



**PEOPLE
POWER
ACADEMY**

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

**APRIL 26 TO 28
CHARLOTTESVILLE
VIRGINIA**



**GLOBAL
SCHOOL FOR
ACTIVISTS**

PEOPLE POWER ACADEMY



BEWARE! THEY ARE EDUCATED!

The 2024 CANVAS People Power Academy presents an exciting opportunity for discourse and education about strategies for social change and movements around the globe. Each day will have keynote speakers, presentations from activists about their campaigns, panel discussions, study groups, and engaging workshops. This will be an interactive way for attendees to learn new perspectives and lessons to apply to their own causes. People Power Academy is a dynamic platform for individuals and activists seeking to challenge autocracy and address critical issues like countering propaganda, cybersecurity, and the transition process' promises and pitfalls. We will explore obstacles and lessons learned in the domains of creativity, branding, security, and the use of technology by both movements and autocrats. Attendees can look forward to gaining knowledge about creative tactics, effective campaign strategies, and the opportunity to engage with like-minded individuals. Great networking opportunities will offer a unique chance to forge meaningful connections, exchange insights, and collaborate with other activists.

We hope to see you in April for a shared exploration into some of the most significant challenges of our time and the ways we can overcome them!

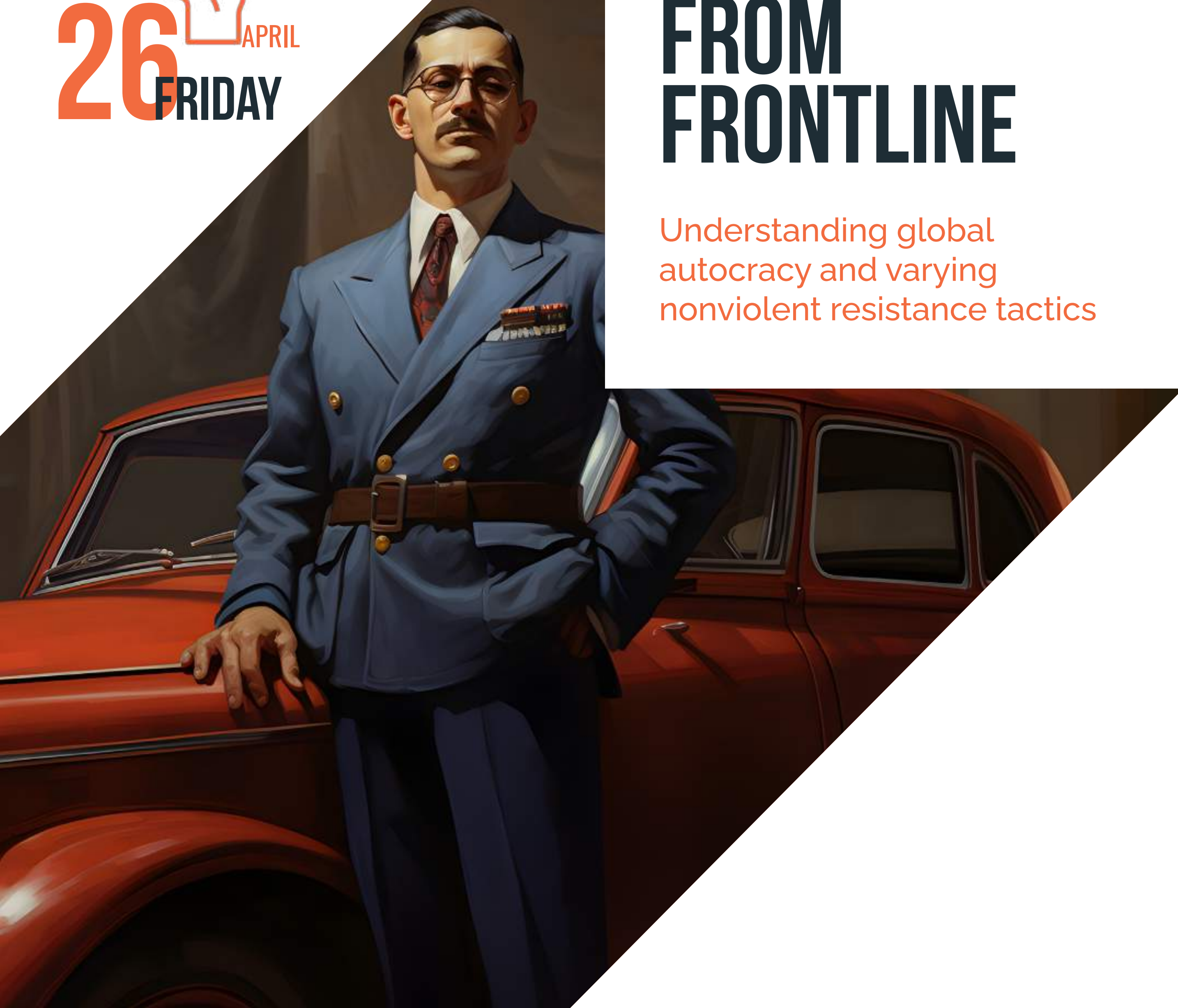
REGISTER HERE 

Online streaming will be available for participants who aren't able to attend the event in person.



26 APRIL

FRIDAY



LEARNING FROM FRONTLINE

Understanding global autocracy and varying nonviolent resistance tactics

TIME	TOPIC	
8:30 - 9:00 am	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION
OPENING	UVA Welcome	
9:00 - 10:00 am	KEYNOTE	<p>📍 Host – Rania Aziz, Sudan Leopoldo López > Venezuela</p>
10:00 - 10:30 am	IGNITE TALKS	<p>📍 Félix Maradiaga > Nicaragua Volya Vysotskaia > Belarus</p>
10:30 - 11:00 am	BREAKS	COFFEE BREAK
11:00 - 12:30 pm	PANEL	<p>📍 "GLOBAL AUTOCRACY INCORPORATED AND HOW TO CHALLENGE IT" Peter Pomerantsev > (moderator) Yunier Suarez > Cuba, Sylvain Saluseke > DRC, Rana Rahimpour > - Iran</p>
12:30 - 02:00 pm	LUNCH	📍 LUNCH, Bond House, 600 Brandon Ave
02:00 - 04:00 pm	WORKSHOPS & STUDY GROUPS	<p>📍 WS: Branding and Visuals in Nonviolent Movements - Ana Djordjevic > CANVAS Case Study: Rios de Pie movement, Bolivia ></p> <p>📍 SG#1: Dilemma Actions, Tactics for change Sophia McClennen > Case Study: Khumbulani Maphosa > Zimbabwe</p>
04:00 - 04:30 pm	BREAK	NETWORKING
08:00 pm	ARTIVISM	<p>Exhibition: Political Prisoners</p> <p>📍 Movie Night at Violet Crown Theater, Downtown Mall</p>



When organizing and participating in a nonviolent movement, it is critical to understand the inner workings of autocratic oppositions.

**HOW DO AUTOCRATIC LEADERS CONCENTRATE THEIR POWERS?
HOW HAVE ACTIVISTS BEEN ABLE TO ADAPT TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES?**

Autocratic threats to human rights and democracy may be difficult to oppose, but possible to resist and overcome. Mobilizing a successful movement takes not just passion, but knowledge of nonviolent tactics and strategies as well.

On this first day, we will discuss the methods used by autocratic governments to hold their power and authority. It is vital for civil society to comprehend how autocrats maintain control and to learn about different nonviolent resistance tactics and how effective they can be. Creative activism and dilemma actions can break fear, encourage participation and increase visibility of the cause. All this will be discussed, as well as personal experience of activists through several case studies where activists employed these techniques.

27 APRIL
SATURDAY

TECHNOLOGY & DISINFORMATION

Navigating cyber risks and being equipped against propaganda



TIME

TOPIC

9:00 – 10:00 am

KEYNOTE

📍 Slobodan Djinovic & Srdja Popovic, CANVAS > Evan Mawarire > Zimbabwe

10:00 – 10:30 am

IGNITE TALKS

📍 Andre Henry > Black Lives Matter > USA
Yevgeniya Chirikova > Russia

10:30 – 11:00 am

BREAKS

☕ COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 12:30 pm

PANEL

📍 **"FIGHTING FOR CHANGE IN A POST TRUTH WORLD"**
William Dobson > (moderator)
Ricardo Borges Martins > Brazil, Activist from Philippines,
Activist from Serbia

12:30 – 02:00 pm

LUNCH

📍 LUNCH, Bond House, 600 Brandon Ave

02:00 – 04:00 pm

WORKSHOPS & STUDY GROUPS

📍 WS: Financial Freedom and Bitcoin - Alex Gladstein > Human Rights Foundation

📍 **SG#1: How to stay sane and avoid burnout when campaigning**
Chair: Stephen Parks
Vanina Kala Waizmann >
Case Study: Malcom Bidali > Kenya, Zineb El Rhazoui > Morocco

04:00 – 04:30 pm

BREAK

📍 NETWORKING

07:00 pm

ARTIVISM

📍 Exhibition: Political Prisoners

📍 Concert
Andre Henry, USA, Ramy Essam > Egypt, Manasseh > South Sudan



In an increasingly online world, maintaining digital security is essential for activists' safety. Social engineering attacks are becoming more sophisticated in finding ways to illegally access valuable information. While the internet and social media have served as helpful tools for activists, the misuse of AI and the rise of mass surveillance present significant challenges for activists, even reinforcing repression. That is why it's important to learn and implement new practices to safeguard privacy while effectively utilizing digital tools for activism. Movements are often targeted by threatening campaigns, where disinformation can severely undermine their cause and legitimacy. Understanding propaganda within the context of informational warfare can allow activists to formulate their own competing narratives to preserve or build popular support. In this session, we will discuss how to approach the world of disinformation, what practices can be useful, and what technologies can be vital to protect activists. Experts will provide insights into new digital security measures, while activists will share their experiences fighting disinformation and promoting their message.

28 APRIL
SUNDAY

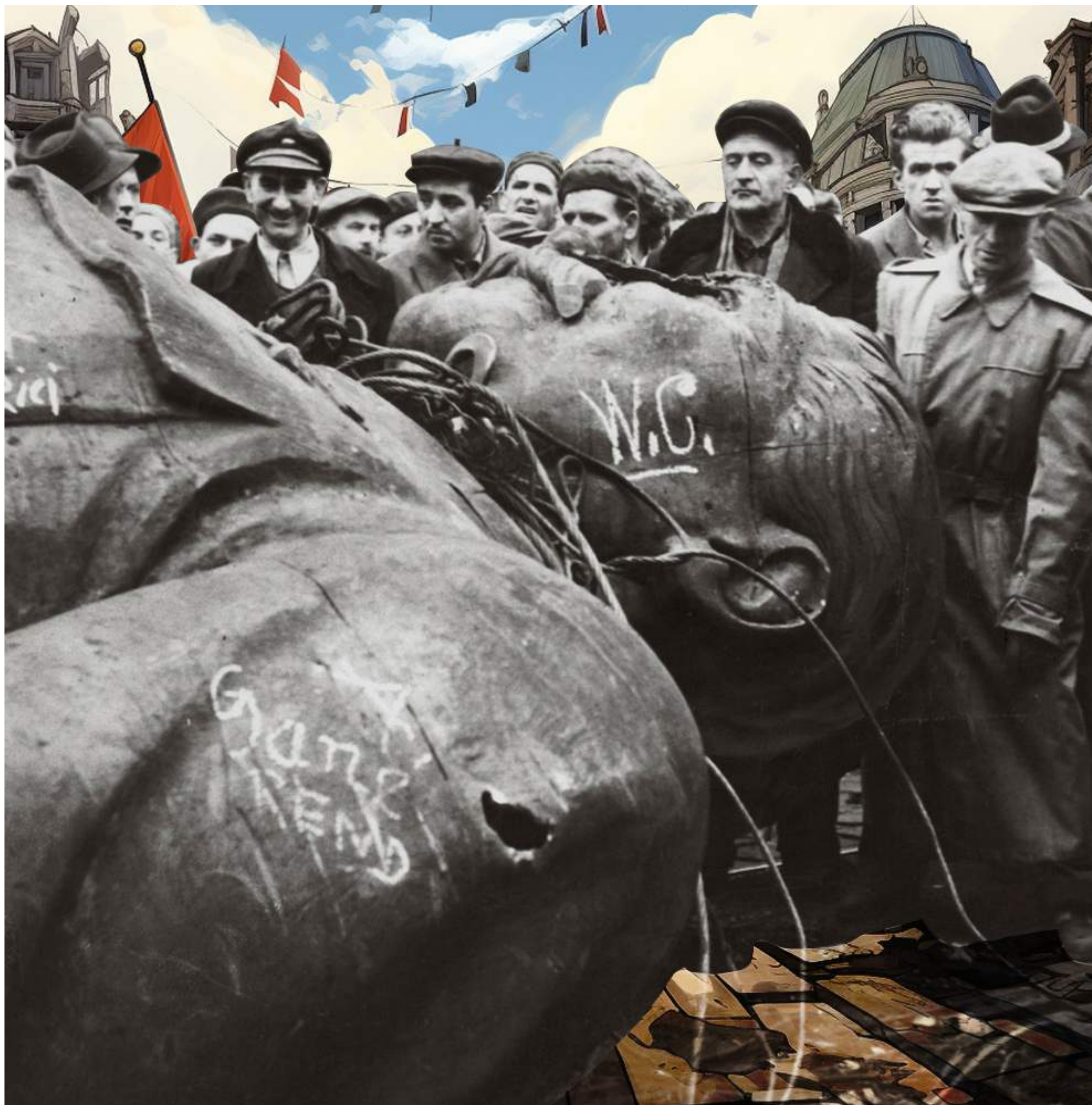


MOVEMENTS IN TRANSITION

What Activists need to be aware of and how to stay engaged in the transitions process



TIME	TOPIC	
9:00 – 10:00 am	KEYNOTE	<p>Dominika Lasota > Fridays for Future > Poland Zoran Zaev > Republic of North Macedonia</p>
10:00 – 10:30 am	IGNITE TALKS	<p>Activist from Myanmar</p>
10:30 – 11:00 am	BREAKS	<p>COFFEE BREAK</p>
11:00 – 12:30 pm	PANEL	<p>"Promises and Pitfalls of Transition" Prof. John Gould > (moderator) Ahmed Samih Farag- Egypt, Nini Gogiberidze - Georgia, Cecilia Lero > Philippines</p>
		<p>TAKEAWAY REMARKS: Breza Race, CANVAS ></p>
12:30 – 02:00 pm	LUNCH	<p>LUNCH, Bond House, 600 Brandon Ave</p>
		<p>WS: Negotiations in transition - Cecilia Lero</p>
02:00 – 04:00 pm	WORKSHOPS & STUDY GROUPS	<p>SG#1 What Academics Can Learn from Advocates Chair: Laurent DuBois Jhanisse Vaca-Daza/Chris Carter. "Rios De Pie"> Gloria Wu/Myo Yan Naung Thein. "Burmese Democratic Futures Group" Keya Turkiewicz/Evan Mawarire. The Nehemiah Project</p>
04:00 – 04:30 pm	BREAK	<p>NETWORKING</p>
07:30 pm		<p>Exhibition: Political Prisoners Farewell Dinner, FIG, 1331 W Main St</p>



Achieving success in a nonviolent struggle marks the beginning of a new stage - transition. Once change has been realized, it is important for movements to uphold their values during this period. Numerous aspects are crucial to the final outcome, such as holding people in power accountable and ensuring the entire society benefits from the change. Activists should actively engage in institutional reform and continue advocating from within to establish strong and independent tools of democracy. In all circumstances, maintaining stability throughout the process involves continued organizing and clear messaging in this fragile stage. On this day, we will discuss the transition process and how activists can prepare for it. Drawing insight from case studies, we will delve into promises and pitfalls of transitions and negotiations. Additionally, we will present CANVAS' recent research and new curriculum 'Movements in Transition', which entails important findings and new strategies to sustain change.



PEOPLE POWER ACADEMY

SUPPORTED BY

