



**CASC**

Canadian Association for  
Studies in Co-operation

**ACÉC**

L'Association Canadienne  
pour les Études sur la  
Coopération



## Fall Newsletter 2019

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## President's Report

*Fiona Duguid*



Another productive autumn term is upon us. The CASC board always takes a much needed breather through the summer after the conference and then revs up again in September. This year has been no different.

The Conference in May welcomed researchers, scholars, and practitioners from around the world to Montreal in a joint event hosted by CASC, ACE and ICA-Research Committee. This is the second time we have joined forces to bring together the three organizations and we were so happy with the results. Our hosts, IRECUS and CCO, treated us well with excellent feasting and mingling venues, and stimulating tours to local co-ops. The diversity of presentation topics was truly inspiring. We look forward to sharing this event again in the future.

Also at the Conference we had our AGM. We thanked outgoing board member, Jayne Bergeron, for her support of CASC. Clearly word has got out that being on the CASC board is exciting, time well-spent, cool, career advancing... or at least some of these things. We had to do some fast thinking in order to accommodate all the new faces to the CASC board. We welcomed Luc Theriault (special advisor), Mitch Diamantopoulos, Vesta Sahatçiu, Marcelo Vieta, and Lisa Mychajluk to our CASC leadership team. Returning board members included Derya Tarhan, Sara Elder and Judith Harris, plus Claude-André Guillotte, Darryl Reed, Kevin Morris, and me in our second year of a two-year term. In addition we continue to reap the benefits of foundational support from Isobel Findlay and Esther Awotwe from the Centre. This cadre of co-operative experts is already working hard to move forward CASC priorities and to advance co-operative research and education.



The new board taken right after AGM 2019: from left—Kevin Morris, Vesta Sahatçiu, Luc Theriault, Mitch Diamantopoulos (back row), Derya Tarhan, Marcelo Vieta, Fiona Duguid, Darryl Reed, and Claude-André Guillotte. Missing: Sara Elder, Isobel Findlay, Judith Harris, and Lisa Mychajluk.

CASC, as a network of people interested in co-operative research and education, continues to enjoy meaningful partnerships with a number of organizations including ACE, ICA-RC, Co-operatives and Mutuels Canada (CMC), Each for All Radio show, and the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives (USask). If you belong to an organization that you think CASC should be working more closely with, please let me know.

CASC was pleased to announce the annual scholarship winners along with our partner CMC. These scholarships (\$1000 to \$3000) are given out to help students conduct research on co-operatives. See separate story. Also this year we were pleased to welcome back a number of previous winners to present their research at the Conference. We encourage students to apply for this funding (watch for the call from CMC) and then to tell us about their research findings.

I sincerely hope you enjoy this newsletter full of updates, articles, personal opinions and news from and about co-operative research and education. If you have something you would like to contribute to the CASC Website, Digest or Twitter account, please send it along as these keep us up to date in between newsletters. Also please watch for the Call for Papers for CASC 2020, which will be held in London, Ontario along with the Congress.



# Congress 2020

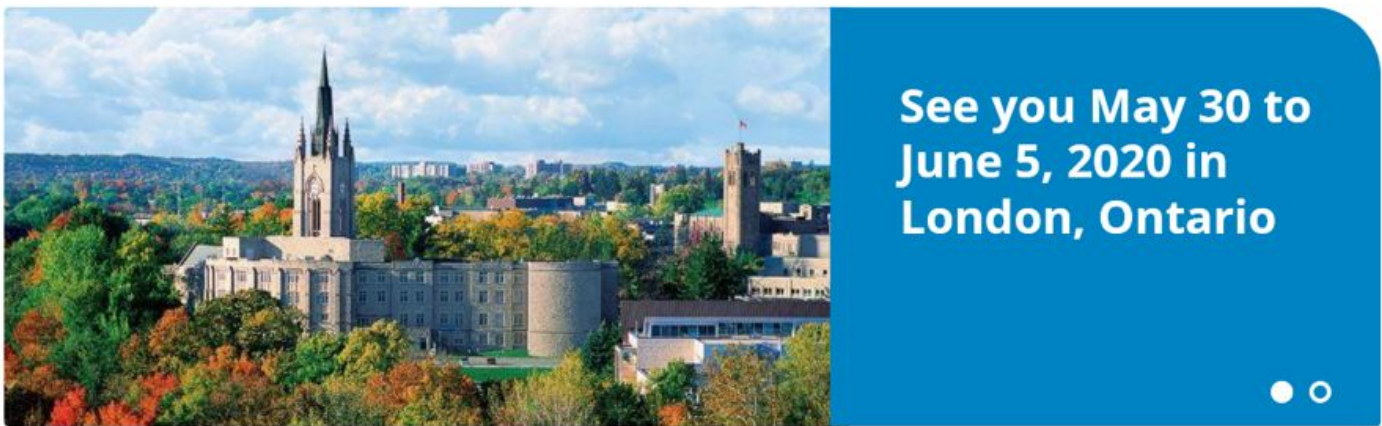
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May 30 - June 5, 2020 | London, Ontario

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*Congress brings together academics, researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners to share findings, refine ideas, and build partnerships that will help shape the Canada of tomorrow.*

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The 2020 CASC/ACÉC conference will again join Congress, this time at Western University in London, ON, **June 3-5**. The conference theme is **Bridging Divides: Confronting Colonialism and Anti-Black Racism**.

Congress 2020 offers a gathering place on the banks of London's Deshkan Ziibi, on the traditional lands

of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Attawandaron (Neutral) peoples, not far from where some of Upper Canada's earliest Black refugees arrived after fleeing slavery in the United States. The river's Forks downstream from the Western University campus are a traditional





meeting place where two tributaries converge, a place to come together to listen to the land and water, to build resilience as we confront what divides us. Congress 2020 will encourage multidisciplinary engagement under the broad concept of bridging divides, while specifically emphasizing the dispossession of Indigenous peoples and the enslavement of Africans in the new world. Settler colonialism, as part of a broader imperial project, erases Indigenous peoples by appropriating land and delegitimizing traditional knowledge, and dehumanizes Black people, subjecting them to the tropes of everyday anti-Black racism. As we come together to confront white privilege and white supremacy, and examine experiences shared by Indigenous peoples and African Canadians, we also invite our community to reflect critically on social, ethnic, political and epistemological divisions more broadly, forming a future vision that bridges divides between divergent ways of knowing and navigating our world.

Watch for the **CASC/ ACÉC Call for papers (deadline January 11, 2020)**.

### **On-campus - residence | Off-campus - hotel | Congress 2020 accommodations**

London is very busy the first week of June, so the Federation has secured the guaranteed lowest rates available for any type of accommodations near the Western University campus. You will find here a list of contracted discount rates for Congress attendees at the various Western University campus residences and a number of London airport and downtown hotel properties.

Our contracted room blocks will book up quickly due to high demand and the lower than average room rates. These discounted rates will be available until the Congress rate deadline (May 1) or earlier if all rooms have been booked. Reservations are processed on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't be disappointed – **BOOK TODAY!** You must use the dedicated websites, email or phone numbers with the booking code provided below to access the special Congress rates.

If a 'sold out' indicator appears during your online booking, but there is no indication on this page, call the hotel directly to confirm. For those wishing to extend their stay in London, Congress rates are valid up to three days before and after the official Congress dates (May 30-June 5), pending room availability. Please call the hotel or residence directly, as the May 27-29 & June 6-8 dates will not appear as discounted in the online booking system.

*Please note that neither the Federation nor Western University utilize the services of any housing/accommodation vendor(s). Those intending to scam attendees may send trustworthy-looking emails and build websites that mimic legitimate event websites in order to secure credit card information. Do NOT make arrangements with any vendors who contact you directly re accommodations for Congress.*



Location	Distance (map)	Congress rate	Sold out dates
Western University - Delaware Hall	on campus	\$60 - \$144	
Western University - Elgin Hall	on campus	\$65 - \$144	
Western University - Essex Hall	on campus	\$80 - \$159	
Western University - London Hall	on campus	\$65	
Western University - Ontario Hall	on campus	\$72 - \$149	
Western University - Perth Hall	on campus	\$72 - \$139	

Location	Distance (map)	Congress rate	Sold out dates
Best Western London Airport Inn & Suites	11 km	\$159	
Best Western Plus - Lamplighter Inn & Conference Centre	7 km	\$159	
Brescia University College - Clare Hall	0.5 km	\$99 - \$119	
Courtyard by Marriott	12 km	\$149	
Delta London Armouries	4.1 km	\$199 - \$249	
Doubletree by Hilton	3.5 km	\$175 - \$195	
Four Points by Sheraton	11.1 km	\$115	



<b>Holiday Inn Express &amp; Suites</b>	4.5 km	\$165 - \$275	
<b>Holiday Inn &amp; Suites</b>	9.4 km	\$135 - \$145	
<b>Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre</b>	1.4 km	\$150	June 1 - 2
<b>Park Hotel London</b>	2 km	\$189	
<b>Staybridge Suites London</b>	11.4 km	\$145	

## Travel

The Federation has secured discounts with two airlines for Congress 2020.

### Air Canada

Air Canada will apply a 10% discount\* for Congress travelers going direct to **London (YXU), ON** when the following promotion code is used at the time of online booking: **FYWK7Q61**

#### **\*Terms & Conditions:**

- The booking is to be made to the following city: **London (YXU), ON**
- The travel period begins Saturday, May 23, 2020 and ends Friday, June 12, 2020.
- Travel is valid Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday.
- No discount will apply to Tango bookings for travel within Canada or between Canada and the U.S. For International travel (destinations outside North America), discounts apply to all fares including Tango.
- The discount and the fare are subject to all applicable taxes and surcharges.

Air Canada will apply a 10% discount\* for Congress travelers going to **Toronto (YTZ or YYZ), ON** when the following promotion code is used at the time of online booking: **EJQUDUJ1**

#### **\*Terms & Conditions:**

- The booking is to be made to the following city: **Toronto (YTZ or YYZ), ON**
- The travel period begins Saturday, May 23, 2020 and ends Friday, June 12, 2020.
- Travel is valid Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday.
- No discount will apply to Tango bookings for travel within Canada or between Canada and the U.S. For International travel (destinations outside North America), discounts apply to all fares including Tango.

### WestJet

WestJet will offer varying discounts for Congress attendees when booking a flight into and out of London *or* Toronto. For travel within Canada, you may receive 5% off Econo\* and 10% off EconoFlex and Premium fares. For attendees travelling Trans-border\*\*, you may receive 2% off Econo\*,



5% off EconoFlex and 10% off Premium base fares.  
To receive the discount, you must use the following  
coupon code at the time of online booking:

**W82ZP78**

**\*Terms & Conditions:**

- The travel period begins Monday, May 25, 2020 and ends Saturday, June 11, 2020.
- \*Basic fare class is excluded from discount.
- \*\*Discount codes are valid for travel on the dates indicated above.
- Percentage discount is applied to base fare. Taxes, fees and charges are extra.

- Only one discount code may be used per booking. Discount cannot be combined with any other discount codes, promotional offers or companion voucher bookings.
- Discount can be used for a one-way or round-trip booking, but not towards multi-city bookings.
- Discount only applies to flights marketed and operated wholly by WestJet, WestJet Encore, WestJet Link, and Delta flights marketed by WestJet via codeshare. It is not applicable when traveling with our other code-share, interline or other airline partners.
- WestJet dollars, Travel Bank and gift cards cannot be used as a form of payment.





## CASC/ACÉC Award of Merit Winner, 2019



The 2019 CASC/ ACÉC Award of Merit recognizes an individual's outstanding leadership and contributions to the field of co-operative studies, their mentorship of students and others in understanding the intricate workings of co-operatives, and acknowledges their ongoing support of CASC. This year's recipient of the Award of Merit is **Dr. J.J. McMurtry**, co-operative academic, administrator, activist, and author, editor, or co-editor of *Living Economics: Canadian Perspectives on the Social Economy, Co-operatives, and Community Economic Development* (Emond Montgomery, 2010) and (with Darryl Reed), *Co-operatives in a Global Economy: The Challenges of Co-operation Across Borders* (Cambridge Scholars Press Ltd., 2009), and English language editor of the *Canadian Journal of Non-Profit and Social Economy Research*, 2015-18.

Dr. McMurtry is an associate professor of business and society, Department of Social Science, and Vice Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional

Studies, York University, where he has taught and done research on co-operatives and the broader social economy since his appointment in 2004. McMurtry has received numerous grants to fund his research, including a SSHRC grant, People, Power, Planet: Best Practices and Knowledge Mobilization in Community Energy Development, and has published widely on co-operatives and the social economy. His particular areas of research interest include renewable energy co-operatives; sustainable food co-operatives; the social economy and Indigenous communities; and the historical and theoretical foundations of co-operation and the social economy.

McMurtry has also served on the board of CASC/ ACÉC and is active on diverse international social economy organizations. In addition to being involved in the founding and operation of numerous co-operative enterprises, he worked closely with the Ontario Co-operative Association and the Schulich School of Business to develop a certificate program in Co-operative Education for co-operative managers.



## 35th Annual CASC/ACÉC Conference

*Isobel M. Findlay*



CASC/ ACÉC 2019 Conference was a great success! In best co-op traditions, we celebrated our 35<sup>th</sup> annual conference by hosting in partnership with the [Association of Co-operative Educators](#) and the [International Co-operative Alliance's Committee on Co-operative Research](#). The exceptional event on the theme of Co-operative Entrepreneurship was thanks to the outstanding organizing team at [IRECUS](#) who hosted us at the University de Sherbrooke à Longueuil, 27-30 May! Our sincere thanks to Claude-André Guillotte and his team and to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and sponsors, and travel support from the Ian MacPherson Fund and the Ralph K. Morris Foundation.

Academics and practitioners from across Canada, United States, Puerto Rico, and as far as South Korea, Morocco, and Brazil had the opportunity to share their knowledge and experiences while

learning from each other in formal and informal sessions from the opening youth event and evening reception to the final mobile learning sessions. A great variety of topics—including cooperative ethics and values in entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial motivations and leadership, co-op management, co-op identity and difference, co-op conversions and succession planning, worker co-ops, federations, performance measurement, sustainable development, millennials and cooperatives, co-op-friendly policies and public institutions—were discussed, [which can be explored in our final program](#). We got the chance to listen to an engaging keynote address by Bruno Roelants, the Director General of the International Co-operative Alliance.

Another highlight of the conference was the roundtable on young co-operative entrepreneurship, while the role of youth education in inspiring and empowering the future of co-operation was showcased throughout the conference. We concluded the conference with mobile learning sessions visiting local co-operatives in the Montreal area, which helped us merge the academic knowledge gained throughout the week with practical action on the ground.

In addition to all the learning and sharing, this was a fun week! We participated in excellent social events such as the opening reception at Coop Les Katacombes and the annual banquet dinner at la Releve Gourmande, which gave us a chance to make new friends and catch up with old ones.

The awards banquet celebrated J. J. McMurtry, the winner of **the 2019 CASC/ ACÉC Award of Merit** (see separate story).

### *CASC/ACÉC AGM*

On behalf of CMC who administers the awards, Dan Brunette, Director of Advocacy and Partnerships, announced the **2019 CASC scholarship awards** (see separate story).

### *Board Elections*

Four members continue their terms on the board: **Fiona Duguid, Darryl Reed, Claude-André Guillotte, and Kevin Morris.** **Isobel Findlay** continues as secretary-treasurer on behalf of the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, University of Saskatchewan.

Those whose terms had expired (**Judith Harris, Derya Tarhan, Sara Elder**) all agreed to stand for re-election. **Mitch Diamantopoulos, Luc Theriault, and Marcelo Vieta** also agreed to stand.

Returning officer Erin Hancock called for nominations from the floor: on the second call, **Lisa Mychajluk** and on the third call **Vesta Sahatçiu** were nominated and agreed to stand. Luc Theriault withdrew but asked to be an advisor to the board

instead. All were duly elected to the board with Luc Theriault serving as an advisor.

### *Acknowledgements*

Renewed thanks to the conference organizing committee:

- Claude-André Guillotte, Professor and director, IRECUS, University of Sherbrooke
- Jocelyne Champagne Racine, Associate professor, IRECUS, University of Sherbrooke
- Sonja Novkovic, Professor, Saint Mary's University, Chair of ICA-CCR
- Julien Géréme, Administrator, ACE
- Andrea Renaud, Board Chair, ACE
- Caroline Joly, Chair ACE
- Fiona Duguid, President, CASC
- Marie-Claude Beaudin, Researcher, Chaire Guy-Bernier

Our continued gratitude to the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, University of Saskatchewan, for its ongoing funding of the Secretariat—and to Esther Awotwe, our redoubtable graduate student assistant at the Secretariat.



## 2019 CASC Scholarship Winners

Dan Brunette, Director, Advocacy and Partnerships, C MC announced the 2019 awards at the AGM on May 27. Selection Committee members were Judith Harris, Daphne Rixon, and Isobel Findlay.

Applicants for each award must either undertake studies at Canadian universities or university-equivalent colleges (regardless of citizenship) or are Canadian citizens or landed immigrants studying at such institutions outside Canada.

The Ontario Credit Union Charitable Foundation established the **Amy and Tim Dauphinee Scholarship** in recognition of the outstanding contribution these two leaders made to the development of the credit union movement and the Ontario Credit Union Charitable Foundation. Tim, a retired scientist from the National Research Council, and Amy, who passed away in 2010, had a strong commitment to co-operatives, education and research. Both served as local directors on a number of organizations. Amy was the first woman elected to the board of directors of Credit Union Central of Ontario and served for 22 years.

**Amy and Tim Dauphinee Scholarship**, currently valued at \$3,000, is available to graduate students only. The award is based on the applicants' academic records and on the importance of the proposed research activities to the development of the co-op movement in Canada or abroad.

- **The 2019 winner is Myriam Michaud**, PhD Candidate – Management, *Université Laval*; Research: Paradoxes of the professionalization of the governance of co-operatives

The Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada established the **Laidlaw Fellowship** to honour Dr. Alexander Fraser Laidlaw, the father of the non-profit co-operative housing movement in Canada. An outstanding Canadian adult educator and co-op leader, Dr. Laidlaw served the cause of the co-operative movement for over 40 years. Author of *Cooperatives in the Year 2000*, Laidlaw fostered the social purpose of the co-op movement while always advocating sound business methods for co-operative organizations.

**Alexander Fraser Laidlaw Fellowship**, valued at \$1,000, is available to graduate students only. The award is based on the applicant's academic record, as well as on the importance of the proposed research activities to the development of the co-op movement in Canada or abroad.

- **The 2019 winner is Seamus Grayer, MA** -Communications, Simon Fraser University; Research: Co-operation as a response to precarity in the Cultural Industries

**Lemaire Co-operative Studies Award**, available to both undergraduate and graduate (full- or part-time) students, is intended to encourage students to undertake studies, which will help them contribute to the development of co-operative in Canada or elsewhere. These awards are also intended to support students who have been involved in co-operatives, preferably in leadership positions as volunteers or employees. Eligible candidates must take a minimum of one course about co-operatives and demonstrate how their studies/research will contribute to the movement. The bursaries will be awarded in multiples of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$3,000.

The amount of the awards will be proportional to the significance and contribution of the studies to the advancement of co-operatives. To be eligible to

receive the award, recipients must undertake their proposed study within one calendar year of the fellowship being awarded.

This year two awards were made.

- **One 2019 winner is Adam Trott**, Master of Management, Co-operatives and Credit Unions, Saint Mary's University; Research: Challenges and successes of co-operative federations and associations in Canada and the United States
- **The second 2019 winner is Sean Campbell**, PhD (Sustainability Management), University of Waterloo; Research: The co-operative legal form and if it results in better outcomes with respect to the SDGs, than the private corporation legal form.





## Profiling CASC Scholarship Winners



*Eric Gosselin*

*BComm (Hons), University of Manitoba  
Master of Management: Co-operatives and Credit Unions (MMCCU), 2019. International Centre for Co-operative Management, Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS*

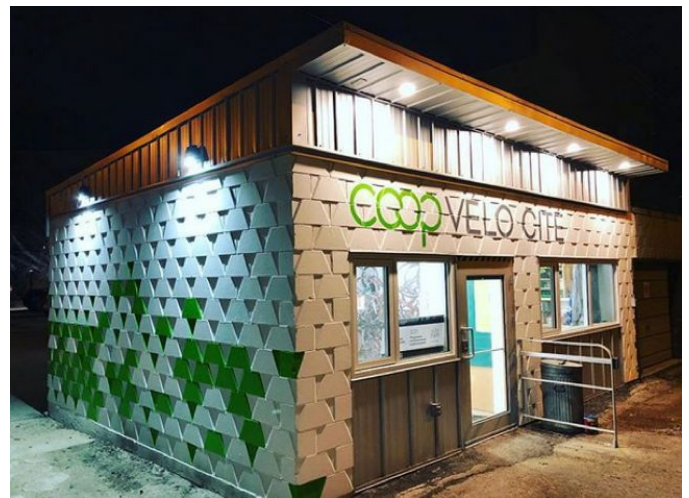
*Winner of the 2018 Lemaire Co-operative Studies Award*

*In addition to working part-time at the Centre of Excellence in Accounting for Co-operatives (CEARC), Eric is treasurer on the Coop Vélo-Cité board of directors and his band, Les Surveillantes will be releasing a new album on the Resonate.is co-operative music platform before the end of the year.*

Some might think that accounting and reporting for co-operatives is a (cough, cough) tedious task, but when I heard Fiona Duguid and Daphne Rixon talk about key performance indicators for co-operatives

at the Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC) Congress in 2016, I was hooked. Two days later, the co-op I co-founded, Coop Vélo-Cité, was opening its (garage) doors in Winnipeg and two weeks later, I was applying for the Master of Management: Co-operatives and Credit Unions (MMCCU) program at Saint Mary's University. My co-op journey had suddenly shifted into warp speed.

That co-op journey had begun when after my BComm, I embarked on a career in the music business. Unbeknownst to my bandmates and me, we were operating as a worker co-op. Later on, I co-founded a multistakeholder community bike shop, Coop Vélo-Cité, before supervising the complete renovation of the bike shop, with Sun Certified Builders Cooperative, that transformed the shop into an ultra-energy efficient space.







Meantime, the CEARC at Saint Mary’s University and CMC are leading a project that will enable co-ops and mutuals to develop key performance indicators that show their impact on the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals. This is a nice sequel to the CPI tool project and I’m happy to be part of the CEARC team to continue on the co-operative accounting and reporting journey. Warp 9!

Since I joined the master’s program at Saint Mary’s, the Co-operative Performance Indicators (CPI) tool was developed at CEARC by a dozen pilot project participants (PPPs). I wanted to know if my co-op, Coop Vélo-Cité, was *performing* and having impact in my community based on the seven principles. So I connected that question with my final research project in the Master’s program and interviewed three bike co-op directors as they were completing the CPI tool—one director from my co-op in Winnipeg, one in Québec, and one in Atlantic Canada. The analysis suggests that the CPI tool is inadequate to measure the performance of co-ops of different sizes. The tool misses the mark when it comes to bike co-ops which are micro, non-profit co-ops. You can read all about it when my paper gets (hopefully) published.

Never fear, all is not lost. Imagine how difficult it is to develop indicators that fit all types and sizes of co-ops. Then try to do that within time constraints and a tight budget. Actually, eight out of the 32 key performance indicators were spot on, which is awesome, and I think we can build on that. An example of a good indicator in the CPI tool is: “What is the percentage of leadership (management and board) that is comprised of women?” The data for this question were easily accessible to the bike co-op directors, there was no ambiguity as to whom they should include in “management and board,” and the results were comparable across the bike co-ops. This also means that an industry benchmark could be developed for this indicator.

## Introducing New CASC/ ACÉC Board Members



*Mitch Diamantopoulos*  
*Associate Professor, University of Regina*

Dr. Mitch Diamantopoulos is an associate professor at the University of Regina's School of Journalism, where he served as Chair for 8 years. Before defecting to the academy, Mitch co-founded a worker co-op. He worked there for 15 years. Hullabaloo Publishing continues to publish *Planet S Magazine* in Saskatoon (since 2002) and *Prairie Dog Magazine* in Regina (since 1993). Mitch has since published on Saskatoon's inner-city social economy; co-operative housing; co-operative education; worker co-operatives; the social movement approach to co-operative development; the problem of movement degeneration; the legacy of the co-operative press; a comparative case study of the Québec and Saskatchewan movements; and a Gramscian analysis of the link between Saskatchewan co-operatives and the rise of agrarian socialism in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He's currently focused on news-media co-operation as a solution to the crisis in journalism. This includes

hands-on work converting a Saskatchewan news outlet to a multi-stakeholder (or 'solidarity') co-op.



*Lisa Mychajluk*  
*PhD Candidate, Adult Education and Community Development, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto*

Lisa Mychajluk is a PhD Candidate at the University of Toronto, where she is currently investigating opportunities for transformative sustainability learning in ecovillages—resident-organized, sustainable, and co-operative communities. She is particularly interested in how these learning experiences might support system and societal transformations to 'one planet living'. A multi-disciplinary background in environment and sustainability studies, combined with adult education and community development, influences her research. Prior to this current dissertation research, Lisa completed a Masters thesis on the social competencies and co-operative skills needed to live and work together in eco-communities. In addition to her academic experience, Lisa worked for over a decade in environmental policy development for the Province of Ontario, and has practical experience in a co-operative live/work environment, having resided for three years in an ecovillage in Ontario.



*Vesta Sahatçiu*  
*Producer, Each For All at Co-op Radio*

Vesta started her co-op journey by co-founding the [Eyemole Arts and Technology Worker Co-operative](#) with her peers and friends coming out of UBC. The co-op aspect of this company soon became an all-encompassing aspect of her life. She is now an active participant in the co-op sector in Vancouver, having taken part in the [Cooperate Now](#) bootcamp, being part of the [Co-op Ride Hailing](#) initiative underway in BC, and volunteering at [Co-op Radio](#), as a producer for [Each For All: The Co-operative Connection](#). It was through her work with Each For All that she was able to attend the 2019 CASC Conference, where she spontaneously ran and got elected to the board.

Apart from the research that comes with producing a radio show, Vesta is starting to become more involved in the academic co-op community, and is currently involved in a research project investigating the role that worker co-ops can play in stimulating youth mental health in Vancouver. Since her background is a combination of academia and entrepreneurship and—perhaps more importantly—she is herself a youth in Vancouver, this project lies at that perfect intersection for her.



*Luc Theriault (Special Advisor)*  
*Professor, University of New Brunswick*

Luc Theriault studied sociology in Montreal and Toronto. He was a post-doctoral fellow in social policy at UQAM doing research on social housing issues. In 1997, he moved to the University of Regina where he held for many years a cross-appointment between the university and the provincial government. He arrived at the Department of Sociology of UNB (Fredericton) in 2005 and continued his research on the Canadian social economy. As a sociologist of organizations, his main interests are studying co-operative, non-profit and charitable organizations in order to understand the challenges they face in a liberal capitalist economy and the contributions they make to our collective lives. On the administrative side, Dr. Theriault is the Chair of the Economics Department at UNB.





*Marcelo Vieta*  
*Assistant Professor, University of Toronto*

Marcelo Vieta is Assistant Professor in the Program in Adult Education and Community Development and the Collaborative Program in Workplace Learning and Social Change at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto (OISE/UT). He is also a co-founder and an executive committee member of the Centre for Learning, Social Economy & Work (CLSEW). Marcelo researches and teaches on workplace and organizational learning and social change, alternative economic arrangements, the sociology of work, economic democracy, the social and solidarity economy, the philosophy of technology, and Critical Theory. Regionally, he specializes in Latin America, Canada, and Italy. In recent years, Marcelo has been teaching, researching, and publishing on the historical conditions, the political economic contexts, and the lived experiences of the worker-recuperated enterprises of Argentina and Italy; business conversions to co-operatives and youth-focused work integration social enterprises in Canada; co-operativism and the social economy in

Cuba, Italy, and Canada; the worker co-operative movement and workers' self-management more broadly; as well as the university student housing crisis in Toronto. His book, *Workers' Self-Management in Argentina: Contesting Neo-liberalism by Occupying Companies, Creating Cooperatives, and Recuperating Autogestión*, will be published in late-2019 by Brill and in 2020 in softcover by Haymarket Books.

## Update from the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives



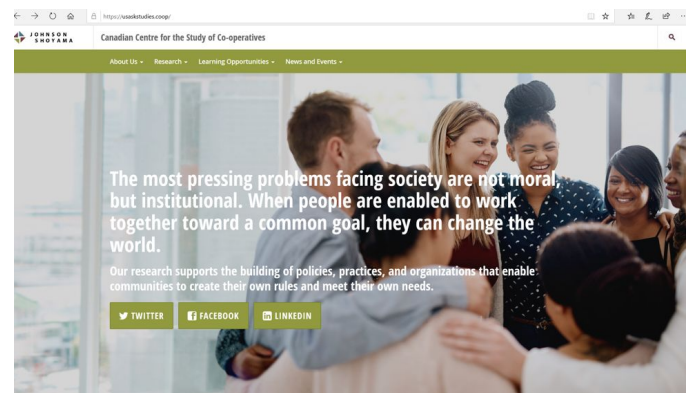
*Dr. Jen Budney  
Research Associate*

On October 16, 2019, the Centre celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Relaunch with a keynote address by Melissa Hoover of the Democracy at Work Institute. We were thrilled to have Melissa in Saskatoon. She is the founding Executive Director of the Democracy at Work Institute, the think-and-do-tank that expands worker cooperatives as a strategy to address economic and racial inequality. A leader in the worker ownership movement for over fifteen years, Melissa helped start and grow the United States Federation of Worker Cooperatives, the national grassroots membership organization for worker-owned businesses. Following Melissa's keynote, there was a roundtable discussion including Melissa, Audra Krueger (Executive Director of Co-operatives First), Dr. Dionne Pohler (University of Toronto), and Mitchell Anderson (United Church Minister and board member at SaskCentral, Affinity Credit Union, and Align Consulting Co-operative).



Melissa Hoover

The Centre announced its new name, the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, which reflects our new strategic position, under the leadership of Marc-André Pigeon, to serve as a research hub for co-operatives and credit unions nation-wide. Along with the new name, the Centre launched its new website, which you can find at: <https://usaskstudies.coop>



The day was marked by great conversations punctuated with food and drinks. In the afternoon we heard welcoming remarks from Pigeon, Dr. Murray Fulton (Director of the Johnson Shoyama

Graduate School of Public Policy and former Director of the Centre), and Scott Banda (CEO of Federated Co-operatives Limited, or FCL). We also presented a panel in collaboration with the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association that addressed the future of federations, motivated by the announcement, earlier this year, that Calgary Co-op—the largest member-owner of FCL—would stop buying its groceries from FCL and instead purchase from rival Save-On Foods. Credit unions, likewise, are increasingly thinking about going it alone without their central entities. In this panel, Fulton, Pigeon, Pohler, and Dr. Brett Fairbairn (Thompson Rivers University), addressed questions such as: What is the responsibility of membership? Is it take what you want and leave the rest to carry the burden? Or are there higher principles in play?

co-operative model, how co-ops come about, and future uses of the model. The course is free, and includes materials covering a broad range of topics and mini lectures from leading researchers in co-op studies. It begins October 28 – you can enroll at: <https://cooperativesfirst.com/coops101/>. We encourage all members of CASC to share this course with friends and colleagues.

Finally, researchers at the Centre have been working hard on several projects, including a governance survey, a case study on the creation of Aviso Wealth, a number of co-operative governance workshop, and more. Publications on these projects will be produced soon.



In partnership with Co-operatives First, the Centre also began taking enrolment for its latest massive open online course (MOOC), Co-ops 101. This unique six-week course explores the history of the



## Update from St Mary's International Centre for Co-operative Management



*Erin Hancock  
Program Manager, Co-operative Management  
Education  
International Centre for Co-operative Management  
Sobey School of Business  
Saint Mary's University*

### News

#### **(MANAGEMENTSTUDIES.COOP):**

-Master's and Certificate in Co-operative Management students are deep into their term, wrestling with the opportunities and challenges of the co-operative model. In late October/early November, 2<sup>nd</sup> year students and sector guests (including CASC Special Advisor Luc Theriault) with the tour's new instructor Marcelo Vieta (CASC board member) are in Mondragon, Spain, on their co-operative study tour.

-Master's students came to Halifax for a face-to-face orientation in August to kick off their program, which is happening online until their next

reunion in Emilia-Romagna, Italy, next fall. They come from Canada, United States, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, working in co-operative federations and leagues, government agencies, co-operative development centres, financial, insurance, housing, consulting, education, business service, care and construction co-operatives! This class illuminates the richness and reach of the co-operative sector!

They undertook a marketing challenge to elevate the visibility of co-ops and credit unions, with Master's alumni Paul Paruch, VP of Marketing & Business Solutions for Atlantic Central (Credit Unions) who was wholly impressed by their innovative ideas. We are currently accepting applications for 2020 start for the Master's, Graduate Diploma and Certificate in Co-operative Management programs (online, part-time).



Master of Management, Co-operatives and Credit Unions students at orientation in Halifax (August)



-New course just offered - **The Co-operative Business Model: Excellence in Leadership and Management** (Harnessing the co-operative difference: Why our business model matters)



Erbin Crowell and Karen Miner facilitating in Washington, DC, October 1

An engaging short course on Excellence in Co-operative Leadership and Management, designed for seasoned decision-makers and emerging leaders from any sector or type of co-operative was offered October 1 in Washington, DC, hosted by the National Co-operative Business Association. This course preceded the NCBA CLUSA IMPACT Conference. Participants discussed and debated the co-operative business model and why the model's differences matter, the relation to the wider economy and shared their own experiences. The course leads were Karen Miner and Sonja Novkovic, Saint Mary's University. Special Guest Speakers (DC) included Master's alumni Erbin Crowell, Executive Director of the Neighboring Food Co-op Association (USA); NCBA CLUSA, Board Chair, Ed Mayo, Secretary General of Co-operatives UK; and Master's alumnus Wayne Schatz, Vice President and General Counsel, Operations & Distribution, Legal Department, The Co-operators Group Limited (Canada). [Visit the website to see upcoming offerings.](#)

## Upcoming courses

October 1, 2019 (9:00AM-4:30PM) in Washington DC, hosted by the National Co-operative Business Association. This course precedes the NCBA CLUSA IMPACT Conference (October 2-4, 2019). Whether you plan to attend this course as a conference warm up or as a standalone course, please register through the conference's registration system.

-We are ramping up to the third year bringing credit union professionals together to delve into what leadership and impact in these institutions really means, as well as what broader impact we can have (re. UN Sustainable Development Goals, etc). [Visit the website for more information.](#)





## Des Nouvelles de l'IRECUS/ Update from IRECUS



*Anne-Marie Merrien  
Doctoral Researcher, IRECUS*

We were glad to see you all during the Joint Conference CASC-ACE-ICA on co-operative entrepreneurship in Montreal last May. It was a challenge but also a pleasure to participate in the organization of this event. Not only have we survived, but our motivation remains inexplicably intact. The proof is that we are currently collaborating with CIRIEC in order to organize an academic event during ACFAS congress. The theme will be entrepreneurship within public and collective businesses. Activities will take place in Sherbrooke, from May 4 to May 8, 2020.

Collaboration with other organizations is our preferred method when it comes to research and projects. As an example, we are proud to work with University of Toronto on the Co-op conversion project. IRECUS' team is conducting case studies in Québec, with a paramedics co-op, funeral co-ops, as well as the most recent example: newspaper conversion. As you might already know, a group of newspapers in Québec are working to create

regional co-operatives in order to pursue their activities, after a previous company went bankrupt. See <https://coopmonjournal.com/>

Another example of an ongoing collaboration is the training of trainers IRECUS recently completed in Vietnam, with SOCODEVI. "On July 3, Socodevi and the School of Agriculture and Rural Development 2 collaborated with the support of IRECUS Research Institute to organize a training course on teaching skills for Cooperative members. The training class ran for 3 days with the participation of officials from 9 provinces around Vietnam. The lectures were about teaching skills, communication, discussions by group, as well as how to develop cooperatives." (VCED Project <https://www.facebook.com/VCEDproject/>)



Finally, IRECUS Annual General Meeting took place last May, at the Coopérative de travailleurs ambulanciers de l'Estrie. Colette Lebel, director of Cooperative Affairs at La Coop Fédérée, is now the president of our Guidance Council.

This committee counts eleven representatives of the co-operative and mutual movement and helps the Institute to remain relevant and coherent with its mission.



## Update from the Canadian Credit Union Association



*Kevin Morris*  
*Manager, Data Analytics*  
*CCUA*

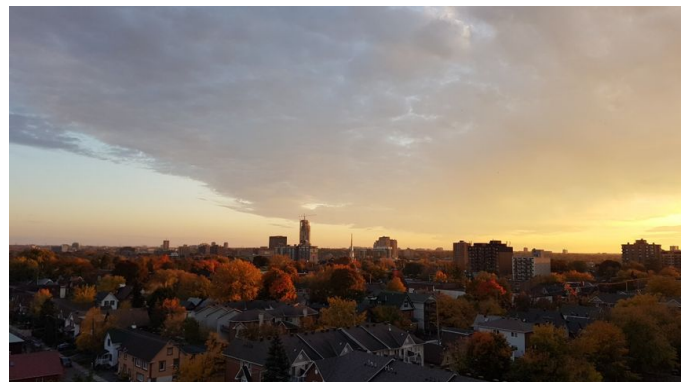
Credit Unions in Canada (not including Desjardins in Quebec) collectively have more than \$248 Billion in Assets Under Management (AUM) as of Q2 2019. Credit Unions also have grown to over 5.8 million members in Canada. However, credit unions are merging—fast. In the last 9 years, there have been over 250 credit union mergers. Today, there are 248 credit unions, with more mergers being planned. One impending large one is Prospera and Westminster in BC, combined, they will have over \$9 billion in assets, making them one of the largest credit unions in Canada.

If current trends continue, there will be fewer but larger Credit Unions in Canada, making these co-operatives very large, but also susceptible to organizational isomorphism. This is a concept that was raised by Wayne Schatz, Sandra Dawe, & Wendy Carruthers at the 2019 CASC/ACE/ICA-CCR joint conference in Montreal this past May. Organizations that grow to a large size start adopting common industry practices because of a lack of human resources available that fit with the culture of the organization. Co-operatives in Canada are especially susceptible to this because of a lack of co-op education in the curriculum of most business schools in Canada. It's

an interesting phenomenon that credit unions will have to grapple with over the next decade as these financial co-operatives evolve in the face of a rapidly changing financial services market.

Speaking of changes, the Canadian government recently released its Digital Charter proposal, that lays out how the government plans on modernizing Canadian services and regulations to reflect a new more digital society. Credit Unions are looking at the implications that new privacy and data governance laws will have on them. With Open Banking imminent (or the opening up of financial data for access by competitors with client consent), credit unions have begun looking at concepts such as Digital ID to solve some potential problems. Digital ID is an incredibly complex topic, which several industry sectors are looking to address in a group called the Digital Identity and Authentication Council of Canada (DIACC). There is a lack of co-operative perspective in this conversation nationally; if you're interested, check out DIACC or look into concepts such as Self-Sovereign Identity, which has similar values to co-operative ones. There is a national debate developing over where and who will manage your digital identity in the future, and a co-operative structure seems like a great structure for this theoretically.

This photo is from October 20th overlooking South of the western part of Centretown/Chinatown in Ottawa.



## Each for All: The Co-operative Connection Update



*Vesta Sahatçiu*  
Producer, *Each for All: The Co-operative Connection*

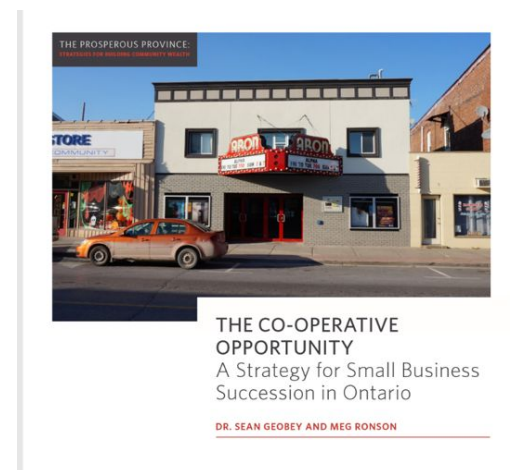
*Each for All: The Co-operative Connection* is a one-hour weekly current affairs and advocacy program every Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. on CFRO 100.5 FM Vancouver Co-op Radio, bringing profiles, interviews, and reports from co-ops and social economy organizations.

*Each For All* will be featuring another CASC special on Tuesday, October 25, at 8:00 p.m. PST!



Featured will be talks by Dr. Marcelo Vieta, assistant professor, Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education, and Ashish Pillai, research fellow, Centre for Learning, Social Economy and Work, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto. In addition, there will be an interview with University of Waterloo's assistant professor, Dr. Sean Geobey, director of academic programs, Waterloo Institute for Social Innovation and Resilience, and his research

collaborator Meg Ronson (Master's of Economic Development and Innovation, U of Waterloo), authors of *The Co-operative Opportunity: A Strategy for Small Business Succession in Ontario* (The Prosperous Province: Strategies for Building Community Wealth, Atkinson Foundation series, 2018).



All presenters and interviewees are currently involved in the Conversion to Cooperatives project, exploring business succession planning, and the potential for transition into co-operatives. It a 3-year project supported by a SSHRC Partnership Development grant; Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC) is a key partner in the project, ensuring the findings inform policy advocacy, practice, and knowledge mobilization at the popular level.

Connect with Co-op Radio CFRO 100.5FM, or online at [coopradio.org](http://coopradio.org). It will also be posted promptly on the EFA website, at [eachforall.coop](http://eachforall.coop).





## Upcoming Conferences / Calls for Papers



### Our Centenary Conference

Our centenary conference is the highlight of our 100th year and we can't wait to welcome everyone to the splendour of Rochdale Town Hall from the 26-28 November 2019.

The three day programme is packed full of opportunities to explore what makes co-operative education unique and examine how it can offer radical solutions to some of societies biggest problems. With speakers from across the globe, you'll meet experts developing truly **unique ways**

for how we can learn together and disrupt the current status quo.

Don't miss out on this inspiring event. Join us and make your voice heard as we ask what next?

You'll find all the information you need below including details on tickets, sponsorship opportunities and speakers, as well as accommodation, fringe events and our inaugural Gala Dinner.

### Our Conference

### Speakers

Take a look at just some of those who'll be speaking at our Centenary Conference. [Read more](#)

### Conference Programme

Five plenary sessions, nine keynote addresses and 14 workshops. See our conference programme here. [Read more](#)

### Ticketing Information

See all our different conference ticketing options right here [Read more](#)





**Don't miss out**



**XXI**  
**REGIONAL CONFERENCE  
OF COOPERATIVE  
OF THE AMERICAS**

**CHANGE > IMPACT > SUSTAINABILITY**

**COOPERATIVES ECONOMIC ACTORS  
WITH SOCIAL AND SUSTAINABLE IMPACT**

**SAN JOSÉ - COSTA RICA  
18 - 20 NOVIEMBRE 2019**

Activity declared of national interest by Decree n. 41808-MTSS  
of the President of the Republic and the Minister of Labor and Social Security  
of the Republic of Costa Rica

Cooperatives of the Americas together with the member organizations of the International Cooperative Alliance in Costa Rica, are inviting more than a thousand leaders of cooperatives from all over the region to meet and experience the XXI Regional Conference of Cooperatives of the Americas "Cooperatives, economic actors with a social and sustainable impact", and the Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the First Continental Congress on Cooperative Law, these two events will be

**More than 20 meetings, workshops and presentations will be held to address and learn about the change, impact, sustainability, and**

Know all the details to participate  
[aciamericas.coop](http://aciamericas.coop)





**Call for papers for a special issue**

**The contribution of the commons to open and shared access to productive resources and essential goods and services**

*under the direction of*

**Philippe Bance, University of Rouen & University of Antilles, France**

**Jérôme Schoenmaeckers, University of Liege, Belgium**

The theory of the commons developed with the work of Elinor Ostrom and her disciples has shown the relevance of governance as well as the social utility of the production of shared and jointly managed goods. They radically challenged Hardin's common goods curse thesis and took the opposite view to the property rights theory initiated by Alchian and Demsetz. As Coriat shows, however, exclusive and private access to resources has increased in recent decades, particularly on knowledge and technology; the most tangible manifestation being the rise of patents in the life sciences or software. The growing importance of exclusive private rights over productive resources and essential goods and services leads to the term "Tragedy of the Anticommons" according to Heller. To preserve the collective interest, it is necessary to guarantee and develop open and shared access for essential goods and resources, in particular through the public domain or production by the commons.

Various forms of production of common goods have been deployed in recent decades to offer alternatives to exclusive property rights and to allow open and shared access. This is particularly the

case with open technology and free software. The joint production of public goods by public and social and solidarity economy (SSE) organizations is another way of expressing the pooling of resources to produce public goods (CIRIEC, 2018). The historical activities of SSE organizations, implemented in various ways throughout the world, also allow making productive resources and/or goods and services available to a greater or lesser number of beneficiaries.

The deployment of commons leads to an analysis of their characteristics and the ways in which stakeholders are involved in the work, explaining how they contribute or can contribute for open and shared access to resources or goods and services, particularly if they are essential. It also leads to the clarification of the forms of governance at work in order to grasp their contributions and potentialities in terms of the expanded production of public or common goods. This also leads to the clarification of the characteristics of new organizational forms that make it possible to involve stakeholders jointly and more broadly in governance. It is also a question of examining the economic repercussions and the future prospects of resource joint management practices. Finally, it is useful to explain the contributive capacity of these governances to the emergence of new paradigms of collective action, in particular through collaborations between or with public authorities.

The purpose of the special issue of the Annals is thus to provide answers to the following questions:-  
What are the characteristics of new forms of commons and their particular contribution to open and shared access to resources and essential goods and services?

- What relationships can be established between the nature of the common and the scope of access to resources and goods and services?



## CASC/ACÉC Fall Newsletter 2019

- How do traditional social and solidarity economy organizations and emerging or growing organizational forms constitute particular opportunities for open and shared access to resources and goods and services?
- Why and how do the forms of governance implemented by the commons offer prospects for inclusive resource management for their stakeholders?
- How do the forms of governance that are deployed with the commons make it possible to broaden cooperation between actors or between organizations?
- What are the current and potential repercussions of the deployment of commons on the implementation of public action and more broadly on the paradigm of the collective action?

This special issue of the Annals aims to provide research results on these themes.

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### Timeline:

- Call for papers opens: September 30, 2019
- Call for papers closes: December 31, 2019
- Publication: Vol. 92, I, 2021

**Submissions with indication "Special Issue" to <http://Mc.manuscriptcentral.com/apce>**





## Worth Reading This Fall



**Brett Fairbairn's** new book (written for the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canada's Co-operative Retailing System and published by the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives) is about change. Change in organizations. More specifically, change in a complex, multilayered system of organizations in Western Canada known as the Co-operative Retailing System (CRS). Rooted in democratic local membership, the CRS consists of some 1.9 million members, more than 170 retail co-ops with facilities in over 580 communities, and Federated Co-operatives Limited, wholesaler and service provider to the retails.

In 2009, FCL was coming off its seventeenth straight year of record earnings and returned many millions in patronage refunds to its members. So why would a tradition-rich, financially successful company with a powerful, loyalty-based culture suddenly start to change? Was there an external threat, a disruptive new competitor, a sudden change in government regulations?

No, change came from within, from a small group of people who made a few key choices based on their knowledge of the co-op system, their perceptions of the outside world, and the options available to them.

They cranked the wheel hard to turn the company and the system in a new direction that involved reclaiming and re-articulating the co-ops' historic roots. The CRS is conducting what amounts to a great social-economic experiment. Can historic enterprises conceived in the era of horse-drawn wagons remain relevant in a world of e-commerce, digital information sharing, and artificial intelligence? Will new generations of consumers, raised in the shadow of big-box and large-scale retail and mistrustful of institutions, remain interested in community and democratic values? The Co-op Retailing System is partway through reinventing itself to find out. This is a story of risk and relevance, and above all, the dilemmas and opportunities of change.



### Chapter-by-chapter: Enquiring, Critical, and Creative Spirit

A sneak peek at our upcoming publication, **Enquiring, Critical, and Creative Spirit**, by **Merle Massie**

The Centre for the Study of Co-operatives opened in the Diefenbaker Building at the University of Saskatchewan in June 1984. During the subsequent thirty-five years, it has consolidated its interdisciplinary focus to create a world-renowned body of co-operative and credit union knowledge.



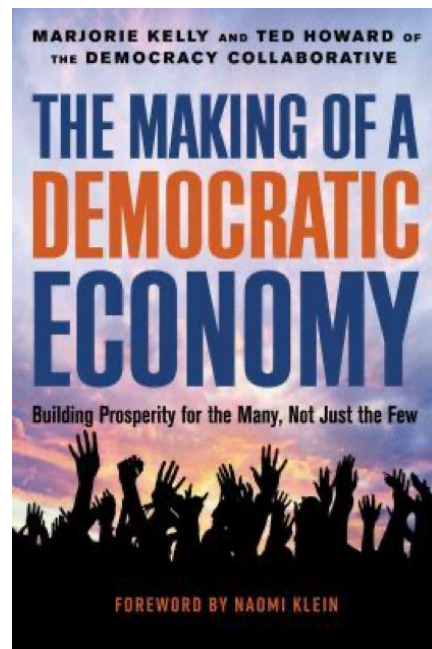
*Enquiring, Critical, and Creative Spirit: A History of the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives*, by historian and former Centre employee Merle Massie, is a critical examination of the Centre's formation and evolution over the past 35 years.

The Centre is proud to publish this book as a serial over the next eight weeks

We begin with the **Prologue and Chapter 1: Origins and Organizations**.

Chapter 1 describes the development of the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, which emerged from the Centre for Community Studies and Co-operative College of Canada on the urging of U of S President, Leo Kristjanson. Facing hostility from some other areas of the university, the organizing team began an arduous search for a new director. While the late Ian MacPherson was keen to take on the job, his family was unwilling to make the move to Saskatchewan. Finally, under the directorship of Chris Axworthy, the Centre opened in June 1984, with its roster of young and energetic academics, including Murray Fulton, Brett Fairbairn, and Lou Hammond Ketilson.

Chapter 2 will be released in two weeks' time. Here, readers will learn more about the tensions between the Centre and the University, including showdowns over academic autonomy, research priorities and direction. Fulton and Fairbairn go head-to-head with the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, and Centre faculty fight uphill battles to get co-op content into university courses. And you'll also learn what the Centre's board thinks about its researchers becoming involved in local co-op politics, when Director Chris Axworthy does exactly that.



**WASHINGTON, DC – (July 23, 2019)** – In virtually every corner of society, our economic system is failing us, assert Marjorie Kelly and Ted Howard, authors of *The Making of a Democratic Economy* ([Barrett-Koehler Publishers](#), July 2019). Yet from Cleveland and New York City to Portland, Oregon and South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, a new vision for a better economic future is being forged: grassroots solutions that foretell an imminent, potentially historic change in the way we create and distribute wealth.

The innovations in *The Making of a Democratic Economy* demonstrate that an economic system can be equitable, instead of extractive. Howard and Kelly combine real-world examples with powerful intellectual arguments to establish that an economy can, by its fundamental design, meet the essential needs of individuals and families at every level of society, while balancing human consumption with the regenerative capacity of the planet.

After more than a century, our capitalist system has led to a massive concentration of wealth among a tiny, powerful elite. This dangerous result has come

at the expense of the middle class and the marginalized, as well as many of our earth's most precious natural resources, say Kelly, a senior fellow at Washington think tank [The Democracy Collaborative](#), and Howard, the organization's president and co-founder. Answers won't be found in corporate capitalism OR in state socialism; instead, an entirely new system is called for—a democratic economy founded on the principles of inclusion, community, sustainability, and mutual benefit.

*The Making of a Democratic Economy* describes a number of practical and repeatable examples of this better economic future that are currently thriving in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Successes include:

- Cleveland's **Evergreen Cooperatives**, a pathbreaking project connecting the purchasing power of local hospitals and universities to worker-owned businesses built to empower deeply disinvested communities.
- **Cooperative Home Care Associates**, the nation's largest worker cooperative, helping its immigrant women owners find work with dignity in a sector rife with exploitation and precarity.
- **Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation's** Regenerative Community, a Native-led effort to create affordable housing while catalyzing an economic and cultural renaissance in the Pine Ridge reservation, one of the poorest places in America.
- **Preston, Lancashire, U.K.**, where an against-the-odds attempt to rethink the local economy from the ground up has turned the former suicide capital of England into a

celebrated national model for equitable, democratic urban revitalization.

This vitally important book explores the underlying shared dynamics and common beliefs that allow models like these to move from exception to norm. It makes the case that governments, philanthropists, and impact investors, as well as activists and entrepreneurs, must move quickly to begin our economic transformation before the next crisis hits.

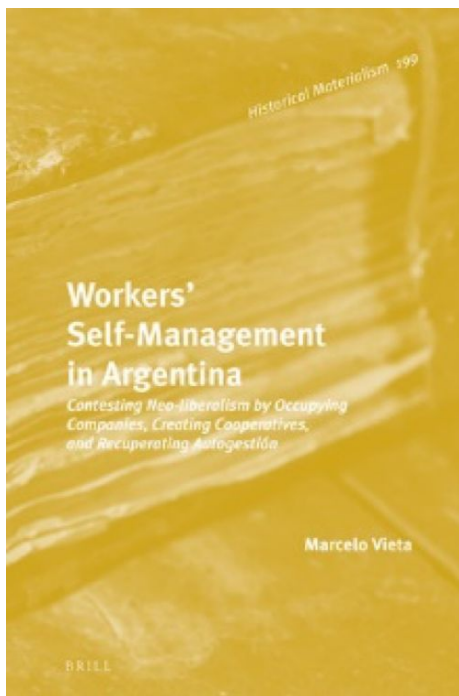
*The Making of a Democratic Economy* features a Foreword by well-known activist, author and filmmaker Naomi Klein, and an Afterword by Aditya Chakraborty, columnist and senior economics commentator at The Guardian.

NOTE: To request a review copy of *The Making of a Democratic Economy* or to arrange an interview with the authors, please contact Stephanie Jimenez, Jill Schmidt PR / (224) 661-3373 / [stephanie@jillschmidtpr.com](mailto:stephanie@jillschmidtpr.com)

**Book Website:** [ADemocraticEconomy.org](http://ADemocraticEconomy.org)

**Marjorie Kelly** is the executive vice president and senior fellow at [The Democracy Collaborative](#). She co-founded *Business Ethics Magazine*, and her work has been featured in *Harvard Business Review*, *New England Law Review*, *Chief Executive*, *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, and *San Francisco Chronicle*. She is the author of *The Divine Right of Capital* and *Owning Our Future*.

**Ted Howard** is the cofounder and president of The Democracy Collaborative ([www.democracycollaborative.org](http://www.democracycollaborative.org)), a research and development lab for the democratic economy. It works for a new economic system where shared ownership and control creates more equitable and inclusive outcomes, fosters ecological sustainability, and promotes flourishing democratic and community life.



Leiden and Chicago: [Brill Academic Publishers](#) and [Haymarket Books](#)

[Historical Materialism Book Series, Volume 199](#)

Available October 24, 2019 with a 2020 publication date, soft-cover to follow in 2020

ISBN: 978-90-04-26895-1 | DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004268951>

In *Workers' Self-Management in Argentina*, Marcelo Vieta hones in on the emergence and consolidation of Argentina's *empresas recuperadas por sus trabajadores* (ERTs, worker recuperated enterprises), a workers' occupy and recuperation movement that urged at the turn-of-the-millennium in the thick of the country's neo-liberal crisis. Since then, around 400 companies have been taken over and converted to cooperatives by almost 16,000 workers. Grounded in class-struggle Marxism and a critical sociology of work, the book situates the ERT movement in Argentina's long tradition of working-class activism and the broader history of workers' responses to capitalist crisis. Beginning

with the voices of the movement's protagonists, Vieta ultimately develops a compelling social theory of *autogestión*—a politically prefigurative and ethically infused notion of workers' self-management that unleashes radical social change for work organisations, surrounding communities, and beyond.

## Endorsements

David McNally

Cooperative enterprises, workers' self-management and new forms of industrial democracy— these are the stirring themes animating Marcelo Vieta's original and exciting book. Using a stunning set of interviews, buttressed by historical investigation and deep theoretical inquiry, *Workers' Self-Management in Argentina* illuminates movements of occupation, recuperation and *autogestión* in Argentina in recent years. There is virtually nothing like this book when it comes to the study of lived practices of workers' control today. Everyone searching for alternatives to neoliberalism and the domination of labor will relish this powerful and important work.

~ **David McNally** is Cullen Distinguished Professor of History and Business, University of Houston. He is the author of *Against the Market: Political Economy, Market Socialism, and the Marxist Critique* (Verso, 1992) and *Global Slump: The Economics and Politics of Crisis and Resistance* (PM Press, 2010).

George Cheney

Marcelo Vieta's *Workers' Self-Management in Argentina* is one of the most important books on contemporary labour and democracy. The volume

masterfully revisits and extends theory on *autogestión* (loosely translated as self-management in English) and places it in richly detailed historical, economic, and social contexts. The book employs three in-depth case studies of “worker recuperated” firms in today’s Argentina and at the same time beautifully integrates those with an analysis of work and economy in Argentina especially over the past two decades. The comparisons of lessons from the experiences of workers in those firms for other national contexts gives the analysis an expansiveness seldom found in case-based studies of worklife and labour arrangements. Vieta’s longitudinal study and insightful commentary provide must reading for anyone interested in the intricacies of and possibilities for democratic revival from the shop floor and board rooms to communities and the global economy.

~ **George Cheney** is Professor of Communication, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. He is the author of *Values at Work: Employee Participation Meets Market Pressure at Mondragon* (Cornell University Press, 2002) and co-editor of *The Routledge Companion to Alternative Organization* (Routledge, 2014).

Peter Ranis

Marcelo Vieta’s book ranges far beyond the bounds of its Argentine analysis. It is thoroughly researched and grounded in “class-struggle Marxist” theory and reflects a prolonged and deep understanding of and commitment to global working-class enterprise autonomy struggles. In this Vieta provides a powerful and meaningful critique and alternative to neo-liberal capitalism.

~ **Peter Ranis** is Professor Emeritus in Political Science, Graduate Center, City University of New York. He is the author of

*Cooperatives Confronting Capitalism: Challenging the Neo-liberal Economy* (Zed Books, 2016) and *Argentine Workers: Peronism and Contemporary Class Consciousness* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1992).

Nick Dyer-Witthford

I was consistently impressed by Vieta’s impeccable scholarship and deeply-thought argumentation. Theoretically, it this work is oriented around the perspective of class-struggle Marxism, but is also informed by a deep knowledge of the history and practices of trades unionism, cooperativism, and social and solidarity economics in Argentina, Latin America and internationally. The work situates *empresas recuperadas* (ERTs) within the history of the Argentine class-composition and workers movements. It shows how the ERT practice of “occupy, resist, produce” generated a series of “radical social innovations” affecting economic activities, political formations and trans-individual subject formation. From this study Vieta draws important conclusions about the circumstances in which the potential for self-directed worker activities is actualized in ways that point beyond the existing system of production relations. I want to reiterate how impressed I am by this work. It is a major contribution to scholarship on the global worker of the twenty first century.

~ **Nick Dyer-Witthford** is Associate Professor in the Faculty of Information and Media Studies at University of Western Ontario. He is the author of *Cyber-Marx: Cycles and Circuits of Struggle in High Technology Capitalism* (University of Illinois, 1999) and *Cyber-Proletariat: Global Labour in the Digital Vortex* (Pluto Press, 2015).



Marina Sitrin

This book is a tremendous gift. A must read for scholars, activists and all who want to learn how to retake our lives and create something new. Within these pages Vieta has detailed the history of class struggle in Argentina, bringing us to this historical moment, grounded in a new conceptualization of *autogestión*. Workers taking back – recuperating – their sense of worth and dignity through directly democratic workplace recuperations. Distinct from occupations, making demands on bosses and states, in recuperations workers re-claim what is theirs/ours. Vieta's lens offers a unique insider/outsider perspective, as an Argentine scholar based in Canada. His methodological approach, also innovative, combines global ethnography, history, political science, economics and sociology. Most of

all, in *Workers' Self-Management in Argentina*, Vieta shows, by way of extended examples, that people can self-organize their work and life, in ways that are horizontal, effective and affective.

~ **Marina Sitrin** is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York at Binghamton. She is the author of *Everyday Revolutions: Horizontalism and Autonomy in Argentina* (Zed Books, 2012) and *They Can't Represent Us! Reinventing Democracy from Greece to Occupy*, co-authored with Dario Azzellini (Verso Press, 2014).



## CASC Scholarships

**We are now accepting applications!**

Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC) Scholarships

Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC) is calling for applications for the three CASC scholarships administered by CMC:

- Alexander Fraser Laidlaw Fellowship (graduate students only) sponsored by the [Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada](#);
- Amy and Tim Dauphinee Scholarship (graduate students only) sponsored by the [Ontario Credit Union Foundation](#);
- Lemaire Co-operative Studies Award (undergraduate or graduate students).

In addition to the monetary awards, winners of all three scholarships will be awarded a free one-year membership in the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC) as well as free registration at the 2020 CASC conference.

**English:**

<https://canada.coop/en/programs/education/casc-scholarships>

**French:**

<https://canada.coop/fr/programmes/education/bourses-etudes-acec>

The deadline for applications is March 30, 2020.

[Click here to download the application form.](#)



## Membership Form



### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership rates for the 2019/20 CASC year are regular members \$175 and students, retired individuals, and the underwaged \$55. Benefits include the following:

- CASC /ACÉC Newsletter twice yearly
- Regular CASC / ACÉC Digest announcements of interest (about conferences, new co-operative resources or initiatives, scholarships etc.) through the CASC / ACÉC listserv and Digest
- Journal of Co-operative Studies (3 issues per year)

#### Contact Information *(Please let us know if your contact information changes during the year)*

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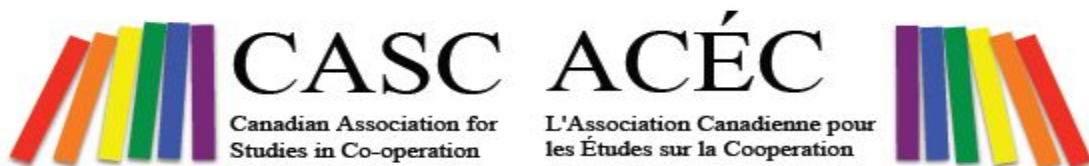
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Les frais d'adhésion à l'ACÉC en 2019-2020 sont de 55 \$ pour les étudiantes, les personnes retraitées, et les personnes sous-payées; 175 \$ pour les autres personnes. Au nombre des avantages, les membres reçoivent :

- Une copie de notre journal interne (deux numéros par an)
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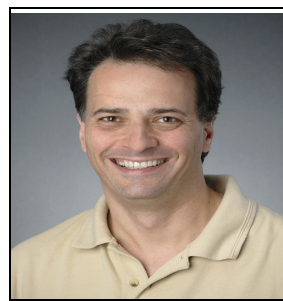
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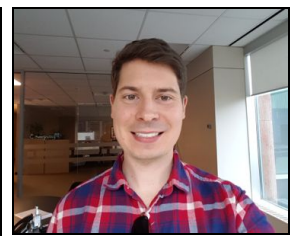
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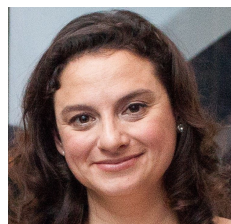
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