

# ECONOMIC (IN)JUSTICE

## FACTSHEET - EXPLAINER

Name	Tania Aubeelack
Details, area of experience	Human rights campaigner, JtoJ volunteer & trustee, aural historian, works with On the Record, community worker
Interview date	November 2020
Issues addressed	Economic justice, moral values, Covid-19 and the revealing of inequalities.
Injustice category (linked to economic injustice)	ability <input type="checkbox"/> age <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> class <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> faith <input type="checkbox"/> gender <input type="checkbox"/> neuro-diversity <input type="checkbox"/> race <input type="checkbox"/> sexuality <input type="checkbox"/>
Key words	Economically just society Systemic inequality Individualised society Rebuilding communities Learning from history Lived experience

Brief summary (key points)	Tania Aubeelack explores the links between the value of work, leisure, and the gig economy. In our podcast series, she explains that an economically just society gives everyone a fair share and equal access to knowledge, happiness, health, freedom, and prosperity. <hr/>
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### **An economic just society**

Economically just society gives everyone a fair share and equal access to knowledge, happiness, health, freedom, and prosperity. This extends to humans, animals, and future generations.

Economic justice includes looking after the environment and thinking about how we can implement justice in our everyday lives. This starts with asking ourselves how are we just?

### **Covid-19 and inequality**

Covid-19 has shown that we live in an unequal society, one that has inequalities embedded in its system. Government is seen as not having a role in this system and that it is down to the individual to make the best of their own life. If they don't, this is often thought of as their own personal failing. Covid-19 has shown that this is not true. People with successful businesses have been hard hit and lost their livelihoods through no fault of their own.

Learning from history is important. The financial crisis of 2008 led to austerity and the Covid-19 crisis sees more cuts happening, rather than help to rebuild communities.

### **Generation rent and land monopoly**

A lot of young people are unable to own their own homes because land is often owned by an elite few. When only a few people own land, the revenue from and value of the land and its resources is retained by an individual rather than the community that uses the land (to live and work on). Land value tax is a way of redistributing the value of the land back into the community.

### **The wealth gap and evictions**

Billionaires have been thriving during the pandemic with those who were struggling before can see themselves on the verge of evictions. There are two worlds side-by-side. In one people are struggling to make ends meet and experiencing homelessness while in the other there are huge amounts of concentrated wealth and houses laying empty.

### **Economic injustice and the bigger picture**

Focusing on identity too closely in our activism means we can miss the economic dimension of political figures. It is important to look at the bigger picture and incorporate the human rights, workers right and business aspect of our understanding of the world around us. Educate ourselves on the background of those in power – who are they linked with, who have they received donations from, what's their voting record etc. Looking at this bigger picture helps us to remain united in our fights against injustice.

It is important that those with lived experience take the lead in any campaign and activism.

Stand-out quotations	<p>“I think an economically just society would be a society where every human being is given a fair share, or fair portion of knowledge, happiness, health, freedom and prosperity.”</p> <p>“We need to look at how we treat ourselves in our own lives, so how are we just?”</p> <p>“Covid-19 was a bit like gasoline being thrown on to those already embedded economic inequalities.”</p> <p>“People are able to use their skill and talent in their work so that labour and leisure are not completely divided. Your labour is also a form of leisure because your skills and your talents are being put into your labour, not only do you then value your labour your community value what you do too.”</p> <p>“How much money can you spend in a lifetime?”</p> <p>“The rich people are holding onto power, no matter where you come from.”</p> <p>“We can’t have billionaires sitting alongside extreme poverty, child poverty, it is just so immoral.”</p>
Main themes for learners	<p><b>Thinking about the past week, ask yourself in what ways have you acted justly?</b> (Tania talks about everyday actions and gives the example of Plato and <i>The Republic</i> and how his philosophy stems from being a just person).</p> <p><b>Is justice something that governments need to legislate for, or should the individual be solely responsible for it?</b> (Tania talks about individualised society and Covid-19 revealing that people are not always responsible for events in their lives).</p> <p><b>Who owns the land you live on and why does it matter?</b> (Tania talks about land value tax, generation rent and land monopoly).</p> <p><b>Reimagining work: Do you value your work and how is your work valued?</b> (Tania talks about a link between labour and leisure, and the gig economy).</p>

<https://www.economicinjustice.org.uk>