

## **Unanticipated affinities: Socialism and Neoliberalism in a Post-Cold War World**

### **Abstract**

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This paper discusses a peculiar affinity and resonance between certain socialist practices and neoliberalism and uses this as a jumping-off place to query broader questions concerning the politics of knowledge. It argues that neoliberalism offers a highly productive site to excavate the ways in which Cold War power/knowledge formations have shaped, and continue to shape, sociological thinking. Research on neoliberalism has deconstructed the naturalized Cold War dichotomies between East and West, and socialism and capitalism, and highlighted the complex interconnections and overlap between them. The paper suggests that post-socialism can make similar critical intervention into sociological thought as postcolonialism and feminism, since it challenges us to rethink some key epistemological and ontological issues in sociological knowledge production.