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MARK OLSEN is Professor of Political Theory and Education Policy in the Department of Politics at the University of Surrey. His most recent books are *Liberalism, Neoliberalism, Social Democracy: thin communitarian perspectives on political philosophy and education*, Routledge, New York and London, 2010; *Toward A Global Thin Community: Nietzsche, Foucault, and the Cosmopolitan Commitment*, Paradigm Press, Boulder and London, published 2009. He is also co-author (with John Codd and Anne-Marie O'Neill) of *Education Policy: Globalisation, Citizenship, Democracy*, (Sage, London, 2004 and author of *Michel Foucault: Materialism and Education*, Greenwood Press, New York, 1999/Paradigm Press, Boulder, 2006. He has also published many book chapters and articles in academic journals in Britain, America and in Australasia.

Title: Liberalism, Neoliberalism and the Global Public Good: The Consequences of Climate Change

Abstract

Neoliberalism has attacked the idea of a public good which underpinned the welfare state and argued for an extension of the free market to all corners of the globe. A number of factors conspire at this juncture to derail the neoliberal settlement however. One is market failure as witnessed by the Credit Crunch and the current recession being experienced throughout Europe. Other factors such as population explosion, nuclear proliferation, terrorism and environmental catastrophe could exert even greater pressure for a reversal of the neoliberal project. Moderate or severe climate change could intensify such trends even further. Taken together, these factors could foreseeably have a major impact on transforming the political and economic settlement as it has operated under neoliberalism since the 1970s, resulting in the emergence of global political and educational structures constitutive of a new global welfare polis together with a global common good. My paper outlines the shifts in theoretical rationale and practice that might accompany such a transition.