

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/paradoxes-of-neoliberalism/>

This video discusses a co-authored book resulting from a research project at the Barnard College Center for Research on Women. The authors collaborated with scholars from various parts of the world to analyze neoliberalism's varying implications across different contexts, emphasizing the need for a comparative and synthetic approach rather than singular case studies. They argue for the importance of incorporating gender and sexuality into discussions of neoliberalism and highlight that these aspects are formative rather than merely resultant of socioeconomic changes.

The authors designed the book to engage with the paradoxical nature of neoliberalism, particularly in light of its societal impacts revealed during the COVID-19 pandemic. They examine how neoliberal policies, often promising justice and equality, can paradoxically lead to increased inequality and oppression, particularly for marginalized groups.

Central themes include the double binds people face under neoliberalism, where choices often lead to negative outcomes, and the need to reflect on how the pandemic highlighted and exacerbated existing vulnerabilities. The authors express concern over how neoliberalism shifts responsibilities and blames individual choices or marginalized groups for broader social issues.

They advocate for recognizing interconnectedness among various social issues (e.g., gender justice, economics, migration) in order to build a more comprehensive understanding and political response to contemporary challenges. This video concludes by positing that the frameworks developed in the book can help address current and evolving political landscapes, particularly those characterized by authoritarian neoliberalism.