



# THE STRIKE CHRONICLE

## "REVISE AND RESUBMIT"

### Day 11 Dispatch

**Bartlett staff & students on strike for education as a public good, accessible & affordable for all!**

**Tuesday 13 March: A Lesson in Democracy** The mood on Tuesday's picket line was initially tense, with worries that that UCU would accept the offer put to them. But as images of strong solidarity from the demo up the road at UCU HQ appeared on phones, and **#no capitulation**, from UCU UCL's Saladin Meckled-Garcia, trended on twitter, the mood brightened. Emeritus Professor, Adrian Forty was at 22GS, showing support for the strike, and admired the vitality of our architecture picket. He argued that since the defined benefit pension scheme offers such good support in retirement, and if people like him are able to enjoy the benefit from one, why shouldn't the same deal be on offer to future generations of university academics? We couldn't agree more! **(Art) Histories of Protest** was a wonderful lesson in the form of the teach-out itself and a **great example of the public intellectual in action**. With the door to their department firmly shut, one after another, influential (feminist) art historians of all generations, spoke from the steps about the history of protest from a visual perspective, with a gallery of protest images pinned to the railings. Drawings pinned to boxes acted as props, reminiscent of lectures from the 19th century, **but the content here included the tactics of Pussy Riot, the removal of the Rhodes statue**, and reflections on the temporality of acts of engagement in the picket itself.

#### Round up

UCU's Higher Education Committee formally rejected the negotiated offer after delegates from striking institutions reported overwhelming local votes to reject it. While the union said the most objectionable features of the proposal was **that it asked members to accept a 19% cut in the value of their pension and a lowering of the Defined Contribution 'cap' to £42,000**, the reasons were actually more various. One of the central bones of contention throughout the strike has been the way the UUK reached its valuation (which presumes – implausibly, as repeated analyses have shown – a £6.1 billion deficit); even though UUK agreed to refer its valuation to an independent body, it is still assuming deep cuts are required to pensions - on what basis? **Strikes will continue until the end of the week. The mood: defiant.**

### A Global Picket: Cultural Politics of the Strike

#### Compiled by the Bartlett Staff Strike Writer

Just as the strike has united students and staff at all levels, it has also brought together people of different backgrounds. As you would expect at UCL ("the Global University") the pickets are international: Russians, Chileans, Italians stand beside Americans, Colombians, Zimbabweans. Here international picketers reflect on their experience of the strike.

**Colombia:** In 2011, I participated in Colombian student demos also triggered by the need to defend education. Back then we got results: The neoliberal project that the Santos Education Minister was trying to push through in the Congress was officially retired in November, 2011. **On that occasion we were active agents – as individuals we became a collectivity capable of writing history.**

Here, we all expect the same. I feel "my voice" is more "our voice" when I say that what we seek is to protect the rights of those who work in universities, as they forge the UK's world reputation for education. This strike has been

full of revelations. The first was that without having to ask everyone assumed a role. I've witnessed how creativity, imagination, and a collective drive suddenly started to materialize as teach outs, workshops, or even bbqs in the picket line...

**Chile:** In Chile, strikes are mainly led by students, with a playful and friendly spirit a common feature. There are two modes of striking at universities. 1) Stopping all activities and generating alternative discussions inside – picket line is informative. 2) A complete occupation of the facilities – picket line holds control of access. Mobilised students take over, no staff or academics can enter. The first is great for creating consciousness; the second, more effective for negotiation.

**China:** I joined UCU strike last week. When I stayed at Gordon Street the most impressive thing about this strike is the manner of all participants. They were so polite and it is far from the strikes that generally full of physical conflicts which I saw before.

## ALL WELCOME

We are striking all 5 days this week and with colleagues across UCL are organizing teach-outs to provide spaces for positive learning.

#### DAY 12: WEDNESDAY 14 MARCH

##### 10-11am, outside 22 Gordon Street

*Housing Teach-Out* with **Anna Minton**, author of *Ground Control* (Penguin, 2009) and *Big Capital* (2017) and **Harvi Chera** (UCL Cut the Rent Campaigner).

**10-11am Rubber Stamping Teach-Out** with illustrator Judit Ferencz.

##### 11-12pm, outside 22 Gordon Street

*University/Interrupted* A creative workshop on the affective impact of striking led by Claire Tunnacliffe (BSA) and Jade French (QMUL).

##### 12pm, March for Education Demonstration

**Assemble at Malet Street to march to**

**Westminster Central Hall from 2pm**

#### DAY 13: 9:30am, outside 22 Gordon Street

*Some thoughts on the Counter-Economics of the Strike* by Peg Rawes

##### 10:30-11:30am, outside 22 Gordon Street

*The Dream University* Teach-out with Pearl Ahrens and Angus O'Brien. The neoliberal university is failing; let's plan the alternative.

**3-4:30pm, 14 Taverton Street** *Universities as sites of power and resistance: a view from the*

*Global South* Teach-Out by Bartlett

Development Planning Unit

## Solidarity Corner

#### How can you support the strike?

Join us on the picket outside 22 Gordon Street each morning

Attend the amazing teach-outs

Donate a drawing or work of art to show your solidarity - [ifigeneia.liangi.10@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ifigeneia.liangi.10@ucl.ac.uk)

**Join us on today's March for Education, 12pm**

**(We leave 22 GS at 11:45)**

For the latest news follow #ucu #ucustrike #strikeforUSS **Follow us @UCLprotest #UCLprotest**

For Bartlett events, strike writing and more: <https://www.s-t-r-i-k-e.org/>