**LRIG 40th Anniversary: Festival of Building Working Class Power - Popular education, Self-Organising and Popular Resistance**

Community House, Cape Town, 3-5 November

***International Labour Research*** ***and Information Group***



The Festival aims to celebrate ILRIG’s 40 anniversary by examining current and historical attempts to build working class power through popular education, self-organising and resistance. As such, the Festival is bringing together activists, support organisations, worker formations, feminist struggles, community organisations, progressive movements, academics and artists from southern Africa and internationally to reflect, celebrate and deepen the experience of 40 years of struggles to build alternatives to capitalism, nation states and patriarchy.

The alternatives to capitalism and patriarchy that will be reflected upon will be ones that were and are based on progressive principles and values, direct democracy, self-organisation, working class control and feminism. The Festival comprises of seminars, music, poetry, theatre and films that cover these struggles based on the above practices. The event is pedagogical allowing for the sharing and learning from struggles internationally and locally for a better, more just and equal, democratic and feminist world.

**Objectives:**

1. Raise consciousness: The Festival aims to raise participant’s consciousness by showcasing past and present struggles in southern Africa and internationally based on progressive principles, practices and values and for self-governance, direct democracy, social ecology, working class power, feminism, communal economies and worker control.
2. Build solidarity: The Festival aims to be a space that can be used by the participating organisations and movements to learn about and from each-others struggles and build relations and solidarity that crosses the borders of southern Africa and wider in the spirt of true internationalism.
3. Strengthen women’s organising: Many of the struggles covered in the workshops, discussions and films have been and are based on feminism and will highlight the practical ways in which women have built their power and activism. As such, the Festival will be a space of reflection on feminist organising and feminist theory historically and today.
4. Promote alternatives: The Festival aims to be a space for the participants to reflect on and debate alternatives to neoliberalism, capitalism, nation states, patriarchy, and ecological destruction. We want to create a learning space, with discussions based on the Festival’s participants first-hand knowledge of being involved in attempts to build alternatives.

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|  **Programme Outline** |

**TIME ACTIVITY**

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| **DAY 1 (Friday 3rd November)** |
| 10:00 | **Arrival & Registration**  |
| 10:30 | **Welcome, announcements & overview of programme** *(Facilitator:* Anele*)*(ILRIG Board Member)  |
| 10:45 | **Poetry performance:** Zimbini |
| 11:00 | **ACTIVITY 1| Input – Context :-** Key struggles over the past 40 years and lessons for today: why the focus on working class power, progressive practices, self-organising and alternatives?*(Presenter:* Dale) |
| 11:45 | **ACTIVITY 2| PANEL DISCUSSION: Internationalism and building working class democracy and movements in the 1980s in South Africa***(Facilitator: Lara)*15 minutes per speaker and 30 minutes for discussion* Vaal uprising of 1984, attempts to build working class democracy, and lessons for organising today – Bricks Mokolo
* Popular education in movement building in the 1980s: principles, practices and lessons for today – Linda Cooper
* Reflections on internationalism in the 1980s and its relevance for today – David Cooper
* FOSATU, workers control, its principles and practices, what led to its decline and lessons for building working class democracy today – Nicole Ulrich
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| 13:30  | LUNCH |
| 14:30 | **ACTIVITY 3:** //Parallel sessions// |
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| **FILM**  | **WORKSHOP 1** | **WORKSHOP 2** | **WORKSHOP 2** |
| Facilitator: Shawn | Facilitators: Lara and Bricks | Facilitators: Cheryl and Linda | Facilitators: InsideOut Workshop |
| MAWU | Vaal Uprising | Popular Education | Our perspective on mental health differs from those of the mainstream. This different perception of mental wellness leads to different solutions that requires recognition of the intergenerational effects of colonisation. The workshop aims to explore this.  |
| Apartheid did not die |  |
| Bus boycotts in PE |  |

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| 17:00 | Snacks |
| 17:30 | Play/Theatre performance: My fellow South Africans |
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| **DAY 2 (Saturday 4th November)** |
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| 09:00 | Debriefing, announcements, admin |
| 09:15  | **ACTIVITY 4| PANEL DISCUSSION: Transition and neoliberalism: The experiences of South Africa and Brazil***(Facilitator: Mthetho)*1. minutes per speaker and 45 minutes for discussion
* ANC and neoliberal settlement of the early 1990: How and why were working class formations demobilised, what role did the ANC and the apartheid state play, and what lessons can be drawn for today’s organising? – Lenny Gentle
* Transition and demobilisation of working class in South Africa in the early 1990s from feminist perspective and lessons for today– Claire Ceruti
* Lula and neoliberalism – Filipe Corrêa
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| 10:45 | BREAK |
| 11:00 | **ACTIVITY 5| PANEL DISCUSSION: Resistance/experiments/responses to neoliberalism from working class formations in the early 2000s – the ‘new’ social movements in South Africa and factory take-overs in Argentina** *(Facilitator: Cheryl)* 15 minutes per speaker and 45 minutes for discussion * The ’new’ social movements in South Africa in the early 2000s: how did these movements experiment with working class democracy, what values and principles informed these movements, what led to their decline, and what are the lessons for today? - John Appolis
* Attempts to build feminism in the Anti-Privatisation Forum (APF), what were the outcomes and what are the lessons for re-building working class feminism and democracy today? - Nosipho Twala
* Experiments of worker self-management in Argentina: how and why workers organised to occupy factories and the values, principles, practices and vision that underpinned these experiments? – Dario Bursztyn
* Popular education supporting working class struggles during the 1990s – James Kilgore
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| 12:30 | LUNCH |
| 13:30 |

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| **FILM** | **WORKSHOP 1** | **THEATRE** | **WORKSHOP 2** |
| Facilitators: Shawn and Dario | Facilitators: Lara, John Appolis and Nosipho Twala | Tears of the Oppressed Womb | Facilitators: InsideOutWorkshop |
|  “The Take” and discussion | “New” social Movements in SA  | Silent Theatre | Inside Out believes that in order to combat Gender Based Violence we have to work with boys and men. This is an open invitation to anyone who is interested in InsideOut's work and who has an interest in working with boys and men to join this workshop. Our aim is to look at how to transfer skills so more people are equipped to take on this work |
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| 17:00 - 19:00 | 1. **International Public Forum| Working Class alternatives to Neoliberalism**

**@ Ashely Kriel Hall, Community House**20 Minutes for each speaker and 40 minutes discussion(Facilitator: Dale)* Democratic Confederalism: an alternative to capitalism, patriarchy and nation states – Nazan Üstündağ
* Alternatives visions of the base movements in Brazil to capitalism, states and patriarchy - Filipe Corrêa
* Worker self-management as an alternative to capitalism and hierarchical capitalist workplaces– Dario Bursztyn
* Alternative to neoliberalism in Venezuela: the El Maizal commune, how and why the commune was started, its values, principles and practices that have underpinned it? - Ricardo Vaz
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| 19:30 | **Supper and Concert: Kujenga and Soundz of the South** |
| **DAY 3 (Sunday 5 November)** |
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| 09:00 | Debriefing, announcements, admin |
| 09:30 | 1. **ACTIVITY 6| PANEL DISCUSSION: Recent struggles Part 1**
2. *(Facilitator - Anele)*
3. 15 minutes per speaker and 30 minutes for discussion
* Iranian women’s movement, feminism and the recent uprising: its principles, practices, vision and lessons - Sepideh Mehraban
* How has Abahlali baseMonjdolo built working class democracy, what values and practices informed this, what is the movement’s vision and what lessons can be drawn for organising? – Thapelo Mohapi
* #FeesMustFall: how was it organised, what were the values, principles and practices, why did #FeesMustFall decline, what are the lessons for organising today? - Leigh-Ann Naidoo
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| 10:45 | *BREAK* |
| 11:0011:15 | **Poetry Performance: Lara Reddy****ACTIVITY 7| PANEL DISCUSSION: Recent struggles Part II:** (Facilitator: Cheryl)15 minutes each per speaker and 45 minutes for discussion* The history of the Kurdish struggles and what are Democratic Confederalism’s organisational models, its principles, its practices and lessons for organising? – Nazan Üstündağ
* Simunye Workers Forum: what are the principles, organising practices and visions? – Siza Milambo
* Sudan resistance committees: what are the resistance committees, how did they emerge, what are their principles, what is their political significance, and what lessons are there for struggles in South Africa and internationally? - Muzan Alneel
* Current struggles of the base movements in Brazil: how are they organised, what projects do they have, and what are the principles and values that underpin their organizing? – Filipe Corrêa
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| 13:00 | *Closure: ILRIG REO – Dale*  |
| 13:30 | *LUNCH* |

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