



Ross, E. W. (2018). A short note on activism, solidarity and scholarly publishing. *Workplace*, 30, i-iv.

E. WAYNE ROSS

A SHORT NOTE ON ACTIVISM, SOLIDARITY, AND SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING

Workplace: A Journal for Academic Labor was one of the earliest online, open access scholarly journals to appear on the internet. Created by current and former members of the Graduate Student Caucus of the Modern Language Association in 1998, *Workplace* has evolved over the years, but remained true to its mission, which is critical analysis of higher education institutions and promoting dignity and integrity in academic work. *Workplace* is now the longest standing journal devoted to critical university studies.

In his Foreword to the first issue of *Workplace*, “The Institution as False Horizon,” Marc Bousquet wrote:

... faculty in the mid-20th century *created* the expectation of a just workplace for higher education teachers, even at the instructor and tutor level. Everything we associate with the professoriate—the aforementioned living wage, academic freedom, support for research, democratic classrooms, faculty governance and so on—were first imagined and then achieved by a united activist faculty. We’ve inherited those expectations, but not the habits of organization and social action that made them a reality. And the concrete utopia of an earlier academy is slipping away.

Workplace was founded on the premise that activism is central to creating and promoting dignity and integrity in academic work. To quote from Bousquet again, “activism, which is after all nothing more than constructive engagement with power at the present time—is a necessary precondition for doing really good work.”

When I joined Marc at the University of Louisville in the early 2000s, I soon became involved with *Workplace*, editing an issue on “Building a K-16 Movement.” A few years later Marc tricked me into coming on as an editor. In the mid-2000s, *Workplace* nearly went under when the administrators at the University of Louisville suddenly and without warning shut down the journal by instructing IT to take the journal offline. The journal was in limbo for many months and only survived because my colleague and current *Workplace* co-editor, Stephen Petrina, stepped in and led the transition of *Workplace* to the Open Journal Systems platform. This journal has survived because of scholar-activists who study, research, and write the articles

published here as well as all those who donate their labor to build and rebuild a platform that strives to support the creation of a just workplace for academic labor.

It is in this spirit, that *Workplace* presents this special issue on “Scholactivism,” which is edited by Joseph G. Ramsey and originated as a collaboration between the journals *Works & Days* and *Cultural Logic*.

The origin story of *Cultural Logic* is similar to *Workplace*. It was founded a year earlier by members of the Radical Caucus and Marxist Literary Group, both affiliate groups of the MLA. The editorial collectives of the both journals overlap and of course, the journals share values and academic interests, with *Cultural Logic* devoted to studies, reviews, and poetry related to Marxist theory and practice.

Cultural Logic is currently in precarious situation of its own. From its inception the journal has been hosted on the English Server (eserver.org), along with many other digital humanities journals that are truly open access. However, in the fall of 2017, Iowa State University officials shut down the eserver, leaving many journals and websites and tens of thousands of articles in limbo. The eserver is now in transition to a new platform, but the timeline for *Cultural Logic* to be accessible again is at the moment unknown.

Just days before the eserver was shut down, “Scholactivism” had been published online as a triple issue of *Cultural Logic* (Volumes 2015-2017, Whole Number 22). The issue is one of a series of collaborations between the print-based journal *Works & Days* and *Cultural Logic*. After months of uncertainty for *Cultural Logic*, *Workplace* is proud to be able to step in as the online platform for “Scholactivism.” The issue will be re-published by *Cultural Logic* when the journal is back online.

“Scholactivism” is the third collaboration between *Cultural Logic* and *Works & Days*. Previous co-published issues include [“Education for Revolution”](#) (*Cultural Logic*, Volume 2013, Whole Number 20) and [“Culture and Crisis”](#) (*Cultural Logic*, Volume 2010, Whole Number 17), the latter of which was also edited by Joseph G. Ramsey.

The editors of *Cultural Logic* are indebted to David B. Downing and his staff at *Works & Days* for their tremendous work on the print version of this issue as well as previous collaborations. I also encourage you to support *Works & Days* by [subscribing](#). This version of the issue contains revisions from its originally published form.

Cultural Logic editors also thank Jabrib Rahman for his invaluable assistance and Linda Liu for her editorial assistance preparing this special issue of the journal.

Workplace: A Journal for Academic Labor, 2018, #30
ISSN 1715-0094 [Online Edition]

Cultural Logic, 2015-2017 (Whole Number 22)
ISSN 1097-3087 [Online Edition]

Works and Days, 2016-2017, 65/66, 67/68, Vols. 33 & 34
ISSN 0886-2060 [Print Edition]

Scholactivism: Reflections on Transforming Praxis in and Beyond the Classroom
Edited by Joseph G. Ramsey

Workplace: A Journal for Academic Labor
Editors: Stephen Petrina, E. Wayne Ross

Cultural Logic
Editors: Rich Gibson, Martha Gimenez, Gregory Meyerson, James Neilson, Joseph G. Ramsey,
E. Wayne Ross, David Siar
Editorial Assistants: Linda Liu, Jarib Rahman

Works & Days
Editor: David B. Downing
Editorial Assistants: Peter Faziani, Matthew Stumpf

Scholactivism front cover graphic design by Edward J. Carvalho
Cultural Logic original design by Denise Mitchinson

Editorial Policies

Workplace: A Journal for Academic Labor, is a refereed, open access journal published by the Institute for Critical Education Studies (ICES). The longest standing and among the top journals in critical university studies, or critical higher education studies, *Workplace* is supported by a collective of scholars promoting dignity and integrity in academic work. Contributions are aimed at higher education workplace scholar-activism and dialogue on all issues of academic labor. *Workplace* is normally published as 1-2 issues / year (~2,000 downloads / issue). *Workplace's* complement journal is *Critical Education*. ICES, *Critical Education*, and *Workplace* defend the freedom, without restriction or censorship, to disseminate and publish reports of research, teaching, and service, and to express critical opinions about institutions or systems and their management. Co-Directors of ICES, co-Hosts of ICES and *Workplace* blogs, and co-Editors of these journals resist all efforts to limit the exercise of academic freedom and intellectual freedom, recognizing the right of criticism by authors or contributors. Director correspondence to *Workplace* to E. Wayne Ross (wayne.ross@ubc.ca) or Stephen Petrina (stephen.petrina@ubc.ca).

Cultural Logic, which has been on-line since 1997, is a non-profit, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary journal that publishes essays, interviews, poetry, reviews (books, films, other media), etc. by writers working within the Marxist tradition. The editors will also print responses to work published in earlier issues. Texts may be of varying length and may conform to any of the commonly accepted scholarly formats (e.g., APA, MLA, Chicago, Humanities, etc.). Because this is an interdisciplinary journal, we do not demand that contributors adhere to one particular format, with which they might be unfamiliar. Copyright on texts appearing in *Cultural Logic* remains with the author. These texts may be republished by the author provided that *Cultural Logic* is acknowledged as the original place of publication. Texts appearing in *Cultural Logic* are indexed in MLA Bibliography, EBSCO Databases, MLA International Directory of Periodicals, International Progressive Publications Network (ippn). *Cultural Logic* is archived by universities participating in the LOCKSS project initiated by Stanford University. Direct correspondence to E. Wayne Ross, Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy, University of British Columbia, 2125 Main Mall, Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z4, Canada. Email: wayne.ross@ubc.ca

Works and Days provides a scholarly forum for the exploration of problems in cultural studies, pedagogy, institutional critique, and critical university studies. Each issue of the journal is organized around specific inquiries conducted as shared disciplinary or postdisciplinary research projects. *Works and Days* aims to serve not only as a forum for collaborative research and teaching, but also as an environment in which mutual inquiries may flourish. Thus, we are eager to hear from collaborators who are already at work on projects suitable for publication in *Works and Days*. We also encourage proposals for joint projects and will assist in their formation. *Works and Days* is indexed in: MLA, Humanities Index, CompPile. Direct correspondence to: Works and Days, English Department, 506T Humanities and Social Sciences Building, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA 15705. All email correspondence should be sent to: downing@iup.edu. *Works and Days* is partially funded by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences of Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Web site: www.worksanddays.net