



something unfortunate happened. The median income of four in nine of us,

Carlos Mariscal 02:08

So count out nine of your best friends. Four of you. The median income is eighteen thousand dollars a year. And there's lots of causes of this divide. This economy has affected lots of groups differently. Here is a

Carlos Mariscal 02:39

Carlos Mariscal 03:03

Carlos Mariscal 03:32

Carlos Mariscal 04:04



But not all work is equal. So premiere perspective as a political philosopher, what makes a good fulfilling job. Yeah it's a great question. I think that unsurprisingly the philosopher Karl Marx is actually very good on this question. So I'm sure many of you are familiar with this idea. But for Marx he endorses a certain conception of human nature in defense of you about the kinds of creatures that we are and according to Marx we are propulsive,

Creative inherently productive creatures. That's that's in our nature and it follows for him that one of the things that we need in order to fulfill our essence fulfill what he calls our species being is meaningful work work from which we can derive fulfillment and importantly work in which these natural capacities which are constitutive of our nature creativity spontaneity the ability to sort of plan out how to execute different kinds of tasks in a particular order.

We need work that that that gives us some channels to exercise those inherent capacities. And I think you know I think that's deeply right. I think Marx is deeply right about the kinds of creatures we happen to be. I think we all maybe recognize that this true about work as well. I mean maybe here is just like a baby thought experiment. How many of you would be sort of OK with a job that maybe paid OK but you know your job every day was to like scrape gum off of objects.

You work in like a cubicle and you know they wheeling objects here. Your job is to like Peel gum off. You don't like making your city more beautiful or you think you're just you're just a gum scraper. And like you know what does that was like one hundred thousand dollars a year job. And let's stipulate you have to like that's your job. You can't like all going to do it for a couple of years and squirrel away some money and think that's your job. I think most of us would be like No I don't want to do that.

And that highlights maybe another sort of cartoonish example the extent to which we really do need work that fulfills us that work in which we're able to sort of exercise these natural capacities that are inherent in c





which we also teach at the Sch

Claudia Cruz 13:33

Claudia Cruz 14:03

Claudia Cruz 14:34

Claudia Cruz 14:55





are denied bathroom breaks. Some of them are so soiling themselves forced to wear diapers in many cases companies are putting exerting pressure on employees to sort of support particular political causes and things of that nature.

David Rondel 18:03

And you know many companies are subjecting their employees to suspicion less searches. Apple's this and various other things so look I mean I think Anderson's point is it is spot on. I mean if a government treated citizens in this exerted this kind of authority over citizens we would very quickly on problematically judge that government to be illegitimate and unjust and yet somehow these kinds of practices are I don't know people kind of shrug. I mean yeah I guess employers could do it.

David Rondel 18:30

And so I think that the premise for Anderson's book and I really recommend that you go read this book is why why is it that we think of workers as being free at work when in fact that's that's clearly not the case. She speculates. I mean we don't have to go sort of to deep down the rabbit hole here. But she speculates that there's a there's a kind of erroneous conflation of the labor market with sort of the ordinary markets in everyday goods.

David Rondel 18:57

So you know if you and I exchange a good money sort of a market transaction there's this sort of general assumption that neither of us is less free either before or after the transaction. And I think there's a tendency erroneous in her view to construe the labor market in those terms but that's not true once you sign up for a job. Once you accept the terms of employment once you sign the contract you're turning over enormous authority over to to an employer. And so that's a myth.

David Rondel 19:27

many workers who are.

David Rondel 19:58

I mean we could we could probably go around and share  
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Claudia Cruz 20:34

Claudia Cruz 21:00

David Rondel 21:31



Graham B. Slater 24:42

Carlos Mariscal 25:10

Claudia Cruz 25:38

Opening up a box and now they're chatty and they have friends said they are getting. Endorsement deals and sponsors. And someone who's been working 30 40 years as a photographer or as a tech reporter isn't right isn't getting those deals. So that's one of the things that to consider among yourselves as Millennials is Gen zingers of some of you might be here. That. All the social media is great to promote yourself and to start the channels and and become an influencer.

I'm not saying don't do it because I encourage my students to do it. But you also have to keep in mind that any and when when you're. Where you are now taking a lower paid job or a low low wage job and somebody else was is a mom and was media made it 50 dollars an hour for this photography gig but you're taking 15 you know you're undercutting them. So you are now that. You are union boss you are your scab. You're like the union buster.

You're like you're the people who are not part of this like social contract that was trying to be established over the years that workers support each other again. Am I saying you are the only one. It happens. It's just technology has created this this phenomenon where we can take jobs from other people. Who are more prepared to do them. But in addition to that is obviously there's artificial intelligence and what artificial intelligence does for even reporters and you have stock market stories that can just be plugged in with numbers every single day after the dog.

The DOW Jones closes a machine can do that now but I think reporters are still important because you have the context and an interview that you need to start still have with people in the real world. We also have I think the gig economy again is similar to being an influencer.

Obviously we had a taxi unions or a medallion in the issue of medallions in New York or San Francisco and uber comes around and disrupts the entire industry all of a sudden the medallion the taxi driver that spent a hundred thousand dollars to get a permission from the city to to drive a cab and then hopefully make money to pay for their child's education and pay their

Claudia Cruz 28:30

Claudia Cruz 29:03

Claudia Cruz 29:30







someone's in Journey's medical bill or something very Extreme. But.

Claudia Cruz 34:48

Employers should be plain paying employees enough and we should be supporting the kind of endeavor that paper newspapers pay for. Online and the pay paper news. So. That's what I can do. There shouldn't be Go Fund BS for medical needs. Me a couple. Thanks guys.

Audience Member  
#2 (35:18 )

So my question is can we talk about unions because that seems like absolutely not. That is the neo liberalism that seems like a really important part of this conversation that we haven't quite touched on in the unions. Well what would you like to say. What would you like to talk about. I mean one of the things that strikes when we talk about the erosion of workers rights is that that's something that unions used to work for. So this is partly about technology and partly about a changing economy.

Audience Member  
#2 (35:50 )

But I see I see the declining influence of unions as a really instrumental factor in this that more people probably should be talking about. Yeah. That also seems tied to neo liberalism and the individualism of it. Yes I mean absolutely nail on the head. I mean I think that that's that's why it's probably starting with thinking of neo liberalism historically as as a political project that's a class project. I mean one of the central pillars of neo liberalism has been union busting eradicating unions and basically all sectors.

Graham B. Slater 36:21

You know just to sort of bring education into it one of the things that's really interesting in terms of contemporary political phenomena is the degree to which we see teachers increasingly going on strikes and also engaging in oppositional activity. That's shut down and. Engaging in forms of oppositional activity that mirror the of the the various tactics that unions have used for a long time even in instances where it's illegal for some teachers to strike. I'm thinking of the Detroit teachers sickout out a couple of springs ago right.

Graham B.  
Slater 36:51

So for instance you have teachers in the state of Michigan who are you know allowed to unionize but they're not allowed to strike which is a really interesting sort of contradiction just to think through because that's just doesn't make any sense right. So what it sort of th

Graham B. Slater 37:20

David Rondel 37:50

David Rondel 38:20

David Rondel 38:55







what fulfilling means.

Audience Member  
#5 (46:05)

So how do we find a fulfilling thing that we enjoy while still following that traditional track. I think I think that most of us are adults and this class will tell you that we didn't have a traditional kind of path or that our lives were in just a straight line to the dream job we wanted. It's always like I kind of jumped around here for a little bit. I had to pay bills. Oh I moved because my family had to move. So I kind of ended up over here.

Claudia Cruz 46:36

So I guess I'll go back to those transferable skills. If you

Claudia Cruz 47:04

Claudia Cruz 47:32

Claudia Cruz 47:58

I mean I think there's there's a venerable philosophical tradition that agrees wholeheartedly with what you just said you know so what Henry David Thoreau calls experiments in living is sort of very apropos to what you just said we can't figure out in advance what it would mean for us to live a life that was fulfilling and ~~rand~~ to our ultimate choosing.

David Rondel 48:36

That's not something you can just sort of figure out by consulting some algorithm or something like that. Really the only way to do it is to engage in these kinds of sort of experiments and living. That's the Rose phrase but I think the point is is generally generally right. So if you go out there and you know follow your your nose and try your best and over time the hope is that you'll discover. So I always joke with people because they're like I'm from New York hi I'm the new yorker end up in Reno but I'll tell you that because of my life experience I can I know that this is a great standard of living I put in so many places a great it's a great university.

Claudia Cruz 49:10

I'm close to Tahoe which I love one of the authors. The more you you travel the more you meet people the more you understand the world the more you'll find where you'll end up. And I think that a place like Reno for me a new yorker is kind of could be home for me for the rest of my life. So I think that just experiment and tried to find things that I really like the question because I think it's it's a deeply kind of theoretical question that identifies some of the contradictions that are embedded even in this institution.

Graham B.  
Slater 49:38

I mean ask yourself like for those of you who are 2 ( k)6(r)10 ( Tw 14.67 for mr 1 ( r )1(.)5 ( 5 )6.1 9 ( o)-2 (fd

Graham B. Slater 50:06

maybe not abstract philosophical questions but I mean this is like is also like a policy question. It's a governance question we need interrogator institutions what are they funneling us into. What type of educational experiences are they forcing us to go through to be accommodated to a social order.

Graham B. Slater 50:33

There's actually very little guarantee that even if you do find yourself find your passion that that's going to translate into a certain type of economic set of conditions. And I think though radical collective experimentation on the behalf of students ~~as~~ on the part of students is actually key to this right. Like not not an individualized project right. Like don't just go through this project thinking about how do I find myself. Talk to each other which I know you do and think about the things that get in the way of answering that question a way that makes sense to you right.

Graham B. Slater 51:04

It's a collective problem I think. Last question from the audience. You got it. You've been raising your hand through a. In the spirit of future visions ~~the~~ interested in hearing from you all. If you could make some radical or substantive change that you want to see happen what kinds of future visions could be enabled by that.

Audience Member  
#6 (51:33 )

So what kind of changes would you put in place ~~en~~ take the kinds of future visions of work and money that you want to see happen. I'd love to see student loans eradicated free education. That's right straight. I think that's I think it'll be easier to envision a amazing future for myself and others without the burden of loans which would then open up opportunity to buy homes right. I guess I'm part of that generation too.

Claudia Cruz 52:03

People can buy homes I know when I'm one of my own. So you know and that's part of the economic the burden on our ~~e~~conomy. That's fewer of us can buy homes. Because of our debt burden. Yeah. No that's great. I mean I guess uh maybe. I mean. Yeah. Uh I don't know that I have any original ideas here. I mean one thing that I kind of touched on would be a kind of German thinking about new ways to sort of think about work in general so not just in quantitative ways.

David Rondel 52:37

You know how many jobs are there how many new jobs





relations but recognizing that social relations have to be ecological relations and I think that we can produce a lot of exciting experiments with that kind of mentality at the forefront of our minds and maybe maybe related to this like one last Capstone questions like wrap it all up for all of you what what scares you or gives you hope.

Carlos Mariscal 54:59

So some of you gave answers to the last question of things that is that scare you things. Others gave answers that are things that you desire. But like what. What are the things that scare you or give you hope moving forward. For a

Claudia Cruz 55:24

Claudia Cruz 55:57

Claudia Cruz 56:25

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Carlos Mariscal 59:22

Carlos Mariscal 59:49