

100 years with and without Kropotkin

Piotr Alekseevich Kropotkin (1842-1921) was one of the most prominent advocates of anarchism during his adult life, but also a famous intellectual and activist in Europe and further afield. In this centenary year of his death, we welcome you to join us for a discussion about his legacy, influence and relevance today. This conference will discuss his life and his work, but also his afterlife. Since February 1921, the world has lived without Kropotkin, but in many ways his ideas and his legacy persist. This conference seeks to specify, debate, contest, and carry on that legacy.

100 years *with* Kropotkin: time and again, his concepts – social economy, communist reorganization, mutual aid – prove their worth for analysis and transformative action alike. Amidst the current ecological and economic crisis, Piotr Kropotkin's immense body of work allows us to think across geography and the sciences, culture and politics, economy and ecology. His ethical and biological approach to social questions resonated with many of his contemporaries and continues to live on in the work of writers and activists.

However, as the neoliberal state mobilizes its full authoritarian potential to protect capitalist accumulation in a warming world, Kropotkin's anarchist horizon can appear distant. As we face compounding crises on an unprecedented scale, we are *without* Kropotkin. This means that he cannot serve as an infallible guide to revolutionary thought and action. Instead of merely celebrating Kropotkin's legacy or using his work as a blueprint, this conference aims to suggest ways of adapting his varied thought to other times and places, refracting it through different approaches, and asking what it has to tell us about the crises of today.

By thinking with and without Kropotkin, this conference takes him at his word. After all, as a thinker of adaptive change in nature and revolutionary change in social life, he called for systems to be "continually developed and readjusted in accordance with the ever growing requirements of a free life" (1903). We invite scholars from all disciplines to engage with such development and readjustment. Inquiries into the applicability and adaptability of his thought in a variety of fields will be appreciated. Throughout, we aim to understand Kropotkin's approaches as a repository of possibilities, an adaptable body of work that we invite participants to apply, revise, and reconsider.

We welcome papers from a wide range of subjects in the hope of representing the multi-disciplinary approach of Kropotkin. These include, but are not limited to, any of the below:

- The modern relevance of Kropotkin's work: especially within the context of neoliberalism, the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change
- Kropotkin's contributions to science and the philosophy of science
- Kropotkin's position within the broader anarchist movement now and during his lifetime
- Critique of capitalism and the state
- Practice, prefiguration, revolution: applying Kropotkin's theoretical perspectives through direct action, mutual aid groups etc.
- Critical perspectives on Kropotkin's work and continuing relevance, esp. from a Marxist, anarchist or postcolonial-anarchist point of view
- Geographies and geologies of change on individual, social, and planetary scales, adaptation, revolution, evolution
- Feminist struggle, free agreement, class struggle, emancipation
- The forgotten Kropotkin: overlooked facets of his life, work, and theory
- Popular Kropotkin: Kropotkin as a cultural figure then and now



Organisation

The conference will be held online.

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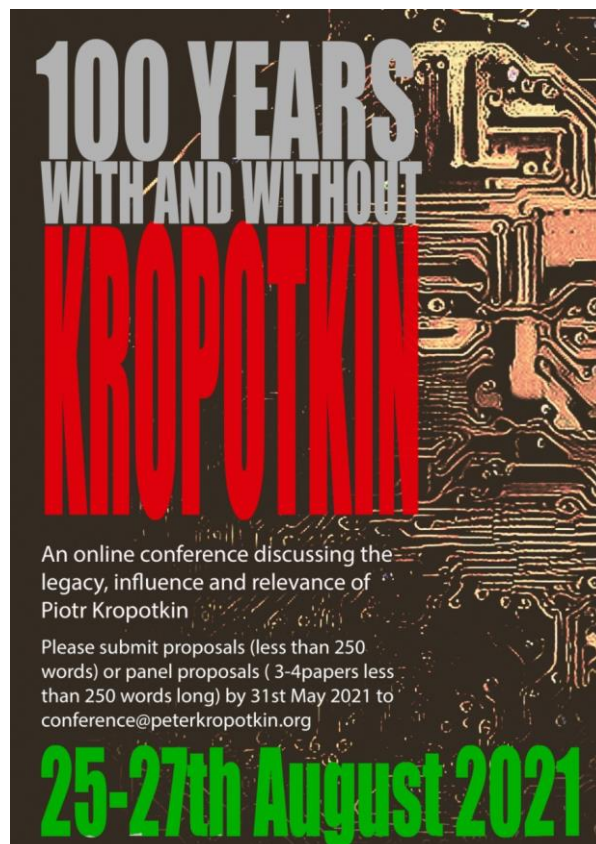
Languages

The main language of the conference will be English. However, we are welcoming proposals for panels delivered in another language as long as they provide their own chair and submit a proposal written in English. For individual participants who do not feel comfortable with English, please do not hesitate to get in touch to talk about it (email below).

Submission of abstracts

Please submit proposals (between 250 and 500 words) or panel proposals (3-4 papers less than 500 words long) by **31st May 2021** to conference@peterkropotkin.org

For updates on the conference, please visit <https://kropotkinnow2021.wordpress.com/about/>



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WITH AND WITHOUT
KROPOTKIN**

An online conference discussing the legacy, influence and relevance of Piotr Kropotkin

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25-27th August 2021

The poster features a dark background with a golden circuit board pattern on the right side. The text is arranged in a vertical stack, with the title in large, bold, white and red letters, followed by a descriptive sentence in white, submission details in white, and the dates in large, bold, green letters at the bottom.