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## Abstracts

**Sarah Kiani: « La maison, l'occupation, c'est une situation que nous avons créée, un territoire que nous avons libéré... »  
Quand le Mouvement de Libération des Femmes de Genève prend la forme d'un mouvement urbain**

The article relates the squatting of an abandoned cafe by the women's liberation movement in Geneva, and its transformation into a women's center, to the politics of the urban social movements of the 1970s. While structured by a feminist understanding of urban power relations, the squat became practically linked to urban social movements' claim to a "right to the city" and their opposition to urban planning and the destruction of *quartiers populaires*. The essay aims to show that the squat contained decisive practical and ideological elements that contributed to the development of the new urban social movements of the 1970s, laying the groundwork for the vibrant squatter movement of the 1980s.

**Ralf Ruckus: Hintergründe der Proletarisierung und  
Klassenneuzusammensetzung in China**

This article offers a concise overview of the economic reforms enforced by the Chinese Communist Party since 1978 and their impact on Chinese class relations. Three phases are distinguished within the reform process: 1978–1992 (dissolution of the people's communes, introduction of the household responsibility system); 1992–2002 (major privatisations, investment in industry and infrastructure, intensification of rural-urban migration); and 2002 to the present (consolidation of China's position as a global economic player, intensification of migrant worker unrest).

**Pun Ngai / Lu Huilin: Unvollendete Proletarisierung – Das Selbst, die Wut und die Klassenaktionen der zweiten Generation von BauernarbeiterInnen im heutigen China**

As a result of its open-door policies and 30 years of reform, China has become the “world’s factory” and given rise to a new working class of rural migrant workers. This process has underlain a path of (semi-)proletarianization of Chinese peasant-workers: now the second generation is experiencing *dagong*, working for a boss, in industrialized towns and cities. Drawing on workers’ narratives and ethnographic studies in Shenzhen and Dongguan between 2005 and 2008, this study focuses on the subjective experiences of the second generation of *dagongmei* / *dagongzai* (female migrant workers / male migrant workers), who have developed new forms of resistance unknown to the previous generation of workers.

**Raquel Varela: ‘Who is the Working Class?’ On *Workers of the World* by Marcel van der Linden**

Marcel van der Linden’s *Workers of the World* elaborates on the research programme and methodology of global labour history, a field devoted to opposing and rectifying the nationalism and euro-centrism engrained in the historiography of labour. *Workers of the World* also calls for the development of an ambitious theoretical approach, critically probing the classic Marxian definition of the working class and arguing that the time has come for a reconceptualisation. Many of the issues raised by van der Linden would seem to require further discussion; in particular, it appears that the theoretical and political status of Marx’s definition of the working class merits further analysis and debate.

**Max Henninger: Marxismus und ländliche Armut**

Within recent debates on the status of central Marxian categories, reference has repeatedly been made to issues of rural poverty and their implications for the Marxian model of class. This essay seeks

to clarify the late Marx's position on the developmental prospects of rural societies, relating it to some of the main tendencies within the ongoing controversy on "new peasant movements" and the significance of subsistence and semi-subsistence agriculture in many parts of the world, including Central and Eastern Europe. The essay also discusses the current renaissance of Alexander Chayanov's theory of peasant economy, exploring the context within which that theory was developed (the Soviet Union of the 1920s, which experienced major famines and rural unrest) and using Chayanov's model of the family farm to show up some of the limitations of the Marxian concept of "doubly free wage labour".

### **Alexander Schlager: Die Proteste gegen „Stuttgart 21“**

The projected rebuilding of Stuttgart's central train station has prompted major protests, with demonstrations regularly attended by tens of thousands of people. A brutal police operation that left several protestors hospitalised helped catapult the protests into the focus of media attention. The article reconstructs the history of the project and the development of the protests in order to formulate general reflections on social movement politics and the relationship between spontaneity, political strategy and the autonomy of extra-parliamentary movements.

### **Ian Bekker / Lucien van der Walt: Current Strike Movements in South Africa**

The August-September 2010 mass strike in the South African state sector demonstrated remarkable working class unity across racial and ideological lines, as 1.3 million workers of all colours stopped work for four weeks despite severe economic recession. The strikers' determination reflected growing frustration with low wages and at the glaring political corruption and enrichment of the elite, plus the drive - by African, coloured and Indian workers specifically - to attain living conditions breaking decisively with the oppres-

sion and immiseration of the *apartheid* past. Yet the strikers' partial victory was tarnished by tactics that divided strikers from the larger working class - notably, hospital disruptions - and a failure to raise demands that linked union and community struggles against both neo-liberalism and the apartheid legacy. The top-down manner whereby the strike was ended makes workers cynical about their own unions, demonstrating the alarming bureaucratisation and centralisation that has arisen, in large part, due to union leaders being enmeshed in the African National Congress (the neo-liberal governing party) and state industrial relations machinery. Unions should re-orientate towards other working class movements, outside and against the state, to fight for a libertarian and socialist transformation, from below. The ideas of anarcho-syndicalism - raised at the 2009 COSATU Congress - provide a useful starting point.

### **Max Henninger: Sommer 2010: Ernährungskrise in der Sahelzone**

The Sahel region experienced a major drought during the summer of 2010. Food shortages in Niger, Mali, Chad, Mauretania, Burkina Faso and parts of Nigeria prompted major migratory movements and accelerated the dissolution of traditional pastoralist and peasant economies. Largely ignored by the international media, the drought has lastingly reconfigured the social structure of the rural areas affected.