Havana is Cuba’s soul: a mix of Third World, First World, and Other World. Spanning a decade of visits as a teacher, researcher, and friend, Karen Dubinsky looks past political slogans and tourist postcards to the streets, neighbourhoods, and personalities of a complicated and contradictory city. Affectionate, humorous vignettes illustrate how Havana’s residents—old Communist ladies, their sceptical offspring, underground vendors, entrepreneurial landlords, and poverty-stricken professors—go about their daily lives. This book is a compendium of conversations with Cuban people rather than politicians.

As Cuba undergoes dramatic change, there is much to appreciate and learn in the unlikely world Cubans have collectively built for themselves.

Karen Dubinsky started visiting Cuba in 1978, and has lived in Havana intermittently since 2004. She is a professor in the Department of Global Development Studies at Queen’s University and co-teaches a course in Havana for Queen’s students. She is the author of The Second Greatest Disappointment: Honeymooning and Tourism at Niagara Falls.

Cuba beyond the Beach is one of those books that should be devoured by everyone interested in that mysterious island, and anyone else who simply enjoys a great read.

– Margaret Randall, author of Che on My Mind and Only the Road/Solo El Camino: Eight Decades of Cuban Poetry

Dubinsky’s realistic sense of humour lets her see a Havana that re-evolutionizes, re-invents, and re-circulates everyone in the underground studio of our daily life.

– Telmary, Hip-hop artist, singer, spoken word poet, Havana

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September 2016
International Studies | Sociology | Current Affairs | Latin American Studies
SHOWDOWN!
Making Modern Unions
ROB KRISTOFFERSON AND SIMON ORPANA

SEVENTY YEARS AGO, thousands of North American workers took a stand for a better life. And they won. In 1946, in the United States, over a million workers in the steel, meatpacking, and electrical industries put down their tools and walked out; and striking Canadian workers tied up provincial rubber and logging industries, the Southam newspaper chain, central Canadian ports, and the national steel industry. Workers in Hamilton, Ontario hoisted picket signs at Westinghouse, Firestone, Stelco, and the Hamilton Spectator, and with the support of rallying friends and neighbours, turned the strikes into a community-wide struggle for decency, respect, and security.

Based on interviews and other archival materials, this graphic history illustrates how Hamilton workers translated their experience of work and organizing in the 1930s and early 1940s into a new kind of unionism and a new North American society in the decades following World War II.

Rob Kristofferson is Associate Professor at Wilfrid Laurier University, where he teaches courses on labour, social justice, and history. He is the author of Craft Capitalism: Craftsworkers and Early Industrialization in Hamilton Ontario. Simon Orpana is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Alberta researching the rise of the zombie in popular film and television as a response to neoliberal austerity and finance capitalism.
Queer Progress: From Homophobia to Homonationalism
TIM McCASKELL

How did a social movement evolve from a small group of young radicals to the incorporation of LGBTQ communities into full citizenship in the model of Canadian multiculturalism?

Tim McCaskell contextualizes his work in gay, queer, and AIDS activism in Toronto from 1974 to 2014 within the shift from the Keynesian welfare state of the 1970s to the neoliberal economy of the new millennium. A shift that saw sexuality—once tightly regulated by conservative institutions—become an economic driver of late capitalism, and sexual minorities celebrated as a niche market. But even as it promoted legal equality, this shift increased disparity and social inequality. Today, the glue of sexual identity strains to hold together a community ever more fractured along lines of class, race, ethnicity, and gender; the celebration of LGBTQ inclusion pinkwashes injustice at home and abroad. Queer Progress tries to make sense of this transformation by narrating the complexities and contradictions of forty years of queer politics in Canada’s largest city.

From 1974 to 1986 Tim McCaskell was a member of the collective that ran The Body Politic, Canada’s iconic gay liberation journal. He was a founding member of AIDS ACTION NOW!, and a spokesperson for Queers Against Israeli Apartheid. He is the author of Race to Equity: Disrupting Educational Inequality.
The Vimy Trap
or, How We Learned To Stop Worrying and Love the Great War
IAN MCKAY AND JAMIE SWIFT

THE STORY OF THE bloody 1917 Battle of Vimy Ridge is, according to many of today’s tellings, a heroic founding moment for Canada. This noble, birth-of-a-nation narrative is regularly applied to the Great War in general. Yet this mythical tale is rather new. “Vimyism”—today’s official story of glorious, martial patriotism—contrasts sharply with the complex ways in which veterans, artists, clerics, and even politicians who had supported the war interpreted its meaning over the decades.

Was the Great War a futile imperial debacle? A proud, nation-building milestone? Contending Great War memories have helped to shape how later wars were imagined. The Vimy Trap provides a powerful probe of commemoration cultures. This subtle, fast-paced work of public history—combining scholarly insight with sharp-eyed journalism, and based on primary sources and school textbooks, battlefield visits, and war art—explains both how and why peace and war remain contested terrain in ever-changing landscapes of Canadian memory.

Ian McKay is the L.R. Wilson Chair in Canadian History at McMaster University. Jamie Swift lectures at the Smith School of Business at Queen’s University. Together they are the authors of Warrior Nation: Rebranding Canada in an Age of Anxiety.

An essential antidote to “Vimyism”!
The Fired Up Series

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE tired of being portrayed as apathetic and self-interested. Unhappy with the future they are set to inherit, many of them want to know more about what needs to change.

The new Fired Up series provides short introductions to activist issues. Each small book explores the basics of the subject and offers readers reasons to get fired up and take action.

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Fired Up about Capitalism
TOM MALLESON

THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE to free-market capitalism. At least that’s what we’ve been told since the 1980s, when Margaret Thatcher first declared the debate over. Politicians daily declare it, journalists parrot it, talk show hosts acquiesce to it, rich people gloat about it, and regular people simply assume it.

Fired Up about Capitalism forcefully argues that this is nothing but a myth. Malleson exposes the reality of contemporary capitalism—from the widening inequality between the 1% and the rest of society, to ecological devastation—and demonstrates that in fact there are many alternatives. By demonstrating a wide range of examples of alternatives from around the world, from the short-term and practical to the long-term and ambitious, Malleson shows that replacing contemporary capitalism is not pie-in-the-sky utopian thinking, but a real possibility as long as enough of us stand up to injustice and insist that a better world is possible.

Tom Malleson is Assistant Professor in the Social Justice and Peace Studies program at King’s University College at Western University. He is a long-time anti-authoritarian activist and organizer and has worked with migrant justice, anti-poverty, global justice, anti-war, and solidarity economy groups. He is co-editor of Whose Streets: The Toronto G20 and the Challenges of Summit Protest.
Serial Girls
From Barbie to Pussy Riot

MARTINE DELVAUX • TRANSLATED BY SUSANNE DE LOTBINIÈRE-HARWOOD

EVERYWHERE YOU look patriarchal society reduces women to a series of repeating symbols: serial girls.

On TV and in film, on the internet and in magazines, pop culture and ancient architecture, serial girls are all around us, moving in perfect synch—as dolls, as dancers, as statues. From Tiller Girls to Barbie dolls, Playboy bunnies to Pussy Riot, Martine Delvaux produces a provocative analysis of the many gendered assumptions that underlie modern culture. Inspired by Italian artist Vanessa Beecroft, Delvaux draws on the works of Barthes, Foucault, de Beauvoir, Woolf, and more to argue that serial girls are not just the ubiquitous symbols of patriarchal domination but also offer the possibility of liberation.

Martine Delvaux is a professor of literature at the Université du Québec à Montréal, specializing in feminist theory, and is the author of four novels, including The Last Bullet is for You.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the National Translation Program for Book Publishing, an initiative of the Roadmap for Canada’s Official Languages 2013–2018: Education, Immigration, Communities, for our translation activities.
The story of the resistance and activism of Toronto’s dispossessed

Toronto’s Poor
A Rebellious History
BRYAN D. PALMER AND GAËTAN HÉROUX • FOREWORD BY FRANCES FOX PIVEN

Toronto’s Poor should become the starting point for teaching and writing about the history of anti-poverty mobilization in Canada for years to come.
– JAMES STRUTHERS, Professor Emeritus, Trent University

Toronto’s Poor reveals the long and too often forgotten history of poor people’s resistance. It details how the homeless, the unemployed, and the destitute have struggled to survive and secure food and shelter in the wake of the many panics, downturns, recessions, and depressions that punctuate the years from the 1830s to the present.

Written by a historian of the working-class and a poor people’s activist, this is a rebellious book that links past and present in an almost two-hundred-year story of struggle and resistance. It is about men, women, and children relegated to lives of desperation by an uncaring system, and how they have refused to be defeated. In that refusal, and in winning better conditions for themselves, Toronto’s poor created the possibility of a new kind of society, one ordered not by acquisition and individual advance, but by the appreciation of collective rights and responsibilities.

Bryan D. Palmer was the Trent University Canada Research Chair (2001–2015), and currently chairs the Department of Canadian Studies. Gaétan Héroux is a long time anti-poverty activist with the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty.

This book is important because the authors have a clear and illuminating understanding that the hardship and humiliations imposed on the poor meshes with the deteriorating life circumstances of the mass of working people.
– FRANCES FOX PIVEN, author of Challenging Authority: How Ordinary People Change America

This book has been published with the help of a grant from the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, through the Awards to Scholarly Publications Program, using funds provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

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History | Social Movements | Canadian Studies
Can technology make a more just world possible?

The Bleeding Edge
Why Technology Turns Toxic in an Unequal World

BOB HUGHES

UNDER CAPITALISM we are led to believe in the steady, inevitable march of progress, from the abacus to the iPad. But the historical record tells of innumerable roads not taken, all of which could have led to better worlds, and still can. Bob Hughes argues that prioritizing equality would develop superior and more diverse technologies, which would lead to a richer, more sustainable world.

Hughes shows that every major development in the computer’s history arose from voluntary initiative or public funding rather than corporate research. The historical evidence suggests that innovation and creativity thrive in egalitarian settings and are stifled by competition—and the hijacking of the computer by capitalism is taking humanity down the wrong road.

Bob Hughes is an academic, activist, and author, and has taught electronic media at Oxford Brookes University. He is the author of Dust or Magic, a book for digital multimedia workers, about how people “do good stuff with computers.” He is a member of No One is Illegal.

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Portraits of Violence
Ten Thinkers on Violence: A Visual Exploration
BRAD EVANS AND SEAN MICHAEL WILSON; ILLUSTRATED BY CARL THOMPSON, ROBERT BROWN, MIKE MEDAGLIA, AND CHRIS MACKENZIE

BRINGING TOGETHER established academics and award-winning comic book writers and illustrators, Portraits of Violence illustrates the most compelling ideas and episodes in the critique of violence. Hannah Arendt, Franz Fanon, Jacques Derrida, Edward Said, Paolo Freire, Michel Foucault, Susan Sontag, Noam Chomsky, Judith Butler, and Giorgio Agamben—each have ten pages to tell their story in this innovative graphic title.

Brad Evans is a political philosopher, critical theorist, and writer, whose work focuses on the question of violence. The author of some ten books and edited volumes, along with over forty academic and media articles, he currently serves as a senior lecturer at the School of Sociology, Politics & International Studies, at the University of Bristol.

Sean Michael Wilson is an award-winning comic book writer from Scotland, who now lives in Japan. He is the editor of the critically acclaimed collection Ax: Alternative Manga (one of Publishers Weekly’s best ten books of 2010). He is the lead author of Fight the Power and Goodbye God?

On the ethics of violence—where do you draw the line?
The Great Climate Robbery
How the food system drives climate change and what we can do about it

GRAIN, EDITED BY HENK HOBBELINK

This book lifts up the voices of Indigenous and peasant farmers around the world, comprehensively explaining why their fight to stop the industrial food juggernaut is the same as the fight for a habitable, just planet.

– NAOMI KLEIN

THE GREAT CLIMATE ROBBERY connects analysis of the food system to larger issues affecting the planet, and links peoples’ struggles over food to climate change. This book will help readers to understand the ways in which corporations control the food system and provide the analysis needed to challenge this control.

GRAIN is an international non-profit organization that works to support small farmers and social movements in their struggles for community-controlled and biodiversity-based food systems. Their support takes the form of independent research and analysis, networking at local, regional, and international levels, and fostering new forms of cooperation and alliance-building. Most of GRAIN’s work is oriented towards, and carried out in, Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Henk Hobbelink is an agronomist and member of the GRAIN collective.

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Dr. Adam Unwin is Senior Lecturer in Business and Economics Education at University College London Institute of Education. John Yandell is Senior Lecturer in Education at University College London Institute of Education.

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