




New Magazine Essays: Metro DC DSA Discussion Club

The New Magazine Essays Discussion Club meets in person in DC to discuss new essays from some of the Left's most thought-provoking magazines.

 During each meeting, we'll discuss 3 essays from the latest issue of a featured magazine (like [n+1](#), [The Drift](#), [Parapraxis](#), and more).

 All are welcome, and there are no requirements to attend! We'll provide digital copies of all readings.

 The group doesn't have a fixed schedule, but we'll try to meet about once a month.

 To join our email list, fill out Metro DC DSA's [reading group signup form](#).



Details about our next meeting

Date: Monday, October 27

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: Potter's House (1658 Columbia Rd NW)

Readings: [The Brooklyn Rail](#)

- [The Suicide State](#) - Jamie Merchant
 - *For people who still take it seriously, a miasma of confusion shrouds the ongoing embarrassment that is the US government.*
- [Quarter-Pounds of Flesh: Part One](#) - Phil A. Neel
 - *This is a horror story about hamburgers.*
- [Quarter-Pounds of Flesh: Part Two](#) - Phil A. Neel
 - *As the immediate means of our survival, the burger is the natural starting point of class conflict.*

Group norms

- Listen actively to what others are saying.
- Respect the people chosen to facilitate the discussion.
- Share the air—before you speak a second or third time, let other people who haven't spoken contribute.
- Don't make assumptions about people's motives, and ask clarifying questions if someone says something that you find confusing.
- Try to understand the arguments being made in a reading first, before listing what's missing—keep in mind that a single reading can't say everything.
- When sharing your contributions during discussions, keep in mind that this is a publicly advertised group that's open to both DSA members and non-members.

Tips for reading dense leftist writing

- It's okay to feel small
- It's okay to feel friction
- Keep in mind that your reference points are cumulative and constantly expanding
- Don't be afraid to look things up / Don't feel like you have to look things up
- Let the words wash over you / They might be lyrical, moving, or funny
- Allow a concept, sentence, or phrase to challenge or reorient you
- Look for new avenues of inquiry that the text reveals to you

Archive

September 2025

 **Featured magazine:** n+1, [Issue 50: Harsh Realm](#) and [Issue 51: Force Majeure](#)

 **Essay 1:** [Two Days Talking to People Looking for Jobs at ICE](#) - Yanis Varoufukice

 **Essay 2:** [Diary of a Spreadsheet](#) - Chelsea Kirk

 **Essay 3:** [Struggle Unity Struggle](#) - Hannah Zeavin

August 2025

 **Featured magazine:** Parapraxis, [Issue 06: Resistance](#)

 **Essay 1:** [The Case for Letting the World Burn](#) - The Editors

 **Essay 2:** [Axes of Resistance](#) - Séamus Malekafzali

 **Essay 3:** [Complicity](#) - Mary Turfah

July 2025

 **Featured magazine:** Heatwave, [Issue 1](#)

 **Essay 1:** [Fugitive Solidarities](#) - Dylan Saba


 **Essay 2:** [Blockade Bisalloy: A Report from the 'Gong](#) - Two Wollongong Friends of Palestine

 **Essay 3:** [Revolt and Representation: A View from the Battle for Los Angeles](#) - Mapaches Clandestinxs w/ Cuauhtli

June 2025


 **Featured magazine:** Lux, [Issue 13](#)

 **Essay 1:** [Feminist Polemic Now!](#) - Grace Byron

 **Essay 2:** [Who Can Referee Gender?](#) - Emily Janakiram and Megan Lessard

 **Essay 3:** [The Bride Wore a Black Beret](#) - Matt Ray and Mat Wranovics

May 2025

 **Featured magazine:** The Baffler, [Issue no. 78: Homeland Insecurity](#)


 **Essay 1:** [Blame It on Kane](#) - J.W. McCormack

 **Essay 2:** [House of the Rising Hun](#) - Alexander Wells

 **Essay 3:** [Sans Merci](#) - Rebecca Nathanson

April 2025

 **Featured magazine:** Protean, [Issue V: Contra Temps](#) (all essays are in the PDF)

 **Essay 1:** In the Time of Ashes - Sita Balani

 **Essay 2:** Bandung's Ghosts - Pranay Somayajula

 **Essay 3:** Peace From Our Point of View - Mary Turfah

March 2025

 **Featured magazine:** Parapraxis, [Issue 05: Economies](#) (plus an online exclusive)

 **Essay 1:** [Idée Fixe](#) - Jake Romm

 **Essay 2:** [King Ketamine](#) - Taija Mars McDougall

 **Essay 3:** [Vibe Goes Down](#) - Simon Torracinta

February 2025

 **Featured magazine:** The Drift, [Issue 14](#)

 **Essay 1:** [In Ruins](#) - Jasper Nathaniel

 **Essay 2:** [Borderlands. Betrayed](#) - Gabriel Antonio Solis

 **Essay 3:** [On the Grid](#) - Zoë Hitzig

January 2025

 **Featured magazine:** n+1, [Issue 49: Rerun](#)

 **Essay 1:** [What's Our Age Again?](#) - The Editors

 **Essay 2:** [Parallel Processes](#) - Hannah Zeavin

 **Essay 3:** [Casual Viewing](#) - Will Tavlin