

NICK SRNICEK
AND ALEX WILLIAMS
IN CONVERSATION WITH
ALAIN BADIOU

INVENTING THE FUTURE:
POSTCAPITALISM AND A
WORLD WITHOUT WORK

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MIGUEL ABREU GALLERY
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VERSO

But with no systematic approach to building a new economy, or the structural solidarity to push such changes through, for now labour remains relatively impotent. The new social movements which emerged since the end of the Cold War, experiencing a resurgence in the years after 2008, have been similarly unable to devise a new political ideological vision. Instead they expend considerable energy on internal direct-democratic process and affective self-valorisation over strategic efficacy, and frequently propound a variant of neo-primitivist localism, as if to oppose the abstract violence of globalised capital with the flimsy and ephemeral “authenticity” of communal immediacy.

— Nick Srnicek and Alex Williams, *Manifesto for an Accelerationist Politics*

Inventing the Future is a bold new manifesto for life *after* capitalism. Against the confused understanding of our high-tech world by both the right and the left, Nick Srnicek and Alex Williams assert that the emancipatory and future-oriented possibilities of our society can be reclaimed. Instead of running from a complex future, the authors demand a postcapitalist economy capable of advancing standards, liberating humanity from wage labor, and developing technologies that expand our freedoms.

Part of Srnicek and Williams’ argument is that the left has lost the “image” of the future to neoliberalism and has retreated into a profusion of localized activities they call “folk-politics.” The need for the invention of a new kind of universal dimension—a shareable goal in politics that might gather the strength to bring the world beyond its domination by the capitalist machinery—is perhaps clearer today than ever before.

We have invited Alain Badiou to respond to the authors’ claims and engage them in discussion precisely because his philosophy of the Event and thinking of the Universal might provide invaluable insights and guidance to this ambitious project.

“Nick Srnicek and Alex Williams’ project dares to propose a different way of thinking and acting. Given the fizzling of the Occupy moment, a radical rethinking of the anarchic approach is badly needed but just not happening. This book could do a lot of work in getting that rethink going.”

—Doug Henwood, author of *Wall Street*

“A powerful book: it not only shows us how the postcapitalist world of rapidly improving technology could make us free, but it also shows us how we can organise to get there. This is a must-read.”

—Paul Mason, author of *Postcapitalism: A Guide to Our Future*

“Srnicek and Williams demonstrate how a sustainable economic future is less a question of means than of imagination. The postcapitalist world they envision is utterly attainable, if we can remember that we have been inventing the economy all along.”

—Douglas Rushkoff, author of *Present Shock: When Everything Happens Now*

Nick Srnicek is a lecturer at City, University of London. He is the author of Platform Capitalism (2016) and Inventing the Future (2015). He is currently writing After Work.

Alex Williams is a lecturer in the sociology department at City, University of London. He is the author of the forthcoming Hegemony Now (2017) and Inventing the Future (2015).

Alain Badiou was formerly chair of philosophy at the Ecole Normale Supérieure and director of the Collège International de Philosophie in Paris. In addition to several novels, plays and political essays, he has published a number of major philosophical works, including Being and Event (1988), Manifesto for Philosophy (1999), Logic of Worlds (2006), Theory of the Subject (2009), and Metapolitics (2012).

For more information, please contact the gallery:

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