

Starting Over: Mass Politics and the Future of the Left

Alternate Routes: A Journal of Critical Social Research

Draft Conference Program

Tuesday May 27 – Friday May 30, 2025

University of Naples Federico II, C.so Umberto I, 40, 80138 Naples, Italy

Tuesday May 27, 2025

2:30-4:30pm - Opening Plenary – The Radical Left and the Spectre of Fascism

Welcome Remarks: Carlo Fanelli, York University; Francesca Gabbriellini, University of Bologna; Luca Mandara, University of Naples Federico II; Marco Marrone, University of Salento; Salvatore Prinzi, University of Naples Federico II; Heather Whiteside, University of Waterloo

Panelists: TBD

7:30pm – Welcome Social Event: Location TBD

Wednesday May 28, 2025

9:30-10:00am – Registration – Room: TBD

10:00-11:15pm – Panel 1 – Title

Chair: Unpacking Economic and Political Shifts in a Changing World

Stephen McBride, McMaster University, *Trade and Trump 2.0: Challenges within and to the Rules Based International Order*

Joseph Galbo University of New Brunswick, *Framing the Conspiracy Candidate: RFK Jr., Media Spectacle, and the Personalization of Politics*

Chelsey Ancliffe, Concordia University, *Ground Rent and Global Crisis: A Marxist Lens on Land, Profit, and Power*

11:15-11:45am – Coffee Break – Room: TBD

11:45-1:00pm – Panel 2 – Accumulation, Anti-Statism and Populism

Chair: TBD

Heather Whiteside, University of Waterloo, *The Shifting Politics of Accumulation*

Daniel Evans, Swansea University and Andrea Brondino, University of Manchester, *The Role of Anti-Statism in Modern Right-Populism and its Class Origins*

Luann Good Gingrich, York University, *Anti-Statist Populisms: Where the Ideological Right and Left Converge, and/or a Way Forward?*

1:00-2:00pm – Lunch – Room: TBD

2:00-3:15pm: Panel 3 – Fragile Futures: Labour and the Environment

Chair: TBD

Alfredo R. M. Rosete, Central Connecticut State University, *Can Empowering Labor Help the Environment?*

Jaskiran Dhillon, The New School, *Climate Change, Environmental Epistemes, and Guideposts for World-Making into the Future*

Carley Chavara, University of Toronto, *Who is the Crew for Spaceship Earth?*

3:15- 3:45pm – Coffee Break – Room: TBD

3:45-5:00pm: Panel 4 – Empire and Education: Critical Perspectives on Global Learning Systems

Chair: TBD

Scott Timothy, Central Connecticut State University, *Schooling for Silicon Valley: A Critical Examination of the Role of EdTech in the Precarious and Extractive Smart Economy of the So-Called Fourth Industrial Revolution*

Bahar Biazar, Seneca College, *Imperialism & English Language Education (ELE): Understanding the role of ELE in Iraq*

Marianna Forleo, Concetta Fonzo and Laura Evangelista, National Institute for the Analysis of Public Policies, *Quality Assuring Education for Democratic Citizenship in Vocational Education and Training*

Thursday May 29, 2025

9:30-11:00am: Panel 5 – Empire, Anti-Colonial Resistance and the Crisis of Progressivism

Chair: TBD

Deepa Kumar, Rutgers University, *Weaponizing Terrorism: Empire, Race, and Security*

Malav Kanuga, Independent Researcher, *The Problem of Common Sense: Anticolonial Marxism and Coalitions without Guarantees*

Nalini Persram, York University, *W(h)ither the Left: Authoritarianism Globally, Resistance Regionally and Complacency Liberally*

Iqra Anugrah, University of Turin, *The Twilight of Progressive/Social Movements in East and Southeast Asia: Reflections from Indonesia, the Philippines, and Hong Kong*

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

11:30-1:00pm: Panel 6 – Finance, Dissent and Identity in Contemporary Global Contexts

Chair: TBD

Jesook Song, University of Toronto, *Re-emergence of “Family” as a Leftist Challenge to Depoliticization in the Financialization Era*

Dmitry Khodzko, York University, *From the Betrayal of Socialism by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to the War in Europe: Lessons from the Invasion of Finance Capital into the Post-Soviet Space*

Jacinthe Michaud, York University, *Dissent, Protest and Mental Illness: Tracing the (Re)Criminalization/Psychiatrization of Subaltern Poor, Racialized, Gendered and Queer People in Contemporary Contexts*

Elena Nogaeva, University of Eastern Finland, *Digital Discourse on Russia’s Superficial Support for Nenets’ Reindeer Husbandry*

1:00-2:00 pm – Lunch – Room: TBD

2:00-3:15pm: Panel 7 – Digital Power, Imperialism and Ecological Crisis

Chair: TBD

Fouâd Oveysy, York University, *Rival Sovereignties: AI, Labour, and the Sino-American Contest for Digital Hegemony*

Claudio Cozza, University of Naples II Parthenope, *Imperialism as the Driving Force of the Ecological Crisis: An Eco-Marxist Approach*

Marco Marrone, University of Salento, *The Hidden Labor of AI: A Research Agenda on the Future of Work*

3:15-3:45pm Coffee Break – Room TBD

3:45-5:15pm: Panel 8 – Social Blocs, Narratives and Political Strategies in Contemporary Movements

Vladimir Bortun, University of Oxford, *“Men of the People”, but Which People? Unpacking the Social Bloc of Right-Wing Populism*

Sydney Whiting, University of Lethbridge, *Then and Now: Political Cartoons and the Rise of Populist Narratives in Alberta, Canada*

Or Dar, Tel Aviv University, *Radical-Left Parties, Populist Projects and the Era of No “Grand Dialectic”*

Robert Latham, York University, *Is the Left Ready for a New Left Realism?*

Solidarity Event – 6pm TBD

Friday May 30, 2025

9:30-10:45 – Panel 9 – Renewal, Realignment and Working Class Politics

Chair: TBD

Howard Stevenson, University of Nottingham, *Trade Union Renewal in Hard Times: Prospects and Possibilities*

Carlo Fanelli, York University, *Harnessing Working Class Conservatism: Labour and the Politics of Ford Nation*

Ali Behran Ozcelik, McMaster University, *Class Dealignment is Real and Neither Economism Nor Catering to Middle-Class Prejudices will Reverse it*

10:45-11:15am Coffee Break – Room TBD

11:15-12:45 – Panel 10 – Global Shifts in Worker Mobilization, Class Politics and Left Futures

Chair: TBD

Niccolò Cuppini, University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland, and Carlotta Benvegnù, Université d'Evry Paris-Saclay, *Insights on Labour Mobilities in France and Italy. Aporias and Potentials for a Renewal of Mass Workers Organization*

Ridhima Sharma, University of Toronto, *The Making of the Hindutva Worker: The Decline of Working Class Politics in North India*

Bryn Jones, University of Bath, *The End of Democracy? Imperatives for Labour and Civil Society*

Dillon Wamsley, Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute, *Labour Now and Then: Third Way Trajectories and the Future of Centre-Left Politics in the Anglosphere*

12:45-1:45pm – Lunch – Room: TBD

1:45-3:00pm – Panel 11 – Critical Analyses of Global Policy, Healthcare, and Imperial Legacies

Tracy Smith-Carrier, Royal Roads University, *'Correcting Course' on the 'Reversals of Fortune'? A Critical Discourse Analysis of the World Bank's Ongoing Development Project*

Arianna Rotulo, University of Groningen, *Healthcare Privatisation Through the Recovery and Resilience Facility: A Policy Analysis*

Stefano Palermo, Purdue University, *Europeannes from Empire to Union: Rebranding Imperial Values in the Neoliberal Age*

3:00-3:30pm – Coffee Break – Room: TBD

3:30-5:00pm – Panel 12 – Socialism, Strategic Dilemmas and Anti-Colonial Futures

Peter Ramand, University of Wisconsin Madison, *The Strategic Dilemmas of Democratic Socialism and Left Populism*

Maurilio Pirone, University of Bologna, *Resistance is not Enough: Is Digital Socialism Possible?*

Majeed Malhas, University of Toronto, *Starting Over: Reimagining Pan-Arab Socialism and the Future of Leftist Anti-Colonial Politics*

Salvatore Prinzi, University of Naples Federico II, *How to Break Passivity. Some Emerging Socialist Perspectives*



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FEDERICO II