

CALL FOR PAPERS: SPECIAL ISSUE ON FEAR

Distinktion: Scandinavian Journal of Social Theory invites papers for a special issue on fear to be published in 2011.

Fear is a central concept in both social and political theory. At least since Hobbes and Spinoza it has played a constitutive role in the analysis of the state and domination. The government of populations and individuals can be said to operate by "technologies of fear" (Brian Massumi) and present society as "exposed community," thus promoting an individual retreat to privacy. Coping with fear becomes an individual problem, while the production of fear remains invisible.

Fear fulfils an important moral function in neo-liberal government. The constant threat of unemployment and poverty, and anxiety about the future, induce foresight and prudence giving rise to a "culture of danger" (Michel Foucault). Fear not only stimulates a consciousness of uncertainty to facilitate economic entrepreneurship, but it is also an important catalyst for the medicalization of society. It transforms healthy individuals into asymptotically ill people expected to take preventive measures, go to regular medical check-ups and control their bodily risk.

Fear also has an important segregatory function. It divides society into particular homogenous communities of social, ethnic, religious or economic equals each governed by the assumption of non-dangerousness. Here the difference between endangered and dangerous individuals comes into play – a line of demarcation that materializes spatially in gated communities and slums, but is also visible in neighbourhood watch programs.

We invite scholars to analyze any essential aspect of fear as a social and political phenomenon. The topic can be approached from a variety of disciplinary perspectives such as political philosophy, social theory, social psychology, sociology of emotions, etc. Suggested themes:

- Risk and fear
- Terror and fear
- Fear and economic crisis
- Consuming/enjoying fear
- Health and fear
- Fear as an organizing principle of social life

Papers may approach the subject of fear either in the light of these themes or by opening up new perspectives on fear. This may be done from a theoretical point of view or by working through empirical cases, while empirical work should also contain distinct contributions to social theory.

Submission guidelines

Deadline for submissions is October 1 2010. Papers must be in English. See www.distinktion.dk for details about style and form. Please send papers to distinktion@ps.au.dk. Publication is based on a double-blind peer-review process. The editors are happy to receive inquiries by email.

Editors of the special issue:

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Distinktion: Scandinavian Journal of Social Theory publishes innovative papers, which make a substantial contribution to social theory. The Journal invites articles from sociology, political theory, cultural and legal studies, anthropology, and philosophy that provide original perspectives on the social. Based in a Scandinavian context, characterized by prioritizing no single theoretical horizon, the Journal creates a space for theoretical contestation that includes both continental and Anglo-American traditions. *Distinktion* has published original papers by prominent international scholars, including Nikolas Rose, Engin F. Isin, Mitchell Dean, Slavoj Žižek, Karin Knorr Cetina, Harrison C. White, Richard Swedberg and Jürgen Habermas. Previous special issues on Niklas Luhmann, economic sociology, Gabriel Tarde, political theology, bioeconomy, and successive modernities.

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