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# Alternatives

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## **Abstracts**

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# The Folding of Liberal Government: Contract Governance and the Transformation of the Public Service in Canada

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Daniel O'Connor and Suzan Ilcan\*

Despite renewed interest in the Schmittian problematic of the exception as the constitutive principle of the political, the full significance of Schmitt's political philosophy remains underestimated. Starting from Schmitt's account of the relation between the constituted order and its constitutive principle, the decision on exception.

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# The Scripting of Private Jessica Lynch: Biopolitics, Gender, and the “Feminization” of the U.S. Military

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Véronique Pin-Fat and Maria Stern\*

Supplementing the insights of Giorgio Agamben with feminist research contributions, this article develops a biopolitical reading of the debate surrounding the “feminization” of the U.S. military. We argue that an examination of the role gender plays in myths of sacrifice reveals that the military is already fully “feminized.” Critical engagement with the scripting of Jessica Lynch re-introduces the political to the question of military sacrifice by rendering its impossibility conspicuous. Keywords: Gender, war, politics, identity, U.S. military.

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# Blair's Africa: The Politics of Securitization and Fear

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Rita Abrahamsen\*

Prime Minister Tony Blair has described Africa as a “scar on the conscience of the world.” This article argues that New Labour’s increasing attention to Africa is part of an ongoing securitization of the continent; interactions with Africa are gradually shifting from the category of “development/humanitarianism” toward a category of “risk/fear/threat” in the context of the “war on terrorism.” The securitization of Africa has helped legitimize this “war on terrorism,” but has very little to offer for Africa’s development problems. Keywords: Africa, securitization, development, New Labour, war on terrorism.

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X/Xs:  
Toward a General Theory  
of the Exception

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Sergei Prozorov\*

Despite renewed interest in the Schmittian problematic of the exception as the constitutive principle of the political, the full significance of Schmitt's political philosophy remains underestimated. Starting from Schmitt's account of the relation between the constituted order and its constitutive principle, the decision on exception, this article outlines a broader discursive space that is here called the political ontology of exceptionalism and articulates three theses that describe the ways in which all forms of order are constituted, sustained, and undermined by various functions of the exception. Keywords: exception, sovereignty, decision, the political, transgression.