

# AUSTERITY & ALTERED LIFE—COURSES

## Future Lives and Austerity Online Symposium Programme

Thank you for signing up to join us on 16th October 2024 for the Austerity and Altered Life-Courses International Online Symposium, 'Future Lives and Austerity'. The symposium has been designed in collaboration with brilliant partner organisations, institutions, and experts, and aims to amplify the experiences of young people across Europe during (and after) times of austerity.

### Joining Details

#### **Central Online Hub 1:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95841929602>

Meeting ID: 958 4192 9602

#### **Central Online Hub 2:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97671556023>

Meeting ID: 976 7155 6023

#### **Central Online Hub 3:**

To sign up to the zine-making workshop with Inspire Women Oldham, please email [poppy.budworth@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:poppy.budworth@manchester.ac.uk). There are 15 spaces available for this workshop so get in contact as soon as possible to reserve your space. Zoom links will be provided to those who sign up directly via email.

### General information

- If you are a panellist or presenter and haven't already, please sign up via Eventbrite [here](#).
- Throughout the day you are encouraged to use the hashtag **#AALCSymposium** on social media for collective reflection and digital togetherness.
- The symposium will be conducted in English and on Zoom. There is the opportunity to enable Zoom translation services.
- This is an international event, meaning people are joining from different places across the world. If you are presenting or asking a question, please speak as clearly as possible and at an appropriate pace.
- Throughout the day, please make use of chat function and emojis (e.g. raise hand function). Alongside a chair, each session will have a member of the AALC team providing tech support and managing the chat.
- Attendance all day is optional. We understand you are very busy, so you are welcome to join us for the sessions that fit in with your schedules and capacities.
- A simplified image version of the schedule is available at the end of this document.

- If we can make this event more accessible for you, or if you have any questions before or during the day, please email [poppy.budworth@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:poppy.budworth@manchester.ac.uk)
- To hear about future events and activities, our publications and resources, and other news, you can subscribe to our new [email newsletter](#).
- **As a project we encourage research practices that are critical, curious and caring (see [here](#)). We ask that you centre these principles in your engagement with our event.**

### Session details

#### Intention Setting with Will Medd

Central Online Hub 2, 09:00 – 09:20 (BST) 10:00-10:20 (CET)

It's easy to come along to an event and not really be present to it, not fully engage. This short session invites reflection on what brings you here today and what is needed to support that. Intentions can be 'goals', yet they can also be about how you want to be. Our collective learning will be richer if we can connect to our intentions in a way that allows for a deeper curiosity together. [Will Medd](#) brings an intimate experience of research environments, building on his previous academic career and coaching with researchers and academics from a range of backgrounds for the past 10 years. Will currently works as a coach, coach supervisor and meditation teacher and is deeply committed to ensuring all participants gain from the experience, offering an appropriate balance of professionalism, emotional sensitivity and humour. Will has supported the AALC project for a few years, and we are very pleased he is leading this session for us.

#### Opening talk: Austerity and Altered Life-Courses

Central Online Hub 1, 09:25 – 10:10 (BST) 10:25 – 11:10 (CET)

Members of the Austerity and Altered Life-Courses team will introduce the symposium theme, discuss the schedule and format, and advise on how to navigate all the offerings. Following this, we will introduce the pledges and postcard activity, which we will ask you to think about throughout the day in preparation for our closing session.

**Break (20 minutes)**

#### Community Roundtable: The Future of Research Partnerships in Greater Manchester

Central Online Hub 1, 10:30 - 11:40 (BST) 11:30 – 12:40 (CET)

This session brings together experts from organisations across and beyond Greater Manchester to discuss shared visions for the future of research partnerships during (and after) times of austerity. This discussion will happen in-person in Manchester, and will be live streamed on Zoom, with the opportunity for online participants to ask questions and engage in group discussions.

Rod Kippen, **42nd Street/Horsfall**

Diane Baxter, **Inspire Women Oldham**

Silvia Galandini, **Oxfam**

Isis Barei-Guyot, **The University of Manchester**

### Panel: Feminist Archiving

Central Online Hub 2, 10:30 - 11:40 (BST) 11 :30 – 12 :40 (CET)

This panel session asks, 'How can we bring feminist principles and praxis into archiving?'

**Dr Kirsten Lloyd**, *The University of Edinburgh*

The Glasgow Housing Struggles Archive (GHSA) relaunched in July of this year with the 'Tools for Tenant Power' project which compiled information on specific, local experiences within the tenant movement in Scotland, Catalonia, England and the US. The next phase of development focuses on laying the groundwork for the archive itself, a process which has involved unlearning familiar institutional conventions, procedures, policies and priorities. In this short presentation I will briefly introduce the GHSA and discuss the questions, examples, theories and politics which are shaping our approach.

### **The Sex Work Database: Embedding decriminalization and anti-violence feminisms into community archival praxis**

**Dr Shawna Ferris**, *University of Manitoba*

**Dr Danielle Allard**, *University of Alberta*

**Amy Lebovitch**, *Community Research Partner*

In this presentation we will introduce the Sex Work Database, a community-led digital activist archives of sex work activist materials from organizations across Canada. We will introduce and describe the connections between our specific practices and processes and the principles of sex work decriminalization, social justice, and anti-violence feminism that inform our evolving praxis.

**Amie Kirby**, *Working Class Movement Library*

The Big Flame project at the Working Class Movement Library uses archival materials to engage young people in conversations around class consciousness, the value of activating the archive, and the parallels between past and present movements. Project Coordinator, Amie Kirby, speaks to the ways in which this project makes use of feminist and care-oriented principles both in and around the archives, largely drawing from Black feminist tradition and the work of writers like Lola Olufemi and Saidiya Hartman, who both discuss the revolutionary potential of the archive.

### **On feminist archiving: taking new archival turns**

**Dr Niamh Moore**, *The University of Edinburgh*

Our contribution identifies some missing archival turns across the social sciences and humanities. The social sciences have curiously not stretched these conversations to considering archiving and sharing the data generated in research projects. And at the same time, discussions have proceeded without acknowledging the intellectual contributions of archivists and archival studies (see Caswell 2016), a lively and vibrant field of practice. In this presentation we draw on feminist and other critical archival scholars and activists, as well as our own experience creating what we have come to term 'diy academic archives', to introduce some concepts to help inform the practice of archiving and sharing qualitative data.

**Break (20 minutes)**

Explore our Online Exhibition

Our website, 12:00 - 13:10 (BST) 13:00 – 14:10 (CET)

Details about how to access and explore the exhibition will be announced on the day and via our [website](#).

Online Zine-Making Workshop: A Collaborative Approach

**Exploring the ‘What If’s’ and ‘Imagine If’s’ of Austerity with Inspire Women Oldham**

Central Online Hub 3, 12:00 - 13:10 (BST) 13:00 – 14:10 (CET)

Selina, Carrie-Ann, and Sally from Inspire Women Oldham and Matina Kapsali from the University of Manchester facilitate a collective online zine-making workshop which explores the ‘What if’s’ and ‘Imagine If’s’ of austerity. During the workshop, participants will reflect on their hopes for the future and consider what solutions and actions can be taken in times during (and after) austerity, through the creative lens of digital zine-making. The workshop is suitable for people with or without experience of zine-making. **Further sign up to this workshop is required** – email [poppy.budworth@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:poppy.budworth@manchester.ac.uk) to register your place.

**Lunch Break (13:10 – 14:00, BST, 14:10-15:00, CET)**

ECR Lightning Talks I: Young People, Future Lives, and Austerity.

Central Online Hub 1, 14:00 – 15:10 (BST) 15:00 – 16:10 (CET)

**Slow Activism: enacting futures in British anti-poverty work.** *Erin Simmons, The New School, New York*

**Re-imagining public health; an approach that aims to improve early childhood outcomes in a post austerity world.** *Mariam Malik, University of Southampton/North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust*

**Precarious queer worldmaking in hostile neoliberal landscapes of austerity: Findings from and reflections on Queer Futures 2.** *Dr Felix McNulty, University of Lancaster*

**Austere Structures of Feeling, The White Petty Bourgeoisie and Aspirations to ‘Ordinary’ Adulthood in England during Austerity.** *Isaac Hoff, University of Glasgow*

**Bucking the trend? The younger generation, experiences of austerity and the effect of aging on conservatism.** *Dr Elizabeth Simon, Queen Mary University of London*

**The Spatiotemporalities of Precarity: COVID-19 and Young People Experiencing Homelessness in Toronto, Ontario.** *Benjamin Owens, University of Toronto*

**Break (20 minutes)**

Early Career Researcher (ECR) Lightning Talks II: Young People, Future Lives, and Austerity

Central Online Hub 1, 15:30 – 16:40 (BST) 16:30 – 17:40 (CET)

**What visions and tools can empower young people to confront the challenges of today?**

*Arianna Cattalini, University of Cagliari/Ashoka*

**Using a feminism paradigm to understand the household grocery shopping experience in the austerity period.** *Junyi Wang, University of Sheffield*

**Biology vs. Austerity: The Tridentity of Young-Student-Mothers in a Neoliberal World.** *Sandra Clare, University of Manchester*

**Educational Migration and Indebted Futures: The case of international students in Canada.** *Dr Alkim Karaağaç, Queens University Kingston*

**Weighted Futures? Precarious Future Imaginaries for University Students Navigating a Cost-of-Living Crisis.** *Sophie Milnes, Loughborough University*

Panel: Play, Theatre, and Qualitative Research

Central Online Hub 2, 15:30 – 16:40 (BST) 16:30 – 15:40 (CET)

### **The Great Austerity Debate**

Professor Mia Gray, *University of Cambridge*

Academics Mia Gray and Susan J. Smith, working with Patrick Morris of Menagerie Theatre Company, developed a forum theatre play to tour the UK in the ordinary spaces of everyday life. Mia's talk will explain the project – a collaboration between scholars, artists and the public – which took the shape of a play entitled *A week in the life of Megan K*. Menagerie Theatre Company and its Associate Artistic Director Patrick Morris are experienced in this medium and have played an important role in developing the forum theatre approach within academia and the third sector. Gray and Smith have published widely on issues like debt, housing, precarious work, and social care – topics which, strangely, are often considered separately by scholars and policy makers alike. Forum theatre is a way to bring it all together, translating painstaking research into an engaging interactive theatrical experience that might, in its way, make a difference.

Political debates around austerity tend to hide the public issues driving budget cuts in bland statements that give little sense of lived experience. As "*A week in the life of Megan K*" unfolds, however, the impacts of austerity are clear. It is, moreover, the often-unexpected ways in which austerity measures combine that cut into individual and community wellbeing. One aim of the play is to offer audiences the tools they need to join a debate that is too often dominated by politicians and bureaucrats. The hope is to encourage greater engagement with topics that are hard to articulate in formal or conventional settings, and to create new channels for information exchange in public affairs. Forum theatre is a power-filled space in which professional boundaries are, temporarily, broken down and crossed over, exposing truths that may be too complex to write about or too invisible to see.

### **Making Father Unknown, known: co-creating a play with young fathers**

Dr Michael Richardson, *University of Newcastle*

*Father Unknown* is a play about fatherhood, which was co-created with young men at North East Young Dads and Lads. The play was debuted in theatres over the Father's Day weekend of 2023 and won an OFFIE for Best Online Production. In this talk, I will reflect on the different "stages" of fatherhood and reflect on the value of working with my participants throughout the creative process. A link to the online performance can be found here: [Father Unknown – DigiDAD \[digidad.uk\]](https://www.digidad.uk)

**Lorna French,**  
*Playwright, workshop leader, and researcher*

The importance of oral history in putting multiple Black female subject positions on stage. This talk uses the oral history research methodology for the stage play *Esther* as a case study. Click [here](#) to learn more about Lorna’s work.

**Why dramatise?**

Rib Davis, *Oral Historian and Playwright*

This presentation will explore the relationship between drama and real events, and the role of drama in drawing public attention to how so-called ordinary people are living. Click [here](#) to learn more about Rib’s work.

**Break (20 minutes)**

Closing Talk and Postcard Activity: Austerity and Altered Life-Courses

Central Online Hub 1, 17:00 – 17:30 (BST) 18:00 – 18:30 (CET)

To close the symposium, we will join back together for a reflective discussion and postcard activity led by the Austerity and Altered Life-Courses team.

	<b>Session 1</b> 09:00-10:10 (BST) 10:00-11:10 (CET)	<b>Break</b>	<b>Session 2</b> 10:30-11:40 (BST) 11:30-12:40 (CET)	<b>Break</b>	<b>Session 3</b> 12:00-13:10 (BST) 13:00-14:10 (CET)	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Session 4</b> 14:00-15:10 (BST) 15:00-16:10 (CET)	<b>Break</b>	<b>Session 5</b> 15:30-16:40 (BST) 16:30-17:40 (CET)	<b>Break</b>	<b>Session 6</b> 17:00-17:30 (BST) 18:00-18:30 (CET)
<b>Central Online Hub 1</b>	09:25-10:10 <b>Talk:</b> AALC opening talk (hybrid)		<b>Roundtable</b> <i>The future of research partnerships in MCR</i> (streamed online)		<b>Explore our online exhibition!</b>		<b>ECR lightning talks I:</b> Young people, future lives, & austerity (online/stream)		<b>ECR lightning talks II:</b> Young people, future lives, & austerity (online/stream)		<b>Talk:</b> AALC closing session and postcards (hybrid)
<b>Central Online Hub 2</b>	09:00-09:20 <b>Workshop:</b> <i>Intention setting with Will Medd</i> (hybrid)		<b>Panel:</b> <i>'Feminist Archiving'</i> (online/stream)		<b>Explore our online exhibition!</b>				<b>Panel:</b> <i>'Play, theatre, and qualitative research'</i> (online/stream)		
<b>Central Online Hub 3</b> (sign up needed - 15 max)					<b>Workshop:</b> <i>Online zine-making with Inspire Women</i>						

**Thank you for joining us for these conversations.**

**We appreciate the time and energy it takes.**