

Center for Social Theory and Comparative History

Co-sponsored with Institute for Research on Labor and Employment

Annual Colloquium Series

Wisconsin and the Assault on the Public Sector

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Madison, Wisconsin

Monday, 16 April 2012

2:00-5:00 pm

History Conference Room, 6275 Bunche

What is the political background to the systematic attack on public sector unions, and on the public sector more generally, in Wisconsin, elsewhere in the Midwest, and in other places in the US? To what extent does it have the support of the electorate and the broader public? Our speakers will consider this issue in connection with their analysis of the historic explosion of working class resistance in Wisconsin in February 2011, which broke a long period of labor quiescence in the US. They will evaluate the role of the trade unions in this conflict, asking if broader, more militant tactics were a realistic option. They will discuss the recall campaign that emerged as the main form of carrying on the struggle, asking what are its chances for success and what it can accomplish. They will debate the future of the movement, in connection with their understanding of the relationship between the Wisconsin uprising and the Occupy movement that came to fore to continue struggle the eight months later...posing the question of what role can Occupy play in catalyzing, and supporting, battles by the trade union movement and working people more generally.

Dan LaBotz was a founding member of the Teamsters for a Democratic Union. He ran for one of Ohio's US Senate seats in 2010 on the Socialist Party ticket. His most recent book is *A Vision from the Heartland: Socialism for the 21st Century* (2010).

Matt Rothschild is the editor of *The Progressive* and writes widely for newspapers and other journals. He is the author of *You Have No Rights: Stories of America in an Age of Repression* (New Press, 2007).

For more information call

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