EVERYONE WELCOME

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2018
12PM – 1:30PM

“Trumping the US Empire”

Presented by:
Leo Panitch

This political outcome of the first great capitalist crisis of the 21st century was especially heightened, following on the outcome of the Brexit referendum and the electoral successes of hyper-nationalist anti-immigration parties in Europe, with Donald Trump’s election to the presidency of the American empire. With this, the American empire’s role in the making of global capitalism has come to be challenged from within rather than, as had been so widely expected, from without. Insofar as there is, in fact, a political crisis of global capitalism today it is not because of the US empire’s economic decline. It is because the US firmly remains at the centre of world capitalism that the political contradictions of globalization have taken the stark form they have inside the American state. This in turn entails new contradictions for every other capitalist state, and not only because of the pressures to accommodate to US demands, and the internal tensions this generates. It is also because of the implications for all states if the American state cannot play the leading facilitating, superintending and crisis-containment roles it heretofore has. The question that is posed in this context is whether the American state still has the capacity to manage global capitalism.

Professor Emeritus Leo Panitch, who is now a Senior Scholar at York University was Distinguished Research Professor in the Department of Political Science and Canada Research Chair in Comparative Political Economy until his retirement in 2016. Professor Panitch, who attended The London School of Economics and Political Science, and taught at Carleton University before coming to York in 1984, has inspired, supervised and influenced countless generations of students. A member of the Royal Society of Canada, editor of the internationally renowned annual Socialist Register for over three decades, among Professor Panitch’s many books, those most relevant to his McLaughlin Lecture are The Making of Global Capitalism: The Political Economy of American Empire, and In and Out of Crisis: The Financial Meltdown and Left Alternatives.

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