

// // THE STRIKE CHRONICLE

"BREAK//LINE"

Day 4 Dispatch

Another cold day, but the mood continues to be ebullient. The pickets carry on in defiance of UCL's Michael Arthur and the dreaded "Beast from the East." (Which is scarier?) Thanks to roving UCL UCU members and other picketers, we are getting a better sense of the picture at UCL. The Bartlett is standing firm, with two active pickets at 22 Gordon Street and Central House. The DPU at Tavistock Place is more or less on shut down. The picture is the same at History of Art, Anthropology, SSEES, History, Institute of Education and many others. The Anthropology students have occupied. And the occupation of the Provost's office continues, with 30 students camped out in the South Cloisters. At the daily Union meeting at 52 Club, we met the UCU's chief negotiator on his way to meet with UUK. He explained UCU's negotiating position – some highly intricate detail about gilts and valuations – but the bottom line was clear: UCU is holding firm for stable and sustainable pensions. He was followed by a provocative teach-out by Prof. David Graeber, who helped us join the dots, especially highlighting the exploitation of 'carers' (including educators) through debt.

Round up

Occupation of the UCL Provost's Office continues; Anthropology students declare Michael Arthur to be "ontologically objectionable."

For occupations at UCL and around the UK (SOAS, Liverpool, etc), see [@occupation_hub](#)
The meeting between UUK and UCU were UCU saw some movement: both sides have agreed to go for further talks mediated by the conciliation service Acas. Many prominent Vice-Chancellors (though not UCL's!) have come out in favour of negotiations and potentially a different valuation of the pension scheme – a key sticking point of the dispute.

Strikes will continue for four days next week, beginning Monday.

CIVIC PEDAGOGIES, ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP, AFFIRMATIVE DONATION

Bartlett Staff Strike Writer

The Bartlett pickets are a mix of staff at all levels, from PGTAs to Professors, and very significantly, students, mainly Masters and PhDs. While there is agreement about the need to strike, **those at the Bartlett have eschewed the traditional confrontational language of the picket – you're either inside or out – with us or against.** This is in keeping with our own intellectual work and practice which seeks to deconstruct binaries (even on the picket) and builds strategies for engagement, collegiate discussion and civic participation. This spirit has been exemplified in the brilliant student-led events this week, beginning with strike-writing and sign-making both inside and outside 22 Gordon Street and then the PhD-led teach-outs yesterday on radical pedagogies and today's Break//Line crit-out. Yesterday's teach-out was especially vital for aligning our actions with radical pedagogies of the past. Tom Keeley spoke of hedge schools in Ireland, ad-hoc spaces for educating Catholics who'd been banned from formal education. The schools were

inherently radical in nature: itinerant, responsive, and illicit, operating within and without conventional power structures (though not literally in hedges – they were held in barns.) And Sol Pérez Martínez spoke of the 40 Urban Studies Centres across the UK in the 1970s, run by architects and planners, which encouraged active citizenship by exploring the politics encoded in the built environment and making professionals and students aware of their civic role in the public sphere. (See Sol's display in the PhD exhibit in the lobby.) Sol asked what has happened to the public aspect of the architect's development – **Is architectural education helping students become aware of their political role today? Can we use our skills for the betterment of those around us?** Both talks stressed the importance of mobilizing awareness and acting to transform space. In this spirit, we have invited staff and students next week to contribute to a project of **affirmative donation** – watch the front of the Bartlett building for the results...

JOIN US

We are striking for 3 days this week (Monday to Wednesday) and are organizing teach-outs to provide positive spaces for dialogue.

Wed 28 Feb, 9am-12, outside 22 GS

Crit-out BREAK//LINE will present their the union banner and manifesto, and talk about developing critiquing the trespass of capital into practice and pedagogy. We are keen to reach out to design staff and students. So anyone with a project relating to the themes of the strike – inequality, precarity, debt, intergenerational equity, ... Please come along to a crit which will take place inside at the front of the foyer and on the street.

12 noon, *March for Education: Back Pension & Pay Strikes Assemble Malet St, London WC1E*

THIS IS A KEY TIME TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD – WE MARCH ON PARLIAMENT.

Solidarity Corner

We have had expressions of solidarity from all over the globe, from former students and colleagues, other trade unions and strikers from Syracuse to Singapore, from Melbourne to Zimbabwe. We are warmed by all the support (and we need it – it is cold out there!) From the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions: "We are proud of you...we will be following in solidarity with the comrades".
[@ZCTUZimbabwe](#)
From the the Rebel Architects' Faction: "Architecture students at the University of Cambridge send their warmest greetings and solidarity to our friends at the Bartlett and everywhere else taking action for our futures."

For news follow [#ucu](#) [#ucustrike](#) [#strikeforUSS](#) [#usstrikes](#) [@UCL](#) [#StudentStrikeSolidarity](#)

For Bartlett events next week: <https://www.s-t-r-i-k-e.org/>