



# THE STRIKE CHRONICLE

## "AGAINST THE SLOW CANCELLATION OF OUR FUTURE"

### JOIN US

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

#### DAY 14

##### **Strike Chronicle Write-Out**

10-12pm: outside 22 Gordon Street

Strike Chronicle collective write-out

##### **Strength in Numbers** Photocall

11:30: Main Quad Entrance

Mass picket to mark end of strike

##### **Governance, Ethics, Divestment Teach-Out**

1-3pm: UCL UCU, 52 Gower St

Speakers 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).

##### **Collective Organisation in Architecture Teach-Out**

3-4pm: 14 Taviton Street

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.

#### NEXT WEEK

##### **Inaugural meeting of the BSA UCU UCL**

Tuesday 20 March, 1-2pm, 5.04 22 Gordon St

### Solidarity Corner

We warmly thank everyone who has shown solidarity for the strikes - from the students who have helped us make copies of the daily newsletter to those who donated drawings to those who stopped to chat. We also acknowledge the incredible outpouring of support from colleagues abroad from New York to Quebec, from Palestine to Lukasa, from Singapore to Melbourne, making connections with their own protests - from West Virginia teachers to Yarl's Wood hunger strikers. But all affirm the belief that education must be defended. **We care: we strike.**

### Day 13 Dispatch

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

**Thursday 15 March: Spinoza on Strike** Unlucky for some, the 13th day of our strike started with rain ... but by 9.30 the sky cleared, and our picket began with still new striking members joining, support offered from staff members not on strike, and an extremely perceptive talk from our very own Bartlett feminist philosopher Prof Peg Rawes. Peg's 'think out' on the economics on the strike took us back to Spinoza and his concept of ratio, which Peg argued brings together rationality and emotion, so rebalancing much feminist practice which focuses solely on affect and rejects rationality as that inherited from the kind of enlightenment thinking that divides mind and body. Peg suggested that Spinoza's ethics offered a good ethical framework for considering the different modalities of this strike together – **combining a feminist practice of the picket, which acknowledges emotional impact and favours conversation over confrontation, and the extraordinary and reasoned contributions from economists and statisticians.** Their analyses of risk and valuation have provided a deep structural understanding on which our arguments, for example, to reject the offer of 11th March, have been based. We moved onto a great workshop lead by UCL students on re-imagining the university, where the staff and students assembled were briefed – not to discuss the problems with the current model (which was taxing for some!), but to imagine new ones along the lines of space, education & research, and administration. **This was a great place to wonder about the university as cooperative, one that might be located across this city, the world even, with no fees, and no exams or assessment!! Why not do this now, at UCL East, some asked.** Full of utopic impulse, we headed to Congress House. All present admitted their complete exhaustion – we gauged striking to be at least twice as hard as our usual jobs – which as academics is saying something (do we hear a 100-hour week?). But all present reiterated a commitment to win this strike, and to demand nothing less than the status quo. This means pushing the strike into term 3, and into the far more volatile area of the exam period. For those with any energy left, there was a more intimate teach-out planned for MA Situated Practices students, at Bank Job, a participatory site-specific installation by artist Hilary Powell and filmmaker Dan Edlestyn in the old HSBC on Hoe St, Walthamstowe. <https://bankjob.pictures>. This brilliant project includes printing new money peopled with the heads of local figures involved in supporting their community in the years of imposed austerity, as well as talks on alternative currencies. And we had a great conversation about economics, education and Marxism. After three hours of sharing perspectives from China, Taiwan, Chile, Canada, the US, Denmark and good old Peckham it seemed like the new university was more than imagined.

### What next?

#### **Bartlett Staff Strike Writer**

This is penultimate edition of *The Strike Chronicle*. The final one will appear next Tuesday on our website, [www.s-t-r-i-k-e.org](http://www.s-t-r-i-k-e.org). This does not mean that the strike itself is going away as the dispute has not been settled. UCU intends to continue to push for negotiations and further strikes, including a marking boycott, are being aired. This is not something any lecturer, administrative staff or student wants. So what can be done? We need to continue to urge UCL Provost Michael Arthur to rethink UCL's position on pensions. Despite the fact that both

Cambridge and Oxford have recently adopted more conciliatory positions, UCL is holding a far more rigid line. (On Cambridge, see "Vice Chancellor calls on negotiators to make key amendments to the UUK UCU proposal," [www.staff.admin.cam.ac.uk/](http://www.staff.admin.cam.ac.uk/)) Write Michael Arthur to urge him to engage meaningfully in negotiations with UUK. Add your name to the open letter to the Equality Challenge Unit and university vice-chancellors demanding they investigate the negative effect pension changes will have on gender equality. [www.platform.organise.org.uk/](http://www.platform.organise.org.uk/) Come along for the first meeting of the BSA UCU - details left

**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/>**