



Socialist and Marxist Studies Series

Spring 2026

Thursdays

12:30-1:45 P.M.

Bangor Room, Memorial Union

The University of Maine

A Zoom link will be provided for those who cannot attend in person

April 9: ICE, IMMIGRANT RIGHTS, AND RESISTING FASCISM

Todd Chretien is an organizer, educator, farmer, and the former co-chair of the Maine Democratic Socialists of America. He has edited and translated several books, including *Eyewitnesses to the Russian Revolution*, and he writes frequently for *Jacobin* and other progressive publications. His presentation will focus on how immigration policies have historically served the dual purposes of providing cheap labor and offering scapegoats in times of economic crisis. He will examine the current transformation of ICE into a quasi-fascist militia bent on degrading and erasing our liberties, how organizing strategies of mass action and working-class solidarity are pushing back, and reviewing the strengths and weakness of the anti-ICE movement.

April 21: RETHINKING MARXIST POLITICS IN LIGHT OF THE CRITICAL THEORY OF WORK (Note: on Tuesday, April 21)

Michael Denning, Professor of American Studies, Yale University, is a Marxist cultural critic and historian who teaches at Yale University where he coordinates the Working Group on Globalization and Culture. His recent essays "Everyone a Legislator" and "Impeachment as a Social Form" appeared in *New Left Review*. A recipient of the American Studies Association's Bode-Pearson lifetime achievement award, his books include *Noise Uprising: The Audiopolitics of a World Musical Revolution*, *Culture in the Age of Three Worlds*, and *The Cultural Front: The Laboring of American Culture in the Twentieth Century*. His presentation, "Rethinking Marxist Politics in Light of the Critical Theory of Work," will draw on his new book, *The Twofold Labors of Marx*, which is forthcoming from Verso.

April 23: DEMOCRATIZE THE IVORY TOWER: ORGANIZED LABOR IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Elijah Bradshaw, Eric Brown, Kaia De Vries, and Peter Howe are members of the UMaine Graduate Workers Union. After 765 days of delays, negotiations, actions, and solidarity, they achieved a great victory, winning their first contract in 2025. For this program, they will discuss how they built their campaign, and what their struggle reveals about organized labor in late capitalism. They will challenge long-maintained views of academic prestige and higher education as divorced from forms of labor. Instead, they will examine how such traditional views have led to the extreme exploitation in teaching, research, administration, and other university functions. They will discuss how this has

been the case in the Universities of Maine, and how the graduate student workers decided to do something about it.

This Series, offered since the mid-1980s as the academic Socialist and Marxist Studies Series, is coordinated by Doug Allen, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy. The series is co-sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Education and others. Speakers do not necessarily present socialist or Marxist viewpoints. For additional information, contact Doug Allen at dallen@maine.edu or Maggie Kastelein at margaret.kastelein@maine.edu.

PLEASE ANNOUNCE TO CLASSES AND INTERESTED GROUPS AND LIST IN CALENDARS

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