

# Theorising Contemporary Capitalism

Call for papers – *European Journal of Social Theory* special issue  
Special issue editor: Charlie Masquelier

**Deadline for expressions of interest:** 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**Deadline for submission of full papers:** 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Please send all queries and expressions of interest to Charlie Masquelier: [c.masquelier@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:c.masquelier@exeter.ac.uk). Those should include a title and abstract - total length: 200 words.

Since its inception, capitalism has faced numerous crises, which have at times threatened its existence. But instead of disappearing, capitalism was able to survive, often having to adapt and renew itself in the light of changing circumstances. For example, the aftermath of WWII saw the emergence of an 'organised' model of capitalism, marked by Keynesian demand-side policies, a Fordist regime of production and redistributionist measures. The oil shocks of the early 1970s paved the way for an economic crisis and a new stage of capitalist development underpinned by neoliberal values.

But while neoliberal capitalism has risen to dominance within the Global North over the past three to four decades, non-negligible developments have recently surfaced that have led many commentators to question whether it is still possible to speak of a neoliberal age. The 2007-8 financial crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic, and, more recently, the cost of living crisis, are thought to have created new circumstances to which capitalism is having to adapt. But to what extent is it possible to speak of a new stage of capitalism? What are the key distinctive features of contemporary capitalism? For example, has the 'marriage between capitalism and liberal democracy' ended? What are contemporary capitalism's fault lines?

The special issue aims to bring together diverse perspectives and emphases on contemporary capitalism in an effort to advance our understanding of the contemporary situation and possible future developments. It provides a dialogical space for devising conceptual tools appropriate for grappling and/or critically engaging with contemporary conditions of existence collectively.

*Other themes and questions may include:*

The relationship between contemporary capitalism and the far right

Is neoliberalism dead? Is capitalism dead?

The role of big tech under contemporary capitalism

Big data and contemporary capitalism

Power and domination under contemporary capitalism

Critique and contemporary capitalism

Social movements and contemporary capitalism

Contemporary capitalism and the prospects for social change

Relevance of Marxism to contemporary capitalism

Contemporary capitalism in global perspective

Contemporary capitalism in Global North and Global South

The relationship between modernity and contemporary capitalism

**Length of contributions:** maximum 9000 words. Each paper will be taken through standard peer review.