

S-5: Lucia Pradella

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Sunday 16 October, 11.00–12.00, Z-salen

"Capitalist crisis and the many lives of reformism"

The immediate aftermath of the crisis exposed the limits of neoliberalism and raised the promise of global Keynesianism. Eight years after, reformist alternatives are experiencing a deepening crisis as well. Dilma Rouseff impeachment in Brazil—which follows other left defeats or crises in Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, and Venezuela—marks a deep crisis of new developmentalism in Latin America. After the dramatic capitulation of Syriza in 2015, new left advances in Europe (Portugal, Spain, the rise of Corbyn) have re-proposed the idea of a 'government of the left' able to channel the demands of social movements into realist anti-austerity strategies. My paper contextualises these trends within the underlying crisis of global capitalism. This crisis, I argue, is exposing the structural antagonisms of capitalism, and the link between processes of impoverishment North and South. In the face of these dynamics, social-democratic strategies—aimed at maintaining a balance between class and national interests—have little to offer to the working class. In order for the labour and social movements that resist neoliberalism and the crisis to advance, therefore, it is necessary to build a political project able to address the international roots of the crisis and develop alternative forms of power to institutional politics. The crisis itself offers new possibilities and challenges in this direction.

With introduction by Frida Jansson.