Editorial

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Welcome to the third issue of Volume 7 of *British Politics*. Our opening contributions for this issue examine themes around the ongoing economic and financial crisis. The first of these, from Jim Tomlinson, explores the relationship between public and private sector employment. Showing that state-funded employment has grown significantly in comparison with employment provided by the private sector, the article argues that the key trajectory of British economic policy in recent decades is not neo-liberalism, but a form of 'local Keynesianism', with important implications for the Coalition government's programme of public spending cuts. Our second contribution is from Eric Shaw, and analyses the ideological and institutional dynamics that underpinned New Labour's policy towards the City of London. The author argues that the adoption of a light touch framework was based on assumptions of a trade off: that loose regulations would facilitate continued economic growth, and that this would enable the government to raise the tax revenues it required to fund increased expenditure on social programmes.

Our third main article for this issue comes from James Nicholls, and considers New Labour's alcohol policy through an analysis of the 2003 Licensing Act. In this, Nicholls shows how the success of the policy was undermined by an emphasis on cultural change by examining the way in which media responses reinforced problematic ideas around British drinking culture, and how lobbying on public health policy exposed political divides over the role of legislation in shaping public attitudes and behaviours. The final article for this issue is by Thomas Quinn. Drawing on recent research on the media, the paper develops a rational-choice model of news management, analysing the inter-relationships between journalists and official sources of information, and examining the techniques used in the attempt to secure favourable news coverage. Following this, we complete the main contributions for the issue with a review article by Vicky Randall on the politics of old age.

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