



Direct Social Work

**@ struggle for (Boj za)
Occupy Ljubljana**

Why direct?

- Direct democracy
 - Direct action
 - But also
 - ↓
 - Direct responsibility
 - Direct engagement in the movement
 - ↓
 - Common good & common welfare



Manifesto

- Not to be servants of financial capitalism, supervisors of expenditure of the poor!
- To become an advocate for the people, join the movements today.
- Social work emerged from working class movements for social justice – and became in time a mediator between the state and the people. Social workers became expropriated, too.
- With neo-liberalism social work has become a global profession – to mend and reduce the harm done.



Manifesto contd.

- Direct social work is also an opportunity for those who are pushed into the shadow of silence to speak, for those who have become dependent on others to take the things in their own hands.
- We need to relinquish roles in which we treat people as things, in which paper is more important than deed, and by which we serve disablement and not empowerment.
- Enough of the indirect social work, enough of the paperwork, enough of the closed institutions, enough of social cripples!
- 15o is an opportunity for social work, an opportunity to become directly responsible to the people.

MURAJAN POGOVORNI
NA DAN ODZELNE
PSIHJATRA STRAN

Motions:

- Mobilisation of the social work, social workers and users.
- Direct advocacy for the issues brought into the movements, for the people who express their grievances.
- Occupation of social institutions to make them serve the people.
- Direct social work actions.
- Direct funding – money for change!
- **SOCIAL WORK IS TO WORK SOCIALY!**





**Why direct social work?
Why join the Revolution 15 o?**

- **Most of us do not want to work indirectly**
- **Be with the people**
- **Resist the economisation of everyday life and relations between people**
- **Work together**

Not wanting to work indirectly

- Maintain closed spaces
- Maintain the existing order
- Work with paper and not with people
- Be a buffer to the strokes of raging capitalism
- Be a supervisor of the poor (and be on the edge of poverty ourselves)

Against economisation of everyday life

–Loneliness

–Medicalisation (and commercialisation) of distress

–Bureaucratisation of human relations and work



Be with the people

–Be a witness

–Listen to the people talking

–Be part of the history

–Make sense of our work



Working together

- Make your knowledge and experience available to others
- Find new solutions
- Invent new organisations
- Create new **COMMON** responses



BE DIRECT – BE SOCIAL!



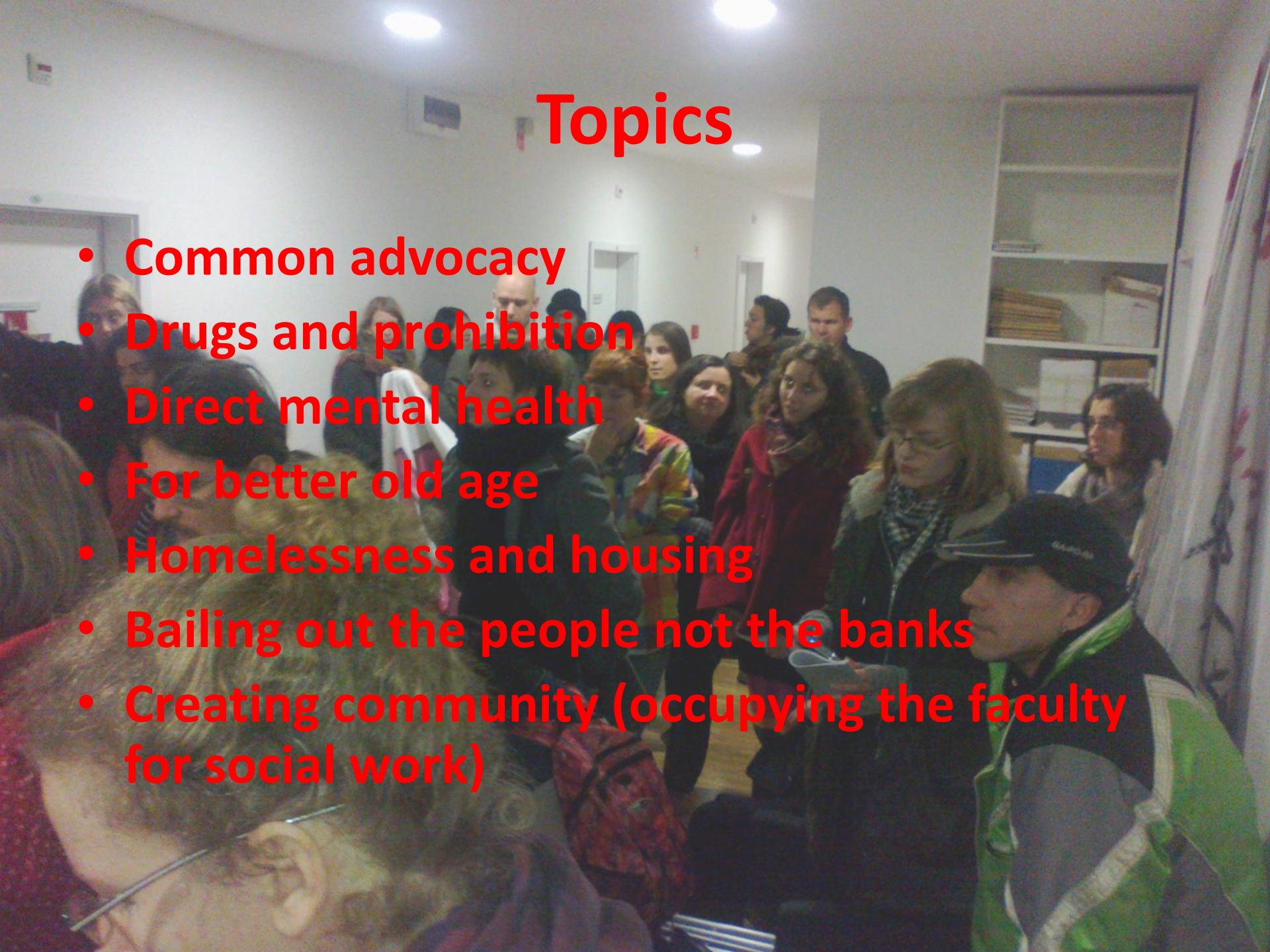
What we did

- **Workshops**
 - Stories, reminiscences, anecdotes → What can be done → plan for action
- **Individual common advocacy**
- **Social work at the site**
- **Actions – acting publicly - occupying the institutions – reclaiming the common good**



Topics

- Common advocacy
- Drugs and prohibition
- Direct mental health
- For better old age
- Homelessness and housing
- Bailing out the people not the banks
- Creating community (occupying the faculty for social work)



Common advocacy



- Phone
- Individual direct actions
- Advocacy on the site – against exclusion in the movement
- Facilitating the conflicts resolution in the movement
- Workshops (resisting authority, housing, employment, loneliness, fear and shame, common dreams, jealousy, molecular counter-revolution, ...)

Drugs and prohibition

- Workshops on the deinstalation of prohibition
- Smoke-in at the ministry for health
- Petition for decriminalisation of the drugs (medical use of hemp, decriminalisation, more appropriate services)
- Cannabis social club
- Drugs on the site?



Direct mental health

- Walk out (2010 700 km march across total institutions of Slovenia)
- Stories of the people at the site
- Workshops on medicalisation of social distress, restraint and repression in mental health
- Directly to the bin – a day occupation of the Ljubljana psychiatric hospital
- Advocacy and getting out the bin
- Assembly for the change in mental health

Bailing out the people not the banks

- **Stable social security – conservation of the welfare state**
 - (universal income, access to service for good quality of life, right to live in the community, long-term care insurance, direct payments, minimal bureaucratisation of social care)
- **Protection and against debto-cleptocracy – defence of human dignity**
 - (protection and insurance in losing work due too redundancies and bankruptcies, evictions, debts, advocacy, crisis interventions)
- **Strengthening communities**
 - (enabling communities, strengthening capacities for self-providing, self-organisation and self management and self government; establishing cooperatives, mutual help groups, time banks, self help clubs; reclaiming the social ownership of the public sector, shifting care into community).

Effects

- Mobilisation
 - Micro-changes
 - Feeling power of common action (weakness of being alone)
 - New advocacy service
 - New community (cannabis social club)
 - New experience of social work – shift of the mandate – from state to the people
- 

Insurgence 2013

- From front line to the rear
- Creating communities and creating community of social work
- Assemblies of social work (Sežana, Koper, Ilirska Bistrica, Beltinci, Maribor, Kranj, psychiatry).

Topics

- Critique of the „new legislation“ – social benefit becoming a credit
- Dissent – not putting the seal on the property
- Community actions
- Cooperatives
 - Employment
 - Housing
 - Care
- Cooperatives of social work – overcoming the barriers between academics, students and users
- Deinstitutionalisation project – combination of conversion of the institutions, coordinated care, NOGs and movements and communities





Resources

Alienated

Own

Public

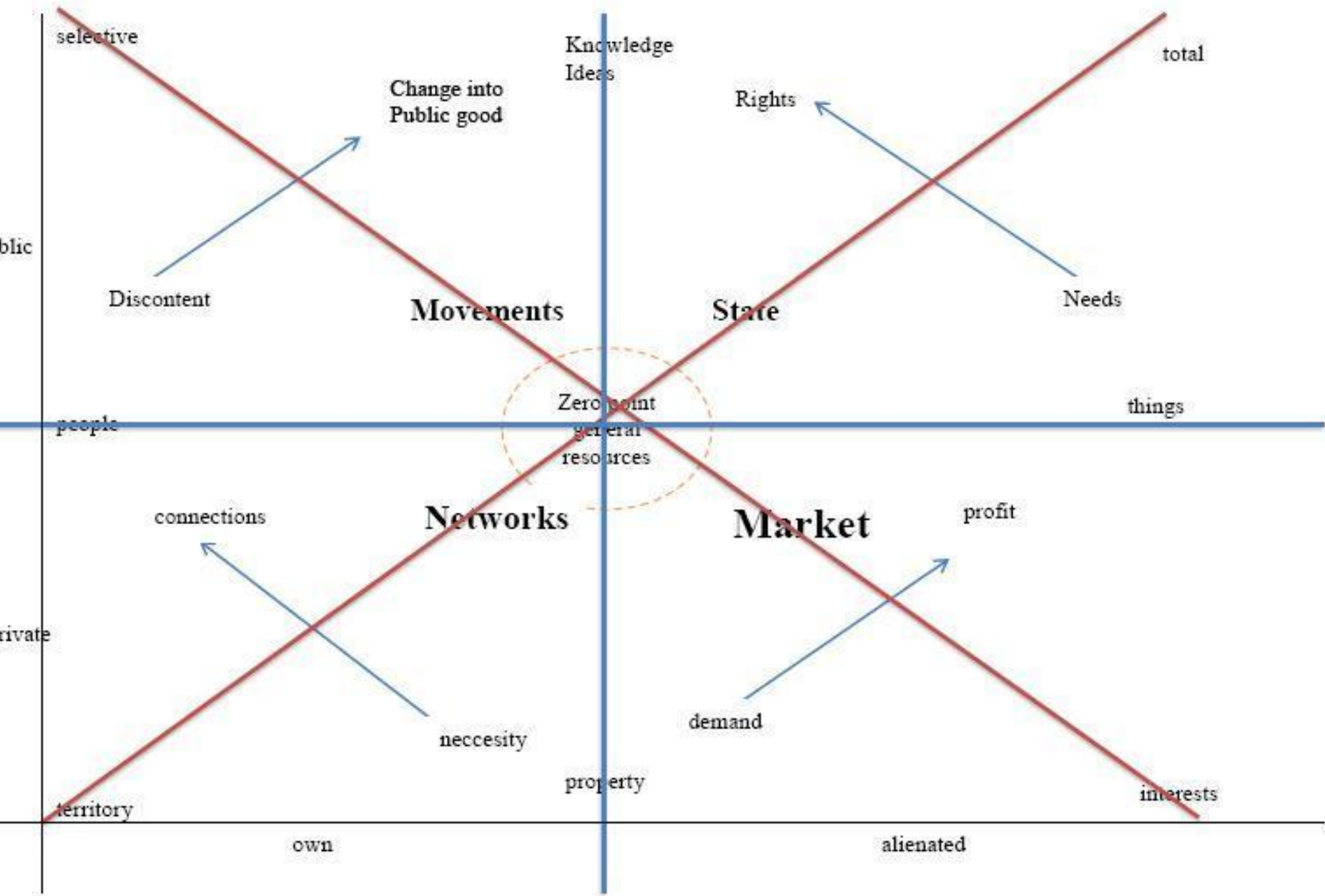
State

Movements

Private

Market

Networks





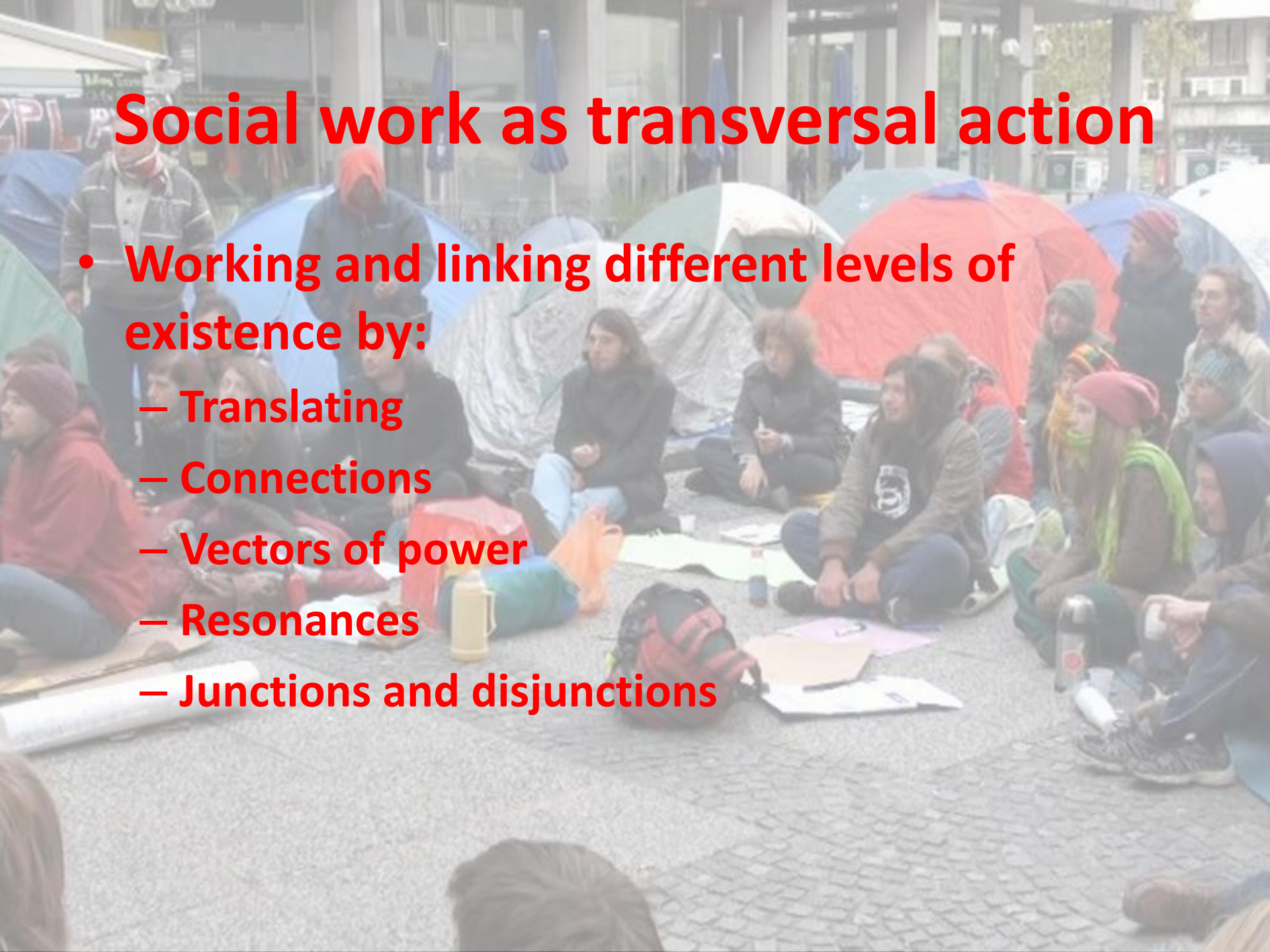
Social democrats –
bureaucratic role

Conservative – teaching
and educating (social
pedagogy)

Liberal - therapy

Social work as transversal action

- **Working and linking different levels of existence by:**
 - **Translating**
 - **Connections**
 - **Vectors of power**
 - **Resonances**
 - **Junctions and disjunctions**



- They are not stealing only our money, houses, land,
- They are also stealing our time!
- So, take your time and use and enjoy it!

