



Ruskin College Oxford

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As someone with a long relationship with Ruskin College I welcome the spirit in which Sue Ledwith wrote her article 'Ruskin, the trade union college, is under siege' (<http://column.global-labour-university.org/2017/06/ruskin-trade-union-college-is-under.html>).

Sadly, the information in the article is misleading. The staff concerned took voluntary redundancy. Colleagues teaching on the trade union courses, along with their national union, entered a process of "meaningful consultation", the outcome of which states: "Terms of settlement have been reached between Ruskin College and the UCU members at risk of redundancy that are acceptable to all parties." This is why we have had to advertise for the post Sue refers to.

I do agree with Sue that Ruskin is under siege. But we are under siege from a Conservative government that has cut funding to Ruskin's trade union short courses for shop stewards by 50 per cent and soon to be 100 per cent. We are also under siege from the marketisation of education that has resulted in Ruskin having its adult bursary for higher education cut 100 per cent.

Yet despite several years of government cuts and financial challenges, we have not closed a single trade union education short course. We are still running the International Labour and Trade Union Studies (Iltus) BA (Hons). Ruskin College is fully engaged in collaboration with its trade union partners. We deliver training to over 2,000 shop stewards and officers and unions are very well represented on our council and governing body.

We are also still recruiting for our MA in Global Labour and Social Change which will be running from October 2017 and the course details can be found here: <https://www.ruskin.ac.uk/courses/global-labour-and-social-change-ma>
For further details prospective students can contact Dr Peter Dwyer (pdwyer@ruskin.ac.uk) who is teaching on and overseeing this programme.

Finally, as we are an institutional member of GLU, I know Sue and many of your readers will want to see Ruskin continue to provide working class education and I hope we can all work collectively to ensure we do so.

Paul Di Felice

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