

Old theoretical constructions lose their strength in the contemporary shifts and transformations; traditional practices of resistance are often toothless. How can we overcome these shortcomings of leftist politics? One strategy, which has become more popular, prefers to ask questions instead of giving answers. This method is often derived from the 'conricerca' which was developed by the Italian Operaists. In Germany this method is better known as the militant investigation or activating enquiry. Militant investigations have an ambitious claim: They want to overcome the division between theory and practice on the one hand and simultaneously overcome the division between the investigator and the investigated on the other hand.

There is more to militant investigations than asking questions. It is more than navel-gazing or an investigation of the self – preceding the investigation is a strategic discussion and a conscious positioning in the political sphere. Ultimately it is not about a clear analytical and, on top of that, random interest; it is about the way to proceed with social struggles and to combine different struggles.

For a long time it was quiet around militant investigations, but now more and more political groups do such investigations or take similar approaches: Euromayday Milano, Euromayday Vienna, FeS and Euromayday Hamburg at the Berlinale and the Documena, Precarias a la deriva, Colectivo Situaciones, Team Colors and the Kleines Postfordistisches Drama are some examples.

The next issue of *arranca!* will give an overview of the origins of militant investigations and reflect on actual efforts that took place. Beyond that, it will be a tool box for those who want to research concrete social struggles.

What is the history of militant investigations and where are the traces to its contemporary usage? From where does the actual interest in militant investigations arise and why is there so little exchange on the results and methods? Which strategies exist? Who asks whom and how and why? Which conclusions from the previous Investigations exist and which problems occurred? So far, what are the open questions and blind spots and where are the fruitful connections? Which role do militant investigations play in the critique of existing social conditions and which one do they play in the practice of changing them?

We would like to invite you to reconstruct the concept of the militant investigation, to connect, to review, to shine a light, to develop it further or to condemn it. We look forward to articles, reports, discussions, proposals and fancy stuff. Please send a short proposal – with around 500 to 1000 symbols – until the 20th of August 2008 to arranca@nadir.org.

Dead line for the finished articles is the 15th of October 2008.

Links:

Euromayday (1) (2) *Precarias a la deriva* (1) (2) (3) (4) *Colectivo Situaciones* (1) (2) *Kleines Postfordistisches Drama* (1) (2) *Team Colors* (1) (2) (3) *Transform* (1) *Peter Birke* (1).