

Programme for 'The Lucas Plan – An Idea Whose Time has Come?'

November 26th 2016

| | Main Hall/Room1 | Room 2 | Room 3 | Room 4 |
|---------------|--|--|--|---|
| 9.15-10.00 | Coffee and Registration | | | |
| 10:00 -10.15 | WELCOME Mary Pearson (Birmingham TC)/Presentation to Combine members | | | |
| 10:15 – 11:25 | SCREENING OF THE PLAN Phil Asquith (Lucas Aerospace Combine) Hilary Wainwright (Editor, Red Pepper) Tony Kearns (CWU) | | | |
| | Workshop session 1 | | | |
| 11:35 – 12:40 | ARMS CONVERSION 1 John Middleton (Medact) Hilary Wainwright (Editor, Red Pepper) | LUCAS PLAN HISTORY John Routley (Lucas Aerospace Combine) Mick Cooney (Lucas Aerospace Combine) | JUST TRANSITION 1 Natalie Bennett (Green Party) Philip Pearson (Greener Jobs Alliance) | COMMUNITY AND ALTERNATIVE PLANS 1 Jonathan Essex (Green Party) Richard Lee (Just Space) |
| 12:40 – 13:40 | Lunch | | | |
| | Workshop session 2: the politics of technology | | | |
| 13:40 – 14:45 | GENDER AND TECHNOLOGY Marisol Sandoval (City University) Gail Chester (Feminist Library) | WHAT IS APPROPRIATE/ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY? Dave Elliott (Open University) Liz Corbin (Institute of Making) | WHAT IS SOCIALLY USEFUL PRODUCTION? Dave King (Breaking the Frame) Tony Simpson (Bertrand Russell Foundation) | READING MIKE COOLEY'S ARCHITECT OR BEE Tom Unterrainer (Spokesman Publishers) Adrian Smith (Sussex University) |
| | Workshop session 3 | | | |
| 14:50 – 16:00 | ARMS CONVERSION 2 Stuart Parkinson (Scientists for Global Responsibility) Molly Scott-Cato (Green Party) David Cullen (Nuclear Information Service) | ROBOTICS AND AUTOMATION Simon Fairlie (The Land Magazine) Philippa Hands (UNISON) | JUST TRANSITION 2 Suzanne Jeffery (Million Climate Jobs Campaign) Mika Minio-Paluello (Platform) | COMMUNITY AND ALTERNATIVE PLANS 2 Karen Leach (Localise West Midlands) |
| 16:00 – 16:15 | Tea break | | | |
| 16:15 – 17:10 | CLOSING PLENARY - GOING FORWARD Chair: Romayne Phoenix (People's Assembly Against Austerity) Chris Baugh (PCS) Molly Scott Cato (Green Party) Julie Ward (Labour Party) | | | |

Workshop details

Workshop session 1

Room 1 - Arms Conversion 1 - reflecting on past experience

The workshop will discuss arms conversion initiatives over the past 40 years. Contributors will include:

- * Hilary Wainwright, as Deputy Chief Economic Advisor to the then Greater London Council in the early 1980s, she took forward ideas from the Lucas Plan
- * Professor John Middleton, between 1986 and 1996 he researched military industry in Coventry and advocated alternative applications for the technologies.

Facilitated by Ann Feltham (Campaign Against Arms Trade)

Room 2 - The Story of the Lucas Plan

Hear about how the Lucas Plan was created and the struggles of the 1970s from the horse's mouth - members of the Lucas Aerospace Shop Stewards' Combine Committee.

Mick Cooney
John Routley
Facilitated by Paul Quigley

Room 3 - Just Transition 1 - Why we need a fair and transformative transition to a new economy

The threat of catastrophic climate change demands an urgent transition to a zero carbon economy. But what does that mean for workers and communities already concerned about the future of work in the face of increasing automation? This workshop explores the question of transition, why we need it and how we ensure it is based on justice for workers and communities.

Natalie Bennett (Green Party)

Philip Pearson (TUC)

Facilitated by Sam Mason (PCS)

Room 4 - Community and Alternative Plans 1 - Climate and Green Job Strategies

An opportunity to discuss how we can create 'green job strategies' that set out how many jobs of what kinds are needed to create the transition to sustainability in a given area.

- What does a plan for green jobs for transition for a local area look like, and how can it be created?

- How would it be reflected in different sectors, including: energy, waste, transport, built environment and food production?

- What resources and skills are needed?

Jonathan Essex (Green House Think Tank)

Richard Lee (Just Space)

Workshop session 2 - the politics of technology

Room 1 - Gender and the Politics of technology

This workshop will start from the premise, expressed by Mike Cooley at the beginning of *Architect or Bee?*, that 'we must always put people before machines'. He also notes that, 'One of the major problems with Western science and technology is that they have the historically determined male values built into them.' We will discuss how increasing rates of technological change impact differentially on men and women, both in Britain and across the world, to the detriment of all.

Gail Chester (Feminist Library)

Marisol Sandoval (City University)

Room 2 - What is Appropriate/Alternative technology?

Corporate and military technologies are designed in the interests of those who own them, and are key to preserving their power. So a better world depends upon better technology, and social movements have tried to create 'alternative' or 'appropriate' technology to be more consistent with their values. But what do those words really mean, and what are the most important principles for designing better technology?

Dave Elliott (Open University)

Liz Corbin (Institute of Making)

Room 3 - What is Socially Useful Production?

The Lucas Aerospace workers decided to create products that were 'socially useful', but how do we define that? Is it just about what the products are for, or about who decides what society needs? Or is it about the design of technology and the work process that produces them?

Dave King (Breaking the Frame)

Tony Simpson (Bertrand Russell Foundation)

Room 4 - Reading *Architect or Bee?*

Mike Cooley was the key theorist behind the Lucas Plan. His book, *Architect or Bee?* focuses on the politics of technology, especially the way that it is designed to de-skill workers. This workshop will look at chapter 6 of the book, 'The Political Implications of New Technologies'.

Thomas Unterrainer (Bertrand Russell Foundation)

Adrian Smith (Sussex University)

Workshop session 3

Room 1 - Arms Conversion 2 - future potential

Looking ahead at how to create arms to renewables jobs. Contributors include:

- * Molly Scott Cato, Green Party MEP, author of a report into alternatives to Trident in Devonport
- * Stuart Parkinson, Scientists for Global Responsibility, on the universities and arms conversion initiatives
- * David Cullen, Nuclear Information Service, on the alternatives to Trident at the Atomic Weapons Establishment

Facilitated by Ann Feltham (CAAT).

Room 2 - Robotics and Automation - What Future for Jobs?

Part of the struggle at Lucas Aerospace was about resisting the automation of jobs and resulting unemployment. In the intervening 40 years, this trend has drastically accelerated, because digital technologies create far fewer jobs than they destroy. This workshop will look at some current struggles and automation in different industries, and what trade unionists can do to resist it.

Simon Fairlie (The Land magazine)

Philippa Hands (UNISON)

Facilitated by Dave King (Breaking the Frame)

Room 3 - Just Transition 2 - The transition in practice - One Million Climate Jobs

This workshop looks at practical proposals on how we can make just transition a reality. The One Million Climate Jobs campaign is one such step. Building wind turbines for renewable energy, retrofitting and insulating homes, investing in public transport and retraining/reskilling workers; these are jobs that will keep people in work and lower greenhouse gases at the same time.

Suzanne Jeffery (Campaign Against Climate Change-Million Climate Jobs Campaign)

Mika Minio-Paluello (Global Justice Now)

Room 4 - Community and Alternative Plans 2 - Initiatives for progressive economics

How we can influence economic development in the places where we live towards progressive and sustainable outcomes that serve society's needs. We will share examples and practical answers to:

- how can communities, workers, businesses and councils work together?
- How can we decentralise economic power and ownership?
- How can we create and support the types of work that meet society's needs?

Facilitated by Karen Leach (Localise West Midlands)

Thanks!

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The conference was sponsored by: former members of the Lucas Aerospace Combine, Breaking the Frame, Campaign Against Arms Trade, Campaign Against Climate Change (Million Climate Jobs Campaign), Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Conference of Socialist Economists, Fellowship of Reconciliation, The Green Party, Left Unity, MedAct, Momentum, Newcastle Upon Tyne Trades Union Council, PCS, Quaker Peace and Social Witness, Red Pepper, Scientists for Global Responsibility, UCU, Walsall TUC and War on Want.

If you would like to be involved in the ongoing initiatives coming out of this conference in 2017, please contact Breaking the Frame - info@breakingtheframe.org.uk.

For your notes