Making Safe: The Dirty History of a Bomb Disposal Robot
Debbie Lisle | Security Dialogue

"In the Ulster Museum’s new gallery...the central display showcases a Wheelbarrow bomb disposal robot. This machine was invented by the British Army in Northern Ireland in 1972 and used by officers of the 321 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron to defuse car bombs planted by the Irish Republican Army. This article offers an alternative history of that machine...that critically assesses its role during the Troubles."

Communicationism: Cold War Humanism
Arvind Rajagopal | Critical Inquiry

"The academic study of communication was...inaugurated with the assumption that in a democracy like the US communication was free and hence could be treated as an independent variable, unlike in communist countries where it was inseparable from party control."

Strengthening Capitalism Through Philanthropy: The Ford Foundation, Managerialism and American Business Schools
Patricia Genoe McLaren | Management Learning

"...The Ford Foundation used its money and influence in the 1950s to embed a managerialist ideology in American business schools as part of its efforts to sustain and strengthen the capitalist system...The Ford Foundation went beyond shaping the structure and curriculum of business schools to shaping the ideology and identities of management scholars."

The Secret of Quick Thinking: The Invention of Mental Speed in America, 1890-1925
Justin Tyler Clark | Time & Society

"In the early 20th century, mental speed became a dominant measure of intelligence in the United States. For both cultural and technical reasons, this had not always been the case. For 19th-century Americans, quickness of speech and thought often signified lack of self-discipline..."

The AfD As a ‘Leaderless’ Right-Wing Populist Party. How the Leadership-Structure Dilemma Left an Imprint on the Party’s Leadership
Gregor Zons, Anna Halstenbach | Polish Political Science Review

"Despite its right-wing populist character, the Alternative for Germany (AfD) shows no signs of a strong party leadership. We ascribe this state of the party leadership to the AfD’s institutionalization as a new party and show how organizational features interact with the skill set and goals of the party leaders."

Agrarian Origins of Authoritarian Populism in the United States: What Can We Learn From 20th-century Struggles in California and the Midwest?
Montenegro de Wit Maywa, Antonio Roman-Alcalá, Alex Liebman, Siena Chrisman | Journal of Rural Studies

"The 2016 election of Donald Trump as US president came as a surprise to many - but generally not to farmers and rural communities. We interrogate the politics of rural places in generating both support for and struggle against authoritarian populism..."
State-Funded Militant Infrastructure? CERFI's Équipements Collectifs in the Intellectual History of Architecture
Meredith Tenhoor | The Journal of Architecture

"'Militant' research that interrogates the operations of the modern state is not often state-funded; even less common is the conception of architecture as a militant practice. Yet these two conditions coincide in the case of the French research collective CERFI (Centre d'études, de recherches et de formations institutionnelles, or Centre for Institutional Studies, Research and Training)"

'No Automation Must Be Achieved Without Improving Living Standards'. The British Labour Party, the Italian Socialist Party and the German Social Democratic Party During the Postwar Technological Revolution
Jacopo Perazzoli | History of European Ideas

"This article discusses the connection between Western socialist parties and technological development during the 1950s. The cases of the British Labour Party (LP), the German Social Democracy (SPD), and the Italian Socialist Party (PSI) let us to examine socialist perspectives in managing technological progress and in conceiving programmes and purposes on scientific research"

Democracy and the Poor: Prolegomena To a Radical Theory of Democracy
Andreas Kalyvas | Constellations

"...It is because democratic impulses have evaporated in the existing liberal oligarchic capitalist states that the qualifier radical needs to be made explicit...Absent such a radicalization, both in theory and practice, democracy will remain the ruling ideology of economic oligarchies, an electoral mechanism for the circulation of elites, a justification of imperial command and global wars, or a nationalist instrument for governing and managing the many"

A Business Empire and Its Migrants: Royal Dutch Shell and the Management of Racial Capitalism
Sarah Kunz | Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers

"The Shell 'expatriate' has an imperial genealogy: its constitution, functions and lived experience cannot be understood without accounting for histories of European imperialism...Similarly, the Shell 'expatriate' was a gendered construct that not only denoted husbands' corporate control but increasingly depended on women's organisational, emotional and social labour, until its gendered destabilisation in the 1990s."

BOOKS

The Internet in Everything: Freedom and Security in a World With No Off Switch
Laura Denardis | Yale University Press

"This book makes visible the sinews of power already embedded in our technology and explores how hidden technical governance arrangements will become the constitution of our future."

Transformative Planning: Radical Alternatives To Neoliberal Urbanism
Tom Angotti | Black Rose Books

"This book argues that unless planning is radically transformed and develops serious alternatives to neoliberal urbanism and disaster capitalism it will be irrelevant in this century."

Uncanny Valley, A Memoir
Anna Wiener | Farrar, Straus and Giroux

"This memoir is a rare first-person glimpse into high-flying, reckless startup culture at a time of unchecked ambition, unregulated surveillance, wild fortune, and accelerating political power."

JOURNALISM & ESSAYS

Another Media Regime Is Possible
Dan Hind | openDemocracy

"The technical term for a polity in which only a minority can speak publicly while the majority remain silent is an oligarchy."
The Art of Oil
Kate Yoder | Grist
"Oil money has fueled the arts for ages. Can museums survive without it?"

Good Content Vs Good Architecture: Where Does 'Instagrammability Take Us?
Fabiola Fiocco, Giulia Pistone | Strelkamag
"Social media is changing urban planning, facilitating the shift from a functional understanding of design to a formal and commercial one. Behind the friendly veneer of spaces conceived as sets for social media content, complex systems of surveillance are being tested and developed."

REPORTS, DISSERTATIONS, & MISCELLANEOUS

Chin MH | National Center for Biotechnology Information
"Through sacrificial entrepreneurship queer and trans of color subjects simultaneously collude and oppose the unfolding of neoliberal state initiatives."

The "Populist" Right Challenge To Neoliberalism: Social Policy Between a Rock and a Hard Place
James Putzel | LSE
"Through case studies looking at the US, Brazil and the Philippines the author argues that the biggest impact of right populists on social policies can be found in their discourses and authoritarian practices of social exclusion."

The Platform Economy Matures: Pervasive Power, Private Regulation, and Dependent Entrepreneurs
Martin Kenney, Dafna Bearson, John Zysman | University of California, Berkeley
"The enormous reach of these platforms and their regulator-like power within their ecosystems compel us to consider whether private platform regulators are replacing many of the state’s functions."

VIDEOS

Far-Right Populism and Foreign Policy Identity: Evidence From Bolsonaro’s Foreign Policy in Brazil
Feliciano de Sá Guimarães, Irma Dutra | Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs
"As far-right populists are forming governments all over the world, it becomes imperative to study how far-right populist leaders create their foreign policy identities and the consequences of these identities for international affairs."

The Cube: A Tale of an AI-Ruled State
Philipp Sälhoff, Ann Cathrin Riedel | re:publica
"Can artificial intelligence transform a society into a safer place? Certainly. Is that possible without losing basic fundaments of a democratic and humanistic consensus? Arguably."

The Future Is Public: Democratic Ownership of the Economy
David Harvey | Transnational Institute
"In the face of climate catastrophe, mounting inequalities and growing democratic unrest, public services are more important than ever."

PODCASTS

Liberalism and John Rawls
Katrina Forrester | The Prospect Podcast
"Brexit, Trump, international protests, the era of the strongman: Is liberalism really in crisis, or will it come out of this historical era changed, but essentially unscathed?"
How Trump's Inner Circle Profited From the Housing Crisis
Aaron Glantz | It's All Political
“Today’s guest talks about his new book, Housewreckers, which explains how Wall Street titans, including President Trump’s treasury secretary, Steven Mnuchin, profited off those who lost their homes.”

The Idiot Who Made, And Destroyed, Wework
Jordan Holmes, Robert Evans | Behind the Bastards
“This episode discusses the story of how one man made a billion dollars for no discernible reason at all.”