

The Ends of Precarity Capitalism

An Author-Meets-Critics Panel

21 May 2020 at 8.30pm (CEST) via Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85875055520>
(no Password is required; 'doors' open at 8pm)

Convener and Moderator:
Azar Dakwar

Discussed Book:

Capitalism on Edge:

How Fighting Precarity Can Achieve Radical Change Without Crisis or Utopia
(Columbia University Press, January 2020)

By Albena Azmanova

The 28th edition of the [Philosophy and Social Science Conference](#) was unfortunately cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we are happy to announce that some participants arranged for one of its many panels will take place virtually. The Author-Meets-Critics panel titled "The Ends of Precarity Capitalism" will address the avenues of critique of capitalism and radical change as raised in Albena Azmanova's recent book *Capitalism on Edge* and as they manifest in the current conjuncture.

About *Capitalism on Edge*:

The wake of the 2007-2009 financial crisis has inspired hopes for dramatic change and stirred visions of capitalism's terminal collapse. Yet capitalism is not on its deathbed, utopia is not in our future, and revolution is not in the cards. In *Capitalism on Edge*, Albena Azmanova argues that radical progressive change is still attainable, but it must come from an unexpected direction. Azmanova's approach, to quote the eminent political sociologist Claus Offe, "explores and advocates for the potential of a radical subversive pragmatism." An iconoclastic critique of left orthodoxy, *Capitalism on Edge* confronts the intellectual and political impasses of our time to discern a new path of emancipation.

<http://cup.columbia.edu/book/capitalism-on-edge/9780231195379>

Panel participants:

Amy Allen – Critical theorist and Liberal Arts Professor of Philosophy and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Penn State University. She is author of *The End of Progress: Decolonizing the Normative Foundations of Critical Theory* (Columbia University Press, 2016) and *The Politics of Ourselves: Power, Autonomy and Gender in Contemporary Critical Theory* (Columbia University Press, 2008). Allen is one of the codirector of the annual Philosophy and Social Science Conference at the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague.

Paul Apostolidis – Political theorist specializing in integrating empirical field research on migrant workers into political and critical theory; Associate Professorial Lecturer in the Department of

Government at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). He is author of *The Fight for Time: Migrant Day Laborers and the Politics of Precarity* (Oxford University Press, 2019) and *Breaks in the Chain: What Immigrant Workers Can Teach America about Democracy* (University of Minnesota Press, 2010).

Claus Offe – Political sociologist and theorist. Professor Emeritus of Political Sociology at the Hertie School of Governance. He has held chairs for Political Science and Political Sociology at the Universities of Bielefeld (1975-1989) and Bremen (1989-1995), as well as at the Humboldt-Universität in Berlin (1995-2005). He is author of *Europe Entrapped* (Polity, 2016), *Reflections on America: Tocqueville, Weber and Adorno in the United States* (Polity, 2005) and *Contradictions of the Welfare State* (Hutchinson, 1984).

Lea Ypi – Political theorist and Professor in the Department of Government, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and Adjunct Associate Professor in Philosophy at the Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University. She is author of *Global Justice and Avant-Garde Political Agency* (Oxford University Press, 2012) and coeditor of *The Meaning of Partisanship* (Oxford University Press, 2016) and *Kant and Colonialism: Historical and Critical Perspectives* (Oxford University Press, 2014).

Albena Azmanova – Critical social theorist and Associate Professor (Reader) of political and social thought at University of Kent's Brussels School of International Studies. Her research ranges from democratic transition and consolidation to the dynamics of contemporary capitalism and its effect on ideological orientation and electoral mobilisation. She is author of *Capitalism on Edge* (Columbia University Press, 2020), *The Scandal of Reason: A Critical Theory of Political Judgment* (Columbia University Press, 2012) and coeditor of *Reclaiming Democracy: Judgment, Responsibility, and the Right to Politics* (Routledge, 2015).

Azar Dakwar – PhD candidate in social and political thought and teaching assistant at Brussels School of International Studies, University of Kent. His dissertation advances critique of the entanglement of the questions of religion, domination, emancipation and progress in critical theory.