



The Post-Fordist Sexual Contract Working and Living in Contingency

Edited by Lisa Adkins and Maryanne Dever

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"What does the sexual contract look like in times of contingency and precarity? How is contemporary post-Fordist capitalism rewriting the regulatory ideals of earlier eras? These are questions that the contributors set out to answer in this challenging and provocative collection which ranges from migrant workers to mommy bloggers and the affective attachments of academics. A fascinating and compelling collection that will be a must-read for anyone interested in work and life today."

- Rosalind Gill, City University, UK

"The last thirty-five years have been ones of profound social and economic change, exacerbated by the financial crisis and austerity programmes in the new millennium. The old Fordist breadwinner model of male full-time employment, paying enough to support dependents, which was once significant in western economies, has dissolved and a new sexual contract is emerging. This fascinating and provocative collection of essays examines the nature of change in divergent circumstances and places and will prove invaluable to all interested in the intersection of gender relations and economic transformation in the cold new world of post-Fordism."

- Linda McDowell, University of Oxford, UK

About the book

Working and living in post-Fordism concerns risk and contingency. This collection identifies how the contingent contracting of post-Fordism is shaping new regulatory ideals for women including excessive attachments to work, intensive mothering, entrepreneurship and an investor subjectivity. Lisa Adkins, Maryanne Dever and their fellow authors map these often unattainable ideals as they operate across a range of working and living arrangements and in their classed and raced dimensions. Contributors examine how these ideals unfold and take shape in the demands of employability and work readiness, in the sub-contracting and outsourcing of labour, in the demands of affective labour, in the contours of home-based work and in the indebtedness that contingent working so often demands. The collection elaborates how the contingent contracting of post-Fordism is not only setting the terms of a new labour settlement but also rewriting the terms of the sexual contract.

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