SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

4:00-6:00pm   Arrival and check-in
6:00-7:00pm   Dinner
7:00-7:45pm   Framing the Conference
By RLS–NYC Co-directors Stefanie Ehmsen and Albert Scharenberg
7:45-8:30pm   Participant feedback
8:30-9:30pm   #SwipeLeft “speed-dating” activity

FRIDAY

8:00-9:00am   Breakfast
9:00-10:15am  Morning Plenary – Explanations for the Rise of the Far Right
Chair: Kazembe Balagun
• Economic crisis and threatened middle classes, by Chip Berlet
• Authoritarian personality, by Julian Plenefisch
• Racism and anti-Semitism, by Audrey Sasson
• Failure of the liberal model of neoliberal governance, by Peter Frase
10:15-11:45am Breakout groups for discussion
11:45-12:00pm Break
12:00-1:00pm  Case Study I – Trump and Brexit: The Electoral Upset
Chair: Ethan Young
Presentations by John Feffer and Sofia Vasilopoulou
1:00-3:00pm  Lunch and siesta

3:00-4:30pm  **Right-wing Organizations and their International Networks**
Chair: Tarso Ramos
Presentations by Heidi Beirich and Lawrence Rosenthal

4:30-4:45pm  Break

4:45-6:00pm  **Case Study II – Hungary, Poland, and Turkey: The Far Right in Government**
Chair: Laura Lotte Laloire
Presentations by Kristóf Szombati, Bartosz Rydliński, Pınar Çakıroğlu-Bournous

7:30pm  Dinner and drinks

**SATURDAY**

8:00-9:00am  Breakfast

9:00-10:00am  **Case Study III – France’s Front National and Germany’s AfD: Workerist or Neoliberal?**
Chair: Tsafrir Cohen
Presentations by Anne Sabourin and Gerd Wiegel

10:00-11:30am  **Fighting the Right through Education**
Chair: Daphne Halikiopoulou
Best practices from Evelyn Schlatter, Peter Montgomery, Heike Kleffner,
Karin Heddinga, Soya Jung, Terri Johnson, Ash-Lee Henderson

11:30-11:45am  Break

11:45-1:00pm  Breakout groups for discussion
1:00-3:00pm  Lunch and siesta

3:00-4:00pm  Case Study IV – Spain and Greece: Fighting the Right with Left Populism?
Chair: Ethan Earle
Presentations by Vicente Rubio-Pueyo and Yiannis Bournous

4:00-4:15pm  Break

4:15-6:00pm  Connective Tissue: From Frontline Strategies to Long-term Transformation
Chair: Albert Scharenberg
Panelists: Bill Fletcher, Liz Fekete, Kent Wong, Maria Svart

7:00-8:00pm  Dinner

SUNDAY

8:00-9:00am  Breakfast

9:00-10:30am  Media Strategies against the Right
Chair: Stefanie Ehmsen
Panelists: Angela Nagle, Bhaskar Sunkara, Sarah Jaffe, Max Böhnel

11:00am  Checkout and departure
ACCOMMODATION SPACES

Beech Tree Lodge

Walnut Lodge

Magnolia House

Gilmor Sloane House (2nd & 3rd floors)

LEGEND:  E  =   Exit       T = Toilet
          F  =   Fire Extinguisher     K = Kitchenette
          Th = Thermostat      L = Laundry
          B  =  Bath       U = Utility Room

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PARTICIPANT BIOS

Kazembe Balagun is a project manager at RLS–NYC. Born in Harlem, NY, Kazembe received his B.A. in Philosophy from Hunter College. From 2007 to 2013, he was the Education/Outreach Coordinator at the Brecht Forum.

Heidi Beirich earned a doctorate in political science from Purdue University. She leads the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) Intelligence Project, which publishes the Intelligence Report and the Hatewatch blog, counting the nation’s hate and hard-line, antigovernment groups. She is an expert on extremism, including the white supremacist, nativist, and neo-Confederate movements as well as racism in academia.

Chip Berlet is an activist, journalist, and scholar studying right-wing social and political movements in the United States. After 35 years at Political Research Associates he retired as Senior Analyst but continues to write on the subject. He co-wrote the book “Right-Wing Populism in America: Too Close for Comfort” with Matthew N. Lyons.

Max Böhnel is the US correspondent for the German socialist daily Neues Deutschland (Berlin). He is also a freelance radio producer for German, Swiss, and Austrian public radio networks.

Ioannis (Yiannis) Bournous obtained a MA in Political Communication & New Technologies at the University of Athens. He participated in the founding processes of the Greek and the European Social Forum. After SYRIZA’s formation, he was elected to its Central Committee and served as a representative of SYRIZA to the Executive Board of the Party of the European Left (EL). Since 2015 he is in the Political Secretariat of SYRIZA and Head Responsible for European & International Affairs.

Linda Burnham, Senior Advisor at the National Domestic Workers Alliance, has worked for decades as an activist, writer and strategist, focused on women's rights and racial justice. She co-founded the Women of Color Resource Center, where she served as Executive Director for 18 years. She has published numerous articles on African-American politics and women, left politics and feminist theory.

Pinar Çakıroğlu-Bournous holds a PhD in Economics from the University of London. She was a teaching assistant, research fellow, and teaching fellow at universities in Turkey and London, and a lecturer on Microeconomics, Introduction to Economics, and Ottoman Economic History at Erciyes University. Since March 2017 she is a post-doc researcher at University of Crete.

Claudette Chanoine joined the RLS–NYC team in 2014 as financial manager. Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, she holds a BS in accounting and a Master of Business Administration.

Heidi Chua is RLS–NYC’s office manager and deputy bookkeeper. She was born in Quezon City, Philippines. She graduated in Political Science at Brooklyn College with a BA thesis on China’s internal migrant workers. Previously, she worked on anti-sweatshop campaigns in Brooklyn and Manhattan Chinatowns.

Tsafrir Cohen worked as a publicist in Berlin, writing reportages, commentaries, and reviews on German culture and literature, European and US politics as well as the Middle East—in Hebrew, German, and English. He co-founded the Jewish Film Festival Berlin and worked as a curator and coordinator of cultural events. Tsafrir served as the Middle East coordinator of medico and since 2015 he is the head of the Tel Aviv office of the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung.
Ethan Earle is a project manager at RLS–NYC. Born in Siler City, North Carolina, he formerly worked for The Working World cooperative loan fund in Buenos Aires and New York City. His M.A. thesis in International Relations examined U.S. foreign policy towards Bolivia under Evo Morales.

Stefanie Ehmsen was born in Hamburg, Germany. Before her appointment as RLS–NYC co-director, Stefanie lectured as Professor of Gender and Diversity at the Beuth Hochschule, Berlin. She wrote her Ph.D. thesis about the women’s movements in the United States and Germany. From 2006 to 2011, Stefanie was a member of the executive board of the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung.

John Feffer is the director of Foreign Policy In Focus at the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and the author of numerous books, including the forthcoming “Aftershock” (Zed, 2017) about the rise of right-wing extremism in Eastern Europe.

Liz Fekete is the director of the Institute of Race Relations and head of its European Research Programme. She works on aspects of contemporary racism, refugee rights, far-right extremism and Islamophobia across Europe and is author of “A Suitable Enemy: Racism, Migration and Islamophobia in Europe.” She is currently an associate of the International State Crime Initiative at King’s College London and her most recent project is ‘Alternative Voices on Integration in Europe.’

Mariana Fernandez is a project manager at RLS–NYC. Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, she has a Licentiate degree in Art History from the University of Buenos Aires. Before joining RLS–NYC, she worked as Human Rights & Press Officer for the Argentine Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Bill Fletcher Jr has worked for several labor unions in addition to serving as a senior staff-person in the national AFL-CIO. He is the former president of TransAfrica Forum; a Senior Scholar with the Institute for Policy Studies; an editorial board member of BlackCommentator.com; and the co-author of “Solidarity Divided: The Crisis in Organized Labor and a New Path toward Social Justice”.

Peter Frase has been involved in socialist politics for 20 years and is a long-time DSA member. Currently he organizes with DSA’s chapter in the Hudson Valley of New York. He is also a member of the editorial board of Jacobin magazine, where he writes on issues including technology and the future of work. His first book, “Four Futures: Life After Capitalism,” was published in 2016.

Marcus Grätsch studied political science and international relations at the University of Bremen, Warwick University, and the Free University of Berlin. He is currently a visiting scholar at the CUNY Graduate Center. Marcus has been active in the anti-fascist movement and the Occupy/Blockupy movement in Germany. After spending 4 years as its program coordinator, Marcus is currently co-director of the Left Forum.

Daphne Halikiopoulou is Associate Professor in Comparative Politics at the University of Reading. Her work focuses on nationalism and the cultural and economic determinants of far right party support. She is author of “The Golden Dawn’s ‘Nationalist Solution’: Explaining the Rise of the Far Right in Greece” (with Sofia Vasilopoulou) and numerous articles, and editor of the journal Nations and Nationalism.

James Hare is a project manager at RLS–NYC, where his work focuses on labor, climate change, and the United Nations. He wrote his PhD thesis on the development of modern Hinduism and has taught South Asian religions at the New School and NYU.

Karin Heddinga has been working in different departments of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial Center for 23 years, in educational work, in science as well as in the artistic field. She studied
education, sociology, and psychology and works on her main topics in feminism, traumatization, and transgenerational transmission. She was the co-initiator of the seminar “An offender in the family (children/grandchildren of NS offenders).”

Ash-Lee Woodard Henderson holds a BA in English with a minor in African and African American History. She was board member and the first Black woman as Co-Executive Director of the Highlander Research and Education Center in Tennessee. She was the regional organizer of Project South, and active in the Southern Movement Assembly, Concerned Citizens for Justice, United Students Against Sweatshops National Coordinating, and a staff member of the Chicago SNCC.

Elizabeth Henderson is a member of the National Political Committee of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). She previously helped coordinate DSA’s Drop Student Debt and We Need Bernie campaigns. She is also co-chair of the Boston DSA chapter. In her spare time, she also works as a freelance writer, and has been published in The Nation, Dissent, Waging Nonviolence, and The Indypendent.

Sarah Jaffe is a Nation Institute fellow and an independent journalist covering labor, economic justice, social movements, politics, gender, and pop culture. She is an editorial board member at Dissent and a columnist at New Labor Forum, and she is the author/host of Interviews for Resistance, a syndicated series and podcast on radical organizing in the Trump era.

Terri Johnson is a graduate of Northwestern University and has worked and volunteered in higher education, philanthropy, social services, youth services, human rights, public health, and advocacy. She is the Executive Director of the Center for New Community (CNC), a national research and advocacy organization monitoring organized racism in the United States. Terri is the founder of C-Change Strategies, a social enterprise working with different organizations.

Soya Jung has authored two research reports on Asian American Racial Justice Movements at ChangeLab. Prior, she has worked as executive director of the Washington Alliance for Immigrant and Refugee Justice and was the founding chair of the Asian and Pacific Islander Coalition.

Heike Kleffner is a lecturer in the Social Work programme at the University of Applied Sciences in Magdeburg-Stendal and a contributor to the Federal Agency for Civic Education. She works as scientific researcher for the Parliamentary Enquiry Committees on the “National Socialist Underground” in the German Bundestag and is a member of the board of scientific advisors for the Mobile Victims Counselling Project for Victims of Right-Wing, Racist and Anti-Semitic Violence in Saxony-Anhalt.

Laura Lotte Laloire is pursuing her M.A. in International Studies/Peace and Conflict Studies at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main. For her thesis she researches on strategies of far-right movements between dissidence and rule, with an empirical focus on Turkey. She worked on a project on transnational political violence and has recently published, with Maik Fielitz, “Trouble on the Far Right. Contemporary Right-Wing Strategies and Practices in Europe” (2017).

Alexander Main holds degrees in history and political science from the Sorbonne University in Paris. He is Senior Associate for International Policy at the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) in Washington DC, where he monitors contemporary developments in Latin America and Europe.

Josephine Michalke is currently an intern at RLS–NYC. She is pursuing her M.Sc. in Geography at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg as a scholar of RLS. She was the chairwoman of the socialist youth organization linksjugend [solid] which is affiliated with the Left Party in Germany for 3 years and is now active in the state of Saxony, working on antifascist, feminist, and environmental projects.
Peter Montgomery is a senior fellow at People For the American Way, where he contributes to the Right Wing Watch blog as well as in-depth reports on right-wing strategies and tactics. He is also an associate editor for Religion Dispatches, and has authored a chapter on the relationship between the Religious Right and Tea Party movements in “Steep: The Precipitous Rise of the Tea Party.”

Angela Nagle is the author of “Kill All Normies,” a book on the online culture wars and the emergence of the alt-right. She is based in Ireland, lectures in Dublin Institute of Technology, and writes for The Baffler, Current Affairs, Jacobin, and the Irish Times.

Julian Plenefisch is Special Assistant to the Executive Director of the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung since 2015, supporting the Director in strategy, communication, and administration. Prior, he was a research fellow in Japanese Studies at universities in Berlin, Tokyo, and London; and received his PhD. He is a political activist specializing in the history of fascism, global history, and political theory.

Dania Rajendra is a writer, editor, and extension faculty at The Worker Institute at Cornell University, board chair of Political Research Associates, and a member of the board of Jews for Racial and Economic Justice (JFREJ). Her previous experience includes work for worker justice and immigrants’ rights, in philanthropy, in the arts, and on the 2004 election cycle.

Tarso Luís Ramos is the Executive Director of Political Research Associates, which has launched initiatives on subjects including the export of U.S.-style homophobic campaigns abroad, the spread of Islamophobia, and the Right’s investment in redefining religious liberty to assert a right to discriminate. He has researched the U.S. Right for a long time and wrote numerous articles and reports on Christian Right, anti-immigrant, anti-labor, and anti-environmental movements and campaigns.

Roger Rashi works as Campaigns Coordinator for the Quebec-based solidarity organization Alternatives. He is a founding member of the left-wing party Québec solidaire, sits on the editorial board of the French-language review “Nouveaux cahiers du socialisme,” and has published many articles on the web sites of Presse-toi à gauche and the Journal des Alternatives.

Lawrence Rosenthal is founder, Chair, and Lead Researcher of the Berkeley Center for Right-Wing Studies, which he founded in 2009. He was a scholar and taught at different institutions in the US and Italy. He has studied the Right in both countries and is currently working on a study of the contemporary American Right in comparison to movements of the Right in 20th century Europe. He has co-edited “Steep: The Precipitous Rise of the Tea Party” and “The New Nationalism and the First World War.”

Vicente Rubio-Pueyo is a participant in Spain’s Podemos and a spokesperson for the party’s International Secretariat. He holds a PhD in Spanish Cultural Studies from Stony Brook University and currently teaches at Fordham University. He has written on the current social and political conjuncture in Spain, the emergence of the Indignados movement, and political forces such as Podemos and the “municipal confluences.”

Bartosz Rydliński holds a Ph.D. in political science, teaches at the Institute of Political Science at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw and works for Amicus Europae Foundation. His research interests include relations between new social movements and traditional political parties and socio-economical sources of illiberal tendencies in Central Europe.

Anne Sabourin is member of the Executive committee of the French communist party (Parti communiste français, PCF). In the committee she is in charge of European affairs. Additionally, Anne is member of the political secretariat of the Party of the European Left.
Audrey Sasson is the Executive Director of JFREJ, where she formerly served on the Board of Directors. She holds a MA in International Affairs and has close to 20 years’ experience as an organizer and social worker, including work with the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) as the director of Walmart-Free NYC, a labor-community partnership against the largest private employer in the world.

Albert Scharenberg was born in Leer, East Frisia (Germany). Before becoming RLS–NYC co-director, he worked as editor at the German monthly Blätter and as lecturer of Political Science at the Free University Berlin. He recently published a biography of Martin Luther King, jr. From 2008 to 2011, Albert served as president of the science advisory board of the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung.

Evelyn Schlatter is a senior analyst with the SPLC’s Intelligence Project. She holds a PhD in American history and an MA and BA in anthropology. Her fields of expertise are right-wing political and social movements, gender, and sexuality. She specializes in the anti-LGBT movement and the white nationalist movement.

Bhaskar Sunkara is the founding editor and publisher of Jacobin magazine, as well as the publisher of “Catalyst: A Journal of Theory and Strategy.” He is the editor of several books including “The ABCs of Socialism.”

María Svart is the National Director of the Democratic Socialists of America. Previously she has been a campus organizer and a union organizer. DSA has local groups in communities large and small in 47 states, whose goal is to bring an ideological challenge to neoliberalism and Trumpism and organize a multi-racial grassroots socialist movement.

Kristóf Szombati is a co-founder of the green LMP party and was an elected member of the Steering Committee until 2010. He then co-ordinated the activities of the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Budapest, before pursuing a PhD at Central European University on “The Revolt of the Provinces. Anti-Gypsyism and Right-Wing Politics in Hungary,” which will be published as a book. He is a part-time political advisor for Greenpeace’s Central and Eastern European office.

Federico Tomasoni studied international relations in Padua, Italy and Political Science at Freie Universität Berlin, Germany. Since 2014 he is a project manager in the Brussels office of the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, working on themes of right to the city, commons, international solidarity among workers in Europe, and antifascism.

Sofia Vasilopoulou is a Senior Lecturer in Politics at the University of York. Her work examines political dissatisfaction with democracy and democratic institutions across Europe. Sofia is the convenor of the ECPR Standing Group on Political Parties. She has co-authored “The Golden Dawn’s Nationalist Solution: Explaining the rise of the far right in Greece” (with Daphne Halikiopoulou).

Gerd Wiegel is a staff member of the faction of the Left Party (DIE LINKE) in the German Parliament. His focal points of work are right wing extremism, and the popular right in Germany and Europe. Gerd has published several articles and books on these topics, including the most recent “Ein aufhaltsamer Aufstieg: Alternativen zu AfD & Co” (2017).

Kent Wong is the director of the Labor Center at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), teaching courses in labor studies and ethnic studies. He was the founding President of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, of the United Association for Labor Education, Vice President of the California Federation of Teachers, and chair of the board of the New World Foundation. Kent published on the labor movement, immigrant rights, popular education, and the Asian American community.
Ethan Young has produced several writings on the US left for RLS-NYC. He currently works with Left Labor Project (NYC), Portside.org, People for Bernie Sanders, and Democratic Socialists of America. He has worked as editorial staff for Frontline newspaper, CrossRoads magazine, Cuba Update, and Monthly Review Press.

ROSA LUXEMBURG STIFTUNG

The Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung is an internationally operating, progressive non-profit institution for civic education affiliated with Germany’s “Die Linke” (Left Party). Active since 1990, the foundation has been committed to the analysis of social processes and developments worldwide. In cooperation with organizations around the globe, it works on democratic and social participation, empowerment of disadvantaged groups, alternatives for economic and social development, conflict prevention, and peaceful conflict resolution. Its international activities aim to provide civic education by means of academic analyses, public programs, and projects conducted together with partner institutions. In order to be able to mentor and coordinate these various projects, the foundation has established 17 regional offices around the world. The RLS has been granted special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2013.

THE NEW YORK OFFICE

The foundation’s New York Office, located at 275 Madison Avenue, opened its doors in 2012. It serves two major tasks: to work on issues concerning the United Nations, including collaboration with people and political representatives from the Global South, and to work with North American (U.S. and Canadian) progressives in universities, unions, social movements, progressive institutions, and think tanks. The office’s Co-Directors are Stefanie Ehmsen and Albert Scharenberg. The New York Office is part of the global network of the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung.

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