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Audience Academic

Inhuman Power

Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Capitalism

by Nick Dyer-Witheford, Atle Mikkola Kjosén and James Steinhoff

Keynote

An exploration of the relationship between Marxist theory and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Key Features & Highlights

1. Argues that the development of AI has implications for Marxist Theory and anti-capitalist political strategy
2. Challenges the positions assumed by Left Accelerationist thinkers, such as Paul Mason, Nick Srnicek and Alex Williams
3. Author's previous book *Cyber Proletariat* sold 1500 copies.

Description

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has seen major advances in recent years. While machines were always central to the Marxist analysis of capitalism, AI is a new kind of machine that Marx could not have anticipated. Contemporary machine-learning AI allows machines to increasingly approach human capacities for perception and reasoning in narrow domains.

This book explores the relationship between Marxist theory and AI through the lenses of different theoretical concepts, including surplus-value, labour, the general conditions of production, class composition and surplus population. It argues against left accelerationism and post-Operaiismo thinkers, asserting that a deeper analysis of AI produces a more complex and disturbing picture of capitalism's future than has previously been identified.

Inhuman Power argues that on its current trajectory, AI represents an ultimate weapon for capital. It will render humanity obsolete or turn it into a species of transhumans working for a wage until the heat death of the universe; a fate that is only avoidable by communist revolution.

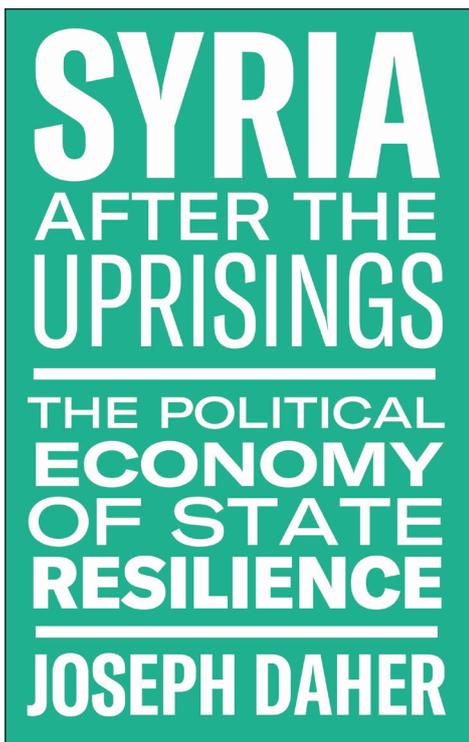
Author Biography

Nick Dyer-Witheford is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Information and Media Studies at University of Western Ontario. He is author of *Cyber-Marx* (University of Illinois, 1999), and co-author of *Digital Play* (McGill-Queen's, 2003), *Games of Empire* (University of Minnesota Press, 2009) and *Cyber-Proletariat* (Pluto, 2015).

Atle Mikkola Kjosén is Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Information and Media Studies at the University of Western Ontario.

James Steinhoff is a PhD Candidate in the Faculty of Information and Media Studies at the University of Western Ontario.





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Audience Academic

Syria after the Uprisings

The Political Economy of State Resilience

Joseph Daher

Keynote

Eight years on, Syria is still a battleground. Why has the state remained so strong?

Key Features & Highlights

1. From a well-respected expert on Syria, renowned for his historical-materialist perspective
2. Based on years of original research and discussions with activists, students, members of political parties and Syrian academics

Description

Syria has been at the centre of world news since 2011, following the beginnings of a popular uprising in the country and its subsequent violent repression. Eight years on, Joseph Daher analyses the resilience of the regime and the failings of the uprising, while also taking a closer look at the counter-revolutionary processes that have been undermining the uprising from without and within.

Through a sharp reconstruction of the key historical developments, Daher focuses on the reasons behind the transition of a peaceful uprising into a destructive war with multiple regional and international actors. He argues that other approaches have so far neglected a global analysis of the conflict's economic, social and political characteristics. He also shows that it is impossible to understand the Syrian uprising without a historical perspective dating back to the seizure of power by Hafez al-Assad in 1970.

A result of years of research and discussions with activists, students, members of political parties and Syrian academics, this book will be the go-to analysis of Syria for years to come.

Author Biography

Joseph Daher teaches at Lausanne University, Switzerland. He is the author of *Hezbollah: The Political Economy of the Party of God* (Pluto, 2016), co-editor of *Penser l'emancipation* (La Dispute, 2013) and founder of the blog *Syria Freedom Forever*.

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Commoning with George Caffentzis and Silvia Federici

Edited by Camille Barbagallo, Nicholas Beuret and David Harvie

Keynote

A passionate collection rediscovering the work of two giants of autonomist Marxism and feminism

Key Features & Highlights

1. Features contributions from upcoming scholars as well as some of the most influential anti-capitalist thinkers of the past four decades, including Harry Cleaver, John Holloway and Peter Linebaugh
2. An introduction and critique of the work of Caffentzis and Federici, that explores, and builds on, their scholarship and activism

Description

This collection explores key themes in the contemporary critique of political economy, in honour of the work and practice of Silvia Federici and George Caffentzis - two of the most significant contemporary theorists of capitalism and anti-capitalism, whose contributions span half a century of struggle, crisis and debate.

Drawing together a collection of essays that assess Federici and Caffentzis's contributions, offering critical and comradely reflections and commentary, this volume acts as a guide to their work, while also taking us beyond it. The book is organised around five key themes: revolutionary histories, reproduction, money and value, commons, and struggles.

The book shines light on the continuing relevance of Caffentzis and Federici's work in the twenty-first century for understanding anti-capitalism, 'primitive accumulation' and the commons, feminism, reproductive labour and Marx's value theory.

Author Biography

Camille Barbagallo is a postdoctoral research associate on women and work at the University of Kent. Her forthcoming book is *Mothers and Others: The Politics of Reproduction in Neoliberal Britain* (MUP, 2019). She is the editor of *Women and the Subversion of the Community: A Mariarosa Dalla Costa Reader* (PM Press, 2018), and an organiser of the International Women's Strike.

Nicholas Beuret is a Lecturer in Management and Ecological Sustainability at the University of Essex. His research has been published in journals including *Antipode*, *Science and Culture* and *South Atlantic Quarterly*.

David Harvie is an Associate Professor in Finance and Political Economy at the University of Leicester. He is co-author of *Moments of Excess: Movements, Protest and Everyday Life* (PM Press, 2011) and co-editor of *What Could It Mean to Win?* (PM Press, 2010).

PB 9780745339405 £19.99

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