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; Vidyarthee; 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