



Geopolitical  
Economy  
Research Group

# Director's Report 2017-8

Radhika Desai, Director



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## HIGHLIGHTS OF GERG ACTIVITIES IN 2017 and 2018

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During this biennial, we held GERG's second conference, titled simply 'Revolutions', attended by 70 delegates from 13 countries and sponsored by the University of Manitoba and a variety of other Canadian and non-Canadian sources. We aimed to commemorate the centenary of the 1917 Russian Revolution. However, given our perspective, geopolitical economy, one of whose virtues is that it steps outside Eurocentrism, we were acutely aware of the worldwide and long-term impact of those events a century ago. We conceived our conference to focus not just on the events in Russia and their aftermath but also on how they changed the world, inspiring revolution and prompting counterrevolution and generally casting a long shadow over the century that followed.

A carefully selected set of five keynotes discussed the major milestones in the journey of revolutions over the past century, beginning with the Bolshevik victory in Russia and ending in the indigenous struggles in our own country. The theme also resonated amid the ongoing crisis of capitalism – including economic stagnation, growing inequality, and upheavals across the political spectrum. A volume based on key contributions at the conference is being prepared as a special issue of *Third World Quarterly*, co-edited by GERG Director and Associate Director, Radhika Desai and Henry Heller.

GERG's book series with Manchester University Press, the Geopolitical Economy series, took off with its first two titles, *The US vs China: Asia's New Cold War?* by Jude Woodward in 2017 and *Flight MH17, Ukraine and the new Cold War: Prism of disaster* by Kees van der Pijl in 2018. Two further volumes, *Karl Polanyi and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Capitalism* co-edited by Radhika Desai and Kari Polanyi Levitt, and *Surplus of Destruction: Capitalism's Economic, Ecological and Democratic Crises and the Continuing Relevance of the Communist Ideal* by Costas Panayotakis were submitted to publishers in February and May 2019.

This biennial also marked the take-off of another major activity, that on the cultural and creative economy, a critical part of the geopolitical economy analysis of where our economies should be headed if they are to be prosperous and offer most opportunities for human and social development. A research project, funded by Creative Manitoba, contributed to the larger effort to produce a report for Creative Manitoba, *Jobs and wealth in Manitoba's Creative Economy*, Alan Freeman, GERG Research Director, Greg Miles, Economist with the Alliance of Manitoba Sector Councils and Thom Sparling, Director of Creative Manitoba.

GERG has continued to expand its communications. Our website, mailing list and Facebook pages reach nearly 4000 users the world over.

In addition,

- Since 2017, GERG has taken over management of the world news and analysis website NewColdWar.org, which provides important and timely analysis about the international conflicts and dynamics that are changing our multipolar world.
- In April 2017 GERG co-sponsored, with the Manitoba Chair of Global Governance Studies and Peace Alliance Winnipeg, a series of events over one day post-Cold War NATO and its future in an increasingly multipolar world.

- In May 2017, GERG co-sponsored an academic conference at the University of Manitoba on the history, memory and politics of the Guatemalan revolution, which featured the documentary premiere of *El Buen Cristiano* at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights on the abuses of former Guatemalan military dictator José Efraín Ríos Montt.
- In October 2017, those gathered at the Revolutions conference held the first meeting of the Geopolitical Economy Society (GES), which was founded on 1 September 2017 as a membership-based scholarly organization. Its aims include ‘advancing education by supporting or undertaking research on topics related to world affairs and disseminating the results of the research to the public, including by organising conferences’.
- In December 2017, GERG co-sponsored a public lecture presented by Professor Johnny Marquez on Venezuela and the geopolitics of oil. The event emerged out of collaborations between GERG and the Network of Intellectuals and Social Movements and the Government of Venezuela and was part of GERG’s efforts to promote more accurate understandings of world affairs.
- In January 2018, GERG hosted its second post-doctoral fellow: Dr Zhu Ran, of the Beijing Institute of Technology spent the next year with GERG engaged in research on international political economy and critical political economic thought. He was funded by the China Scholarship Council.
- In October 2018, along with the Venezuela Peace Committee and Peace Alliance Winnipeg, GERG co-sponsored a public forum on Venezuela featuring Carlos Ron, Venezuelan Vice Minister of Foreign Relations for North America at the Ministry of Popular Power for Foreign Affairs, and Steve Ellner, Professor of Economics at the Universidad de Oriente in Venezuela.
- In September 2018, along with the Moscow based Institute of Globalization of Social movements and Center for Social and Economic Reforms, GERG played a key role in organising a conference on ‘Alternatives to social and economic development at the regional level’ for the Regional (in our terms, provincial) government of the Irkutsk region. This policy-focussed conference was attended by prominent regional policy-makers from China, Ecuador, Hungary, India, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Vietnam and, of course, various parts of the Russian Federation itself.
- In November 2018, when GERG Director, Radhika Desai was invited to deliver a keynote at the workshop on ‘The global Economy and international Politics beyond Neo-Liberalism’ organised by the Brussels office of the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung of Germany, it extended the influence of GERG’s trademark geopolitical economy analysis to some key institutions and forces in Europe and beyond.
- Through much of 2018, Planning and organization of the 4<sup>th</sup> Forum of the World Association for Political Economy, which takes place 19-21 July 2019 at the University of Manitoba dominated.
- Finally, GERG was represented at the annual Japan Society for Political Economy conference in Tokyo in December 2018, an occasion which contributed critically to expanding its network of contacts in Japan, including with the established academic journal *The Japanese Political Economy*.

GERG has continued to expand its international partnerships, developing close working relationships with key institutions around the world. See ‘International Partnerships and Collaborations’ below.

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## PUBLICATIONS

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Among the various things GERG is, it is a publications machine. A major development on GERG publication scene is that it's founding publication, its Director, Radhika Desai's *Geopolitical Economy: After US Hegemony, Globalization and Empire* (London: Pluto Press, 2013) is being translated into Chinese and German. The Turkish translation, which, was the first to be contracted, has fallen victim of the persecution of intellectuals in Turkey: we hope circumstances improve soon.

Until this biennial, GERG has published books in The Future of World Capitalism series with Pluto Press, London. This biennial, GERG's new series, the Geopolitical Economy series with Manchester University Press took off with the publication of its first two titles: *The US vs China: Asia's New Cold War?* by Jude Woodward (2017), which has been translated into Dutch; and *Flight MH17, Ukraine and the new Cold War: Prism of disaster* by Kees van der Pijl (2018), which has been translated into German, Russian, and Portuguese.

Two additional volumes, *Karl Polanyi and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Capitalism* co-edited by Radhika Desai and Kari Polanyi Levitt, and *Surplus of Destruction: Capitalism's Economic, Ecological and Democratic Crises and the Continuing Relevance of the Communist Ideal* by Costas Panayotakis were submitted to publishers in February and May 2019.



Several other volumes in the Geopolitical Economy series are in process,

- John Ross, *China's Dream: The Chinese Economic Achievement*, manuscript under preparation.
- Alexander Buzgalin and Andrey Kolganov, *Twenty-first Century Capital: Critical Post-Soviet Marxist Reflections*, contracted: Manuscript being edited.
- Alan Freeman and Radhika Desai (eds), *The Chris Freeman Reader*, Proposal Approved.
- Finally, work has just begun on arranging the translation, from the original Italian, of philosopher Domenico Losurdo's critically important critique of Western Marxism.



GERG publications must often venture beyond the Geopolitical Economy series:

- A Special Issue of *Third World Quarterly*, co-edited by Radhika Desai and Henry Heller based on the carefully structures series of 5 keynotes at the Revolutions conference and additional selected contributions. Its publication should mark an important milestone on thinking about revolutions and social transformation.
- Another important editorial activity was editing the translation of the two-volume work, *The Creation of Value by Living Labour: A Normative and Empirical Study* by Cheng Enfu, Wang Guijin, Zhu Kui. It was done by GERG Director, Alan Freeman. The work's enduring value lies in the insights it offers into how Marxist thinking, rather than Western economic orthodoxy, has powered China's economic successes. It is a major contribution to Marxist theory and a highly practical work, it confronts the complexity and uniqueness of China's economic miracle by developing Marxism in exciting and innovative ways.
- *Jobs and wealth in Manitoba's creative economy* by Alan Freeman, Geopolitical Economy Research Group, University of Manitoba, Greg Miles, Economist with the Alliance of Manitoba Sector Councils and Thom Sparling, Director of Creative Manitoba. Prepared for Creative Manitoba, this report 'analyses job and wealth generation in the Arts and Creative Industries in Manitoba, Canada, and other provinces, comparing their workforce, gross domestic product, educational attainment levels and productivity with those of other main industries. The report employs the international standard Creative Industries (CI) framework developed in the UK by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), used by the UK government for more than 20 years and currently employed in over 15 other countries' giving 'results ... strictly comparable with the equivalent figures for standard industries which appear in the national accounts, like manufacturing.' The report focusses on 'a resource — the creative workforce' whereas the Canadian Statistical Agency focuses on products. The result is a 'report on aspects of the creative sector that the CSA does not; such as labour productivity, educational attainment and the creative labour force, including that part which works outside the creative industries.
- Finally, though the New Cold War website mostly channels and curates items published elsewhere, it also increasingly generates original reporting and comment in carefully selected areas that tend to be neglected by both mainstream and alternative media.

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## COMMUNICATIONS AND REACH

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GERG's primary website remains [geopoliticeconomy.org](http://geopoliticeconomy.org), with conference information being hosted at [gergconference.ca](http://gergconference.ca). GERG also manages three partnered sites:

- one related to the creative economy hosted by Julio Moraes, our former MITACS postdoc, <http://www.gerg-creative.ca/about/>
- one related the journal *Critique of Political Economy* (COPE), <http://copejournal.com/critique-of-political-economy-vol-1/>
- and one on the project on the Geopolitical Economy of Small States in a Multipolar World, led by Petar Kurečić of the University of the North, Croatia. <https://geopoliticeconomy.org/projects/small-states-multi-polar-world/>



GERG and COPE also host active Facebook pages and GERG has maintains a YouTube channel and Academia page. GERG recently started a newsletter for site members using the mail programme ‘iContact’, currently dedicated to our forthcoming conference, with a readership of just over 4,000.

Since 2017, GERG has taken over management of the site *NewColdWar.org*, which aims to provide factual and insightful analysis about the proliferating national and class conflicts that are radically changing our world, and which are inadequately covered by the established media. Focusing on the multiplying fronts of conflict in the shifting multipolar world, New Cold War aligns with the aims of GERG.

One public assessment of New Cold War is offered by a project examining ‘fake news’ hosted by Harvard University. The project is titled ‘[False, misleading, clickbait and satirical ‘news’ sources](#)’. The author name is not listed; he or she writes: “I am an assistant professor of communication & media, and this resource started as a tool for teaching my students about journalism/social media/media literacy.” The project has 1001 listings as of November 2017. It lists *NewColdWar.org* as “political” and defines that as: “Sources that provide generally verifiable information in support of certain points of view or political orientations.” *Consortium News* and *The Intercept* are listed as “reliable”

Plans are under discussion focusing on outreach and fundraising, and include a membership program which allows members to access GERG and partner books at a discounted rate.

## NEW COLD WAR:

### News and Analysis of the Multipolar World

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## 2017 CONFERENCE ON REVOLUTIONS

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The 2017 Revolutions conference was an intellectual landmark of sorts. On the one hand, the centenary of the Russian Revolution was marked on the right by triumphalism – given that the state that the revolution birthed had succumbed a quarter century before – and on the left, with ambiguity and confusion. On the other, with the fundamental problems of capitalism revealed by the 2008 financial and economic crises remaining largely unresolved, capitalist conditions were once again reminiscent of the disasters of the wars and the Great Depression of the Thirty Years' Crisis (the theme of GERG's inaugural conference in 2015), making the question of alternatives more urgent.

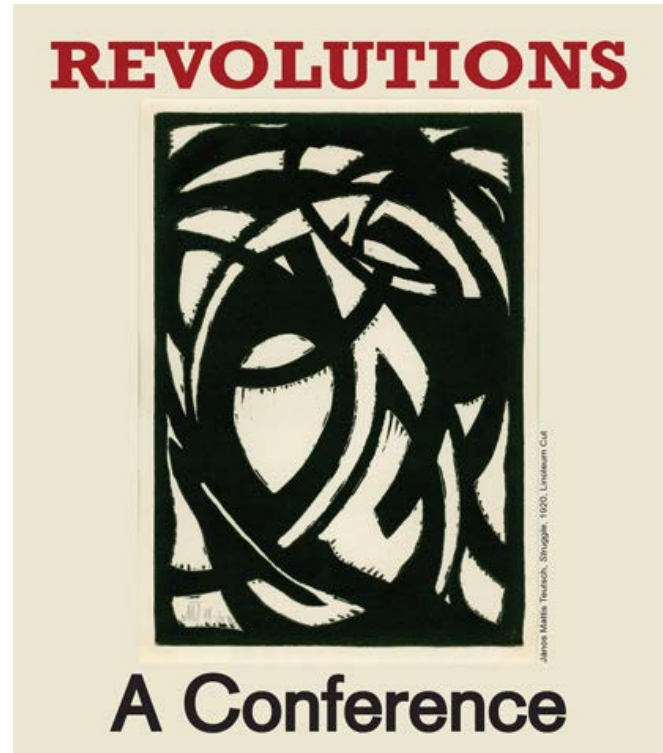
In this context, the key, it seemed to us, was not to think of the Russian Revolution alone but of revolutions as such, and their relationship with capitalism a broadly



historical manner. Two frames appeared to us very important. Most proximately, considering the century since 1917, there was the fact that revolutions had occurred in backward and underdeveloped countries on Europe's periphery and in the colonial and semi-colonial world and had taken national form. Neither the Western left in general nor Western Marxism in particular has been able to digest this implacable fact and convert it into revolutionary energy. The second historical frame is grander. As a form of social production and society, capitalism had a special relationship with revolution: It took revolutions to usher capitalism into history, revolutions have threatened it practically since its birth, revolutions have taken large and small territories outside its ambit and it has taken and/or can be expected to take, revolutions to usher it out.

The conference featured five keynote lectures.

- an overview of the contest between revolution and counterrevolution by renowned critical international relations theorist, Professor Kees van der Pijl from the Netherlands;
- a retrospective on the Russian Revolution and its fateful unravelling by Professor Ruslan Dzarasov, from Russia;





- a historical understanding of the close political, intellectual and historical relationship of the Chinese Revolution with the Russian by Professor Xiaoqin Ding, from China;
- a sober assessment of the gains and difficulties of the ongoing Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela by Professor Julia Buxton from the UK
- and, last but not least, a grand historical understanding of Canada's indigenous peoples struggles against encroaching capitalist societies by the University of Manitoba's own Professor Peter Kulchyski.

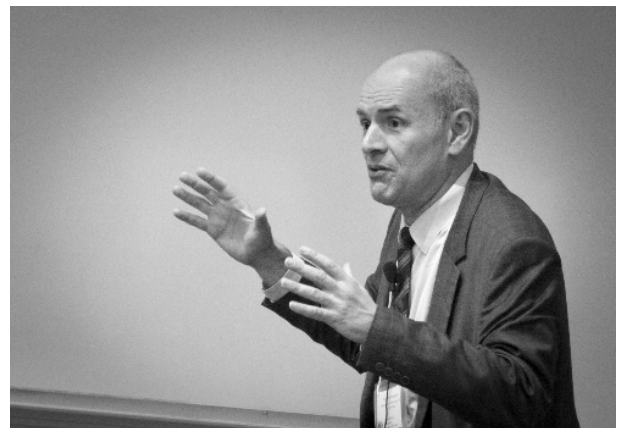
These keynote lectures, along with a number of panel discussions were recorded in high-quality video, and can be viewed on the GERG website and YouTube channel.



With over 65 presentations delivered, and participants from across Canada and 13 other countries, the conference provided an opportunity for meetings among delegates to form research groups and clusters. International and student participation was assisted by a bursary fund disbursing over \$12000 to 20 successful applicants. Even so,

financial constraints frustrated a disproportionately 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 the University of Manitoba, seven peer-reviewed journals, local community organizations, and international research groups (Table 1), and was staffed by an enthusiastic team of 25 volunteers, led by 8 team leaders and two diligent GERG staff. The revolutions conference also held additional meetings: an Editors meeting of supporting journals, the first meeting of the Geopolitical Economy Society, and research group meeting. One of the last led to an (unfortunately unsuccessful SSHRC application).



GERG is co-organizing the 14<sup>th</sup> Forum of the World Association for Political Economy, an international academic conference taking place in July 2019 at the University of Manitoba. The conference will examine the interaction of class, nation and state at the domestic and international levels in an increasingly multipolar world.

**Table 1: Support for 2017 Revolutions Conference**

<b>University of Manitoba Sources</b> 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	<b>Peer-reviewed journals</b> <i>International Critical Thought</i> <i>Marxism 21</i> <i>World Review of Political Economy</i> <i>Third World Quarterly</i> <i>Capitalism Socialism Nature</i> <i>Research in Political Economy</i> <i>Review of African Political Economy</i> <i>Capital and Class</i>
<b>Community organisations</b> Mayworks Festival Association of United Ukrainian Canadians	<b>Other Scholarly Sources</b> Geopolitical Economy Research and Education Trust Centre of Asia Pacific Initiatives, Victoria Gyeongsang University, South Korea Centre for Global Studies, Victoria

### Future Conferences

We are also planning future conferences of the Geopolitical Economy Society: perhaps on an biennial basis and, to begin with, alongside another scholarly organization.



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## GEOPOLITICAL ECONOMY SOCIETY

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We founded the Geopolitical Economy Society (GES) in 2017 to extend the reach of geopolitical economy scholarship. The Society brings together people interested in promoting, developing and engaging with geopolitical economy as a new approach to world affairs that rejects the economic cosmopolitanism of existing approaches and places the economic role of nation-states centrally in understanding the international dynamics of the world of capitalism.

The GES will enable members to network and collaborate among themselves and with other individuals and organizations to develop, share, promote and publish their research and scholarly activity. It will help them network, receive and disseminate news about scholarly and community events, and collaborate.



The GES has a formative link with GERG. It will share many resources but also will run activities of its own, such as its book pages. We anticipate it will develop a life of its own, as its members and undertake initiatives new initiatives. It will have separate accounts from GERG, but as appropriate, will pay GERG and other suppliers for resources that it uses, such as its web pages and administrative support.

Membership will also allow members to take part in selected GERG activities such as this conference and benefit from other activities, including

- Newsletters about member activities
- Inter-institutional collaboration on speaker tours
- An outlet for working papers, which could also be refereed if resources are forthcoming
- A news and views site
- A discussion list or blog pages for members
- Research projects as the (already-existing) project on Small Nations

Other activities may be added by members' initiatives as time goes on.

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## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

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Over the four years of its existence, GERG's international connections have grown, partly evolving organically out of its activities and partly through initiatives GERG has taken.

Since 2017, GERG directors have promoted GERG, its activities and publications, at international conference they have attended across the world, including in China, Brazil, Germany, India, Japan,

New Zealand, the Republic of South Africa, Russia, Turkey, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

GERG has continued to expand its international partnerships, developing working relationships, often close, with key institutions around the world. The most important among them include,

- the Shanghai-based World Association for Political Economy;
- the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences,
- Creative Manitoba,
- the Valdai Discussion Club, Russian Federation
- International Development Economics Associates, based on New Delhi,
- the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, based in Germany with offices all over the world),
- the Institute for Globalization and Social Movements, based in Moscow,
- the Moscow Academic Economic Forum,
- the St Petersburg Economic Forum,
- the S.Y. Witte Institute for New Industrial Development,
- the Living Wage Movement, New Zealand
- the International Rosa Luxemburg Society
- the Christopher Freeman Trust, UK, and
- the journals, *The Japanese Political Economy* (Japan), *Third World Quarterly* (United Kingdom), *Research in Political Economy* (United States), the *World Review of Political Economy* (United Kingdom) and *International Critical Thought*.



Among the more notable activities we have undertaken with partners this biennial are:

In July 2017 GERG Directors Desai and Freeman taught 3 week courses at the Renmin University, Beijing, Summer School, during which we held conferences and meetings at Renmin University School of Economics and School of Marxism and with the prestigious Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin.

GERG continues to maintain a relation with Russia's Valdai Club, initiated in 2015, contributing commentary and papers to their website, the most recent being *Brexit, the City and the Crisis of Conservatism* (2016) and *Common Dreams or Vulgar Delusions? Elite Preoccupations in Discourses about the 'Commons'* (2019).

GERG has developed a close working relationship with the Chinese scholars and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences over the course of planning the 14<sup>th</sup> Forum of the World Association



МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ КОНФЕРЕНЦИЯ  
АЛЬТЕРНАТИВЫ  
СОЦИАЛЬНО-ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОГО  
РАЗВИТИЯ  
НА РЕГИОНАЛЬНОМ УРОВНЕ

1-2 сентября 2018  
г. Иркутск



ПРОГРАММА  
PROGRAM


INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ALTERNATIVES  
TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

September 1-2, 2018  
Irkutsk

Организаторы / Organizers:



for Political Economy, and international academic conference taking place in July 2019 at the University of Manitoba.

In July 2017, Desai and Freeman visited New Zealand/Aotearoa at the invitation of the Living Wage Movement, giving lectures, attending strategy meetings and planning future activities. 

In September 2018, GERG helped organise the international conference titled 'Alternatives to Social and Economic Development at the Regional Level' in Irkutsk, Russia. The conference was called at the initiative of its governor, Sergei Levchenko. He aims to turn the region of Irkutsk into a model of an alternative economic development with policies aimed at redistribution of income, and a modest rebuilding of the welfare state. The

conference aimed to take stock of the results and achievements of the Irkutsk model in order to move towards the next stage in a strategically informed manner, including making well-planned structural changes to the region's economy. In the Russian context of severe social crisis, the conference will also have implications for national policy. The conference was a great success, with the participating of an equal number of Russian experts, officials and politicians and international experts. Since then, GERG has been centrally involved in planning and organising the second conference in October 2019.





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## CREATIVITY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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GERG's research into the creative industries gave rise to three research contracts, with Creative Manitoba and with Creative PEI, to produce detailed statistical analyses of the economic impact of their creative industries. The first resulted in a geographical analysis of the distribution of creative industries in Manitoba's exchange District. The second resulted in publication, which is expected to be released later in 2019 and entitled *Jobs and wealth in Manitoba's creative economy*, written jointly with Creative Manitoba and the Alliance of Manitoba Sector Councils. A third contract, for a similar analysis of PEI's creative industries, is in process and expected later in 2019.

Alan Freeman is frequently invited to contribute to consultations and workshops in the province, arising from his role in defining the UK's classification system for the Creative industries when he was Expert Advisor, [Creative Industries Council Technical Working Group](#) on the Classification and Measurement of the Creative Industries working for the UK government's Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). These include a submission to the recent provincial review of the Creative Industries, in conjunction with Creative Manitoba, and presentations to the Chamber of Commerce, to Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra to the Association of Directors of Manitoba and to a Labour Market Information Study workshop organized by the Conference Board of Canada. He has also written op-ed pieces in the Winnipeg Free Press and manages an active research programme into Canada's Creative Industries.



### Jobs and wealth in Manitoba's creative economy

By: Alan Freeman, Geopolitical Economy Research Group, University of Manitoba  
Greg Miles, Economist with the Alliance of Manitoba Sector Councils  
Thom Spurling, Director of Creative Manitoba

Prepared for: Creative Manitoba

For technical or other queries contact the authors via alan.freeman@umanitoba.ca



300-245 McDermot Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0S6

MITACS post-doctoral scholar, Julio Moraes undertook and produced, under the supervision of Radhika Desai, a landmark study of *Manitoba's Media Publishing Services on behalf of OnScreen Manitoba*.

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## SPEAKER VISITS AND ENCOUNTERS

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GERG regularly collaborates with other departments and organizations to co-organize and co-sponsor talks and events.

In April 2017, GERG joined Department of Political Studies and Institute for the Humanities at the University of Manitoba, the Manitoba Chair of Global Governance Studies, the Department of Political 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 and take part in a public panel discussion on the trajectory and future of post-Cold War NATO.

In May 2017, GERG co-sponsored the conference, also co-sponsored by GERG, titled “Revisiting the Guatemalan Revolution: History, Memory, Politics” which was also supported by the Social Sciences Research Council of Canada, Research Manitoba, The University of Manitoba Institute for the Humanities, The Dean’s Office, Faculty of Arts, The Mauro Centre, and the Departments of History, Political Studies, Anthropology, & Sociology. It featured the documentary premiere of *El Buen Cristiano* at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights which follows the crimes against humanity trials of José Efraín Ríos Montt, former leader of the military government of Guatemala.

In December 2017, together with the Global Political Economy Program, Economics & Society of the Department of Economics and the Department of Political Studies of the University of Manitoba, the Venezuela Peace Committee, the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians (Winnipeg Council), Las Americas & Chilean Human Rights Council, and Migrante Manitoba, GERG co-organized a speaking event featuring Professor Johnny Marquez is a Venezuelan lawyer, diplomat and scholar and president of the Latin American and Caribbean Center for Energy and Environment Studies. Marquez spoke about the history of petroleum development in Venezuela and its importance to the Caribbean region.

In October 2018, along with the Venezuela Peace Committee and Peace Alliance Winnipeg, GERG co-sponsored a public forum on Venezuela featuring Carlos Ron, Venezuelan Vice Minister of Foreign Relations for North America at the Ministry of Popular Power for Foreign Affairs, and Steve Ellner, Professor of Economics at the Universidad de Oriente in Venezuela.



### NATO AND WESTERN MILITARISM IN A MULTIPOLAR WORLD

MONDAY, APRIL 03, 2017 • Noon - 4:30 PM

The Cross Common Room, 108 St John's College, University of Manitoba

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Three lectures



**Paul Kellogg** teaches interdisciplinary studies at Athabasca University.  
ADDICTED TO WAR - THE CORPORATE FOUNDATION OF U.S. MILITARISM



**Roger Annis** edits the website *The New Cold War: Ukraine and beyond*.  
POST-COLD WAR NATO - WHY CONFLICT CONTINUES, AND WHAT PROSPECTS FOR PEACE?



**Mahdi Darius Nazemroaya** is a sociologist at the University of the Philippines.  
FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE INDIAN AND PACIFIC OCEANS - WHAT ROLE DOES NATO HAVE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND BROADER ASIA-PACIFIC?

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.org](http://geopoliticeconomy.org)



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WINNIPEG

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



Geopolitical  
Economy  
Research Group



UNIVERSITY  
OF MANITOBA

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





In January 2019, post-doctoral fellow at GERG and Associate Professor in Economics at the Beijing Institute of Technology, Dr. Zhu Ran, presented a public lecture on the post-war Japanese development model. The lecture examined both cultural and economic nationalism and their roles in the modernization of Japan.

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 will continue 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.

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## RESEARCH INITIATIVES

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GERG brings together focused 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.

### **Data Group**

The study of new technologies and their consequences for policy and economic structure is central to the analysis of emerging trends in the Multipolar World Order. Evidence is the bedrock of GERG’s approach. It has therefore constructed a Data Project in Macroeconomic History whose web presence is located at <https://github.com/axfreeman/Economic-History>. GERG is pleased to provide a three-month work experience placement in Data Analysis for Deniz Waring, a graduating student from Humber College, which starts in the fall term. GERG envisages that work on the Data Project can be a continued source of placements and research opportunities for students both inside and outside the University.

Papers so far include:

- Freeman, A. 2019a. *Divergence, Bigger Time The unexplained persistence, growth, and scale of postwar international inequality*

[https://www.academia.edu/39074969/Divergence\\_Bigger\\_Time\\_The\\_unexplained\\_persistence\\_growth\\_and\\_scale\\_of\\_postwar\\_international\\_inequality](https://www.academia.edu/39074969/Divergence_Bigger_Time_The_unexplained_persistence_growth_and_scale_of_postwar_international_inequality))

- Freeman, A. 2019b. *The sixty-year downward trend of economic growth in the industrialised countries of the world*. ([https://www.academia.edu/38192121/The\\_sixty-year\\_downward\\_trend\\_of\\_economic\\_growth\\_in\\_the\\_industrialised\\_countries\\_of\\_the\\_world](https://www.academia.edu/38192121/The_sixty-year_downward_trend_of_economic_growth_in_the_industrialised_countries_of_the_world))

An International Capital Flows project, initiated in the Summer of 2015, has made considerable headway and we hope to produce some results soon. Discussions are also on with Professor Oscar Ugarteche of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) for extending and elaborating this project.

### **Small States Group**

The “Small States in the Multi-polar World” research group was founded at the University of Manitoba in September of 2015. Professor Radhika Desai and Associate Professor Petar Kurečić, founded the group as a part of the GERG project. The initial meeting was held after the closure of the 1<sup>st</sup> GERG Conference, titled “From the Thirty Years’ Crisis to Multi-polarity: The Evolution of the Geopolitical Economy of the 21st Century World”.

The topics that were discussed as the possible future research agendas were the following:

- 1) Studying small states using geopolitical economy as the discipline of multipolarity
- 2) Various groups of small states studied through regional research
- 3) Small states and alliances – bandwagoning, balancing, integrating etc.
- 4) Small states that originated from the breakup of larger entities
- 5) Small unrecognized entities i.e. pseudo-states, residual consequences of the breakup of large entities;
- 6) The cooperation between small states through cooperation groups;
- 7) Imperial outposts (dependencies without full sovereignty);
- 8) Benefits of integration for small states – in economic terms.



Nevertheless, the group is open to all topics that are devoted to the problematics of small states/small economies in the multipolar world, and it strongly encourages the studying the aforementioned research interests using geopolitical economy, as the discipline of multipolarity.

The group currently has approximately 20 active members. So far, we have managed to organize three panels, devoted to small state research, at the Socialist Studies Society (of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences) Conference, that was held in Calgary in May-June 2016. The titles of the panels were the following: Small States in a Multipolar World

(Part I & Part II), and Small States in a Multipolar World: Regional Economic/Political Integrations and Small States.



The Group Coordinator co-edited a special issue of the *World Review of Political Economy* (WRPE), 8 (3) 280-294, [http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.13169/worlrevipoliecon.8.3.0280 /WoS – ESCI/](http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.13169/worlrevipoliecon.8.3.0280/WoS-ESCI/) on small state in multipolar world problematic. We are currently pursuing cooperation with some other research groups that are also studying small state problematics.

Among other research efforts, we have presented papers at the EU SAAP Conferences (July 2017, June 2018), as well as the IPSA Congress (July 2018) that were devoted to small state problematics.

Finally, the Small States Group has also applied for grant support for some of its activities from the Erasmus+ funding programme of the European Union. For this purpose it has established an Agreement of Cooperation between the University of Manitoba and University North, Croatia. Results are awaited.

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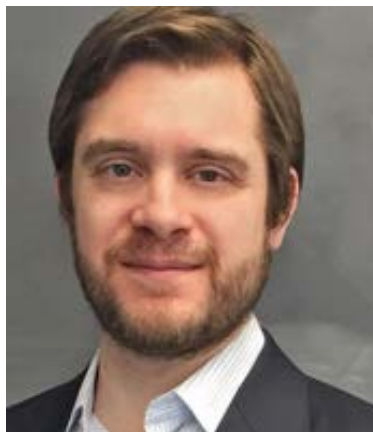
### FELLOWSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS

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Finally, a critical part of GERG's collaborative and partnership activities is hosting post-doctoral research and graduate students:

So far, GERG has hosted:

- A Brazilian researcher, Julio Lucchesi Moraes, in partnership with OnScreen Manitoba in a year-long MITACS postdoctoral research grant in 2017. During this time, he completed a report on 'The Manitoba Media Production Sector in the Global Digital Multipolar Landscape'.
- A Chinese scholar, Dr. Zhu Ran, Associate Professor of Economics at the Beijing Institute of Technology, as a postdoctoral fellow. Dr Zhu participated in lectures and seminars and discussion groups on topics related to political economy and maintains ongoing contact with GERG.
- During 2018, we also applied for a Banting Fellowship with Canadian scholar, Efe Can Gurcan, on 'The Geopolitical and Economic Dynamics of Regional Cooperation: Eurasia and Latin America', effectively an effort to develop the geopolitical economy approach to account for the trend towards regionalism in the world economy. The application was generously supported by the University of Manitoba. However, it was not successful: we hope for greater success next time. In the meantime, Gurcan is a Research Associate at GERG/





More scholars are expected:

- In 2019: Deniz Waring, from Humber College, Ontario, to do a work experience placement with the Data Group.
- In 2019: Mexican scholar Benjamin Lujano, doctoral candidate from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México to work on a research project entitled “New State interventionism for labor protection in Globalization: study of experiences of late industrialization countries”.
- In 2019-20: Chinese scholar Yong Zhou, of the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, a doctoral candidate, to work on international political economy
- In 2019-20: Chinese scholar, Zhichao Chen, of School of Economics, Remin Univeristy, to work on Marx’s Political Economy, specifically, ‘The Combination of Political Economy and Probability Statistics’.



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## GOVERNANCE

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GERG was established as a Research Group by the University of Manitoba under its *Research Centres Institutes and Groups Policy* on 6 January 2015. 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.

During this biennial, we turned over our Associate Directors. We would like to thank Dr, Mara Fridell (Sociology), Dr John Sereix (Economics) and Dr Erik Thomson (History) for their vital support and work for GERG in its first three years. As we reach out to other members of the University of Manitoba and Winnipeg communities to extend our reach, we hope they remain interested and involved in GERG's work.

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

Henry Heller (History)  
Ellen Judd (Anthropology)  
Colin Gillespie (physicist, lawyer, strategic analyst and writer)  
Ralph Stern (Architecture)

and the Research Director is Alan Freeman (Faculty of Arts).

We would also like to thank Helen Sokoloski, GERG coordinator from 2015-2017 for her diligent and cheerful work. As of 2018, GERG has been lucky to have two excellent research assistants, Brendan Devlin and Ajit Singh.

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.

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.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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University of Manitoba

Office of the President, University of Manitoba

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Department of Political Studies, University of Manitoba

Department of Sociology, University of Manitoba

Department of Native Studies, University of Manitoba

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Global Political Economy Research Fund, University of Manitoba

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*Capital and Class*

*Capitalism Socialism Nature*

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*Marxism 21*

Mayworks Festival

*Research in Political Economy*

*Review of African Political Economy*

Social Science and Humanities Research Council

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Tourism Winnipeg

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*World Review of Political Economy*

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