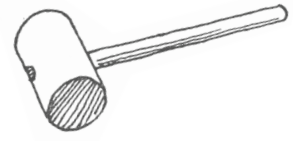


vol. 3: Labor
March 16-17 2023



There's a commodity we all sell. A commodity so foundational that it enables the production of all other commodities, necessitates money as the general equivalent, and drives the circulation of both: labor. Yet, at the same time, capital appropriates labor to divide us between those who sell their labor and those who own the means of production, and therefore purchase it. So, why do we sell our labor? Aloc Blacc already understood this, we all need a dollar.¹ By changing our relation to labor, capital intervenes on the dynamic material and social force that drives the entire system. Labor shapes our most intimate conceptions of what our lives should and could be. A fulfilling life becomes dependent on the specific production

of value tied to capitalism and the various Protestantisms accompanying it. We might think ourselves complicit, given the relative ease with which we can talk about labor from the university halls, but nonetheless, it is only by understanding its centrality to social, cultural, and political life that the initial components of Marx's schema come into focus — and the possibility to go beyond it. Labor binds us together, before it binds us to capital's ends: the production of (surplus) value, subsuming all under the almighty dollar.²

- 1 Aloc Blacc, "I Need a Dollar." Good Things. Sony Music Entertainment, 2010.
2 Ozzy Osbourne, "The Almighty Dollar." Black Rain. Epic, 2007.

Program 16.03.2022
(Langeveld 0.18)

- 11:00 Lecture: Stephen Shukaitis
- 12:30 Lunch (Erasmus Pavilion)
- 14:00 Lecture: Nicholas Vrousails
- 15:30 Coffee Break
- 16:00 Lecture: Ursula Huws
- 17:30 Borrel (Erasmus Pavilion)

Program 17.03.2022
(Polak 2.16)

- 13:00 Masterclass: Ursula Huws
- 14:30 Coffee Break
- 15:00 Masterclass: Stephen Shukaitis
- 16:30 Wrap-Up

Please e-mail articulationsofdesire@gmail.com to sign up for the Masterclass and receive the text.

Ursula Huws is Professor Emeritus of Labour and Globalisation at the University of Hertfordshire and author of *Labour in the Global Digital Economy* (2014), *Labour in Contemporary Capitalism: What's Next?* (2019), and most recently, *Reinventing the Welfare State* (2020).

Stephen Shukaitis is Reader in Culture & Organization at the University of Essex and co-director of the Centre for Commons Organizing, Values, Equalities and Resilience, coordinator and editor of *Minor Compositions* since 2009, and author of *The Composition of Movements to Come* (2015), *Combination Acts* (2019), and *Riotous Epistemology* (2019).

Nicholas Vrousalis is Associate Professor of Practical Philosophy at Erasmus School of Philosophy and author of *The Political Philosophy of G.A. Cohen* (2015) and *Exploitation as Domination* (2022).

The Reading Group (all available free at marxists.org, page references to Penguin Editions)

Marx, Karl. Excerpt: "Transition from Circulation to Capitalist Production" - "Transformation of Labor into Capital" and "Surplus Labor or Surplus Value Becomes Surplus Capital." *GR*. pp. 256-309 and 450-458.

Marx, Karl. Excerpt: "The Sale and Purchase of Labor Power" - "The Surplus Product" and "Part 6: Wages" *CV1*. pp. 270-339 and 675-710.