



Geopolitical
Economy
Research Group

Director's Report

March 2017



CONTENTS

Contents	0
Introducing GERG	1
Highlights of the first two years	2
An international research institution in the heart of canada	3
Publications	5
Special Issues or Symposia in Peer Reviewed Journals on the theme of Geopolitical Economy:	5
Communications	6
2015 conference on the Thirty Years Crisis (TYC)	7
Future conferences	8
International partnerships	9
Creativity and human development	9
Speaker visits and encounters	10
Summer Academy	11
Research partnerships	12
Governance	14
References	15
Acknowledgements	16

INTRODUCING GERG

The Geopolitical Economy Research Group (GERG) was founded on 6 January 2015 at the University of Manitoba. It aimed to be “an influential policy research institute, conducting high quality research and analysis dealing with nations and their relation to the world economy” which would “critically analyse, and propose, policy alternatives for managing the interaction of national economies and states to promote human development and mutual benefit in today’s multipolar world.”

GERG was the initiative of its founding directors, Radhika Desai and Alan Freeman, and was supported by the Faculty of Arts and colleagues across the Faculty of Arts and other faculties. In line with the University’s mission to “create, preserve, communicate and apply knowledge, contributing to the cultural, social and economic well-being of the people of Manitoba, Canada and the world,” GERG aims to become a sustainable, collegiate and self-governed institution. Its work is directed at developing new, evidence-based understandings of the modern nation-state in an emerging multipolar world, establishing a rigorous basis for practical policies to realise the economic and technological potential of human creativity.

We are pleased present this, our first report, which summarises what has been achieved in our first two years. The date of our founding precedes the end of the 2014-2015 financial year, and for this reason, this report covers the two periods starting April 1st 2015, but includes background information before that.

A separate strategy consultation document, ‘Strategic Options for GERG’, provides a roadmap for the following five years, with the aim of establishing GERG as a permanent feature of Manitoba’s research and teaching landscape. Manitoba’s diverse communities, its historic place as a meeting point and its proud history of struggle, convince us that this is a desirable and achievable goal.

Financial reports for the two years covered by this report will be published separately.



Radhika Desai, Director

30 March 2017

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST TWO YEARS



2015 saw GERG's inaugural conference, attended by 97 delegates from 28 countries, and attracting an enthusiastic team of 48 volunteers. The conference theme, testifying to GERG's unifying international and historical approach, was 'From the Thirty Years' Crisis to Multipolarity: the Geopolitical Economy of the 21st Century World'.

GERG's new book series with Manchester University Press

successfully capped a four-year record of editorial activity. So far, this work has yielded eight volumes: GERG's founding text *Geopolitical Economy*, and three other books were published the 'Future of World Capitalism' book series with Pluto Press, London. There were three edited journal special issues, a symposium on geopolitical economy and an edited journal special issue on Ukraine and Russia and one on the history of economic thought. GERG's September 2017 conference has been endorsed by eight peer-reviewed journals who will publish selected papers from the conference.

Partnership is the cornerstone of GERG's work. Our website, mailing list and Facebook pages reach nearly four thousand direct contacts and will be extended to provide an outlet for our books, and a forum for scholarly discussion of critical topical issues, supported by a subscription-based membership organisation.

GERG's international partners cover ten countries, in five of which the directors are regular guest speakers. GERG's student following is the foundation of its teaching activities, which in July 2015 saw a summer academy on Food Security, featuring international experts Utsa Patnaik and Haroon Akram-Lodhi, who also gave two public lectures at the downtown Free Press Café. Students also benefit from our visiting speakers. In March 2015 we hosted a visit by George DeMartino of the Joseph Korbel School of International Studies in the University of Denver who spoke at the departments of Economics and Aboriginal Studies. In April 2017 GERG co-sponsored with the Manitoba Chair of Global Governance Studies and Peace Alliance Winnipeg, on post-Cold War NATO and its future in an increasingly multipolar world. At the request of 30 students, GERG is planning a summer academy in 2017, and has begun work on its 2018 academy.



GERG's community partnerships are rooted in an awareness, shaped by its understanding of the world order, of the complex interaction between Manitoba's settler colonial history and the role of modern immigration in its economic prosperity.

The diversity which is one of Manitoba's great assets is vitiated by many sharp and unresolved tensions, on which our historical approach sheds light, but about which we humbly learn from many organisations that structure its communities. We are a partner in the Wa Ni Ska Tan Hydro Alliance research project, a cross-Canadian research partnership led by the University of Manitoba's Department of Environment and Geography, and work closely with social and labour movement organisations in the preparation of our summer academies.



AN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTION IN THE HEART OF CANADA



GERG aims to become a flagship institution of the University of Manitoba, in line with the University's mission to "build research capacity in emerging areas of research strength; foster networking, partnerships and collaborations between disciplines and across sectors; and provide unique research training opportunities for graduate students and other trainees including undergraduate students".

GERG is poised for a phase of expanded research activity. Our focus on new understandings of the multipolar world order, and the changing role of the nation-state, has stimulated widespread interest, creating the potential for a rich programme of collaborative research.

Our insistence that technical innovation and economic development are bound up with the creative capacities of the workforce responds to the challenge of disruptive technology for government, business, labour and arts administrators.

Building on GERG's publication and partnership record, and a successful Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) application for the 2015 conference, Radhika Desai and three Canadian and five international partners are preparing a bid for an Insight Grant from the SSHRC to undertake a comparative country-based study of the origins, structure and impact of the modern multipolar economy.

Drawing on Alan Freeman's expertise as an economist with the Mayor of London from 2000 to 2011 GERG has established a reputation with local business and policy-makers for research into the creative economy. A \$2.5 million SSHRC partnership application for a Partnership Grant for

research into the arts ecology of the Prairies awaits decision in April. It is led by Professor Mary Blackstone at the University of Regina and GERG's Freeman and Desai are to lead one of its 5 clusters, on the Creative and Cultural Industries. -

GERG recently concluded a successful pilot to map the creative cluster in Winnipeg's historic Exchange District, and in conjunction with the University of Regina and Manitobans for the Arts (M4A) are developing research bids for a data hosting facility and an arts registry for Manitoba.

GERG's strategy document (GERG 2017) sets out a vision for a Canadian research institution with international reach. It should conduct primary research, produce published work of high quality, and provide a virtual and physical meeting-place for international scholars, Canada's researchers, and the diverse community of social, economic and cultural actors to which Manitoba is home.



These, together with GERG's editorial and communication capacities, serve to develop and disseminate GERG's core ideas through a system of partnerships, based on three intersecting sets of 'natural partners' with whom GERG fosters interaction. These are scholars in emerging 'contender' economies, researchers worldwide into the economic potential of creativity, and community organisations seeking to develop human potential free of the constraints of the world's colonial past, including both Manitoba and Canada's First Nations and indigenous communities in all parts of the world.

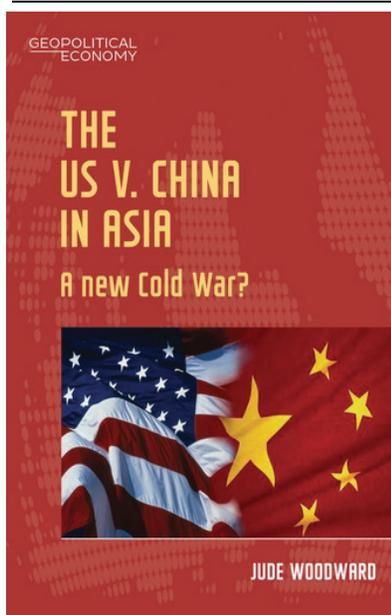


GERG produces 'partnership value' which, while itself public, can be flexibly developed to generate a mix of private and public final outputs in conjunction with businesses, scholars and public organisations.

Thus we edit, but do not seek to establish a journal or publish books; instead, we partner with existing journal and book publishers. This keeps our commitments to a sustainable scale, but provides wide dissemination both of our own ideas, and those of the researchers who work with us. This partnership system is an innovative adaptation of 'open innovation' (Chesbrough 2003, Caves 2000), characteristic of the creative industries. This business model combines flexibility with sustainability by maintaining a small 'core' organisation whilst promoting self-funded collaborative initiatives, putting scholars and community organisations in contact so as to maximise the sharing and development of ideas.

GERG does not seek to impose its ideas as a whole on any partner and welcomes constructively critical participation from partners with whom we may have substantial differences, provided they contribute to the development of knowledge in our research areas. GERG does not work with ethnic or cultural nationalist organisations, meaning those whose ideas are founded on an explicit or presumed belief in the caste, religious, or ethnic superiority of any particular group. Nor does it accept that the interests of any particular nation are superior to those of any other.

PUBLICATIONS



GERG has negotiated a successful agreement with Manchester University Press to produce the Geopolitical Economy book series with its first book *The US vs China in Asia: A new Cold War?* by Jude Woodward (2017), with five further titles in the pipeline.

The groundwork for these activities was laid during 2014-2015 and in the years immediately preceding. In line with its mission to develop its distinctive approach to understanding world affairs. It was first laid out in Radhika Desai's *Geopolitical Economy: After US Hegemony, Globalization and Empire*. Since that time and in the years that have followed, GERG sought to develop its ideas in dialogue with others working on new accounts of the emerging multipolar world order. The results included the following: Four books in our Future of World Capitalism Book Series, co-edited by Radhika Desai and Alan Freeman with Pluto Press, London:

The Birth of Capitalism: A 21st Century Perspective by Henry Heller, 2011

Remaking Scarcity: The Myth of Market Efficiency and the Promise of Economic Democracy by Costas Panayotakis, 2011

Geopolitical Economy: After US Hegemony, Globalization and Empire by Radhika Desai, 2013.

To live and die in America: Class, Power, Health and Health Care by Robert Chernomas and Ian Hudson, 2013

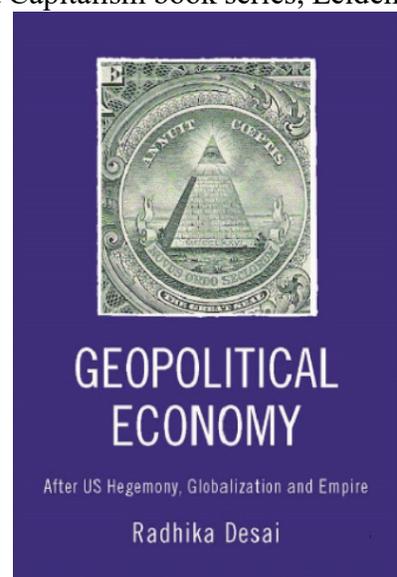
Working Class Politics and the German Revolution: Richard Müller, the Revolutionary Shop Stewards and the Origins of the Council Movement by Ralf Hoffroge, published in the Historical Materialism book series in collaboration with the Future of World Capitalism book series, Leiden: Brill, 2014.

Special Issues or Symposia in Peer Reviewed Journals on the theme of Geopolitical Economy:

Symposium on *Geopolitical Economy*, with contributions by Paul Kellogg, David Kristjansen-Gural, Rik MacIntyre and Rick Wolff with Author's Response', *Rethinking Marxism*, 27:4, pp. 1-19, 2015

The Materiality of Nations in Geopolitical Economy. Symposium in *World Review of Political Economy* on Geopolitical Economy . Volume 6, No. 4, Winter 2015.

(edited) Analytical Gains in Geopolitical Economy: Volume 30-Part B of Research in Political Economy, 2015, Bingley: Emerald, 2016.



(edited) *Theoretical Engagements in Geopolitical Economy*, Volume 30-Part A, Research in Political Economy, Bingley: Emerald, 2015.

(Co-edited) *Russia, Ukraine, and Contemporary Imperialism*, Special issue of *International Critical Thought*, Vol 6, no. 4, December 2016, co-edited by Boris Kagarlitsky and Alan Freeman

We expect the first of the Geopolitical Economy books titles to be followed soon by others that are in the pipeline and we continue to receive exciting new proposals. We also plan to bring out a textbook on geopolitical economy as a new approach to the study of world affairs.

COMMUNICATIONS

GERG's primary website at geopoliticaconomy.org links to its conference site, its data sitewhich is under development, and three partnered sites: one on the creative economy hosted by Julio Moraes, our MITACS postdoc, and one to the journal *Critique of Political Economy* (COPE) and one to the project on the Geopolitical Economy of Small States in a Multipolar World led by Petar Kurečić of the University of the North, Croatia.



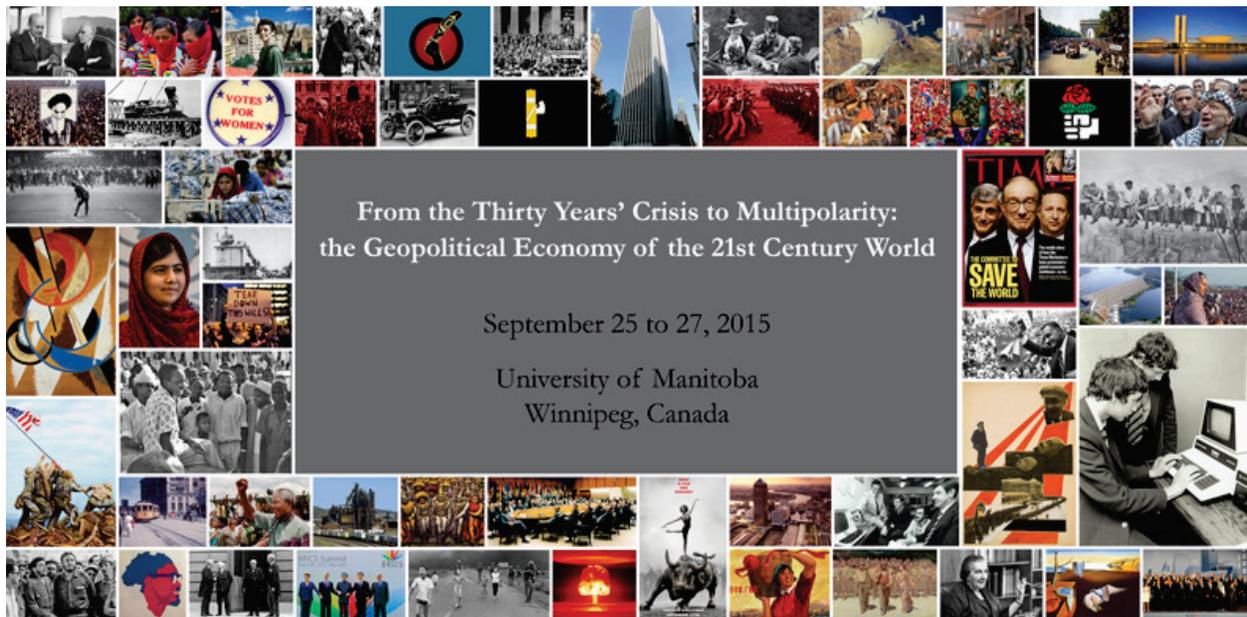
GERG and COPE host Facebook groups with a monthly reach of about 1,000, and GERG has created a YouTube channel and academia group. It recently started a newsletter for site members using the mail programme 'iContact', currently dedicated to our forthcoming conference, with a readership of just under 4,000.

Our communication system is a cornerstone of our partnership system and will be developed in 2017. We envisage that this will increase involvement with site visitors but we are cautious about over-ambitious interactivity, because of the demands on time that this creates. Plans under discussion for 2017 therefore focus on outreach and fundraising, and include a book club featuring GERG and partner books, a Geopolitical Economy On Line Forum (Geof) discussion forum featuring relevant news, short op-ed commentaries and working papers, and a more extended newsletter.



A major planned development is a membership organisation which would be subscription-based, and would help fund both GERG's core and autonomous activities by local and project-based groups.

2015 CONFERENCE ON THE THIRTY YEARS CRISIS (TYC)



Few topics could have been more appropriate to GERG's aims than what noted historian, Arno Mayer, called the 'Thirty Years' Crisis' of 1914-1945, spanning the world wars and the Great Depression. The conference set out to reassess its significance in the making of the geopolitical economy of 21st century multipolarity and consider whether the world was poised at the cusp of a comparably radical transformation today.

The conference featured five keynote lectures given by Johanna Brenner, Paolo Drinot, Boris Kagarlitsky, Prabhat Patnaik and Kari Polanyi Levitt. These landmark keynote lectures, along with the public panel introduced by Truth and Reconciliation Commission Director Aimee Craft, were recorded in high-quality video. Along with a number of conference sessions, these lectures and panel can be viewed on the GERG website.

Nearly 100 papers were delivered, most of which are featured on the conference site. The participants came from many regions, including participants from Manitoba (30%), other Canadian provinces (36%), the United States (10%), and a quarter from other countries. The conference



provided an opportunity for meetings among delegates to form research groups and clusters. International participation was assisted by a bursary fund disbursing \$7200 to 14 successful applicants. Financial constraints frustrated a disappointingly large number of international scholars whose papers were accepted for presentation

but could not meet the costs of attending. Given GERG’s commitment to promoting new scholarship, especially from developing countries, we intend to pay special attention to establishing an adequate scholarship fund to facilitate better attendance at future events.

The conference was generously supported by SSHRC, the University of Manitoba, including the Departments of History, Political Studies, Native Studies, and Sociology, the Global Political Economy Research Fund, the Geopolitical Economy Research and Education Trust and Winnipeg Tourism, and was staffed by an enthusiastic army of 48 volunteers. Special mention is due to Alison Letourneau, without whose invaluable experience and unflagging commitment conference would not have been possible, and to St Johns College who kindly hosted the event.

Future conferences

Building on our international partnerships and the success of our 2015 conference, GERG is co-hosting a conference on ‘Revolutions’, supported by eleven scholarly organisations including seven peer-reviewed journals, listed in table 1.



Based on this and the generous support of the University of Manitoba, GERG executive members Henry Heller, Radhika Desai, Mara Fridell, Jorge Nallim and Erik Thomson have applied for a \$25,000 SSHRC Connection Grant to cover conference expenses, especially bursaries to enhance participation of foreign and emerging scholars.

A further conference in 2019, to be undertaken jointly with the Beijing-Based World Association for Political Economy, will focus on the historical evolution and current state of the labour movement.

Table 1: support for the 2017 conference

<p>University of Manitoba Sources Department of History Department of Political Studies Department of Sociology Department of Native Studies Dean of Arts Conference Sponsorship Programme Institute for the Humanities Arts Endowment Fund University of Manitoba Student Action Network</p> <p>Community organisations Mayworks Festival Association of United Ukrainian Canadians</p>	<p>Peer-reviewed journals International Critical Thought Marxism 21 World Review of Political Economy Third World Quarterly Capitalism Socialism Nature Research in Political Economy Review of African Political Economy Capital and Class</p> <p>Other Scholarly Sources Geopolitical Economy Research and Education Trust Centre of Asia Pacific Initiatives, Victoria Gyeongsang University, South Korea Centre for Global Studies, Victoria</p>
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INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



Through 2015 and 2016, GERG's directors attended conferences on behalf of GERG as invited guests in Berlin, Moscow, Sochi, Yalta, Izmir, Johannesburg, Calcutta, -New Delhi, Shanghai, Beijing, Rome and London, and are pursuing partnerships with a range of international institutions based on these relationships. Relations with Chinese scholars are especially well-developed, and both Desai and Freeman are scheduled to present a three-week lecture series at China's Renmin University in 2017.

GERG's 2015 conference demonstrated the wide international interest in our work, although the financial difficulties confronting emerging scholars, especially from the Third World, demonstrated to us the importance of raising funds for bursaries and international travel. In 2015 we were happy to host a 6-month internship for Japanese doctoral student Sousuke Morimoto, are now partnering with OnScreen Manitoba in a year-long MITACS postdoctoral research grant for Brazilian researcher Julio Lucchesi Moraes and are expecting two scholars from China – from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Beijing Institute of Technology – to visit GERG for a year starting September 2017.

The 2017 Revolutions conference has already widened our partnerships further and we expect to cement them at the conference itself. We expect to involve scholars from many of these partner institutions in the Geopolitical Economy On Line Forum and, looking ahead, we hope to make an application for



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CREATIVITY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

GERG's work on creativity, culture, innovation and human development is central to its mission and generates strong interest both internationally and in Manitoba. GERG represents the University of Manitoba in a SSHRC partnership bid worth \$2.5m on the ecology of the arts in the prairies, and heads one its 5 clusters, the creative economy cluster.



CBC Manitoba featured our work on the creative economy in two broadcasts covering its 2016 end-of-year assessment of the Premier's 2016 Throne Speech (CBC 2017). Interest in this work arises from an international reputation established by Radhika Desai's studies on cultural and economic nationalism (Desai 2009) and Freeman's work as a cultural economist with the Greater London Authority from 2000 to 2011. With researchers at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and the English NESTA (National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts), Freeman co-developed a rigorous methodology to define and measure the Creative Industries (Bakhshi et al 2014, 2015), now adopted by the UK's Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS 2014). Building on the Cultural Audit of London (Freeman 2012), Freeman worked with the London-based Burns-Owens Partnership to establish

the World Cities Culture Forum, a network of 33 global cities that produces an annual statistical audit of the cultural assets of these cities. With NESTA's Hasan Bakhshi, Desai and Freeman co-authored an influential think-piece (Bakhshi et al 2009) on Research and Development in the Arts.

GERG seeks to put this international research resource at the disposal of interested Canadian scholars, policy-makers and institutions. In 2015 and 2016 Alan Freeman gave invited presentations on Canada's Creative and Cultural Industries to the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, the Manitoba Premier's Economic Advisory Group, the board of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and at a discussion on the Arts hosted by the Winnipeg Free Press. He will be a guest panellist at a luncheon on 'The Role of a Director on an Arts and Culture Board' organised by the Manitoba Institute of Corporate Directors in April 2017.



SPEAKER VISITS AND ENCOUNTERS

George DeMartino, Professor of Economics at the Joseph Korbel School of International Studies in the University of Denver, spoke to a winter colloquium of the Migizii Agamik Aboriginal Students Center on "Global Economy, Global Justice: Indigenous participants in the global economy", and to the Economics department on "A Hippocratic Oath for Economists?" with Professor John Loxley as discussant. Shortly after the TYC conference, keynote speaker Boris Kagarlitsky spoke in Vancouver, Toronto and Victoria during his visit to Canada, while Paolo Drinot spoke at the University of Calgary. Radhika Desai also worked with members of DESSA, a South Asian community organization based in Winnipeg, to host a visit by Anand Deltumbde who spoke on Dalits and caste in India.

GERG also regularly co-sponsors talks and events with other departments and organizations. It sponsored the visit of Professor Rohit Azad of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, to the Department of Economics in February 2017. It has also joined the Department of Political Studies and the Institute for the Humanities at the University of Manitoba, the Manitoba Chair of Global Governance Studies, the Department of Political



IS NATO HEADING FOR THE THIRD WORLD WAR?

MONDAY, APRIL 03, 2017

Doors open at 6:30; panel discussion begins at 7:00 PM
Broadway Disciples United Church • 396 Broadway at Kennedy St
ADMISSION FREE - DONATIONS WELCOME

A public panel discussion with Rogers Annis, Paul Kellogg, and Mahdi Darius Nazemroaya



Paul Kellogg teaches interdisciplinary studies at Athabasca University.



Roger Annis, edits the website *The New Cold War: Ukraine and beyond*.



Mahdi Darius Nazemroaya is a sociologist at the University of the Philippines.

The post-Cold War world order was expected to be peacefully unipolar. However, the quarter century since has seen the continuation of war – with the Gulf war, Western intervention in the former Yugoslavia, wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and more recently in Libya, Mali, Ukraine, Yemen and Syria – and witnessed a progressive and ongoing shift toward multipolarity as the world's economic centre of gravity shifts away from the US and the West. The effects of this shift portend further shifts in the established world order and its seemingly stable alliances and increasing the danger of war.

For more information, visit geopoliticeconomy.ca



Manitoba Chair for Global Governance Studies
Department of Political Science, University of Winnipeg



University of Manitoba Institute for the Humanities
Department of Political Studies, University of Manitoba



Science at the University of Winnipeg and Peace Alliance Winnipeg to invite three scholars – Roger Annis, Independent Scholar based in Vancouver and curator of the Newcoldwar.org website, Professor Paul Kellogg of the University of Athabasca and Professor Mahdi Darius Nazemroaya of the University of the Philippines – to lecture on the trajectory and future of post-Cold War NATO and take part in a public panel discussion on the topic on 3 April 2017.

These events, for the most part recorded as videos, highlight the value of direct encounters in developing and promoting ideas, in facilitating interdisciplinary engagements, and in realising economies of scale and scope, since one speaker can address several audiences. GERG plans to make regular speaker visits a feature of its work, invites faculty members and interested members of the public to propose candidates or topics, and is actively working with academic and community partners in Winnipeg and throughout Canada to arrange mutually beneficial speaker visits.

SUMMER ACADEMY

GERG hosted and organised a six-credit summer academy—also open to community members on a non-credit basis—on ‘The Geopolitical Economy of Food Security in a Multipolar World’ between 6 and 13 July 2015.



Food security and sovereignty have increasingly dominated discussions in recent years and for many, both in rich and poor countries, food security is at critical juncture. The Academy featured classes led by major authorities in the field. Professor Utsa Patnaik of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, is renowned for her expertise on the world food order and changing agrarian relations and is author of *The Long Transition* (1999) and *The Republic of Hunger and Other Essays* (2007). Dr Haroon Akram-Lodhi of Trent University is an expert on agrarian change and its social and ecological dimensions and author of *Hungry for Change: Farmers, Food Justice and the Agrarian Question* (2013). UM’s own Canada Research Chair in Human Rights, Social Justice and Food Sovereignty, Dr Annette Desmarais, has written extensively on food sovereignty and social movements, including *La Via Campesina: Globalization and the Power of Peasants* (2007).



The multidisciplinary course marshalled the expertise of UM faculty members in the area including Robert Chernomas, Fabiana Li, and John Serieux and of experts from Civil Society organizations, Janelle Duerksen of Winnipeg Harvest and Roberta Gramlich of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

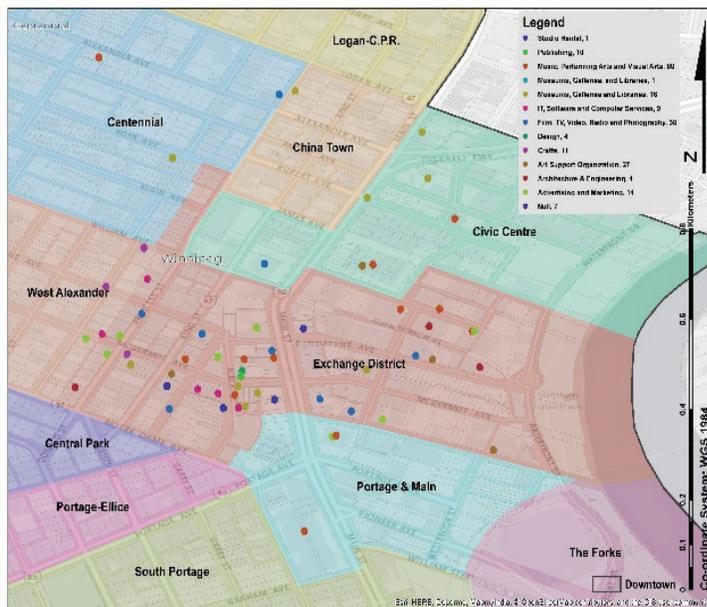
The 2017 Summer Academy, organised in response to student demand, will be on ‘Understanding Karl Marx’s *Capital* Volume I’ and will feature guest lecturers from Economics and Society, History, Native Studies and Philosophy and, possibly, an invited international speaker. For 2018, we are in discussions with

local groups and unions to hold a Summer Academy on ‘Work, Wages and Welfare’. It will highlight how all three are being radically redefined as the complex result of policy and secular economic changes and critically analyse the wealth of new ideas – such as the reorganization of work for greater worker autonomy, reduction of work-time, a universal income and other ideas de-coupling wages from work and the reorganization and reconceptualization of the welfare state to take account of women’s workforce participation and rising elder care needs – that are clamouring for our attention and which will dominate policy discussion in the years and even decades to come. Future Summer Academies are planned on geopolitical economy as a new approach to world affairs, Trade unions and their future, and the Creative industries among other topics.



RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

GERG has a dual-track strategy; it seeks to establish academic partnerships to bid for tri-council grants—mainly, but not exclusively, SSHRC—and in parallel, it is working with business, government and community organizations in Manitoba to develop research proposals to be funded from mixed sources including public funds, academic grants, venture capital, and philanthropic funding.



This approach embodies GERG’s partnership business model. We bring together focussed groups of researchers, each with an interest in a common practical question, drawn from a variety of disciplines, if need be from a range of countries, and from a range of ‘research ecologies’ including—but not confined to—business, academia, government and community.

Two core activities underpin its research. The first is the combination of communication and publication, providing for rapid sharing and dissemination of results and proposals between partners. The second is its data

facility based on an SQL server hosted by UM, which act as a warehouse for multiple datasets. The data group has successfully piloted projects on international macroeconomic data including capital flows, and on geocoded data dealing with creative business location.

Radhika Desai, two co-applicants and seven collaborators have submitted an Insight Grant application into the origins of multipolarity. Experts on five G7 countries, the five BRICS countries and Canada will conduct comparative nation-based studies and combine them into single

account of these origins. Grant competition results are expected in April 2017. This project, if funded and taken forward, will form a substantial part of the foundation for the future Partnership Grant application mentioned above.

GERG supports and encourages autonomous research activity by its partners and facilitates this research by whatever means it has at its disposal. The following are the more notable of the ways in which it has done this so far:

- Along with the Université de St. Boniface, GERG supported an academic workshop and a film series organized by Professor Jorge Nallim of the Department of History on March 16, 2016. It commemorated the fortieth-anniversary of the Argentine March, 24th 1976 military coup which paved the way for the 1976-1983 military regime and its extensive human rights violations, including the notorious disappearances of opponents and, as such, represented a fundamental turning point in contemporary Argentine history, profoundly shaping Argentine society since then. The events attracted considerable attention in the local Argentine and activist community.
- GERG sponsored three panels on ‘Small Nations in a multipolar world’ at the Society for Socialist Studies conference in 2016 as part of the work of the Small States in a Multipolar World =research group formed in 2015 at GERG’s inaugural conference. The Group is open to all topics related to the problematics of small states and small economies in the multipolar world, and it strongly encourages the method of geopolitical economy, as the discipline of multipolarity. It also seeks to work with others studying small state problematics. It currently has nearly 40 members and its first publication is nearing completion: a special issue of the *World Review of Political Economy* (WRPE) with authors from Canada, Croatia, Spain, Mexico, and Australia.
- GERG has committed to sponsor a panel at every Society for Socialist Studies conference at Congress on topical themes in international affairs. The 2016 Panel covered Ukraine and the Middle East. The 2017 Panel marks 150 years of Canadian confederation by addressing the theme of Canadian imperialism, at home and abroad.
- The journal *Critique of Political Economy* (COPE) which also serves as a repository for past papers of the International Working Group on Value Theory (IWGVT) is hosted as part of the GERG website. The *Critique of Political Economy* is the site of a journal and a curated archive of conference papers, covering a seminal ten-year period, dealing with Marx’s theory of value. Whilst it functions mainly as a repository, researchers in this field have a growing voice and have become highly influential over time in the theory of economic crisis. The theory of value, both economic and social, is a foundational element of the theoretical frameworks which GERG seeks to apply to its understanding of the modern world order, and the role of technology within it.



GOVERNANCE

GERG is a Research Group established by the University of Manitoba under the regulations specified in UM (2013). GERG's director is Radhika Desai. GERG is advised by an International Advisory Committee (IAC) comprising seven scholars of international repute, and is managed by an Executive Committee comprising the Director and Associate Directors, who are appointed by the director subject to the approval of the IAC.

The International Advisory Committee comprises

Abigail Bakan (Canada),
Jayati Ghosh (India),
Kees van der Pijl (the Netherlands),
SeongJing Jeong (Korea),
Boris Kagarlitsky (Russia),
Alicia Puyana (Mexico) and
Diana Tussie (Argentina).

The current Associate Directors are

Mara Fridell (Sociology),
Henry Heller (History),
John Serieux (Economics),
Erik Thomson (History),
and the Research Director is Alan Freeman (Faculty of Arts)

GERG's general practice is to establish ad-hoc bodies to manage its partnered projects such as its conference, academy, speaker visits, and research activities, in which the University, and partners, are represented in such a way as to ensure their interests are fully represented. It strives for these bodies to be diverse and representative with respect to gender, ethnicity and, where relevant, country of origin. GERG consults its members in the University on strategic matters: these are David Camfield, Robert Chernomas, Ian Hudson, Mara Fridell, Julie Guard, Hudson, Mark Hudson, Ellen Judd, Peter Kulchyski, Jorge Nallim, Susan Prentice, Arthur Schafer, Ardeshir Sepehri, Ray Silvius and Erik Thomson.

GERG is committed to high scholarly quality. To this end, its practice is to establish bodies charged with the scrutiny and, where appropriate, peer review, of all published outputs including conference papers and submissions to its website. It is also committed to providing a platform, and outlets, for new voices and for views that are under-represented or suppressed in mainstream narratives.

In accordance with the five-year plan set out in its 2016-2021 strategy document, GERG seeks to establish itself as a self-governing collegiate body. To this end, during 2017 it seeks, in conjunction with its partners, funders and the University of Manitoba, to establish independent governing structures with the remit of promoting and developing GERG's core ideas and establishing a financially sustainable research institution in the University of Manitoba.

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