

M&S and Ilyenkovian Contributions

The theme of this issue, “Foundations of Marxism-II: Ilyenkovian Contributions,” in our view, signifies two crucial aspects: first, the foundations of Marxism are so crucial that the need to extend it to a series covering more than one issue arises, and second, contributions of Ilyenkov are both loyal to those foundations and vital in terms of further clarification and deepening our understanding in certain respects. In particular, Ilyenkov’s contributions to Marxist thought not only provide a key to the solution of the problematic relation between the material and the ideal, but also resolve the dualities which dominates sciences and humanities such as nature vs. culture, mind vs. body and universalism vs. particularism. Consequently, both the foundations of Marxism and Ilyenkovian contributions are fundamental for *M&S* considering its aim of “rebuilding the Marxist conception of totality.”

We are not in search of another theoretical orthodoxy which try to invent new idols within Marxism and thus give up critical approaches. Although, this issue is not focused on a critical evaluation of Ilyenkov, in my view, it could be very briefly argued that the mediation of class struggle within the theoretical framework of Ilyenkov is not clear.

I use this occasion to announce that the present issue will not be the only one devoted to Ilyenkov. *International Friends of Ilyenkov* (IFI) held a hybrid symposium with the theme, “Ilyenkov’s Philosophy of Development: Futures & Ideals” in London, on November, 11–12, 2022. Participants from a wide geographical range from France, Russia, Sweden, Ukraine, Peru, Australia to Portugal, Turkey, Cuba and the UK presented and discussed a large number of topics such as the transmigration of the *ideal*; the concept of personality; the dialectics of the *ideal* and the material in music; logic, history, and the germ cell; and Evald Ilyenkov vs Slavoj Žižek.¹

1. <https://ilyenkovfriends.org/symposium-ifi-2022/#Presenters>

I was fortunate to take part in such a symposium and thanks to the organization committee, Corinna Lotz, Kyrill Popatov and Sascha Freyberg, we decided to collaborate for the winter 2024 issue of *M&S* dedicated in its entirety to Evald Ilyenkov on his centenary. We hope to be able to announce the CFP for that issue very soon. I contend that such a comprehensive issue devoted to Ilyenkov will and should include critical approaches to his ideas as well.

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As mentioned in the *Editorial* of the previous issue, our hope to organize face-to-face meetings is becoming a reality. We had already stated that the *Marxism & Science* not only would be the title of the journal, but also of a symposium series and a school. I am glad to announce that *M&S* is going to hold its first symposium, *Marxism & Sciences 2023*, with the theme, “Marxism in the Age of the Total Crisis” on September 14–17, 2023 at *Bilimler Köyü* (The Village of Sciences) in Foça, İzmir, Turkey. Call for contributions is published at the back cover of this issue. We are also planning to publish the summer 2024 issue of the journal based on the papers presented at this symposium.

Meanwhile, we have already announced CFP for “Radical Science Movements” which will be the theme of the summer 2023 issue; I should also add that we have received more submissions than we expected. Editors of that issue, Sascha Feyberg and Gerardo Ienna, are running the evaluation process of the submissions.

I would like to present our new *comreditors*—an abbr. for ‘comrade editors’ invented by Sascha Freyberg and quickly embraced—who have joined the *M&S* recently. Since the start, the *M&S* has had editors active in the spheres of natural, human and social sciences, however, it did not have cultural sciences editors. We invited Jarek Paul Ervin who has a background in musicology and social theory from Philadelphia, as a cultural science editor after receiving his impressive submission that is published in this issue. We also invited Giuliano Vivaldi, whose specialization is film studies and cultural and intellectual history from Riomaggiore and Brighton, and Ariana Dongus, a specialist in media and cultural studies and critical artificial intelligence studies from Berlin as cultural sciences editors. In addition to those, we invited Gerardo Ienna, whose areas of specialization are history of science, philosophy of science, and science and technology studies from Verona and Washington as a social sciences editor

and Bryan Parkhurst, a music theorist and philosopher from Ohio, as an human sciences editor.

In addition to the aforementioned, *comreditor* Sascha Freyberg has started to act as the associate editor-in-chief and we have shared workload among us for the editorship of interviews and reviews sections, and language editing, thanks to the native English speaker *comreditors* joined the *M&S* recently.

This renewal is only a part of the reconstruction process of *M&S*. I would like to share our future plans for a similar reconstruction of the editorial board, certain revisions of guidelines and addition of new submission types. We are targeting a collective working of *M&S* actively by such a reconstruction. We aim for a collectivity where each member not only shares the daily workload of *M&S*, as is the case in academic journals, but also acts as a partner of the research programme/project of *M&S* by participating in the discussions and decision-making processes, submitting manuscripts that contribute to the aims of *M&S* relevant to their own discipline and establishing links and collaborations with societies, symposiums/conferences, journals and web sites related to her/his disciplines.

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Since *comeditor* Siyaveş Azeri presented the contributions of this issue in detail at the last part of his comprehensive and groundbreaking Introduction, I would like to mention only few distinctive points. We are proud to announce that Vladislav Lektrosky whose interview is published in this issue, joined our Advisory Board. I was fortunate to have the chance to watch his presentation at the IFI 2022. He started his short online presentation² by sharing his memories of collaborating with Ilyenkov in 1954 when he began to work as his assistant. We are also proud to publish a contribution by Alexander Surmava, who met Ilyenkov in 1971 and participated in the organization of his seminars on dialectical logic in 1975 until his death in 1979. It is not less important that this issue includes a contribution by Corinna Lotz who leads the IFI and contributes to an international revival of Ilyenkov's ideas. Finally, the contribution of Dennis Schnieber presents a review of a performance about Ilyenkov, staged in Berlin last year. The review of Schnieber presents *ExHuman—The Post-Apocalyptic Late Night Show with Evald Ilyenkov (1924-1979)*, conceptualized and

2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u170f3CVmkQ>

performed by Sascha Freyberg and Stefan Paul Trzeciok, with ethnographic details, including photographs from the performance and video clips and music recordings which could be also watched and listened via the provided links.

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Marxism & Sciences is based in Turkey, however, in compliance with the aims and scope of the journal, we are striving to expand the geographical prevalence of *M&S* with the aim of including colleagues and comrades from all continents and countries. Nevertheless, I should add that the *M&S* has been effected by the events and happenings in the country of its base.

Particularly, the recent earthquake in Turkey has hurt our comrades here deep in the heart, if not physically. Many cities at southern and central regions collapsed by two consecutive earthquakes in 7.8 M_w and 7.7 M_w in February 6, resulting tens of thousands death (the official toll to this day is roughly 40000 with many more still under the debris). Despite the Islamo-facist regime policy of suppressing civil society organizations and banning the social media even in the time of disaster, the past two weeks after the earthquake, has been the scene of social solidarity in Turkey, where any substantial state support for those affected by the earthquakes is missing. I am grateful from colleagues and comrades who asked our health, particularly Sahotra Sarkar, Stuart Newman, Lenny Moss and Zeyad El Nabolsy.

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I would like to invite our contributors and readers to our first symposium *Marxism & Sciences 2023* to be held in a small village in September in İzmir.

Last words are for all authors and anonymous reviewers for their contributions and collaboration throughout the publication of this issue. As usual, we welcome any comments and/or criticisms from all comrades including manual and intellectual workers, academics, and university students.

ACG.