Communiqué
October 31, 2013

What’s the real cost of a $10 dress?

Wed, Nov 6, from 5-7 pm in UVic’s Harry Hickman Building Room 110, hosted by the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives.

On April 24, 2013 an eight-storey commercial building, housing five garment factories, collapsed. More than 1,100 factory workers died and many others were seriously injured.

Josh Ault of Gustavson School of Business; Sharmin Ahmed of BRAC University, Bangladesh; Marlea Clarke and Jamie Lawson of Political Science; David Huxtable of Centre for Global Studies; Laura Parisi of Women’s Studies; and moderator Patrick Brown, former CBC Asia Bureau Chief, will discuss some of the complex issues that this tragedy reveals about human rights, precarious labour, commodity chains, and accountability.

“When change comes to Bangladesh,” Toronto Star, Oct 24, 2013

The Rana Plaza collapse is seen as ‘defining moment’ in battle for garment worker safety.


November 7, 4-5pm in Cornett A120, hosted by UVic’s Centre for Co-operative and Community-Based Economy

Despite broad agreement that Social Economy activities are growing and indeed are crucial to a twenty-first century economy, neither academics nor activists agree on exactly what the borders of this activity are. This talk will unpack the practical and theoretical importance of understanding the Social Economy through an integrative values framework and address the intersection between social economy and social enterprise.

Webinar: free to UVic faculty and staff
Innovation for Sustainability: A Key Business Success Factor

Nov 7, 2013 at 11 am Pacific time

Andrew Winston helps large and small companies use environmental strategy to grow, create enduring value, and build stronger relationships with employees, customers and other stakeholders. He has advised Bank of America, Bayer, Boeing, Bridgestone, HP, Johnson & Johnson, and Pepsi. He also sits on Sustainability Advisory Boards for the Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Hewlett-Packard (HP), and Unilever, and serves as a Sustainability Advisor to PwC, and is the author of Green Recovery and co-author of the best-selling Green to Gold.

Human resources, accounting, ethics

“States Clamp Down on Misclassified Employees and Independent Contractors,” Bloomberg, Oct 21, 2013

During the recession, some US companies hired workers and designated them as independent contractors to avoid paying insurance, taxes, fair wages and overtime.