ACADEMIC

The Informational Fallacy in the Philosophy of Consciousness
Simon Skempton | The Philosophical Forum

"This article argues that theories which regard the mind as merely a form of information processing are guilty of a fallacious conflation of the informational contents of consciousness with consciousness itself, with the consciousness of those contents...the ontology of information is that of a formal structure that can be instantiated in physical reality innumerable times, whereas the ontology of consciousness is that of an irreducibly singular subjective experience of being alive."

The Melancholic Torturer: How Australia Became a Nation That Tortures Refugees
Julie Macken | Journal of Sociology

"...This article seeks to answer the question: how did Australia become a state that uses torture on refugees?...Isolation, propaganda, law as tactic and privatising detention then led to an operationalising of this defensive melancholia, which ultimately culminated in torture."

The Secret Empire of Signals Intelligence: GCHQ and the Persistence of the Colonial Presence
Sarah Mainwaring, Richard J. Aldrich | The International History Review

"Why did Britain remove the population of an idyllic Indian Ocean archipelago? Why has Britain resisted granting citizenship to the inhabitants of another small island in the mid-Atlantic? Why does Britain still 'own' 90 square miles of Cyprus? The answer...lies in part with the heritage of Bletchley Park, an obsession with informational dominance in world politics that demands the control of key nodes in international telecommunications around the globe."

Big Data Justice: A Case for Regulating the Global Information Commons
Kai Spiekermann | Journal of Politics (preprint)

"The advent of artificial intelligence (AI) challenges political theorists to think about data ownership and policymakers to regulate the collection and use of public data...Managing the 'global information commons' and charging for extensive data use is permissible and desirable. We discuss policy implications and propose a progressive data use tax to counter the inequality arising."

The Innovation Winter Is Coming: How the U.S.-China Trade War Endangers the World
Kimberly Houser | San Diego Law Review

"...This trade war not only threatens the global economy and endangers democracy, it will likely cause an innovation winter - hindering future developments in AI. There is a very real danger that should the U.S. and China continue with this decoupling, the result could be a bifurcated internet, the development of technology on two divergent tracks, and a 5G infrastructure with non-interchangeable components requiring the rest of the world to choose a side."

The First Darwinian: Alfred Russel Wallace and the Meaning of Darwinism
Ian Hesketh | Journal of Victorian Culture

"...Wallace used his authority as one of the founders of evolution by natural selection to reimagine what he called 'pure Darwinism' as a teleological evolutionism, one that integrated the theory of natural selection with an interpretation of spirit phenomena thereby producing a more agreeable and holistic account of life than was previously associated with Darwinian evolution."
The Radical Feminist Legacy of the National Welfare Rights Organization
Wilson Sherwin, Frances Fox Piven | WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly
"...Existing scholarship on the welfare rights movement has silenced many of the more radical feminist tendencies and accorded undue emphasis to the way recipient activists conformed to hegemonic, patriarchal standards...We demonstrate how a social movement of primarily poor Black women forged sophisticated arguments for the importance of guaranteed income as a means of facilitating autonomy and civic engagement, rather than reifying gendered social roles."

The Democratic Crisis and the Knowledge Problem
François Facchini, Mickael Melki | Politics & Policy
"This article provides a new explanation for the current democratic crisis by focusing on the growing opposition of citizens to political elites...Democracies are in crisis because this political elite cannot possess the knowledge necessary to manage the complexity of the social order and implement rational choices. They fail in dealing with knowledge and thus cast doubt among citizens on the very legitimacy of democracy."

Is There a Right To Sleep?
Jonathan Goldberg-Hiller | Theory & Event
"This article probes what lies beyond the enduring rational, conscious, Lockean legal subject by speculatively returning to the disregarded body in sleep. I show how phenomenology and political theology, which converge on a concept of legal vigilance, can demonstrate the inherently collective and political nature of sleep, a kind of 'flesch' to which we have little conscious access, but which has the potential to reorient legal rights and political values."

Competition: A Critical History of a Concept
Nicholas Gane | Theory, Culture & Society
"This article expands Michel Foucault's genealogy of liberalism and neoliberalism by analysing the concept of competition...The article considers the ways in which three main trajectories of neoliberal thought that emerged from the early 1920s onwards - Austrian, German and American - developed and responded to these conceptualizations of competition..."

BOOKS

Austerity
Suzanne J. Konzelmann | Polity
"Austerity has been at the center of political controversy following the 2008 financial crisis, invoked by politicians and academics across the political spectrum as the answer to, or cause of, our post-crash economic malaise. This book aims to demystify austerity as an economic policy, a political idea, and a social phenomenon."

German Railroads, Jewish Souls: The Reichsbahn, Bureaucracy, and the Final Solution
Christopher Browning, Peter Hayes | Berghahn Books
"This book considers the German railway system that delivered European Jews to ghettos and death camps in Eastern Europe to be not only an essential component of the machinery of destruction but also emblematic of the amoral bureaucracy that helped to implement the Jewish genocide."

The Politics of Public Debt. Financialization, Class, and Democracy in Neoliberal Brazil
Daniel Bin | Brill
"Sustained by state action, the politico-economic context of Brazil allowed the establishment of a macroeconomic framework that favored finance capital."

JOURNALISM & ESSAYS

Can Marketplace Science Be Trusted?
Paul Lucier | Nature
"The twenty-first-century relations of science and industry illustrate the commodification of university research and the corruption of the pursuit of knowledge by the profit motive."
Platforms: Architecture and the Use of the Ground
Pier Vittorio Aureli, Martino Tattara | e-flux

"Spatial justice is something that goes far beyond what architectural form can do on its own, but architecture can and should be mobilized to offer at least glimpses of unforeseen possibilities."

Google V. Apple: While One Takes on the Housing Crisis, the Other Stands Back
Marisa Kendall | Reveal News

"Silicon Valley is one of the most expensive real estate markets in the United States. While it's known that a handful of tech companies are huge employers, what's less obvious is that these firms are also some of the Valley’s biggest landowners."

REPORTS, DISSERTATIONS, & MISCELLANEOUS

Social Structures of Accumulation in Greece (1980-2014)
Angeliki Papadopoulou, Giorgos Gouzoulis | UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose

"This analysis suggests that the Greek neoliberal growth model was based on three pillars: the liberalisation of international trade, capital mobility and finance within the EU; the expansion of the welfare state; and the liberalised labour and industrial relations."

Digital Public Assets: Rethinking Value, Access and Control of Public Sector Data in the Platform Age
Rosie Collington | Common Wealth

"Transforming the existing relationship between digital infrastructures, the public sector and individuals is as much a social and political challenge as an economic one. If the final goal is collective prosperity and digital common wealth, how do we get there?"

The Political Economy of Inequality in Rich Democracies
Jonathan T. Rothwell | George Washington University Institute of Public Policy

"This paper shows that the top 1% by income or wealth are disproportionately found in domestic sectors that are not particularly innovative or affected by globalization. This is especially true for the most unequal countries."

VIDEOS

The Rise of China and Its Regional Hegemonic Prospects
Ted Hopf | European University at Saint Petersburg

"This talk argues that the rise of China was unlikely to be accompanied by Chinese hegemony because of the distribution of identities among the world's great powers. In particular, the only great power in the world with which China's authoritarian capitalism resonates is Russia."

Politics and Knowledge in Nihilistic Times: Thinking With Max Weber
Wendy Brown | Yale University

"Drawing from Freudian, Weberian, Marxist, and Foucauldian angles of vision, this talk explores the powers operating beneath the surface of liberalism and generating many of its limits and predicaments."

The Kremlin's Global Outreach: From Cyber To Russians Abroad
Andrei Soldatov, Irina Borogan | MIT Center for International Studies

"This talk explores how the Kremlin is pushing for cybersecurity cooperation with some Asian countries and the way President Vladimir Putin is trying to leverage them as an important nexus point as he expands Russia's influence and networks in Asia."

PODCASTS

Margaret Thatcher's Anti-Europe Speech
Susan Hill | Witness History

"The British Prime Minister started expressing doubts about the European Union during a speech in the Belgian city of Bruges in 1988. The now famous 'Bruges speech' is seen by many as the spark which ignited the anti-European movement within Britain's Conservative party."
Bourdieu and Marx
Michael Burawoy | KPFA

"What can we learn from Pierre Bourdieu's critique of Marxism? Why did the influential French sociologist reject Marx's emphasis on labor and class struggle?"

The Post-Chornobyl Library: Ukrainian Postmodernism of the 1990s
Tamara Hundorova | New Books in Eastern European Studies

"What are the premises of Ukrainian postmodernism? How does it develop vis-à-vis its numerous foreign counterparts? How does the Soviet past shape the specificities of Ukrainian postmodernism?"