

ANARCHIST BOOKFAIR 2008: ADDITIONAL MEETINGS

Saturday 18th October 2008, 11.00 am until 5.00 pm

These meetings take place in Room LG1, basement of the Physics Building, Queen Mary & Westfield College, Mile End Campus (see map overleaf).

11.00 am LONDON AUTONOMOUS STUDENTS NETWORK: 'The State of Education'.

LASN started in October 2007 in response to the continuing privatisation of education; corporate involvement with universities; the increasing surveillance and repression of students (CCTV, undercover police, criminalisation of student activism etc) as well as other issues and to the general need for more autonomous groups free from NUS and SU bureaucracy to organise on campus. Join us for a discussion workshop on what we've done so far and how we can continue to build a network of autonomous groups on campus.

12.00 am INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD IU 620: 'Revolutionary Education: What it could be & how to get there'.

Workers' control, student choice, freedom from the market, creativity, etc. - we all know the basic principles, but what about the practice? In this session, members of the IWW education workers section will talk briefly about their personal views on radical change in the British education system. Wobblies will talk about the future education system they want to see, as well as the nitty-gritty of how we can change the system we have now. This will be followed by a general discussion of the issues raised. All education workers, students and other interested people welcome.

1.00 pm THE ANARCHIST FEDERATION: 'Taming the Trots: Resisting the Red, White & Blue, and other stories'.

Why and how do Left parties cause such problems in political campaigns? Often hardworking, usually sectarian but sometimes 'coalition-building', Trotskyists are hard to avoid in struggles. By setting up front organisations, creating their own versions of existing networks, or by inserting themselves into grassroots and anarchist-inspired initiatives, the Trot-left aims to lead, control, and even sabotage political movements in order to build their parties. Using recent anti-fascist activity and other examples (UAF, Globalise Resistance, No Sweat, Workers Climate Action, Education Not for Sale, Feminist Fightback), the AFed debates countering the authoritarian left.

SESSIONS CONTINUE OVER: 2.00 pm-5.00 pm

2.00 pm THE ANARCHIST FEDERATION: 'It's the stupid economy'

By the time of the Bookfair, Capitalism will have already collapsed in a global financial melt-down! Hooray! In reality though, whilst we have a great opportunity to prove that the economic system is indeed inherently fucked-up, we face a long cold Winter of increased poverty and social insecurity, rising prices and endangered pensions, unemployment and a clampdown on benefits. We could also see a turn to the Right, with migrant workers under attack. Anarchists will respond by helping the working class fight back. Our response will lay the foundations of a better world. But how do we do this best? In local or national campaigns? In a generalised movement against poverty & bosses, or specific worker/unemployed/migrant campaigns? Come and mull it over with the AFed.

3.00-5.00 pm THE ANTI-AUTHORITARIAN BARRIO AT CLIMATE CAMP: 'Social War not Climate Chaos: Copenhagen 2009 and Beyond.' (2-hours).

What is the possibility that the combined ecological breakdown and economic disintegration of the next few years may provide a once-in-a-lifetime moment for revolution? Yet the politics of the UK Climate Camps are still are confusing at best, and absolutely bourgeoisie at worse: witness George Monbiot calling for state-controlled austerity measures on the poor at Heathrow and Kingsnorth! Yet on Nov. 30th 2009, Danish anarchists involved with the Ungdomshuset struggle have called for an international mobilization against COP15 in Copenhagen, the largest United Nations conference on climate change in history, which will likely be ratifying a bankrupt carbon-trading market. Come to talk politics, strategy and tactics. The first hour will be a reflection of the politics of the UK Climate Change movement, while the second hour will discuss with two Danish anarchists from Klimax 2009 the mobilization for Copenhagen 2009.

