

Programme - Workshops/Meetings in Rooms 1 and 2 @ The Bristol Anarchist Bookfair

ROOM 1 (Lower floor)

11 - 12noon: Education And Social Control

by Universe Circus - Bristol School of Critical Thinking

Is education used as a tool for social control? In this discussion we will look at how education and knowledge shapes society, comparing the UK to European countries experiencing the similar effects of recession as well as analysing the current Tory-led privatisation of the school system. We'll be asking, does Bristol need a Free School?

12 - 1: Animal ethics and current campaigns

by Bristol Animal Rights Collective

What are the relationships between speciesism, racism and sexism, and how can we challenge them? What do we mean by the 'instrumentalisation' of animals? What are BARC doing to promote animal liberation in the South West? How does the Close Noah Ark Zoo Farm campaign connect to these issues?

1 - 2: Storm Clouds Gather: Public services under attack

by Solidarity Federation South West

Summary of government attacks on public services followed by reflections on a recent local labour dispute and a discussion on resisting cuts. The coming year will see swingeing cuts to public services. Countless jobs are at risk and those that remain face worsening pay and conditions. SWSF has invited workers involved in a recent local dispute to kick-off a discussion on tactics used by the bosses and strategies to organise and resist.

2 - 3: The Bristol Riot and its Other - St. Paul's and Southmead in April 1980

by Roger (BRHG)

The 'uprising' in the St. Paul's area of Bristol in April 1980 heralded a decade of unrest in English cities. Immediately following the event, violent disturbances broke out in Southmead. This talk analyses what happened and why the latter events were ignored or denigrated to the status of 'copycat riots'.

3 - 4: Men Confronting Patriarchy

by Men Confronting Patriarchy group

A discussion-based workshop asking: What is patriarchy? Why do we want to confront it? How do we confront it? All genders very welcome.

4 - 5: Bashing Back

A Queer Fringe Meeting

A call-out to anybody who wants to build a queer anarchist resistance movement. A workshop introducing queer ideas on gender and sexuality and the politics that come with it followed by a discussion on how this leads to anarchist conclusions and how anarchist politics leads to queer resistance.

5 - 6: Direct Action Anti-Poverty Work: From Case Work to Mass Mobilization, 20 years of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty

by OCAP, introduced by EBDA

The Ontario Coalition Against Poverty has fought for justice and dignity for poor people for 20 years. Using direct action we have won individual cases including social assistance benefits, housing repairs, and withheld wages. Through mass mobilization, we have won housing and millions of dollars for poor people in Ontario. This workshop will discuss OCAP's model of fighting back against the harsh ways that neo-liberal capitalism plays out in the lives of poor and working class.

ROOM 2 (Upper floor)

11 - 12noon: GM crops and biofuels - how patents on life mutated

by Genetic Engineering Network

A brief intro to the current science and politics of genetics examining what is currently being tested in the UK and some of the corporate spin being used to excuse it. Activists booted GM out of the UK in the late nineties, how can we make sure it doesn't creep back?

12 - 1: Space for Movement? Reflections from Bolivia on climate justice, social movements and the state.

by The Building Bridges Collective

We recently co-wrote a booklet of this name based on interviews we did in Bolivia at the World People's climate summit. Back home we want to discuss what can be learned from the Bolivian example. How do anarchists relate (or not) to the messier politics of building social movements?

1 - 2: Consciousness changing games as a tool to combat unwanted programming

by The Laboratory of Futurefull Acts

One of the major problems with capitalism, is when it gets inside your head: through advertising for example, and you find yourself thinking, feelings things and behaving in ways that make you cringe! This workshop will give you a chance to explore a simple theatre games based method, to put yourself in a disinhibited state where you can actively re-programme. Please turn up 10 min early outside the room if you wish to attend but are unsure if this is for you, and would like to know more.

2 - 3: What is Anarchism?

by Anarchist Federation (London)

Revolutionary anarchism emerged within the international workers movement of the 19th century and continues to be the most radical expression of the need to do away with a society built on class and hierarchy. Far from having its roots in philosophical speculation it is a practical body of ideas that actively seeks to create a society organised horizontally and based on equality and liberty. A speaker from the Anarchist Federation introduces this meeting.

3 - 4: Which way for antifascism?

by Bristol Resistance

A discussion on effective antifascism today, in the context of the recession, the attacks from capital and state on the working class, the emergence of the EDL and the failure of liberal antifascism.

4 - 5: Union and community organising against the cuts

by Bristol IWW and Bath Activist Network

Bristol IWW will discuss how the cuts are affecting Bristol and what we can do to act in solidarity with each other and help build up a radical union. BAN will introduce the recently formed Anti Cuts Alliance which aims to build community resistance against attacks on jobs, services and benefits.

5 - 6: Free movement and the social movement

by Bristol No Borders

How does a no borders perspective form part of, or compliment, an anarchist perspective and how do No Borders actions and activists contribute to the larger battles for our freedom and against state control?