

INSPR Newsletter April 2013

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## 1) Matter, Life and Resistance

<https://blogs.kent.ac.uk/matterliferesistance/>

Centre for Critical Thought, The University of Kent, Canterbury, UK: 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2013

Deadline for abstracts: Sunday, **5<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

**Abstracts** should be emailed to [matterliferesistance@kent.ac.uk](mailto:matterliferesistance@kent.ac.uk)

### Keynote speakers:

**Samantha Frost**, University of Illinois, USA

**Sjoerd van Tuinen**, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands

### Possible areas of contribution:

- Reinterpreting the history of political thought: 17th and 18th century materialists.
- Vitalism in the 19th century: life, nature, and the wild. - What is 'new' about new materialism?
- Connecting poststructuralist conceptualisation of life, matter and resistance with biology and the neurosciences (ontogenesis, transductive relations, plasticity, synaptogenesis).
- Consequences of speculative materialism in political theory.
- Can vitalism and materialism be reconciled?

*The conference will be **free of charge** and will have no parallel sessions.*

*A number of papers will be selected to feature in a special issue of a leading academic journal.*

### Organisers:

**Charles Devellennes**, Lecturer in Political and Social Thought, University of Kent, Canterbury, UK

[C.Devellennes@kent.ac.uk](mailto:C.Devellennes@kent.ac.uk)

**Benoît Dillet**, Assistant Lecturer and PhD Candidate at the University of Kent, Canterbury, UK

[B.Dillet@kent.ac.uk](mailto:B.Dillet@kent.ac.uk)

## 2) Contentions against Neoliberalism: Reconstituting the social fabric in the developing world

<http://www.historicalmaterialism.org/news/distributed/cfp-contentions-against-neoliberalism-reconstituting-the-social-fabric-in-the-developing-world-oxford-27-28-june>

Department of International Development, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK: 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2013

*Governance and Development Conference Series*

The conference aims to bring together postgraduates and early career researchers who study **the relationship between free-market reform and political change**. Papers presented at this conference will come from a range of disciplines and topics, including but not limited to:

- New forms of trade unionism and/or reshaping of 'old' trade unions
- Social movements against privatisation
- Citizenship contests
- Forging of political subjects in the neoliberal era
- Contestation of the neoliberal transformation of the state

**Questions** can be directed to:

**Sofia Donoso**, Ph.D. candidate in Development Studies, St Antony's College, University of Oxford  
[sofia.donoso@sant.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sofia.donoso@sant.ox.ac.uk)

*Deadline for papers passed, attendance still possible.*

## 3) The Lady Doth Protest: Mapping Feminist Movements, Moments, and Mobilisations

**Conference Programm:**

<http://fwsaconference.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/the-lady-doth-protest-mapping-feminist-movements-moments-and-mobilisations-fwsa-conference-programme-march-2013.pdf>

Biennial FWSA Conference, University of Nottingham, UK: **21<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2013**

*Deadline for papers passed, attendance still possible.*

## 4) Science and Expertise as an Action Tool for Techno-Critical Movements

<http://cosmos.eui.eu/News/All/20130302ScienceandExpertise.aspx>

The Interpretative Policy Analysis Conference (IPA) 2013, Vienna, Austria: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2013

The panel will deal with the following issues:

"The innovative aspect here is the interlinkage between science and technology studies and social movement research, or more tangibly: **how do NGOs and other activists, who engage in sciento-technological struggles (nuclear, GMOs, climate change etc.), make use**

**of scientific expertise?** So, in case you have thought, worked, done research, published about this subject, or simply a wonderful idea, and would like to discuss it in a presumably small circle of peers, you are very welcome to submit a paper proposal."

*Deadline for papers passed, attendance still possible.*

## 5) New Book by INSPR-member: Learning from the Ground Up - Global Perspectives on Social Movements and Knowledge Production

- Edited by **Aziz Choudry** and **Dip Kapoor**

266 pages - £17.99/\$30.00 - \$90.00(Hardcover)

<http://us.macmillan.com/learningfromthegroundup>

### About the book

The dynamics, politics, and richness of knowledge production in social movements and social activist contexts are often overlooked. This book contends that some of the most radical critiques and understandings of dominant ideologies and power structures, and visions of social change, have emerged from those spaces. Written by authors working closely with diverse social movements, NGOs, and popular mobilizations in the Asia-Pacific, Africa, Europe, the Americas, and the Caribbean, it articulates and documents knowledge production, informal learning, and education work that takes place in everyday worlds of social activism. It highlights links between such knowledges and praxis/action, and illustrates tensions over whose knowledge and voices are heard.

*"An extremely important book. Choudry and Kapoor point the way for a new form of scholarship where scholars, who are themselves committed activists, engage critically with the mass movements."* - **Robert Biel**, Senior Lecturer of Political Ecology, University College London and author of *The New Imperialism*

**AZIZ CHOUDRY** is Assistant Professor in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education at McGill University, Canada.

**DIP KAPOOR** is Associate Professor of Educational Policy Studies at the University of Alberta, Canada.

## 6) Video: Urban Uprising – In History, in Process, in the Future

City University of New York, The Graduate Center for Place, Culture and Politics - Day 1, Fri Nov 30<sup>th</sup>

<http://pcp.gc.cuny.edu/2013/02/video-urban-uprisings-conference/>

- **Part 1:** Opening Keynote (**David Harvey**) and *Urban Uprisings of the 1960s: Living Legacies* (Frances Fox Piven, Jordan T. Camp, Marian Kramer, Karen Miller)
- **Part 2:** *Global Urban Uprisings* (Peter Marcuse, Hiba Bou Akar, Mavuso Dignani, Deen Sharp, Éva Tessa Udvarhelyi)

- **Part 3: *Securitization and the City*** (John Whitlow, Mizue Aizeki, Christina Heatherton, Pete White, Helena Wong)
- **Part 4: Roundtable on *How to Organize a Whole City*** (Chair: Kazembe Balagun, Ujju Aggarwal, Tammy Bang Luu, Rachel LaForest, Rob Robinson, Miguel Robles-Duràn)

## 7) CfP – *Contention* Special Issue - Research and Methods in the Study of Social Protest: Towards a Crossdisciplinary Dialogue

Editors: Giovanni A. Travaglino, Brian Callan & Eugene Nulman  
<http://contentionjournal.org/sp1rm/>

Social protest emerges from a complexity of phenomena. Structures and practices of organisations, governments, economies, armies, or interest groups may afford opportunity for the appearance of injustice, inequity, oppression or immorality pushed too far in the minds of individuals, communities, and dispersed networks of peoples and ideals. Clearly we can learn much from a multidisciplinary approach to the wide variety of personal, socio-political and environmental factors that shape the emergence and impact of social protest.

Different traditions have developed dissimilar, and sometimes divergent, sets of analytical tools through which to explore social actions, social movements, social protest and other forms of contention. These differences are often paralleled by a priori epistemological endeavours and ontological claims about the nature of the object of study, the relevance of its proprieties, and the appropriate level of analysis.

While each of the theoretical and empirical apparatuses and their forms of expression and representation obviously have their own strengths, underlying or even unstated axioms can problematize the multidisciplinary endeavour. Indeed methodology is so central to what we do that the certainty afforded by concepts like rigour, objectivity, science, and hermeneutics may blind us to prejudices and persuasions both disciplinary and personal. Can results be presented apart from their interpretation in anthropology? What is the meaning of 'objective' in sociology or psychology? Is a methodological section appropriate in a literary work?

The aim of this special issue is to offer the reader a series of papers which explores, problematizes and accounts for the different methodological ways, empirical needs and theoretical claims of different disciplines involved in the study of social protest (broadly defined). We welcome original papers from the social sciences and humanities concerning:

- *Overviews of the methods and theoretical apparatuses used within a specific research tradition or discipline*
- *Examples of case studies, with strong considerations on the methodological issues raised by applied research*
- *Historical analysis on the spectrum of methodologies adopted in the broad field of social protest research*
- *Critical discussions of theoretical, epistemological and methodological issues in a discipline/research tradition*
- *Critical discussions on the multidisciplinary endeavour*
- *Other topics relevant to the methodological process in researching social protest, and express, diffuse this research.*

Although we welcome interdisciplinary papers, work conducted within the boundaries of a single discipline is suitable for *Contention*. Due to the multidisciplinary audience of *Contention*, authors should however put efforts in explaining key terms and concepts so that these can be understood across disciplines. Papers should be formatted following the [usual requirements](#) and submitted to [g.travaglino@contentionjournal.org](mailto:g.travaglino@contentionjournal.org) by the **15<sup>th</sup> of July 2013**.

## 8) Green Syndicalism: *An Alternative Red/Green Vision* by Jeff Shantz

*Cloth \$39.95s | 978-0-8156-3307-5 | 2012*  
Syracuse University Press

<http://syracuseuniversitypress.syr.edu/fall-2012/green-syndicalism.html>

It is widely understood that the burdens of ecological destruction are borne disproportionately by working-class and poor communities, both through illness and disease caused by pollutants and through the depletion of natural resources from which they make a living. Yet, consistently, the voices of the working class are the most marginalized, excluded, and silenced when discussing how to address ecological concerns and protect the environment from future destruction. Both mainstream environmental groups, such as the Sierra Club and Greenpeace, and radical environmentalists, such as EarthFirst!, are reluctant to engage with working-class and poor communities, often viewing blue-collar workers as responsible for the destruction these groups are trying to prevent.

In *Green Syndicalism*, Shantz issues a call to action to the environmental movement and labor activists, particularly rank and file workers, to join forces in a common struggle to protect the environment from capitalism, corporate greed, and the extraction of resources. He argues for a major transformation to address the "jobs versus the environment" rhetoric that divides these two groups along lines of race and class. Combining practical initiatives and theoretical perspectives, Shantz offers an approach that brings together radical ecology and revolutionary unionism in a promising vision of green politics. Green syndicalists work as coalitions to increase community-based economics and productive decision making that encourages the participation of all stakeholders in the process. Drawing, in part, on his own experiences growing up in a working-class family and organizing within radical ecology and labor movements, Shantz charts a path that accesses the commonalities between these groups in an effort to take on the forces that destroy the environment, exploit people, and harm their communities.