

WELCOME TO RESISTING MONOPOLY CAPITALISM

Nick Dearden, director of Global Justice Now



The modern corporation has its origins in the plunder and brutality of Empire, so it's no surprise that today, ever more powerful corporations have again become the central vehicle for extraction and exploitation.

The profits of the world's biggest corporations sky-rocketed through the pandemic and cost of living crisis. In 2021, the profits of the biggest 500 firms doubled, while their income rose to an almost unimaginable \$38 trillion. The combined income of just five corporations exceeds that of the poorest two billion people – a quarter of the world's population.

The reason: corporate concentration is intensifying at an alarming rate, with a few giants cornering markets in medicines, food, energy and technology. This allows them to boost prices and fuel inflation, even while most people get poorer.

But this doesn't only drive inequality. Corporate giants set the rules of our economy in their own interest, undermining democracy with deeply anti-social results, from pharmaceutical firms that ignore unprofitable diseases, to a farming system that depends on an ever-dwindling and vulnerable set of crops.

There's a particular problem when corporations control the basics we all need to live a dignified life. But this isn't simply a problem of a few big businesses behaving badly in specific sectors. Corporate power defines our economic model, which can accurately be described as monopoly capitalism. We hope that using this label can help mobilise people not only in important battles against 'Big Pharma' or 'Big Tech', but to challenge corporate power as a whole. Only then can we build a more equal, democratic and sustainable society.

TIMETABLE

LECTURE THEATRE (BASEMENT)	BG01 (GROUND FLOOR)	B103 (FIRST FLOOR)
<p>11:15AM Opening plenary: Understanding monopoly power <i>With Ann Pettifor, Parminder Jeet Singh, Julia Kosgei, chaired by Nick Dearden</i></p>		
LUNCH - 12:45PM		
<p>1:45PM Make Big Tech small again <i>With Parminder Jeet Singh and Garfield Hylton, chaired by Jean Blaylock</i></p>	<p>1:45PM Workshop: Extinction Rebellion's April climate mobilisation <i>With Yaz Ashmawi, chaired by Daisy Pearson</i></p>	<p>1:45PM Authoritarian capitalism and democratic resistance <i>With Anthony Barnett and May Wong, chaired by Luke Cooper</i></p>
<p>3PM Agribusiness and the fight for food sovereignty <i>With João Paulo Rodrigues and Ronnie Hall, chaired by Jyoti Fernandes</i></p>	<p>3PM Workshop: How to take down a monopoly <i>With Nick Shaxson, Cori Crider and Garfield Hylton, chaired by Cleodie Rickard</i></p>	<p>3PM Dismantling Big Pharma's money machine <i>With Julia Kosgei and Nick Dearden, chaired by Aasiya Versi</i></p>
BREAK - 4:15PM		
<p>4:35PM Closing plenary: Monopolies, the climate crisis and our alternatives <i>With Aurélie Trouvé, Nick Shaxson, João Paulo Rodrigues, chaired by Alena Ivanova</i></p>		

SESSIONS

PANEL

Opening plenary: Understanding monopoly power

LECTURE THEATRE 11:15AM

Corporations are not only enormously wealthy, their overwhelming and growing power has come to define the modern global economy and lies at the heart of some of our most pressing political problems like inequality, the erosion of democracy, climate change. This session will look deeper into the problem, exploring the way monopoly capitalism is distorting our financial system, the development and distribution of medicines, and the technology on which society depends.

With **Ann Pettifor** (economist), **Parminder Jeet Singh** (IT for Change) and **Julia Kosgei** (Peoples Vaccine Alliance), chaired by **Nick Dearden** (Global Justice Now)

PARALLEL SESSIONS 1

Make Big Tech small again

LECTURE THEATRE 1:45PM

Digital technology corporations are now some of the wealthiest and most powerful conglomerates

in the world. The reach these corporations increasingly enjoy over every aspect of our lives means that their regulation is vitally important to all of us. In this session we'll see how Big Tech power affects everything from the climate crisis to workers' rights - and how we can join the struggle for information commons.

With **Parminder Jeet Singh** (IT for Change) and **Garfield Hylton** (Amazon worker), chaired by **Jean Blaylock** (Global Justice Now)

Workshop: Extinction Rebellion's April climate mobilisation

BG01 1:45PM

Unity across movements is vital to counter the extreme corporate power that's entrenched in every aspect of our global economy. For 'The Big One', Extinction Rebellion is putting its usual tactics aside in favour of collaboration, inclusivity and movement-building. In this workshop, we'll find out about XR's plan for April 21-24, delve into the strategy behind it, and think creatively and strategically about mass mobilisations for the climate, and what we can achieve when we work together.

With **Yaz Ashmawi** (Extinction Rebellion), chaired by **Daisy Pearson** (Global Justice Now)

Authoritarian capitalism and democratic resistance

B103 1:45PM

Just as we're seeing a concentration of economic power, so political power is also being monopolised by increasingly authoritarian leaders, fuelling conflict and threatening political freedom. What's the relationship between these two trends? What are the implications of the rise of Chinese corporations in the global economy? And what does the Ukrainian resistance to Russian imperialism mean for the broader struggle for democracy and human rights?

With **Anthony Barnett** (Open Democracy) and **May Wong** (Hong Kong activist), chaired by **Luke Cooper** (Another Europe is Possible)

PARALLEL SESSIONS 2

Agribusiness and the fight for food sovereignty

LECTURE THEATRE 3PM

The last three years have seen

over 60 people become 'food billionaires', just as food prices have spiralled upwards. Just a handful of corporations now control the global seed market, agrochemical market and international grain trade. The industrial food model is a tale of corporate power and growing inequality, but around the world, peasants and producers are fighting the food barons with a completely different vision - food sovereignty.

With **João Paulo Rodrigues** (Landless Workers Movement) and **Ronnie Hall**, (ETC Group), chaired by **Jyoti Fernandes** (Landworkers Alliance)

Workshop: How to take down a monopoly BG01 3PM

What would beating a behemoth like Amazon look like? Reputational damage, tough regulation, material disruption... probably all of the above: a 'whole-movement' approach to strategically take down a monopoly. A wide range of actors are implicated in antagonising Amazon, each with different leverage: workers, small businesses, activists, campaigners,

lawyers, policymakers. Here we'll discuss the missing piece: meaningful coordination, and the conditions and connections necessary for it.

With **Nick Shaxson** (*Balanced Economy Project*), **Cori Crider** (*Foxglove*) and **Garfield Hylton** (*Amazon worker*), chaired by **Cleodie Rickard** (*Global Justice Now*)

Dismantling Big Pharma's money machine B103 3PM

The pharmaceutical sector is one of the most profitable in the world thanks to patent rules which hand corporations monopolies over life-saving medicines. In the pandemic, this led to grotesque levels of vaccine inequality, dubbed 'vaccine apartheid' by campaigners. But it's also led to a flourishing of alternatives, with initiatives across the world showing a very different way of making medicines. This session will explore these alternatives, and what we can do to support them here.

With **Julia Kosgei** (*People's Vaccine Alliance*) and **Nick Dearden** (*Global Justice Now*), chaired by **Aasiya Versi** (*Just Treatment*)

PANEL

Closing plenary: Monopolies, the climate crisis and our alternatives

LECTURE THEATRE 3PM

We are fighting not just one very powerful corporation, but a system of corporate power. But just as we campaign against the capture of our political system by elites, so we're campaigning against the capture of the international economy by self-interested elites. And, history shows us, we can win. This session will help us to build hope, especially given the urgency which climate change presents. We will explore real alternatives to monopoly capitalism, and how we can get - and are getting - closer to them through activism on a range of different levels.

With **Aurélie Trouvé** (*French MP, NUPES*), **Nick Shaxson** (*Balanced Economy Project*) and **João Paulo Rodrigues** (*Landless Workers Movement*), chaired by **Alena Ivanova** (*Global Justice Now*)

SPEAKERS

Yaz Ashmawi is an activist with Extinction Rebellion, working in the strategy, action support, and visual design teams.

Anthony Barnett was founding editor of open-Democracy, a media platform which seeks to challenge power and encourage democratic debate. He is an author of numerous books, an advocate of constitutional reform and political freedom, and has written widely against Brexit and right-wing authoritarian populism.



Luke Cooper is the convenor of Another Europe is Possible, an LSE research fellow and author of *Authoritarian Contagion: The Global Threat to Democracy*.

Cori Crider is a lawyer and director of Foxglove, which stands up to tech giants and campaigns for technology to benefit everyone.

Nick Dearden is the director of Global Justice Now, where he has played a leading role in the opposition to various neoliberal

trade deals. He has been outspoken against global vaccine inequality during the pandemic, with a new book *Pharmanomics: How Big Pharma Threatens Global Health* forthcoming from Verso in 2023.

Jyoti Fernandes is an agroecological farmer in Dorset and policy lead for the Landworkers Alliance, the UK affiliate of La Via Campesina.

Ronnie Hall is communication coordinator for ETC Group, which works to address the socioeconomic and ecological impact of corporate concentration and new technologies. She has 30 years of experience campaigning on global environmental, social justice and trade issues.

Garfield Hylton is an Amazon warehouse worker in Coventry and a member of the GMB union.

Parminder Jeet Singh is co-executive director of the Indian advocacy group IT for Change. He has been a special advisor to the UN's



STALLS

Internet Governance Forum, and is involved in organising resistance to data-driven neo-colonialism by global north tech monopolies and pushing for digital governance which works in the interests of people not profit.

Julia Kosgei is policy adviser for the People's Vaccine Alliance, a global coalition established during the Covid-19 pandemic to challenge big pharma's patent monopolies and demand free vaccine for all. Based in Kenya, she is a longtime health justice advocate.



Ann Pettifor is a political economist and author. Her work focuses on the financial system, the role of debt in the global economy and alternatives to the power of banks. She is director of Prime: Policy Research in Macroeconomics and author of several books including *The Production of Money* and *The*



Case for the Green New Deal.

João Paulo Rodrigues is a farmer and a national leader of Brazil's Landless Rural Workers' Movement, or MST in its Portuguese initials. It is a mass social movement fighting for land reform and against rural poverty, industrial agricultural and agribusiness dominance in the food system. João Paulo represented the MST in Lula's recent campaign for the presidency of Brazil.



Nicholas Shaxson is a journalist and author of *The Finance Curse: How global finance is making us all poorer* and *Treasure Islands*, an investigation of tax havens and financial secrecy. He is a co-founder of the Balanced Economy Project, an anti-monopoly organisation.



Aurélie Trouvé was elected to the French parliament in 2022 and serves as the parliamentary president of the new left opposition coalition NUPES, the New Ecological and Social People's Union. She was previously spokesperson for ATTAC France, the grassroots movement for global economic and climate justice.



Aasiya Versi is an organiser with Just Treatment, which campaigns to put patients before profit in the pharmaceutical industry and the NHS.

May Wong is a Hong Kong author and longtime activist on labour rights and corporate globalisation.

Jean Blaylock, Alena Ivanova, Daisy Pearson and **Cleodie Rickard** are staff in the activism and campaign teams at Global Justice Now.

Housmans bookshop is a not-for-profit bookshop in King's Cross specialising in progressive and radical titles.

ETC Group works to address the socioeconomic and ecological issues surrounding new technologies that could have an impact on the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

New Internationalist is the UK's largest media co-operative, whose award-winning journalism is read by thousands of people around the globe.

Extinction Rebellion is an international movement that uses non-violent civil disobedience in an attempt to halt mass extinction and minimise the risk of social collapse.

Global Justice Now

Membership Join us today and choose one of two free books

Campaigns Pick up campaigns materials and get your questions answered by campaigners.

Youth network Find out how to get involved in Global Justice Youth, our network of groups for anyone under 30.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Tuesday 4 April, 6:30pm: **London youth network meeting**

Join *Our Future Now*, the London Global Justice Youth group for their next meet-up. They'll be making plans for the coming months including getting involved in 'The Big One' in April.

Global Justice Now offices, 66 Offley Road, London, SW9 0LS

21-24 April: **'The Big One' with Extinction Rebellion and others**

Join us in Westminster for a lawful, peaceful, four-day protest to fight the fossil fuel economy and demand action on climate change. Expect engaging speakers, interactive activities, art, music and opportunities to contribute, learn, plan, debate – and be heard.

More info at: globaljustice.org.uk/the-big-one.

21 April: **Picket the Department for Business and Trade!**

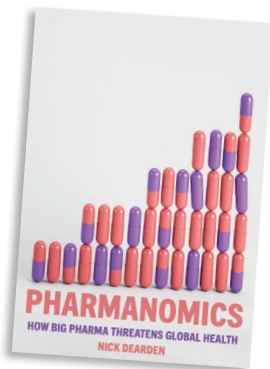
The Energy Charter Treaty is a tool that fossil fuel giants are using to hold on to their power and profit. Activists all across Europe have been fighting back and starting to win as country after country has said they will leave the treaty. But so far the UK government is sitting on the fence. As part of the 'The Big One' we and allies will be picketing the trade ministry and telling them to exit the ECT. Join us on the picket line! Details to be confirmed. Check globaljustice.org.uk/events.

27 April: **Stop Fleecing the NHS**

The pharma industry is demanding a tax cut that would cost the NHS billions. Join us at Liverpool Street, London to resist their profiteering. For more details email tim.bierley@globaljustice.org.uk.

3 October: **Pharmanomics book launch**

Nick Dearden's book *Pharmanomics: How Big Pharma threatens global health* will be published by Verso on 3 October. Make sure you're on our mailing list to get a special offer on the book when it comes out. Sign up online at globaljustice.org.uk.



GET INVOLVED

We don't want today's event to be a talking shop. Ideas for change need to be activated. Global Justice Now has a network of groups across the country who organise regular meetings, campaign stalls, lobbying of MPs and actions. To contact your local one and get involved, go to globaljustice.org.uk/groups.

If you live somewhere where there is currently no group, we can connect you with other people locally and offer support in getting some local campaigning going. Email guy.taylor@globaljustice.org.uk for any info and assistance you might need.

Global Justice Youth also has groups both on and off campuses around the country, with new members joining all the time. Find the stall during the conference or email leelou.gordon-fox@globaljustice.org.uk.



BECOME A MEMBER

If you like what we do to challenge corporate power and build a world which works for the global majority, please become a member today. The majority of our funding comes from individual members, keeping us active, independent and outspoken.

If you join during the conference, we'll even give you a book to say thank you. Choose from *Less is More* by Jason Hickel, or *Uncommon Wealth* by Kojo Koram. Find the membership stall to join and claim your book.

Scan here to sign up as a member!



