



# THE STRIKE CHRONICLE

## "Architecture is Political"

### Day 2 Dispatch

A noisy, spirited Friday on the 22 Gordon Street picket with a healthy show of support from students and staff. 22 GS was visited by staff from other Bartlett departments (DPU and BSP; the Central House picket is a marvel of organisation) and other academic friends from Westminster and Newcastle. The morning was followed by a packed UCL UCU meeting at 52 Club (52 Gower Street) to hear what's happening in other UCL departments, updates and messages of support. Then an eloquent "**Education for All/No Borders on Campus**" teach-out, the first UCU teach-out organized around the question "What kind of education do you want?" Speakers addressed decolonizing the curriculum, racism, the refugee crisis, and the female hunger strikers at Yarl's Wood, reminding the audience: "Solidarity is intersectional".

### Round up

Bristol and Cambridge were the latest universities to urge Universities UK (the UK universities' representative organisation) back to the negotiating table.

Universities UK at last told the press they would agree to negotiations with UCU this Tuesday, but insisted the talks could not discuss pension cuts.

3,000 new members have joined the union to take action in recent days.

## WE ARE STUDENTS - WHY DO WE CARE?

### ALESSANDRO TOTI

University staff are striking because of the cuts to their pensions. . . But this does not affect us at all, does it? If anything, it is trouble for us: It means we are the losing classes and tutorials for which we're paying so much. This is surely inconvenient — but the strike is an answer also to our problems.

As architecture students, we experience everyday the disastrous consequences of neoliberal policies for higher education: grants have been slashed and fees are out of control, so we are often committed to one or more sidelines in order to pay

them; and after we complete the studies, we find only precarious and unprotected jobs. *From this perspective, teachers' pensions cuts are not an independent issue, but only the last implementation of the neoliberal agenda.* So, if we want to do something against this here and now, let's support the strike! We can fight precarisation in the education sector only if we stand together, beyond our professions and categories. Because defending the teachers' pensions also means fighting for a democratic and free university.

### Solidarity Corner

Hazem Raad, a Syrian PhD student at the Bartlett's DPU emailed *The Guardian* on Friday to lend support. He wrote "...for-profit universities will try to direct your anger towards your professors, and that is plain wrong. [...] The staff is the reason behind the reputation, the quality, and the efficiency of London in higher education...."

### Follow UCL Student Strike Solidarity

@UCL #StudentStrikeSolidarity #RefundorRenegotiate

## JOIN US

We are striking for 3 days this week (Monday to Wednesday) and are organizing teach-outs and events to provide positive spaces for dialogue and learning outside of the classroom.

### DAY 1: Mon 26 Feb, 9am-12, outside 22

**GS Strike-writing and sign-making** Write and read words from strikes past, present and future. Bring favourite quotes and poems and songs to read aloud, and writing implements to pen and tweet your own strike-writing. This will run in parallel with a sign-making session.

**12:30pm Tavistock Square UCL UCU Mass**

*Demonstration*

**2pm Building Centre in Store Street.** *Teach-out*, organised by UCL History (Paul Mason, Catherine Hall and others)

**12:30pm Tavistock Square UCL UCU Mass**

*Demonstration*

**2pm Building Centre in Store Street.** *Teach-out*, organised by UCL History (Paul Mason, Catherine Hall and others)

### DAY 2: Tues 27 Feb, 9am-12, outside 22 GS

*Hedge schools and other forms of transformative pedagogy* Join us to talk radical pedagogy, civic education and teaching to transgress!

**1-3pm, 52 Club, 52 Gower St.**

David Graeber will be teaching-out. He is author of *Debt: The First 5000 Years* (2011); *The Democracy Project* (2013); *The Utopia of Rules* (2015); and soon, *Bullshit Jobs, A Theory*.

### DAY 3: 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

For events next week, see [jane.rendell.co.uk](http://jane.rendell.co.uk)

For news follow #ucu #ucustrike #strikeforUSS #ussstrikes