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EDITORIAL

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## The Foundations of *Marxism & Sciences*

In this Issue, published with the theme on the “Foundations of Marxism,” I would like to take this chance to briefly explain the foundations of our own journal here. Of course, this would also include some recent developments about the journal and, some remarks on the theme and the background of this issue. All these topics are closely related since they are all somehow part of the ongoing process in building the foundations of *M&S*.

Although we are glad to be able to publish the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue of *M&S*, there is no doubt that we are still in infancy considering the ambitious aim of the journal: “[. . .] contribute to rebuilding the Marxist conception of totality [. . .] in order to encompass the entirety of intellectual domain and thus merging class struggles in nature, culture and society again, as once developed by Marx and Engels.”

However, the growing interest and support to the journal since the first issue is promising. *M&S* became a partner with Marxism and Science & Technology (MST) research programme of SOC21<sup>1</sup> (*Socialisme in de 21<sup>e</sup> eeuw*, Socialism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century) in May. As a result of this collaboration, MST launched a donation campaign to support the journal and thus we are able to register DOI and corresponding CrossRef for each contribution published in the journal. We are grateful for this support to SOC21 and those who donated, so far. Since *M&S* is an open access journal and operates with very limited resources, any amount of donation is vital for its survival.

Recently, *Monthly Review* (MR) offered to publish an advertorial of *M&S* to announce the debut of the journal and its first issue. The advertorial of *M&S* will be published in September issue of *MR*. We are also grateful to *MR* and its editor, John Bellamy Foster, who expresses his support to the

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1. <https://soc21.nl/alle-activiteiten/marxism-and-science-technology/>

journal from the start. The readers will also see an advertorial of *MR* in the pages of this issue.

Furthermore, we have now left two issues behind which already brought together Marxists from natural sciences, humanities and social sciences sharing and contributing to the same goal.

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One of the colleagues recently asked some questions about the journal upon our invitation to the Editorial Board: “Could you please first let me know how the team met? It is such a broad group of people from all kinds of places, I wonder what brought you together, what is the common frame?” I replied to the colleague mainly by addressing relevant sources published at the web site<sup>2</sup> and previous editorial.<sup>3</sup>

However, these questions require us to get into some further details of the whole process which was not shared publicly before; from the 1<sup>st</sup> *Marxist Inquiries on Science* symposium where the idea of publishing a journal on Marxism and science first proposed in September 2012 in İzmir to the first meeting which Alper Dizdar, Siyaveş Azeri and the author met face to face for publishing a journal at the *School of Marxism and Sciences* in September 2019 and then from those days to up today. We were all living in different cities and countries, and soon COVID-19 pandemic emerged. Therefore, I guess we have never met face to face again after that first meeting. However, we regularly met at monthly online meetings to discuss theoretical and practical issues about the journal. Soon after, Mesut Yıldız joined the team and we all together organized the *School of Marxism and Sciences-2020* online in December. Melda Yaman joined us after the *School* and we continued to meet monthly online. Eventually, we announced the launch of the journal in March 2021 and Cenk Saraçoğlu joined us after a short time.

Considering the ambitious aim of the journal it was natural to find colleagues from a wide geography and with diverse disciplinary backgrounds who were eager to take part in this collective work. We are grateful to those colleagues who accepted to join this collective, so far.

Two members of the Editorial Board, closely interested in contributing to the journal, joined as editors after the publication of the 1<sup>st</sup> issue; Joost Kircz as natural sciences editor and Sascha Freyberg as humanities editor.

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2. <https://marxismandsciences.org/history/>

3. [https://marxismandsciences.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/MS\\_editorial.pdf](https://marxismandsciences.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/MS_editorial.pdf)

Our emailings ended up with a close comradeship—a comradeship among whom have never met face-to-face before. We owe much to Joost and Sascha for their invaluable contributions to the journal.

We are glad to announce that recently several colleagues joined the boards of the journal. Engin Delice who was among the contributors and organisers of the symposium *Marxist Inquiries on Science* and the *School of Marxism and Sciences* since 2013, joined the Editorial Board. Cristoph Henning, whom we also interviewed in this issue, joined the Editorial Board. We thank both for taking part in this initiative.

Recently, many Marxist colleagues joined the Advisory Board from distant geographies with backgrounds in natural sciences, humanities and social sciences. We are proud to announce their names, Ezequiel A. Di Paolo, Adrian Johnston, Marcel van der Linden, Pepijn Brandon and Lenny Moss. We would like to thank them again for accepting our invitations.

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We have already three articles ready for publication in the next issue *M&S* 2(1)-Winter 2023 with the theme ‘The Foundations of Marxism-II: Ilyenkuvian Contributions.’ The CFP, announced few weeks ago and the titles of three articles in press are published at the back cover. Secondly, we are working on another CFP for *M&S* 2(2)-Summer 2023 issue with the theme ‘Radical Science Movements’ which will be announced soon. Finally, we also recently started to discuss 1<sup>st</sup> issue of 2024, *M&S* 3(1).

These developments mean that hard days of publishing a new journal is about to over. Thus, we hope to find a chance to organize much larger meetings at which all editorial collective members could meet both face-to-face and online. Although, we could not held one due to the rushings of first year of the journal, holding such annual meetings were among our main goals, as expressed at the last sentence of ‘About us’ web page<sup>4</sup>: “We call upon all comrades around the world for contributing to the journal, *the symposium* and *the school of Marxism & Sciences* for achieving [its] goal.”

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Unfortunately, we have some bad news, as well. İlker İsaetli (1982–2022), an amazing musician and one of the first issue's contributors, passed away very young, only at his forty, a few months after its publication. During the battle with his illness, he contributed to the 1<sup>st</sup> issue with

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4. <https://marxismandsciences.org/about/>

an essay and a wonderful recording of his electric bass improvisations, on Engels' amateur composition exercises.

He was one of the members of the brass band, *Bando Sol*, which we performed together at political meetings and concerts in İzmir and İstanbul during early 2010s. When he joined the group, we asked him to play guitar; he was such a committed communist militant that he never told us that he was a bass player until we needed one. Comrade İlker was also the only professional musician in the group; thus, he composed many songs and wrote their musical arrangements. 'Don't Bown Down'<sup>5</sup> and 'The Bulb and the Hammer'<sup>6</sup> were two of such songs. I would like to share one of the video recordings of İlker while performing 'Bella Ciao'<sup>7</sup> in *Bando Sol* in memoriam.

Unfortunately, we lost one of our close comrades Metin Çulhaoğlu, few weeks ago, one of the few leading Marxist theoreticians in Turkey.

Çulhaoğlu had not only politically and theoretically but also practically impacted the historical background of the journal. Alper, Cenk and I, as the members of the editorial committee of this journal, were all in our early twenties when we first met him, started to read his articles and books, and joined the class struggle via same political organizations. He clearly shaped our political and theoretical development and thinking. His funeral strongly demonstrated that he was also beloved by great majority of socialist and communist comrades in Turkey.

As I wrote in the editorial of the 1<sup>st</sup> issue, he also contributed to the organization of the symposium *Marxist Inquiries on Science* and the *School of Marxism and Sciences* from the start in 2012. He gave talks in these symposiums and schools and his presentations were published in the books prepared based on these symposiums. He was also a member of the advisory board at the symposium and school.

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Since Cenk Saraçoğlu presented the issue in detail in the Introduction, I would like to share only some details of cultural works: Four works published in this issue are especially related to one of the theme, the

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5. . 'Don't Bown Down':

<https://soundcloud.com/ali-cenk-gedik/01-bando-sol-45lik-boyun-egme>

6. 'The Bulb and the Hammer':

<https://soundcloud.com/ali-cenk-gedik/02-bando-sol-45lik-ampul-ve>

7. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhArscfEYIY>

revolutionary vision of Marxism. These four separate works, a digital photograph manipulation, a poem and two musical compositions with accompanying videos, in total, converges the past and the future in present time for the revolutionary vision of Marxism.

‘Marx: A Nineteenth Century Ghost’ by Engin Ümer is a digital manipulation of a photograph of Marx. The ‘ghost’ at the title of the work not only represents Marx, as a ghost still haunting the World, today but also the first sentence of his masterwork written with Engels, *Communist Manifesto*, as communism haunting Europe. Engin Ümer discusses his work in the accompanying short essay.

‘In the Name of the Comradeship of the Cosmos’ (*Kosmosun Kardeşliği Adına*) by Turkish communist poet, Nazım Hikmet (1902–1963) tells the first encounter of a human messenger, representing an united communist World with an intelligent extraterrestrial life on one of the stars, in the future. Thanks to Mehmet Şahin and Jonathan M. Ross for the translation of the poem in English, for the first time.

‘Cosmic’ composed by Ömer Er in 2005 is a musical piece performed by syhnthesizers and electro-violin. *Çapuleyşin Müzik Orkestra* founded by Ömer Er and the author for performing music at street demonstrations during Gezi Park Uprising in 2013 in Turkey, published the music with a new title, ‘In the Name of the Comradeship of the Cosmos,’ on Youtube. The accompanying video was edited by Volkan Mutlu and the poem of Nazım Hikmet was dubbed by actor Metin Coşkun by the support of Nâzım Hikmet Cultural Center (NHKM), İstanbul. Volkan Mutlu also recorded the video during the Uprising, showing the daily ‘commune’ life at Gezi Park, Istanbul in June 2013. Musical notation of the work, a short essay of the composer and the music video with English subtitles are published in this issue.

The Gezi Park Uprising was started on May 28, 2013, as an act of protecting the trees of the Gezi Park near Taksim Square, Istanbul, that were to be chopped for rebuilding an historical Ottoman structure. Around ten million people attended the demonstrations against the government in all major cities of Turkey until the end of August.

*Boyun Eğmeyenler* (The Ones Who Don’t Bow Down) is a song by Yiğit Özatalay whom both wrote the lyrics and composed the music during the Gezi Park Uprising. The phrase, ‘Don’t Bow Down’ at the name of the song was one of the popular slogans of the demonstrations and the lyrics clearly represents the revolutionary days of the Uprising. Musical notation of the

song, a short essay of the composer and the music video with English subtitles are published in this issue. One of the music video recorded and edited by Nâzım Hikmet Cultural Center (NHKM), shows the vocal performances of leading actors such as Genco Erkal and Tülay Günal, as well as leading rock singers and guitarists such as Nejat Yavaşoğulları and Akın Eldes, leading jazz singers such as Sibel Köse, leading folk and popular music singers such as Emin İgüs and Burhan Şeşen.

Finally, we would like to thank all authors and anonymous reviewers for their contributions and collaboration throughout the publication of this issue. Any comments and criticisms are welcome, as usual.

ACG.