



ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM

September 22, 2023

World System in the 21st Century: Accumulations, Polarisation versus Multipolarism and Internationalist Alternatives

9:00-9:30: Opening session.

**9:30-10:45: Samir Amin: The organic
Internationalist.**

PRESENTATION: FABRICIO PEREIRA DA SILVA.

**10:50-13:00: From the colonial
experience to the present - Which of the
audacious dreams have come true?
What prospects for future generations?**

SPEAKERS

**Cherif Salif Sy, Abdou Ibro, Patrick Bond,
Aluísio Bevilacqua.**

CHAIR: AZIZ SALMONE FALL.

**14:30-16:45: Challenging present
- Which paths to a different
future?**

SPEAKERS

**Ingar Solty, Justin Theodra, Beatriz
Bissio.**

**CHAIR: MAMDOUH HABASHI AND
MONICA BRUCKMANN.**

**16:50-19:00: Como nós
podemos transformar as
alternativas em realidade?**

SPEAKERS

**Matt Kirkegaard, Dimitris
Konstantakopoulos, Gustave Massiah,
Aziz Salmone Fall, Monica
Bruckmann.**

CHAIR: BEATRIZ BISSIO.

*UTC-03:00 (Brasilia
time).



IFCS: Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

Detailed program below

IWP Academic Symposium
September 22, 2023 Rio de Janeiro

9 am to 7 pm - with a 1 hour break at 1pm

Location: Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

or

For virtual participation to the symposium please click:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8211560724>

ID of meeting: 821 156 0724

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World System in the 21st Century: Accumulations, Polarisation versus multipolarism and Internationalist Alternatives

"In our time, given the destructive power at the disposal of the powers (ecological and military destruction), the risk, denounced by Marx in his time, that the battles will destroy all the camps that confront them, is real. The second way, on the other hand, requires the lucid and organised intervention of the internationalist front of workers and peoples".

This warning by Samir Amin remains relevant today. With the economic crisis, the situation caused by the Covid pandemic, the persistence of wars with cataclysmic risks and the environmental crisis, it is important to take stock of the reshaping of the world system, of our analyses, of its evolution and finally of the possible alternatives and options.

In the wake of historical materialism, this symposium will address re-readings of key paradigms and concepts, to better understand the world system in the 21 st century, global accumulation, the geopolitics of chaos and the possibilities of heterodox development and other internationalist and solidarity- based alternatives for building a multipolar world. Based on historical materialism and the goals of the symposium, the following question is raised:

Can a world internationalist organization or a united front of progressive organizations overcome the infantile divisions of the left and take up the challenge of organizing workers and peoples of the world?

PROGRAM

Morning

9:00 – 9:30 Opening session / Welcome to the delegates

9:30 – 10:45 - **Film: Samir Amin, The organic Internationalist**

Z. Fall, 71 mn. (V.O. Anglais – Français)

*Starting from his quotation, which in turn is a characteristic of Samir Amin's 50 books, the film shows the bold struggles, interviews, speeches and special moments of this most outstanding intellectual of the South.. In the film Samir Amin discusses the political economy of development, capitalism, and imperialism, as well as the resistance of workers and peoples. In addition, the film is structured around the testimonies of: Isabelle Eynard Amin, Francois Houtart, Isabelle del Almeida, Ibrahima Thioub, Isham el Makhlood, Fatou Sow, Cherif Salif Sy, Bernard Founou, Eric Koebe, Florian Rochat, Lau Kin Chi, Rémy Herrera, Yash Tandon, Taoufik ben Abdallah, Ebrima Sall, Gustave Massiah and Aziz Salmone Fall. Samir Amin is, moreover, shown in the company of Mamdouh Habashi, Issa Shivji, Firoze Manji, Krishna Murty Padmanabhan, Sandeep Chachra, Luciana Castellina, Tina Ebro, Pedro Paez, Shahida El Baz, Helmi Shaarawi, Tawhida Shaarawi, Mohamed Nour El Din, Salwa El Antari, Aziz S. Fall, Saad El Taweel, Mary El Taweel and Gabriele Habashi. This bilingual (English-French) cinematic homage is enhanced by some images from the film *The Dispossessed* by Mathieu Roy, as well as several other sequences from around the world that illustrate the film in a poetic way.*

Chair: Fabrizio Pereira da Silva. Professor of Political Science at Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO). Professor of the Master in Latin American Contemporary Studies at Universidad de la República (UdelaR). Postdoc from the Institute of Advanced Studies at the Universidad de Santiago de Chile (IDEA / USACH). Coordinator of South-South Intellectual Network (RISUR).

10:50 – 13:00 - **First session (french, English):**

World System in the 21st Century - From the colonial experience to the present: which of the audacious dreams have come true? What prospects for future generations?

Speakers: Cherif Salif Sy, Abdou Ibro, Patrick Bond, Alusio Bevilaqua

Chair: Mamdouh Habashi, Architect and Civil Engineer, Polit-Bureau Member of the Socialist People's Alliance Party in Egypt, Vice President of the (former) World Forum for Alternatives in Dakar and Board Member of the (former) Arab & African Research Center in Cairo.

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

Afternoon

14:30- 16:45 - **Second session (English Portuguese):**

World System in the 21st Century: Challenging present - Which paths to a different future?

Speakers: Ingar Solty, Justin Theodra, Beatriz Bissio

Chair: Monica Bruckmann, Professor of Political science Federal University of Rio, Post graduate comparative History Co-coordinator of the Hegemonic Transition at CLASCO's Working Group

16:50 - 19:00 - **Third session (French-English):**

World System in the 21st Century: How can we turn the alternatives into reality?

Speakers : Matt Kirkegaard, Dimitris Konstantakopoulos, Gustave Massiah, Aziz Salmone Fall

Chair: Beatriz Bissio

19:00 – 19:30 Closing remarks from the organizers and meeting with Dean and Colleagues



ABOUT THE SPEAKERS AND THEIR PRESENTATIONS:

First Session

1) Abdou Ibro - *The dislocation and exogenous transformation of colonized societies; a prospective loss of state sovereignty?*

The development of the colonies involves a process of dislocation, the exogenous transformation of colonized societies, and the prospective loss of sovereignty of future independent states.

Abdou Ibro, economist, research lecturer at the Institut de stratégie, d'évaluation et de prospective in Niger and specialist in strategic and security foresight.

2) Cherif Salif Sy - *Capitalism and the subjugation of the world's economies: a Marxist reading.*

Marx questioned how to determine whether something is true: "... The question of whether thought outside practice has a reality is a question that concerns only philosophical texts". To grasp Capitalism in practice, as a civilisation and not just as an economic system, system that "culminates in Western democracy and the market".

Chérif Salif Sy, Economic-political scientist, Director of the FTM

3) Patrick Bond - *"Polycrisis seen from below"*

Polycrisis is defined by the World Economic Forum as "a cluster of related global risks with compounding effects," so that standard quasi-synchronised global-to-local crisis-management techniques are not as effective as they were in the past. In South African social struggles, there are seeds of a polycrisis critique and a set of solutions, *from below*, that offer seeds of hope.

Patrick Bond, Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Director of the Centre for Social Change, University of Johannesburg

4) Aluisio Bevilaqua *“Collapse” of the unipolar order hegemonised by the US and the emergence of a new multipolar order*

An indication of a period of deepening of the Organic Crisis of Capital as the leitmotif of the new design of global political power, demanding a cooperative strategy from the progressive and peace forces to avoid human hecatomb. This process does not mean the end of US leadership over the capitalist, a military power as effective as that seen in the countries that inherited the scientific and technological advances of socialism. Brazil, India and South Africa, in a co-operative strategy, can be joined by some of the new members of the BRICS in taking over...

Aluisio Bevilaqua

Political Scientist and Doctor of Education. Senior Associate Researcher at the Centre for Advanced Studies of the Institute for Strategic Studies of the Fluminense Federal University (NEA/INEST-UFF). Founder and Editor of the newspaper Inverta. Founder and President of the Centre for Popular Education and Economic and Social Research (CEPPES), where he has been a researcher and teacher for over 30 years.

Second session:

5) Ingar Solty - *The Ukraine War: Catalyst for a New Bloc Confrontation*

The war in Ukraine is giving birth to a “Renaissance of American Power” and a “New Asymmetrical Trans-Atlanticism” based on a fourfold dependence of a significantly weakened and gradually de-industrializing (North-)Western Europe on the U.S. which severely restricts the EU’s capacities for “strategic autonomy” and limits the EU’s ability to uphold the principles of multilateralism from which especially the export-oriented EU member states, who depend equally on the U.S. and China as export markets, benefited.”

Ingar Solty, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation

6) Justin Theodra - Imperialism, eurocentrism, and historical materialism: Towards an Aminian articulation of the problematic of capitalist modernity

For Samir Amin the problematics of imperialism and eurocentrism are inseparable. Amin 'creolized' the two problematics by incorporating *sociohistorical difference*, *false binaries*, and *superstructural factors* into his theory of imperialism. Despite the *residual methodological internalism* and *subliminal eurofetishism* of Amin's theory, it is an indispensable reference for historical materialist research into capitalist euromodernity.

Justin Theodra, PhD Candidate, University of Connecticut (Political Science).

7) Beatriz Bissio - New role for the Global South: No more unconditional adherence to the Western powers policies.

The most recent events - the Ukraine war, the G20 meetings, the enlargement of the BRICS - have shown that most of the countries that used to make up the Third World prefer non-alignment to uncritical acceptance of the policies of the Western powers.

Beatriz Bissio - Vice-director of the Institute of Philosophy and Social Sciences of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Associate Professor (Postgraduate Programme in Comparative History/Department of Political Science). Editor and later director of *Cadernos do Terceiro Mundo* (Third World magazine).

Third session:

8) Matt Kirkegaard-"Building Popular Power and the Infrastructure of Internationalism in a Multipolar World."

Humanity now faces converging ecological, economic, and geopolitical crises produced by the capitalist world system, yet progressive forces across the globe are more less coordinated than ever before. These crises can only be met by the protagonism of popular and working class Southern movements to deliver a new international framework for sovereign, socialist development. To this end, the Progressive International holds we must necessarily rebuild the internationalist organization required for coordinated action by progressive forces.

Matt Kirkegaard is the political coordinator of the Secretariat of the Progressive International (PI).

9) **Dimitris Konstantakopoulos**

The necessity of a new "transitional program" for a "5th International"

A new "transitional program" to show the way from the present sinking capitalist "civilization" to a new world order which will guarantee the survival and the flourishing of humanity and will lay the basis for uniting the struggles and the needs of the peoples of South, of the West and of the East and also provide us with a comprehensive and inclusive answer to the different problems we are facing (ecological, social, democratic, geopolitical...)

Dimitris Konstantakopoulos,

Journalist, Writer, Editor, DefendDemocracy.Press, former advisor to the Greek PM Andreas Papandreou on East-West relations, former member of the Secretariat of the CC of SYRIZA

10) **Gustave Massiah** - *A strategy of emancipation in response to the alliance between neoliberalism and the extreme right*

Emancipation is driven by the radicalism of social movements. We need to work towards a common project, a renewed utopia of emancipation, a new internationalism. Everything needs to be built: a theoretical and philosophical approach, a vision of society, a mobilising narrative, a strategy and a plan of action, a mobilising narrative, a strategy, and alliances.

Gustave Massiah, *engineer and economist, founding member of CEDETIM, former president of CRID, former vice-president of ATTAC and of the International Council of the World Social Forum.*

11) **Aziz Salmone Fall** - *The world system in the 21st century: resilience and response to the challenge*

The world system, analyzed from a non-Eurocentric viewpoint to historicize its dialectically contradictory evolution/involution, illustrates that it reproduces itself through a megalot-ensemble. The response must be *transinternationalism*,

a bolder formula for adapting internationalism to the new economic, ecological, cultural, geopolitical and gender physiognomies imposed by globalized capitalist expansion.

Aziz Salmone Fall is a political scientist, President of the CIRFA Internationalist Center and coordinator of the International Campaign Justice for Sankara.