



Renaissance Politics: Power, Ethics and Paradox in Regenerating Economies

Track Chair

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"A terrible beauty is born"
William Butler Yeats, *Easter 1916*

"Renaissance" is a term that is synonymous with growth and a flowering of learning, a movement towards a new form of social relations driven by knowledge, and carried through by multi-tasking agents possessing science, culture, philosophy and piety. But its legacy includes a dark side – renaissance politics synonymous with the de Medici family and Niccolo Macchiavelli, the Spanish Inquisition, and the birth of colonial exploitation and bureaucracy and over 300 years of the slave trade. With rebirth and renewal came neglect, suppression and destruction. What is born or renewed is not always good, is frequently at the expense of something or someone else.

We invite papers that address the paradoxes of power and regeneration; cultural drivers of creative economies; the local dynamics of negotiation and creativity; novelty and revolution; the nature of advantage and disadvantage; reopening old wounds – historical oppression as a foundation of contemporary success; constraining renaissance – regulatory limitations on the developing world; democracy, autonomy, and the rise of the "subaltern"; gender and diversity of access to opportunity and participation; tradition, trade unions, resistance and the politics of change; the politics of technology projects and innovation; power, consumption and commodification; power in emerging networks and heterarchies; inequality of benefit in economic regeneration; opportunism and corruption; ethics and social entrepreneurship; the politics of private-public partnerships; capitalizing on inventiveness; the role of community in regeneration; the possibilities of autonomy and collaboration; big energy-related projects and global financial institutions; new life-styles and changing work patterns; environmental considerations in economic development; the regeneration of crime; and subjectivities under renewal. We welcome new empirical work and work that critically explores new practices of management in regeneration projects from a range of disciplines and are paradigms.