

# THE PARSOC BULLETIN

Members | Network Projects | Solidarity

## From the Site Team

- ✦ Updating the [website](#) regularly with recommended reading and events. Send your submissions to [realutopia2020@gmail.com](mailto:realutopia2020@gmail.com) or post to the [Site channel](#).
- ✦ Drafting a short summary of Parsoc so that people new to the idea will be able to see very quickly what RU is about.
- ✦ Developing a new website design.

## From the Membership Team

- ✦ Hosting a weekly video call Welcome Meeting for new and less active members every Tuesday at 4PM EST.
- ✦ Refining sign up & orientation process to help new RU members actively navigate the network. Give your feedback on the [Membership channel](#).



## What's up, Soc!

Welcome to the first edition of the Real Utopia Newsletter. RU is growing and deepening, so it's time to start organizing a quarterly gathering of all the goings on!

Like all RU projects, the newsletter will be based on participatory values - all members are encouraged to [submit content](#) as often as desired. The task of compiling submissions and facilitating this publication will be done by volunteers, and rotate every few editions.

To start us off, you can check out this [project's proposal here](#), and leave your suggestions as comments. If you'd like to volunteer to





## From the Education & Skills Team

- ✦ Recently hosted two reading group events on the book *Liberating Theory*.
- ✦ Upcoming reading groups to focus on spheres of life other than economics -- such as kinship, culture, and politics.
- ✦ Creating educational content designed for specific groups of people: students, workers, etc. A workbook for students, created by RU member Matic Primc, will be translated to English and shared with individuals and groups such as teachers, students, & teachers unions.

## From the Outreach & Events Team

- ✦ 2021 Global Forum for Democratizing Work: 6 RU members participated as panelists discussing Parsoc. Watch the [recorded panels here!](#)
- ✦ Developing an RU Annual Conference
- ✦ Seeking volunteers to [join the team!](#)

work on a future edition, jump into the Newsletter channel on [RU's Discord](#). And don't forget, send in your own picks for recommendations on books, podcasts, music, movies, comedy, cultural content, whatever!

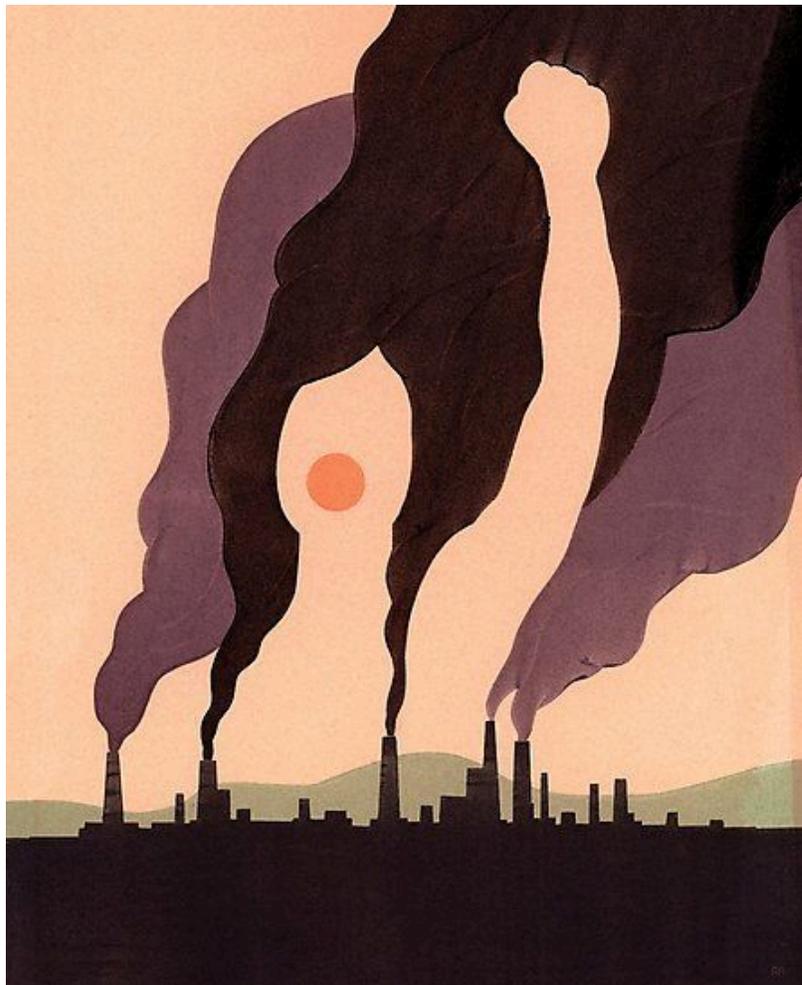
The goal of the newsletter is to share, develop, connect, record, and celebrate our work. I hope it will also be entertaining, inspiring, and a source of solidarity.

Your Fellow Utopian, Alexandria Shaner

### *Name the Newsletter*

The Parsoc Bulletin isn't terrible... but maybe we can do better. What's your vote?

Send in your ideas for naming the newsletter to [shaner.alexandria@gmail.com](mailto:shaner.alexandria@gmail.com) or post them to the [Newsletter channel](#).



## Members' Picks

What RU reading, watching, listening to, laughing at, crying over these days?

- [No Bosses](#)
- [Democratic Economic Planning](#)
- [The Dawn of Everything](#)
- [Honest Government Ad | Net Zero by 2050 \(feat. Greta Thunberg\)](#)
- [What is Solarpunk?](#)

From the Couch of Michael Albert:

Dopesick – powerful video series on the opioid crisis in the U.S. Eye opening even for the well informed, particularly about how the evil all around us manages to emerge and sustain itself, and an exceptionally well done drama.

The Morning Show – brilliant acting and writing, this series is interesting on sexual politics and also on cancel dynamics, but is better still on the incredibly powerful internal cultural destructiveness of a huge media operation.

The two together more or less prove that everybody knows everything is broken. The question being, do most go along to get along, and do most blame human nature, or horrible institutions - and of course do most feel anger and desire or feel defeatist cynicism.

## How RU?

Let's hear from the members...



**From: Bridget Meehan**

**When? 29 November - 8 December**

**What? An online Participatory Budgeting project**

**Who? Collaboration for Change, Ireland**

**Where? <https://www.cfctogether.org/pblist>**

**Description/Notes:** Collaboration for Change crowdfunded £4000 to run a Participatory Budgeting (PB) project. PB first started in Brazil in 1989, and is now being used in more than 3,000 cities around the world for budgets totaling hundreds of millions of pounds. PB is a way for people to decide how a budget is spent on projects and services in their communities. It allows people to participate in decision-making about budgets, giving them a clear, public say about their priorities, and building understanding, trust, deliberation and discussion.

The PB process works as follows: People submit their project ideas against an agreed theme - anybody is eligible. These ideas become bids that are pitched to the community. The community deliberates on the bids and votes for their favourites. The bids with the most votes get the money. PB is a forerunner to a fully Participatory Society, an early non-reformist reform that lays the foundation for Parsoc.

**From: Travis Froberg**

I have been working on spreading the idea of participatory economics to members of the Democratic Socialists of America, trying to form a working group in my DSA chapter in Detroit. So far, there has been quite a bit of interest. Our first meeting is Sunday, December 5th.

Possible projects this working group could focus on are **advocating participatory society in DSA and also creating a participatory economy in Detroit.**

## Members' Links

What are we publishing?

### Article

Comics and Capitalism, méta,  
Sean Michael Wilson

Cancel Hierarchy,  
CounterPunch, Alexandria  
Shaner

A Defense of Parecon, Nikolai  
Pulley

Reviews of No Bosses, various  
sources, various RU Members

Post Capitalist Decision Making,  
méta, Michael Albert

### Book

Orwell, Sean Michael Wilson

### Podcast

Loretta Ross, Matic Primc, & an  
Intro to RU on Revolution Z

### Video

Mitchell Szczepanczyk:  
Researching third way  
economies

David Rovics & Michael Albert  
discuss No Bosses

Steven Shalom: A Political  
System for a Good Society

Ron Placone w/ Michael Albert

### Courses

SSCC is open for sign ups for  
the Jan/Feb 2022 session.

RU members are asked to help  
spread the word!

## How RU?

*Let's hear from the members...*



### From Matic Primc:

#### Bottom up political program in Slovenia

There is an initiative in Slovenia trying to create a bottom up political program. Following 84 weeks of continuous protests against the current right wing government, general disappointment with the other political parties, the perception that none of the parties reflect the wishes of the public, and the upcoming general election, the civil society began to organize.

The initiative called **Glas Ljudstva** (Voice of the people) now combines almost 100 civil society organizations and many more individuals. It has been organizing a bottom up process involving online and live meetings, bringing together citizens and experts in order to formulate concrete policies which reflect the will of the people. Thousands of people have participated.

The goal is to generate 100 concrete policies and use public pressure to force every party and candidate to lay out their position on the demands as well as force the parties to adopt the policies into their own electoral programs.

Pred volitvami se povezujejo nevladniki: pripravljajo sto zahtev - NI (niinfo.si)





## Dear RU,

*A special section where we can write to one another about anything and everything, personally.*

### **Marcia Bookstein: Cellist, Mother, Activist**

Let me tell you about my neighborhood:

I live in a tiny part of San Diego, La Jolla, between the U and the Y, the University and the YMCA. This neighborhood is special in a lot of ways.

Do you remember who Ellen Scripps was? A very wealthy newspaper heiress who basically owned La Jolla, and who didn't like Jews or Blacks living in her La Jolla. In fact, one of my colleague's father tried to buy a house here many years ago and was not even shown a house by a real estate agent. "Sorry, there are no houses for sale in La Jolla." When my at-the-time husband and I bought this house you could see through the redaction black-out what the words were in the CC&Rs: real estate agents are discouraged from showing or selling houses to Jews or Blacks.

So, what happened? The people who started the University got together and Roger Revelle asked, "where are our Jewish professors going to live?" They didn't want them commuting from the southern part of the city, where the Jewish professors were already living and working at San Diego State, right? They needed a place closer, maybe even walking distance. Sugarman was the developer, and Drogin was the architect. The houses are ranch style, one story, either around 1600 or 1900 square feet, no insulation, single pane windows, foundations that cracked eventually, and went for around \$30,000 in 1960. I've known and loved a number of original owners. The trees now are sixty years old and gigantic and gracious, housing hawks, owls, finches, mourning doves, sparrows and small parrots. There's a coyote through pass and a state park at the top of the hill down the street a ways. The neighbors are friendly, the dogs even friendlier, and there are people from all over the world living here: scientists, professors, doctors, psychologists, students, and people like me who just lucked out.

Our house was considered a fixer-upper. When I first saw it there were thirty or so real estate agent cards on the kitchen counter. It had been on the market for about a year. It was the only house that my at-the-time husband and I could agree on. I had thought that only snobs lived here, and he grew up here. (I just realized the incongruence of that statement—my husband was not a snob!) I wanted to live in Del Mar with its stellar school system. It turned out that La Jolla had truly excellent public schools. But here we were, buying at the bottom of the real estate market, a fixer-upper that did not need fixing.

I am lucky, and not just on Thanksgiving. My at-the-time husband, at the time of our divorce, was earning enough as a scientist so that, when everything was split in half, I was able to buy him out of his share of the house (and put my cello on the mortgage), so I could stay in the neighborhood.

Most people are not that lucky. Going home from work I see a community of homeless people living under a freeway overpass. Kids now don't even consider the possibility of buying a house, let alone in La Jolla, what with their college loans to pay back. One medical setback could put a person out of their home.

Oh, and Drogin, for building homes for Jews, was black-listed and never worked again.

But, things change. Look at Mrs. Scripps, rolling in her grave, what with two synagogues within spitting distance of each other, two rabbis living on my cross street, and a Hillel center going up just down the street from the Orthodox synagogue. I have to think about this after hearing the depositions at the Supreme Court yesterday regarding Roe v Wade. That things change. And that they can change again, and again. The obscenely wealthy win, until they don't. And then there's a push-back and things change.

And, remember, one person, Roger Revelle, said, "where are our Jewish professors going to live?" and things changed. One person can make a difference with his, her, their voice.

So, welcome to the neighborhood! Friendly people live here, and all from everywhere are warmly welcomed.

RU, thank you for welcoming me, a mere tutti cellist, and asking me to do what I love, which is writing about myself. Stay well—Marcia