

**People's Movement Assembly**  
**The Changing Landscape of Higher Education:**  
**Austerity, Precarity & Graduate Student Workers**  
**October 18, 2014**  
**George Mason University, Founder's Hall, Arlington, VA**

**DOCUMENT AT:** [https://pad.riseup.net/p/Inosa\\_PMA](https://pad.riseup.net/p/Inosa_PMA)

**\*Goals of People's Movement Assembly**

- Networking and experience exchange
- Understand connections between academic and other workers
- Deepen awareness of movements for economic justice and worker rights
- Outline plan for working together
- Build network of people to carry work forward

**Part I 12:00 NOON-1:30 PM-*Consciousness & Experience-Sharing***

**Opening-Introductions (20 min.)**

**Introduction to the People's Movement Assembly**—Jackie Smith, University of Pittsburgh & International Network of Scholar Activists

**Welcome from Washington D.C. Area Students** [Jamal- Howard University sociology group?]

**Graduate Student Workers and Struggles**-Marisa Allison, George Mason University

Background readings available at: <http://pittcoalitionsworkshop.wikispaces.com/INoSA>

**Small groups-1—Experience and analysis (20 min.)**

- Introductions
  
- Discuss examples from your campus of how economic change is impacting students and workers in higher education.
  
- Have recent changes in funding affected people on your campus? How?
  
- How have the labor market opportunities for graduates at your institution been impacted by the funding policies and working conditions for graduate students?

Report back to full group (10 min.)

**Small group 2: Visioning alternatives & learning from other movements (20 min.)**

- Are people organizing on your campus in response to the economic pressures? How?
- Can you identify similarities or connections between academic and other work-related movements?
- What do you see as the most effective strategies or targets for graduate student worker movements to pursue?

Report back to full group (10 min.)

**Part II 1:30-3:00PM—People’s Movement Assembly Part 2—Strategy & Planning**

Introductions and reflections on part 1 (20 min.)

Facilitator may offer additional synthesis of Part 1 & then discussion

Next steps—Brainstorming (40 min.)

- What are some of the strengths of organizing work happening on your campus?
- What is needed to help advance and support efforts for social & worker justice?
- How can we organize these efforts in a more sustainable way?
- How can we better coordinate the work that is happening?
- Long-term visions/ goals
- Short- and medium-term steps/ objectives

Commitments: (20 min.)

- What are people willing to do to help move the work forward?