

DIS GLOSSARY

ROOM A

Global financial system: The economic institutions and regulators that facilitate how wealth moves internationally. These global economic players include private international banks, insurance companies, investment management companies, government institutions, and various regulatory bodies.

Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP): A group of programs—passed by Congress in late 2008 and managed by the U.S. Treasury—offering economic relief from the 2008 financial crisis. These programs aimed to stabilize the U.S. economy by strengthening financial institutions and minimizing the rate of home foreclosures following the subprime mortgage crisis.

Death tax: Alternately called the estate tax or inheritance tax, a tax paid by an individual who inherits money or property. Following the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, only estates worth more than \$11 million are subject to the tax.

DIS, UBI: *The Straight Truvada*, 2018

Truvada: A medication used to treat and prevent HIV and AIDS. It is commonly taken as part of PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis), a treatment in which people at higher risk of contracting HIV take daily doses of this medication to prevent infection.

Accelerationism: A concept that advocates for accelerating and expanding free-market capitalism and technological development to bring about widespread cultural change. The right-wing version of this theory calls for an ongoing intensification of technology and capitalism to achieve as-yet-unimaginable improvements in human civilization. The left-wing version proposes that once capitalism has run its course, it will give way to a more universally beneficial system of socialism.

DIS, *Circle Time: Babak Radboy, What is Money?*, 2017

Wage labor: The relationship between workers and employers in which a worker sells his or her time and labor to an employer in exchange for money. Under the capitalist economic system—in which for-profit industries are owned and operated by private owners rather than by the government—wages paid to workers are usually determined by the demand for that worker's skill and experience.

Whitney Mallett, *Mincome*, 2018

Universal basic income: A model of economic welfare in which all citizens regularly receive a set amount of money from the government. Such systems are usually described as being unconditional in that there are no low-income thresholds or other participation requirements beyond citizenship to receive payment.

Gig economy: A system in which independent workers, also known as freelancers, regularly work under temporary or contract-term positions. The gig economy has been criticized because workers under this system often face financial instability.

Matt Goerzen and Ed Fornieles, *Baitwatch*, 2018

Controlled opposition: A form of political deception whereby an individual or organization covertly influences or controls the actions of their opposition. This tactic is often used to misrepresent or discredit a political or ideological enemy.

Trolling: A set of behaviors, often taking the form of provocative and aggressive language or actions online, by which an individual or a group deliberately attempts to shock or offend.

DIS, *What's in the Box with Hannah Black, 2018*

Gamergate: A controversial campaign, starting in 2014, during which anonymous Internet users harassed women in the video game industry. Enacted on online platforms such as Twitter, Reddit, and 4chan, the campaign is seen as a backlash against the influence of feminism and progressive politics on video games.

Doxing: An abbreviation for the word “documents.” Describes an activity where the private or identifying information of an organization or individual is made public on the Internet. A doxed individual or organization is often subjected to harassment based on the released information.

DIS, *General Intellectuals with McKenzie Wark: Chantal Mouffe, 2017*

Liberal democracy: A political system in which a democratically elected government is paired with the liberal ideals of equality, secularism, and personal liberty.

Neoliberalism: A political ideology that emphasizes the power of free-market capitalism. This ideology supports the principles of free trade, deregulation of industry, and reductions in government spending. Neoliberal thought suggests that the free market can more fairly distribute resources than other economic systems, and that economic growth is the measure of human progress.

ROOM B

DIS, *A Good Crisis, 2018*

New rentership society: The current social and economic conditions that have made home ownership impossible for segments of the population that have historically been able to own and maintain homes. Rather than owning homes, members of the new rentership society must continue to rent property from landlords.

Subprime mortgage crisis: Widespread mortgage delinquencies and foreclosures between 2007 and 2010, triggered by declining home values. Homeowners found that they owed more on the balance of their mortgages than their homes were worth, a situation described as being “underwater.” This crisis followed the collapse of the United States housing “bubble,” an early twenty-first-century housing boom during which housing prices and home ownership rose because of low-interest home loans.

New Deal: A collection of financial programs, reforms, and regulations created between 1933 and 1936 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt after the economic devastation of the Great Depression of 1929. The Social Security Act, passed in 1935, was among the many programs enacted under the umbrella of the New Deal.

Income inequality: The gap in earnings between the rich and the poor. This term differs from wealth inequality, which describes the imbalance between the assets of rich households and the assets of poor households.

Feudalism: The defining political and economic system in Europe from the 9th through the 15th century CE. This system of land ownership was structured so that lords were given areas of land (called “fiefs”) by the nobility in exchange for military service. Farmers and other workers (known as “serfs”) would work the land and had to share the products of their labor in exchange for military protection. Under feudalism, land and industry were owned largely by select members of the aristocratic classes and property ownership was chiefly passed from generation to generation within the same family.

DIS, *Obama Baroque, 2018*

DSA (Democratic Socialists of America):

Formed in 1982, the largest socialist political organization in the U.S. Democratic Socialists believe that society as a whole—rather than private individuals or corporations—should cooperatively own and make decisions about all industry.

Socialism: A political and economic system in which citizens collectively own and profit from their own industry. This economic model stands in contrast to capitalism, in which industry is owned by individuals or private entities.

2008 financial crisis: An international banking crisis that followed the collapse of the Lehman Brothers investment bank in 2008 and the U.S. subprime mortgage crisis in 2007. In response, the U.S. government enacted widespread bailouts of banks to prevent the collapse of national and international financial systems. The effects of the crisis—arguably the worst economic downfall since the Great Depression of 1929—were felt globally, leading to the period of worldwide economic decline known as the Great Recession.