

Counterfutures is a multidisciplinary journal of Left research, thought, and strategy. It brings together work from across Aotearoa New Zealand's Left, aiming to intervene in, and inaugurate, debates about how to understand and influence our society, politics, culture, and environment.

counterfutures

LEFT THOUGHT AND PRACTICE AOTEAROA

ISSUE 10 2020

A Left without Labour?

Community Organising

Militarism and Indigenous Futures

Remembering Dick Scott

The Christian Question

Monuments of the North

Building Left Hegemony in the Pacific

Children of Godzone

The Plague Bearers

Decolonial Imaginaries

Techno-Welfarism as Fix

Mainstreaming the Far-Right

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Hard to Centre

SUE BRADFORD & JACK FOSTER

After a landslide victory for Labour in the 2020 general election, what can we expect from the second Arden administration?

Community Organising

MOHAN DUTTA & SUE BRADFORD

Two veterans of community organising discuss their work co-constructing voice infrastructures at the margins. A critical interrogation of the tensions that emerge in the relationships between communities, activists, and academics, and lessons in the role of community organising in building socialist futures.

Keywords: Militarism

EMALANI CASE

A treatment of militarism in the Pacific, tracing its interconnections with the structures of settler colonialism and white supremacy. Against the steady advance of US-led imperialism, Indigenous temporalities are positioned as the keystone of demilitarised futures.

The Weapon beneath the Woodpile

MARK DERBY

A retrospective on the life and work of the late historian Dick Scott, author of the ground-breaking *Ask that Mountain: The Story of Parihaka*. Instinctive outsider and refuter of the high-polite style, a historian who relentlessly unearthed well-buried episodes from Aotearoa New Zealand's past.

The Christian Question

ROLAND BOER

An interview with distinguished professor Roland Boer on his five-volume epic *On Marxism and Theology*. In a wide-ranging discussion, Boer illuminates the myriad connections between Marxism and Christianity and considers the contemporary struggle over the Christian legacy.

Auckland's Inner-City Monuments

MURRAY EDMOND

A fast-paced *dérive* through Auckland's inner-city monuments. What messages do the monuments of Aotearoa New Zealand's metropolis send out, and how can the frequency of these transmissions be altered?

Towards a Left Secretariat for the Pacific

TIM BRYAR

Prey to global warming, geopolitical competition, and class divisions, the Pacific Islands region is united by a shared experience of economic dependency and vulnerability. What might a Left secretariat in the Pacific offer?

Welcome Home, Prodigy

MURDOCH STEPHENS

In light of a great repatriation, what emotional states might be provoked by returning New Zealanders? Written during lockdown, Murdoch Stephens looks to the history of the 'coming home' essay and song for clues as to how returnees could be productively drawn back into the collective.

The Team of Five Six Million

RICHARD B. KEYS

Chantal Mouffe's reading of 'Schmitt against Schmitt' is employed to discuss the politics of the returnee. In an era punctuated by global crises, what does the figure of the returnee tell us about citizenship, sovereignty, and globalisation?

Imagining Beyond Decolonisation

SIMON BARBER

Review of Bianca Elkington et al, *Imagining Decolonisation*. An 'ethic of restoration' as a third way between Fanonian rupture and the exclusionary performativity of Pākehā overtures to decolonialisation.

Making Socialism within Capitalism

DAVID NEILSON

Review of Jonathan Boston, *Transforming the Welfare State*. Techno-welfarism as a solution to Aotearoa New Zealand's decaying social security system.

Faustian Politics

COLIN BARTON

Review of David Renton, *The New Authoritarians*. With the intellectual exhaustion of conservatism and the mainstreaming of far-right ideologies, how should the Left respond?

Contributors

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Kāi Tahu, Pākehā. Te Tomokanga postdoctoral fellow in sociology at the University of Auckland and researcher for Economic and Social Research Aotearoa. He is interested in Indigenous thought and politics, Marxian and critical theory, black studies, communism, and conjunctions thereof.

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Distinguished professor at the School of Marxism Studies, Dalian University of Technology. His previous research focussed on the complex relations between Marxism and religion in European and Russian traditions; his current research concerns the distinct tradition of Chinese Marxism.

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Activist on jobs, welfare, and housing issues for many years and a former Green MP (1999–2009). She has a PhD in public policy and currently works for Kotare Research and Education for Social Change in Aotearoa.

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Submissions

Counterfutures is a multidisciplinary journal. We welcome the submission of research articles, review essays, and commentaries on topics pertinent to Left thought and practice in Aotearoa New Zealand.

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