

## **Call for Proposals from DePOT Affiliates**

The Spatial Politics of Deindustrialization: Belonging, Settler Colonialism, and Migration

DePOT - Cape Breton University Summer Institute

June 21-22, 2023

### **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> 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>

In the fallout of deindustrialization, working-class communities frequently suffer dispersal, creating stresses for those forced to leave and those who remain behind. The tensions between outmigration and sense of place have been a notable aspect of deindustrialization's history on Cape Breton Island. Connecting with this year's Deindustrialization and the Politics of Our Times conference theme of "The Politics of Industrial Closure," the Summer Institute will be focusing on the spatial aspects of deindustrialization. The annual Institute is a space for showcasing graduate student research projects and provides a smaller, collaborative working environment to build transnational relationships. Presentations may take a variety of forms including workshops, screenings, roundtables, as well as traditional research papers. This June, the Glace Bay Miners Museum will graciously host the second DePOT Summer Institute. The Institute will directly precede the main DePOT conference, hosted by our partner organization Cape Breton University in Sydney, Nova Scotia which participants are encouraged to attend.

The theme of this year's Summer Institute is "The Spatial Politics of Deindustrialization: Belonging, Settler Colonialism, and Migration." Deindustrialization is not simply closure, but also comprises the spatial reorganization of economic, natural, and social life according to the logic of capital accumulation. Dominant ways of framing space are in terms of market mechanisms such as rent, regional wage differences, and transport costs and how they inform the investment and disinvestment decisions that characterize regionally uneven capitalist development. These spatial dimensions are reflected in deindustrialization and exacerbates the geographies of exclusion, dispossession, and colonialism. As these terrains shape the contours of race, class, and gender inequalities, deindustrialization troubles the assumption that capital accumulation can fundamentally remediate these very inequalities. Meanwhile, attachment to

place, the cultural value of land, and the needs of healthy ecosystems often defy capitalist logics. Spatiality in the context of deindustrialization surfaces fundamental tensions around well-being and belonging as well as ‘periphery’ vs. ‘core’ in capitalist systems. Deindustrialization as a spatial process might shutter mines and mills in a region, but the afore-mentioned socio-geographic logics continue to operate unimpeded, like settler colonialism which is very relevant in the North American context. As we welcome participants to Cape Breton we hope to engage the complex relationships between globalized political economic dynamics and local histories.

Please submit a title, abstract (300 words), a short CV, and a brief bio (100 words) to [deindustrialization@concordia.ca](mailto: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](mailto:deindustrialization@concordia.ca). The deadline for submissions is February 28th, 2023.