



# Teachers' Unions

## Victims or Heroes of Late Capitalism?

In the past year, teachers' unions across the country have been leading strikes for educational change - and winning. But just months before the strike wave began, many had believed public sector unions were on their last legs, as legal and political challenges mounted against them. How should we understand this unstable position of teachers' unions, seemingly simultaneous victims of the political economy and heroes of it? This talk will examine this question by looking at the political biography of Wisconsin's largest teachers' union, which offers a "ground zero" case for understanding both the attack on teachers' unions and the possibilities for their broader reformation.

**February 3rd • 4:00 p.m. • Fireside Lounge, Dana Commons**

**Eleni Schirmer** recently defended her Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies and Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Wisconsin. Her research focuses on social movements and the political economy of education, in particular the intersections of school privatization and racial segregation and the teachers' union in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She has been active in labor and education movements in Wisconsin, including serving as co-president of the Teaching Assistants' Association, the nation's oldest graduate employee union.



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