**REIMAGINE THE UNIVERSITY**

**24TH - 26TH NOVEMBER 2010.**

**PROGRAMME OF EVENTS AIMED AT THE REIMAGINATION OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

Starting with the national walkout on the 24th, a series of workshops, lectures, events and ‘interventions’ are going to be happening across Leeds - at the Music and Art Colleges, the MET, and the University of Leeds.

For a long time the university has been undergoing a process of privatisation. Universities are now run as businesses, with students as consumers and lecturers as creators of products - knowledge has become a commodity that can be bought and sold. The overwhelming purpose of the university has become to train docile workers to perform functions within a capitalist system, to contribute to the enrichment of society, to contribute to the enrichment of the few rather than the collective social improvement of all.

The recent Spending Review and Browne Review takes this process to a whole new level- proposing a removal of the cap on fees which will create an even more hierarchical education system, reducing research funding, and raising fees to an estimated £9,000 a year. All this results in students taking on more debt for a hollowed-out education, lecturers being forced to carry out ‘economics exercises’ and staff working longer and harder hours for less money.

It is clear that the university system is bankrupt and in need of profound change, but no-one can see an alternative, a solution, a way out. We need to resist the threatened cuts and the ongoing onslaught on education - but we also need a transformation.

As workers and students at different places within the university system, we are putting on this event to facilitate the process of reimagining higher education. We don’t have all the answers, but we have many ideas and are sure that there are many more out there. We will explore how universities can become a place where creative and critical thought is fostered, where participants teach what inspires them, learn what they are passionate about and strive to create a more equitable and sustainable world, not simply for jobs and profit.

How could we transform the university, how could students and lecturers learn differently through more creative, critical and empowering processes, is it even possible to transform the university without transforming the society in which it is embedded?

All these events have been organized autonomously in a decolonising and affirmative politics? And what else can we do? How can we best resist the cuts? Where do we go next? How can we get the voices of students and lecturers into the public debate?

We don’t want to defend the university, we want to transform it!

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**JOIN THE WALK-OUT! - WED 11AM**

A national student walkout on Wednesday 24th! Leave your classes at 11am, meet outside LUU. Bring banners & noise-makers for a march into town!

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**EVERYDAY:**

**W 24TH**

**Opening event w/ Mikael Arfur - 3-5pm**
Roger Stevens LT 22
The Really Open University & Mikael Arfur open the ‘Reimagine the University’ event! Join us

**Gainful Unemployment - 5.30-7.30pm**
Packhorse Pub, Upstairs
A skills share workshop exploring practical suggestions for using our talents outside of the workplace, especially as we face the highest graduate unemployment rates in recent history.

**Student as Producer - 2-3pm**
ARC Meeting Room 2
A presentation and discussion about how the University of Lincoln is reinventing its curriculum following radical and critical pedagogical forms.

**Pecha Kucha - 5-7pm**
Geography Lecture Theatre
Pecha Kucha is Japanese for chatter. In this event each participant will have 6 minutes 40 seconds (20 seconds per slide for 2 Powerpoint slides) to talk on a topic of their choice.

**Graffiti Stencilling - 6pm**
Meet at Central Space
From Bristol to Buenos Aires stencil graffiti has been used to subvert mechanisms of control and communicate ideas through an unauthorised medium. Learn how to create stencils and explore ways they can be used.

**T 25TH**

**Student-Led Learning - 10-12am**
ARC Meeting Room 2
An opportunity for students to present their research ideas to each other. Got something to say? Say it here!

**Leeds Against Cuts Public Meeting - 7pm**
Leeds Civic Hall
City-wide meeting for resisting cuts in Leeds. Includes feedback from today’s UCU conference.

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**F 26TH**

**Italian Wave - 11-12pm**
ARC Mt. Room 2
In this session we will hear a report from recent education struggles in Italy. What commonalities and what differences do they have with struggles here in England? What can we learn from them?

**Counter Mapping - 4-6pm**
Geography 141
By counter-mapping the university, we hope to depict, where we are (especially in light of the recent cuts and Browne Review), where we came from, and where we wish to go, putting ourselves on the map, and imagining our way out...

**Logic of Occupation - 2-3pm**
ARC Mt. Room 2
We will be exploring the political importance of seizing space and reclaiming it for our own ends. What sort of possibilities do occupations open up for both resistant and affirmative politics?

**Off with the REFI! - 5-7pm**
Geography Lecture Theatre
This panel and participatory discussion explores how metric systems have been responsible for creating a condition of ‘academic unemployment’, where teaching and research have come to be dominated by the market.

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**FOR FULL WORKSHOP DETAILS VISIT: WWW.REALLYOPENUNIVERSITY.ORG**

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**CENTRAL SPACE: LUU Lobby - Flashmob, Films, T-Shirts, Put on an event, Posters, and general info point!**

**REALLY OPEN ART EXHIBITION: EB Library - All day, everyday, outside EB Library. Add your own art from Wednesday 24th.**

**DECOPTICAL CLOCK: Creative Interventions throughout the week. Find out more at the Central Space**

**ONWARD ZINE PRODUCTION: LUU Lobby - Typewriter lab – rant, reflect, share thoughts and ideas, we provide the space...**

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**Calais: S’ Informer - 6pm**
Peanut Gallery, LUU
Films and talks about asylum. Beyond Commodified Education - 6-8pm
Broadcasting House CCBPA 312
Discussing alternatives both to our current universities and education in general.

**Film: Universities in Transformation - 8-10pm**
Peanut Gallery, LUU
A series of films and discussions about students and staff seeking to transform their universities across the world.

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**University of Utopia**

The University of Utopia invites you to join their institution and develop the university as a social form, transforming the ‘knowledge society’ into the ‘knowing society.’ We will discuss what this means and how we’ll do it.

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**Where next for the transformation? - TBC**

At the close of the ‘Reimagine the Uni’ event, we must come together to explore where next for the transformation of the university? How do we work together to create a different future?
REIMAGINE THE UNIVERSITY.
PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR 3 DAYS OF CREATIVE RESISTANCE. INCLUDING WORKSHOPS, LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS, FILMS AND OTHER INTERVENTIONS.

24TH - 26TH NOVEMBER

FOR MORE INFORMATION COME TO THE WELCOME DESK IN THE LEEDS UNI UNION, OR VISIT, WWW.REALLYOPENUNIVERSITY.ORG