Abstract: **White Hands and Immaterial Labor: The Role of Knowledge Workers in the Political Landscape of Nascent Neo-Feudalism**

“Neoliberalism” is a word whose history stretches back to the latter days of the 19th century, and while its meaning and usage has evolved over that period, the concept of laissez-faire economic policies lies at the core of the disparate interpretations. To explore what it means to live under a neoliberal regime in the 21st century, this chapter will begin with the proposition that capitalism itself is already morphing into something else, which could be termed “neo-feudalism”. This chapter will examine one component of this new historical formation, the class of intellectual/knowledge workers, through the lens of the political theory of the early 20th century Polish political radical, Jan Waclaw Machajski. Machajski’s critique of the intellectual class’ role in European socialist struggles has much to offer in our present age when knowledge work, expertise, and education confer privileges on their possessors that are enhanced by technical platforms that facilitate decentralized and networked labor and management. The key connection between Machajski’s ideas and the concept of neo-feudalism will be the contention that neoliberalism has promoted a shift in social governance and authority away from traditional centralized institutions like the nation-state and into networked, non-state webs of governance in which the traditional state remains but is merely one node among others. Within this web of governance, the class of intellectual worker-experts plays a crucial role in justifying and stabilizing a socio-historical formation which faces challenges from many sectors, primarily, but not only, from those at the bottom of the system who are unable to reap its benefits.