

New radicalism – a call for discussion

This site is well established on *Acta Academica* and we are planning for the future by negotiating the borders within which we wish to debate through submissions. The statement presented below is a guide – and invitation – to contributors.

The parameters of the site remain wide and, certainly, are not disciplinary centred. But its purpose is clear: to explore ideas in order to understand major social concerns in the local and the global, and to suggest ways to negotiate the theory/practice divide.

Motivation:

We accept the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), that the climate catastrophe is inevitable, based on monitoring and evaluating the evidence for, and against, such an assessment. We accept the evidence that governments globally fail to give effect to any of the agreements to address the causes. It implies unavoidable worsening conditions for all life, human and non-human, especially those least able to adapt. The phenomenon called global warming is experienced by the most vulnerable humans, and all of the more-than-human world: disempowered in terms of poverty, inequality, access to resources, as well as physical locations on planet earth, as well as being non-human [objects for humanity]. These historical/pre-existing socio-political and economic conditions are, themselves, also rapidly aggravated by the effects of the climate disaster; and not only the material that makes up planet earth, what we tend to label 'nature'.



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Unavoidable climate catastrophe is *the condition within which* the social and the planetary world, should be understood, theorised, researched and discussed. The present and future editors of this space will, therefore, employ this perspective in evaluating and accepting material – whether articles, comment, debate or documents.

We are certainly not implying that we will consider contributions (reflections, articles, debate) only if they deal with the climate directly – but as we said above, the changing climate is the condition within which the planet exists at present. There are multiple issues of immediate concern that need to draw on historical and contemporary data and approaches at understanding and acting. They demand to be confronted, but then with an awareness that short-term thinking and acting, and the uneven consequences of the climate catastrophe, are inadequate to any serious approaches to address fundamental social issues.

Platform calls for a new radicalism in theorising, research and analysis, although it will probably draw, more or less, on existing critical thinking, usually within labelled disciplinary fields. The approach requires applying and showing awareness in appropriate ways, of long-term thinking, more than what is sufficient in contemporary descriptive methods.

It requires what we would dare call brave and imaginative and liminal questioning of inquiry and its dissemination. This needs to follow the long-term and inclusive thinking that is accepted in climate studies and those exploring planetary origins, one into the future and the other into the past; to follow what is slowly becoming more prevalent, asking for an undisciplined approach, an 'unusual activism', exploring 'in as other a way as possible'.

This will demand a critical reflection on what unquestioning adherence to existing theories means, and what boundaries are thus created; it will challenge us to revise our approaches in order to take account of the multiple climate catastrophe consequences, and the forecasts of what lies ahead, in our research of the social past and the social present, towards a planetary future – it calls for the challenging excitement of imagination and exploration rather than that tired old trope, adaptation.