

Rosa Luxemburg Foundation



»The whole situation is really so confused now that it's impossible to get any proper enjoyment out of the fight. Everything is still shifting, the great landslide seems to be never-ending, and trying to decide strategy and organise the battle on such a churned-up, lurching field is fiendishly difficult. There's actually nothing else I'm frightened of any more.«

Rosa Luxemburg to Franz Mehring, 31st August 1915



Rolf Biebl, Rosa Luxemburg, Statue

TRUE TO HER NAME

Rosa Luxemburg's name is a byword for a commitment to the traditions of democratic socialism. Born in 1871, she was an outstanding representative of democratic socialist thought and activities in Europe. She put all her effort into trying to prevent the First World War, which then raged from 1914



to 1918. Along with Karl Liebknecht she was the most prominent representative of internationalism and anti-militarism in the SPD (Social Democratic Party of Germany). Her passionate and persuasive criticism of capitalism gave her the strength to undertake revolutionary activities. While the Russian revolution filled her with hope, she remained critical and alert as a revolutionary democrat, perceptively attacking the Bolsheviks' dictatorship.

Rosa Luxemburg was a co-founder of the German Communist Party (KPD). A Polish Jew, she was killed on 15 January 1919 by murderers in uniform – people from the circles which later openly supported the handover of power to the Nazis.

Rosa Luxemburg's destiny was bound up with the rise of the German labour movement, the struggles between its various sections and the split it ultimately suffered. She was a person of character who succeeded in combining political commitment with the aspiration to self-fulfilment in an impressive way. Above all, her idea of freedom as the »freedom to dissent« has a compelling force. **Rosa Luxemburg's** exhortations and warnings marked the beginning and the end of state socialism.

Rosa Luxemburg's endeavours to link political freedom and justice are still highly relevant today.

STANDPOINT

One of the largest providers of political education in Germany, the **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation** considers itself part of the intellectual grass-roots movement of democratic socialism. Created out of the Gesellschaftsanalyse und politische Bildung e.V. (Registered Society for Social Analysis and Political Education), founded in Berlin in 1990, the Foundation has developed into a national body for political education, a discussion forum for critical thinking and political alternatives, and a research institute for progressive social development. Many volunteers are involved in the Foundation's work.

In 1996, the **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation** was recognized by the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) as a national foundation working in close cooperation with the party. National political education is carried out together with other members of the Network of Foundations.

WHO WE ARE

The **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation** is made up of

- members and supporting members; the members of the Executive Managing Board and its Director, Dr. Evelin Wittich;
- a Board of Trustees consisting of prominent figures from the world of politics, science and culture;
- hundreds of volunteers;
- academics and researchers on advisory boards and the authors of our publications;
- scholarship holders and liaison university teachers;
- some 70 members of staff in the departments for Political Education, Policy Analysis, International Relations, Scholarships, Archive and Library, Public Relations, Administration and Finance/Controlling.

The **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation**

- welcomes supporting members, who pay a minimum annual contribution of € 25;
- campaigns for donations for its work and issues receipts for donations;
- has the following **bank details**:
bank: Berliner Sparkasse
sort code: 100 500 000
account no.: 0 023 230 282.

The **Rosa Luxemburg** Foundation

- organises political education, provides information about social perspectives in a globalised, unjust and unpeaceful world;
- is a venue for critical analysis of contemporary capitalism and debate about social alternatives rooted in democratic socialism;
- is, both in Germany and internationally, a forum for dialogue between left-wing socialist forces, social movements and organisations, left-wing intellectuals and NGOs;
- supports young intellectuals in the form of undergraduate and PhD scholarships;
- provides impetus for self-determined socio-political activities and bolsters the commitment to peace and understanding between peoples, social justice and coexistence in solidarity.

POLITICAL EDUCATION

The **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation** organises and promotes public political education. The Foundation's events and publications are designed to communicate its competence in matters of socialist policy and its support for people who wish to become politically active or are already involved. In the current intellectual and political conflicts, increasing importance attaches to demonstrating a capacity to take political action based on sound knowledge. For that reason the educational work of the **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation** focuses on programmes enabling participants to learn about policy areas, political institutions and decision-making procedures while acquiring professional know-how and a sense of social responsibility. Our priorities are:

- critiques of capitalism and analyses of social structures, a structured discussion of democratic socialism and left-wing actors;
- strategies for a more just world (rebuilding solidarity in society, democracy, migration, local politics, reshaping gender relations, projects for alternative economic models);
- duties of the parliamentary opposition and cooperation with the extra-parliamentary opposition;
- sustainability and regional development;
- peace, security, strengthening democracy in international cooperation and in the development of the EU;
- the intellectual and political struggle against, and prevention of, right-wing extremism; historical policy and contemporary history;
- academic research, education, media and culture with a view to preserving and extending the public realm;
- improving teaching qualifications for left-wing political education.

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INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation's** international work is an important and extensive part of the Foundation's overall endeavours. The Foundation is committed to international solidarity and operates within the framework of German foreign and development policy.

The international activity of political foundations is set in the context of the social and welfare policy work conducted by German institutions and organisations the world over, especially in promoting the peaceful reconciliation of interests and understanding between nations. The foundations consider themselves to be an integral part of German foreign, development and security policy; however, they are largely independent in their choice of aims, subjects and locations for their work. The plurality of the work carried out abroad by party-related political foundations is an expression of the political plurality in Germany, which is reflected the composition of the German parliament.

Proceeding from its understanding of democratic socialism and the goals of the World Social Forum movement, and in clear agreement with the UN Millennium Declaration, the **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation** pursues two overriding aims in its international work.

In a dialogue among equals with its partners in Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa the Foundation actively elaborates and implements plans to give every individual access to the basic necessities for a self-determined existence (democratic participation, education, healthcare, social security, housing, employment, environment, cultural diversity). The **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation** thus helps to overcome social injustice rooted in gender or ethnicity and to promote active democratic participation and the non-military, peaceful resolution of conflict.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation** supports political and civil society structures, organisations and instruments which comply with the Foundation's statutes and share its ideals. Their activities are aimed at creating the necessary political, social and cultural conditions which enable individuals to develop freely.

The **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation** supports practical projects that work to achieve these goals primarily by means of political education and empowerment. The Foundation works with independent, capable partners in a spirit of solidarity and on an equal footing. The **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation** cooperates with partners who have the necessary decision-making powers and potential to change and influence each area and/or are in the process of developing these powers and potential. It supports the national, regional and global networks of partners with similar structures and actively contributes to sharing experiences and know-how acquired in these areas.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Foundation works in various projects and different forms of cooperation in the following regions:

- Central and Eastern Europe (main focus: EU accession and subsequent developments, transformation);
- post-Soviet area (main focus: peace and international security, transformation);
- South and Central America (main focus: democratic and social participation, local politics);
- South Asia (main focus: peace and international security, intercultural and interfaith communication, gender relations);
- South-East Asia (main focus: transformation, »socialist market economies«);
- Southern Africa (main focus: strengthening civil society, democratic and social participation, empowering marginalised groups).

Within the European Union the **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation** is a partner in the Transform network. This is a network of European organisations involved in political education and critical academic analysis, the aim of which is to transform contemporary society. The paramount objectives are to overcome the dominance of capital, patriarchy, imperial rule, militarism and racism as well as to work towards an organisation in which the uninhibited development of each and every person is a prerequisite for the uninhibited development of all. The other members of Transform are Espaces Marx (Paris), Fondation Copernic (Paris), Fundación de Investigaciones Marxistas (Madrid), Nicos Poulantzas Society (Athens), the Sozialismus magazine (Hamburg), Transform Italia (Rome), Transform Austria (Vienna), the Manifesto Foundation (Oslo) and the Centre for Marxist Social Studies (Stockholm). Transform is happy to cooperate with every European and non-European organisation committed to the above-mentioned aims and prepared to make an active contribution towards achieving them.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation** has regional offices in priority regions which coordinate work on the ground and are responsible for cooperating with partner organisations. For several years now we have had offices in Warsaw, Moscow, São Paulo and Johannesburg. Our latest office will be a regional branch in Mexico opening in 2007.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

The **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation** awards scholarships to undergraduates and PhD students who are highly qualified and have a strongly developed social interest and social commitment in line with the Foundation's ideals. The scholarship department aims to compensate social, political or gender discrimination.

We are currently supporting 220 undergraduates and 74 PhD students. We are very pleased with the high number of female and foreign scholarship holders.

The work of the scholarship department is supported by 77 liaison professors at German universities and universities of applied sciences.

The **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation's** scholarship department offers scholarship holders a wide-ranging development programme. In addition to introductory seminars the programme includes seminars on academic study techniques, seminars for PhD students, specialist conferences, summer academies, workshops and educational trips. Scholars' autonomy and working groups for scholars are also part of the support we offer.

Moreover, all those receiving support can take part in the Foundation's wide range of activities in political education, international projects and research.

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POLICY ANALYSIS

In its academic work the **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation** considers itself a vehicle for the communication of democratic socialist ideas in Germany. It focuses on

- analyses of the transformation of present-day capitalist societies and appraisals of the discussion and experiences in pilot projects in democratic, socialist and civil policy;
- examinations of the strategies of left-wing parties, trade unions and movements to change the balance of power in society, to struggle against neo-liberalism and alter policy direction;
- analyses of contemporary capitalism, especially property rights, privatisation policy and the struggle to preserve and extend public goods and our common heritage;
- networking between left-wing and education institutions critical of capitalism in Germany and at the European and international level.

Within the Foundation, work on these issues is carried out primarily by the Policy Analysis Department and the Future Commission. The intention is to enhance the **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation's** strategic skills in matters of educational and policy advice and to bolster the academic and theoretical endeavours of the political Left.

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PUBLICATIONS

The **Rosa Luxemburg** Foundation

- presents in *Manuskripte, Texte* and *Schriften* the outcome of research in history, policy analysis and social alternatives (working closely with the Karl Dietz publishing house in Berlin www.dietzberlin.de);
- publishes the monthly journal *UTOPIE kreativ* (more details on page 15);
- brings out *policy papers* which generally take a clear stand on topical issues;
- publishes articles on political education in the *kontrovers papers*;
- organises regular exhibitions throughout the year;
- collects and makes accessible the extensive resources on the rise of the Party of Democratic Socialism in its Archive of Democratic Socialism and makes these resources available to the public.

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has up-to-date information about the **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation**.

Among the items on offer are:

the **Network of Foundations' Calendar**:

the events for the next few months at a glance.

Announcements of forthcoming events and reports:

We supply programmes, speeches and documentation, pictures and sound recordings of all important national events.

Documents and publications:

Nearly all the Foundation's publications are available on-line, as are most of our papers, our in-house magazine *Utopie kreativ* and contributions to the current political debate.

Service:

Contacts, sponsorship application forms, orders, newsletter and much more.

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www.linksnet.de

30 periodicals have joined the on-line magazine Linksnet in order to make progressive, left-wing and socialist content quick to find on the Internet and available in one place. This portal for left-wing policy and intellectual debate has new articles every day, an easy-to-use archive plus categories and topical issues for a quick overview. A handful of left-wingers give their opinion on current affairs in the Linksnet blog (www.linkslog.de).

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RLS PROGRAMME + JOURNAL »ROSALUX«

In its monthly *RLS Programme* the **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation** provides information about the events of the foundations Network throughout Germany.

In addition the Foundation publishes the quarterly *RosaLux Journal* which deals with priority issues in the Foundation's work and features reports, interviews, short texts and information about the national and international work of the **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation** and the Network of Foundations. It also includes reports about research and publication projects as well as information about the Foundation's books and brochures and the exhibitions it stages.

Legally responsible for the content:

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UTOPIE KREATIV

UTOPIE kreativ – a discussion of socialist alternatives has been the theoretical monthly journal of the **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation** since August 1999. Established in 1990, a year of great political upheaval, the magazine offers a forum for debate on topical strategic matters as well as all the relevant historical issues connected with the revival of the Left. The articles cover a wide range of issues: politics and history, war and peace, so-called globalisation as well as critiques of globalisation, sociology and economics, and the social repercussions of technological developments. Contributions come from experienced academics as well as colleagues taking their first steps in the academic environment. They include many who received financial and moral support from the **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation** whilst undergraduates or PhD students.

UTOPIE kreativ is open to articles from all the movements of the modern Left; contributions are always welcomed – even without advance notice.

Orders:

Single issues cost € 6 (plus postage)

Trial subscription (two consecutive issues at € 4.50)

Normal subscription: € 57 (International € 75)

Please send orders to:

UTOPIE kreativ, Franz-Mehring-Platz 1, 10243 Berlin

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(Back issues – if available – are sold at a discount. We will be happy to send you a full table of contents, although this can also be downloaded from our website).

POLICY PAPERS

- Jürgen Leibiger: Property and Politics
- Kristina Dietz and Barbara Dickhaus: Privatisation in the European Union
- PPG-Network: Sketches of a New Property Policy
- Dieter Klein and Hans-Jürgen Krysmanski: Wealth and Power
- Iris Nowack: Practices of the Private. The Culture of Privatisation
- Jörg Huffschmid: The Crisis of Privatisation
- Albert Sterr and Dieter Boris: Struggles about Water Privatisation in the South
- Dieter Klein: Justice and Alternative Reform
- Günther Krause: Alternative Economic Policies
- Mario Candeias: The New Question of Property
- Dispossession from »above« and Re-Appropriation from »below«
- Rainer Rilling: State of the Commons
- Kristina Dietz and Barbara Dickhaus: Private Gain – Public Loss?
- Corinna Genschel: An Opportunity for Feminist Politics? The Project of the Berlin Social Forums

MANUSKRIPTE

- Michael Brie and Cornelia Hildebrandt: Parties of the Radical Left in Europe. Analysis and Perspectives

Address

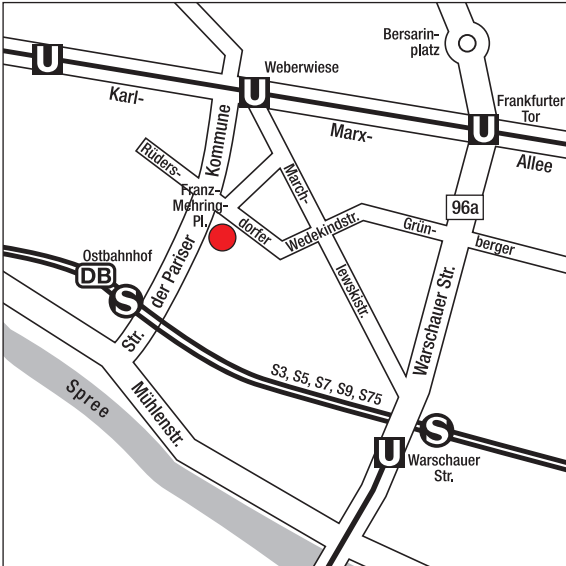
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How to reach us

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Underground: U 5 Weberwiese

Bus lines: 142, 240, 340