Saturday, June 25th

9:15am Introduction

9:30 - 11:00 Reading Group: “The Many Faces of Marx’s Proletariat”
Anna Björk Einarsdóttir, Magnús Þór Snæbjörnsson, Pat Cabell

11:15 - 12:30 Roundtable: “Formal and Real Subsumption”
Anh Ho, Christopher Brown, Will Myers

12:30 - 1:30 Lunch Break

1:30 - 3:00 Reading Group: “Labour in the Era of Fictitious Capital”
Jette Gindner, Neil Larsen, Mathias Nilges

3:15 - 4:30 Panel: “Contested Political Histories”
Adam Carlson, “The 18th Brumaire of Canadian Liberalism”
Grover Furr, “Trotsky’s ‘Amalgams’ – Lies – about the USSR”
Matthew MacLellan, “Foucault’s Ambivalent Neoliberalism”

4:45-6:15 Reading Group: “The Problem of Precarity”
Melissa Macero,
Heidi Smith
Sunday, June 26th

9:30 - 11:00  **Reading Group:** “Dispossession, Exclusion, Exploitation: Selections from the Grundrisse”  
Bret Benjamin, Steve Delmagori, Jackie Hayes, Sun Ju Kim, Samantha Rider, Paul Stasi

11:15 - 12:30  **Panel:** "Violence, Social Reproduction and the State"  
Deborah Young, “Social Reproduction, Self-Valorization, and the Death Drive”  
Jamie Magnusson & Shahrzad Mojab, “The Imperialist Relations of Gamification: Women and the War on the Poor World”  
Fan Yang, Book Discussion

12:30 - 1:30  **Lunch Break**

1:30 - 3:00  **Reading Group:** “Race, Class, Coates, and the Left”  
Joseph Ramsey, Gregory Meyerson

3:15 - 4:30  **Panel:** “Literary Marxisms”  
Julie Fiorelli, “The Trap of Inclusion: Slavery and Neo-Slavery in Mat Johnson’s Pym”  
Amy Gaeta, "Aesthetics/Autonomy/Automaton: Form & Resistance in Conrad's The Secret Agent”

4:45-6:15  **Roundtable:** “Teaching Marxist Literary Criticism”  
Barbara Foley, Henry Schwarz, Elvira Godek-Kiryluk, Carl Martin
Monday, June 27th

9:30 - 11:00  **Reading Group**: “Nature and Appropriation: Capitalism and World Ecology”  
*Steve Gotzler, Natalie Suzelis*

11:15 - 12:30  **Roundtable**: “Marxism and Energy”  
*Brent Bellamy, Amanda Boetzkes, Allan Stoekl, David Thomas*

12:30 - 1:30  **Lunch Break**

1:30 - 3:00  **Reading Group**: “Glen Coulthard, Colonial Capitalism, and the Politics of Recognition”  
*Justin Paulson*

3:15 - 4:30  **Panel**: “Labour, Subsumption, Exclusion”  
*Don Hedrick*, “A Brief History of Enclosure”  
*Sourayan Mookerjea*, “Accumulated Violence, or, the Wars of Exploitation”

4:45-6:15  **Reading Group**: “Reinscribing Responsibility: Capitalocene as Alternative to the Anthropocene?”  
*Corbin Hiday, Justin Raden*
Tuesday, June 28th

9:30 - 11:00  **Reading Group:** “Rosa Luxemburg Reads the Current Crisis”  
*Kanishka Chowdhury*

11:15 - 12:30  **Panel:** “Race and Colonialism”  
*Mark Soderstrom,* “Native Suns” Colonialism, Race, and Resistance in Speculative Fiction”  
*W. Oliver Baker,* “Settler Colonialism and Marxism”  
*Fan Yang,* “Chimerica/Chimera: Mirror, Media, and Mediation”

12:30 - 1:30  **Lunch Break**

1:30 - 3:00  **Reading Group:** “The Continuing Debate over India’s ‘Dominance without Hegemony’”  
*Meghan Gorman-DaRif, Anne Stewart*

3:15 - 4:30  **Roundtable:** “Adorno and Negative Dialectics”  
*Paul Smith, Rich Daniels, Jamie Owen Daniel*

4:40 – 6:00  **Business Meeting**

6:15  **BBQ:** Held in Concordia University’s EV building, room 11.725  
*1515 Saint Catherine Street West, Montreal, Quebec H3H 2L*
Wednesday, June 29th

9:30 - 11:00  **Reading Group:** “Primitive Accumulation and Ecosocialism”  
*Robert Collins,*  
*Kathryn J. Prottengeier*

11:15 - 12:30  **Panel:** “Class, Exploitation and Virtual Subsumption”  
*Éric Pineault,* “Reflections on Class as Polarity and Subsumption”  
*Éric N. Duhaime,* “The Knowledge Economy and the Virtual Subsumption of Social Practices under Capital”

12:30 - 1:30  **Lunch Break**

1:30 - 3:00  **Reading Group:** “History and Horizon of Inclusion as a Political Project”  
*Joseph Ren,*  
*Brenda Higgins*

3:15 – 4:45  **Reading Group:** “Race, Class and Capitalism Today”  
*Jaafar Aksikas,*  
*Don Hedrick,*  
*Barbara Foley,*  
*Annika Marie*

5:00 – 6:00  **Business Meeting:** To sort out new MLA session protocol
Appendix: Reading Group Descriptions

Saturday June 25th

(9:30 - 11:00): “The Many Faces of Marx’s Proletariat”
Facilitated by Anna Björk Einarsdóttir, Magnús Þór Snæbjörnsson and Pat Cabell
Contact: abeinarsdottir@ucdavis.edu

It is no secret that the term ‘proletariat’ is quite problematic in Marx’s work. In Capital, there is no definite discussion on the role of the proletariat, nor an analysis of who exactly qualifies as a proletarian. And yet, the whole enterprise has traditionally been understood to be premised on the equation between praxis and the proletariat, or at least the assumption that Marx’s analysis of political economy presupposes a subject that can and must overcome capitalism. Critics variously refer to the collective worker, Marx’s analysis of productive labor, or, more recently, his analysis of the general law of capital’s accumulation as involving the immiseration of the masses, while other, perhaps more pessimistic, stances of value-critique dismiss the subject all together. This reading group proposes to examine the concept in Marx’s early work, i.e. until and including The German Ideology, while also referencing his later works as well as the problematic place of the subject in contemporary value-critique. In particular, we will focus on the multiple ways in which Marx discusses the concept as well as alternative subject positions, many of which predate his turn to the proletariat, such as the people, the jew, the abject, the romantic vision of workers, the lumpen and so on. This workshop does not pretend to offer a complete overview of how Marx uses the concept in all of his writings, but rather emphasizes instances where Marx discusses the proletariat and its precursors.

(1:30 - 3:00): “Labour in the Era of Fictitious Capital”
Facilitated by Jette Gindner, Neil Larsen and Mathias Nilges
Contact: jg828@cornell.edu

Building on the success of MCM’s edited volume Marxism and the Critique of Value (2014), we propose to discuss a small set of newly translated texts coming out of German Wertkritik, as represented here by the online journal and blog “Krisis.” These texts engage with questions of the exploitation and exclusion of labor as raised by this year’s CFP but also explore underlying connections that can be difficult to grasp: between the growing permanent exclusion of more and more potential bearers of labor-power since the 1970s; the accelerating conversion since the 1980s of functioning into fictitious capital, and the resulting severe economic crisis that burst upon US and global financial markets in 2008 and continues its slow burn within the EU while state indebtedness reaches astronomical dimensions. Meanwhile the arrival of tens of thousands of refugees at the very gates of Europe only dramatizes further the social and political problem of how to deal with the increasing surplus populations no longer needed by capital. The chosen texts would build on the existing archive of
*Wertkritik* in translation—the subject of past reading groups at IGCS—by adding to it the relatively few English versions of extremely rich value-critical work written *since* the crisis of 2008, the analysis of which has resulted in major advances and new theoretical discoveries. This is especially true of the centerpiece of the study group, Norbert Trenkle’s “Labor in the Era of Fictitious Capital.” Based on past experience at IGCS, we are confident that this session will generate energetic discussion, while providing the opportunity to analyze *Wertkritik* materials with some of the editors of the MCM’ collection.

Saturday June 25th

(4:45-6:15): “The Problem of Precarity”
Facilitated by Melissa Macero and Heidi Smith
Contact: mmacer2@uic.edu

Is the precariat a valuable way for Marxists to think about class? The precariat, according to Guy Standing, lacks a long-term contract, or any contract at all; any set wage and benefits structure; major, or any, advancement opportunities; and the ability to represent itself in labor or financial disputes. Does this lack of security require that we move beyond Marx’s conception of the surplus population in order for us to fully comprehend—and ultimately critique—our current moment under neoliberalism?

Sunday June 26th

(9:30 - 11:00): “Dispossession, Exclusion, Exploitation: Selections from the *Grundrisse*”
Facilitated by Bret Benjamin, Steve Delmagori, Jackie Hayes, Sun Ju Kim, Samantha Rider, Paul Stasi
Contact: bret.benjamin@gmail.com

Description not available

(1:30 - 3:00): “Race, Class, Coates, and the Left”
Facilitated by Joseph Ramsey and Gregory Meyerson
Contact: jgramsey@gmail.com

Following up on the success of the race and class conjuncture roundtable from last year's ICS, this group will allow MLG-ers to delve into a discussion of Ta-Nehisi Coates' influential--and controversial--best-seller, *Between the World and Me* in relationship to other, more marxist and materialist, takes on the current conjuncture as regards the question of racial oppression in the USA in particular. (Note: Greg, Stephen Ferguson, and Joseph Ramsey are all presently at work on essays
critically examining the work of Coates, for publication in the 2016 issue of *Works & Days*, in collaboration with *Cultural Logic*.

Monday June 27th

(9:30 - 11:00): “Nature and Appropriation: Capitalism and World Ecology”
Facilitated by Steve Gotzler and Natalie Suzelis
Contact: sgotzler@andrew.cmu.edu

Moore’s book argues that many of the current ecological crises facing global capitalism today are not simply the consequence of capitalism’s actions upon nature, but are in fact constitutive of capitalism’s historical development through nature as a world-ecological regime; a way of configuring both human and extra-human natures within the web of life. Moore’s work offers a provocative contribution to the institute’s conversation around the theme of “Dispossession, Exclusion, Exploitation” by conceptualizing the logics of labor exploitation, capital accumulation, and value production through a model that foregrounds the vast appropriation of unpaid work/energy throughout the history of capitalism. A process that has led to the creation of ‘Cheap Natures’—in labor, food, energy and raw materials. However, these same 'Cheap Natures' have increasingly become the site of pronounced ecological crises within the world system. Moore’s analysis offers a way of reconsidering the roots of these crises, and suggests a new way of organizing a movement for radical change that addresses capitalism-in-nature, as a particular configuration of world-ecology, rather than simply capitalism against nature.

(1:30 - 3:00): “Glen Coulthard, Colonial Capitalism, and the Politics of Recognition”
Facilitated by Justin Paulson
Contact: JustinPaulson@cunet.carleton.ca

Description not available

(4:45-6:15): “Reinscribing Responsibility: Capitalocene as Alternative to the Anthropocene?”
Facilitated by Corbin Hiday and Justin Raden
Contact: chiday2@uic.edu

In the shadow of a looming debate with no less than a new geological epoch at stake, the question of the Anthropocene is central to the ways in which we understand the production of our current ecological moment. In contrast to this prioritization of the human, Jason W. Moore’s influential recent book, *Capitalism in the Web of Life*, has proposed an alternative concept, that of the Capitalocene. His new edited collection with contributions from a variety of scholars across disciplines attempts to
produce an alternative to the “Age of Man” and common dualisms such as Humanity vs. Nature by locating contemporary global crises within a different framework, one that places capital in an inextricable relationship with ecology. While the book is not yet available to the public (release date: June 1st, 2016), we will endeavor to place the book and its arguments, not only within a broader trend of recent publications, but also hoping that the book and its contributions will help us better understand and illustrate the intimate connections between fossil fuel development, climate change and Energy Humanities more generally and the theme of this year’s Summer Institute: Dispossession, Exclusion, Exploitation. We hope to address the book as a whole, while focusing on particular selections that we find to be exemplary of engagement with the institute theme.

Tuesday June 28th

(9:30 - 11:00): “Rosa Luxemburg Reads the Current Crisis”
Facilitated by Kanishka Chowdhury
Contact: K9CHOWDHURY@stthomas.edu

No conference on dispossession, exclusion, and exploitation is complete without a scrupulous engagement with Luxemburg’s work. Her analysis of the relations between capitalist and non-capitalist societies have much to offer us, and her grasp of the methods that gird these relations—colonial policy, an international loan system, a policy of spheres of interest, and war—have much to teach us about the ways in which forms of capitalist domination and crisis persist in our times. Clearly, there are categorical differences in the way we regard the so-called non-capitalist sphere in the present, but unlike existing theories of Empire, the global, and the transnational, Luxemburg forces us to reckon first and foremost with the accumulation process and how that process engenders many of the contradictions that get misrecognized as a crisis of rights, the nation, or through the lens of bourgeois economists as recessions. Moreover, Luxemburg’s understanding of the mass strike, of reform and revolution also allows us to examine existing anti-imperialist movements in broader historical contexts.

Tuesday June 28th

(1:30 - 3:00): “The Continuing Debate over India’s ‘Dominance without Hegemony’”
Facilitated by Meghan Gorman-DaRif and Anne Stewart
Contact: meghangormandarif@utexas.edu

In India, both in the colonial and post-independence period, expropriation, exploitation and government takeover of land for development has had a high impact. In its historical and present day iterations, this pattern of expropriation and exploitation has material consequences both in the violence inflicted on peasant communities to perpetuate it, and in the organization of people to mobilize resistance. However, the representations of each side of the conflict tend to be skewed as state violence is sanitized and the violence of the people is viewed as criminal. This reading group seeks to explore this theme, originally taken up by the Subaltern Studies group, of considering
alternative ways of viewing peasant organization, violence, and resistance, including works which analyze and expose the inherently political nature of such resistance.

Wednesday June 29th

(9:30 - 11:00): “Primitive Accumulation and Ecosocialism”
Facilitated by Robert Collins and Kathryn J. Prottengeier
Contact: prottengeier@wisc.edu

Of the many problems that Marxist political movements seek to redress, looming environmental catastrophe has quickly increased in urgency over the past several decades. This reading group will facilitate a discussion of recent attempts to balance environmental and social justice within the traditions of political economy and dialectical materialism. What, we wonder, is the relationship between these two categories of justice: how do they contradict, constitute, and drive each other forward? To what extent are environmental considerations “already in Marx”—in the famous account of primitive accumulation, say—and, obversely, to what extent has the “Anthropocene” obliged us to rethink traditional Marxist theory? Does that last question matter at all? Most importantly, what are the possibilities of genuine praxis proposed by this recent scholarship?

(1:30 - 3:00): “History and Horizon of Inclusion as a Political Project”
Facilitated by Joseph Ren and Brenda Higgins
Contact: joseph.ren@gmail.com

I am interested in the histories and horizon of inclusion as a political project. It seems as if the history of many 20th century and late political movements, for instance workerism, recognition-based indigenous activism, wages for housework, anti-racism, repeat, in Chris Chen's words, "the same political logic of affirming subjects . . . within and sometimes against capitalism" ("The Limit Point of Capitalist Equality," endnotes 3). Keeping in mind this interest in the political (im)possibility of inclusion, I want to read together a sequence of essays from endnotes 4 on the history of the worker's movement (from "A History of Separation" to "History of Separation: Afterword") with heightened attention to how theories and practices of affirmation have formed the political project of workerism, where affirmation met its limits, what remains after affirmation, and whether it is possible to build a positive political project under the conditions of integration into capitalist enterprise.

Wednesday June 29th

(3:15 – 4:45): “Race, Class and Capitalism Today”
Facilitated by Jaafar Aksika, Don Hedrick, Barbara Foley and Annika Marie
Contact: jaksikas@colum.edu
All these five relatively short readings are part of a timely and critical debate, in which Adolph Reed debates three scholars, namely Steven Gregory, Maurice Zeitlin and Ellen Meiksins Wood about the complex and dialectical relationship between race and class, especially in the context of the United States. The debate challenges conventional reductive understandings of both race and class and is grounded in the basic historical materialist assumptions that race and class are dialectically and closely related in the actual history of US capitalism and that race and racism have both served as an essential tool for the production and reproduction of capitalist class relations and capitalism. What can we learn from this timely debate? What does it have to say about race and class today? And how do we update it to understand what's going at the current historical conjuncture of capitalism?

Registration is available online and on site at the conference.