



Western

Centre for Research on
Migration and Ethnic Relations

Fall Colloquium
Series 2014



Dr. Sara Beth Keough

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Sara Beth Keough is an Associate Professor of Geography at Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan. She earned a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Tennessee, an M.S. in Geography from Virginia Tech, and a B.S. in History and a B.A. in Spanish from Jacksonville University. She served on the Executive Council of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States, chairs the Geography, Energy, and the Environment section of the Association, is the Editor of the scholarly, peer-reviewed journal *Material Culture*, and sits on the board of the Cultural Geography Specialty Group in the Association of American Geographers. She teaches classes in North American Regional Geography, Cultural Geography, Urban Geography, Geographies of Consumption, and Geographic Education. Her research interests include topics related to urban development, migration, media, and human-environment interaction in both Canada and Niger (West Africa). She speaks Spanish, French and Hausa (an indigenous African language), and most of her work employs qualitative methods.

Migration into Fort McMurray, Alberta: Implications for Urban Planning and Social Capital in a Resource-Dependent Community

As a result of the booming oil economy in Alberta, other parts of Canada are experiencing population losses to the province. The city of Fort McMurray, situated near the largest mining projects in northern Alberta, has seen unprecedented population growth as migrants from other regions of Canada flock to the oil sands region in search of the reputedly lucrative jobs in the oil industry. This presentation focuses on the city of Fort McMurray and explores two related themes that have arisen as a result of internal migration to this region; first, at a regional scale, the impact of Fort McMurray's population growth on urban and regional planning, and second, at a more localized scale, the experience of one culture group, Newfoundlanders, in their efforts to build and maintain social capital in both their destination and place of origin. In each case, qualitative data gathered from interviews with urban planners and Newfoundland migrants respectively reveals the inherent connection between local conditions in Fort McMurray and global forces that impact the demand for natural resources and the flow of human capital.

4:00pm

Thursday, October 30th

SSC 5220

Please join us beforehand for refreshments at 3:30pm

in SSC 5230

All Welcome!

For More Info email: Merassis@uwo.ca