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Marxism

# Support the Livio Maitan study centre

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**In memory of Livio Maitan who died in 2004, a new study centre to continue his work is being created. We need your financial help to carry through this work. If you want to support this work, become a member of the Livio Maitan study centre (see contact details at end).**

Livio Maitan died on 16th September 2004. Born in Venice in 1923, he participated in the resistance movement during the Nazi occupation. Obligated to seek refuge in Switzerland, he was interned at the end of the War. In 1947, he joined the Fourth International, and was a leading member of the latter from 1951 until his death.

[<https://www.internationalviewpoint.org/IMG/jpg/livioivp.jpg>]

### **Livio Maitan**

From the creation of Rifondazione Comunista onwards, he held without interruption a national leadership role in the party to which he devoted most of his energy during his later years. From 2001 he followed with interest the activities of the anti-globalisation movement and often participated in it.

Maitan's indefatigable activism was always accompanied by reflection and political and economic analysis, which bore fruit in an innumerable series of articles and many books. Amongst the latter, over and above the translation and editing of a large part of Trotsky's writings, his works treated subjects as wide and varied as the nature of social classes in Italy, world economic crises, the history of the PCI from its origins to the present, the theoretical heritage of Gramsci, as well as the historical trajectory of China, especially the Cultural Revolution. At the end of his life, Maitan even found time to write his memoirs and a history of the Fourth International, which will be published shortly.

His activity as a political leader as well as his theoretical reflection were characterised by great rigour, ethical and intellectual, without ever becoming dogmatic. On the contrary, what remained constant throughout his nearly sixty years of political engagement was his attention to the concrete dynamics of the relationship of forces between the classes and the historical and political dialectic, combined with a real openness to debate and confrontation with different positions.

To create a research centre in his name and dedicated to his memory means, first of all, to take up his inheritance. However, to take this up means to make it live in the present. The research centre will thus have the following concrete objectives:

1. To create a library which can give the general public access to the many works on politics, economics, history of the workers' movement, revolutionary Marxism and so forth which Livio Maitan had collected over many years and which he left for all to be able to use.
2. To pursue Livio Maitan's historical, political and economic thought via the promotion of research in the domains of the history of the workers' movement and of an open and critical Marxism, via the organisation of conferences and discussion sessions at a national and international level, and via the publication of new research and the encouragement of young students and researchers engaged in work in this field.

The Livio Maitan research centre thus sees itself as a contribution to the renewal of Marxist debate at an international level, by stimulating the encounter of currents of critical thought which have different traditions and cultural references, as well as between activist and academic currents and between older and younger generations which

have grown up in different intellectual and political contexts.

For all these reasons, we support the creation of the 'Livio Maitan' Research Centre (centrostudiliviomaitan@email.it), with which we hope to collaborate over the next few years.

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Conditions of membership:

There are two types of membership of the Centro Studi Livio Maitan:

10 euros: simple membership: you will be regularly informed of the initiatives of the Centro Studi and have the right to a discount of 20% on all of its publications.

30 euros: you will have the right to receive gratis all of the notebooks and publications produced by the Centre throughout the year (see the activity programme).

Bank details:

Centro Studi Livio Maitan  
Conto Banca Popolare Etica

N. 000000117663

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IBAN: IT38 E050 1803 2000 0000 0117 663

BIC: CCRTIT84D

Please contact us via the email address: [info@centrostudimaitan.it](mailto:info@centrostudimaitan.it)

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# Programme of Activities of the Livio Maitan Research Centre, September 2006-2007

## Seminars and conferences

The Centre wishes to promote a series of events open to a wide public for in-depth discussion and reflection on various themes related to Marxist studies. One of the aims will be to pursue the research carried out by Livio Maitan on the world economy, the history of the interational labour movement, the analysis of class structure, as well as on more specific subjects such as the contradictions and developments of the Chinese phenomenon.

We plan in particular to organise throughout the year roundtables bringing together researchers, trade unionists, political and movement activists, which will serve as regular moments of reflection and which will result in small publications and notebooks.

In January will take place the annual conference organised by the Research Centre, which this year will be entitled: "Thinking with Marx, Rethinking Marx" and which will be a space for two days of discussion and debate on the relevance of Marxist analysis today. The conference will take place in Rome over 25th-26th January 2007.

In addition to the above, we will host a series of other initiatives, such as book launches, seminars and debates which will be organised throughout the whole year.

## Library and Website

The books, journals and documents left by Livio Maitan will constitute the starting point for the constitution of a library dedicated to Marxist studies and the history of the labour movement: this year will be devoted to cataloguing this bibliographical heritage with a view to it being opened to the public in a short period of time.

In addition to the library, the Research Centre plans to construct a website which will be a useful research tool, with the online publication of a part of Livio Maitan's Åuvre, in particular his articles, archival documents and essays, and with the creation of a thematic bibliographical repertory which will carry information not only on monographs but also on dissertations and articles published in different languages.

## Publications

Via our collaboration with the publishing company Alegre, we plan to launch a series of publications edited by the Research Centre: in particular, a volume of papers from the January conference and notebooks stemming from the roundtables organised over the course of the year.

## **Promotion of New Research**

In order to promote new research in the areas treated by the Research Centre, we will grant scholarships for masters students or doctoral students.