

Summaries

Gabriele Winker: Social Reproduction in Crisis – A Care Revolution as a Perspective

In the current neoliberal, capitalist system, time and resources for the existentially important care work are constrained. Due to precarious and flexible wage labour as well as budget cuts for state-funded public services, social advancement and protection of human life are being hindered. By analysing the socio-economic impact of reproduction and care work, the author shows how people seek to fulfil their obligations under difficult social conditions brought about by neoliberal relations. The author refers to this development as the crisis of social reproduction and consequently pleads for a paradigm shift in politics: a care revolution.

Frigga Haug: The Care Syndrome. Without a History no Prospect for the Feminist Movement

Haug argues for a repossession of history, using the example of the present discussion surrounding the notion of ›care‹ in order to show dimensions from the early days of the feminist movement which were lost through the alienated language of its debates. In the reconstruction of the history of the movement, and cloaked in both the unversed and surrogate quality of the (english) terms, *gender*, *emotional*, *affective*, *immaterial work* and *care*, a project appears on the horizon. It tries to grasp the sphere of individual reproduction in a manner different than as a personal service: critical of domination, anti-capitalist and anti-patriarchal, in the perspective of a liberated common.

Sabine Plonz: Surplus Value and the Human Scale. On the Ethical Meaning of the Feminist-economic Debate on Care

Dealing with structural, crisis-inducing conflicts in societal reproduction and politically and legally-legitimated claims to care, on the one hand; and the capitalist mode of production, on the other is at the same time a critique of the ethics of capitalist excess and ethical production which is based on and framed at a humanely-appropriate scale. In this context it is impossible to separate structural questions from the acting subjects and their lived ethos. They must be about translations in basic political-ethical decisions and practical-political demands, that is, about action with an ethical foundation. These arguments are developed by the author based on a discussion of theories of care, respectively social work, research on work and welfare, as well as care centred debates within ethics.

Iris Nowak: Care Work as Precarious Labour. Questions based on the Experience of Service Workers

Care research has shown that a caring motivation is important in care work. This motivation generates permanent conflicts because rationalisation requirements often diminish the time that workers need to deal adequately with the persons they care for. Yet care research has not asked how these workers may campaign for better working conditions. In discussions regarding precarisation, we find an increasing interest in the agency of workers in service industries close to production and consumption. The impact of management strategies that aim for high commitment to company objectives is strong. The article makes potential links between two fields of research, arguing that understanding the agency of care workers in care institutions must emanate from both analyses of care work and labour relations.

Silke Chorus: Caring Aspects within Political Economy

In order to integrate care work and gender relations within an analysis of political economy, this article takes the French Regulation Approach and further develops its rudimentary analytics regarding both of these areas. The author proposes an integral socio-economic perspective on the gendered dimensions of economic transformations from Fordism to Postfordism, in which the social organization of care appears as central in shaping economic transformation itself.

Anna Hartmann: Unvisibility of Unpaid Care Work in Fordism and Postfordism

The article addresses changing perceptions of unpaid care work in Fordism and Postfordism in Western Germany. It discusses its visibility with respect to different forms of recognition in two phases of modern capitalism. The main argument is that the neoliberal transformation leads to greater responsibility for care work among women, along with simultaneously disappearing sociopolitical acknowledgement. Neoliberal austerity and privatisation, which implicitly burden families, are by no means gender-neutral involving women in unsolvable economic and emotional conflicts. The neoliberal transformation and its increasing invisibility of unpaid care work affect women in particular. A fundamental discussion about collective articulations of women's involvement in capital exploitation is still lacking.

Stephanie Heck: From ›Reproduction‹ to ›Care‹ – A Central Shift in Feminist Economics?

This article explores a recent shift within feminist economics as concerns different approaches towards reproductive or care work: From theories that regard domestic labor as reproductive work to theories that focus mainly on the caring aspects of work, domestic or otherwise. It probes the shortcomings, but also the benefits, that a focus on care might contribute to a feminist approach in economics. Notions of »reproduction« and »care« are analyzed with regard to their respective theoretical backgrounds and put into contrast with each other.

Beate Friedrich: Societal Nature Relations and Gender Relations: the Approaches of Adelheid Biesecker/Sabine Hofmeister and Frigga Haug

How may problems and crises related to dichotomies such as production and reproduction, society and nature or public and private be analyzed and overcome? This article presents concepts from Adelheid Biesecker and Sabine Hofmeister ((Re)Productivity and Provident Economics) and Frigga Haug (Gender Relations as Relations of Production and the Four-in-One-Perspective) and tries to find both similarities and reasons as to why there has been no exchange among the three authors so far. The article suggests how the concepts can be compounded, revealing questions that show the importance of a dialogue among them.

John Holloway: Of Rage and Delight. Or In-against-and-beyond Joachim Hirsch

The article is a rebuttal to Joachim Hirsch's critical review of *Crack Capitalism*. Based on the assumption of a fundamental crisis of abstract labor and hence the emergence of surplus populations, it maintains that the politics of »radical reformism«, while being helpful in numerous ways, cannot break with capitalism fundamentally. This is because it relies on monetary means which themselves are intricately connected to abstract labor. Therefore, the politics of in-and-against the state, as proposed by Hirsch, must be connected to a politics beyond the state. This entails the encouragement and expansion of already existing forms of dignity-preservation beyond abstract labor. The politics of in-and-against-and-beyond the state should be considered as integral parts of a greater whole of anticapitalist revolution.