

Dear Mad Reading folk,

Our March Reading Group will be on the theme of 'Madness and Neo-liberalism'. This could be a great session for anyone who is unable to make our one-off discussion on the 9th about the Royal Commission, and wants more of a chance to talk about the ways in which economic systems impact the experience of Madness and 'mental health service delivery'.

Date: Tues 16th March

Time: 7-8.30pm AEST

Facilitators: Rory and Ham

Readings:

1. Fisher, Mark. 2011. The privatisation of stress. *Soundings: A Journal of Politics and Culture*, 48, pp. 123-133 (attached here for study purposes only)
2. Recovery in the Bin, Edwards, B. M., Burgess, R., and Thomas, E. (2019, September). Neorecovery: A survivor led conceptualisation and critique [Transcript]. Keynote presented at the 25th International Mental Health Nursing Research Conference, The Royal College of Nursing, London, UK. ([available to read here](#) – if you prefer, there is also a video of the talk that you can watch at the link, as well!)

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87009142678> Meeting ID: 870 0914 2678

Here is a short abstract of Fisher's piece to get you thinking. Hopefully everyone will be able to do the readings, but if not, please do feel free to come along and listen as this may spark something for you!

It is not surprising that people who live in conditions where their hours and pay can always be increased or decreased, and their terms of employment are extremely tenuous, experience anxiety, depression and hopelessness. Workers have been persuaded to accept such deteriorating conditions as 'natural', and to look inward – into their brain chemistry or into their personal history – for the sources of any stress they may be feeling. This privatisation of stress has become just one more taken-for-granted dimension of a seemingly depoliticised world. 'Capitalist realism' is the term used to describe this ideological field. It refers to the belief that there is no alternative to capitalism. The privatisation of stress has played a crucial role in its emergence. This article suggests that the recent upsurge in militancy in the UK, particularly amongst the young, suggests that the privatisation of stress is breaking down: in place of a medicated individual depression, we are now seeing explosions of public anger.

Hope to see you then!

Just a reminder as well to RSVP if you are coming next week to the RC discussion - it looks like it will be quite a big group but we'll do our best to make sure everyone has a chance to share!

Antonia