

EMANCIPATION ZONE

AT THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM IN MONTREAL



Why talk about emancipation?

- We need to tell our stories and discuss our goals and plans.
- We can start with a conversation about struggles and movements of resistance around the world. Then we need to look ahead and develop strategies.
- We will all put our heads together across different genders, generations and nations to dare to imagine a too often forgotten idea: victory!

• • • Organized by the

Nouveaux Cahiers du socialisme (Québec) • • •
with the participation of organizations from the United States, India, Spain, France, Brazil, Bolivia, South Africa and many other sites of struggle where the quest for emancipation is alive and well.

August 10-12, 2016



UQÀM – J.-A. De Sève Pavillon
320 Ste. Catherine St. East (metro Berri-UQÀM)

Nouveaux
Cahiers du
socialisme

Emancipation

*Who's to blame if oppression remains? We are.
Who can break its thrall? We can.
Whoever has been beaten down must rise to their feet!
Whoever is lost must fight back!
Whoever has recognized their condition – how can anyone stop them?
Because the vanquished of today will be tomorrow's victors
And never will become: already today!*
Bertolt Brecht

Our planet is facing immense dangers arising from a 'crisis of crises' (political, economic, social, environmental) and at the same time, new transformational and internationalist perspectives are emerging which allow us to look and reach towards a better world, one which is both possible and necessary.

The ball is in our court!

Emancipation is the name of a program taking place at the World Social Forum (WSF) in Montreal in August

We want to address the richness and complexity of the process of emancipation. We need to put complacency behind us and move on to analyse the power machinations of the 1%. We want to go beyond the surface to consider the underlying causes of exploitation, domination and exclusion. We intend to get at the roots of the system characterised by accumulation for accumulation's sake and acquisitive individualism. From there we will proceed to the other side of the barricades in order to ponder the strategies and struggles for resistance and emancipation that are being waged by social movements around the world.

At the same time, we are going to dream, celebrate, imagine, and open ourselves up to the rich contributions of peoples and movements across the world.

Throughout this three-day program we will draw on lessons of the past to better grasp current debates. And we gain insight from the young and the young-at-heart who are involved in popular struggles in Québec, Canada, the USA, Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe.

We will be able to tap into a huge reservoir of projects, approaches, new ideas and tools that can help us advance, organize, resist and work to WIN.

For more information

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Program Highlights

Building People's Power in the Global South

- The return of the right in South America
- Struggles against extractivism
- Social movements and the State
- The challenges facing the South American left
- Dare to struggle, dare to win: liberation movements in the Global South
- Resisting the endless war (Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Iran)

Resistance in North America

- The USA: Life after Bernie
- Class struggle and popular movements *made in the USA*
- Confronting the political economy of the 1%
- Imperialism and colonialism *made in Canada*
- Indigenous resistance
- A new Canada – Québec dialogue on the left
- The Québec student strike of 2012: the struggle continues

New Avenues for Social Movements

- The centrality of the struggle against racism
- The ecological crisis: the future is now
- Social movements and political parties: how to converge?
- Fighting misery and hunger in our communities
- Is there life after the State?
- Decolonizing knowledge
- The Communist hypothesis
- The future of the World Social Forum

Over 80 resource persons including Jodi Dean (USA), Boaventura Sousa Santos (Portugal), Sergio Haddad (Brazil), Leo Panitch (Canada), Aminata Traore (Mali), Pablo Solon (Bolivia), Bhaskar Sunkara (USA), Immanuel Wallerstein (USA), Rose M. Brewer (USA), Gilbert Achcar (Lebanon-France), Mustafa Barghouti (Palestine), Clifton Nicholas (Mohawk nation), Clarence Campbell (USA), Shalmali Guttal (India), Didier Dominique (Haiti), Fred Magdoff (USA), Melissa Mollen-Dupuis (*Idle No More*), Daniel Tanuro (Belgium), Mireille Fanon Mendes-France (France), Christophe Aguiton (France) and many more!

American Dreams

Friday August 12, 7 pm

For centuries, our continent was inhabited by peoples with ancestral knowledge whose wealth had dazzled the Vikings, the Basques and the Bretons when they came to our shores. Later, when capitalism took off, the European conquest perpetrated an immense trauma. Genocide and ethnocide of Native Americans occurred at the same time as the arrival of millions of slaves from Africa. European settlers too have been subjugated under the yoke of systems designed to function in the interest of the 1%.

But our ancestors have not just been victims. They revolted, they organised. The slaves liberated themselves. The poor went on strike. The indigenous people survived and began to reclaim their rights. They have all told their stories, sung of their resistance, and re-imagined their world.

It is this magnificent and tragic epic which is at the centre of the performance of Thomas Hellman and his musicians, Olaf Gundel and Sage Reynold.

