

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



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Global restructuring has impact at home, Laurier professor says

Waterloo (July 9) — Kitchener-Waterloo and other cities in southern Ontario will pay increasingly higher tolls of poverty, homelessness, and violence on the road to the restructuring of the Canadian economy, according to a part-time professor at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Brian MacOwan, who is teaching an urban studies course through August, says losing so many jobs in the manufacturing sector — which some centres like Kitchener-Waterloo attracted in the 1970s and early 1980s — will bring a rise in what were once considered only "big city" problems.

MacOwan, who is researching the social and economic consequences of global restructuring on Canadian cities, says the movement toward a more open, global economy is confronting Canadians at home.

"The people who live or work in cities need to be aware of these issues. They must take a more active role in shaping their cities before the current round of global restructuring limits the options available to them."

The six-week course, offered on Monday and Wednesday evenings until Aug. 17, addresses the issues now facing Canadian cities and explores how they affect Waterloo Region.