

ARTICLE I. NAME OF STUDENT ORGANIZATION

The organization shall be called Platypus Affiliated Society at UC San Diego

ARTICLE II. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Platypus is a project for the self-criticism, self-education, and, ultimately, the practical reconstitution of a Marxian Left. At present the Marxist Left appears as a historical ruin. The received wisdom of today dictates that past, failed attempts at emancipation stand not as moments full of potential yet to be redeemed, but rather as “what was” — utopianism that was bound to end in tragedy. As critical inheritors of a vanquished tradition, Platypus contends that — after the failure of the 1960s New Left, and the dismantlement of the welfare state and the destruction of the Soviet Union in the 1980s-90s — the present disorientation of the Left means we can hardly claim to know the tasks and goals of social emancipation better than the “utopians” of the past did.

Our task is critique and education towards the reconstitution of a Marxian Left. Platypus contends that the ruin of the Marxist Left as it stands today is of a tradition whose defeat was largely self-inflicted, hence at present the Marxist Left is historical, and in such a grave state of decomposition that it has become exceedingly difficult to draft coherently programmatic social-political demands. In the face of the catastrophic past and present, the first task for the reconstitution of a Marxian Left as an emancipatory force is to recognize the reasons for the historical failure of Marxism and to clarify the necessity of a Marxian Left for the present and future. — *If the Left is to change the world, it must first transform itself!*

The improbable — but not impossible — reconstitution of an emancipatory Left is an urgent task; we believe that the future of humanity depends on it. While the devastating forces unleashed by modern society — capitalism — remain, the unfulfilled promise of social emancipation still calls for redemption. To abdicate this or to obscure the gravity of past defeats and failures by looking to “resistance” from “outside” the dynamics of modern society is to affirm its present and guarantee its future destructive reality.

Platypus asks the questions: How is the thought of critical theorists of modern society such as Marx, Lukács, Benjamin and Adorno relevant for the struggle for social emancipation today? How can we make sense of the long history of impoverished politics on the Left leading to the present — after the international Marxist Left of Lenin, Luxemburg and Trotsky, to the barrenness of today — without being terrorized or discouraged by this history? — How might the answers to such questions help the urgent task of reconstituting the Left at its most fundamental levels of theory and practice? How might we help to escape from the dead-end the Left has become? We hope to reinvigorate a conversation on the Left that has long since fallen into senility or silence, in order to help found an emancipatory political practice that is presently absent.

What has the Left been, and what can it yet become? — Platypus exists because the answer to such a question, even its basic formulation, has long ceased to be self-evident.

ARTICLE III. NONPROFIT STATEMENT

Platypus Affiliated Society at UC San Diego is a non-profit student organization.

ARTICLE IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

There are no membership requirements or restrictions. Anyone who decides to attend our meetings is free to do so.

A member may be recommended to the international list of members that are active in the Platypus Affiliated Society, depending on the level of commitment to learn and teach others the readings on our syllabus or to teach material related to our Statement of Purpose. We will review a member's packet, brief the person interested in the material, and add them as an official member of the organization.

ARTICLE V. FREQUENCY OF ORGANIZATION MEETINGS

Our organization will meet at minimum once a week for our reading group. Minutes shall be taken by the designated pedagogue during the reading discussions.

Our campus chapters are organized in a “Tripod” Structure. The three components are:

- 1.) The primary Marxist reading groups
- 2.) Community and public fora
- 3.) Campus activities

Time willing, we may also host informal coffee breaks across campus, conduct teach-ins, or host discussion panels among community Leftists.

ARTICLE VI. QUALIFICATIONS FOR HOLDING OFFICE AND METHODS OF SELECTING AND REPLACING OFFICERS

Only registered UCSD students may hold office in the organization. Only registered UCSD students may vote in elections for the selection of the organization's officers. However, there are no officers in our steering committee.

There is a pedagogue who facilitates reading group discussion. The steering committee may designate another pedagogue given their interest in teaching others at a chapter-based level.

Anyone interested in engaging with Platypus at the organizational level is welcome to do so. The steering committee can designate and brief a member who expresses interest in pedagogy or membership.

ARTICLE VII. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Platypus Affiliated Society at UC San Diego is a registered student organization at the University of California, San Diego, but not part of the University itself. The Platypus Affiliated Society at UC San Diego understands that the University does not assume legal liability for the actions of the organization.

**PLATYPUS AFFILIATED SOCIETY AT UC SAN DIEGO CONSTITUTION – 2024-2025
ACADEMIC YEAR**

SECTION 1. IN CASE OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

The Platypus Affiliated Society at UCSD recognizes that the University generally recommends against all international travel by Student Organizations due to the myriad of risks travelers face in foreign countries. Student organizations are discouraged from traveling to foreign countries due to the wide variety of risks involved with foreign travel, and the extensive planning efforts required by the Student Organization's Members to manage those risks. Security risks and health care services vary widely from one country to another, so thorough research on those topics is especially important.

International travelers are advised to research US State Department Travel Advisories and the CDC Travel Health site and abide by all recommended alerts and warnings, and procure travel insurance with medical coverage that covers their chosen destination because most USA Health Plans are not valid in foreign countries.

ARTICLE VIII. COMMUNITY ADVISOR

We currently have no community advisors.

ARTICLE IX. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Finances will be managed among the steering committee. Any funds will be potentially directed toward panel organization, room reservations, or travel fees for members.

ARTICLE X. AFFILIATION WITH OTHER GROUPS

Platypus Affiliated Society at UC San Diego is affiliated with the international chapter-based organization of the Platypus Affiliated Society.

We are associated with the publishing branch of our organization, known as The Platypus Review.