THE POLITICS OF INDUSTRIAL CLOSURE
DEPOT ANNUAL CONFERENCE
22-24 JUNE 2023
SYDNEY, NOVA SCOTIA
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

DePOT’s 2023 Summer Institute, Project Assembly, and Conference will take place in Mi’kma’ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq People.

This territory is covered by the Treaties of Peace and Friendship which Mi’kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) People first signed with the British Crown in 1725.

The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources; they recognized Mi’kmaq and Wolastoqiyik title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

The Treaties of Peace and Friendship currently reside in the provincial Nova Scotia Archives, and the original scans and transcripts can be read online: [http://bit.ly/3YrCcYb](http://bit.ly/3YrCcYb)

Cape Breton University’s Mi’kmaw Resource Guide, which includes timelines and information on Mi’kmaw history and the impact of Canadian settler colonialism, can be found here: [http://bit.ly/3HC0itA](http://bit.ly/3HC0itA)
Preliminary Program and Info Package

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REGISTRATION


When you register, you will be given the option to register for the entire conference or for parts of it. If you have any dietary restrictions, you can let us know while registering.

The deadline to register for the conference on Eventbrite is May 15 to facilitate organizing. If you would like to register after May 15, please email us at deindustrialization@concordia.ca. We encourage community walk-ins with or without tickets!

Students will receive information on how to register for the Summer Institute shortly through the Student & Postdoc Caucus.

If you have any questions about your registration or need to modify it, please write to deindustrialization@concordia.ca.
SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Deindustrialization and Life-Writing Summer Institute, DePOT Summer Institute, DePOT Project Assembly, Conference


June 19: Fritz-Hüser-Institut für Literatur und Kultur der Arbeitswelt Life Writing Workshop, Eltuek Center

June 20: Last day of the Fritz-Hüser-Institut für Literatur und Kultur der Arbeitswelt Life Writing Workshop, Eltuek Center

June 21: Summer Institute for DePOT Student and Postdoc affiliates, location to be announced

June 22: Morning: Summer Institute
Afternoon: Project Assembly & Research Initiatives Meetings
Walking tour of former Sydney steel mill site and adjoining neighbourhood
Evening: Annual J.B. McLachlan Memorial Lecture, location in Sydney to be announced

June 23: Organized transportation from downtown Sydney to Cape Breton University Conference “The Politics of Industrial Closure,” Cape Breton University

June 24: Organized transportation from downtown Sydney to Cape Breton University Conference “The Politics of Industrial Closure,” Cape Breton University
Life-writing and Deindustrialization Workshop
Eltuek Center, Sydney, Nova Scotia
June 18-20, 2023

Program forthcoming.

Space for the workshop is limited, and applications to the workshop are due December 19, 2022. See the call for papers in English, French or German for more information: http://bit.ly/3WdlWs0

DePOT Summer Institute
The Spatial Politics of Deindustrialization: Belonging, Settler Colonialism, and Migration
Location forthcoming
June 21-22, 2023

Program and call for papers, workshops, and peer workshop sessions forthcoming.

2023 DePOT Annual Assembly
Location and information on organized transportation forthcoming

THURSDAY, JUNE 22

13h00 – 15h00 PROJECT ASSEMBLY AND INITIATIVE MEETINGS

15h00 – BUS TRANSFER TO SYDNEY FOR WALKING TOURS
THE POLITICS OF INDUSTRIAL CLOSURE

Deindustrialization & the Politics of Our Time (DePOT) Conference
Sydney, Nova Scotia, 23-24 June 2023

The DePOT Politics of Industrial Closure conference will focus primarily on the “how” and “why” of mine, mill and factory closings, the wider restructuring of the international division of labour, as well as the societal debates about the nature of economic change. Political economy concerns are therefore central as are studies focusing on working-class resistance, concession, and loss. We are also interested in the beginnings of industrial heritage recognition as well as arts-based responses to industrial closure.

THURSDAY JUNE 22

15h30 – WALKING TOUR OF FORMER SYDNEY STEEL MILL AND ADJOINING NEIGHBOURHOODS

19h00 – ANNUAL J.B. MCLACHLAN MEMORIAL LECTURE
Lachlan MacKinnon, Cape Breton University, “‘Cape Breton Bolshevism’: The Workers’ Movement from J.B. McLachlan to the 1981 Strike in Coal”
Introduced by Fred Burrill, Cape Breton University

FRIDAY JUNE 23
Cape Breton University, 1250 Grand Lake Road, Nova Scotia (Rooms TBA)

BUS TRANSFER FROM DOWNTOWN SYDNEY, more information forthcoming

8h30 – 9h30 KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Introduced by Jackie Clarke, University of Glasgow

9h30 – 10h00 COFFEE BREAK

10h00 – 11h30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

*Session 1A: Artistic Responses to Industrial Closure (Room A, TBA)*
Chairperson: Jana Golombek, Westphalian State Museum of Industrial Heritage
  1. Keith Gildart, University of Wolverhampton, Coal, “Soul and Deindustrialisation in England and Wales.”
  2. Louise Miskell, Swansea University, “Representing Resistance: arts-based responses to steelworks closure in the English Midlands.”
  3. Èlia Casals-Alsina, Universitat de Lleida; Juliette Passilly, Université du Québec à Montréal; and Constanze von Wrangel, Ruhr University-Bochum. “When artists took

DéPOT  Info package and preliminary program—December 2022
over: cross-national consideration of the importance of artists in the process of industrial closure.”

**Session 1B: Coal, Closure and Dispossession (Room B, TBA)**
Chairperson: Lucie Morisset, Université du Québec à Montréal
1. Michael Bianchi, University of Liege, “Ground Values—from the extraction of mining resources to the capture of land capital, a critical geography of the Charleroi region.”
2. Magdalena Novoa, University of Illinois, “‘We were replaced by pines’: Dispossession, displacement and the colonial wound in Pilpilco’s coal plant closure.”

11h30 – 12h30 LUNCH

12h30 – 14h00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**Session 2A: Politics of Industrial Heritage (Room A, TBA)**
Chairperson : Rebecca Dolgoy, Ingenium
2. Myriam Guillemette, Université du Québec à Montréal. « Analyse du phénomène des Sundown Towns à l’intérieur des villes planifiées canadiennes et mise en patrimoine de la contribution des travailleurs minoritaires. »

**Session 2B: Geographies of Deindustrialization (Room B, TBA)**
Chairperson: Sean O’Connell, Queen’s University-Belfast
1. Dimitry Anastakis, University of Toronto, and Fred Burrill, Cape Breton University, “Explaining Industrial Closures.”
2. Marion Fontaine, Sciences Po (Paris); Gilda Zazzara, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice; and Steven High, Concordia University. “Regional Deindustrialization.”
3. Wen Xie, Peking University, “Deindustrialization, the State, and Post-industrial Urbanism in the Chinese Rust Belt.”
4. Stefan Backius, Karlstad University, and Steven High, Concordia University. “The Deindustrializing Countryside in Sweden and Canada.”
14h00 – 14h30 COFFEE BREAK

14h30 – 16h00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session 3A: Beyond the Heartlands (Room A, TBA)
Chairperson: Hilary Orange, Swansea University
1. Ryan T. MacNeil, Acadia University, “Critical sensemaking and deindustrialization in Grand Falls-Windsor, Newfoundland.”
2. Amanda Whitt, Concordia University, “They Cared More About those Damn Owls Than They Did About My Family’: Narratives and Memory from Pacific Northwest Logging’s Waning Years and the Women who Worked Through Them.”
3. Laurent Sauvage, UQAM, « Patrimoine de la pêche et développement local : le cas de la Vielle Usine de l’Anse-à-Beaufils en Gaspésie. »
4. Katherine Watson, Swansea University, “Disentangling the Nets: The Historical Emergence of Fishing Heritage in South Wales.”

Session 3B: Negotiating Job Security (Room B, TBA)
Chairperson: Magdalena Novoa, University of Illinois
2. Dimitry Anastakis, University of Toronto and Steven High, Concordia University. “Collective Bargaining for Job Security and New Capital Investment in North America.”
3. Manuela Vinai, University of Turin, “Factory dismantling, job loss, and trade union disrepute in the Biella region.”
4. Stefan Moitra, German Mining Museum; Marion Fontaine, Sciences Po (Paris); Andrew Perchard, Scottish Oral History Centre; Lachlan Mackinnon, Cape Breton University; and Stefan Backius, Karlstad University. “Protesting Mine, Mill and Factory Closures.”

16h00 – 16h15 BREAK

16h15 – 17h15 DePOT 2022-2023 Artists in Residence Plenary (Room A, TBA)
Introduced by Petra Dolata, University of Calgary.
Russell Gendron (Canada) on The Mill, a multimedia investigation into sawmill culture and closures in Sḵwx̱wú7mesh territory (Squamish, British Columbia).
Francesca Marconi (Italy) on Manifesto al Presente, a project that works with the archives of the Istituto per la Storia dell’Età Contemporanea to put into dialogue workers living in situations of fragility and isolation and others differently marginalised.

17h30 – CBU Reception & Book Launch (Atrium, Cape Breton University)
Celebrating New Books and Special Issues:


Special thanks to Cape Breton University for hosting this reception.

SUNDAY, JUNE 24
Cape Breton University, 1250 Grand Lake Road, Grand Lake Road, Nova Scotia (Rooms TBA)

BUS TRANSFER FROM DOWNTOWN SYDNEY, more information forthcoming

8h30 – 9h30 KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Angelo DiCaro, Research Director, Unifor trade union, title forthcoming

9h30 – 10h00 COFFEE BREAK

10h00 – 11h30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session 4A [ROUNDTABLE] DePOT Curating Stories and Objects (Room A, TBA)
Chairperson: TBA

Emily Gann and Rebecca Dolgoy, Ingenium; Stefan Moitra, Michael Farrenkopf, and Stefan Siemer, Deutsches Bergbau-Museum; and Dimitry Anastakis, University of Toronto.

Session 4B: Making and Unmaking (Room B, TBA)
Chairperson: Arthur McIvor, Strathclyde University
1. Fred Burrill, Cape Breton University, “Boom and Bust: A Business History of Mactara Limited, Nova Scotia.”
3. Greg Wilson, University of Akron, and Steven High, Concordia University. “Worker Ownership in North America: The Cases of Weirton Steel (West Virginia) and Algoma Steel (Ontario).”
4. Piyusha Chatterjee, Concordia University, “Making and Remaking of Durgapur: The Case of Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation.”
5. Indranil Chakraborty, Concordia University, Eliot Perrin, Concordia University; and Maria Beatriz Andreotti, University of São Paulo. “From Welfarism to Precarity at Bata Shoes in Canada, India, and Brazil.”

Note: one of these papers will be moved to fill any gaps in the programme.

11h30 – 12h15 LUNCH
12h15 - 13h45 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**Session 5A: Working-Class Loss, Change, and Transition (Room A, TBA)**
Chairperson: Iuditha Balint, Fritz-Hüser-Institut
1. Tim Strangleman, University of Kent. “Experiencing the End of the Line: Reflections on worker attitudes to loss and change.”
2. Rebekah Chatellier, University of Strathclyde; Lauren Laframboise, Concordia University; and Naomi Petropoulos, Queen’s University Belfast. “Deindustrialization and the North Atlantic Textile Industry: Gender and the Struggle for Survival in a Globalising Economy.”
4. Brandon Webb, Concordia University, “Creative Destruction’ and Creative Work: A Cultural and Labour History of the Transition from Print to Digital Media.”
5. Petra Dolata, University of Calgary, “Industrial Closure and the Politics of Energy Transitions.”

*Note: one of these papers will be moved to fill any gaps in the programme.*

**Session 5B: Save Our Steel (Room B, TBA)**
Chairperson: Jackie Clarke, University of Glasgow
1. Pascal Raggi, Université de Lorraine; Pierre Toussenot, Université de Lorraine; and Lachlan MacKinnon, Cape Breton University. “Save Our Steel in France and Canada.”
2. Christoffer Holm, Åbo Akademi University, Finland. “A monument, ‘a depressing carcass’ or a clean slate? Finnish steelworkers’ view on alternative roads after industrial closure in the 21st century.”
3. Théo Georget, l'Université de Lorraine. "La négociation collective par « l’action coup de poing », une réponse populaire à la désindustrialisation dans le bassin de Longwy."
4. Indranil Chakraborty, Concordia University, “Transnational restructuring of the Indian Steel companies: Journey to Global North.”

13h45 – 14h15 COFFEE BREAK

14h15 – 15h45 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**Session 6A: Populism and the Left (Room A, TBA)**
Chairperson: Xavier Vigna, l'Université Paris Nanterre
1. Stefan Berger, Ruhr University-Bochum; Marion Fontaine, Sciences Po (Paris); James Rhodes, Hiram College; and James Pattison. “Populism & Deindustrialized Areas.”
2. Gabriela Julio Medel, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, “Lost in transition? Deindustrialization in Sesto San Giovanni and Porto Marghera between employment, environment, and migrations”
3. Stefan Berger, Ruhr University-Bochum; Greg Wilson, University of Akron; Keith Gildart, University of Wolverhampton; Lachlan Mackinnon, Cape Breton University; and Pascal Raggi, Université de Lorraine. “State Management of Industrial Decline.”

4. Steven High and Indranil Chakraborty, Concordia University. “The Failure of the Left in Deindustrializing Canada and India.”

**Session 6B [ROUNDTABLE] The Politics of Response: Cultural Representations as Critique (Room B, TBA)**

Chairperson: Sherry Lee Linkon, Georgetown University

Peter Thompson, Carleton University; Piyusha Chatterjee, Concordia University; Helen Wagner, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg.

15h45 – 16h00 BREAK

**Session 7A: The Left Behind and Precarity (Room B, TBA)**

Chairperson: Tim Strangleman, University of Kent

1. Fred Burrill, Cape Breton University and Steven High, Concordia University, “The Left Behind as Lumpen: Surplus Populations in Deindustrializing Areas”


4. Kacper LEŚNIEWSKI, SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw/Chemnitz University of Technology, “Symbolic Boundaries of Working Class & Middle Class and neoliberal discourse in a post-industrial city in Poland.”

**Session 7B [ROUNDTABLE] De-Mystifying Transnational Approaches to Deindustrialization (Room A, TBA)**

Chairperson: Lauren Laframboise, Concordia University

Amber Ward, University of St. Andrews; Petra Dolata, University of Calgary; Indranil Chakraborty, Concordia University; Stefan Backius, Karlstad University; Magdalena Novoa, University of Illinois.
LOCATIONS

View all locations on Google Maps here: http://bit.ly/3BYJVUI

1. Eltuek Arts Centre
170 George Street, Sydney, Nova Scotia

Eltuek Arts Centre is a renovated convent that has served as an arts center and creativity hub since 2020. The Centre hosts space for larger arts organization, meeting and presentation spaces, a café and community kitchen, and private studio spaces for local artists and artist collectives. Read more: https://eltuek.com/

2. Cape Breton University
1250 Grand Lake Rd, Grand Lake Road, Nova Scotia

Cape Breton University (CBU), one of DePOT's partner institutions, is the only university on Cape Breton Island.

ACCOMMODATIONS

For the duration of the program, blocks of 30 hotel rooms reserved for attendees of the DePOT Annual Meetings at the following hotels. Attendees are responsible for booking their own accommodations at these hotels. If you need support while booking, email gabrielle.mclaren@concordia.ca.

We are working on booking dorm rooms at Cape Breton University to provide more affordable, on-campus accommodation to students. These rooms will be approximatively $60 a night; more information is forthcoming.

1. Cambridge Suites, 380 Esplanade, Sydney, NS B1P 1B1
   (https://www.cambridgesuitessydney.com/), Conference rate $145.00 + taxes /night
   - 10-minute walk to the Eltuek Arts Centre
   - Will be close to public transit and organized transportation to Summer Institute, Project Assembly (June 21-22) and Conference (June 23-24)
   - Breakfast is not included at the Cambridge Suites
   - For reservations: Please call 1-800-565-9466 and request a room in the block using the Group Code: CBU – DEPOT 2023 Conference. Reservations must be made by May 19, 2023 to get the listed rate. If you are outside of North America, email booksydney@cambridgesuiteshotel.com.

2. Holiday Inn, 300 Esplanade, Sydney, NS B1P 1A7
   (https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/sydney/yqyhi/hoteldetail), Conference rate $159.00 + taxes /night
   - 12-minute walk to the Eltuek Arts Centre
• Will be close to public transit and organized transportation to Summer Institute, Project Assembly (June 21-22) and Conference (June 23-24)
• Breakfast is not included at the Holiday Inn
• For reservations: Please call 1-902-562-7500 and request one of the rooms in the block using the group code: DEPOT 2023. **Reservations must be made by 18 May 2023 to get the listed rate.** If you are outside of North America, email gs@hisydney.ca.

Both hotels are in Sydney’s waterfront district and within walking-distance from many restaurants and attractions—including the Joan Harriss Cruise Pavilion, where you can find the “Big Fiddle,” the Cape Breton Exhibition Centre, and other shops.

Both hotels are a 20-minute drive from the airport. While there is a bus into Sydney (route 1), there is a thirty-minute walk involved to reach the bus stop.

**GETTING TO SYDNEY**

**Travel Requirements in Canada**
If you are not a Canadian citizen, make sure to find out what entry requirements you may have to travel in Canada (ie: visas, electronic transit authorizations...) by visiting this page: [https://ircc.canada.ca/english/visit/visas.asp](https://ircc.canada.ca/english/visit/visas.asp)

Read more about eTAs here: [https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/eta/facts.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/eta/facts.html)

**Flights**
Sydney’s airport ([JA Douglas McCurdy Sydney Airport, YQY](https://www.yqy.ca)) is a regional airport. Travellers from outside of Canada will need to take a flight to Montreal, Toronto, or Halifax and then take a connecting flight to Sydney.

Please note that SYD is Sydney, Australia’s international airport.

[Nova Scotia’s tourism authority](https://www.gov.ns.ca/tourism) has some recommendations for international travelers, but Air Canada is the only airline that currently services Sydney.

**Driving and Bus Transportation**
Sydney is a 5–6-hour drive from Halifax (Nova Scotia’s provincial capital). There are no rail options to travel to Sydney.

Maritime Bus runs a daily bus service from the Halifax Airport to Sydney (the downtown Sydney stop is called Hippy Hemp). Currently, the bus is scheduled to leave Halifax Airport at 3:50 PM and arrive in Sydney at 9:35 PM. You can consult their schedule and fares here: [https://maritimebus.com/en/plan-your-trip/planning-schedules](https://maritimebus.com/en/plan-your-trip/planning-schedules)
Car rental services are available at both the Sydney and Halifax airports. You need to be 21+ to rent a car in Canada, and may have to pay a young driver’s fee if you are under 25 years old. If your driver’s license is not in English or French, check in with the rental company to make sure that they will accept your license.

Renting a car from the Halifax airport: https://halifaxstanfield.ca/parking-transport/rental-cars/

Renting a car from the Sydney airport: http://www.sydneyairport.ca/transportation/car-rental

GETTING AROUND SYDNEY

Food & Drinks
We’ve indicated which meals will be provided directly in the program. If you have any dietary restrictions, be sure to let us know while registering on Eventbrite. If you need to change your answers, please email deindustrialization@concordia.ca

Downtown Sydney, where accommodations will be based for the conference, has a variety of dining options—including restaurants at both hotels. Here are just a few options within walking distance of both hotels, with price ranges as reported on Yelp:

- Selkie’s Neighbourhood Diner ($)
- Governor’s Pub Eatery ($ - $$)
- The Old Triangle Irish Alehouse ($$)
- 7by7 Restaurant ($$-$ $$) *7by7 has a vegan menu
- Flavor On the Water ($$ - $$)$

Places near the hotel to pick up breakfast include:
- Doktor Luke’s, 3–5-minute walk from hotels, ($)
- Tim Hortons, 7-minute walk from hotels, 479 George St, ($)

Public Transportation
Public transit in Sydney is provided by Transit Cape Breton, whose schedules can be looked up here: https://www.cbrm.ns.ca/transit

The #1 bus route goes from Sydney’s waterfront district to Glace Bay with a stop at Cape Breton University (the journey there is around 30 minutes). Depending on the day of the week, the bus runs every 30 minutes, every hour, or a few times per day.

Organized Transportation Schedule: TBA
More information is forthcoming regarding the organized transportation provided for Summer Institute, Project Assembly, and conference attendees.
FUNDING POLICY

DePOT project members are entitled to receive up to $1,500 CAD in travel funding to attend the yearly DePOT project assemblies.

To help alleviate the financial burden of booking travel & accommodations, students, postdocs, and precariously employed project members will receive their travel funding in advance of June 2023.

If you are not a student or postdoc and need your funding paid out in advance, send an email to Gabrielle (gabrielle.mclaren@concordia.ca) along with a receipt showing that you have booked a flight or hotel to confirm your presence in Sydney.

For faculty members & project partners, travel funding will be paid out as reimbursements for direct expenditures after the Annual Meetings.

Please be sure to keep receipts for flights, taxis, hotels, and meals in addition to your boarding passes (digital or printed) so that we can process your refund through Concordia University.

COVID POLICY

At the time of planning, COVID-19 policy in Canada is relaxed. Cape Breton University, our host institution, also does not have any COVID-related mandates in place.

In case the COVID rules will be more restrictive by June 2023, it will be useful for participants to have proof of their vaccination status, not just to travel to Canada but also in case of potential changes to the respective policies of our host locations.

General information for international travelers to Canada concerning COVID-19 can be found here: https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid

The province of Nova Scotia’s COVID-19 information page can be found here: https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A very special thank you to all our regional partners and organizers for making the 2022 DePOT Annual Meetings possible:

Partner Organizations & Host institutions
Cape Breton University, Fritz-Hüser-Institut

Organizing Committee
Lachlan MacKinnon (chair), Steven High, Rebecca Dolgoy

Summer Institute Organizing Committee
Eliot Perrin, Gabrielle McLaren, Sophia Richter, and William Gillies
