

International Conference organized as part of the ESRC Funded Seminar Series *Austerity Futures: Imagining and Materializing the Future in an 'Age of Austerity'*



Futures in Question

11-12 September 2014

**Goldsmiths
University of London**

Futurity

Speculation

Hope

Anticipation

Utopia

Risk

Austerity

Keynote Speakers

Professor Lisa
Adkins
University of Newcastle
Australia

Professor Patricia
Clough
City University of New
York

Professor Mike
Michael
University of Sydney

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CALL FOR PAPERS

Extended deadline for proposals: 28 April 2013

How is the future imagined, planned for and manifested as the site of social and political struggle?

Is the idea of progress towards a better future challenged as a result of financial, environmental, political and health crises?

How do the social sciences, arts and humanities study the future – theoretically and methodologically – and how might they develop modes of analysis to invent different futures?

This conference will explore the contours of 'the future' in our current context of multiple financial, ecological and political crises. We are interested in drawing out intersections between the variety of ways that the future is imagined, planned for and performed across the arts, humanities and social sciences.

For example, what impact is austerity or climate change having on visions of the future? In what ways is the principle of progress and the linear unfolding of time being re-thought across different theoretical projects and via methodologies that aim to deal with virtuality, liveness and immediacy? Should we give up on the future, or (re-)invest in the not-yet? Is the future 'in question' in the same ways across different national or cultural contexts, or for different people? How might time itself be involved in the workings of power and privilege?

We invite proposals for individual papers and panels, as well as other alternative presentation formats on themes including but not restricted to:

- theories of time, futurity and the future
- methodologies such as speculation, forecasting, modeling, design, scenario-planning
- affect and futurity, including anticipation, pre-emption, hope, optimism, anxiety
- planning and futurity, including architecture and spatial planning
- imaginations and materializations of the future, including expectations, promises, utopias, and popular cultural representations
- politics and futurity, including security, risk, governance
- critical temporalities, including slow design, contemplative computing, anti-anxiety objects

We welcome proposals from a diverse range of fields including Sociology, Geography, STS, Cultural Studies, Media and Communications, Design, Anthropology, Literature, Politics, International Relations and Architecture.

See <http://www.austerityfutures.org.uk/conference/conference-call-for-papers/> for more information on presentation formats and timings. Please send your proposals to Dr Rebecca Coleman: futures@lancaster.ac.uk