

Union for Radical Political Economics (URPE) at the 2011 Left Forum

Speaker Bios

Younes Abouyoub, PhD., is a Political Sociologist, visiting researcher at Columbia University and consultant to the United Nations. A former member of the United Nations mediation team in the Darfur peace process, and former member of the Security Council Panel of Experts on Darfur, he is contributing author to the Routledge International Handbook of World-systems Analysis (Core-periphery relations) and the forthcoming special issue of the journal Race Class and Gender on Environment.

Sara Burke is a New York City social justice activist and founded the webzine Glovesoff. In her professional capacity she works as an Economic and Social Policy Analyst for the Friedrich Ebert Foundation UN office.

Al Campbell is a long-time socialist and member of the Steering Committee of the Union for Radical Political Economics (URPE). He teaches Economics at the University of Utah, and some of his recent published work can be seen at www.econ.utah.edu/~al.

Colia Clark was Green Party candidate for Senate from NY. She is working on projects for reclaiming, reconstructing and restoring land, political and social institutions around the world. Colia's worked with the civil rights and peace movements of the 1960's as special assistant to Medgar Evers and in Mississippi and Alabama with SNCC. Colia founded Mothers On the Move, worked with Martin Luther King Jr. Union to End Slums Movement in Chicago and has worked as editor and college teacher.

John Cronan Jr. is a restaurant worker of 11 years, organizer and writer (frequent articles in Znet). Does labor, student, and environmental organizing. Currently an organizer for the Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York (ROC-NY), a membership based workers' center dedicated to building worker power and changing conditions in the restaurant industry, as well as overall social transformation; and is a founding member of the new political grouping, Organization for a Free Society.

Mathieu Dufour is assistant professor of economics at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a doctoral candidate at the UMass, Amherst. He works in the fields of development economics, international financial economics, behavioral economics, and political economy, with particular interest in financial crises. He taught recently at Dalhousie University in Halifax and the Shandong University of Finance in China. In 2006, Mathieu held an internship at the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey.

Chisara Ehiemere is Vice-President of Certification, FairTrade USA. Ehiemere, brings experience in procurement management, supply chain consulting, and nonprofit experience. She has worked with Toyota, A.T. Kearney, Peace Corps Guatemala and has served as the Associate Director for the Maura Clarke - Ita Ford Center in Brooklyn.

Bilge Erten has recently received her PhD in Economics from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her fields are development economics, international trade, and political economy. Her dissertation research focused on the Prebisch-Singer hypothesis as it related to global growth divergence and terms-of-trade deterioration for the developing world. She is currently teaching at Drew University, NJ.

Armagan Gezici received her PhD in economics from University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 2007, is currently an assistant professor of economics at Keene State College, NH and a member of the Steering Committee of the Union for Radical Political Economics. Her research interests lie at the intersection of international and development economics.

Julio Huato is from the Department of Economics, St. Francis College Associate Professor of Economics at St. Francis College. Editorial Board and Manuscript Collective of Science & Society. Steering Committee of the Union for Radical Political Economics.

Fadhel Kaboub is an economist at Denison University, a Research Associate at the Levy Economics Institute of Bard College (NY), the Center for Full Employment and Price Stability (MO), and the International Economic Policy Institute (Ontario, Canada). He is an expert on the Political Economy of Tunisia and Full Employment programs.

David Kotz is a Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Shanghai University of Finance. He is most recently the coeditor with Terrence McDonough and Michael Reich of Contemporary Capitalism and its Crises: Social Structure of Accumulation Theory for the 21st Century, Cambridge, 2010, and coauthor, with Fred Weir, of Russia's Path from Gorbachev to Putin: The Demise of the Soviet System and the New Russia. His recent work has been on crisis theory, analysis and critique of neo-liberalism, institutional change in capitalist systems, and the evolution of formerly centrally planned economies. His articles have appeared in The Review of Radical Political Economics, Monthly Review, Science and Society, Rethinking Marxism, and several Russian and Chinese journals.

David Laibman is Professor of Economics (retired), City University of New York Editor, Science & Society.

Stephen Lerner is the architect of the SEIU's groundbreaking Justice for Janitors campaign. He led the union's banking and finance campaign and has partnered with unions and groups in Europe, South America and elsewhere in campaigns to hold financial institutions accountable. As director of the union's private equity project, he launched a long campaign to expose the over-leveraged feeding frenzy of private equity firms during the boom years that led to the ensuing economic disaster.

Josh Mason is a PhD candidate in economics at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a research assistant at Political Economy Research Institute (PERI). Previously he was the Policy Director of the New York Working Families Party.

Michael Meeropol is a long-time socialist and the author of *Surrender: How the Clinton Administration Completed the Reagan Revolution*. He is a Professor of Economics at Western New England College.

Rodney North is from The Answer Man & worker-owner at Equal Exchange, the co-operative that pioneered Fair Trade foods and beverages in the US in the 1980's, and who today imports millions of pounds of Fair Trade coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar and bananas from 40 small-farmer co-ops around the world. Rodney North is responsible for the co-op's public relations. He is also one of the 95 worker-owners of the co-op and a former member of the Board of Directors.

Michael Perelman is a well known and well published author of articles and books on the uselessness of mainstream economics and the appropriateness of Marxist economics.

Alba Delgado Riaño is a PhD student at Complutense University of Madrid (Spain). Her research work is related to money and self-management.

Chris Rude is a radical political economist with training in economics and Marxist political theory. He lives in New York and is a member of the URPE Steering Committee.

Daniel Salcedo is the Founder of Pueblo to People that pioneered Fair Trade via a mail order "magalog" selling crafts from grass roots artisans in Central (later South) America during the 1980's war while telling their story. More recently he founded PEOPLink.org, FairTradeDirect.com and B2BFair-TradeDirect.com. Dan now travels the world introducing remote producer groups to Internet technology and helping them develop new markets for their goods.

Howard Sherman is a Professor Emeritus of Economics at U Cal, Riverside, and co-author of the important anti-mainstream introductory Economics textbook, *Economics. An Introduction to Traditional and Radical Views*. He is a long-time writer on the problems of capitalism.

Tamara Stenn is an instructor of economics and fair trade at Keene State College, NH. Long time Fair Trader, activist, owner/founder of KUSIKUY Clothing Company, a fair trade, natural alpaca knitwear company with production in Bolivia since 1996. The founder of Ayllu, Inc. a non profit organization which educates consumers about Fair Trade. Stenn is now finishing her doctoral dissertation "Comercio Justo and Justice: An Examination of Fair Trade and its Impact on Indigenous Bolivian Knitters."

Gelvin Stevenson is a Sr. professional experienced in writing, renewable energy technologies and companies, environmental policy, public and private investments, Socially Responsible Investing, financial analysis, teaching and alternative dispute resolution (arbitration, negotiation and mediation). BOARD MEMBERSHIPS in Clear Skies Group, Inc.; Community Resources Exchange; Cherokee National Historical Society; First Nations Development Institute; Environmental Research Foundation. Member: Western Cherokee Nation.

Michael Tanzer is a specialist in economic consulting to Global South governments in the oil, energy and mineral resource areas. 1969-present, President, Tanzer Economic Associates, Inc. 1997-2003, Chief Financial Officer, The Black World Today (www.tbwt.com), website specializing in news by and about people of color worldwide.

Brian Tokar is an educator, author, and activist. Currently he's director of the Institute for Social Ecology based in Vermont, and an Environmental Studies lecturer at the University of Vermont. His books include *The Green Alternative* (1987), *Earth for Sale* (1997), and *Toward Climate Justice: Perspectives on the Climate Crisis and Social Change* (2010). He has also edited two volumes on the politics of biotechnology, *Redesigning Life?* and *Gene Traders*, and co-edited *Agriculture and Food in Crisis: Conflict, Resistance and Renewal* (Monthly Review Press).

David Van Arsdale is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Onondaga Community College.

Chris Williams is a professor at Pace in the department of chemistry and physical science and head of science at Packer Collegiate Institute. He is contributing author to the book *The Global Fight for Climate Justice - Anticapitalist Responses to Global Warming and Environmental Destruction* and the author of *Ecology and Socialism: Solutions to Capitalist Ecological Crisis* as well as a longtime environmental activist.