



M A P P I N G S O C I A L I S T S T R A T E G I E S

August 1-4, 2014

Edith Macy Conference Center
550 Chappaqua Road, Briarcliff Manor, NY



**ROSA
LUXEMBURG
STIFTUNG**
NEW YORK OFFICE

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

- 3:30-5:00 Arrival and Check-In
- 5:45-6:00 **RLS-NYC WELCOME**
- 6:00-7:00 Dinner
- 7:00-8:30 **PLENARY NO. 1 – MAPPING SOCIALIST STRATEGIES**
- 7:00-7:15 Introduction by RLS-NYC Co-director [Albert Scharenberg](#)
- 7:15-8:30 [Frances Fox Piven](#), [Bhaskar Sunkara](#), and [Hans van Heijningen](#)
in conversation about mapping socialist strategies
Moderated by RLS-NYC Co-director [Stefanie Ehmsen](#)
- 8:30-10:00 **“SPEED DATING” ICEBREAKER AND FEIERABEND (WELCOMING RECEPTION)**

SATURDAY

- 8:00-9:00 Breakfast
- 9:00-10:00 **PLENARY NO. 2 - NEOLIBERALISM VS. THE PUBLIC/THE COMMONS**
- [Leo Panitch](#) and [Rachel Laforest](#) introduce the state of neoliberalism and the notions of the public sphere and the commons. In the wake of repeated financial crises and economic collapses, neoliberalism has been thoroughly discredited on the intellectual plane, yet empirically it seems more powerful than ever. What is the state of resistance to neoliberalism? How can the notion of the public sphere and the commons help shape a possible shared framework for resistance?
- 10:00-11:15 **BREAKOUT NO. 1**
- Participants break into eight groups for conversation about the state of neoliberalism and the notion of the commons. *See the backside of your name tag for this and all breakout assignments.*

- 11:15-11:45 Coffee Break
- 11:45-1:00 **BREAKOUT NO. 2**
- Participants continue the discussion. How can strategy, as discussed the evening before, help us to shape our resistance to neoliberalism?
- 1:00-2:00 Lunch
- 2:00-3:15 **PLENARY NO. 3 – CASE STUDIES: EXPOSING NEOLIBERALISM’S WEAK SPOTS**
- Tar Sands and Pipeline Campaigns along the Canada-U.S. Border
Led by [Lara Skinner](#) and [Clayton Thomas-Muller](#)
 - Chicago Teachers Union and the Strike of 2012
Led by [Marilena Marchetti](#) and [Ethan Young](#)
 - Austerity, Collapse, and the Rise of the Radical Left in Greece
Led by [Ioannis Bournous](#) and [Giorgos Karatsioubanis](#)
 - Jackson, Mississippi: Before and After Chokwe Lumumba
Led by [Kali Akuno](#) and [Elandria Williams](#)
- 3:15-3:30 Coffee Break
- 3:30-5:00 **BREAKOUT NO. 3**
- Participants break into four groups for discussion of the case studies, particularly as they pertain to the fight for the commons, socialist strategies, and cross-sectorial alliances.
- 5:00-7:00 **FREE TIME**
- Soccer, hiking, participant led initiatives, napping, informal conversation, etc.
- 7:00-8:00 Dinner
- 8:00-10:00 **SNEAK PEEK FILM SCREENING: SHE’S BEAUTIFUL WHEN SHE’S ANGRY**
- She’s Beautiful When She’s Angry* tells the story of the origin and rise of the women’s liberation movement of the 1960’s through the early 1970’s. With rare archival footage and revealing interviews with Kate Millett, Fran Beal, Heather Booth, Ellen Willis, Rita Mae Brown, Linda Burnham, Vivian Rothstein, and many others. - Introduction and Q&A with Director [Mary Dore](#)

SUNDAY

8:00-9:00 Breakfast

9:00-10:00 **PLENARY NO. 4 – OVERCOMING FRAGMENTATION AND REBUILDING THE LEFT**

Michael Brie and **Sarah Leonard** discuss building left alliances and new trends on the left. How can the left rediscover and strengthen relationships amongst natural allies in the fight to defend the public sphere and defeat encroaching neoliberalism? Where do we already see this happening, and what can these new trends on the left teach us about cross-sectorial alliances and innovative strategies?

10:00-11:15 **BREAKOUT NO. 4 – SOCIALISM BY SECTOR**

Labor and Unions: How do union members and labor activists bridge the gap between defending oftentimes narrow, reformist gains and the need to transition to a world of radically reduced exploitation? What does it mean to be a socialist in labor? - Led by **Sean Sweeney** and **Meredith Schafer**

Community Organizing and Institution Building: How can models of community organizing be used to further link localized, defensive struggles to broader movements for socialist transformation? What role should institution building play in this process? - Led by **NTanya Lee** and **Denise Perry**

Electoral Politics: What are the core strategic decisions of rising pluralist socialist parties in Europe and Quebec, as well as smaller left parties elsewhere in Canada and the United States? How can their positions and resources be used to create bridges for common efforts across constituencies and sectors? - Led by **Harald Wolf** and **Roger Rashi**

Political Education: Encompassing popular education as well as academic institutions, how can we create a broader understanding of socialism that is linked to the challenges faced by the most exploited as well as working and middle classes? - Led by **Emily Kawano** and **Koray Yılmaz-Günay**

Alternative and Independent Media: The financial crisis has opened space for socialism to make headlines in the mainstream media. How are left media activists leveraging traditional and social media to push socialist ideas further into public conversation? - Led by **John Nichols** and **Rebekah Phillips**

11:15-11:45 Coffee Break

11:45-1:00 **BREAKOUT NO. 5**

The discussion continues. Where have cross-sectorial alliances proven to be successful? What role can left activists within each of these sectors play in fostering a more effective response to class divisions, racism, (hetero-)sexism, and other forms of structural oppression?

- 1:00-2:00 Lunch
- 2:00-3:30 **BREAKOUT NO. 6 – SELF-ORGANIZE!**
- This breakout is self-organized by participants. It provides time and space to dig deeper into previous topics or to explicitly address concerns and interests that have not been previously discussed.
- 3:30-4:00 Coffee Break
- 4:00-5:30 **PLENARY NO. 5 – WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**
- This plenary serves as a forum to collect participants’ thoughts and experiences from the weekend and give space to new ideas for collaboration. What are the next steps, both broadly and for this particular process? How can participants take the lead going forward?
Facilitated by [Laura Flanders](#)
- 5:30-7:00 **FREE TIME**
- Soccer, hiking, participant led initiatives, napping, informal conversation, etc.
- 7:00-9:00 Barbeque Dinner
- 9:00-Bedtime The Conversation Continues
- With drinks, games, music, and more socialism, of course! Including the completion of the “Socialism Is...” wall, and other photogenic moments.

MONDAY

- 8:00-9:00 Breakfast
- 9:00-9:30 **CLOSING PLENARY**
- Thank you and closing remarks from RLS-NYC
- 9:30-10:00 Farewell and Departure