

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## Journal of Economic Issues (JEI)'s Special Issue/Symposium

### **Title:**

### **Post Neoliberal Discourses' Paths: The 'Alt-Right,' the 'Alt-Left' and Grassroot Social Movements in the Global North and the Global South**

The Journal of Economic Issues is pleased to invite submissions to a symposium for which we particularly welcome papers that analyze social, political, and cultural responses to ongoing crises of neoliberalism around the globe. These are the institutionalized and grassroots movements that emerge from forces that either legitimize or devalue further the market doctrine. Such institutional analysis involves the study of incongruent or congruent discourses that have prevailed over time and gained force after the instability triggered by the 2008 Global Financial Meltdown. One of the symposium's key objectives is providing a space of reflection and inquiry into the conditions that trigger veiling or countervailing forces that either push or impel *Great Transformations* around the world. The symposium also provides a venue for researchers who work on analyzing emerging social movements, cultural and political changes in response to a world that experiences a shift in paradigms.

### **Notes for Prospective Authors:**

Deadline for complete papers is February 2<sup>th</sup>, 2020. All papers must be submitted online at the Journal of Economic Issues' website at Taylor and Francis/Routledge. Please read the submission guidelines, and for more information, also please see the Journal of Economic Issues' instructions for authors provided in the journal's webpage, when submitting the paper please indicate your submission belongs to this special issue:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?show=instructions&journalCode=mjei>  
20

If you are interested in submitting an abstract and/or paper, or have any questions, please email Dr. William Waller at: [waller@hws.edu](mailto:waller@hws.edu) and/or Dr. Karol Gil-Vasquez at: [karol.gil-vasquez@nichols.edu](mailto:karol.gil-vasquez@nichols.edu) to confirm your interest in contributing to this symposium. We would be happy to receive your suggestions and/or answer your queries regarding the suitability of your topic.

In face of undeniable levels of income inequality, social polarization, political instability, and increasing violence and poverty around the world, the imposition of the market doctrine appears as both: contested and validated. The connection between neoliberalism and global instability is either well versed by fierce discourses that stand against neoliberalism or effectively concealed behind agendas that under the mantra of good governance, market efficiency, democracy, and freedom, distant themselves from ongoing disarray. Therefore, as world conflict escalates, it becomes important to discern the linkages that exist between institutional instability and neoliberalism. This academic exercise involves untangling informal habits, practices as well as formal institutions that either continue to mystify or demystify the impact the market doctrine has had on the world's current state of affairs.

Specifically, this symposium aims at addressing research questions related to contemporary social, political, economic, cultural and social movements that contend or embrace the neoliberal discourse. An agenda that continues to push for further commodification of the public, social, cultural, and interpersonal spheres. Research of this sort addresses these sectors' responses to the issues that pertain to the dynamics of a Global North and a Global South that might not necessarily involve organized political movements nor specific countries. Instead, scholarly inquiries that account for both national and organized as well as scattered expressions that partake in regions of the 'global village.'

In the tradition of Karl Polanyi (1944)'s *double movement*, on one side of the spectrum, one finds retaliation in the form of social, religious, political cultural movements that feed neoliberalism's resilience, and hence economic dis-embedding. Such expressions tend to be ingrained in notions of rugged individualism, meritocracy, Social Darwinism as well as conservative religious and political values that often claim the legitimacy of the state's monopoly of violence and the market economy's superiority. The majority of these processes support, directly or indirectly, neoliberalism 'subjectivism.' The latter is seen as the process in which its truth claims are memorized and converted into rules of conduct, normalizing its power by what Michael Foucault (1978, 1999) calls 'the omnipresence of the mechanisms of discipline.'

On the other side of the *double movement's* spectrum, one finds the reactions posited by grassroots movements that stand for policies oriented toward income distribution, poverty alleviation, environmental protection, gender and sexual equality, minority populations' rights, immigrant rights, indigenous' rights, and the implementation of alternative models of sustainability such as social and/or solidarity economics and alternative monetary systems. All these efforts illustrate incentives to re-embed the economy into the social fabric; more so, to build an alternative path to reconstruct the deteriorated world's social fabric. Countervailing forces often tend to demystify the tacit and seemingly unconscious models of sociocultural domination and the symbolic violence embedded in neoliberalism. A violence that is obscured and often misrecognized. Hence, the need to understand increasing instability as encompassing all forms of controlling processes that assault freedom and survival.

As the world moves forward into an unknown direction, the need to account for the potential to disrupt or overcome neoliberalism's subjectification emerges. That is, to deconstruct nascent or prevalent discourses that connect instability with neoliberalism or those that hide the underpinning of its symbolic violence. The purpose is to circulate a critical understanding of a post-neoliberal world along its discursive formation as neoliberalism reaches a saturation point wherein their concealed incantations of inequality can no longer be hidden.

### **Topical Areas for Subject Research:**

- Labor movements: Unions and Occupy Wall Street
- Development of alternative monetary system: social currencies, cryptocurrencies, sovereign territories and economic independence.
- Alternative visions of consumption and production in the Global North and Global South: social economics, solidarity economics, the cooperative movement, fair trade movements.
- Immigrant rights' movements in the Global North and South
- Social movements of resistance: 'Black Lives Matter,' 'All Humans are Legal,' children's rights movements, anti-fascism, civil rights movements
- The political economy of human rights: children's rights movements, anti-gun violence movements, global justice movements.
- The rise of environmental movements: Degrowth policy, alternative visions of development, the rise of indigenous movements, anti-globalization movements, de-colonization, food sovereign movements, ecofeminism.
- Women in the global economy: feminist economics, reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, 'Me Too Movement.'
- The rise of political and religious conservatism: the 'Alt-Right,' 'All Lives Matter,' European right-wing political movements, 'White Supremacy', the rise of evangelicalism, Pro-Life movements, anti-Semitism, Fascism.

Other areas related to the theme of this symposium are also welcome.