

## Editorial

### Capitalist Crisis, Rightists, Rebellions and Ongoing Social Struggles

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The historical times we live through indicate the structural crisis of Capital, which has expressions at the local level. At the same time, we are witnessing the emergence of the ultra-right in governments, where figures such as Donald Trump (United States), Jair Bolsonaro (Brazil), Giorgia Meloni (Italy), Nayib Bukele (El Salvador), Benjamin Netanyahu (Israel), Volodymyr Zelensky (Ukraine), Daniel Noboa (Ecuador), Javier Milei (Argentina), among others, have promoted a series of policies that undermine human rights understood as economic, social, political, cultural and environmental rights, weakening liberal democracies. In parallel, ultra-right actions have been expressed in the genocide that the Palestinian people have experienced at the hands of the State of Israel, where civil technology has become a weapon of war, demonstrating the barbarity of these times.

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The flip side of this trend is the processes of social struggles and rebellions in some countries – beginning in the 21st century – which have not only shown the exhaustion of capitalist social relations but have also given rise to experiences from below that have managed to contain this trend and install more progressive governments, such as those of Gustavo Petro (Colombia), Luis Inácio Lula da Silva (Brazil) and Andrés Manuel López Obrador (Mexico).

Within this framework, we have received papers from Latin America and Europe presenting theoretical discussions and research results or testimonies/interviews on topics related to the following axes: 1) Capitalist crisis and its contemporary expressions. 2) Capitalist crisis and the rise of the right and ultra-right. 3) Capitalist crisis, rebellions, resistances and struggles. 4) Social work in times of right-wing and social struggles

Some guiding questions were: What is the nature of the crisis? Can we speak of a structural crisis in the capital? How can we characterise the right-wing governments and



their public policies? What are their implications? Why have the experiences of revolt in Chile and other countries not consolidated emancipatory projects? What challenges and proposals arise in this context for Social Work and the social sciences?

This issue is organised by the Núcleo de Relaciones Socioeconómicas y Luchas Sociales (NURELS) and is directed by Dr. Paula Vidal and Dr. Gonzalo Durán. The dossier covers two lines of reflection. Firstly, a theoretical-conceptual line; and secondly, a line of concrete studies on the phenomenon.

The article by Natalia Perdomo dos Santos analyses the constitutive foundations of neoliberalism as a strategy for the reproduction of late capitalism and as an expression of its irrationality. She criticises the mystifying thinking of Dardot and Laval, whose theses have been echoed in Brazilian social work.

Sara Granemann's article assesses the importance of public funds operated by capitalist states in dealing with the constant crises of capitalist modes of production. She characterises the state at this stage as "pure capitalism", from which she approaches social policies.

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Paulo Wesley Maia Pinheiro's article, drawing on the contributions of Marx and Lukács, demonstrates that advancing the unity between ultra-neoliberals and conservatives/ reactionaries is a political realisation of the exploitation-oppression unity. The following articles are specific, case-based studies.

The article by Lawrence Estivalet de Mello, Alexandra Maciel Veiga and Loyana Araujo Saraiva Matos reflects – based on the authors' participation – on the 2024 federal education strike in Brazil, analysing two ways of understanding trade unionism: combative and negotiating.

The article by Luis Felipe González Gutiérrez and Eva Marxen takes up the advantages of art as a form of resistance against patriarchy, colonialism and capitalism. It applies to demonstrations during the social upheaval in Chile.

Luciano Santander's article provides crucial information for understanding the process of discursive articulation of the Chilean right. The paper argues that this articulation is based on the defence of the main ideological legacy of the dictatorship: the authoritarian neoliberalism represented by trade unionism.



Agustín Ezequiel Zuccaro's article identifies five main ideas about social welfare that have characterised right-wing governments. Zuccaro analyses the period between 1955 and 2023.

Fernanda Kilduff's article addresses the prison management of Jair Bolsonaro's government in Brazil in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In her work, Kilduff shows that despite the initiatives undertaken by social movements, the far-right government ratified the policies of mass incarceration.

The review by Rafael Elías Rojas entitled "Allende para el Siglo XXI" (Allende for the 21st Century) deals with the relevant aspects of the book "Allende and Popular Unity: the Road to Democratic Socialism" by the authors Paula Vidal and Ximena Odekerken, published in 2024 by the prestigious Routledge publishing house, and invites us to find the validity of the socialist project expressed in the Unidad Popular through its discourses.

The dossier closes with two interviews conducted by Paula Vidal and Gonzalo Durán with two of the most prominent recent Marxist intellectuals. The first interview is with the Argentinean economist Claudio Katz, in which he explores in depth the relationship between the right and the left today, addressing the strategies that the latter have had and must have to be able to realise the needs, demands and rights of the people. The second interview is with British economist Michael Roberts, who reflects on the relevance of understanding Marxist economics today, including areas such as inflation, which have traditionally been left to the domain of the mainstream. In this interview, Michael Roberts also gives his impressions on the validity of the class struggle and the relevance of the working class in pushing for transformations in the face of the rise of the right. We hope that readers, especially from the field of social work, will find elements, categories, questions, and analyses in this dossier that help them understand the right-wing phenomenon and overcome it.

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