

SEMINAR

**Social Service, Social Change,
and Citizenship at the Margins:
An Exploration of Santropol Roulant**

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Monday, March 9, 2009, 9:30-11:30a.m.
LM-157 - Lash Miller Chemical Labs
80 St. George St.

www.urbancentre.utoronto.ca/communitydevelopment.html

Can a social service be a catalyst for social change? How can we create space and invite “citizenship” in our organizations for people at the margins? What does intergenerationalism mean and how can we work to build communities that are inclusive for people of all ages?

In this seminar we will explore these questions through the lens of Santropol Roulant - an organization that balances frontline service delivery and long-term systems change. We will examine successes, flops, and current challenges for an organization struggling to cultivate local leadership and stay connected to its roots while building influence at larger scales.

Through this example, we may glean more general insights about trends, alternatives and strategies to build healthy, resilient and creative communities.

Santropol Roulant, a volunteer-driven and bike-powered meals-on-wheels organization in Montreal, was founded and is run by young people in the community.

With an environmental ethos and a vision for social change, the Roulant pushes the boundaries of social service by using food as a vehicle to break isolation and to build caring relationships across cultures and generations. Now the largest independent Meals-on-Wheels organization in Quebec, Santropol Roulant hosts a volunteer-run rooftop garden, community bike shop and large-scale vermicompost.

Jane Rabinowicz is Executive Director of Santropol Roulant. She is also a Board member at the Centre for Community Organizations (CoCO), which offers training and capacity building for Anglophone and ethno cultural organizations on and off the Island of Montréal.