

Liberation Over Lunch

A Collaborative Exploration of Marcuse's *Essay on Liberation*

Program Description

The purpose of this program is to provide a collaborative atmosphere to explore Marcuse's *Essay on Liberation* as a community of philosophical practice formed around our interest in Marcuse's scholarship, life, and socio-political influence. With the intention of creating a space for intellectual fellowship, this program has three parts: (1) an informal group welcome and dinner outing at the beginning of the conference, (2) a group discussion focused on the first half of Marcuse's *An Essay on Liberation* during Friday's lunch session, and (3) a group discussion centered on the second half of *Essay* during Saturday's lunch session. An online copy of the text can be accessed here, [*Essay on Liberation*](http://marxists.org), via marxists.org. **Note: at this time, meals are not provided but friendship and fellowship is in full supply.**

All conference attendees are invited to participate. This program is intended to be accessible for those at any level of expertise in Marcuse scholarship (novice through expert) and, to that end, provide newcomers to the Marcuse Society the opportunity to join our community. Those interested in participating are asked to RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/1jp5YPVCitnNEYcf7>

Schedule of Possible Discussion Topics:

- Thursday, October 10th, 4:30pm - 6:30pm- Welcome & Group Dinner Outing
 - **Reading:** *An Essay on Liberation* - Preface & Introduction
 - **Possible Discussion Topics:** Group introductions, the place of *Essay* in Marcuse scholarship & its contemporary relevance.
- Friday, October 11th, 11:30am - 1:00pm - Discussion over Lunch: Session 1
 - **Reading:** *An Essay on Liberation*, "I. Biological Foundation for Socialism?" & "II. The New Sensibility"
 - **Possible Discussion Topics:** Second Nature v. First Nature, New Sensibility, the use of 'obscenity' to reinforce oppression, the management of instincts, the oppressive potential of self-determination, & the objective and subjective dimension of happiness.
- Saturday, October 12th, 11:45am-1:15pm - Discussion over Lunch: Session 2
 - **Reading:** *An Essay on Liberation*, "III. Subverting Forces - in Transition" & "IV. Solidarity"
 - **Possible Discussion Topics:** Violence in the established order, the relationship between class conflicts and racial conflicts, pacification vs liberation, political linguistics and the armour of the Establishment, 'moral' rebellion vs non-moral rebellion, the challenge and values of solidarity, & development of the realm of freedom.