



THE STRIKE CHRONICLE

"RESIST"

Day 12 Dispatch

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

Wednesday 14 March: Today dawned bright and beautiful for the *Housing Teach-out* with Anna Minton, author of *Ground Control* (2009) and *Big Capital* (2017) and Harvi Chera, UCL Cut the Rent Campaigner. In front of 22 Gordon Street, and 30 people made up of students and staff from across the Bartlett Faculty (CASA and DPU), Anna and Harvi talked passionately about the present housing crisis in London. Harvi spoke about the UCL Cut the Rent campaign and how students, in many cases paying upwards of £200+ a week in rent, went on pay boycotts to highlight the substandard conditions and lack of choice they were given in their student accommodation. Anna and Harvi both underscored how neoliberal approaches to housing disproportionately affect less privileged populations; and Harvi drove home how ever-increasing rent costs are making higher education an impossibility for working class and BME students, many of whom no longer even consider London when thinking of universities. We then had the *University/ Interrupted* creative workshop, which allowed us to explore the affective impact of striking (led by Claire Tunnacliffe of the BSA and Jade French of QMUL) - more on this below. And then onto the **March for Education #2** - the sun a marked contrast to the blizzard conditions of the last one. There was also a much larger police presence, but officers were friendly. (As one remarked to this correspondent, 'they cut our pensions years ago' and pointed out, enviously, that they're not allowed to strike.) Despite everything, many of the marchers expressed gratitude to live in a country that allows peaceful demonstrations - some European colleagues marvelled that the police presence wasn't larger, given that we closed down traffic on many of the main routes in London, from Russell Square to Westminster. About 800 people stayed on to listen to UCU speeches at Westminster Hall. The speeches were full of fire, and the audience receptive, but overall the mood is somber as the reality has hit: further strike action, including marking boycotts, are now a credible possibility. We came home to find an e-mail from the UCL Provost awaiting us. This was notable, as Michael Arthur has been more or less silent over the last four weeks. (Indeed, he has been so absent, there was worry in some quarters that he had absconded/been kidnapped - it's unclear which - leading concerned staff to form search parties - see **#findmyprovost**) It was disappointing that Arthur has popped up only to regurgitate the standard UCL line. Despite the strength of feeling amongst staff and the universal debunking of the "phantom deficit" (Arthur himself admits in that the valuation model needs 'independent' transparent examination), it is deeply troubling to find that UCL persists in maintaining that defined contributions must be part of our future (apparently they 'offer a greater degree of risk sharing') - but, without a robust independent valuation, how can it still be assumed that there are unacceptable levels of risk? The end goal seems predetermined. Arthur only promises deferral.

Round up

This round of strikes ends tomorrow.

The Affective Feel of the Times

Bartlett Staff Strike Writer

This is one of the final editions of *The Strike Chronicle*. There will be two more: one tomorrow and one next Tuesday. Along with our website and archive, we hope that the *Strike Chronicle* will help capture something of the daily experience of this strike. As Helene Frichot wrote of the 1968 student protests: "I have been trying to gain access to the affective feel of the time...what it feels like to...exist amidst the jostle of bodies day and night. Anger, joy, fear, exhilaration, disappointment, exhaustion." **The strike situation is unique: rapid, intense and**

changeable. It accelerates time. It dissolves routines, boundaries, normal patterns of thought. One wakes up believing one thing and falls asleep convinced of something else. One has dozens of conversations every day - with strangers, colleagues, passers-by. New alliances form. Previously held truths shatter. Tomorrow's *Write-Out* will be an attempt to collectively capture some of these feelings - the affect of the picket - and the results will be reproduced verbatim in the final *Strike Chronicle* to mark the close of this phase of the strike. Please join us to add your voice!

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 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 Taviton Street *Universities as sites of power and resistance: a view from the Global South Teach-Out* by Bartlett

Development Planning Unit

DAY 14: 10-12pm: outside 22 Gordon Street

Strike Chronicle collective write-out: What have we done?

1-3pm: UCL UCU, 52 Club, 52 Gower

St. Governance, Ethics, Divestment Teach-Out Speakers TBC but to include Saladin Meckled-Garcia (UCL Political Science), Jane Holder (UCL Laws), Jane Rendell (Bartlett School of Architecture), Diana Salazar (Development Planning Unit), Julia Schaff (UCL Fossil Free).

3-4pm: 14 Taviton Street, Collective

Organisation in Architecture Teach-Out Concrete Action on the History of Collective Organisation in Architectural Practice, including a live interview with Jonathan Charley from Glasgow Letters and Space (GLAS). Organised by UCL Anthropology.

Solidarity Corner

We're going on a bear hunt! Bartlett staff yesterday marched next to the former Children's Laureate, Michael Rosen, Goldsmiths academic, proud UCU member, education campaigner, and protest veteran. He was in a jolly mood, waving at the school groups we passed (one child had a "I support my lecturers" badge stuck on his forehead), and reflected that he had been arrested "for the first time" nearly 50 years ago at the Grosvenor Square anti-Vietnam protests, March 28 1968...

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