

Introduction

Situating Neoliberalism, Colonial Land Appropriation, and Feminist Marxism

Sharon R. Roseman

Memorial University of Newfoundland

New Proposals Editorial Collective

Our cover photograph displays one vantage point for thinking about the transformation of Vancouver, British Columbia. With it, we hope to reinforce visually the argument of the papers in this volume, which all make a case for studying the precise contours and reverberations of the inequalities and conflicts produced by exertions of power through history.

This first number of *New Proposals* for 2011 contains a set of three richly detailed papers by Lynn M. Nybell, Mehmet Barış Kuymulu, and Devin T. Molina which appear as a special theme issue on “Fracturing Neoliberalism: Ethnographic Interventions.” This special theme collection illuminates the importance of producing accounts that demonstrate the operation of neoliberal processes in particular institutions and spaces. It is introduced in more detail by its co-editors Kaja Tretjak and Elan Abrell.

In another paper, Andrew Woolford follows up on the analysis in his 2005 book *Between Justice and Certainty: Treaty-Making in British Columbia*. He argues that current land claims negotiations in British Columbia and elsewhere “forcibly transpose European notions of land and property,” failing to recognize indigenous groups’ experiences of being themselves assaulted when assaults are launched on their territories. His contribution intersects with the papers in the “Fracturing Neoliberalism: Ethnographic Interventions” theme collection in a number of ways. In the broadest sense, he speaks to these three articles in his demonstration that land

claims negotiation processes continue settler colonial modes of appropriation and simultaneously help to disseminate a neoliberal ideological assertion that “there is no alternative’ to current patterns of property ownership and economic participation.”

We are also very pleased to introduce an extended essay by Gary Blank that constitutes the first of what we plan to be a series of articles, comments and reflections in the pages of *New Proposals* that will debate how feminism intersects with Marxism as well as other critical perspectives.

Blank’s meticulous historical argument makes the case for a unitary materialist theoretical stance that brings together socialist feminism and political Marxism. He shows the importance of refining the historicization of capitalism through a synthesized reading that renders gender (as well as race/ethnicity, age and other differentiations) as centrally integrated concepts. The central question that Blank examines in this essay is the transition to capitalism, explaining that our overall understanding of “the specific relationship between capitalism and patriarchy” requires a reevaluation of “how relations of *market dependence* reshaped pre-capitalist gender relations, long before the onset of industrialization in the nineteenth century.” Blank’s emphasis on the specificity of historical patterns of proletarianization, dispossession, and struggle reinforces the same focus on careful contextualization found in the other papers discussed above.