

**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  
*#Academiclabor*

**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**

**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?

#### **\*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

**Background readings** and resources at: <http://pittcoalitionsworkshop.wikispaces.com/INoSA>  
(also at [www.scholaraction.org](http://www.scholaraction.org) )

- [Who is Professor Staff?](#)
- [Professors on food stamps](#)
- ["You are not a Loan" Says Strike Debt](#)
- [Open Access Week](#) is October 20-26, 2014. Contact your local librarian!