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# Theory and Policy of the IMF after the Global Financial Crisis: What, if anything, has changed?

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## Abstract

The 2007/08 GFC is presumed to have brought about a ‘crisis in economics’ and opened up the discipline, in scholarship and in practice, to some of its own limitations. The rhetoric follows that macroeconomic theory and policy is progressing, taking up lessons from past mistakes and past refutations. Similarly the IMF is portrayed as transformative and transforming, reaching out for previously inattentive themes (e.g. income inequality, gender equality, etc). How about its stance on issues that have traditionally being at the centre of its concern? This work will discuss the evolving IMF stance towards its conditionality programmes, with a particular focus on the Eurocrisis and the Fund’s position towards fiscal policy, fiscal consolidation and public debt sustainability. It attempts to assess and delineate rhetoric from internal organisational inconsistencies and policy in practice.

**Keywords:** paradigm and change, IMF, fiscal consolidation

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