



CALL FOR PROPOSALS FROM DePOT AFFILIATES

Theory, Practice, Approach? Deindustrialization Studies in Transnational Perspective

RVR-LWL Summer Institute

May 9-10, 2022

Deindustrialization and the Politics of Our Time (DePOT) is pleased to announce a call for proposals for our inaugural Summer Institute. This two-day event will preface the larger open conference “Transnationalizing Deindustrialization Studies”, offering affiliated emerging scholars (graduate students, recent graduates, and early-career scholars) the opportunity to present their work, exchange ideas, and receive constructive feedback from other members of the DePOT network in a smaller supportive environment. Affiliates are invited to submit proposals for workshops, roundtables, and open-style discussion sessions, as well as individual research papers to be presented in small group sessions. This year’s Summer Institute will be held at the [Henrichschütte Iron and Steel Works](#) industrial history museum in Hattingen, located in the Ruhr district of West Germany. The event is a collaboration between DePOT and two of its partner institutions based in the Ruhr Valley: the Regionalverband Ruhr ([RVR](#)) and the Westphalian State Museum of Industrial Heritage ([LWL-Industriemuseum](#)).

Theory, Practice, Approach? Deindustrialization Studies in Transnational Perspective is the title and main theme of the symposium. We invite participants to engage with what it means to approach the study of deindustrialization from a transnational perspective. We welcome proposals that attempt to explicate or define what a transnational perspective on deindustrialization looks like from a theoretical and practical standpoint. Even though the Summer Institute theme encourages transnational thinking, projects that are local in their framing are also very much welcome, and will be brought into conversation with one another. As one of the goals of the Summer Institute is to begin to establish common parameters of transnational deindustrialization studies to support future research, you are encouraged to be bold and imaginative in how you explore the links between deindustrial processes across borders. To this end, the organizers of the Summer Institute seek participants open to collaboration and iteration as we collectively brainstorm the contours of the transnational study of deindustrialization.

We strongly encourage proposals on works-in-progress, and those that engage with the conference theme in creative ways. In order to facilitate collaboration, the format of the Summer Institute is relatively open: we are particularly interested in proposals that go beyond the traditional paper presentation format, including workshops, roundtables, guided discussions, film screenings, research-creation projects, poster sessions, as well as entire panels. We are also looking to program sessions in French, Italian, German and English, should we receive enough proposals.

DePOT affiliates are welcome to submit proposals that address any of the following questions, or the topic of their choice:

- **Transnational approaches, theory, and methodology:** What makes a study transnational? How do we define this approach? How does the transnational differ from the global or international? Of what use is the “transnational” to the study of deindustrialization? How can we use the transnational study of capitalism, the environment, slavery, racism, gender, and other border-crossing phenomena to deepen our understanding of deindustrialization on a global scale?
- **Oral history practice:** How does the transnational lens intersect with how we conduct oral history? How does one record and archive multi-lingual oral history archives?
- **Decolonizing methodologies, neocolonialism, global capitalism:** How do struggles for Global South labor rights intersect with Global North-led movements, such as #BlackLivesMatter? What are the effects of Global North deindustrialization on the industrializing Global South? What is “premature deindustrialization,” and how does it relate to Global North deindustrialization? How has deindustrialization intersected with race and class in different national contexts? How does deindustrialization fit into the rise of BRIC economies?
- **Industrial Heritage:** How can we understand local and regional industrial heritage within a transnational context? What are some of the key differences in industrial heritage approaches around the world, and what can they tell us?
- **Gender, feminism, LGBTQ+ experiences:** How can women’s, gender diverse, and queer experiences deepen and expand our understanding of deindustrialization? How can feminist and queer theory contribute to a transnational framing of deindustrialization?
- **Environmental legacies of deindustrialization:** How have various approaches to environmental regulation influenced the experience of deindustrialization in different national contexts? How useful are notions of industrial ‘wounds’ or ‘scars’, and how do these traverse national boundaries? How are the environmental legacies of industrialization and deindustrialization experienced differently in the Global North and Global South?

Participants may present their work in a variety of formats, including:

- Presentations,
- Films,
- Artworks,
- Workshops,
- Guided discussions,
- Poster sessions,
- Full panels, etc.

Please submit a title, abstract (300 words), a short CV, and a brief bio (100 words) to deindustrialization@concordia.ca. Also, please specify the format of your contribution. We are accepting proposals written in either French or English. Please indicate which language or languages you would like to present in (French, English, German or Italian). Note that we are only accepting proposals from current DePOT affiliates (students, postdocs, research associates, etc.) at this time. If you have any questions, please email deindustrialization@concordia.ca

The deadline for submissions is October 31, 2021.