

NEON

MOVEMENTS // READING // 2016

“There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives. Our struggles are particular, but we are not alone”

– Audre Lorde, Caribbean-American feminist/civil rights activist

“We are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.”

– The International Workers of the World constitution (1905)

Movements are as iconic as they are powerful. Popularising new ideas and values. But what are they? What drives them? And where are the best opportunities to build them right now?

Please note that this reading list is usually accompanied by training session(s) but we thought it would be useful to provide it for those wanting to do their own reading.

ESSENTIAL:

Surviving the Ups and Downs of Social Movements, Mark and Paul Engler: bit.ly/1EdNFwO (Article)

Movement Ecology Introduction Webinar, Ayni Institute (skip to 20 minutes, they have a very long intro! It has useful conversations reflecting on the structure, focus and approaches of organisers in different spheres): <http://bit.ly/2dypdPo> (Video)

In addition, please read/watch at least one of these movement case studies:

Sylvia Pankhurst’s Legacy, Katherine Connelly: bit.ly/17Avx32 (Video)

Address to Occupy Boston, Noam Chomsky (on the hopes of organising for Occupy): bit.ly/1w5TzPm (Video)

Uncovering Josina Machel from Obscurity, Ama Biney (in telling the story of her life, the piece also explores the different areas she organised in to build the FRELIMO Movement in Mozambique): <http://bit.ly/2dVDpkJ> (Article)

The [Movement for Black Lives](http://bit.ly/2d6NDjF) is a coalition of different organisers coming together to create change on a wide range of issues, they’ve got a good model for thinking about how to articulate and organize around lots of issues at once – and the value of collaboration:

<http://bit.ly/2d6NDjF>

OPTIONAL:

Still The Enemy Within (a beautiful documentary about the Miners Strike movement and those who showed solidarity with it) – Download for £8.50 or rent from iTunes/your local library bit.ly/1EdNHow (Film)

The Issue of the Working Class, Pablo Iglesias (Podemos, Spain) bit.ly/1EdNKAH (Video nb: turn on captions)

Ursula K. Le Guin on the Future of the Left, Ursula K. Le Guin: bit.ly/1Cwkp4K (Review of Murrak Bookchin's On the Future of the Left)

What a Song Means to Me – Ella's Song, Shilpa Shah : bit.ly/17AvBjr (Article & Song)

CRITICAL EXTRAS:

Have a browse through this list of articles and choose whatever feels relevant, they speak to critical ideas we'll be exploring on the day within the sessions.

Ella Taught Me: Shattering the Myth of the Leaderless Movement, Barbara Ransby: <http://bit.ly/1Tj5QZ3> (Article)

The NGO-ization of resistance, Arundhati Roy (the whole site has lots of very useful tools/articles around movement building – this is a good one to think about when it comes to what shape movement building takes if you work in a formal organisation): <http://bit.ly/2dPqTaA> (Article)

Interview with Poet Fred Moten (this interview is a useful look at how movements might take shape in less obvious ways, like with a local community BBQ) <http://bit.ly/2dBGDdh> (Article)

What Makes Me Tired When Organising with Middle Class Activists, Nicole Vosper (it's useful to think about the cultures we create when we organise, what informs them, and how they might impact the ways in which we work with/treat each other): <http://bit.ly/28jN6A3> (Article)

Tracing the roots of intersectionality, Delia D. Aguilar: <http://bit.ly/2dOIfz2> (Article)

A Discussion of the Black Female and Modern Day Feminism with bell hooks, Lynette Nylander (this is a good piece for thinking about how movements evolve, and some of the tensions that might be encountered along the way): <http://bit.ly/2dODdmg> (Article)

How to Build a Movement: Activism vs. Organising, Mark Rudd (there is no right or wrong way, but it's useful to think about the long term impact the tactics we use will have on what we are trying to achieve): <http://bit.ly/2dw50ea> (Article)

20 Principles of Successful Organising, Si Khan: <http://bit.ly/1iCJOgL> (Article)

BOOKS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

[Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination](#), Robin D.G.Kelley (this text explores the history of Black Radical Movements around the world across history, with a critical look at how they organised and what they were fighting for). Here is a link to a talk he gives on the ideas he covers in the book:

[Undoing the Border Imperialism \(Anarchist Interventions\)](#), Harsha Waila

[Concrete Demands](#), Rhonda Williams

[Bad Feelings](#), Arts Against the Cuts

This reading list is the end result of a lot collective thinking and practice. Teju Adeleye and NEON led the synthesis of these insights to create the reading list, with the support of the Public Interest Research Centre (PIRC). PIRC designed the reading list and made it beautiful.