

Performance, the Academy, and the Politics of Austerity

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A pervasive Politics of Austerity in Western liberal democracies is a manifestation of processes of neo-liberalization which have been ongoing globally for some forty years now. As the effects of 'bank warfare' on democracy and human flourishing emerge into plain sight, it is becoming possible to contextualise it as a historical moment, replete with contradiction and available for critical analysis. This keynote address combines insights from political economy, sociology, and performance theory in an effort to conceptualise terms on which academics and artists might imagine and enable alternatives to Austerity Politics.