

Call for Papers: NPS Special Issue 32.4

Art After Empire: Creating the Political Economy of a New Democracy

Along with the oath, parade, and speeches, the historic inauguration of Barack Obama as the first African American president of the United States featured music, poetry, and prayer. These alternative and aesthetic modes of public discourse prefigured a democratic future – the peace with justice -- that could hasten the demise of American Empire and move us toward a post-imperial world order. Yet one month later, Congress and the President struggled over the appropriate amount of spending on arts and culture, if any, to include in the economic stimulus package. The rationale for funding emphasized job creation and stimulative consumer spending on arts and culture. The rationale against funding depicted the arts as elitist, frivolous, or both.

At this historic moment, we invite contributions for a special issue of *New Political Science* that explores the power of the arts and culture to bring forth the political economy of a new democracy. We are interested in submissions that consider the reality and promise of the arts and culture as the partial basis for: 1) a new political economy; 2) the political activism to move us there; 3) and, the new democracy both arguably prefigure. We are especially interested in submissions that situate American culture and politics in its global context, something we understand the inaugural celebrations to have done. Questions contributors might address include: In what concrete ways are contemporary art forms used to increase the capacities of individuals and groups to act effectively in the world? In particular, how do historically marginalized groups employ aesthetics to advance their political claims and exemplify democratic practices? What realistic basis exists today for using the arts and culture for economic stimulus and democratic development? Do the arts and culture generate economic expansion or are they always parasitic on value created elsewhere? What is the political and economic value of art? That is, how might the arts and culture support the economics and politics of a future democracy?

Submission Guidelines: Preliminary proposals of 250-500 words should be sent to both editors by January 1, 2010 (new deadline). After reviewing those proposals, the editors will invite contributors to submit full articles by March 1, 2010. The co-editors may be contacted at: mmattern@bw.edu and lovens@appstate.edu.