

**POINTING FORWARDS AND
BACKWARDS – WIEGO AND
RESEARCH – NOV 2017**

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key advancements/changes in theory and research in regard to the informal economy over the past decade

- Historical research on un-organisation as a **deliberate state policy** (not a reflection of limits to state competence or residuality) (Das Gupta; Karuna)
- **Contractualisation** as formalisation of firms and as a **massive deterioration** in conditions and rights of wage labour / SE
- Austerity and the **necessity of IE** and SE – obstacles to formalisation ; feminisation as obstacle to formalisation

- Regionalisation of inclusion / exclusion (Fouillet; Vidyardhee; Raju)
- Informality and illegality (Michelutti)
- The IDEA of the solidary economy (Laville)

Key theoretical challenges/dilemmas and research gaps in regard to the informal economy going forward

- Further work on gendering all the questions in part one
- The status of **self-employment** in capitalist economy
- Critical implications of **informality for a green transition** – measuring pollution in informal economy (ag, GHGs and hostility to incremental change on part of policy elites); SDGs and ‘silver buckshot/ theoretical dustbin / defence of status quo?

- Informalisation / **criminalisation** of economy and politics / policy (Prakash / Michelutti) – very little work on gendering of this mass of processes
- Policy studies 1: below the radar Indian agenda to **cull** the IE / ‘formalise’ the IE / financialise the IE
- Policy studies 2.: impact of **shock events** – examples of demonetisation and GST – financialisation as formalisation (Ghosh et al; Isabelle Guerin; BHW; DNReddy) impact on women
- Policy studies 3: **enforcement failure / absence of destructive creation** (e.g. shattered state of waste policy let alone processes of implementation outside metros) impact on gender relations