

Lydia Hughes

Researcher and
Organiser

Experience

Postgraduate Researcher

October 2023 - PRESENT

- Awarded a fully funded studentship at City, University of London to research the experiences of care workers in the adult social care sector

Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust / Coordinator

July 2022 - October 2023

- Coordinate all activities of the Trust, including educational, financial, grant giving, the fellowship, and the annual lecture

Troublemaking: Why You Should Organise Your Workplace / Writer

June 2021 - July 2022

- The book, published April 2023, focuses on organising at work and puts forward an argument for why workers should do it
- Conducted substantial research through interviews and desk-based methods

IWGB / Head of Organising

February 2018 - August 2021

- Began work at IWGB as the organiser for the Foster Care Workers Branch, where I organised local groups of carers and coordinated key campaigns
- As Head of Organising, I coordinated efforts across all 11 branches of the union in the areas of organising, HR, data and GDPR, fundraising, finances, and membership
- Launched and won key campaigns with couriers, Uber drivers, foster care workers, cycling instructors, cleaners, and security guards
- Managed a team of 13 organisers and coordinators, as well as working with the Executive Committee of the union and the committees of each branch
- Personally responsible for securing £1.2million in grant funding, as well as maintaining relationships with funders and reporting back on expenditure
- Founded and personally provided the secretariat for an All-Party Parliamentary Group in Westminster that held eight evidence giving sessions from care workers
- Worked closely with key stakeholders, for example the International Transport Workers' Federation for a joint project with Deliveroo riders
- Inputted and assisted on legal arguments for cases in the Employment Tribunal

Editor/ Notes from Below

December 2017 - PRESENT

- Founding member and editor of online journal that has had 200,000 users and half a million page views
- Published and edited pieces in thirteen online issues, as well as three edited print publications
- Responsible for the financial administration of multiple projects, as well as securing funding from foundations and private donors
- Established and maintained a grant giving programme for worker writing
- Researched and wrote my own in-depth workers' inquiries

Editor/ Red Pepper

January 2022 - PRESENT

- Member of the editorial board responsible for commissioning, editing, and production
- Coordinating sections and editing articles in the quarterly print publication
- Commissioning, editing, and uploading regular online content

Education

Ruskin College, Oxford / MA Global Labour and Social Change

Part-time 2017 - 2019, Distinction

Final research project entitled "Why Organising Culture Matters: The IWGB and Precarious Worker Struggles".

London School of Economics / BSc Politics and Philosophy

2014 - 2017, Upper Second-Class Honours

Final research project entitled "Making the invisible visible: The 'new union movement' and the mobilisation of the LSE cleaners".

Other relevant experience

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- Convenor of a stream of panels on Work and Artificial Intelligence at ILPC conference, Vienna 2019. Convened a stream for Notes from Below at Historical Materialism London in 2018, 2019 and 2022.
 - Presented papers at multiple academic conferences. For example, Historical Materialism in London 2018, 2019 and 2022, Historical Materialism in New York, 2019, Marx 200 in Berlin, 2018.
 - Organised educational sessions for The World Transformed festival in the trade union stream in 2018 and 2019. Became the co-lead for the trade union stream in 2022.
 - Written a chapter in the edited collection, Workers' Inquiry and Global Class Struggle for Pluto Press, 2020.
 - Guest speaker on podcasts for Surviving Society, NEF, Autonomy thinktank, Pluto Press, People's Private Equity, as well as others.
 - Written online and print articles for Novara Media, the Guardian and Red Pepper.
 - Coordinated and taught at an annual residential school for A Level Politics students from 2018 to 2023.

