

# **'The Politics of Austerity'**

## **Call for Articles and Open Space Pieces for this Themed Issue of *Feminist Review*, Issue 109, March 2015**

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

The financial and economic crises of the last four years, together with an ascendance of conservative politics, have had far-reaching material and discursive consequences in regards to deepening social and economic inequalities. As capitalism seeks to reinvent itself in order to survive a crisis of its own making, austerity politics exacerbate divides of class, gender, race, ethnicity and disability at local, regional and global levels. In this special themed issue, we invite contributions that will provide new feminist analyses of the origins, modalities and effects of this contemporary economic, political and social crisis.

We are interested in exploring what feminism can bring to an analysis of the political economy of austerity. What macro- and micro-level changes are occurring in contemporary forms of capitalism and how are they gendered? What might a feminist analysis of the origins and impact of the financial crisis look like? How are we to understand the power of the financial services sector to set the parameters of economic policy and public debate? How do attacks on the state and the public sector fit into this overall emerging political economy? What is the nature and form of the cultural responses this crisis generates?

Equally, we are concerned with the differential impacts of austerity. While work has begun to emerge in terms of the disproportionate effects of austerity in relation to gender, race, class and disability, we welcome additional contributions to this field, including considerations of how austerity might be reconfiguring intersectional relations of privilege and subordination. We are also interested in new feminist research that considers specific sectors of the economy, or that focuses on the uneven effects of austerity within regional (eg. the Eurozone) and global spaces.

In a time of shrinking states and public services, how is social policy being transformed and what are the intersectional effects of these transformations? What legitimating discourses are emerging for austerity policies and what are their effects in relation to reconfiguring gender, race, disability and class relations and identities?

Finally, we invite feminist analyses of emerging forms of resistance to the politics of austerity, whether in the form of new social and political movements or of creative and cultural practices. What and who are the subjects and objects of these forms of resistance, and what are their limits?

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Country, region or sector-specific feminist analyses of the origins and/or impacts of the financial crisis;
- Differential austerity:
  - In relation to gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, disability, class, generation and their intersections;
  - In relation to specific sectors;
  - At local, regional or global levels;
- Social policy in a time of austerity – how are social welfare and equality/diversity agendas changing and what are their effects;
- Discourses of austerity and their implications for social relations and identities;
- Attacks on the public sector, their discursive legitimations and effects;
- The austere state and feminist alternatives;
- Politics of protest in times of austerity – new social movements and political strategies;
- Cultural politics of resistance – emerging forms of creative practice as resistance.

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Deadline for first drafts of papers marked clearly 'AUSTERITY' submitted online and following *Feminist Review* guidelines ([http://www.palgrave-journals.com/fr/author\\_instructions.html](http://www.palgrave-journals.com/fr/author_instructions.html)) by 15th December 2013

The editors are happy to discuss possible papers informally with potential contributors. Please contact: [a.brah@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:a.brah@bbk.ac.uk); [I.Szeman@roehampton.ac.uk](mailto:I.Szeman@roehampton.ac.uk); [i.gedalof@londonmet.ac.uk](mailto:i.gedalof@londonmet.ac.uk).