Call for papers for a special issue of

*PSL Quarterly Review*

on the political economy of progressive reform

*Guest editor: Amit Bhaduri*

*First submissions due by: 31st March 2021*

*Scheduled online publication: September-December 2021*

Both one party systems and multi-party liberal democracies are increasingly affected by both political pathologies, such as spreading authoritarianism, virulent nationalism, and racism, and by economic illnesses such as growing inequalities of income and wealth, underemployment and long-term stagnation, and widespread insecurity of incomes.

Though there is no theoretical agreement yet, on the interlinkages between economic and political malaise, many observers consider the former to be a cause of the latter. A deterioration in the quality of life of those less well-off, as well as an increased risk of losing one’s status within the middle classes, are probably among the most immediate causes of the so-called wave of populism across the globe.

In this context, the human suffering and the economic costs of the recent Covid-19 pandemic have both heightened pre-existing social tensions and have posed again the issue of efficiency and legitimacy of alternative socio-economic and political systems, starting from the organization of public/private health systems to more in general the degree and forms of public management of the economy.

These trends help explain the renewed attention among the economists for political economy issues and for political developments and their relationship with the economy. In this light, the *PSL Quarterly Review* aims to organize a special issue on the foreseeable future and the options available for progressive economic policies, and for progressive reform at the global and/or national level.

In the spirit of pluralism that has always characterized the journal (and its predecessor, the *Banca Nazionale del Lavoro Quarterly Review*), contributions can apply any method and scientific paradigm, provided they are rigorous and relevant. Apart from logical reasoning, historical illustrations are welcome, and
submissions are encouraged from authors adopting any political standpoint they wish – provided the character of the work remains of the highest scientific quality.

A non-exhaustive list of possible topics to be discussed is: the political economy of growth and distribution; the private/public mix in the provision of social welfare services; the design of decentralisation and its possible role in reducing bureaucratisation; if/how can the usual fiscal and monetary instruments ensure the benchmark aim of classical social democracy, i.e. the socialization of consumption without socialization of the means of production; how far this should still be the main aim of progressive economic policy, and what new aims and instruments should be sought; the compatibility between these instruments and incentives for all economic players.

To imagine alternatives is the aim of intellectual work.

For inquiries please contact Carlo D’Ippoliti, editor, at: pslqr@uniroma1.it

All submissions should be made through our online submission system, specifying that the submission is being made for the Special issue on the political economy of reform. More information can be found at the journal’s website: www.pslquarterlyreview.info