



# Sociology

Journal of the British Sociological Association



## *Sociology and the Global Economic Crisis*

### Special Issue Call for Papers

**Deadline for submissions: 31 August 2013**

We hear it on the radio. We see it on television. We read it in the newspapers, online magazines, and blogs. We think about it on public transport and in hospital corridors; while taking children to school or queuing in supermarkets; at meetings and parties. Our imaginaries and daily experiences are saturated by the global economic crisis. Yet, to what extent are we able to translate this quotidian reality into adequate forms of knowledge? Has the crisis highlighted important limits in our sociological imagination linked either to the subdivision of our discipline or, more fundamentally, questioned the contemporary relevance of sociology as a social science?

In an important sense, the global economic crisis presents sociology with a dilemma: can it continue to think its object of knowledge without rethinking the epistemological and methodological assumptions on which this knowledge rests. There is an urgent need to deconstruct and interrogate the formulation and reality of global economic crisis, and systematically and critically to investigate the specifically social processes underpinning its development and intensification. While sociologists have demonstrated how economic crises are precipitated through the social construction of markets, economies and economic knowledge, and the cultural-institutional configurations of late capitalism, there is a need to take this critical view conceptually beyond empiricism and hermeneutics, methodologically beyond the confines of disciplinary insularity, and practically towards public engagement.

This special issue, to be published in October 2014, invites contributions that will:

- 1. Explore how sociology can contribute to a better understanding of (the lived experience of) the global economic crisis; and/or**
- 2. Reflect on how social processes and movements confronting the crisis can inspire a new sociological imagination.**

To address the first objective, papers could either critically engage with debates in sociological theory on the crisis tendencies of late capitalism, or deal empirically with a range of social problems generated by the crisis which could inform conceptual debates in sociology. The editors would especially welcome papers focussed on the 'crisis' in ways that challenge the dominant existing theorizations of crises as:

an ontological or existential problem associated with the disembedding of established categories and identities;

- the declining legitimacy of states, markets, industries and corporations;
- the misalignment of the institutions of work and welfare governance from the economic realities or values of late capitalism;
- the inability of liberal or social democratic regimes to mediate societal conflicts within the confines of the territorial, legislative and legalistic apparatus of the nation state.

To address the second objective, contributions could consider how the 'economic' crisis is shaping new subjectivities and identities. The crisis has been associated with the emergence of new or intensified ethical discourses premised on fairness and justice and papers could explore the ways in which these ethical discourses are not only linked to modes of popular protest, but demonstrate how social mobilisation could nurture epistemological innovation. Papers could explore how:

- generating new social subjectivities that challenge the universalizing assumptions of sociology and encouraging the 'indigenisation' of sociology and new ways of thinking 'other-wise';
- renewing ethical or normative thinking in ways that could facilitate a shift from regulatory to emancipatory sociological paradigms;
- epistemological diversity helps to emancipate sociology by moving away from taking crises for granted or employing regulatory paradigms seeking partial solutions to crises.
- resistance to the crisis is redefining the boundaries of sociology or renewing the sociological imagination;

This ambitious special edition aims to bring together contributions that:

- Bridge disciplines
- Unsettle conventions
- Cosmopolitanise epistemologies
- Renew sociology

#### **Editorial Team**

Ana C. Dinerstein, University of Bath, UK

Gregory Schwartz, University of Bath, UK

Graham Taylor, University of the West of England, Bristol, UK

The editors welcome contributions on relevant topics in any field of social science engaging with sociological research, from early career and established academics, and from those outside academia.

#### **Submission details:**

Deadline for submissions: 31 August 2013 (full papers)

Word limit: 8000 words

Queries: To discuss initial ideas or seek editorial advice, please contact the special issue editors by email on [sociology.specialissue.2014@gmail.com](mailto:sociology.specialissue.2014@gmail.com)

Submit: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/soc>

Full submission instructions are available on this site on the 'Instructions and Forms' page. Please read these in full well before submitting your manuscript. All manuscripts will be subject to the normal referee process, but potential authors are welcome to discuss their ideas in advance with the editors.

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