



Conference II: 3-5 April 2015, Hamburg University

Dissecting Capitalist Modernity—Building Democratic Confederalism

Call for Papers

The political impasse experienced since the 60s and 70s became worse later for all the alternative movements. Real socialism collapsed, feminism after its peak in the 1980s and even 1990s slowed down, indeed capitalism declared its eternity. However there were and are intellectuals, movements and organisations that continue on with their quest for an alternative life. In this II. Conference “Challenging capitalist modernity” we would like to concentrate more on the topics such as cultural hegemony, economy, women's freedom, social ecology, power and the respective views of the Kurdish freedom movement.

The preparatory committee wants to give students, scholars and everybody else the opportunity to present their research to the audience of the conference. We would therefore like to invite you to submit a paper on one or several of the following topics.

1 – Cultural Hegemony. Gramsci and 75 years later Öcalan

Although Öcalan only was able to read Gramsci very late, in his earlier books he reaches similar conclusions with different dimensions. Öcalan also finds it important to delve into the definition of an intellectual and its role in the transformation of the society. They are also both critical about a class rule, no matter which class it is. How do Öcalan and Gramsci differ and how much are they similar should be the main research topic of this paper.

2 – Power and Truth. The notion of power in Öcalan and Foucault

Both intellectuals, Öcalan and Foucault, talk about power being everywhere, especially during times of capitalism. Öcalan underlines how power has been reduced down to each individual in the sense that the system reproduces itself. Foucault's ‘power/knowledge’ signifies how power is constituted through accepted forms of knowledge, scientific understanding and ‘truth’. Öcalan also delves into the regime of truth in order to re-examine our foundations and why we can not escape from repeating the system.

3 – Feminism and the Kurds

The Kurdish women's movement is the strongest in the region – to say the least. But how do their theoretical foundations relate to socialist, radical or anarchist feminism of Western provenance? Which are the original approaches in Kurdish feminism, and why is the most read feminist – a man?

4 – After Marx: Braudel, Wallerstein and Öcalan on Economy and Capitalism

Öcalan feels the analysis of economy and capitalism is a weak spot of the alternative movements, including the Kurdish movement. Thus he has taken a profound look at the roots of economy and how economy can be claimed back. To this end especially Braudel and also Wallerstein can be examined to underline their similarities and the new additions made by Öcalan.

5 – Democratic Confederalism – the Practice of Social Ecology?

Neither Murray Bookchin nor Öcalan are theorists only. Both strive(d) to put their ideas into practise. How is

the relationship between social ecology, libertarian municipalism, the “women's freedom ideology”, the concept of democratic confederalism and the attempts to implement them? What problems does the concrete political movement face and struggle to overcome, how does this in turn contribute to the further development of theory?

Technical Information for Papers

Proposals should be submitted by 10 March 2015, however until mid-January you should submit an abstract. Papers should be 1500 words, and no longer than 2500 words. On each of the above topics a paper will be chosen and the author will get the opportunity to present her/his paper in the one of the appropriate sessions of the conference. Some amongst the papers deemed suitable shall be published in the conference booklet.

Key Dates

12 December 2014:	Call for Papers made
15 January 2015:	Abstracts due
10 March 2015:	Papers due for refereeing
20 March 2015:	Feedback to authors
3-5 April 2015:	Conference

Contact address

cfp@networkaq.net

Network for an Alternative Quest: International Initiative “Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan–Peace in Kurdistan” • KURD-AKAD – Network of Kurdish Academics • YXK – Association of Students from Kurdistan • Kurdistan Report • ISKU – Informationsstelle Kurdistan e.V. • Cenî – Kurdish Women’s Office for Peace • Civaka Azad – Kurdish Center for Public Relations