

# 7th Annual People's University of the NCS

This summer at the World Social Forum (WSF) Montreal will host tens of thousands of people and hundreds of groups and movements from around the world who are involved in struggles for justice and changing the world... **and** the People's University of the *Nouveaux Cahiers du socialisme* (NCS) will be there!



Nouveaux  
Cahiers du  
socialisme

## A PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY

The NCS People's University grows out of the joint efforts of some 40 people active in trade unions, in feminist, environmental and other social movements, and in the academic world in Quebec. It is a collective intellectual and political endeavour aimed at supporting efforts

to build a strong movement for radical change. The People's University is neither academic nor bookish in its approach. We believe that knowledge and political capacities are enriched by the interplay of theory and practice grounded in the fight to change the world.

## IT'S UP TO US...

Our starting point is an unsparing analysis of the existing power structures and the 1% whose interests they serve. Our goal is to discuss and debate the reasons for exploitation, domination and exclusion, while exposing the roots of a system driven by accumulation and a possessive individualism.

In addition, we plan to take a close look at the strategies of struggle and emancipation deployed by social movements throughout the world. But this is also an opportunity to dream, to celebrate and to forge links between all the individuals and groups coming from the four corners of the planet to Montreal this summer.

We aim to learn from the lessons of the past to help illuminate the challenges we face and to find spaces for greater collaboration, especially among young activists (including the young in spirit). We can draw upon a vast array of projects, tools, methodologies and new ideas to allow us to go further, organize ourselves better, resist more successfully, and, most importantly, to WIN!

## REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION

By registering for the World Social Forum you are also registering for the NCS' People's University.

You can register online at:

<https://fsm2016.org/en/participer/sinscire/>

The above site also has information on accommodations in Montreal during the WSF.

For more information on the World Social Forum go to

<https://fsm2016.org/en/>

**The NCS  
PEOPLE'S  
UNIVERSITY**

**August  
9-14, 2016**

...  
University of  
Quebec at Montreal  
(UQAM)

When the  
people rise up...

**Make way  
for the  
ninety-  
nine per  
cent!**

**99%**

To learn more about the People's University of the *Nouveaux cahiers du socialisme* please contact:

John Bradley: [jbradley@primus.ca](mailto:jbradley@primus.ca) / 514 769-8962

Donald Cuccioletta: [donald.cuccioletta@uqo.ca](mailto:donald.cuccioletta@uqo.ca) / 514 593-1749



# A sampling of our panels at Montreal's WSF



## WORKSHOPS, PLENARIES, EXHIBITIONS, PERFORMANCES...

WITH PARTICIPANTS FROM QUEBEC CANADA THE UNITED STATES BRAZIL CHILE FRANCE SPAIN PALESTINE MALI SENEGAL SOUTH AFRICA INDIA CHINA AND ALL OVER THE WORLD!

### THE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS: THE FUTURE IS NOW !

We are faced with a stark choice: a planet that is 4 °C warmer with disastrous consequences for the earth's ecosystems and human civilization or the complete rebuilding of our economy and our society. This workshop will examine ecosocialist strategies as well as the struggles of specific social movements. Panelists include Monthly Review's Fred Magdoff, and Melissa Mollen Dupuis, Aboriginal activist and co-founder of the Idle No More movement in Québec. Facilitated by Andrea Levy, columnist and editor with Canadian Dimension.

### CLASS STRUGGLE - MADE IN THE USA

The right turn in US politics, beginning with the coming to power of Ronald Reagan in 1980 and consolidated during Obama's presidency, is on the verge of becoming hegemonic at every level of American society. What remains of the American liberal democratic tradition is now threatened by the authoritarianism of the religious far right and the resurgence of a reactionary libertarianism propagated by the neo-fascist discourse of the Tea Party. The Left and other progressive forces are deploying their energies at the municipal level, in addition to making use of the political openings created by the dazzling campaign of Bernie Sanders that could contribute to the development of a major progressive movement in the U.S.

### QUÉBEC AND CANADA: TOWARDS A COMMON FRONT

As the global economic crisis deepens, social movements throughout the advanced capitalist world are responding with struggles against austerity and for greater sovereignty and democracy. In North America, Quebec has been at the forefront of such struggles and its bid for emancipation and the creation of a sovereign state could play a key role as a catalyst in bringing about the kinds of far-reaching social change that would inevitably transform the Canadian state as a whole. To counter the inevitable anti-Quebec offensive of the Canadian establishment, the solidarity of the Canadian working class with Quebec's fight for self-determination is vital and can contribute to strengthening progressive movements in English Canada. We need to learn a lesson from the suppression of the anti-austerity struggle in Greece by the European Central Bank.

The panel will feature political, union and community activists from across Canada and Québec.

### FOUNDATIONS OF THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE 1%

Neoliberal restructuring has continued apace since the financial crisis of 2008. We have witnessed ongoing financialization, privatization, and cuts to public services, all in the name of an allegedly necessary austerity. In addition to their devastating impact on middle-income and other working people, these policies are transforming power relations with mounting repression and infringement of civil rights. New Public Management is being promoted by corporations and business schools and draconian legislation is being passed with a view to re-engineering the State. The current approach has very clear objectives: to restructure capitalism and consolidate class power. To develop suitable strategies of resistance, we need to examine the roots of the current system and understand the processes at play.

... and a conference with Gilbert Achcar

### THE MIDDLE EAST CAUGHT IN A TRAP

A tragedy is continuing to play out in Syria, the country at the centre of the political and historic chess board that is the Middle East. Syria is now in ruins, a result of a multi-front war pitting the Bashar El-Assad dictatorship against so-called Islamist groups and a host of democratic organizations. These conflicts are fuelled and manipulated by the world's great powers as well as by certain local regimes, particularly Israel, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Iran, which are seeking to assure their continued hegemony in the region. The Arab and Kurdish democratic resistance forces are bravely but barely holding on.

Gilbert Achcar, a Lebanese-born researcher now working in London, will be with us at the World Social Forum to offer his insights on this ongoing crisis. Achcar is an international authority known for the quality and clarity of his research on the Middle East, as illustrated by his 2013 book, *The People Want: A Radical Exploration of the Arab Uprising*.

These are just a few of the panels, plenary sessions, exhibitions and performances that we have in store at the People's University including:

## THOMAS HELLMAN



### AMERICAN DREAMS

AUGUST 12 AT 7:30 PM AT THE MONUMENT NATIONAL

Thomas Hellman offers a unique take on American history, from the conquest of the West to the Great Depression of the 1930s, through his own versions of songs from the blues, folk and gospel repertoires.

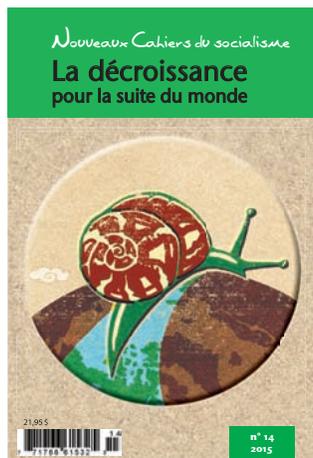
### For updates and more information please contact:

John Bradley .....514-769-8962 / [jbradley@primus.ca](mailto:jbradley@primus.ca)

Donald Cuccioletta.....514-593-1749 / [donald.cuccioletta@uqo.ca](mailto:donald.cuccioletta@uqo.ca)

**NOTE:** French to English whisper translation will be available for all sessions. Simultaneous translation may be available for some plenary sessions

# About the *Nouveaux Cahiers du socialisme*



Published twice annually beginning in 2009, the *Nouveaux Cahiers du socialisme* grew out of the efforts of a group of people involved in Québec social movements and the political left. In 2006 we formed a collective called the Collectif d'action politique (CAP). Not affiliated with any political party or group, CAP seeks to partake in and contribute to the debates and struggles of today's progressive social movements. At the same time, we want to develop an in-depth analysis of contemporary capitalism and participate in re-imagining socialism for the 21st century.

Many of CAP's participants and contributors come from the university and educational milieus but we see ourselves as intellectual activists, that is, at once, scholars and producers of ideas, and activists belonging to a variety of citizen and trade union movements. Thus the *Nouveaux Cahiers* does not consider itself an academic journal. The contributions we solicit draw on a wide range of expertise, from both a theoretical and a practical perspective. Our starting point, however, is that knowledge does not arise spontaneously and that an analysis and understanding of social processes and events demands a rigorous approach. Remember Marx's withering observation: "[But] all science would be superfluous if the outward appearance and the essence of things directly coincided." – Karl Marx, *Capital* (Volume III), (Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1977) p. 817.

## THE NEO-LIBERAL REVOLUTION

Capitalism, in its most recent form of neo-liberalism, is restructuring the world we live in. It is accelerating the globalization of the world economy by broadening the process of accumulation at a planetary level through the increased integration of national economies, financialization and the implementation of new technologies that atomize wage labor and enable corporate delocalization. It re-defines the state by buttressing the security functions of the state and diminishing its social role. It imposes a conservative ideology, both socially and culturally, and promotes the anti-social credo of "everyone for himself." It also insists that there is no alternative to the existing system and that the principle of social hierarchy must be re-established and strengthened as the fundamental guiding principle in our societies. In order to effect this vast political shift, neo-liberalism systematically attacks and destroys the social gains that have been won through the struggles of unions and social movements over the last half century.

## RESISTANCE

In face of this attack, social movements old and new have been and continue offering resistance. Migrant workers in the United States, indigenous farmers in Mexico, anti-globalization activists in Seattle in 1999, students against the commodification of education in Québec, First Peoples defending their lands in Canada, feminists in the Global March for Women, the piqueteros of Argentina, Indignados in Europe, young pacifists the world over, and many, many others – all these groups have been building a diverse and complex alternative movement, a movement with new perspectives that are anti-capitalist and post-capitalist. These movements of resistance seek not only to challenge existing power arrangements but also to reinvent and redefine a citizens' democracy in the fullest sense of the word.

Through these struggles, new dialogues, values, and identities are creating the foundations of a new culture of the Left, a culture that is pluralist, critical, and capable of self-criticism, one that can create new models and move beyond itself.

## OUR AIMS

As a committed part of this movement, CAP and the journal *Les Nouveaux Cahiers du socialisme* have three major goals:

- To analyze the structural dimensions of contemporary capitalism
- To develop an anti-capitalist and post-capitalist vision that is at once theoretical and practical
- To help develop new alternatives to foster the growth of social movements and the Left

We do not want to re-invent the wheel. While we are keenly aware of the historic limitations of the actually-existing socialism of the 20th century, we are nevertheless heirs to a rich heritage of past ideas and struggles. But we do hope, through the ongoing development of theory and practice, to contribute to understanding and acting upon all the vital questions that figure so centrally in the movement of resistance to capitalism.

## HOW TO GET IN TOUCH:

John Bradley .....514-769-8962 / [jbradley@primus.ca](mailto:jbradley@primus.ca)  
Donald Cuccioletta.....514-593-1749 / [donald.cuccioletta@uqo.ca](mailto:donald.cuccioletta@uqo.ca)

Visit our website and read the *Nouveaux Cahiers* (in French):

[cahiersdusocialisme.org](http://cahiersdusocialisme.org)

# Websites of interest - Canada

## **CANADIAN DIMENSION** - <http://canadiandimension.com/>

Canadian Dimension is a magazine which shows there is an alternative to the corporate agenda and the dictates of the global market; that the dream of a better society is still alive. It provides a forum for debate, where red meets green, feminists take on socialists, socialists take on social democrats, whites hear from aboriginals, activists report from all corners of Canada, trade unionists report from the front lines, campaigns make connections, and the latest books, films, websites, CDs, and videos are radically reviewed.

## **IDLE NO MORE** - <http://www.idlenomore.ca/>

Idle No More has quickly become one of the largest Indigenous mass movements in Canadian history – sparking hundreds of teach-ins, rallies, and protests across Turtle Island and beyond. What began as a series of teach-ins throughout Saskatchewan to protest impending parliamentary bills that will erode Indigenous sovereignty and environmental protections, has now changed the social and political landscape of Canada. Idle No More calls on all people to join in a peaceful revolution, to honour Indigenous sovereignty, and to protect the land and water.



## **PROGRESSIVE ECONOMICS FORUM**

- <http://www.progressive-economics.ca/about-pef/>

The Progressive Economics Forum aims to promote the development of a progressive economics community in Canada. The PEF brings together over 200 progressive economists, working in universities, the labour movement, and activist research organizations.

## **SOCIALIST PROJECT** - <http://www.socialistproject.ca/bullet>

The Socialist Project does not propose an easy politics for defeating capitalism or claim a ready alternative to take its place. We oppose capitalism out of necessity and support the resistance of others out of solidarity. This resistance creates spaces of hope, and an activist hope is the first step to discovering a new socialist politics. Through the struggles of that politics - struggles informed by collective analysis and reflection - alternatives to capitalism will emerge.

## **UPPING THE ANTI** - <http://uppingtheanti.org/>

Upping the Anti is a radical journal of theory and action which provides a space to reflect on the state of political organizing in Canada.

We publish theoretical and critical articles, interviews, and roundtables. Upping the Anti also includes a book review section where activists assess new writing on the Left. "Upping the Anti" refers to our interest in assessing the interwoven tendencies that define the politics of today's radical left: anti-capitalism, anti-oppression, and anti-imperialism.

We publish pieces that actively engage with and intervene in contemporary movement debates. We avoid specialist language and academic jargon. We will not publish your school paper.

## **LIFE ON THE LEFT** - <http://lifeonleft.blogspot.ca/>

News articles, commentaries, reviews, translations on subjects of potential interest to progressive minded individuals and organizations, with a special emphasis on the Quebec national question, indigenous peoples, Latin American solidarity, and the socialist movement and its history.

## **THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR POLICY ALTERNATIVES**

- <https://www.policyalternatives.ca/>

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives is an independent, non-partisan research institute concerned with issues of social, economic and environmental justice. Founded in 1980, the CCPA is one of Canada's leading progressive voices in public policy debates.

## **ECOSOCIALISM CANADA** - <http://ecosocialism.ca/> (until October 2014);

**Now see** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EcosocialismCanada/>

The Ecosocialism Canada group focuses on the specific needs, concerns and experiences of the growing movement against capitalist ecocide in Canada, Quebec and First Nations.

## **RICOCHE** - <http://www.ricochet.media/en>

Ricochet is the product of collaboration between anglophones and francophones in a plurinational Canada, informed by an understanding of our colonial histories and supportive of contemporary Indigenous struggles. Sovereignty remains a burning question and our cohabitation in this country remains uncertain. Ignoring the realities of others, however, as we too often do, amounts to refusing to confront our common challenges. Ricochet brings together anglophones and francophones within the same publication, composed of two editions which maintain their editorial independence.

## **THE MEDIA CO-OP AND THE DOMINION**

- <http://www.mediacoop.ca/> and <http://www.dominionpaper.ca/>

The Media Co-op is a coast-to-coast network of local media co-operatives dedicated to providing grassroots, democratic coverage of their communities and of Canada.

## **RABBLE** - <http://rabble.ca/>

rabble.ca was built on the efforts of progressive journalists, writers, artists and activists across the country. We launched rabble on April 18, 2001, just before the protests against the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City, and leapt onto the Net with the kind of coverage you could only get from the point of view of the rabble.

Blurring the line between readers and contributors, it will provide a needed space for issues, a place to explore political passions and an opportunity to expand ideas.

