

Can socialism
guide us to a
better world?

socialist day school

Solidarity x
PHL/DSA

socialist day school

Socialism is experiencing a resurgence in the wake of the 2016 election. Though once widely rejected in the US, people are once again asking: **can socialism guide us to a better world?**

The Philadelphia DSA/Solidarity Day School will explore this and a range of other questions. Featuring panels by a number of prominent writers, organizers, and scholars, as well as workshops exploring the theories and histories informing socialist organizing, we'll discuss the strategies that can lead to real working class power.

Throughout the day, we'll consider a range of key programs, from the labor movement to electoral politics and the viability of alternative socialist parties. Whether you're new to socialism or a longtime organizer, join us to discuss goals for the socialist movement in the years leading up to the 2020 election—and beyond.

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where

Africa/Asia Room

IHOUSE Philadelphia
3701 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, PA 19104

when

Saturday, August 18th
10 AM - 4 PM

event schedule

10:00
registration

10:20
welcome &
introduction

10:40 break

10:45
workshops:
history | theory

12:15 lunch

1:15
workshops:
elections | labor

2:45 break

3:00
panel: socialism,
2020 and beyond

morning workshops

history

Why should socialists focus on the working class? Are unions a vessel for political power, or are they bloated bureaucracies? What are the successes and failures of the labor movement since the 1970s, and what is the rank and file strategy? Stephanie Luce (CUNY, Murphy Institute for Worker Education & Labor Studies), Jane Slaughter (Labor Notes/Solidarity/Detroit DSA), Dan La Botz (NYC DSA/Solidarity/TDU) will present.

Asia/Africa - 10:45am

theory

The Left is not only plagued with debates about what to do in order to win—there are debates about whether we should have debates in the first place. This session will zoom in on some of the key discussions in socialist theory: the who, the what, and the why guiding socialists as they envision a road to power.

Europe - 10:45am

afternoon workshops

elections

While candidates such as Bernie Sanders have galvanized the Left, electoral work is not without its risks. This panel will explore all things related to socialists in office, from core discussions about when (and whether) socialists should enter political races, to recent discussions surrounding Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Jovanka Beckles.

Asia/Africa - 1:15pm

labor

What are the challenges facing rank and file organizers today? How can socialist politics influence our organizing, and how can organizing in the workplace shape our politics? Why should we connect tangible workplace wins to the socialist project? Paul Prescod (Philadelphia Federation of Teachers/Philly DSA/Solidarity), Laura Gabby (Rank-and-File carpenter/elected delegate and trustee, Local 157), and Steve Downs (Retired subway train operator/Officer of Transport Workers Union Local 100) will present.

Europe - 1:15pm

closing panel

socialism, 2020 and beyond

Despite recent gains, the future of socialism remains uncertain. Are we on the verge of a new age of radicalism, or is recent social upheaval a brief aftershock following the triumph of capitalism? Panelists Joanna Misnik (Solidarity/Chicago DSA), Vivek Chibber (NYU), and Dustin Guastella (Philly DSA) will discuss what the Left should in the time leading up to the 2020 presidential race—and beyond.

Asia/Africa - 10:45am

International House 3701 Chestnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19104

public transit

International House is a short walk from the 34th street stop on the Market-Frankford line (one stop away from 30th Street Regional Rail Station), and is also close to the 36th Street trolley stop, and the 21 bus stops directly in front of the venue. For help with reaching the venue via transit, visit the [Septa website](#).

parking

Metered parking is available on Chestnut and Market Streets, as well as many other places in University City. Metered parking is \$2 per hour, free after 8pm. There are a number of garages and parking lots on UPenn's campus. You can find more parking information on the [UPenn website](#).

directions

Solidarity PHL DSA

PHL DSA is the local chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, the largest socialist organization in the US. We organize together for progressive change in Philadelphia to weaken the hold large corporations have on our government and build power for working class Americans.

In Philadelphia, our current priorities are achieving fair healthcare for all residents through an improved and expanded Medicare-for-All program, creating greater networks of solidarity and collaboration with organized labor and working class constituencies, and building our internal capacity to carry forward the resurgence of socialist politics within the U.S.

Solidarity is a US-based socialist organization. Members are active in a wide range of struggles and campaigns and want to join with leftists from all traditions in building "socialism from below"—socialism based on the self-organization of working people and democratic control of all major economic and social institutions.

Our most important contributions to the left include a central role in the founding and ongoing support of Labor Notes and Teamsters for a Democratic Union and a pioneering process for dealing with cases of gendered violence in our movement. <https://solidarity-us.org/sexualviolenceprocess/>

Check out our website for more info www.solidarity-us.org. Info on how to join can be found here <https://solidarity-us.org/what-is-solidarity/>

