

Until recently, anyone who suggested nationalising the banks would have been derided as a 'quack' and a 'crank', as lacking the most basic understanding of the functioning of a 'complex, globalised world'. The grip of 'orthodoxy' disqualified the idea, and many more, without the need even to offer a counter-argument. And yet, in this time of intersecting crises, when it seems like everything could, and should, have changed, it paradoxically feels as though very little has. Individuals and companies have hunkered down to try and ride out the crisis. Nationalisations and government spending have been used to prevent change, not initiate it. Anger and protest have erupted around different aspects of the crises, but no common or consistent reaction has seemed able to cohere. We appear unable to move on. For many years, social movements could meet and recognise one another on the common ground of rejecting neoliberalism, society's old middle ground – those discourses and practices that defined the centre of the political field. The crisis of the middle has meant a crumbling of the common. And what now? Will neoliberalism continue to stumble on without direction, zombie-like? Or, is it time for something completely different?

