making sense of the world in order to change it

ABOUT THE
MOVEMENT SCHOOL FOR REVOLUTIONARIES

The Movement School for Revolutionaries is a weekend workshop for revolutionaries: by which we mean the growing ranks of dedicated grassroots activists in radical, socialist & progressive movements who believe it is necessary to restructure society in order to meet vital needs and protect people & the planet from the ravages of today's multiple and compounded crises; and who recognize that we must, for it is our best, and possibly last, chance for society - and democracy - to address the dire social, economic, and ecological challenges facing our world.

Every Movement School workshop is custom-tailored to address local particularities and organizing questions, and meet the needs/goals of local organizers. Presenting revolutionary history, theory & strategy in an engaging & interactive popular education format, the Movement School's core curriculum is intended to help revolutionaries working in radical, socialist & progressive movements, social justice advocates, and electoral organizations:

- Understand the larger social & historical context of the current conjunctures of social, ecological, economic, & political crises

- Collaborate with fellow radicals & progressives across party lines

- Build a united front of the Left to fight back against both neoliberalism and neofascism

- Develop strategies for engaging elections - and prepare to take and exercise state power

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
school4rev.org & facebook.com/School4Rev
CORE CURRICULUM

The Movement School’s core modules provide essential social & historical context for understanding the political challenges & imperatives for progressives & the Left in our current historical moment; and introduce relevant analytical tools & methods from revolutionary theory in accessible ways – not as abstract philosophical ideas, but in applied forms designed to enable & empower organizers to develop their own concrete, effective, innovative approaches to near- and long-term political strategy.

We work with local activists, party organizations, and communities to customize the format & content of each basic module, as well as the overall workshop schedule, in accordance with their local organizing context and political/electoral objectives.

I. MAKING THE ROAD: GOALS, STRATEGY, TACTICS

The Movement School workshop opens with a set of interactive exercises to help orient the group towards thinking strategically: to define concrete goals & objectives in local/state/national/global contexts, and to identify / think through the relative utility of various forms of political action in terms of how they help achieve those goals.

II. META-CONTEXT: APPROACHING 'REALITY'

In this module, we examine the larger social & structural context in which we organize, unpacking our embedded cultural assumptions & implicit biases structured by four fundamental forms of oppression that have historically constructed what we live & experience every day as social 'reality': patriarchy, imperialism, white supremacy and capitalism.

III. SYSTEM FAILURE: THE CURRENT MOMENT

This module introduces the concept of 'historical conjuncture' and traces the historical & political trajectory of our current historical moment: collapsing consent to the neoliberal status quo, challenges from the radical left and right, realignment of electoral parties, and the dangers posed by emerging neofascism.

IV. WHAT IS TO BE DONE? TOOLS FOR PRACTICAL ACTION

The final module of the Movement School workshop (which can extend to a followup strategic planning workshop) reviews essential methods & theoretical tools to understand how power works in modern societies. We facilitate a group evaluation of local strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, and take the first steps toward developing explicit strategies for local political action & building independent political power based on 'real pragmatism': centering the needs & concerns of the 99% and delivering the goods on the scale of real life.

Learn more: school4rev.org or facebook.com/School4Rev
MEET THE TEAM

To contact either of us directly, email:
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MELEIZA FIGUEROA is a PhD Candidate in Geography at UC Berkeley, former Press Director for the Stein/Baraka 2016 Presidential campaign, and a member of the Campus Antifascist Network. Her experience in progressive media includes over a decade as staff producer for Pacifica Radio, lead researcher for the 2005 documentary “Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price,” and Executive Producer of the Green News Network. She is a correspondent for Free Speech TV’s “Rising Up With Sonali,” and has contributed to The Nation, Truthdig.com, Against the Current, and New Politics. She has been a longtime political educator & organizer in a wide range of movements for social and environmental justice, and is currently a Fellow with the Liberty Tree Foundation for the Democratic Revolution.

“I do this work because my conscience won’t let me do anything else in this moment but speak up & organize as effectively as I can, because our planetary destiny is literally in our hands. No more heroes or saviors. All we have is our deep & abiding human solidarity. The best - and only - way we get out of this is together.

I’m playing to win because I can’t imagine the future that unfolds if we don’t. The good news is that, especially among youth, I see so much hope that just refuses to die. I’m giving my all to help us find that hope in each other; put it together, & turn it into the power to save ourselves.”

DAVID COBB was the Green Party Presidential Candidate in 2004, Campaign manager for the Stein/Baraka 2016 Presidential Campaign, and a founding member of Cooperation Humboldt. From campaigning for Democratic presidential candidates Jesse Jackson and Jerry Brown in the 1980’s, to civil disobedience protesting the denial of 3rd party candidates in presidential debates and spearheading the campaign for a Constitutional amendment limiting the power of corporations, David has been in the trenches and a leader in grassroots organizing. He is currently a Fellow with the Liberty Tree Foundation for the Democratic Revolution.

“I do this work because converging social, political, and economic crises means we are experiencing the beginning stages of actual systems collapse.

If we do not provoke -- and win -- a peaceful democratic revolution, we will witness full-fledged fascism in this country.

As we say where I’m from, I’m “all in” for a peaceful revolution, and the Movement Schools are a way to win that revolution.”
NOTES ON PEDAGOGY

Our workshops are designed with popular education as a fundamental guiding principle for presenting the Movement School’s core curriculum. While some topics, such as historical background, are necessarily conveyed in more conventional ways, we recognize & honor that the best teacher for many crucial concepts & political truths is often people's own lived experience. We also honor the value of storytelling, and the sense of deeply fulfilling human engagement that comes from sharing one's story and listening to others.

Participants often remark in evaluations that workshops don’t feel like the typical “class.” After eight hours of intensive engagement with complex ‘academic’ ideas from social theory, history & deep, frank discussions on hard & incisive political truths, many people are often surprised at how “the time just seemed to fly by.”

Our commitment to popular education reflects our mission to ‘liberate’ vitally important revolutionary ideas from academia’s “Ivory Tower,” & put them back into the hands of the working-class social change agents whom they were meant to empower. We strive to engage diverse groups of all ages, education levels & learning styles: using visual aids and infographics, games, small-group activities, dynamic lecture segments, kinetic exercises, provocative discussion questions, and more.

COMING UP IN 2018

In 2018, we are experimenting with next-generation online presentation platforms and interactive learning tools in the hope of opening up new ways to make this material accessible as possible to a wide audience.

**Movement School for Revolutionaries**

Having the hard conversations in respectful and comradely ways towards the struggle for clarity

**SUNDAYS 8pm ET / 5pm PT**

Like & Share for Updates & More: facebook.com/School4Rev

Our Facebook community is growing fast! LIKE our page to receive event notifications & updates from the Road Show as we meet with and gather insights from revolutionaries across the country! Tune in to our Sunday Night livestreams as we hold respectful, comradely discussions & debates on hot topics, hard conversats and tricky issues that pose challenges to activists.

Interact!

Go to RevealIt.com and enter the following code.

Follow along with the presentation on your device.

When a prompt comes up, a form will appear on your device’s screen.

Click “Next” to enter your answers & share your response!

**The Commons Lab**

Collaborative Learning & Planning for the World We Want and the Future We Need

We are also developing dedicated social sites & apps for deeper learning, skills training, & inter-local collaboration w/ other MSR alumni.

facebook.com/School4Rev
MOVEMENT SCHOOL FOR REVOLUTIONARIES: THE ROAD SHOW
completed workshops: april 2017 - february 2018

CALIFORNIA
  EUREKA
  DAVIS
  RICHMOND
  SACRAMENTO
  LOS ANGELES
  SAN DIEGO
  RIVERSIDE
  SAN BERNADINO
  IRVINE
  NEVADA CITY

REST OF U.S.
  SEATTLE, WA
  PHOENIX, AZ
  TUCSON, AZ
  NEWARK, NJ
  JACKSON, MS
  MINNEAPOLIS, MN
  GALESBURG, IL

Road Show 2018 - Pending & Prospective Workshops!

learn more / support the Road Show: School4Rev.org
get updates from the road / host a Movement School: facebook.com/School4Rev
Movement School for Revolutionaries co-founder/co-facilitator Mel Figueroa is taking the Road Show to a whole new new level in 2018: living the ‘van life’ 24/7 as she takes the Movement Schools across the country. In the tradition of Studs Terkel, Dorothea Lange, and legions of writers and artists deployed by the WPA to tell the story of life in the Great Depression, Mel is embarking on a 21st century cross-country quest to discover the real state of our union. Follow the journey as she joins the growing ranks of houseless vehicle dwellers in the US to listen & learn from the people and experiences of everyday lives on the front lines of crisis & struggle.

"Anyone with eyes to see knows that the 'chaos' seemingly overtaking the country lately didn’t begin with Trump, or “the Russians,” or any of the contorted explanations being fed to you by the neoliberal corporate media or the reactionary right. There’s another story out there beyond the media hype, and I need to see with my own eyes how the dynamics of crisis, despair and hope in this moment are playing out in the people & places capitalism has left behind: rural communities, 'flyover' country, Native territories, the dreaded ‘Millennials,’ and urban workers, communities of color and exploding numbers of houseless people on the wrong side of gentrification. These 'sacrifice zones,' I believe, hold keys to determining where we can go from here as a society: whether we’re simply doomed, or if we might still have a fighting chance for democracy to help us bring about the bright & livable future we all need.”

"REALITY TV FOR REVOLUTIONARIES"

dispatches from the 'real' America

Vlogs & Livestreams

In addition to my work with the Movement School Road Show, I’ll be profiling stories of hope for the Green News Network, highlighting the tireless work of grassroots activists & Greens who are turning that hope into political power.

learn more / support the Road Show: School4Rev.org
get updates from the road / watch our livestreams: facebook.com/School4Rev
ON THEORY AND PRACTICE

Most of the theoretical ideas that inform the Movement School curriculum were forged in times of titanic struggle, particularly against the rising threat of fascism in the lead-up to WWII. In fact, some of the most powerful and useful ideas, such as the philosophy of praxis and the strategy of the united front, were products of hard lessons learned in the face of devastating defeat and unimaginable tragedy. 90 years later, these examples of the ‘road not taken’ - made in hindsight and passed down to us through great risk & sacrifice - contain some of the most important lessons we must learn for our own times.

The Movement School for Revolutionaries is a radical experiment in hope, based on the unity of theory and practice. It builds upon Antonio Gramsci’s revolutionary method for education & liberation - the philosophy of praxis - which was forged in the struggle against fascism in 1920s Italy and refined during his long imprisonment under Mussolini. Gramsci’s insights on historical conjuncture and the profound socio-political consequences of capitalist crisis, hegemony as a theory of social power, and the absolute necessity to act in the face of fascist danger, have become more relevant now than ever before.

We do not offer a plan, a programme, or a teleology of revolution. The philosophy of praxis is a living instrument that can only be tested & realized through countless ‘molecular’ iterations, enacted by every single member of the revolutionary class: each empowered as a “democratic philosopher” to articulate & contribute their own unique & situated assets, capabilities, experiences, and insights to the collective efforts of an ever more coherent and organized political force. It is thus a method that cannot by nature be predetermined, yet cannot be more precise, consistent, and constantly attuned to the concrete process of history: dialectically growing & evolving in new ways with every community that engages with it. In the end, it is the people that make history; and we commit all the resources at our disposal, past and present, to cultivate that process.

STUART HALL

“when a conjuncture unrolls, there is no going back. History shifts gears. You are in a new moment. You must attend...with all the ‘passion of the intelloct’ at your command, to the discipline of the conjuncture.”

PETER THOMAS

“Hegemonic politics could not be a practice of management or governance, but could only be coherently developed as a practice of leadership in the widest sense. In the case of bourgeoisie politics, the type of leadership that structurally maintains a distance between the leaders and the led...and in the case of proletarian politics, the type of leadership that aims to help the masses to express, deepen and strengthen their self-engagement for socio-political transformation.”

ROSA LUXEMBURG

“Bourgeois society stands at the crossroad...between socialism & barbarism.”

ROSA LUXEMBURG

“The masses must learn how to take power by taking power. There is no other way to teach them...they must learn in the school of action.”

FRANTZ FANON

“Man can affect his own development and that of his surroundings only so far as he has a clear view of what the possibilities of action are open to him. To do this he has to understand the historical situation in which he finds himself and once he does this, then he can play an active part in modifying that situation.”

ANTONIO GRAMSCI

The living expression of the nation in the collective consciousness in motion of the entire people. It is the enlightened and coherent praxis of the men and women. The collective forging of a destiny implies undertaking responsibility on a truly historical scale...and develop a human landscape for the sake of its enlightened and sovereign inhabitants.”

for readings, references and more, go to: school4rev.org
WE NEED YOU FOR THE REVOLUTION!

THE 2018 MOVEMENT SCHOOL FOR REVOLUTIONARIES ROAD SHOW IS PREPARING FOR LAUNCH!

Organizations and activists from coast to coast are signing up to bring the Movement School to their town for workshops, strategy sessions, skills trainings, campus talks and more! Mel will be living the “van life” 24/7, bringing you dispatches from the ‘real America’ the elites refuse to see; and celebrating the work of tireless grassroots activists across the nation!

We’re not doing this work because we have the means. Actually, we don’t. We do it because the situation is critical, and we need a way to win.

So we’re putting it all on the line – and our trust in the people; that the hope you find in our work is worth your support.

With YOUR help, we can see this through!

GO TO: School4Rev.org to find out more & make a contribution today!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

HOST A MOVEMENT SCHOOL

Sign up to host a Movement School workshop in your town! Send us your requests for weekend schools, day & evening mini-workshops, skills training, or campus talks/events!

DONATE!

Make a tax-deductible donation today to support our efforts!

BECOME A SUSTAINER

Help us cover recurring costs, expand our reach & build institutional capacity for the long haul - toward a broad, powerful & effective mass movement for real democracy!

SUPPORT THE ROAD SHOW

Support Mel’s epic road trip with in-kind donations! Buy online from the #Vanlife wishlist, and matching items will go towards meeting vital needs homeless across the US!

SPREAD THE WORD!

Join our growing community & build the revolution! Find us on Facebook to give us a signal boost on your personal networks: LIKE our page, SHARE our content & ENGAGE w/us every Sunday night on our livestream!

MATCHING FUNDS & EQUIPMENT/SERVICE DONATIONS NEEDED!

If you’re in more fortunate circumstances and have the means to contribute generously to this effort, please do! And consider the opportunity to offer a matching fund to double the efforts of grassroots fundraisers, and fund our #Vanlife matching items program to obtain & donate items from Mel's #Vanlife wishlist (including food, cooking, sanitation, health & safety and solar generator supplies) to qualifying homeless service organizations.

If you are in a position to make one of the following in-kind equipment or service donations, we’d love to hear from you!

LAPTOPS / COMPUTER ACCESSORIES

CAMPING GEAR

WEB HOSTING

A/V GEAR

CAMPING GEAR PRINTING SERVICES SEO SERVICES MOBILE INTERNET VEHICLE REPAIR / MAINTENANCE

Email us at school4rev@gmail.com to talk with us about any specialized contributions you’d like to make!