

**Centre for Applied Philosophy, Politics and Ethics**  
*Second Research Seminar Series in Contemporary Critical Theories*

**2010/11: Critical Theorists on Capitalism, the Financial Crisis and  
Political Responses: 2008-10**

Venue: TO BE CONFIRMED

This research seminar, hosted by CAPPE and the Faculty of Arts and Architecture, is aimed at PhD students and staff interested in contemporary politics, philosophy and critical theory. Every year we focus on a different theorist or topic. For the 2010/11 academic year we read theorists who have attempted to interpret the most recent crisis of capitalism. Each session will have a lecture of one hour followed by a seminar discussion, with a half hour break. The aim of the course is to stimulate discussion between PhD students, and staff across the institution. We will also explore the possibility of completing research bids for further work in this area. The course will be coordinated by Dr Mark Devenney. If you have any enquiries please email Mark on [md17@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:md17@brighton.ac.uk). The readings listed are indicative, but each week there is at least one reading that everyone participating on the course should read. This course does not require that you have economic knowledge at all. Those attending will have to grapple with some of the complexities of finance, but sessions are intended to open up discussion between colleagues who have done some preparation.

All sessions will be **held between 10.00 and 13.00 on Wednesday Mornings** (see dates in course outline.) VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED

COURSE OUTLINE

**Topic 1: Introduction to the Financial Crisis**

Session 1: **What Happened: A Brief Introduction to  
the Financial Crisis**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2010**

Reading

Lanchester, John (2010) Whoops, London: Allen Lane.  
Gamble, Andrew (2009) 'From Boom to Bust' in The Spectre at the Feast, London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp.13-36.  
Stiglitz, Joseph (2009) Freefall: Free Markets and the Sinking of the Global Economy, London: Penguin, pp. 1-57.

Session 2: **Neo-liberalism and the Financial Crisis: Competing  
Approaches**

**Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2010**

Friedman, Jeffrey (2010) 'A Crisis of Politics, not Economics: Complexity, Ignorance and Policy Failure' published in Critical Review, 21 volume 2, pp. 127-183.

Harvey, David (2010) The Enigma of Capital, London: Profile Books, pp. 1-39.

Harman, Chris (2009) Zombie Capitalism, London: Bookmark, pp. 277-304.

Lucarelli, Stefano (2010) 'Financialisation as Biopower' in Crisis in the Global Economy, Los Angeles: Semiotextes, pp. 119-139.

Protevi, John (2009) 'What does Foucault think is new about Neo-Liberalism?' in Pli: Warwick Journal of Philosophy, vol.21 or at website [http://www.protevi.com/john/Foucault\\_28June2009.pdf](http://www.protevi.com/john/Foucault_28June2009.pdf).

Brown, Wendy (2003) 'Neo-liberalism and the End of Liberal Democracy' in Theory and Event, volume 7, Issue 1.

## **Topic 2: 'Accounting for Life' in Capitalist Society**

### **Session 3: The Financialisation of Everyday Life** **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2010**

Martin, Randy (2007) American War and the Financial Logic of Risk Management, London: Duke University Press.

Li Puma, Edward (2004) Financial Derivatives and the Globalisation of Risk, London: Duke University Press, pp.141-189.

Salecl, Renata (2010) Choice, London: Profile Books, pp. 115-135.

Graham, Cameron and Neu, Dean (2003) 'Accounting for Globalisation' in Accounting Forum, volume 27, No 4, pp. 450-471.

Reid, Julian 'Logistical Life' in The Biopolitics of the War on Terror Manchester University Press, pp. 17-39.

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### **Session 4: The Body as Capital: Bio-economies of Property** **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2011**

Cooper, Melinda (2008) Life as Surplus: Biotechnologies and Capitalism in the Neoliberal Era, United States: University of Washington Press, pp. 3-50.

Dickenson, Donna (2007) Property in the Body: Feminist Perspectives, Cambridge University Press, pp. 108-120.

Koepsell, David (2009) 'So Who Owns You? Some Conclusions about Genes, Property, and Personhood' in Who Owns You?, Chichester: Wiley Blackwell, pp. 155-171.

Boyle, James, (2002) "Fencing off Ideas: Enclosure & the Disappearance of the Public Domain", Daedalus, 131(2): 13-25.

Vatter, Miguel, (2009) 'Biopolitics: From Surplus Value to Surplus Life' in Theory and Event, volume 12, no 2.

**Session 5: The Body as Capital: The Politics of Life Itself**  
**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> of January**

- Rajan, Kaushik Sunder (2006) Biocapital: The Constitution of Post-Genomic Life, London: Duke University Press, pp. 138-181.
- Waldby and Mitchell, (2006) Tissue Economies: Blood Organs and Cell Lines in Late Capitalism, London: Duke University Press, pp. 131-159.
- Rose, Nikolas (2007) 'Biopolitics in the Twenty-First Century' in The Politics of Life Itself, pp. 1-40)
- Barkan, Joshua (2009) 'Use beyond Value: Giorgio Agamben and a Critique of Capitalism' in Rethinking Marxism, volume 21, issue 2, pp. 243-259.
- Neilson, Brett (2004) '*Potenza Nuda?* Sovereignty, Biopolitics, Capitalism' in Contretemps, volume 5, December 2004, pp. 63- 78 at web address: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/contretemps/5december2004/neilson.pdf>
- Sarah Blacker, 'Corporeal Capital: Theorizing the Division of Body Parts under Global Capitalism' at website: <http://www.politicsandculture.org/2009/10/02/sarah-blacker-corporeal-capital-theorizing-the-division-of-body-parts-under-global-capitalism/>
- Marx, Capital Volume 1 Chapter 16/17 and 23/24. pp 711-761.

**Topic 3: The Global Geography(ies) of Capitalism**

**Session 6: Outsourcing after Colonialism: Assessing the New Imperialism Thesis**  
**Wednesday the 9th of February 2011**

- Harman, Chris (2009) 'Global Capital in the New Age' in Zombie Capitalism, pp. 255-277.
- Harvey, David (2003) The New Imperialism, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Ashman, Sam and Alex Callinicos. 2006. "Capital Accumulation and the State System: Assessing David Harvey's The New Imperialism" in Historical Materialism, 14 (4): 107-131.
- Brenner, Robert 2006, "What Is, and What Is Not, Imperialism?" Historical Materialism, 14 (4): 79-105.
- Stokes, Doug (2005) 'The Heart of Empire: Theorising US Empire in an era of Transnational Capitalism' in Third World Quarterly, vol.26, no. 2, pp.217-236 at website: <http://kar.kent.ac.uk/964/1/yp99bj5nkhqno1la.pdf>.
- Marx, Capital Volume 1 Chapter 25 pp 762-870

**Session 7: Capitalism and Warfare: Iraq, Afghanistan, Private Contractors and the War on Terror**  
**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2011**

Kiersey, Nicholas (2010) 'Scale, Security and Political Economy: Debating the Biopolitics of the Global War on Terror' in New Political Science, Volume 31, no.1, pp. 27-47.

Klein, Naomi (2007) 'Part 6 and Part 7' in The Shock Doctrine, London: Allen Lane, pp. 323-423.

Singer, P.W. (2008) 'Part 1: The Rise' in Corporate Warriors: The Rise of the Privatised Military Industry, Cornell University Press, pp. 3-73.

**Session 8: Post-Colonialism and Capitalism  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2011**

Mbembe, A. (2001) On the Postcolony, Berkeley, University of California Press.

Mbembe, A. (2003) 'Necropolitics' in Public Culture 15(1), pp. 11-40.

Montag, W. (2005) 'Necro-Economics' in Radical Philosophy 134, pp. 7-17.

Renton et al (2007) 'Speculators and Thieves' in The Congo: Plunder and Resistance, London: Zed Books, pp. 172-206.

International Peace Information Service (IPIS). (2002) Supporting the War Economy in the DRC: European companies and the Coltan trade, Brussels. (available online)

**Session 9: Land Grab and Primitive Accumulation  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2011**

Andreasson, Stefan, 2006 "Stand and Deliver: Private Property and the Politics of Global Dispossession" in Political Studies, 54 (1): 3-22

Basu, Pranab K, 2007 "Political Economy of Land Grab" Economic and Political Weekly, 42 (14): 1281-87.

Li, Tania Murray (2009) 'To Make Live or Let Die?' in Antipode, volume 31, no. 1, pp.66-93.

Sassen, Saskia (2010) 'A Savage Sorting of Winners and Losers: Contemporary Versions of Primitive Accumulation' in Globalizations, 7: 1, pp.23-50.

**Topic 4: Resistance to Capitalism**

**Session 10: Waiting for the Revolution? Exploring the Limits of Marxist Accounts of Political Change  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2011**

Fisher, Mark (2009) Capitalist Realism, London: Zero Books.

Laclau and Mouffe, (1985) chapter 2 of Hegemony and Socialist Strategy, London, Verso.

Dean, Jodi (2009) 'Free Trade' in Democracy and other Neoliberal Fantasies, London: Duke University Press, pp. 49-75.

Harvey, David (2010) 'What is to be Done? And who is going to do it?' The Enigma of Capital, London: Profile Books, pp. 215-260.  
Gibson-Graham, J.K and David Ruccio 2001. "After" Development: Re-imagining Economy and Class" In Re/Presenting Class: Essays in Postmodern Marxism, ed. J.K.Gibson-Graham, Stephen A. Resnick and Richard D. Wolff, 158-181. Durham: Duke University Press.

**Session 11: The Politics of the Event: Zizek and Badiou on politics  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2011**

Zizek, Slavoj (2008) part III 'What is to be Done?' in In Defence of Lost Causes, London: Verso, pp. 337-463.  
Badiou, Alain (2007) 'Politics as Truth Procedure' in Metapolitics, London: Verso, pp. 141-153.  
Badiou, Alain (2007) Conditions, London: Verso.

**Session 12: Hardt and Negri on the Multitude  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2011**

Reid, Julian 'Biopolitical Life: the 'war against war' of the Multitude' in The Biopolitics of the War on Terror Manchester University Press, pp. 102-144.  
Hardt, Michael (1999) 'Affective Labour' in Boundary 2, volume 26, no. 2, pp.89-100.  
Hardt and Negri (2009) part 5 and part 6 in Commonwealth, Cambridge, Massachussets: Harvard University Press, pp.263-387.

**Session 13: Aesthetics of Resistance or Art for Capital?  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2011**

Bishop, Claire (2004) 'Antagonism and Relational Aesthetics' in October. Volume 10, pp. 51-79.  
Böhm, S. and C. Land (2009) 'No measure for culture: value in the new economy' in Capital & Class, vol. 97: pp. 75-98  
Scott, Felicity (2002) 'On Architecture under Capitalism' in Grey Room, no. 6, pp.44-65.  
Boltanski and Ciapello (2005) 'The Test of the Artistic Critique' from The New Spirit of Capitalism, London: Verso, pp. 419-483.  
Ranciere, Jacques (2004) The Politics of Aesthetics, London: Continuum.