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Money Meetings

MONEY MEETINGS

- [Discussion](#)

The Money Meetings take place every Friday from 6-9 in a pub in Vienna to discuss and develop thoughts and questions based loosely around the student as a form of unpaid labor, the European university reform process and how this all connects to the current economic meltdown.

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INTRODUCTION

- [University in Crisis](#)

Value, value, value... there seems to be a lot of it floating around at the moment, but apparently not enough to keep the global economy from going into meltdown (at least still not as the send button gets clicked on this email).

- [Economic Crisis](#)

As just about everyone starts to feel the pressure of the global crisis in food fuel and finance, we'd like to try and take a breath and ask which kind of value is being produced by students? What is the market value of the labor a student does both within the university and in a mostly temporary existence on the labor market? In what ways is the value of this work expropriated? And perhaps more importantly what are the connections between the university reform process, the work done by students, and the global economic meltdown?

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We'd like to consider how this work is changing as we enter into what many economists and financial journalists are describing as the worst economic disaster since 1929, and as the European universities get put through 'market reforms'. To provide a framework for the discussions and research, we'll be taking a look at Rosa Luxemburg's spookily prescient analysis; 'The Accumulation of Capital' (from 1913) as well as shorter texts from Tiziana Terranova, Marc Bousquet, and Silvia Federici with the idea of bringing feminist analyzes of unpaid 'reproductive' labor in the household, together with a set of questions dealing with the unpaid reproductive labor that goes on in the university.

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GERMAN

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The idea is to consider the role of students as unpaid workers, which, of course, stands in stark contrast to the often-postulated image of them as consumers of education. However, it is precisely this consumerist image that is being promoted by reforms like the Bologna

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Process and a state-driven orientation towards a commercialized education system. What arguments emerge when we contrast this with the university as a site of alienated student labor? What perspectives does this offer, for example, regarding solidarity with other workers' organizations, but with other university staff? And how do these considerations affect our attempts to determine the consequences the financial crisis will have, and has had, on the education sector, students, and workers? The press unanimously reports on the expected cuts to state budgets for education (see the example of Italy), while at the same time, the education sector is described as a "recession-proof" market. Perhaps we can examine more closely what actually constitutes this "market," how education can be a market sector, and how students can influence its value. We would like to begin this discussion with a text by Marc Bousquet and Tiziana Terranova, who in "Recomposing the University" (<http://www.metamute.org/en/Recomposing-the-University>) introduce concepts such as the education supermarket and students as workers exploited both at the university and in temporary job situations, as well as discussing the inadequacy of the ivory tower metaphor.

Another textual basis will be Silvia Federici's "Precarious Labor: A Feminist Viewpoint" (<http://inthemiddleofthewhirlwind.wordpress.com/precarious-labor-a-feminist-viewpoint/>). With its help, we could draw connections between reproductive labor in childcare and that at the university, and perhaps thus attempt to define the categorical position of both in a capitalist market economy. Rosa Luxemburg's "The Accumulation of Capital" (<http://www.marxists.org/deutsch/archiv/luxemburg/1913/akkkap/index.htm>) can serve as background for this.

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