Counterfutures is a multidisciplinary journal of Left research, thought, and strategy. It brings together work from across Aotearoa New Zealand’s Left, aiming to intervene in, and inaugurate, debates about how to understand and influence our society, politics, culture, and environment.
The Hokianga Dog Tax Uprising
Anti-Expressway Campaigns
Swarbrick’s Auckland Central Victory
Moralising the Market
Christianising Fascism?
Incantations of Race
Abolish Landlordism
Fetish and Restructuring
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Landlord Neutral 2030
JACK FOSTER, MURDOCH STEPHENS & DYLAN TAYLOR
With the housing crisis continuing to punish renters, we call for the abolition of private landlordism.

The Hokianga Dog Tax Uprising
CATHERINE CUMMING
An excerpt from Catherine Cumming’s forthcoming book, The Financial Colonisation of Aotearoa (ESRA, 2021). In the 1880s, colonial authorities levied a tax on dogs in order to protect sheep, the central building block of the fledgling colonial economy. Māori resistance to the dog tax, culminating in the ‘Hokianga Dog Tax Rebellion’ of 1898, is told as a story of resistance to the attempted interpellation of Māori as colonial citizen-subjects.

Chlöe Swarbrick’s Auckland Central Victory
HUW MORGAN
What can the socialist left learn from Swarbrick’s unexpected victory in Auckland Central? A veteran of the campaign explores the practical lessons of this success for movement-building and political engagement in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Inscriptions and Incantations of Race
FAISAL AL-ASAAD
A reflection on the necessity to narrate that was imposed upon Muslims in the wake of the Christchurch massacres. Seeking to escape the organising grammar of race, which fixes the subject in time and place, it is asked how racial destinies might be rewritten.

Christianity Without Guarantees
CHAMSY EL-OJEILI
Scrutinising Hannah Strømmen and Ulrich Schmiedel’s The Claim to Christianity, Chamsy el-Ojeili untangles the prevalence of Christian identitarianism in the thickening post-fascist atmosphere. Might Christianity be providing moral and spiritual energy to the presently unsystematised ‘museum of fragments’ that is post-fascism?
Populist and Institutionalist Logics of Anti-Expressway Campaigns
MORGAN HAMLIN
An examination of the campaign against the Kāpiti expressway yields insights into the limitations of individualistic and institutionalist modes of political action. It is shown that emphasising shared interests between local opposition groups and nationally focused activists is essential in building effective campaigns on environmental issues.

Workplace Restructuring and its Discontents
WARWICK TIE
Through an engagement with Marx’s notes on methodology, this article considers the role of the commodity fetish, the fetishisation of intellectual labour, and the fetish of knowledge-without-consequences in the debate over the restructuring of the College of Sciences at Massey University.

Human Rights Against Human Rights
NEIL VALLELLY

Mission-Oriented Capitalism
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