
GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure a clear, standard format for submissions. Please follow all guidelines as closely as possible.

Marxism & Sciences is an open access journal. Publication of articles/essays and access to accepted and published material is free. The journal does not charge any article/essay submission, processing or publication fees. We have no budget for proof-readers or type-setters. These tasks are therefore the responsibility of the authors.

The basic descriptions and principles about the content of submissions are formally presented here. However, the priority of the journal is to achieve its aims collectively in collaboration with editors, editorial and advisory boards, authors and readers.

Marxism & Sciences accepts submissions only on the condition of contributing to Marxist conception of totality, materialist conception of history and/or materialist dialectics. Submissions satisfying this condition could be on any topic from any branch of sciences. The journal especially promotes submissions which are written collaboratively by more than one author from different and/or remote disciplines, or cover more than one discipline if written by a single author.

Marxism & Sciences welcomes any contribution that falls within the domain of its aims and scope. However, the journal especially encourages submissions with following four qualifications:

- *Class struggles*: Studies covering class struggles in nature, culture, and/or society.
- *Geographical prevalence*: Studies from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe as well as Western Europe and North America.
- *Gender equality*: Studies by non-male authors and/or from Marxist and socialist feminist perspective.
- *Marxist ecology*: Studies which considers human as part of nature, not superior to it.

Each issue of the journal is published based on a specific topic announced publicly at the web page through the Call for Papers (CFP). Submissions on other topics are also welcome.

Marxism & Sciences welcomes a wide spectrum of academic writing styles from articles at one end to essays at the other. *Marxism & Sciences* also welcomes cultural works in fields of arts or traditional and popular culture particularly those related to the specific topic of each issue.

Below are the types of submissions accepted by *Marxism & Sciences*:

- **Articles** (5000-10000 words): Articles are original scholarly manuscripts that contribute to any field of research.
- **Essays** (5000-1000 words): Essays are original contributions with more personal, intuitive and introspective style and do not necessarily have to build on a comprehensive literature review and/or extensive research, unlike scholarly articles. Essays are expected to include critical reflections or political interventions into the past or actual natural/cultural/social issues and/or old or ongoing scholarly and intellectual discussions.
- **Review articles** (6000-12000 words): Critical review of the state-of-art of any topic or any discipline(s).
- **Cultural works** (max. 1200 words of texts or max. 1 GB of audio/visual material): Poem, play, story, music, short film, documentary, video, photographs, graphics design, painting, sculpture etc.
- **Communication** (1500-7000 words): Responses to previously published articles/essays or cultural works in the journal, or actual disciplinary discussions on Marxism, or brief political reviews from Marxist perspectives, or reports about planned or ongoing Marxist projects by scholars and/or activists. This category is intended to foster discussion, exchange, coordinate collaborations and international cooperation, Intention, standpoint, context, addressees and aims should become clear from the texts. Connections to knowledge, research and development are very welcome. Submissions under this category are not peer-reviewed but evaluated by the editors.
- **Translations** (6000-12000 words): Works either with an historical or actual significance written and published in languages other than English.
- **Interviews** (1500-3000 words): Interviews with leading Marxist scholars in any discipline.
- **Book, film, music recording, exhibition and performance arts reviews** (1000-2000 words)
- **Conference and symposium reviews** (1000-2000 words)
- **Letters to editors** (500-1000 words): Short communication on any topic that attracts the attention of the readers.

Open Peer Commentary (OPC): *Marxism & Sciences* may choose an accepted manuscript for an OPC process. The process begins once the approval of the author(s) is acquired.

Academic quality: Please consider originality, theoretical and practical significance, and methodological rigor, referring to the usual standards within your specific discipline or subdiscipline.

Confidentiality, responsibility and ownership: All documents considered during the review procedure are confidential. Statements and opinions expressed in published submissions are those of the author(s). All work in this journal is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial 4.0 International License. Copyright for articles published in this journal is retained by the authors, with first publication rights granted to the journal. By virtue of their appearance in this open access journal, articles are free to use, with proper attribution, in educational and other non-commercial settings.

Academic property issues: Submissions must be original and unique. They may not be already published in the same or similar form (in print or electronically, including on a web site), in any language, or accepted or under consideration for publication elsewhere. Papers published in *Marxism & Sciences* may not be published elsewhere in any language without the permission of *Marxism & Sciences*.

MARXISM IN THE AGE OF TOTAL CRISIS: DEFINITIONS, PRODUCTIONS, AND FUNCTIONS

It is said that we live in an era of “total crisis.” Not only on a cultural, but social, economic, ecological level the term seems ubiquitously used with ever more urgency and on a global scale. In this respect the term crisis today seems to replace the concept of history as a concrete generality in a generic singular form of multi-temporalities.

The ongoing “total crisis” seems to be a multifaceted totality; the multitude of crises humanity experiences are forms of existence of the crisis-ridden essence of capitalism.

The global economic stagnation, “negative economic growth,” the rise of poverty and the widening of the gap between the rich and the poor, high inflation, which allegedly has been caused by the pandemic, are evidence for the capitalist economy that follows its contradictory inner structure.

What is the Marxist answer to that anamnesis? The observed phenomena are certainly real, as can be seen on political (crisis of state, new authoritarianism), social (crises of labour, community and society), and ecological (climate change, et al.) levels.

However, we need to remember that about 100 years ago the crisis narrative was used almost exclusively by Marxist scholars, like e.g. Henryk Grossmann, in their analysis of capitalist economy. At this time the “function of crisis” was to point to structural issues in world economy. In this way Grossmann predicted the breakdown of the financial market in 1929 (“Black Friday”).

While the function of crisis at the time was clearly critical, the situation today is more complex. It seems that the concept of crisis has different functions, which also pertain to politico-economic ideas adapting to the analysis of a “permanent crisis.” Politicians use the term to explain their actions in terms of states of emergency – a concept which was famously used by the right-wing legal scholar Carl Schmitt in his description of the political possibilities of fascism. Thus, using the concept of crisis nowadays, means to address its particular function in a specific context.

This also pertains to the sciences and the ideal of science which encompasses all kinds of organized attempts of knowledge making. If the institutions of knowledge production and mediation are indeed in a crisis the consequences of the deep ruptures in collective praxis become graspable.

In this respect, a Marxist approach cannot remain just negative as a mere critique in face of the commodification of knowledge and manipulation of feelings and consciousness. Rather, the task is to seize the means of production even on the level of mental labour and iconic engineering. In this way the possibilities of a common use and a social orientation of the sciences, technology and all kinds of collective praxis can be opened up beyond extractivist exploitation and for the common good.

The aforementioned poses significant theoretical and political challenges and urgently calls for a Marxist response putting forth an encompassing view and methods to guide both theoretical analysis and political action. To that end we have to explicate the role of knowledge and the sciences as expression of the present societal context as well as tools for change. Not only do we have to analyze the mechanisms of how we reached the above-mentioned crises, but even more important is to try and define ways to break out of the current hegemony of capitalism.

We invite contributions that facilitate approaching the crises in a systematic way and analyzing them as forms of manifestation of the “total (capitalist) crisis” with the function of the concept of crisis in view.

We particularly encourage the participants of the First Symposium of Marxism & Sciences, which was held in September 2024 in Izmir to submit their full papers to be considered for publication in this issue. The themes to be addressed are, but not limited to:

- The function of a critical concept of crisis, the reification or hypostatization of crisis
- The crises of knowledge society, incl. the crises of academia and its relation to capitalization of sciences and commodification of knowledge
- The crisis of knowledge viz. global digitalization (AI and the crisis of mental labour)
- Environmental crisis and climate change
- The capitalist mode of production in/as crisis (“extractivism”) and the capitalist nation state in/as crisis
- The connections of flows of people (“refugee crisis”) and money (“global finance”)
- Forms of class struggle in the face of total crisis, (self-)organization of people, including the decline of trade-unions and traditional political parties
- The crisis of radical left politics and the rise of identity politics
- The rise of fascist politics and social movements of fear (of poverty, ‘the other’ etc.).
- The crisis of feminism and gender-based oppression in late capitalism
- Issues with non-Marxist responses to the crisis, e.g., new materialism, post-humanism, etc.
- The role of music, film, theater, and literature as expression of crisis and resistance.
- Alternative conceptions of crisis and their critique, e.g., anthropocene, capitalocene, etc.

NOTE

Your submission may be in the form of articles, essays, communications, cultural works and creative writing for our winter 2025 collaborative issue. Detailed CFPs for both issues will be published and circulated in due time.

Please submit your manuscripts prepared for blind review with a separate title page that includes the title of your submission, affiliation and contact information to marxismand-sciences[at]gmail.com. We also suggest the “online first” publication option for the manuscripts that are submitted, reviewed, and accepted earlier than the deadline.

DEADLINE
15 AUGUST 2024

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