Colloquium series – Fall 2012
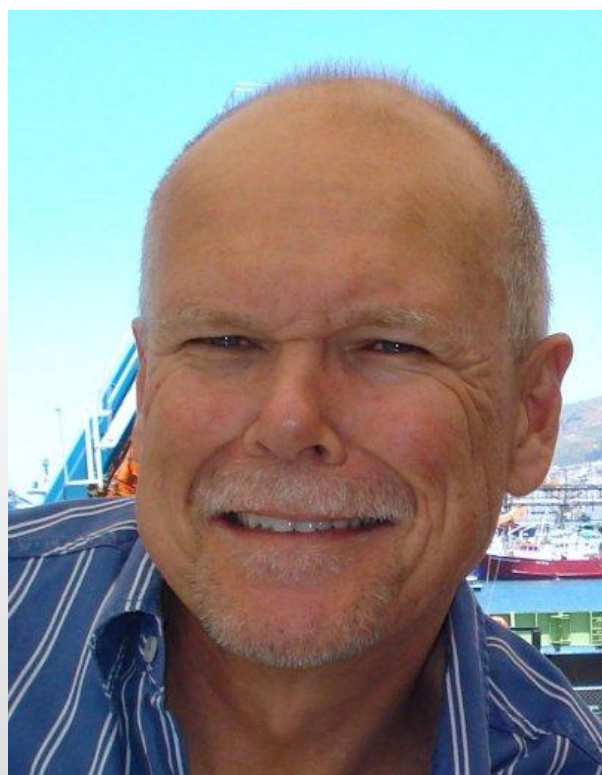
Western UNIVERSITY · CANADA

Western Centre for Research on Migration & Ethnic Relations

Jonathan Crush

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Jonathan Crush is the CIGI chair in global migration and development at the Balsillie School of International Affairs, and a global development studies professor at Queen's University. An expert in African and international migration, he has authored several important reports and books, as well as led significant international research networks, including the ongoing Southern African Migration Program and the African Food Security Network.

Disengaged Diaspora:

The Case of South African Health Professionals in Canada

Conventional wisdom holds that the 'brain drain' of health professionals from Africa is deeply damaging to the continent. Recently, a group of North American and European neoliberal economists has challenged this view, variously arguing that the negative consequences are highly exaggerated and the compensating benefits many. The benefits include various forms of diaspora engagement in which those who have left then engage in a variety of activities and actions that bring substantial benefits to their country of origin. The presentation examines the case of South African physicians in Canada, using data from a recent IDRC-funded survey. While they continue to assert a South African identity and take some interest in events in the country, they do not participate significantly in any of the activities that typify diaspora engagement. The presentation uses the qualitative narratives of the physicians to discuss how they justify this situation to themselves. At the heart of these narratives is a dystopic set of images that show nothing of value and nothing praiseworthy in post-apartheid South Africa.

Thursday, October 4th, 2012
4:00 pm – SSC 5220
Refreshments 3:30pm – SSC 5230

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All Welcome!