

# **STATE, CRISIS AND THE REFUSAL OF RECOVERY**

## **OPEN WORKSHOP**

**Venue: Istanbul Bilgi University, Santral Campus E2-302**

**Friday, July 15th 2011 14:00 to 17:00**

**Co-organised by**

**Centre for Ethics and Politics, Queen Mary, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

**PhD Program on Organization Studies, İSTANBUL BILGI UNIVERSITY**

All Welcome

This workshop enquires into the current political production of state crisis to resolve a crisis of capitalism. The objective of the workshop will be to explore the strategies deployed to produce a private sector recovery, at the national and international level, through the displacement of debt onto welfare, education and health programmes with a particular focus on the UK and Turkey in the wider EU/global context. It will look at the responses both of national governments as well as unions, activist networks to these challenges, as well as explore the theoretical problems for state theory that this new round of neoliberal recovery programmes for the ailing – both intellectually as well as in terms of legitimacy – of the state / capital relation that has developed since the 1970s.

Central to the present enforced strategies of recovery is the double movement of transfer of private debt to the state and from the state to the population, where it takes the form not only of financial debt, but debt work, or indenture. It is here, in the imposition of indenture that management ideology comes into its own, not just echoing the politics of scarcity and the logic of necessity, but appearing to enable indenture, to provide a way to endure this penurious work, and indeed to seek the capitalist freedom in it. While the private sector is to do less with more, and the public sector more with less, the indentured worker is to make both these propositions plausible. On the one hand, having been traded in for cash by corporations, and the other having been burdened with civic and social functions, the indentured worker is to make up for a lack of formal work with informal work now directed not toward self-organisation, but for instance in Britain, in the 'Big Society,' or in the Global South by building 'governance' and 'healthy civil societies'. Her debt will not be worked off with such formalized informal labour, but it will be serviced, allowing the transfers to continue. This is one way to understand everything in the business school from CSR to open innovation to social marketing to the enduring call to 'manage yourself' a featured column in each issue of the Harvard Business Review. But all of this exhortation reminds us that management cannot necessarily resist the refusal to make good on these debts.

In this workshop, we shall be looking to explore the various forms that the refusal of neoliberal recovery programmes have taken and discuss the new forms of organising and the possible opening for a new internationalism of struggle that the spreading of austerity programmes has encouraged.

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