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***Review of* RADICAL POLITICAL ECONOMICS**

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TO: Vice Chancellor Professor Nishan Canagarajah, University of Leicester

FROM: *Review of Radical Political Economics* Editorial Board and Managing Editor*

RE: *Proposed Redundancies in the School of Business*

March 16, 2021

It has been brought to the attention of the Editorial Board of the *Review of Radical Political Economics* that 145 members of staff have been placed at risk of compulsory redundancy at the University of Leicester.

We are shocked and disturbed to hear that 16 colleagues within the School of Business have been specifically targeted because of the critical “class based” and “institutionalist” nature of their work. The University’s managers appear to be using the Covid-19 pandemic as an opportunity to divest in areas of “Critical Management Studies” or “Political Economy” whilst preserving “rational choice orthodoxy”.

This is a clear attack on academic freedom, aimed at stifling debate by excluding dissident voices and suppressing critical thinking. Students learn best when presented with different perspectives and the freedom to assess evidence in order to draw their own conclusion. On this basis, the proposed action will impact negatively on the quality of teaching and students’ experience of higher education.

The university seems adamant to stifle critical thinking at a time when national and global political economies are facing arguably the greatest challenges in living memory. Now is the time to be investing in knowledge generation so as to proliferate alternative approaches for social and economic transformation that will be crucial for the sustainability and wellbeing of people and the planet.

We support our colleagues at Leicester University and we urge their managers to consider the implications of their proposals for academic freedom, student learning, and the advancement of transformational knowledge.

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