

an opportunity to forge new links between critical theory
and contemporary activism



ACTIVIST REALISM

SATURDAY 10th April 6pm-9pm

LONDON ACTION RESOURCE CENTRE
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RECENT ACTIONS at the G20 Meltdown and the COP15 appear to confirm the suspicions of theorists who accuse current activist strategies as being inadequate to the challenge of opposing modern forms of state power. If large-scale protests can seem like a facile response to the political hegemony of neoliberalism, then recent actions in Copenhagen would appear to have barely interrupted the growth of a newly emergent green capitalism; indeed, some would argue that they have even aided its development. Yet for those who were involved in these actions things can appear quite different. Not only did the G20 Meltdown mark the return of large-scale popular antagonism against a government which had failed to manage the credit crunch, but it also witnessed the birth of an increasingly radicalised green movement. From the kettle in Bishopsgate to the barricades around the Bella Centre, it is clear that a new political struggle is now being fought against the systemic causes—rather than the effects—of climate change.

WHILE REPORTS of the death of neoliberalism may be greatly exaggerated, the recent failures of the

global free-market combined with the growing awareness of its increasingly severe environmental impact present the anti-capitalist left with an historic opportunity. A new theoretical approach is needed to articulate the relations between capitalist production and the causes of climate change before a resurgent green capitalism can claim to be our only salvation. A new kind of tactics is necessary if activists want to build a strong counter-hegemony and do more than just put a dent in the post-political neoliberal consensus. Activist Realism is an event which brings together a working group of activists and theorists in order to address the following questions: How can an anti-capitalist critique premised upon ecological concern be rescued from an all-pervasive greenwash ideology? What kinds of political actions can succeed against the increasingly repressive policing methods of a weakened government? What new means can be found to communicate the political rationale behind actions before the old media can neutralise its message? For both critical theorists and political activists, opposing capitalism is no longer business as usual.

