Call for Papers: Special Issue of TCS
Beyond societies of risk and control?
Codes and codings in crisis

Adrian Mackenzie (a.mackenzie@lancaster.ac.uk, Cesagen, IAS, Lancaster University) and Theo Vurdubakis (t.vurdubakis@lancaster.ac.uk, Department of Organisation, Work and Technology, Lancaster University)

Financial, ecological and security crises currently grip the contemporary world. Crises are moments when ‘modern’ expectations of security and control are disappointed. However, demands for safety and security routinely spill over into anxieties concerning the proliferating mechanisms and apparatuses of control that ‘protect’ us and at the same time put us ‘at risk’. Security and control name both lack and excess. Beck’s ‘risk society’ and Deleuze’s ‘societies of control’, whilst very different, share a concern with what we might call the codings to which the natural and social worlds are made subject, and with the consequences which follow from those codings.

Code offers a crucial starting point for any critical exploration of crises and conduct in crisis in their mutual supplementarity and interference. We ask that papers attend to slippages that occur when codes and codings respond to demands that the world be controlled or made safe. We are particularly interested in approaches that combine awareness of broader cultural and political economics of design, science, media, commodification, and subjectification with close attention to concrete material-technical situations (in media, in science, in popular culture, in the military, etc.).

Topics of interest would include, but are not limited to:
- What are the genealogies of the forms of code and coding that currently organize our world?
- At what points do understandings of risk societies and societies of control converge or diverge in their treatment of code and codings?
- How do codes capture, entrain and exclude knowledges and forms; how are different orders of being handled and rendered compatible in coding?

The full call for papers can be found at: http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/centres/css/downloads/cfp_tcs_risk_control_code_crisis-sept09.pdf

Submissions
Papers should be submitted to Theory, Culture and Society at http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/tcs. Papers will be subject to normal TCS processes of peer review.

Deadline: 15 February 2010
Call for Papers

Dear Colleagues,

The Editorial Board of the journal *Theory, Culture & Society* recently approved a proposal for a special issue or section on the work of Georg Simmel to be edited in the coming months by Austin Harrington and Thomas Kemple. We are especially interested in papers that offer original, non-recycled scholarship on writings and ideas by Simmel which deserve a fresh look in light of recent theoretical debates and cultural topics, or which have only recently been translated or published. We envision organizing the issue to address aspects of Simmel’s relevance to current themes in social and cultural studies, including but not limited to the following:

- Money cultures, fictivity, virtuality, aestheticization
- Globality, fluidity, fragility, precariousness
- Individuality, individualization, and social systems
- Metaphysics, religion, expressivity
- Metaphor, narration, and allegory in social theory

The issue will also include the following new translations of short pieces by Simmel which contributors are welcome to address or refer to in their contributions (drafts of which we would be happy to share with you as we complete them):

- ‘The Fragmentary Character of Life’ (c. 14 pages)
- ‘On a Theory of Pessimism’ (c. 7 pages)
- ‘Socialism and Pessimism’ (c. 8 pages)
- ‘Roses: A Sociological Hypothesis’ (c. 4 pages)
- ‘A Proverb about Money’ (c. 1 page)

All interested authors are encouraged to send a working title and detailed abstract (350–500 words) as soon as possible to Austin Harrington [austin.harrington@uni-erfurt.de] and Thomas Kemple [kemple@interchange.ubc.ca]. The deadline for submitting completed papers (6,000–8,000 words in length) to *Theory, Culture & Society* through Manuscript Central is **22 February 2010**. A standard TCS reviewing process will apply to all submitted papers, with feedback from ourselves and other anonymous readers and a final decision by the TCS Editorial Board. In the final edited issue we would hope to include about eight or nine articles.

We encourage you to forward this call to anyone else you think would be interested in contributing. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Austin Harrington
Thomas Kemple