

# **Proposed Community Agreement**

## **1) Assume good faith in your fellow comrades**

Please try to speak from experience, speak for yourself and actively listen to each other. Honor the work of others, avoid defensiveness, be open to legitimate critique and challenge oppressive behaviors in ways that help people grow.

## **2) Know whether you need to step up or step back**

Please respect others by recognizing how often, much and loudly you're speaking, and whether you're dominating conversation. Step back to leave space for others to voice their opinions and feelings. On the other hand, if you don't often speak up, we encourage you to do so today!

## **3) Recognize others' backgrounds and cultural differences**

We all have different levels of experience and knowledge in social justice and radical activism and all participants should respect and embrace this diversity. Don't use language that's clearly oppressive or hurtful, and please refrain from using acronyms or complicated/academic language that could exclude others. Everyone has something to teach and everyone has something to learn.

## **4) Respect the facilitator when they use Progressive Stack**

Progressive stack is a method of facilitating discussion that prioritizes people who have not already contributed to discussion and people from marginalized groups. Please respect discussion facilitators and do not interrupt others.

## **5) Communicate and respect personal boundaries**

Only take photos with the consent of the subject. Engage only in consensual physical contact. If a conference participant or volunteer asks you to give them space or disengage from a situation, do so graciously. Please inform conference volunteers of any inappropriate behavior immediately.

## Schedule of Events

August 25th, 2018

9:00-9:45 AM----- Registration and breakfast  
9:45-10:00 AM-----Opening remarks and community agreement  
10:00-11:20 AM----- Panel: *What is the Red State?*  
11:20-11:30 AM ----- Break  
11:30-12:20 PM ----- Workshop Breakout #1  
12:20-1:30 PM----- Lunch and social time  
1:30-2:20 PM-----Workshop Breakout #2  
2:20-2:30 PM ----- Break  
2:30-3:50 PM ---- Panel: *Where Does the Red State Go from Here?*  
3:50-4:00 PM----- Break  
4:00-4:50 PM-----Workshop Breakout #3  
4:50-5:00 PM----- Closing

**Red State 2018 is sponsored and organized by** The Black Cat House, DSA Lincoln, Lincoln ISO, The Nebraska Left Coalition and Omaha DSA.

## Panels

Each panel includes 40 minutes for moderated questions and 40 minutes for questions from the audience.

### **What is the Red State? (Organizing in the Midwest)**

10:00-11:20 AM

A discussion on the challenges and opportunities the Midwest presents us as organizers featuring Zac Echola, Jewel Rodgers, Reed Underwood, and Rose Welch.

Moderated by William Johnson (Omaha DSA)

### **Where Does the Red State Go from Here?**

2:30-3:50 PM

A discussion on future sites of struggle, left cooperation, and political horizons featuring Hannah Allison, Amanda Huckins, and Brett O'Shea.

Moderated by SaRena Freet (Lincoln ISO)

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## **About the Panelists**

**Zac Echola** is a labor and community organizer based in North Dakota. He is an elected member of the National Steering Committee of the Democratic Socialists of America.

**Jewel Rodgers** is a community and collective action enthusiast in Lincoln, Nebraska, working to earn the title of a modern revolutionary. While holding dear the complexities of social change, she uses the arts, poetry, public speaking and design as a means of influencing the collective consciousness of many peoples. Her projects, local discussions, and search for generational wisdom are all birthed from the ideals of a commonsensical investment in self and others.

**Reed Underwood** is a geographer, educator, and educationist interested in place, poetics, and social hope. His recent and current research is focused on rurality, rural depopulation, and the Great Plains.

**Rose Welch** is a labor and community organizer from Houston who lives in Kansas by way of Oklahoma. She studied English and Communication at Cameron University, during which time she worked as a community organizer with a focus on class issues and the arts. She has a background of non-profit organizing experience from educational work to homeless outreach to union organizing. As a Queer woman of color, she seeks to confront injustice and develop solutions for the complex and multi-faceted issues facing marginalized communities.

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**Hannah Allison** is the Democratic Socialists of America Midwest Organizer. She is from rural North Carolina but her love of organizing comes from the four years she spent in Saint Louis as a member of Jobs with Justice and an organizer for Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment. Fighting to raise the minimum wage, stop home foreclosures, and prevent giant companies—like Monsanto and Peabody Coal—from getting tax breaks taught her that when we struggle together to take power from the capitalists and make our lives better, we can win.

**Amanda Huckins** is a poet, organizer, and educator working for affordable housing, renters' rights, and community spaces. Amanda recently moved to Omaha from Lincoln where she established and ran The Commons for three years.

**Brett O'Shea** is a dad and a Marxist communist organizer with the Omaha chapter of the Nebraska Left Coalition. He also hosts the podcasts *Revolutionary Left Radio* and *The Guillotine*.

# Red State Workshops

## Workshop Breakout #1 (11:30-12:20 PM)

- A. Post-Marxist Thought – Jack Dunn
  - B. From Marx to Luxemburg, teachers strikes and mass movements: What is Socialism from Below? – SaRena Freet
  - C. We Are the Revolution: A Workshop on Who Informs our Politics – Andira Losh
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## Workshop Breakout #2 (1:30-2:20 PM)

- A. Building a Reservoir: Making Room for Grace – Marty Hillard
  - B. Nude Ninja: A Game about Intersecting Identities – Dr. Lory Janelle Dance
  - C. Theatre of the Oppressed – Doug Paterson and Lucas Pérez-Leahy
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## Workshop Breakout #3 (4:00-4:50 PM)

- A. How to Say You're Sorry: A Handy Guide to Accountability and Self-Assessment – Andrea K
- B. Starting a Radical Space – Jackson Meredith and Tytus Zink
- C. One on One, Face to Face: How to Have an Organizing Conversation – Erika Paschold
- D. Printmaking for Everyone – Kelly Seacrest

# **Workshop Breakout #1**

## **Post-Marxist Thought**

Jack Dunn

While Marx was an invaluable economist and revolutionary, he wrote around 150 years ago. The first portion of this workshop will briefly review what we owe Karl Marx and subsequent leftist writers. This will be followed by small group discussions and reporting back to the whole from each small group.

Jack Dunn has been an independent Leftist since 1967. In 2003 he was co-founder of the People's Film Festival, founder of Progressive Omaha forums and website, and in 2009, founder of Policy Research & Innovation ([prineb.org](http://prineb.org)) - an Omaha think tank.

## **From Marx to Luxemburg, teachers strikes and mass movements: What is Socialism from Below?**

SaRena Freet

The teachers' strikes from West Virginia to Oklahoma, nurses strike in Vermont, along with mass mobilizations to unite against ICE and resist Trump show the power of workers and strength in masses. The intention of this workshop is to facilitate conversations on what is socialism from below.

SaRena Freet is a member of the International Socialist Organization, barkeep, and candy junky.

## **We are the Revolution: A Workshop on Who Informs our Politics**

Andira Losh

## **Workshop Breakout #2**

### **Building a Reservoir: Making Room for Grace**

Marty Hillard

Marty Hillard shares reflections and thoughts about his journey of having community dialogue about inequity, and the need to adjust along the way to stay healthy while still making an impact.

Marty is a musician, poet, community organizer and activist based in Shawnee County, Kansas. As a child of Mississippi on both sides, his work is a reflection of his personal journey and desire to build community out of hardship.

### **Nude Ninja**

Dr. Lory Janelle Dance

Intersectionality theory reveals how human beings are shaped by multiple interlocking social identities, for example gender, class, 'race'/ethnicity, sexuality, migration status, ability, and so on. Some social identity categories confer privilege while others confer disadvantage. The Nude Ninja game reveals how interlocking identities may matter even for a "ninja" in the nude. Come, play, and laugh while also having sobering discussions about intersectionality. (And, yes!, we will all play with our clothes on!)

Lory Janelle Dance, an Associate Professor of Sociology & Ethnic Studies at UNL, since 2009, has also been a Visiting Senior Researcher at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Lund University (Sweden). Recent article: "Performativity Pressures at Urban Schools in Sweden & New York" (*Ethnography & Education* 2014). Book-in-progress: *Gone with the Neo-Liberal Wind: Minority Teens, School Reform, & Urban Change in Sweden & the U.S.* Established cross-national symposia using poetry to engage urban youths in empowering dialogues ([streetposia.org](http://streetposia.org)).

## **Theatre of the Oppressed**

Doug Paterson and Lucas Pérez-Leahy

“Theatre of the Oppressed” was developed by Brazilian theatre director Augusto Boal, partly inspired by Brazilian revolutionary educator Paulo Freire and his *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. Boal's intent was to turn the “means of production” of theatre over to oppressed communities as a way to represent oppressions, then open theatrical dialogue and action as tools for imagining (and practicing!) new possibilities for the future. Comrades will have the opportunity to learn about the rich history and philosophy behind this tradition and to participate in some of its most engaging exercises. Through play, we will dialogue with one another and interrogate power.

Doug Paterson is a Marxist director, scholar and educator. His specialty is in Theater of the Oppressed, which he has practiced around the world. Doug helped to found the Pedagogy and Theater of the Oppressed Conference in the United States and has taught for over thirty years at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Lucas Pérez-Leahy is a scholar-artist and community organizer who believes in the transformative capacity of theater. He is a Red Diaper Baby and a dual-member of DSA and Solidarity: A Socialist, Feminist, Anti-Racist Organization.

## **Workshop Breakout #3**

### **How to Say You're Sorry: A Handy Guide to Accountability and Self-Assessment**

Andrea K

Apologies are extremely hard and weird and sometimes embarrassing. Often times, people don't apologize because they're scared or simply because they don't know how to issue an apology correctly. *(Continued on next page)*

In this workshop, we'll be discussing the aspects of a solid apology. How can we take our mistakes, own them and move forward without causing further harm? We will also talk about situations when you shouldn't say sorry and also, when a sorry may not be enough. Each attendee will receive a handmade zine and some cute stationery!

Andrea K is a writer, zinester and rowdy boy who makes a lot of mistakes. They are definitely still not great at apologies but they're working on it.

### **Starting a Radical Space**

Jackson Meredith and Tytus Zink

Sometimes the coffee shops, bars, and libraries are inadequate for organizing radical politics. Whether they're too loud, booked up, or just not down with the politics, activists can find themselves coming up short when trying to find spaces for productive meetings and events. So why not carve out your own?

Jackson and Tytus have built and maintained radical venues for more than a decade and will share what they've learned over the years in order to give you tips to help organize and maintain a space for activism to thrive. They'll cover how to pick a location, how to pay for it, how to get people to come to it, and more.

Jackson and Tytus have run the Black Cat House in Lincoln since 2013. The Black Cat House hosts educational events on a wide range of leftist issues, and provides resources such as a lending library and a copy machine. Our project is inspired by the Infoshop model. Find us online at [theblackcathouse.org](http://theblackcathouse.org) or on Facebook.

## **One on One, Face-to-Face: How to Have an Organizing Conversation**

Erika Paschold

Building a movement, organizing your workplace and growing an organization all require groups of people acting together, and one-on-one organizing conversations are where it starts. An effective one-on-one identifies opportunities to build power together, fosters a relationship of mutual commitment, and moves both participants to action. But good one-on-ones don't just happen. They require intention, clarity and practice.

Workshop attendees will learn the basics of one-on-one organizing conversations and have a chance to practice in a low-stakes environment. No prior knowledge or experience required.

Erika Paschold is a baby socialist and the Chair of DSA Lincoln. She used to hate everyone, but it turns out she just hates capitalism.

## **Printmaking for Everyone**

Kelly Seacrest

Art is key in both celebrating, healing and communicating. Art plays a vital role in helping build and sustain movements. Printmaking allows for a single work of art to be shared by many. In this workshop, participants of any age or skill level will learn a wide range of easy relief printmaking process to do at home. Whether you want to make some propaganda or create personal thank you notes to your comrades, printmaking is a fun and easy way to engage in some radical art making. This hands-on workshop is a great place to explore and get ideas.

Kelly is an artist and art teacher with Lincoln Public Schools but has an ever-growing desire for alternative and radical modes of learning. A newly hatched leftist, she looks forward to learning from everyone!

## **The Internationale** by Billy Bragg (1989)

Stand up all victims of oppression  
For the tyrants fear your might  
Don't cling so hard to your possessions  
For you have nothing if you have no rights  
Let racist ignorance be ended  
For respect makes the empires fall  
Freedom is merely privilege extended  
Unless enjoyed by one and all

**So comrades come rally  
For the struggle carries on  
The internationale  
Unites the world in song  
So comrades come rally  
For this is the time and place  
The international ideal  
Unites the human race**

Let no one build walls to divide us  
Walls of hatred nor walls of stone  
Come greet the dawn and stand beside us  
We'll live together or we'll die alone  
In our world poisoned by exploitation  
Those who have taken now they must give  
And end the vanity of nations  
We've but one earth on which to live

### *Chorus*

And so begins the final drama  
In the streets and in the fields  
We stand unbowed before their armor  
We defy their guns and shields  
When we fight provoked by their aggression  
Let us be inspired by like and love  
For though they offer us concessions  
Change will not come from above

### *Chorus*