

MARXISM AND EDUCATION

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This series assumes the ongoing relevance of Marx's contributions to critical social analysis and aims to encourage continuation of the development of the legacy of Marxist traditions in and for education. The remit for the substantive focus of scholarship and analysis appearing in the series extends from the global to the local in relation to dynamics of capitalism and encompasses historical and contemporary developments in political economy of education as well as forms of critique and resistances to capitalist social relations. The series announces a new beginning and proceeds in a spirit of openness and dialogue within and between Marxism and education, and between Marxism and its various critics. The essential feature of the work of the series is that Marxism and Marxist frameworks are to be taken seriously, not as formulaic knowledge and unassailable methodology but critically as inspirational resources for renewal of research and understanding, and as support for action in and upon structures and processes of education and their relations to society. The series is dedicated to the realization of positive human potentialities as education and thus, with Marx, to our education as educators.

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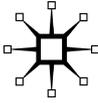
Marxism and Education: Renewing the Dialogue, Pedagogy, and Culture

Edited by Peter E. Jones

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Contents

<i>Series Editor's Foreword</i>	vii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	ix

Introduction and Overview: Marxism and Education—Dialogues on Pedagogy and Culture <i>Peter E. Jones</i>	1
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Part I Marxism and Culture: Educational Perspectives

1 Culture, Class, and Curriculum: A Reflective Essay <i>Terry Wrigley</i>	11
2 Learning to Labor with Feeling: Class, Gender, and Emotion in Childcare Education and Training <i>Helen Colley</i>	39
3 “For a People’s Clydebank”: Learning the Ethic of Solidarity amidst the Wreckage of Neoliberalism in Contemporary Scotland <i>Chik Collins</i>	65

Part II Marxism and the Culture of Educational Practice

4 Learning the Feeling Rules: Exploring Hochschild’s Thesis on the Alienating Experience of Emotional Labor <i>Paul Brook</i>	89
5 Adult Education and the “Matter” of Consciousness in Marxist-Feminism <i>Sara Carpenter and Shabrzaad Mojab</i>	117

- 6 A Little Night Reading: Marx, Assessment, and the Professional Doctorate in Education 141
Victoria Perselli

**Part III Marxism and Education:
Advancing Theory**

- 7 From Relational Ontology to Transformative Activist Stance on Development and Learning: Expanding Vygotsky's (CHAT) Project 165
Anna Stetsenko
- 8 Activity, Activity Theory, and the Marxian Legacy 193
Peter E. Jones
- 9 Critical Pedagogy as Revolutionary Practice 215
Peter McLaren
- Notes on Contributors* 235
- Name Index* 237
- Subject Index* 241

Series Editor's Foreword

This volume is a most welcome addition to the Marxism and Education Series. It constitutes a collection of analyses reflecting the ongoing significance of Marxist historical materialist praxis of critical analysis while articulating the socialist pedagogic project of social and economic transformation. As the third volume in the Series to directly emerge from our ongoing seminar activities under the banner *Marxism and Education Renewing Dialogues* (MERD) and standing alongside other current and forthcoming books in the Series emergent from beyond MERD, it attests to the energy and significance of Marxist antihegemonic dialectical analysis in and around culture and education most widely conceived. The aim has been to work on and for transformative classed identity formation mindful of and articulating with all manner of social segmentation, collective memory, renewal, and affirmation in transformation. The work in this volume also attests to the capacity of capitalism to constantly demonstrate both its own deep contradictions and the ways it throws up opportunities for critical analysis, mobilization, and recognition of the ongoing need to conduct struggle in and through cultural dimensions of the social. Most significantly, Peter Jones and each of the contributors demonstrate, sometimes in dialogue and debate with one another, the powers of taking Marx and Marxism seriously across all dimensions of social methodology, theory, and social practices in order to address the huge problems and issues crowding in, onto, and directly inhibiting human possibilities. These operate at the global, national, regional, and local levels, and not least the personal, too, as commodification and class forms reach all dimensions of collectivity and individuality in our living and productive working. Overall, this approach within Marxism recognizes the emergent nature of social relational forms, their ontological depth, and the ever-present need to be wary of the foreshortening effects of undialectical abstraction and reifying practices.

The time is always right for critical activity and engagement in the breaking wave of the present, the situations always already structured by circumstances we cannot choose, for taking up what amount to complex challenges for socialist renewal. The ongoing question concerns the mechanisms structuring the circumstances of struggles and transformations. This book provides a richness of disciplined intellectual production, inspiring description, analysis, and observations in support of positive energy required for progressive transformation by demonstrating that critique of political economy, ideology critique, and immanent critique continue to be articulated and renewed through vigorous and reflexive Marxist scholarship, organization, and activist struggles to address the capitalist mode of production. This is so in vital respects, not only as dogged and realistic productive resistance and critique but also as and in pleasure and fun, too. Ambiguity, ambivalence, and irony, like the cultural forms of humor, comedy, and satire, may be deployed, following Marx's example, as productive resources, when addressing the real. They are commodifiable too, no doubt, but are also vital cultural contexts for dereification and potential devices for struggling in and for progressive class consciousness against alienation and all manner of symbolic violence. The times seem propitious once more for renewing our struggles and this book assembles wisdom and reasoned evidence aplenty for debating, analyzing, and actively challenging the value form of commodified labor power in the specific relations of the capitalist mode of production. The book is itself constitutive of educating the educators, ourselves in struggle, in consciousness, in collaborative action, dialogically working to collectively realize social justice and the fullness of human creative potential.

ANTHONY GREEN
December 2010

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