The first few years of the twenty-first century have witnessed social unrest, revolts and revolutions across the world: the Arab Spring, the Occupy Wall Street Movement, riots of workers and peasants in China, anti-austerity demonstrations in Europe, blood-shedding confrontations in Ukraine, and, more recently, the Sunflower Movement or Occupy Legislature in Taipei. They are triggered by either violent actions of the police and the army, governments’ decisions, or electoral controversies; they demand shifts of power and systemic transformations, or simply struggle for the basic rights of existence. In these heydays of insurrection, we cannot help asking: what is going on? What is happening to us, fascinated, shocked, devastated, aphasic or garrulous? How do establishments react, and are they able to subsume, co-opt such movements? Are we equipped with perceptive and conceptual tools for all these? And, ultimately, what is to be done?

Cynics or skeptics may argue that all these insurrectional moments amount to nothing but impotent acting-out, normalization of states of exception, or vicious circles of, borrowing Walter Benjamin’s terms, “law-making violence” and “law-preserving violence,” while enthusiasts embrace possibilities of imagining new subjectivities, desires, truths, forms of life, aesthetic styles, communities, and worlds. Referring to Derrida’s “New International and Hegri and Hardt’s “multitude,” Kojin Karatani in his Preface to The Structure of World History recalls his now crushed optimism about a new global movement resistance to capital and the state back in 1990s, about its natural development into transnational alliance. Karatani, nevertheless, remodels “simultaneous world revolution” as a Kantian regulative idea, a futurity or prospect to come when people are drawn closer to create their own non-capitalist conditions of survival and, ultimately, to sublate both capital and the state. Slavoj Žižek, when commenting on the aftermath of the Occupy Wall Street Movement in 2011, urges
that we endeavor to mobilize people around thoroughly realistic but de facto impossible demands that “disturb the very core of the hegemonic ideology, while remaining “simultaneously subtracted from the pragmatic field of negotiations and ‘concrete’ proposals” (The Year of Dreaming Dangerously 84). Alan Badiou, on the other hand, calls for an affirmation of “the generic, universal and never identitarian character of any political truth” (The Rebirth of History 77), so as to remain faithful to historical riots, if there is any.

Such insurrectional moments have their consequences in fields of civil societies, geopolitics, finance and market economy as well as in media, art, and subcultures across the world. As bearing the theme “uprisings and revolutions in global perspective,” this special issue encourages submissions not limited to professional compartmentalizations and empirical raw data. We particularly welcome submissions that traverse disciplinary boundaries and vocabularies, provide new synergic possibilities, and formulate theoretical speculations for democracy, justice and freedom to come.

Papers are invited to address themes as follows:
* revolutions won, lost and betrayed
* transnational solidarity and anti-capitalist movements
* politics and ethics of revolt and revolution
* images and representations of revolt and revolution
* the interplay of revolution and counterrevolution
* violence and justice
* sovereignty and violence
* Occupy Movements, populist democracy and the commons
* anticolonial and postcolonial resistance, revolt and revolution
* revolutions in academia, art, media, and forms of life

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Manuscript Submission Guidelines

1. Manuscripts should be submitted in English. Please send the manuscript, an abstract of no more than 250 words with 5-8 keywords, and a brief curriculum vitae as Word attachments to <concentric.lit@deps.ntnu.edu.tw>. Please also attach a cover letter stating that the manuscript is not currently being considered for publication elsewhere. Concentric will acknowledge receipt of the submission but will not return it after review.

2. Submissions made to the journal should generally be at least 6,000 words but should not exceed 10,000 words, notes included; the bibliography is not counted. Manuscripts should be prepared according to the latest edition of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. Except for footnotes, which should be single-spaced, manuscripts must be double-spaced throughout and typeset in 12-point Times New Roman. For further instructions on documentation, consult our style guide.

3. To facilitate the journal’s anonymous refereeing process, there must be no indication of personal identity or institutional affiliation in the manuscript proper. The author may cite his/her previous works, but only in the third person.

4. If the paper has been published or submitted elsewhere in a language other than English, please also submit a copy of the non-English version. Concentric may not consider submissions already available in other languages.

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6. Two copies of the journal and a PDF version of the published essay will be provided to the author(s) upon publication.

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