

July 1, 2022

5pm-8pm CEST | 11am-2pm EDT | 9am-12pm MDT
(on zoom)



Conversations on Capitalist Crisis Poetry

Poetry Reading & Workshop
with Layli Long Soldier
(Santa Fe, NM)



Universität
Zürich

Register @:
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ORGANIZERS:

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Poetry Reading & Workshop: Conversations on Capitalist Crisis Poetry with Layli Long Soldier
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Poet Layli Long Soldier (Santa Fe, New Mexico), the author of *Chromosomory* (Q Avenue Press, 2010) and *WHEREAS* (Graywolf Press, 2017), is joining us for our fourth installment in this series. She holds a B.F.A. from the Institute of American Indian Arts and an M.F.A. from Bard College. Her poems have appeared in *POETRY Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *The American Poet*, *The American Reader*, *The Kenyon Review*, *BOMB* and elsewhere. She is the recipient of an NACF National Artist Fellowship, a Lannan Literary Fellowship, a Whiting Award, and was a finalist for the 2017 National Book Award. She has also received the 2018 PEN/Jean Stein Award, the 2018 National Book Critics Circle Award, a 2021 Academy of Arts and Letters Award for Literature, and the 2021 Michael Murphy Memorial Poetry Prize in the UK. Emilia Phillips wrote “It’s within a dual citizenship, as ‘a citizen of the United States and an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe,’ that Long Soldier’s *Whereas* also naturally lives [...] This book feels groundbreaking, from the way that it reckons with different notions about American identity and “ownership,” poetic and private autonomy, to the way that the poems assert themselves through language, grammar, and formatting” (Kenyon Review).

This workshop series seeks to debate the links between politics, poetry, and capitalism. That is, we ask how poetic language constitutes and defines subject categories so far barred from existing in the symbolic order of current, late-capitalist political contexts. The social and political functions of poetry, it can be argued, have a lot in common with actual policy-making processes. Both can be propelled by a sense of progressivism, urgency, social justice, and their strong appeal to the imagination, i.e. that things can change, or rather that things can be thought and be thought differently. Both poetry and politics are interested in how the subject is structured and how it relates to others, society, the world at large, even if with very different trajectories. Neoliberalism, in contrast to both democratic politics and poetry, has a primary interest, however, in isolating the subject from fellow subjects as well as from any institutional responsibilities. Many of our contemporary political crises are the product of ‘Late Capitalism’ and what William Davies (2016) calls “punitive neoliberalism” (130). Today’s audits and assessment centers restrict access to resources to a select few and curb the autonomy of the individual. In this context, poetic practices represent a creative, liberating force that can allow the subject to regain (some) autonomy.

Rather than a traditional workshop, we want to create a forum for a transatlantic conversation on capitalist crisis poetry. Therefore, workshop meetings are structured in two parts: **in Part 1, which is open to the public, a currently active poet reads a selection of their poems followed by a Q&A which allows us to assess their work in light of capitalist crisis poetry together with the writer.** In Part 2, we broaden the conversation to critically contextualize and discuss the link between politics and poetry from the individual workshop participants’ perspective. This way we seek to work together towards a living forum that traces the various ways in which poetry intersects with the current capitalist crises and political work.

In order to register, please get in touch with the organizers via email:

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