RADICAL DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP
CONFERENCE
3-4\textsuperscript{th} September 2018

Old Aberdeen Campus
University of Aberdeen

\textbf{Venue on 3 September:}

\textit{Court Room, University Office, Regent Walk, Aberdeen AB24 3FX}

\textbf{Venue on 4 September:}

\textit{Room MR 613, 6\textsuperscript{th} Floor, MacRobert Building, 581 King St, Aberdeen AB24 5UA}

\textit{Campus Map: https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/campus/maps/download.php}

\textbf{We thank the generous hosts, sponsors, and supporters:}

- Centre for Citizenship, Civil Society and Rule of Law (CISRUL), University of Aberdeen.
- Citizens, Nations, and Migration Network (CNaM), University of Edinburgh
- The University of Aberdeen
Monday 3\textsuperscript{rd} September (COURT ROOM)

09.00 – 09.45    Registration & Check-In

09.45 – 10.00    Welcome by CISRUL conference organising team

10.00 – 11.00    Session 1: \textbf{Radical Democracy at Work}

Chair: Dikaia Gavala (University of Aberdeen)

- The political and legal strategies of worker-recuperated enterprises in Argentina
  \textit{Jack Meakin (University of Glasgow)}

- Radical Democratic Citizenship at work in an adverse economic environment: The case of principled worker co-operatives in Scotland
  \textit{Andreas Zaunseder (University of Aberdeen)}

11.00 – 12.15    Session 2: \textbf{Beyond The Right of Housing - Radical Democracy in and for Housing}

Chair: Rose Luminiello (University of Aberdeen)

- The MTST politics of rights: building subjects for a radical struggle beyond housing
  \textit{Alberto Fierro (Central European University)}

- “Why did you laugh when I asked you what rights mean to you?” On radical practices of citizenship of women in poverty in Israel
  \textit{Gal Levy (The Open University, Israel)}

- Citizenship in the Student Housing Co-op
  \textit{Nathan Bower-Bir (University of Edinburgh)}

12.15 – 13.15    Lunch

13.15 – 14.15    Revolution in the Cradle of Civilisation: panel and discussion on the Democratic Federation of Northern Syria (Rojava)

\textit{Elif Sarican (London School of Economics and Political Science, Kurdistan Students Union, Kurdish Women’s Movement)}

\textit{Berfin Kurban (Kurdish Women’s Movement)}
14.15 – 14.45    Break

14.45 – 16.00    Session 3: Theoretical Frontiers
Chair: Joel Pierce (University of Aberdeen)

On the edge of civility: Chantal Mouffe, Radical Democratic Citizenship and the
circumscription of conflict
Christiaan Boonen (University of Leuven)

Radical Democratic Citizenship's missionary and secessionist impulses
David Thunder (University of Navarra)

The Grey Zone of Founding: The ambiguity of new beginnings and the Politics of
Disappointment
Maša Mrovlje (University of Edinburgh)

16.00 – 17.00    Session 4: Inclusion, Exclusion, Access - Citizenship as
Entitlement?
Chair: Andreas Zaunseder (University of Aberdeen)

"Crimes of Solidarity": France's contemporary crisis of hospitality and citizenship
Abigail Taylor (University of Sydney and the Sydney Democracy Network)

Who gets help? Reimagining citizenship as a passport to homelessness services
Katie Colliver (Heriot-Watt University)

17.00 – 17.30    Break / Wine Reception

17.30 – 18:30    KEY NOTE: Prof Engin Isin (Queen Mary, University of London
& University of London Institute in Paris)

END DAY ONE
Tuesday 4th September (ROOM MR613, 6th FLOOR, MACROBERTS BUILDING)

09.30 – 09.45 Coffee, Tea and Biscuits

09.45 – 11.00 Session 5: Transformation from within and without
Chair: Sophia Woodman (University of Edinburgh)

Radical and discreet. Activism in post-conflict Donbas monotown
Justynia Szymanska (University of Warsaw)

Radicalizing citizenship in the democratic projects: The Kurdish Pattern
Omer Tekdemir (University of Leicester)

Movement for change- Uprising grassroots activism in Georgia
Tamar Karaia (Tbilisi State University)

11.00 – 12.00 Session 6: Spaces of Collectives and Commons
Chair: Saerom Han (University of Aberdeen)

Dancing to different tunes: festive gatherings as grounds for radical democratic citizenship
Sophia Woodman (University of Edinburgh)

Auroville: 50 years of experimentation in conscious anarchy
Suryamayi Clarence-Smith (University of Sussex)

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch

13.00 – 14.00 WORKSHOP: Participatory Democracy: What’s Next? (60min)
Suryamayi Clarence-Smith (University of Sussex), and Andreas Zaunseder (University of Aberdeen)

Acknowledgement: Dr Lara Monticelli (Copenhagen Business School) as co-proposer and supporter
14.00–15.15 Session 7: Challenging Citizenship's Boundaries

Chair: Trevor Stack (University of Aberdeen)

Radical Democratic Citizenship: The radical approach to citizenship in the study of migrant women’s political participation
Mansanga Tanga (University of Ottawa)

Decolonising post-genocidal heritage management in Germany
Jonas Prinzleve (Goldsmiths University of London (alumni))

Post-radical Citizens: Intergenerational dimensions of democratic citizenship in Timor-Leste
Sara ten Brinke (Utrecht University)

15.15 – 15.30 CLOSING REMARKS

END DAY TWO

END OF CONFERENCE

ENJOY THE CONFERENCE!

YOUR 2018 RADICAL DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP CONFERENCE ORGANISATION TEAM
Workshop: Participatory Democracy. What’s Next?

Participatory democracy is considered to be the cutting edge of radical political practice, the choice of the most successful of grassroots initiatives, intentional communities such as Auroville, which just celebrated its 50th anniversary, and of prefigurative social movements such as the Global Justice Movement and Occupy Wall Street. However, for people living in intentional communities, in which decisions concerning many areas of life are up for collective processes, all-encompassing participation is not viable, and the level of burn-out high. David Graeber, a proponent of direct democracy – and participant in the afore-mentioned social movements – concedes that the engagement in time that its processes require is trying (Graeber 2013). In their last book “Assembly” (2017), Micheal Hardt and Antonio Negri also question the effectiveness of horizontal and direct democracy when deployed by the multitude of contemporary grassroots social movements.

The theme of how to enhance sustainability over time, effectiveness and impact of direct democratic practices and processes is at the core of the debate among radical thinkers. Is it time to imagine beyond the current model of collective decision-making that is participatory democracy towards something equitable and efficient, able to avoid burn-out among activists, and ensure continuity? This workshop proposes to engage participants in sharing the challenges.

Panel/Discussion: Revolution in the Cradle of Civilisation: panel and discussion on the Democratic Federation of Northern Syria (Rojava)

A panel of speakers on the new democratic system being built in Northern Syria / Rojava, with each presentation to focus on a different aspect of the revolution and the political thought and system that underpin it. The panel is to include both Kurdish and non Kurdish speakers, followed by questions and open discussion. The presentations will be non-academic, and will focus on the knowledge and experiences of the participants.

A brief history of the Rojava Revolution – In the north of Syria a democratic, egalitarian, feminist and ecological revolution is taking place. What laid the foundations for the birth of this revolution? The new system of stateless self-governance is based on the political paradigm of Democratic Confederalism put forward by political philosopher and Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan. What does this look like in practice?
Elif Sarican, MSc Social Anthropology at the LSE. UK Coordinator of Kurdistan Students Union. Activist of Kurdish Women’s Movement.

Jin – Jiyan – Azadi! – Woman, Life, Freedom! – The main slogan of the Kurdish Women’s Movement illustrates that this is, above all, a women’s revolution. The revolution is not only an external one – against the state – but also an internal one – against the patriarchal mindset that enslaves women. How did the Women’s Movement develop its position and gain enough strength to challenge 5,000 years of patriarchy?

Berfin Kurban, Jineoloji Committee, Kurdish Women’s Movement

Co-operation in Mesopotamia – The economic aspect of the Rojava Revolution is based on transition to a co-operative economy. Having been built up from nothing, co-operatives now make up about 7% of the economy of Jazira – the largest of three regions that make up the Democratic Federation of Northern Syria (DFNS). 3% of Jazira’s economy is now based on autonomous women’s co-operatives – an astounding feat. The Solidarity Economy Association are aiming to build real solidarity and relationships between co-operative movements both here and in the DFNS. How?

Jo Taylor, Co-operation in Mesopotamia project co-ordinator for the Solidarity Economy Association