

# The Value Question Today: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Moral Economy

The conquest of the market, and the values that inform it, has not destroyed domestic values but, paradoxically, has provided the conditions for some of them to flourish. Money has become a key instrument for the maintenance of national and transnational kin relations as costs of weddings, funerals and other rituals soar and new forms of sharing money between kin, neighbors and friends develop. This has reached a crisis point as people find themselves entangled in a web of obligations that can both aid and impoverish them. In tandem with these trends, the concept of the household has become a source of ideas for a fair or just economy in the broadest sense, and a font of rhetoric for lived experience.

The purpose of this one day colloquium is to introduce a new research project, “**The Domestic Moral Economy: an ethnographic study of value in the Asia Pacific Region**” that has been generously funded by the Economic and Social Research Council UK from 2011 to 2015. For this event, we have invited scholars from several disciplines, all of whom are currently conducting research in different regions around the globe, to join us. They each have pursued different projects, but hold a common interest in the reframing of the general theme of moral economy as a source of reasoning about beneficence. As organizers, we aim to open a wider ranging interdisciplinary discussion about the different faces of the value question, and its aspects in our times.

#### **Advanced Booking Recommended**

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**MANCHESTER**  
1824



*Photograph: Goroka Market, Papua New Guinea, 2010. courtesy Dr. Joseph Long*

## **Hanson Room, Humanities Bridgeford Building, University of Manchester 20 May 2011**

**09:30 - 9:45 Opening Remarks**

**9:45 - 11:15 Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Moral Economy**  
On Moral Economy. John O'Neill, Manchester.

Why We Can't Afford the Rich. Andrew Sayer, Lancaster.

**11:30 - 12:45 Keynote**

Four Domestications and an Escape. James C. Scott. Yale.

**13:30 - 15:45 Commentaries from Current Research in  
Africa, Australia & Europe**

Money Go Round: Personal economies of wealth, aspiration and indebtedness. Deborah James, LSE.

Moralities of Exchange: Ambiguous Responsibilities Between Care and Profit. Susana Narotzky, Barcelona

Property 'Down Under': Indigenous Land Rights and the Domestic Moral Economy in Remote Australia. Jon Altman, ANU.

**16:00 – 16:30 The Domestic Moral Economy:  
An Ethnographic Study of Value in the Asia Pacific**  
Chris Gregory, ANU/Manchester

**16:30- 17:30 Roundtable**

Fiona Magowan QUB, Chris Gregory ANU/Manchester,  
Karen Sykes Manchester.

**17:30 – 18:00 Open Discussion.**

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& SOCIAL  
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