

CALL FOR PAPERS

PRIVATIZATION, GLOBALIZATION, AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

June 14th and 15th, 2013

Lund University – Faculty of Law; Lund, Sweden

This workshop explores from a cross-cultural perspective how privatization and globalization impact contemporary feminist and social justice approaches to public responsibility. Feminist legal theorists have long problematized divisions between the private and the political, an issue with growing importance in a time when the welfare state is under threat in many parts of the world and private markets and corporate reach transcend national boundaries. Recent critical legal scholarship on vulnerability and resilience can complicate and deepen our understanding of the problems generated by privatization within a globalized 21st century.

Comparative analyses can provide important insights and arguments against the privatization of social need and for a more responsive state. Because vulnerability analysis emphasizes our interdependency within social institutions and the need for public responsibility for our shared vulnerability, it can highlight how neoliberal policies commodifies social and bodily necessities, channeling unprofitable social relationships, such as caretaking, away from public welfare and into the individual private family.

We invite papers that explore the effects of diverse forms of privatization on institutions, individuals, culture, welfare policies, and governmental programs. Privatization can take the form of outsourcing public activities to private corporations, denationalizing state industries, or deregulating policy. A common denominator is the shifting of social responsibility from public governmental institutions to individual families and privatized entities, such as charities and corporations.

Papers can compare states with different levels of welfare and what privatization means in these different contexts. In particular, to what extent do the Nordic welfare states provide resilience? How are institutions in the Nordic countries vulnerable to or undermined by privatization? How do they differ from other developed states? How does privatization and neoliberal ideology affect developing states with a growing public sector? How can a vulnerability approach be used in analyzing the responses to resilience in developing states? How is aid and support from the developed world to the developing world affecting and relating to divisions between public and private responsibility for vulnerability?

Disciplinary and interdisciplinary papers exploring the effects of these privatizations on institutions, individuals, society, welfare, education, healthcare, capitalism, government, military and law are welcomed.

WORKSHOP CONTACTS:

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SUBMISSIONS PROCEDURE:

*Please email a paper proposal of 400-600 words by **Tuesday, March 19th** to Emily Hlavaty, Program Coordinator: emily.hlavaty@emory.edu

**Decisions will be made by March 29th and working paper drafts will be due May 20th so they can be copied and distributed prior to the Workshop.

Background into the concepts of vulnerability, resilience and the responsive state can be found at web.gs.emory.edu/vulnerability/resources/Publications.html

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

- *How does the concept of “privacy” relate to privatization?
- *How do concepts, objects and systems of privatization vary across nations?
- *What is the power of privatization discourse? Weaknesses?
- * How are neoliberalism and neoconservatism, and concepts such as choice and efficiency, employed to justify privatization?
- *Which groups are benefited by privatization? Which are disadvantaged?
- *How does privatization shift collective and individual forms of risk and responsibility?
- *What are the gender implications of privatization? And how might they influence the organization and focus of social services?
- * What are the relationships between vulnerability, resilience and the privatization of social welfare?
- *How does privatization create experiences of vulnerability that vary across groups and institutions?
- *What language can be used to challenge privatization?
- *What institutional arrangements can replace or supplement privatization to improve individual & institutional resilience?