

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## Beyond the Fragments: 45 Years On

Friday 28 June 2024  
People's History  
Museum, Manchester



**BEYOND THE FRAGMENTS**  
*Feminism and the Making of Socialism*

Sheila Rowbotham, Lynne Segal  
and Hilary Wainwright

This one-day conference aims to explore the historical significance and contemporary relevance of *Beyond the Fragments: Feminism and the Making of Socialism*, marking 45 years since the book was first published in 1979. Drawing on the insights of the women's movement in the 1970s, the text sought to unify various social and political movements and forge a new socialist politics for the 1980s. It inspired wide-ranging discussion across the left, sparking a series of highly-attended conferences and the formation of long-lasting activist networks. The project will reflect on the insights and influence of *Beyond the Fragments* and its wider themes, opening up dialogues between past and present activists and academics around new ways of radical organising.

We invite submissions for **15 minute papers**, chiefly focused on **one of the three essays** from the original publication, and relevant wider themes.

1. Sheila Rowbotham, 'The Women's Movement and Organizing for Socialism' - possible themes: feminist political organising and its influence, socialist-feminism and the Far Left, life-writing and activist memoir.
2. Lynne Segal, 'A Local Experience' - possible themes: local feminism(s) and socialism(s), activist spaces, place building and grassroots organising in the community.
3. Hilary Wainwright, 'Moving Beyond the Fragments' - possible themes: networks of solidarity and intersectionality, engagement with the Labour Party and other political/state institutions, organising within local government.

Contributions are welcome from historians, theorists and activists. We are open to all, and encourage proposals for papers drawing on personal experience as well as academic research. Please send proposals of **no more than 300 words**, along with a brief biography, to [beyondthefragments2024@gmail.com](mailto:beyondthefragments2024@gmail.com) by **1st February 2024**.

We are also planning a follow-up informal workshop to discuss the wider themes around *Beyond the Fragments*. This can include the history of socialist-feminism, the Left, and other social movements since 1979, and how *Beyond the Fragments* has directly or indirectly shaped contemporary forms of political organising. We welcome all expressions of interest, including proposals for panels, roundtable discussions, and participatory workshops. A separate CFP will be distributed in the coming months.



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