

A Social Theory Centre Event

# What is Social Theory Made Of? A People's Archive

January 30, 2019

15:00 – 17:00 pm, A0.23 (Social Sciences  
Building)

followed by refreshments/a wine reception

How is 'Social Theory' made up of social, political, economic events and times layered by people's movements for social/political justice? Come and hear a panel of academics at different levels of their research career speaking about aspects of their research projects which trouble the divisions between social/political theory and social/political praxis. Bring your own informed opinions and join in this discussion regarding the archival relationship between people's movements and social theory.

# Speakers & Biographies

**Dr. John Narayan** (Birmingham City University) will speak on the 'neo-liberalism and Black Power: a people's history.' His talk will examine how anti-racist groups in the 70s were aware of an emergent new economic order and its inherent racism - even if they couldn't name it and how they readily understood the racial contours of neo-liberalism. **Dr. John Narayan** is Lecturer in Sociology at Birmingham City University. His research interests centre on globalisation and its relationship to social theory and democratic politics. His current research focuses on the global politics of Black Power.

**Caryn Thandi Petersen** (Department of Sociology) will be speaking about the roots of 'the Rhodes Must Fall' movement in South Africa and its spread to universities throughout the UK. From colonial iconography to the hegemony of Eurocentric epistemologies, the call to decolonise the academy has ignited heated public debate as it seeks to excavate and critically engage colonial myths and misrepresentations embedded in scholarship. **Caryn Thandi Petersen** is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Warwick. She is doing research on the impact of decolonial, intersectional social student movements such as Rhodes Must Fall.

**Piermarco Piu** (Department of Sociology) will consider how the Italian versions of the theories of the Workers' Councils and workers' control have been gradually elaborated by Antonio Gramsci, the *Ordine Nuovo* Group and the militants of the Factory Council movement within the Turinese working class' environment. **Piermarco Piu** is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Warwick. His main research interests focus on Gramsci and the *Ordine Nuovo* group during the Italian Red Biennium (1919-1920), the Postcolonial reception of Gramsci's "Prison Notebooks", Postcolonial theory (in particular, Gayatri Spivak's works) and the debates around the 'subaltern question' in alternative Global Sociologies.

**Dr. Teodora Todorova** (Department of Sociology) will speak on the ways in which the theoretical concept of 'vulnerability' plays a significant role in the politics of activism regarding decolonial solidarity in the context of Palestine/Israel settler-colonialism.

**Dr. Teodora Todorova** teaches in the Department of Sociology at the University of Warwick. Her research concerns theories and practices of ethico-political responsibility in the context of ethno-nationalist conflict. She has worked on gendered violence and post-conflict reconciliation in Bosnia Herzegovina, and on solidarity activism in Palestine-Israel. More broadly, her work is concerned with grassroots activism and transnational civil society responses to gendered and racialised power and state violence.