is a key expression of our values, and keeps us open to marginalized and up-and-coming voices. We are currently limited in our means, but your support can make a difference.

### *The Journal*

In an increasingly commercialized and inaccessible publishing universe, **our journal is online, open access and charges no author fees**. This is as a socialist journal must be, and the Society bears the costs of production itself.

We have recently moved to a flexible publication schedule, which will reduce the time between acceptance of an article and its publication. Consider the journal for your next publication, or contact the editor, Sandra Rein, with plans for a special issue. And remember that the journal depends for its format and its continued existence on the Society's means, and therefore on donor and membership support.

### *The Three New Initiatives*

With Megan Aitkin and Ian Liuujia Tian attending executive meetings as per the decision of the last AGM, we are moving towards **official student representation** on the executive with a constitutional amendment to be brought to the 2020 AGM.

Building a very helpful and wide-ranging conversation at the AGM on how to expand SSS membership and its presence in the national conversation, we are encouraging the **formation of local chapters**.

Alongside the London conference, we hope to offer a **special public learning event** that connects with the conference theme, building on the model of a "Freedom School".

### **Joining the Society and Supporting its Activities**

We hope the above brief account of our activities and plans has inspired you to join SSS -- and, if you are able, to support the Society with your time and money.

The membership form and the links for membership and donation payments are all available on this page: <http://socialiststudies.ca/membership/>

### *Membership*

We offer a low \$10 membership for student, retired, low income and unemployed members. A regular membership costs just \$40.

If you can, we encourage you to think about becoming a supporter of the Society (\$70) or a sponsor (\$100). Employed members may be able to reclaim the membership fees from their institution.

### *Donations*

An alternative way to support the work of the Society is a donation. Donations are tax deductible: the Society is a registered charity.