Announcing a series of meetings on…

**Rosa Luxemburg, Women’s Liberation, and Marx’s Philosophy of Revolution**

Rosa Luxemburg is considered one of the most original thinkers and personalities in the history of the radical movement. Her writings on spontaneity, critique of centralized forms of organization, and the inseparability of socialism and democracy take on new meaning in light of the need to develop a viable alternative to capitalism. This series will explore how her work helps illuminate crucial dimensions of Marx’s philosophy of revolution that speak to our concerns today. Suggested readings will include excerpts from Luxemburg’s writings as well as from Raya Dunayevskaya’s *Rosa Luxemburg, Women’s Liberation, and Marx’s Philosophy of Revolution*.


**All other readings available from the International Marxist-Humanist Organization**

(Email: Arise@internationalMarxistHumanist.org; Website: internationalmarxisthumanist.org)

All meetings (free admission) held at:

111 North Wabash Ave, Suite 909 (Chicago Loop)

**Session 1: Friday, April 10, 6:30 pm.**

**Luxemburg’s Concept of Revolution—Its Lessons for Today**

Luxemburg was directly involved in the 1905 Russian Revolution, from which she drew a series of important lessons about the mass strike, spontaneous forms of organization, and popular democracy. Much of her work from this period is only now appearing in English, enabling us to explore her contribution with new eyes.

Suggesting readings: 1) Chapters 1 and 2 of *Rosa Luxemburg, Women’s Liberation, and Marx’s Philosophy of Revolution*, on the 1905 Revolution and its aftermath; 2) Rosa Luxemburg’s speech to 1907 Congress of Russian Marxists in London.

Presenter: **Peter Hudis**, general editor of *The Complete Works of Rosa Luxemburg*

**Session 2: Friday, April 24, 6:30 p.m.**

**Spontaneity, Consciousness, Organization—The Relation of Theory and Practice**

Luxemburg took issue with a number of fellow socialists, especially V.I. Lenin, over how to understand the proper relation of political parties to mass upsurges. Given the tragic outcome of many revolutions of our time, these questions take on new importance.

Suggested readings: 1) Chapter 4 of *Rosa Luxemburg, Women’s Liberation…* on the dialectics of revolution; 2) Chapters 10 and 11 of *The Rosa Luxemburg Reader*, containing Luxemburg’s writings on organization.

Presenter: **Marilyn-Nissim-Sabat**, author of *Neither Victim Nor Survivor: Thinking Toward a New Humanity*
Session 3: Friday, May 8, 6:30 p.m.
Capitalism and Imperialism: Are There Limits to Capital’s Global Expansion?

Luxemburg’s *The Accumulation of Capital* (now available in a new translation) sought to show that there is an integral connection between capitalism and the destruction of non-capitalist social relations in the non-Western world. We will explore this issue in relation to Marx’s *Capital* as well as Frantz Fanon’s effort to re-think Marx’s critique of capitalism for the developing world.

Suggested readings: 1) Chapters 3 and 10 of *Rosa Luxemburg, Women’s Liberation…* on *The Accumulation of Capital* and Marx’s *Capital*; 3) Chapter on “National Culture” in Fanon’s *The Wretched of the Earth*.

Session 4: Friday, May 22, 6:30 p.m.
What Happens After the Revolution? Is There an Alternative to Capitalism?

Luxemburg is perhaps most renowned for her writings on the 1917 Russian Revolution, in which she raised the critical issue of our time—the need for any socialist transformation to be thoroughly democratic. We will explore this in connection with Marx’s distinctive view of what is needed to create a post-capitalist society, composed near the end of his life.

Suggested readings: 1) Chapters 5 and 11 of *Rosa Luxemburg, Women’s Liberation…* on Luxemburg and Marx’s concepts of the path to and content of a post-capitalist society; 2) Chapter 12 of *The Rosa Luxemburg Reader*, except from *The Russian Revolution*.

Session 5: Friday, June 5, 6:30 p.m.
The Women's Liberation Movement as Revolutionary Force and Reason

The modern feminist movement has provided new insights on how deep and far-reaching a social transformation must be for social inequality, alienation, and class society to be seriously challenged. As the foremost woman theorist in the history of Marxism, we will explore how Luxemburg’s ideas relate to contemporary feminism.

Suggested readings: 1) Chapters 6, 7, 8 of *Rosa Luxemburg, Women’s Liberation* on feminism; 2) Chapter 9 of *The Rosa Luxemburg Reader* on Luxemburg's writings on women’s liberation.

Session 6: Friday, June 19, 6:30 p.m.
The Missing Link in Post-Marx Marxism—Marx’s Philosophy of Revolution

What does Marx’s Marxism mean for today? Does it retain its viability given our changed world? And does Marx’s critique of capital and value production entail a far deeper challenge to existing society that has been appreciated by his followers?

Readings: 1) Chapters 9 and 12 of *Rosa Luxemburg, Women’s Liberation…* on Marx’s early humanist writings and late writings on developing new pathways to social transformation.