CALL FOR PAPERS
Philament 22: Precarity

Philament, the peer-reviewed, open access, online journal of arts and culture based at the University of Sydney, invites submissions from postgraduate students and early career academics for our twenty-second issue, Precarity.

In a 2013 issue of Social Text, Gabriel Giorgi describes the “entanglement between subjectivity and precarity produced by neoliberalism.” But of what, exactly, does this precarious entanglement consist? How do social actors, citizens, non-citizens, and others in modern and traditional societies come to grips with living precariously, with subsisting on the margins, fixed in ever more dislocated predicaments, poised between the “world of labor” and “the world of kinship,” or wedged “between sheer servitude” and an abstract sense of “belonging”?

In literature, precarity appears in various forms, including in narrativised accounts of dispossession, deprivation, and poverty. Has a literary imaginary of precarity always existed in some form or other, or has it emerged and evolved in lockstep with the appearance of modern, neoliberal political economies? What are the boundaries and borders of precarity, and the precariat, as formulations? And if precarity is a “condition,” does it extend “beyond social and intellectual zones to connote an experience which is also an anthropological truth,” as Simon During argues, becoming some “anthropology of negation” or “anthropology of lack?”

Or are such accounts of precarity too theoretical? Might they undermine what social and communitarian utility can be enlivened by the concept, melding a vital, axiomatically political notion with the largely irrelevant, even self-interested aims of Western intellectualisation?

After all, can precarity ever even be thought, let alone thought into non-existence—or can it only be experienced? And by what means and through which theoretical models should we seek to critique and address precarity?

Philament publishes scholarly articles up to 8,000 words, creative works (“Excursions”) of all kinds, including multimedia works, up to 2,500 words, and book reviews broadly relevant to the theme up to 2,000 words. Submissions should be original, not previously published, and not under consideration elsewhere. Scholarly articles must include endnotes and conform to our style guide, as detailed on our website. Please see philamentjournal.wordpress.com for more information.

Submissions close 1 AUGUST 2016.

References: