THEORISING FEMINIST ORGANISING
IN AND AGAINST NEOLIBERALISM:
BEYOND CO-OPTATION AND RESISTANCE?

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BACKGROUND

(Symposium "Feminism, Queer and Neoliberalism", Centre for the Study of Women and Gender, University of Warwick)
RATIONAL

• POST-2008 INTENSIFICATION AND/OR CRISIS OF NEOLIBERALISM
• GROWTH OF FEMINIST CONCERN WITH CO-OPTATION – FEMINISM IS ‘UNDONE’ OR REMADE IN NEW NEOLIBERAL FORMS. ECLIPSING EFFORTS TO CHART FEMINIST RESISTANCE TO NEOLIBERALISM
• OUR PROJECT SEEKS TO BRING TOGETHER BOTH LINES OF ENQUIRY AND THEREBY RETHINK DANGERS AND POSSIBILITIES FACING FEMINISTS IN NEOLIBERAL AGE

LITERATURE REVIEW

• GROWING CO-OPTATION LITERATURE
  • NUANCED VERSION (E.G., ROBERTS 2015; PRUGL 2015; HICKEL 2014; ROTENBERG 2013 ETC ETC)
• EMERGENT RESISTANCE COUNTER-NARRATIVE (E.G. EVANS 2015; BASSEL AND EMEJULU 2017; HARCOURT 2017)

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MAIN ARGUMENT

• EFFECT IS TO REPRODUCE A DICHOTOMISED WAY OF THINKING ABOUT FEMINISM
• ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTUALISATIONS NEEDED TO GET US BEYOND THE CO-OPTATION/RESISTANCE BINARY

BEYOND CO-OPTATION AND RESISTANCE?

• EXPANDING THE FEMINIST SUBJECT
• DECONSTRUCTING THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN INSTITUTIONAL AND EXTRA INSTITUTIONAL SITES OF FEMINIST ACTIVISM
• DISAGGREGATING NEOLIBERALISM

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THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH WELCOME

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