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## Trendspotting: Breaking the Chains

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# **disClosure**

a journal of social theory



## **reVisioning Justice**

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**Below** Women  
 question government  
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 [photo: Chris Huestis]



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Left Living Liberty.  
oil on canvas. Chris  
Huestis

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editor's preface: Susan Mains  
**Trendspotting:  
Breaking the Chains**

Welcome to *disClosure!*

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you, on behalf of the editorial collective, to Issue 6 of *disClosure - reVisioning Justice*. We decided to continue in the celebratory spirit of the collective by making our sixth issue our RUBY edition. In doing so, we hope to draw attention to the volatile and violent possibilities that surface in struggles for justice. At the same time, we want to highlight efforts which challenge repressive forms of discipline and control by exploring emancipatory alternatives.

This has been a fascinating journey that has opened onto the various ways in which the concept of justice can be articulated. Often a contentious topic, straddling legal frameworks and media representation, the organizing theme for this issue has offered the opportunity to explore different approaches towards legal representation, discipline and images of justice, and the different meanings these have for a variety of people. Taking shape during the U.S. presidential campaign of 1996, the concerns raised in *reVisioning Justice* have become increasingly pertinent as ongoing political discussions have revolved around the role of the family, the responsibilities of parents, punishment for drug-related crimes, the influence of media, citizenship and immigrants' rights, and a more representative legal system. At the same time, there appears to have been a growing effort to control and discipline specific forms of political action (perhaps most noticeable in the cordoned off "Protest Area" during the recent Republican Convention in San Diego). It is with these and many other concerns in mind, that the *disClosure* editorial

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**reVisioning Justice**

collective has compiled this body of work—including articles, interviews, poetry, art and book reviews—interrogating the intersections between social theory and efforts to re-think justice. To analyze specific issues in greater depth the material has been grouped into three thematic subdivisions: “Just space,” “Dominant Images” and “Capitalizing on Inequality.”

The first section—“Just Space”—offers an intriguing exploration into the myriad ways in which the spatial character of justice is manifested. Socio-spatial boundaries are utilized to create or exclude specific groups from particular places, e.g., by delineating certain bodies as “deserving” or “immoral,” and thus “alien.” Such an example is shown in Casey Charles’ article, “Same-Sex Marriage in the Kowalski Case,” where certain notions of “acceptable” gender relations and ideas of family are used to judge which households are healthy “home-scapes.” This contradictory idea of “healthy” environments is also depicted in Boyd Shearer’s images of a sanitarium, where disease is confined and disciplined. In a review of Lennard Davis’ work, “Enforcing Normalcy,” Mike Dorn examines the ways in which images of disability and representations of impairment have been utilized to “fix” or control “good” and “bad” bodies. Efforts to categorize the human form and to develop scientific “cures,” have frequently been tied into processes such as colonialism and nationalism, where large scale fears are projected onto individual bodies.

Legal boundaries are utilized to reproduce and challenge oppressive identities in particular locales. In her interview with *disClosure*, Cindi Katz suggests ways to challenge restrictive policies (at a local and larger scale), by examining children’s spaces, both in Sudan and in the U.S., and ways to provide a more supportive environment. She highlights the importance of using social activism to create alternatives for people and places who have been demonized and abandoned. Mobility and access to a “just” landscape, are all too often limited to a privileged few—there is a need, therefore, to unearth the processes which have led to this “uneven development.”

The second section—“Dominant Images”—raises issues of justice and representation. This opens with comments by Alexander Cockburn, in which he explores the role of the jury and information about the legal system. In this interview, Cockburn expresses the methods which have been utilized to map juridical identities onto specific racialized, gendered, and classed bodies. Images are reproduced in popular media to create the archetypal “illegal” alien, while detracting attention from the questionable practices of lobbyists and large scale corporations. The art of Chris Huestis illustrates strategies

to subvert popular media representations, particularly in relation to community activism and street protests. Paul Taylor also explores the images of justice which pervade dominant discourses; interrogating the politics of identity, the “New Negro” and the depictions of racial identities in various contexts. Representations of the Million Man March provide an important focal point for exploring strategies to understand and reformulate images of race in the context of the U.S.

Dominant images can be replicated at a variety of levels and in “Inner-Cultural Imperialism, Government and the System of Domination,” Brian White explores this by looking at imperialist processes and the ways in which subaltern groups can also marginalize “others.” *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* provides a useful context for explaining the ways in which the “performance” and material practices of domination are re-articulated in the context of Australia. Internalized repression is then related to the context of South Africa by Rustum Kozain. Through poetry, Kozain explores the solitude and pain of reflecting on a sense of self, on racial tensions and feelings of exile.

The third, and final section—“Capitalizing on Inequality”—explores the links between justice and ideas of political economy and democracy. David Harvey provides an opening in which concepts of “the environment” and social justice are interwoven in order to highlight historical processes which have helped to shape contemporary environmentalism. It is at this point we can see links between Harvey’s work and that of Cockburn’s: a desire to understand the ideologies underlying the construction of political identities, justice and environmental concerns. Harvey expands these ideas by illustrating the role of the academic and the usefulness of Marxist theory in offering the potential for “transformative politics.” Transformation of existing socio-political environments offers an appealing picture, but suggests the need to examine who will be able to afford this liberatory landscape.

Utilizing aspects of Harvey’s detailed interrogation of political economic processes, Carolyn Gallaher illustrates the need to explore and deconstruct “globalization” through a review of Gibson-Graham’s work, *The End of Capitalism (As We Knew It)*. Gallaher highlights the significance of capitalism’s discursive creation, and the need to “lay bare” fictions of the economy. Similarly, in a review of G. A. Cohen’s work, *Self-Ownership, Freedom, and Equality*, Jeffery Nicholas, explores contributions of Marxism and libertarianism towards an understanding of freedom and equality. In order to understand the functions of economic justice and the ways in which power is unevenly distributed, the role of self-ownership, property and the worker need

to be closely examined. Through imaginative words, Michael Caufield's poetry captures the temptations which powerful groups seem unable to resist, and which too often lead to "routine disaster." Deconstructing hegemonic discourses of capitalism and justice provides an important means of critiquing the way that ideologies can be reproduced and the significance of developing diverse modes of resistance.

The *disClosure* editorial collective encompasses a variety of perspectives and research emphases, reflecting the dynamic and trans-disciplinary nature of the journal. What emerges from these various approaches are international and insightful analyses of how we can "reVision" what it means to be "just." It is our hope that you will find this work provocative and exciting, and spread the word about our contributions to discussions in social theory. If you would like to become a subscriber or know of a library/organization who you feel would benefit from this work, please feel free to contact our main office at the University of Kentucky (UK).

This issue was made possible by the generous help of many people. I would like to thank the members of the *disClosure* editorial collective and our faculty advisers, Ted Schatzki, Peter Mortensen, Wolfgang Natter, and John Paul Jones III, for their comments, suggestions and humor. The review process was greatly helped by advice from Jonathan Allison, Francie Chassen-Lopez, Don Dugi, Jo Ellen Green Kaiser, Wallis Miller, Christian Perring, John Pickles, and Patricia Smith. Thanks also to the UK Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies, the UK College of Arts and Sciences, and the UK Student Government Association for invaluable financial support. For encouragement and eternal optimism, I would like to thank Vari and Craig Mains, Debbie Brailsford and Chris Carter. A very special thank you goes to, Ray Baruffalo, Carl Dahlman and Chris Huestis for comments, artistic inspiration and moral support in the final stages of the journal. Thank you all and happy reading!

Susan Mains  
Head Editor, Issue 6

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Left Housing/  
squatter rights  
activist "Red" being  
arrested by N.Y.P.D.  
near Tompkins  
Square.  
(photo: Chris Huestis)