



opening day

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

1:30 PM to 4:00 PM (NYC EST) 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM (GMT)

introduction to this year's book

GREG ALBO & STEPHEN MAHER

“In addressing how far digital technology has become integral to the capitalist market dystopia of the first decades the 21st century, we were deliberately seeking to counter so much facile futurist ‘cyber-utopian’ thinking that has proliferated through these decades. The proof of capitalism’s continued dynamism, even in the face of severe global economic crisis, lay in the most successful and most celebrated high-tech corporations of the new information sector which really were restructuring and refashioning not only our ways of communicating but of working and consuming, indeed ways of living. Yet precisely because this was taking place within the logics of capitalist accumulation and exploitation, and through the reproduction of capitalist social relations, this produced new contradictions and irrationalities. Perhaps none of these was greater than those revealed by the contrast between the investment, planning, and preparation that went into the interminable competitive race for ‘more speed’ by way of reducing latency in digital communications by so many milliseconds, on the one hand, and on the other the lack of investment, planning, and preparation that underlay the scandalous slowness of the responses to the spreading Covid-19 pandemic around the world.”

—From the Preface by Leo Panitch and Greg Albo

followed by

REAPING THE WHIRLWIND:

Digitalization, Restructuring, and Mobilization in the Covid Crisis

a presentation by

URSULA HUWS



LEO PANITCH • 1945-2020

All of us at The Marxist Education Project appreciate all that Leo did and is continuing to do following his untimely death this past December. Both this series and the *Class, Party, Revolution* Socialist Register series that begins on February 12 are presented in his memory; they represent a few of the many fruits that still spring from the myriad seeds that Leo has planted.

GREG ALBO teaches in the Department of Politics at York University. He is co-editor of the *Socialist Register*. Greg is also on the editorial boards of *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism, The Bullet* and *Historical Materialism*.

STEVE MAHER is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Ontario Tech University in Oshawa, Canada, and Assistant Editor of *Socialist Register*.

URSULA HUWS, Professor of Labor and Globalization at the University of Hertfordshire. She has been researching the social impacts of technological change, the restructuring of employment and the changing international division of labour since the 1970s. Ursula will visit The MEP again on February 21, to discuss her current book, *Reinventing the Welfare State: Digital Platforms and Public Policies* (Pluto FireWorks, 2020)



Ursula Huws’ essay addresses the changes sweeping through global labor markets during the coronavirus pandemic, looking in particular at the concentration of capital and expansion of market share by global corporations, bringing with it the digital management of supply chains and an exponential growth in algorithmic control and surveillance of workers. Pandemic lockdown conditions have exposed very clearly the polarizations in the workforce between ‘fixed’ workers, physically isolated in their homes but closely monitored via their computers, working virtually, and the precariously employed mobile (‘footloose’) workers, disproportionately made up of black and migrant workers, equally closely monitored, who deliver the physical goods and services the home-bound need to survive and care for their bodily needs when they become sick, at great personal risk.

Sliding Scale Schedules

Contribution: \$7 / \$9 / \$11

• *No one turned away for inability to pay.* (If you cannot pay full amount, please email to info@marxedproject.org to request the URL of the Zoom session.)

MEP Lectures & Classes **via ZOOM**

more info or to register:

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