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## Abstracts

### **Max Henninger, Das „italienische Panama“ und die Revolten von 1893 bei Friedrich Engels und Antonio Labriola**

In 1893, Italy was shaken by a major banking scandal that the country's fledgling Socialist Party sought to capitalise on politically. The main effect of the scandal was that of prompting a long-overdue modernisation of the Italian banking system. The same year saw the outbreak of a major social revolt in Sicily. The military and legal repression by which the revolt was crushed had a devastating effect on anti-capitalist organising efforts across the country. The article examines these events and their treatment in the correspondence and political publications of Friedrich Engels and Antonio Labriola, showing that both theorists were guilty of major misperceptions and errors of judgement. While they sought, at least in Labriola's case, to correct some of these as the year's events unfolded, this was not enough to prevent 1893 from becoming a thoroughgoing fiasco for the socialist left.

### **Hannah Schling, Gender, Temporality, and the Reproduction of Labour Power – Women Migrant Workers in South China**

In this article a social reproduction lens is used to investigate the gendered and temporal dynamics within the emergence of a tempo-

rary, feminised migrant workforce manufacturing electronics for export in South China's Pearl River Delta. The analysis problematises labour power reproduction as gendered work with a gendered division of labour, related to the construction of gendered subjectivities and to the temporality of exploitation. Denied access to state-funded reproduction and permanent urban citizenship by the state's household registration (*hukou*) system, labour migrants are rendered permanently temporary inhabitants of the cities in which they work. Their double burden organised across this spatial separation between urban production and rural reproduction, women migrants are positioned as 'doubly temporary' workers. Furthermore, the importance of this in structuring the gendered *dagongmei* identity to denote short-term and 'disposable' labour is investigated. The article poses questions for future research: how is the new generation of migrant workers' social reproduction gendered – and how does this relate to exploitation and resistance? The case is made for a feminist analysis dismantling the analytical separation of 'production' and 'reproduction,' whilst centring the struggles of migrant women within and outside of waged work.

## David Mayer, Gute Gründe und doppelte Böden - Zur Geschichte ‚linker‘ Geschichtsschreibung

For any discussion about the current relation between socially emancipatory movements and historiography, that very relationship has itself to be historicized systematically. This essay offers an outline of the historical development of left-wing historiographies over the last 150 years. Starting with some general considerations on the special importance of historical references in left-wing practices – the left looks at the world through a thoroughly historicist prism –, the emergence and further development of left historiographies are traced. A series of types and forms of left historiography are differentiated and considered in their historical context. Discussing ex-

periences from different world regions, the focus is on debates rather than on single authors or works. Also, the conflictive interrelations between academic and non-academic as well as Marxist and non- or post-Marxist forms of historiography are discussed. The overarching contradiction, however, both propelling and afflicting left historiography, lies in the good reasons brought forward upon the shaky ground of politics – the dynamic of the legitimacy of critique on the one hand and the legitimization of political actors, movements and even states on the other.

### **Gottfried Oy / Christoph Schneider, Destruktion und Intervention. Von den Möglichkeiten der Geschichtspolitik**

In this article, Gottfried Oy and Christoph Schneider extend reflections developed in their contribution to the December 2013 “History is Unwritten” conference in Berlin. There, the questions and tasks facing a left-wing politics of history were discussed. The article is especially concerned with the question of whether a historiography that seeks to destroy the mythic historiography of nation states should simultaneously provide myths for left-wing counternarratives. The article explains what the authors consider to be the core element of this contradiction and why they believe it cannot be resolved. Engaging with Walter Benjamin’s remarks on the relationship between history and utopia, Oy and Schneider argue that the lacuna at the heart of the idea of liberation should not be closed by means of a strategically positioned concept of utopia.

## **Susanne Götze, Der Metaphilosoph Henri Lefebvre. Linke Krise und Erneuerung in den 1960er Jahr**

To access the present by means of the past in order to perceive the possibilities inherent in the here and now: this was the intention behind “meta”-philosopher Henri Lefebvre’s “regressive-progressive method” of reviving and rendering tangible historical moments and situations. In his 1965 book *La proclamation de la Commune*, the tireless reconstruction of details serves to bring back to life the events of 1871. Yet there was nothing romantic or reactionary about historical analysis as understood by Lefebvre; rather, such analysis was always conceived of by him as characterised by a “meaning” and a “purpose” – namely that of passing on the scholar’s insights by means of “praxis.” Lefebvre only considered knowledge of such insights “useful” to the extent that it empowered its recipients to become active in the sense of “making history” themselves.

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