



# The Capitalist Unconscious: Marx and Lacan

By Samo Tomšič

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**A major systematic study of the connection between Marx and Lacan's work**

*Finalist for the American Board and Academy of Psychoanalysis Book Prize*

Despite a resurgence of interest in Lacanian psychoanalysis, particularly in terms of the light it casts on capitalist ideology—as witnessed by the work of Slavoj Žižek—there remain remarkably few systematic accounts of the role of Marx in Lacan's work.

A major, comprehensive study of the connection between their work, *The Capitalist Unconscious* resituates Marx in the broader context of Lacan's teaching and insists on the capacity of psychoanalysis to reaffirm dialectical and materialist thought. Lacan's unorthodox reading of Marx refigured such crucial concepts as alienation, jouissance and the Freudian 'labour theory of the unconscious'. Tracing these developments, Tomšič maintains that psychoanalysis, structuralism and the critique of political economy participate in the same movement of thought; his book shows how to follow this movement through to some of its most important conclusions.

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## Editorial Review

### Review

“Samo Tomšič’s achievement is to explain how the reference to psychoanalysis is crucial if we are to provide a theoretical framework for a confrontation with the totality of global capitalism. To be a Marxist today, one has to go through Lacan!”

—**Slavoj Žižek**

“The first book-length study of Lacan’s reading of Marx in the English language, filling an almost scandalous gap—which it does splendidly. It offers many original and most compelling insights into both Marx and Lacan.”

—**Alenka Zupančič**

“*The Capitalist Unconscious* does the simple thing that’s so hard to do: taking Lacan seriously as a reader of Marx. Against all the confusions and failures that have often characterized attempts to synthesize Freud and Marx, Tomšič argues that we must think the structure of the unconscious and the structure of capitalism together.”

—**Benjamin Noys**

“Thought you’d never hear anything new about Jacques Lacan or for that matter Karl Marx or Sigmund Freud? Then give Samo Tomšič’s *The Capitalist Unconscious* a listen. Daringly original, Tomšič does a masterful job of orchestrating the works of Marx, Freud, and Lacan, playing their ideas off of one another in varying arrangements to produce a composition that is wholly new and exhilarating.”

—**Andrew Cole, *Critical Inquiry***

“Recognizing the relationship between the unconscious and capitalism, with Tomšič’s help, will make us better equipped to continue this class struggle. One of the most important books of the year.”

—**Alfie Bown, *Hong Kong Review***

### About the Author

**Samo Tomšič** obtained his PhD in philosophy at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. In the past he has worked at the Institute of Philosophy in Ljubljana and at the Jan van Eyck Academy in Maastricht, and is currently research assistant in the interdisciplinary cluster “Image Knowledge Gestaltung” at the Humboldt University in Berlin.

*From the eBook edition.*

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Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book particularly book entitled The Capitalist Unconscious: Marx and Lacan your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a publication then become one web form conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get previous to. The The Capitalist Unconscious: Marx and Lacan giving you one more experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful info for your better life in this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

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