

FEDERATION OF  
**SOCIALIST  
SOCIETIES**  
NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE

*Labour Weekend  
Wellington 2024*

<b>SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER</b>		
12:00–12:20	BEDLAM & SQUALOR	DOORS OPEN
12:20–12:50	BEDLAM & SQUALOR	CONFERENCE WELCOME
12:50–13:30	BEDLAM & SQUALOR	BRANCH REPORTS & MEMBER ACTIVITIES UPDATE
13:30–13:45	BREAK	
13:45–14:55	BEDLAM & SQUALOR	BREAKING THE CONSENSUS: THE NEED FOR A NEW INDUSTRIAL POLITICS
13:45–14:55	TRADES HALL	MOVING RESISTANCE FROM THE MARGINS TO THE CENTRE: HOW THE ANTI-GLOBALISATION MOVEMENT TRAUMATISED CAPITALISM
14:55–15:25	BEDLAM & SQUALOR	AFTERNOON TEA (CATERED)
15:25–16:35	BEDLAM & SQUALOR	LEFT-WING POLITICS IN AOTEAROA IN 2024
16:35–18:15	DINNER (SELF-CATERED)	
18:15–20:00	THISTLE HALL	TE TIRITI AND THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM
20:00–20:30	BREAK	
20:30–	TRADES HALL	COMMONWEAL LAUNCH
<b>SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER</b>		
11:00–12:30	BEDLAM & SQUALOR	1913 GREAT STRIKE WALKING TOUR
12:30–13:00	BREAK	
13:00–14:00	BEDLAM & SQUALOR	WHAT IS NEW ZEALAND FOR?
14:00–14:15	BREAK	
14:15–15:30	BEDLAM & SQUALOR	HYPERIMPERIALISM AND THE ENSNARED WORLD
14:15–15:30	TRADES HALL	THE CRISIS OF THE UNIVERSITY, PRECARIY, AND SOCIALIST STRATEGY
15:30–16:00	BEDLAM & SQUALOR	AFTERNOON TEA (CATERED)
16:00–17:15	BEDLAM & SQUALOR	THE FUTURE OF UNIONS IN AOTEAROA
17:15–18:45	DINNER (SELF-CATERED)	
18:45–20:30	THISTLE HALL	RESISTING NEOLIBERALISM IN LATIN AMERICA: THE 2019 CHILEAN REVOLT AND THE STRUGGLE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM
20:30–21:00	BREAK	
21:00–	GARRETT ST	WELLINGTON SOCIALIST SOCIETY/ UNIONS WELLINGTON GIG

# Saturday 26 October

Breaking the consensus:  
The need for a new industrial politics

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## Ben Peterson

Prevailing trends in left-wing politics, Unite Union organiser Ben Peterson argues, tend to relate to our current crises idealistically: through analysis, critique, and other forms of public discourse, in the hope that these interventions will stir political institutions into action. Instead, Ben argues that we need to focus on rebuilding a class politics and that trade unionism should be a crucial part of that effort.

Moving resistance from the margins to  
the centre: How the anti-globalisation  
movement traumatised capitalism

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## Sam Buchanan

Between 1999 and 2003, protests and riots against international financial institutions, neo-liberalism, and neocolonialism spread from poor countries to rich ones, frightening the global ruling class and seriously disrupting capitalist expansion. How did this movement come about? What can we learn from it? And why did it lose momentum? Sam Buchanan will explore these questions, drawing upon his hair-raising experiences during the 2001 "Battle of Genoa" protest.

Panel discussion:  
Left-wing politics in Aotearoa in 2024

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**Tamatha Paul, Nikau Wi Neera,  
and Greg Byrnes**

Wellington Central Green MP Tamatha Paul (Tainui, Ngāti Awa), Green Wellington City Council Councillor Nikau Wi Neera (Ngāti Toarangatira, Kāi Tahu), and independent Environment Canterbury Councillor Greg Byrnes will speak to us about their experiences as left-wing politicians in Aotearoa and what they see as the challenges and opportunities of our current political moment.

Saturday keynote:  
Te Tiriti and the struggle for socialism

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**Catherine Love, Kassie Hartendorp,  
and Dougal McNeill**

Experienced Tino Rangatiratanga activists Catherine Love (Te Ātiawa, Taranaki, Ngāti Ruanui, Ngā Ruahinerangi), Kassie Hartendorp (Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Tūwharetoa), and Dougal McNeill will discuss the current coalition government's attacks on Te Tiriti and on Māori generally, in the context of the decades-long struggle for justice for Māori. They will also examine the relationship between Te Tiriti and the socialist project. Wellington City Councillor Nikau Wi Neera (Ngāti Toarangatira, Kāi Tahu) will ably serve as the panel moderator.

# Sunday 27 October

1913 Great Strike walking tour

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**Peter Clayworth**

The 1913 strike was one of New Zealand's most dramatic industrial disputes, involving tens of thousands of workers from October 1913 to January 1914. At its heart, the dispute was a power struggle between militant unionists and the employers and farmers who worked in concert with the government to violently suppress the strike. Starting and ending at Bedlam & Squalor, labour historian Peter Clayworth will take us on a guided tour through "sites of struggle" in central Wellington.

What is New Zealand for?

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**Tony Simpson**

For the first 150 years of our existence, historian Tony Simpson argues, New Zealand had no historiography of its own; we were simply lumped together with "the other red bits" on the map as part of the British Empire. New Zealand has now begun to explore its own history and identity through the new school history curriculum, which recognises the attempted colonial destruction of Māori. But this is just the beginning, Tony suggests, we need to explore where to go from here based on a revised understanding of where we have been.

Hyperimperialism and the ensnared world

**Vijay Prashad**

Why, asks renowned Indian historian and journalist Vijay Prashad, is the United States promoting wars and militarism around the world, when the world's peoples simply want peace and development? What is motivating NATO and the Western alliance to build evermore warlike platforms to challenge the countries in Asia? Vijay will interrogate these questions, which are of eminent relevance to New Zealand as a Pacific nation and a traditional US ally.

Panel discussion:  
The crisis of the university,  
precarity, and socialist strategy

**Leon Salter, Matt Russell,  
and Josh Parsons**

The 2022 university strikes and the 2023 anti-cuts movements provided a glimpse of the political potential that lies within Aotearoa's precarious academic and student body. Leon Salter of University of Auckland, Matt Russell of Massey University, and Josh Parsons will reflect on the events of the past two years, drawing on research with precarious academics and students, to consider the challenges and opportunities of the neoliberal university as a site of resistance within a broader socialist strategy in Aotearoa.

Panel discussion:  
The future of unions in Aotearoa

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**Erin Polaczuk, Sabina Rizos-Shaw,  
Grant Brookes, and Jon Pawson**

This panel of Aotearoa trade unionists will discuss the current state of the labour movement and its prospects for the future. Consisting of CTU secretary Erin Polaczuk, Unions Wellington convenor and PSA support centre worker Sabina Rizos-Shaw, NZNO national executive member and nurse Grant Brookes, and E Tū Organiser and Unions Manawatu convenor Jon Pawson (Ngāti Porou), the panel will bring a diverse range of perspectives to these questions.

Sunday keynote:  
Resisting neoliberalism in Latin America:  
The 2019 Chilean revolt and the  
struggle for constitutional reform

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**Pablo Abufom**

Pablo Abufom was a community organiser during the protests that erupted in Chile in 2019 in response to high cost of living, privatisation, and inequality. The revolt ultimately led to a referendum which rejected the Pinochet-era constitution and committed the country to drafting a new constitution. Although the historical trajectories of neoliberalism in Chile and Aotearoa are not identical, they share the unenviable experience of being at the outer extreme of global neoliberal policy. Pablo will offer insights and lessons for the struggle against neoliberal capitalism in Aotearoa.



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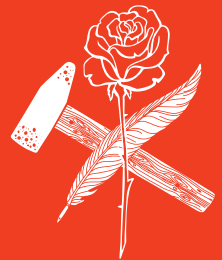
**Bedlam & Squalor**  
L1/18 Garret Street

**B**

**Wgtn Trades Hall**  
124 Vivian Street

**C**

**Thistle Hall**  
293 Cuba Street



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