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## **Social Science Research**

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### **Expertise and the moral economies of austerity**

**Special Issue 31/1, 2018**

**Editors : Paul Stubbs & Žitko**

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# □ 1 - Expertise and the moral economies of austerity (editorial)

<b>Authors</b>	Paul Stubbs & Mislav Žitko
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13511610.2018.1426983">https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13511610.2018.1426983</a>
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<b>Catalogue</b>	CrossRef
<b>Language</b>	en
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>At the height of the Greek debt crisis in June 2015, Slovak Finance Minister Peter Kažimír tweeted that the Greek government had to “stop politicising the issue” (@KazimirPeter, 19 June 2015). Appeals to depoliticise austerity attempt to transpose the issue from the domain of “politics”, in which ideologies may compete and struggle, to the domains of “technocracy” and “expertise” in which “the rules of the game” seek to ensure that “there is no alternative”. Such appeals confront us with age-old questions about the role and limits of knowledge, science and expertise and the nature and legitimacy of political decisions, policies and programmes. The debt crisis in Europe and the appeal to “austerity”, not unlike earlier structural adjustment programmes in developing countries, provide opportunities to question the status and role of expertise, understood as embodied assemblages of knowledge, models, and arguments, across time, space and scale.</p>
<b>Uploaded</b>	2.3.2018, 00:25:01

## • 2 - Austerity discourses in Europe: how economic experts create identity projects

<b>Author</b>	Jens Maesse
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13511610.2017.1398075">https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13511610.2017.1398075</a>
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<b>Catalogue</b>	CrossRef
<b>Language</b>	en
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The austerity discourse is usually analysed as an academic as well as a policy discourse on current European reform processes. This paper explores how the austerity concept is used by different economic expert discourses to create identity images in the European political economy. Starting from an economic sociology as well as social studies of science perspective, the analysis investigates how three different expert discourses produce certain identity images of the “me” and the “other”. An analysis of identity images is essential to understand how roles for actors in the political economy are constructed. Whereas the “me” image points to the speaker of a certain discourse, the image of the “ other ” always relates to ways how the speaker interprets and perceives other actors. These images as role models appear in different political, media and economic contexts as means in social struggle over hegemony. Thus, austerity discourses contribute to the cultural and discursive formation of the European political economy. The analysis takes three examples to illustrate the diversity of the current discursive struggles over the present and future form of Europe: ordoliberal“ law-and-order ” economist ’ s discourses develop a “ resolute ” me- perspective, the economic experts from the Keynesian camp constitute the discursive “ me ” as a “ critical” discourse position, and the pragmatists from the ECB take a “ moderate ” position.</p>
<b>Short title</b>	Austerity discourses in Europe
<b>Uploaded</b>	2.3.2018, 00:26:33

### □ 3 - Slow, slow, quick, quick, slow: power, expertise and the hegemonic temporalities of austerity

**Author** Paul Stubbs

**URL** <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13511610.2017.1415806>

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**Date** 2018-01-02

**DOI** [10.1080/13511610.2017.1415806](https://doi.org/10.1080/13511610.2017.1415806)

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**Language** en

This article addresses the temporality of politics and policy, examining the hegemonic temporality of austerity discourses and practices and the social role of knowledge and expertise in finance capitalism. An overview of conceptualisations of “time” and “temporality” in critical social science and critical policy studies is followed by a non-

**Abstract** determinist exploration of the temporalities of expertise and austerity. The example of Greek Government-troika negotiations in the first half of 2015 is taken as a case study of the disciplining of the European periphery, in which the imposition of hegemonic temporalities becomes a crucial mechanism for the operation of power. A concluding section sketches out elements of a possible counter-hegemonic temporality.

**Short title** Slow, slow, quick, quick, slow

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## □ 4 - The instabilities of expertise: remaking knowledge, power and politics in unsettled times

<b>Authors</b>	Janet Newman & John Clarke
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13511610.2017.1396887">https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13511610.2017.1396887</a>
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### **Abstract**

In this article, we explore the implications of contemporary populist challenges to established forms of expertise in the UK, USA and elsewhere. Drawing on a Foucauldian conception of knowledge and power as always articulated, we argue for a conjunctural approach to understanding the ways in which formations of expertise become stabilized and de-stabilized, vulnerable to challenge and contestation. We trace the role of economic expertise in defining the limits of political and policy “realism” before and after the crash of 2007–8. We then consider the rise of nationalist-populist political mobilizations which challenged existing “expertise” in the name of popular wisdom. In the context of de-stabilized forms of expertise, we ask about emergent attempts at reconfiguring knowledge, power and politics in different ways.

**Short title** The instabilities of expertise

**Uploaded** 2.3.2018, 00:30:20

## • 5 - Operationalizing austerity: the role of transnational professional service firms in local government restructuring

<b>Author</b>	Chris Hurl
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13511610.2017.1415805">https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13511610.2017.1415805</a>
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<b>Download</b>	2.3.2018, 00:31:34
<b>Catalogue</b>	CrossRef
<b>Language</b>	en
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Since the 2008 economic crisis, the “Big Four” professional service firms (KPMG, Deloitte, PwC, Ernst and Young) have aggressively targeted the public sector with the aim of expanding their market in management consulting. As a part of these efforts, they have packaged and promoted service delivery reviews to local governments, offering consultations with the aim of identifying areas where savings can be accrued and services streamlined. Taking up Toronto’s Core Service Review (2011) as a case study, this paper examines the efforts of KPMG consultants to operationalize austerity through generating a metric that classifies and gauges the relative necessity of public services. Drawing from the recent literature on neoliberal governmentality, urban policy mobilities, and the sociology of expertise, I examine the conditions of possibility for the production of this metric. Specifically, what kinds of schema were deployed in determining whether a service is a “must-have” or merely a “nice-to-have”? What forms of expertise were relied upon? And to what extent were these experts able to position themselves as authorities in speaking to the proper levels of service delivery? Finally, exploring the public response to KPMG’s final report, I trace the various ways in which local actors have contested the logic of austerity, advancing alternative understandings of public service standards rooted in moral economies of community well-being and accountability.</p>
<b>Short title</b>	Operationalizing austerity
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## 6 - Governmentality versus moral economy: notes on the debt crisis

<b>Author</b>	Mislav Žitko
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13511610.2018.1429897">https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13511610.2018.1429897</a>
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<b>Catalogue</b>	CrossRef
<b>Language</b>	en
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>In this paper we revisit the concepts of governmentality and moral economy in the context of subordinate or dependent financialization. Michel Foucault and E.P. Thompson have introduced these concepts in order to capture the operational principles of liberal order in the moment of collision struggle with “anti-liberal” discursive forms such as moral economy of the poor or Keynesian economics. Furthermore, both of these concepts aim at capturing and analyzing the key sites of subjectivity formation. Contemporary debt relations as they appear at the level of household represent the point at which structural development of financialized capitalism intersects with the logic of household economy and calls for type of analysis that takes on board insights drawn from heterodox political economy, but move further and captures the norms, morals and practices that, sometimes laterally and indirectly, impact and modify the underlying economic trajectory.</p>
<b>Short title</b>	Governmentality versus moral economy
<b>Uploaded</b>	2.3.2018, 00:43:25

## □ 7 - Accounting for indebtedness: geopolitics, technocracy and advanced financial capital

<b>Authors</b>	David Carter & Rebecca Warren
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13511610.2017.1415804">https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13511610.2017.1415804</a>
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<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This paper explores the role of accounting within the context of Lazzarato's theorization of indebtedness. Accounting is often depicted as neutral, objective and technocratic, and despite Lazzarato referencing accounting within his exploration of indebtedness, we believe the role of accounting is underexplored in his analyses. Our intervention suggests that accounting is the primary language of financialisation, securitization, financial capital and indebtedness. This paper also extends Lazzarato's thesis by arguing that, with new accounting technologies, indebtedness is being spread to emerging economies. This extension is mobilized through the work of the International Accounting Standards Board, as a private accounting standard setter, in partnership with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund as accounting is language of advanced financial accounting and indebtedness.</p>
<b>Short title</b>	Accounting for indebtedness
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