

ASN Annual Report

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Anarchist Studies in 2009

The Anarchist Studies Network has had another busy year. In the aftermath of our first major conference in 2008, a great deal of effort went into publishing the proceedings. These include Alex Christoyannopoulos' edited volume *Religious Anarchism: New Perspectives*, which was published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing in 2009, and this year Cambridge Scholars will also publish *Anarchism, Syndicalism and Labour*, (Berry and Bantman eds.) also drawn from papers given at the 2008 conference. Another selection of conference papers will be published by Palgrave as *Anarchism and Moral Philosophy* later in the year (Franks and Wilson eds.). Other forthcoming publications include the proceedings of the September 2009 conference entitled 'Is Black and Red Dead?' held at Nottingham University (more below). A further indication of the success of the group is a 30% increase in our membership in the past year – now up to 201 members!

ASN initiatives continue to merge academic and more experimental ventures. An example of the former was the two-day interdisciplinary workshop at the University of Bristol in September 2009 entitled 'Disciplining Dissent'. This conference explored the different forms of discipline and power that operate towards, within and through contemporary resistance movements. A less traditional type of event was held in October 2009. "Imperceptible Strategies, Unidentified Autonomous Organizations", supported by the ASN, attracted over twenty participants who gathered to explore already-existing forms of autonomous organization and politics, as well as the potential for radically different forms. By way of realising horizontal and polycentric organisation this event drifted between a number of different locations across east London during the course of the day.

Planning for a number of projects for 2010 are under way, including a conference on Postanarchism (Goldsmith, June), and two ASN panels to be held at the annual PSA conference in Edinburgh in at the end of March. An ESRC-sponsored conference on Anarchism and International Relations will be hosted by the Department of Politics at the University of Bristol in June 2010, and a workshop on anarchism will also be organised for the 2010 Manchester Workshops in Political Theory. Another full year for anarchist studies!

Joint Anarchist and Marxist Conference attracts 42 Papers

In September 2009 the ASN and Marxism specialist group convened a joint conference entitled *Is Black and Red Dead?*. The event was generously supported by a PSA specialist activities award and was held at the Centre for the Study of Social and Global Justice at the University of Nottingham. Perhaps the first conference on the intersections between Marxism and Anarchism in living memory, its primary aim was to reach out to Marxist scholars and begin a new dialogue between the two traditions of thought. The secondary aim was to provide a space for people who felt they crossed the boundaries between Marxism and anarchism to present their work

and discuss their ideas in a supportive and convivial environment. It drew 42 papers and a further 20 attendees, with participants from the US, Canada, Australia, France, Italy, Greece, Ireland, Finland, and the UK. Some of the papers presented are available on the ASN's website (<http://www.anarchist-studies-network.org.uk/IsBlackAndRedDead>), and an edited volume drawn from the proceedings is in preparation.