

PLATYPUS

at the *Left Forum 2009*
Turning Points

APRIL 17-19

Pace University
One Pace Plaza, NYC

Each spring in New York City, Left Forum gathers intellectuals and activists from around the world to address the burning issues of our times. The theme for 2009 is TURNING POINTS. The 2009 Left Forum poses the question, could we be at a historic juncture in the evolution of American power and politics?

<http://www.leftforum.org/2009>

DIALECTICS OF DEFEAT: TOWARDS A THEORY OF HISTORICAL REGRESSION

Presented by *The Platypus Affiliated Society*
saturday, 5-7:00pm

The panelists will elucidate significant moments in the progressive separation of theory and practice in the 20th and 21st Century history of Leftist politics: 2001 (Spencer Leonard); 1968 (Atiya Khan); 1933 (Richard Rubin); and 1917 (Chris Cutrone). Each of these dates marked fundamental transformations on the Left. How do we relate to their legacies today? How has the problem of relating theory to practice, and ends to means, been dealt with politically on the Left? How has the political thought and action associated with each of these historical turning points revealed or obscured problems on the Left? How do the historical failures of the Left affect possibilities for the Left today and in the future?

Benjamin Blumberg (Chair)
Chris Cutrone
Atiya Khan
Spencer Leonard
Richard Rubin

POLITICS OF THE CONTEMPORARY STUDENT LEFT: HOPES AND FAILURES

saturday, 12-2:00pm

What are the current politics of youth and student organizations? How can the mobilization of youths and students be expanded and deepened? This panel aims to explore these questions by critically reflecting upon the politics of two of the largest and most successful Left student organizations of recent times: the new Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS).

Alexander L. Hanna (Chair)
former organizer for United Students Against Sweatshops

Ailee McFellin (SDS, RSU)
Pam Nogales (Platypus, NYC)
C. J. Pereira Di Salvo (former organizer for USAS)
Laurie Rojas (Platypus, Chicago and former member SDS)



The Platypus Affiliated Society, established in December 2006, organizes reading groups, public fora, film screenings, research and journalism focused on problems and tasks inherited from the "Old" (1920s-30s), "New" (1960s-70s) and post-political (1980s-90s) Left for the possibilities of emancipatory politics today.

www.platypus1917.org