

Work, Employment and Society: Special Issue Call for Papers

Solidarities in and through Work in an Age of Extremes

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As we reach the end of the first decade of the long crisis that began in 2007-8, what does solidarity mean and how does it manifest itself in and through the manifold forms of work? Within the context of a shrinking and constricting state, of turbulent political developments and their implications for social structures, and of the long-term, extensive implications of austerity politics, we are encouraging authors to consider acts of solidarity that are undertaken in and through work by individual and social actors. This can include assessing the past and future of solidarity as well as its present manifestations. We also welcome contributions that seek to explore the 'concept of solidarity' (Wilde, 2007), as a social phenomenon and abiding political idea. Is it more or less than – even an extension of – a 'moral economy' at work (Bolton and Laaser, 2013)? To what extent is solidarity contingent, contested and 'situated' in its content and practice (Routledge and Driscoll Derickson, 2015)?

While acts of solidarity in the workplace are traditionally understood as primarily the domain of organised labour (Fantasia, 1988) and an expression of wider working class politics (Simms, 2011) they can include 'unrecognised work' that is hidden in plain view as public goods and services that are no longer performed by the neo-liberal state, such as stepping in to provide free healthcare (see Teloni and Adam, 2016) and legal aid; setting up food banks, and taking over the running of community shops, libraries and crèches. They may include informal cultures of support and encouragement in the workplace, memorably dubbed 'communities of coping' by Korczynski (2003), or between workforces and their collective organisations (see McBride et al., 2013). They may also include acts of solidarity with individuals or groups most affected, even scapegoated, by current political and social developments, such as refugees, migrants, Muslims, the homeless and young precarious workers. We are also keen to receive contributions that explore the limits and constraints to solidarity. For example, to what extent is anti-austerity activism and its attendant solidarity a gendered phenomenon (Craddock, 2017)?

Because solidarity and injustice go hand-in-hand, anger and resentment at the unjust treatment of others in work, wider society and globally by the more powerful and the powerful remains the age-old catalyst for mobilising individuals, groups and social movements to right a wrong and aid its victims. This in turn highlights the importance of understanding how and why solidarity is 'made', especially the processes whereby its 'producers' strive to garner the resources necessary to mobilise and act (see Atzeni, 2009). In doing so, solidarity is revealed as a myriad of ideas, emotion, responses and effects, from outrage, impatience and resistance to reciprocity, generosity, compassion and joy.

For the purpose of this call for papers, we understand the parameters of work as following the contours of the four interconnecting dimensions of Glucksmann's (2005) total social organisation of labour approach (TSOL). We are looking for submissions that address issues of solidarity in and through work, employment and society in

relation to any of the following, though the list is not exhaustive:

- Exploring, explaining and theorising solidarity
- Moral economy and solidarity
- Workplace cultures and solidarity
- Contemporary forms of class solidarity
- Solidarities against oppression and discrimination
- Solidarity against xenophobia and racism
- Union organising and solidarity
- Caring work, compassion and solidarity
- Solidarity, resistance and misbehaviour
- Dismantling and decaying solidarity
- Social movements at work
- Institutional 'social solidarity' and state regulation
- Solidarity in global value chains
- Consumer and worker solidarity
- Emotion, 'emotionologies' and solidarities
- Inter-generational solidarity
- Working against austerity, poverty and precarity
- Solidarity, social enterprise and the 'sharing economy'
- Online and social media solidarities
- Charities, work and solidarity
- The future of co-operation and co-operatives
- Emerging and alternative solidarities
- Public sociology, committed scholars and solidarity

Submission Details

Deadline for submissions (full papers): **01 December 2017**

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

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Word limits: 8000 words (research articles) and 5000 words (D&C/OtFL)

Full submission instructions for research and On the Front Line articles are available on the [Manuscript Central site](#) under 'Instructions and Forms'. Please read these in full before submitting your manuscript.

All submitted manuscripts, if considered potentially suitable by the guest editors, will be subject to double-blind, peer-review by three referees, as is normal practice for *Work, Employment and Society* manuscripts.

Publication of the Special Issue expected: April 2019

We welcome informal enquiries about potential submissions. For further information please contact Vanessa Beck (vab9@le.ac.uk) or Paul Brook (pb222@le.ac.uk)

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