

Capitalism, Crisis, and Global Reordering

Alternate Routes: A Journal of Critical Social Research

Conference Program

Tuesday June 23 – Wednesday June 24, 2026

Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, Viale Pasubio, 5, 20154 Milano, Italy

Tuesday June 23

9:00-9:30 – Conference Badge Pickup

9:30-10:00 – Welcome Remarks

Welcome Remarks: Carlo Fanelli, York University; Salvatore Prinzi, ISPF-CNR (National Research Council of Italy); Spartaco Puttini, Feltrinelli Foundation; Heather Whiteside, University of Waterloo

10:00-11:30am – Panel 1 – Digital Capitalism and AI

Room: Sala Polifunzionale

Chair: TBD

- Rachael Mulvihill, Carnegie Mellon University, *The Affective Automaton: AI, Capital, and Dystopian Narratives*
- Mark Thomas, York University, *Moments are (still) the Elements of Profit: Reflections on Working Time in an Era of Digital Capitalism*
- Peter Schadt, FAU Erlangen–Nürnberg, *Foundations of a Theory of Value in the Twenty-First Century: On the Political Economy of Digitalization*
- Jonathan Martineau, Concordia University, *Algorithmic Capital: Accumulation, Power and Resistance in the Age of AI*

10:00-11:30am – Panel 2 – Anti-Colonial Theory, Memory and Narrative

Room: Sala Peruta

Chair: TBD

- Karim Pourhamzavi, Beijing Foreign Studies University, *The Palestinian Question and the Iranian Anti-Colonial Logic*
- Joshua Graf, University of Osnabrück, *Theorizing Racism with Marx beyond Marx*
- Ilona M. Otto, Wegener Center for Climate and Global Change, *Socio-Metabolic Class Conflicts in the Anthropocene*

- Mathis Lehoux, McGill University, *Fanon's Temporalities: Remembrance and Resistance in Fanon's Thinking*

10:00-11:30am – Panel 3 – Labour, Class and Multipolar Transitions

Room: Sala Lettura

Chair: TBD

- Madison Albert, McGill University, *Wages for Housework and Family Abolitionism; An Unhappy Marriage?*
- Sabah Alnasseri, York University, *Transitioning to a Multipolar World Order: Back to Ibn Khaldun*
- Iqra Anugrah, University of Turin, *Radical Origins of Capitalist Modernization in Cold War Indonesia: Early Findings*
- Donna Baines, University of British Columbia, *Unionising Peer Support Workers in the Opioid Crisis in Vancouver, Canada*

11:30-12:00pm – Coffee Break – Room: TBD

12:00-1:30pm – Panel 4 – AI, Labour and Inequality

Room: Sala Polifunzionale

Chair: TBD

- Tracy Smith-Carrier and Nicole Kudor, Royal Roads University, *Income Inequality and Poverty in Canada in the Era of AI*
- Lauren Avis and Aiden McIlvaney, McGill University, *AI is Taking ALL of Our Jobs: Deepfake Pornography and the Digital Sex Worker*
- John Bessai, Independent Scholar, *AI Regimes and Crisis Capitalism: Canada's Sub-Imperial Settler Order in Global Reordering*
- Taylor Miha, Toronto Metropolitan University, *Towards a Democratic Development of AI: The Pluralistic Perspective*

12:00-1:30pm – Panel 5 – Settler Colonialism and Dispossession

Room: Sala Peruta

Chair: TBD

- Peter Kulchyski, University of Manitoba, *Bush/Work: Political Economy and Cultural Politics in Northern Indigenous Resistances to Capital Accumulation*

- Jessica Jacobson-Konefall, University of Lethbridge, *To Revolve, to Resist: Concentrating Siksika Constellations in Alberta, Canada*
- Felipe Costa Lima and Melina Anastasopoulou, University of Luxembourg, *The Digital Land Titling Trap: Dependencies, Displacement, and Alternative Futures for Laos*
- Tracy Supruniuk, York University, *The World Cup Comes to Canada: A Tale of Dispossession*

12:00-1:30pm – Panel 6 – Populism, Nationalism and the Far Right

Room: Sala Lettura

Chair: TBD

- Thea Baines, University of Toronto, *Gendered Nationalism and Populist Radical Right Politics in an Era of Global Crisis*
- David Goutor, McMaster University, *Fascism, Anti-Fascism and Elite Acquiescence: the 1930s and the 2020s*
- Joseph Galbo, University of New Brunswick, *Many Rivers to Cross: Giorgia Meloni Political Crossroads*
- Daniel Evans, Swansea University, *Automotive Populism in the UK: Petrocapitalism, Car Dependency and the Rise of the Far Right*

1:30-2:30pm – Lunch – Room: TBD

2:30-4:00pm: Panel 7 – Migration, Borders and Policing

Room: Sala Lettura

Chair: TBD

- Gemma Bird, University of Liverpool and Davide Schmidt, Manchester Metropolitan University, *The New Guest Workers of Europe: A 'Migration Fix' for the Crises of European Capitalism?*
- Leila Talani, King's College London, *The End of Globalization?*
- Alfredo Rosete, Central Connecticut State University, *Deportations, Gentrification and Care*
- Zoe Savitsky, York University, *From Serve and Protect to Protect and Serve: Law Enforcement as Protected Identity*

2:30-4:00pm: Panel 8 – Precarity, Class and Work

Room: Sala Peruta

Chair: TBD

- Bryn Jones, University of Bath, *Goodbye Working Class – Hello Proletarians*
- Stefano Ba', Leeds Trinity University, *Precarity and Everyday Class Struggle: A Critical Theory Approach*
- Koyel Lahiri, Krea University, *Post-Fordist Work, Informal Workers and Politics: Revisiting Meaningful Struggle*
- Viktoriya Vinik, York University, *Airbnb under Occupation: Housing, Class, and the State-as-Landlord*

4:00-4:30pm – Coffee Break – Room: TBD

4:30-6:00pm: Panel 9 – Skills, Inequality and Critical Futures

Room: Sala Lettura

Chair: TBD

- Marianna Forleo and Laura Evangelista, INAPP, *Quality of Training and Skills Development in European Policies*
- Harman Uppal, Simon Fraser University, *Island Laboratories and Building Nations: Reshaping Terra Nullius in Rachel Heng's The Great Reclamation*
- Margherita Lanini, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, *Abstentionism and Class Divide in Italy: The Labor Market Roots of Economic and Political Inequality*
- Nalini Persram, York University, *"Why Resist? Why Surrender?": Reflections on Resistance, Acquiescence, and the Frankfurt School*

4:30-6:00pm: Panel 10 – Culture, Ideology and Subjectivity

Room: Sala Peruta

Chair: TBD

- Solomon Schafer, McGill University, *Ideas with Lives of Their Own: Ideology, Critique, and Conspiracy Theory*
- Rebecca Carrai, KU Leuven, *Capitalism in Fashion: Spatial Histories of Global Luxury Leather*
- Ahmed Kanna, University of the Pacific, *Contemplating Capitalism: How Anthropological Theory Depoliticizes Class, Oppression, and the Climate*
- Florence Manlapas, McGill University, *"Super Freak:" 'Normal' Sex as a False Need*

Wednesday June 24, 2026

9:30-11:00am – Panel 11 – Abolition, Decoloniality and Ecological Justice

Room: Sala Lettura

Chair: TBD

- Rafaela Sá and Caleb Duffield, McMaster University, *Bringing the Public Back In: Public Service Delivery and Decarbonising Heating in British Columbia, Canada*
- Teresa Macías, York University, *Unsettling Environmental Care: Decoloniality, Degrowth and the Challenges of Green Social Work Education*
- Harjeet Badwall, York University, *Anti-Colonialism and Narrative Practice*
- Anne O'Connell, *Abolition Social Work or the Professionalization of the Care Economy?*

9:30-11:00am – Panel 12 – Education, Austerity and Knowledge

Room: Sala Lettura

Chair: TBD

- Lana Parker, University of Windsor, *A Snake Eating Its Own Tail: The Financialization of Public Education*
- Jen Wrye, North Island College, and Lynelle Yutani, Camosun College, *Dismantling Public Postsecondary Education in British Columbia, Canada: The View from Academic Labour*
- Gabriele Borghese, Università degli Studi “Suor Orsola Benincasa, *Neoliberal Education and Its Critique: Hypotheses for a Revival of Education from a Critical Perspective*
- Saeed Hydaralli, Roger Williams University, *The A.I. “Cheating Crisis” in Higher Education: Pedagogical Labor, Institutional Anxiety, and the Reorganization of Knowledge*

9:30-11:00am – Panel 13 – Finance, Corporate Power and Democratic Constraint

Room: Sala Polifunzionale

Chair: TBD

- Jongchul Kim, Sogang University, *Rights and Responsibilities in Contemporary Finance: A Political-Philosophical Critique of Modern Persona and Property*
- Atle Midttun, Norwegian Business School, *Corporate Responsibility and Business Ethics Under Contested Globalization*
- Miranda Martinez, The Ohio State University, *Community Finance and Disaster Colonialism: Puerto Rico’s Credit Unions Between Austerity and Popular Mobilization*

- Carlo Fanelli, York University, *Governing Through Constraint: Provincial Centralization and the Limits of Urban Democracy in Toronto*

11:00-11:30am – Coffee Break – Room: TBD

11:30-1:00pm – Panel 14 – Neoliberalism, Austerity and Crisis

Room: Sala Peruta

Chair: TBD

- Giampaolo Conte, University of Rome 3, *Economic Liberal Reforms and a New Pathway for Capitalistic Development*
- Brianne Anderson, McGill University, *The Ills of Austerity: EU Fiscal Policy, Euroscepticism, and Populism in Italy*
- Maria Ivanova, Goldsmiths, University of London, *From Riches to Rags: The Peculiar Case of Great Britain*
- Paolo Ramazzotti, University of Macerata, *The Neoliberal Paradox*

11:30-1:00pm – Panel 15 – Digital Capitalism, Labour Regimes and Colonial Power

Room: Sala Peruta

Chair: TBD

- Lorenzo Veracini, Swinburne University of Technology, *Settler Colonialism in the Digital Worlds*
- Martin Deron, Concordia University, *Beyond Algorithmic Capitalism – Redirecting ICT Towards Sustainability-Oriented Futures*
- Vito Di Santo, University of Milan, *Mediterranean Capitalism at a Crossroads? Diverging Labour-Market Trajectories in Southern Europe (2005–2023)*
- Salvatore Prinzi, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, *Challenging Lavoro Povero: The Fight for Living Waged Work in Italy*

11:30-1:00pm – Panel 16 – Crisis, Temporality and Political Breakdown

Room: Sala Polifunzionale

Chair: TBD

- Adam Zvric, McMaster University, *Making Sense of the Conjunctural Moment: A Cultural Political Economy Approach*

- Nikita Zagvozdkin, University of Wuppertal, *The Not-So-Discreet Charm of the Lumpenbourgeoisie: On the Dialectics of Modern Political Crisis*
- Taher Hasoon, Toronto Metropolitan University, *Genocide and the Control of Temporal Freedoms*
- Eleonora Roldán Mendívil, University of Potsdam, *Class, Social Reproduction and Sexuality in modern Capitalism*

1:00-2:00pm – Lunch – Room: TBD

2:00-3:30pm – Panel 17 – State Capitalism and Development

Room: Sala Peruta

Chair: TBD

- Raphael Sassower, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, *The Predicaments of State Capitalism*
- Stephen McBride, McMaster University, *Paradigm Shift?: Canadian State Capitalism and Global Reordering*
- Heather Whiteside, University of Waterloo, *Back to the Future: State Capital and the Capitalist State*
- Roberto Tamborini, University of Trento, *The National Capitalism*

2:00-3:30pm – Panel 18 – Empire, Militarism and the Far-Right

Room: Sala Lettura

Chair: TBD

- Francesco Macheda, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, *The Military Foundations of Imperialism in the Contemporary World*
- Davide Ventrone, McMaster University, *Greening U.S. Empire: The Politics of U.S. Imperialism and Green Finance*
- Xiaoya Huang, McGill University, *Who Codes the Digital Future? China's Bid for Hegemony Through the Digital Silk Road*
- Steven Tufts, York University, *Unions and the Rise of the Far-Right: Toward Anti-Fascist Worker Mobilization*

3:30-4:00 – Coffee Break – Room: TBD

4:00-5:30pm – Panel 19 – Labour Movements and Radical Pedagogy

Room: Sala Lettura

Chair: Salvatore Prinzi

- Bafta Sarbo, Initiative Schwarze Menschen, *The Diversity of Exploitation: On the Critique of Dominant Antiracism*
- Katherine Nastovski, York University, *Radical Worker Education: Assessing Traditions and Pedagogies*
- Carlos Torres, York University, *Understanding Social Movements, Activism and Dissent in Western Countries*
- Jacob Robbins-Kanter, Bishop's University, and Daniel Troup, MacEwan University, *Competing Visions of Class and the Politics of Inequality in Canada*

4:00-5:30pm – Panel 20 – Authoritarianism and Geopolitical Power

Room: Sala Peruta

Chair: TBD

- Bushra Alimerdan, University of Guelph, *Navigating Neo-Ottomanism: Türkiye's Challenge to Neorealism in the Pursuit of Regional Power*
- Maurilio Pirone, University of Bologna, *The Age of Techno-Authoritarianism*
- Robert Spadidakis, McGill University, *The Authoritarian Rebel*
- Claudio Colaguori, York University, *Shifting Global Power Arrangements in the Geopolitical Agon*

6pm Social Event
Babitonga Café
(Ground Floor Feltrinelli Foundation)



