

Geography 364**Globalization, cities & regions**

Fall 2018

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Class:

Monday and Wednesday, 9.30-11.00, room 200

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Monday and Wednesday 11.15-12.30, or by appointment

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Geography, room 134***Course outline***

September 5	Introduction to the course: Economic worlds in motion
September 10	The rise (and fall?) of globalization: From triumphalism to Trumpism
September 12	Pluralizing capitalism: Global shifts, regional fortunes
September 17	Redividing labor: Jobs on the move
September 19	Boom, bubble, and bust: Financialized economies (always) in transition
September 24	Capitalism, Chinese-style: From the market road to the new silk road
September 26	Neoliberalism in retreat? Reassessing the market paradigm
October 1	On the hustle: Entrepreneurial urban sprawl
October 3	Austerity urbanism: Governing by extreme economy
October 8	Thanksgiving
October 10	Unreal estate: Unpacking Vancouver
October 15	<i>Detroit—ruins of a city</i> : farewell to Fordism; plus Midterm prep
October 17	Midterm exam
October 22	<i>Roger and me</i> : Pets or meat?
October 24	After Fordism: Silicon dreams
October 29	Reading risk: Municipal debt and the regime of creditworthiness
October 31	Moving pictures: A view from the back lot
November 5	Creativity cults: Entrepreneurialism 2.0
November 7	Platform capitalism: Tracking Amazon
November 12	Remembrance Day
November 14	The right to work: Deunionization at work
November 19	Workfare states: A hand up, not a hand out
November 21	Fighting poverty on a global scale: Fast-policy programming for the poor
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Rationale

Globalization, cities & regions is concerned with the critical interrogation of issues relating to economic globalization, urban restructuring, and regional development. Its approach is to bring “global” processes and pressures down to earth, to ask where they come from, and to explore their (variable) causes and consequences in cities and regions. The course also provides an opportunity to apply, and evaluate, a range of theoretical claims and frameworks derived from recent work in economic geography and urban & regional political economy. The approach of the course, like that of these fields, is to learn *with and through* case studies of real places. Case studies are selected not simply to acquire “coverage,” or to provide straightforwardly generalizable lessons, but as a means of understanding how *processes work* (in particular situations), and to work through substantive claims and theoretical positions in the burgeoning literature on globalization, cities, and regions.

The dual objectives of *Globalization, cities & regions* are (a) to establish a sound understanding of substantive issues, key trends, and emergent developments in the globalizing economy, and the changing roles/positions of selected cities and regions in the context of globalization; and (b) to provide an appreciation of some of the most influential theoretical frameworks, concepts, and approaches in contemporary economic geography and urban & regional political economy. The latter, it will be emphasized is more a way of *seeing and understanding the world* just as much as it is a toolkit of theories or methods. The principal underlying goal of the course is to introduce students to this way of seeing; it is an invitation to geographical political economy.

Etiquette

While this course uses a lecture format, students are encouraged to ask questions during or at the end of class, and to seek clarification where necessary. Office hours are scheduled directly after the class, in room 134. The use of laptops during class is discouraged, except for the express purpose of note taking. As a general rule, note-taking by hand is recommended. A handout of key slides will be provided at each class.

Readings

Ongoing and critical reading is an essential component of this class. The lectures will assume some familiarity with the required readings, and the exams will evaluate your knowledge and understanding of the readings. Specifically, the required readings—usually one article-length item per class, or two shorter pieces—must be completed in advance of each class. The lectures will not summarize the readings, but instead are intended to complement and parallel them. Required (**REQ**) readings are available online at the Geography 364 page on Canvas (at the Library Online Course Reserves tab). They are marked on the syllabus and on Canvas, each with a **Reading** number. A selection of recommended (**REC**) readings is provided for those seeking a deeper understanding of the themes, issues, and concepts examined during the course. (These are not provided on Canvas, but are accessible via the library.) You may wish to explore the recommended readings in preparing your project (see below).

Assessment

There are three components in the assessment for this course:

<i>Midterm exam:</i>	25% of total marks (1.25 hours; 2 essay answers) October 17, 2018
<i>Project:</i>	35% of total marks (essay drawing on project reading list), due 9.20am, November 28, 2018
<i>Final exam:</i>	40% of total marks (2.5 hours; 3 essay answers), during December exam period

The same basic philosophy holds across all three elements of the assessment: a premium is placed on (a) the ability to *link together* key theories and concepts introduced during the course (e.g. the spatial division of labor, neoliberal urbanism, post-Fordism) and the various illustrations, examples, and case studies covered in both the lectures and in the readings; and (b) the ability to develop coherent and compelling arguments in response to the questions, drawing on evidence, relevant concepts, and appropriate references to the literature.

Please note: there are no “standard” or template answers to the questions raised in this course, in the exams or in the project. Geographical political economy is a field shaped by arguments and counter-arguments, drawing on evidence and examples.

The *midterm exam* will comprise broadly framed essay questions. Students will be required to answer two questions from approximately ten, drawing on key themes from the first half of the course.

The take-home *project* should be written during the second half of the term. Details of the project are provided at page 4. The deadline for submission of essays will be strictly enforced. Late submissions will receive a 3 percentage-point per day penalty (exceptions *only* with medical or similar documentation).

The *final exam* will follow a similar format to the midterm, comprising broadly framed essay questions. Students will be required to answer three questions from ten, relating to key themes, issues, and topics from the *course as a whole*.

Academic integrity

We value an open, respectful, and constructive environment in classroom discussions.

In your written work for this course, please be advised of the UBC guidelines on academic integrity, appropriate citation, and plagiarism:

<http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/resource-guides/avoid-plagiarism/>

The project

Write an essay-style paper in response to the following question:

“The rise of economic populism in the period since 2016—in countries like the United States and the United Kingdom, with a distinctive regional geography too—signals an end to the reign of neoliberal globalism, dominant since the early 1990s.” Critically evaluate this contention, developing your own argument in response while making use of (a) all of the readings listed below and (b) themes, issues, and readings from the course as a whole.

The following required readings, covering a range of positions and perspectives on the geography of economic populism, should all be cited and discussed in the essay. These readings can be found at the Geography 364 page on Canvas (Library Online Course Reserves tab), where they are each marked with the tag **Project**.

- Economist (2017) In the lurch: left-behind places. *Economist* October 21: 21-25
- Hall S and Wójcik D (2018) “Ground Zero” of Brexit: London as an international financial centre. *Geoforum* advance online
- Komlos J (2018) The economic roots of the rise of Trumpism. *CESifo Working Paper* #6868. Munich: Munich Society for the Promotion of Economic Research
- Post C (2017) The roots of Trumpism. *Cultural Dynamics* 29(1-2): 100–116
- Rodrik D (2018) Populism and the economics of globalization. *Journal of International Business Policy* 1(1-2): 12-33
- Rodríguez-Pose A (2018) The revenge of the places that don’t matter (and what to do about it). *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society* 11(1): 189–209

Projects should be written in essay style (introduce your argument; develop your key points referring both to illustrations/evidence and to the readings; conclude by reinforcing your key points). The essay should be typed, adhering strictly to the following format:

- Up to 7 pages of 1.5 spaced text (12-point font with standard margins), or approximately 2,500 words
- A bibliography (additional to the 7-page limit for the main text), listing all academic sources referred to in the text, presented in the citation style used above

Printed versions of the projects should be handed in *prior to the start of the final class*.

The marking rubric for the take-home project is as follows: facility in summarizing, applying, and critically evaluating key concepts from the course and the readings, in response to the question (50%); effectiveness of examples and illustrations used (30%); overall presentation, including style and structure of argument, quality of writing, and bibliographic referencing (20%).

Classes and readings

September 5 Introduction to the course: Economic worlds in motion

This session serves as an introduction to the course, its approach, and key themes. The lecture will outline the distinctive position and perspective of geographical political economy, not just as a disciplinary approach but as a distinctive way of seeing (and understanding) the economy, economic change, and economic difference. Key themes and concepts: economic geography; spatial division of labor; questioning globalization; comparing capitalism(s); neoliberal urbanism; flexible accumulation

- REC Coe NM, Kelly PK and Yeung HWC (2013) Thinking geographically. In Coe NM, Kelly PK and Yeung HWC *Economic Geography: A contemporary introduction*. Oxford: Wiley, 3-26 [Reading 1](#)

September 10 The rise (and fall?) of globalization: From triumphalism to Trumpism

The lecture asks where “globalization” came from and where it might be going. In the course of the past 25 years or so, we have gone from a period in which (economic) globalization was thought to be an inevitable, unstoppable, integrating, and modernizing force, according to some, the beginning of worldwide convergence and even “the end of geography,” to a time of profound uncertainty, extending to premonitions of the “death” of globalization. Assessing these debates, the lecture will trace the rise (and possible fall) of globalization, focusing on the period between early 1990s triumphalism and present-day pessimism. Key themes and concepts: new international division of labor; deindustrialization; economic populism; uneven development.

- REQ Barnes TJ and Christophers B (2018) Globalization and uneven development. In Barnes TJ and Christophers B, *Economic Geography: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 187-210 [Reading 2](#)
- REC Ghemawat P (2017) Globalization in the age of Trump. *Harvard Business Review* 95(4): 112–123
- REC Stiglitz J (2017) The overselling of globalization. *Business Economics* 52(3): 129-137

September 12 Pluralizing capitalism: Global shifts, regional fortunes

Taking seriously the idea that capitalism is a geographically differentiated system, the lecture examines the bipolar viewpoint of the varieties of capitalism school, the challenge of the BRICS, and the issue of mutual interdependence. Globalization is not producing a new form of singular capitalism, or universalizing the market; it is generating new geographies of growth, decline, and inequality, as well as new contradictions. The variegation of capitalism is therefore an ongoing process. Key themes and concepts: uneven development; varieties of capitalism; variegated capitalism; BRICS.

- REQ Hudson R (2016) Rising powers and the drivers of uneven global development. *Area Development and Policy* 1(3): 279-294 [Reading 3](#)
- REC Peck J (2016) Macroeconomic geographies. *Area Development and Policy* 1(3): 305-322

September 17 Redividing labor: Jobs on the move

Economic geographers have been tracking the movement of jobs (and the geography of employment regimes) for decades now, from the emergence of the new international division of labor in the 1970s,

through the acceleration of deindustrialization since the 1980s, to the emergent geographies of the “offshore” economy. The lecture will explore the historical geography of recent employment change, explaining the fundamental conceptual framework that is the spatial division of labor. Key themes and concepts: new international division of labor; spatial division of labor; deindustrialization; labor arbitrage; offshoring; automation.

- REQ Massey D (2004) Uneven development: social change and spatial divisions of labor. In TJ Barnes, J Peck, E Sheppard and A Tickell (eds) *Reading economic geography*. Oxford: Blackwell, 111–124
Reading 4
- REC Werner M (2016) Global production networks and uneven development: exploring geographies of devaluation, disinvestment, and exclusion. *Geography Compass* 10(11): 457–469
- REC Levy DL (2005) Offshoring in the new global political economy. *Journal of Management Studies* 42(3): 685–693

September 19 Boom, bubble, and bust: Financialized economies (always) in transition

The lecture explores explanations of the origins, form, and consequences of the global financial crisis that began in late 2008. The crisis displayed a distinctive economic geography and spawned different regulatory and political responses, many of these with long-run consequences, often with roots in the project of neoliberal globalization. Key themes and concepts: financialization; financial geography; social studies of finance; regulation theory; neoliberalism; shareholder value.

- REQ Pike A and Pollard J (2010) Economic geographies of financialization. *Economic Geography* 86(1): 29–51 **Reading 5**
- REC French S, Leyshon A and Thrift N (2009) A very geographical crisis: the making and breaking of the 2007–2008 financial crisis. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society* 2(2):287-302
- REC Peck J and Whiteside H (2016) Financializing Detroit. *Economic Geography* 92(3): 235-268

September 24 Capitalism, Chinese-style: From the market road to the silk road

The story of China’s meteoric rise, in the space of a few decades, to the position of second-largest economy in the world and a cornerstone of the global trading system is without precedent in world history. It can be read as a process of “opening up” (and marketization) in the period since the late 1970s, but it is also important to recognize that this occurred under broadly favorable conditions in the global economic system, when trade relations were being (neo)liberalized and when Western corporations were actively extending their production networks. Today, China is articulating its own version of global integration under the name of the “belt and road” initiative. Key themes and concepts: inclusive globalization versus neoliberal globalization; belt and road initiative; Chinese variety of capitalism; global production networks.

- REC Liu W, Dunford M and B Gao (2018) A discursive construction of the Belt and Road Initiative: from neo-liberal to inclusive globalization. *Journal of Geographical Sciences* 28(9): 1199-1214
Reading 6
- REC Summers T (2016) China’s “New Silk Roads”: sub-national regions and networks of global political economy. *Third World Quarterly* 37(9): 1628-1643
- REC Sidaway JD and Woon CY (2017) Chinese Narratives on “One Belt, One Road” (一带一路) in geopolitical and imperial contexts. *Professional Geographer* 69(4): 591-603

September 26 Neoliberalism in retreat? Reassessing the market paradigm

This lecture will examine the implications of the rise of “neoliberalism” as a governing ideology since the 1970s, drawing out some of the implications for cities and regions, and for economic and social policy. If the beachheads of neoliberalism as a governing project were established Chile in the 1970s and the UK and US in the 1980s, since the 1990s neoliberal approaches had become dominant within the multilateral agencies—the so-called Washington consensus—while centrist politicians also adopted a softer version of neoliberalism known as the “Third Way.” The Wall Street crash of 2008 has been read by some as the beginning of the end for neoliberalism, even as a successor has yet to emerge. Key themes and concepts: Washington consensus; free market economics; roll-back and roll-out neoliberalism; neoliberalization; Wall Street crash; creative destruction.

- REQ Harvey D (2007) Neoliberalism as creative destruction. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 610: 21–44 [Reading 7](#)
- REC Larner W (2000) Neo-liberalism: policy, ideology, governmentality. *Studies in Political Economy* 63(1): 5-25
- REC Peck J, Theodore N and Brenner N (2010) Postneoliberalism and its malcontents. *Antipode* 41(S1): 94-116

October 1 On the hustle: Entrepreneurial urban sprawl

It has been argued that economic globalization and neoliberalizing political conditions leave cities and regions with little practical alternative but to become more externally oriented and entrepreneurial. For European and American city leaders and urban policymakers, entrepreneurial strategies based on place promotion, the attraction/retention of mobile capital, the development of “hallmark” events and “urban spectacles,” and the cultivation of a “good business climate” seem increasingly to represent the one-best-way in urban economic policy. Alternatively, critics maintain that just because this is the only game in town, it does not mean that it is sustainable, let alone desirable. Key themes and concepts: entrepreneurial urbanism; neoliberalism; Keynesianism; urban growth machines; zero-sum competition.

- REQ Lauermaann J (2018) Municipal statecraft: revisiting the geographies of the entrepreneurial city. *Progress in Human Geography* 42(2): 205-224 [Reading 8](#)
- REC Peck J (2014) Entrepreneurial urbanism: between uncommon sense and dull compulsion. *Geografiska Annaler B* 96(4): 396-401
- REC Theodore N and Peck J (2012) Framing neoliberal urbanism: translating “common sense” urban policy across the OECD zone. *European Urban and Regional Studies* 19(1): 20-41

October 3 Austerity urbanism: Governing by extreme economy

Austerity budgeting in state and local government, selectively targeting the social state, is a long-established trait of neoliberal governance, but it has been enforced with renewed vigor in the wake of the Wall Street crash of 2008. The lecture develops the argument that conditions of long-run austerity are defining a new operational matrix for urban politics. Examining some of the leading and bleeding edges of austerity’s “extreme economy” in the United States (including the recent rash of municipal bankruptcies), the lecture locates these developments in the context of mutating processes of neoliberal urbanism, commenting on some of its social and spatial consequences. Key themes and concepts: neoliberal urbanism; austerity urbanism; financialization; municipal bankruptcies; devolution.

- REQ Hinkley S (2017) Structurally adjusting: narratives of fiscal crisis in four US cities. *Urban Studies* 54(9): 2123–2138 [Reading 9](#)
- REC Donald B, Glasmeier A, Gray M and Lobao L (2014) Austerity in the city: economic crisis and urban service decline? *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society* 7(1): 3–15
- REC Peck J (2014) Pushing austerity: state failure, municipal bankruptcy, and the crises of fiscal federalism in the USA. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy & Society* 7(1): 17–44

October 10 Unreal estate: Unpacking Vancouver

Vancouver, according to received accounts, is a city that works. Indeed, its development model—which often travels under the name of *Vancouverism*—has become an object of emulation (not to say envy) for many cities around the world. Vancouver seems to have ridden most of the recent “waves” of urban development—such as those associated with the new economy, the creative city, new urbanism, globalization, and sustainability—with quite conspicuous success. But this is also Canada’s most unequal metro area; the celebrated stories of the world’s most “liveable” city jar with localized experiences of poverty and an endemic affordability crisis; a manifestly “successful” urban transition, from staples capital to cosmopolitan hub, has been accomplished in the context of relatively anemic economic performance. So what are we to make of Vancouver? Key themes and concepts: urban liberalism; neoliberal urbanism; real-estate complex; growth coalitions; Vancouverism.

- REQ Ley L (2017) Global China and the making of Vancouver’s residential property market. *International Journal of Housing Policy* 17(1): 15–34 [Reading 10](#)
- REC Peck J, Siemiatycki E and Wylie E (2014) Vancouver’s suburban involution. *City* 18(4-5): 386–415
- REC Ley D (1980) Liberal ideology and the postindustrial city. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 70(2): 238–258

October 15 Detroit—ruins of a city: Farewell to Fordism; plus Midterm prep

We will watch selections from the celebrated documentary film *Detroit: ruin of a city*, by Michael Chanan and George Steinmetz. Detroit is the birthplace of the Ford Motor Company but can also be seen as an epicenter of the socioeconomic system known as *Fordism*. Key themes and concepts: Fordism; deindustrialization; racial inequality; suburbanization; automobile economies; modernity.

There will also be a review of themes from the course in anticipation of the midterm exam.

- REQ Hackworth J (2016) Defiant neoliberalism and the danger of Detroit. *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie* 107(5): 540–551 [Reading 11](#)
- REC Peck J (2015) Framing Detroit. In MP Smith and LO Kirkpatrick (eds) *Reinventing Detroit: the politics of possibility*. Piscataway, NJ: Transaction, 145–166

October 17 Midterm exam

October 22 Roger and me: Pets or meat?

We will watch Michael Moore’s landmark documentary *Roger and me*, which Natter and Jones (1993: 140) have described as an “incisive commentary on the dismantling of the Fordist social contract in the contemporary United States, and arguably, the most important popular account of these events.” The question that Natter and Jones pose in the title of their paper, drawing a distinction between pets and

meat, serves as the film's central metaphor—a metaphor for labor, its socialization, its commodification, and its containment. Key themes and concepts: post-Fordism; deindustrialization; rustbelt; contingent work.

- REQ Natter W and Jones J P (1993) Pets or meat—class, ideology, and space in *Roger & me*. *Antipode* 25(2): 140-158 [Reading 12](#)
- REC Fasenfest D (2017) A neoliberal response to an urban crisis: emergency management in Flint, MI. *Critical Sociology* advance online
- REC Clark GL (1986) The crisis of the midwest auto industry. In Scott AJ and Storper M (eds) *Production, work, territory*. Boston: Allen and Unwin, 127-148

October 24 After Fordism: Silicon dreams

For decades now, Silicon Valley has been seen as the epitome of the new, flexible economy. This lecture will look at the origins and dynamics of Silicon Valley's spectacular pattern of industrialization, calling attention to its distinctive capacities as well as its deep contradictions. This case also illustrates the locational dynamics and geographical tendencies of the "post-Fordist" economy, following Allen Scott's influential argument that "new industrial spaces" are characterized by renewed tendencies for regional agglomeration and localized clustering. Key themes and concepts: post-Fordism; flexible accumulation; industrial networks; vertical disintegration; agglomeration; clusters.

- REQ Schoenberger E (1988) From Fordism to flexible accumulation: technology, competitive strategies, and international location. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 6(3): 245–262 [Reading 13](#)
- REC Sturgeon TJ (2003) What really goes on in Silicon Valley? Spatial clustering and dispersal in modular production networks. *Journal of Economic Geography* 3(2): 199–225
- REC Engel JS (2015) Global clusters of innovation: lessons from Silicon Valley. *California Management Review* 57(2): 36-65

October 29 Reading risk: Municipal debt and the regime of creditworthiness

Guest lecture by Mikael Omstedt: In an increasingly financialized economy, the power of credit rating agencies as gatekeepers to capital markets have become an important feature of state administration. Rating central and local governments in accordance to their creditworthiness on a scale from AAA to D, these global financial institutions have recast conventional liberal understandings of democratic politics by submitting elected officials to the constraints of privately produced policies of 'sound' fiscal practice and financial priorities. This lecture provides an introduction to these powerful corporations, highlighting their influence on American urban governance. It demonstrates how in cities that are increasingly short of cash, the often-opaque practices of the rating agencies have become central to everyday fiscal management with detrimental consequences for the influence urban residents may have on local politics. Key themes and concepts: bond rating; neoliberal urbanism; financialization; austerity; fiscal crisis

- REQ Hackworth J (2002) Local autonomy, bond-rating agencies and neoliberal urbanism in the United States. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 26(4): 707-725 [Reading 14](#)
- REC Kirkpatrick LO (2016) The new urban fiscal crisis: finance, democracy, and municipal debt. *Politics and Society* 44(1): 45-80

October 31 Moving pictures: The view from the back lot

“Hollywood” was for more than half a century the epitome of a localized industry, but since the 1970s has displayed an increasingly global reach. Alternative centers of production now flourish in various locations around the world (for example, Bollywood, Hong Kong), while Hollywood’s own subcontracting networks extend deep into Canada, Europe, and Australasia (including “Hollywood North” in Vancouver). This lecture examines the changing form and geography of the global movie industry, which has not only internationalized in a dramatic fashion since the 1970s, but which has also made its own kind of transition from Fordist mass production to flexible specialization. Locally, the movie industry can be a perplexing partner: it can be a promotional asset, but it is also subsidy sensitive; its economy combines centralized (financial) control with dispersed risk; it generates highly unequal, gig-style employment relations. Key themes and concepts: flexible specialization; vertical disintegration, market fragmentation, market control.

- REQ Scott AJ and Pope NE (2007) Hollywood, Vancouver, and the world: employment relocation and the emergence of satellite production centers in the motion-picture industry. *Environment and Planning A* 39(6): 1364-1381 **Reading 15**
- REC Coe N M (2000) On location: American capital and the local labour market in the Vancouver film industry. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 24(1): 79-94
- REC Storper M and Christopherson S (1987) Flexible specialization and regional industrial agglomerations: the case of the U.S. motion picture industry. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 77(1): 104-117

November 5 Creativity cults: Entrepreneurialism 2.0

Cities are increasingly entering into competition for “talent.” An influential argument, associated with Richard Florida, has it that cities and regions will only be successful in attracting the new elite of “creative” workers if they combine leading-edge technological capabilities with an open and tolerant “social climate.” The lecture will examine the Florida thesis and comment on its impact. A critique of the creative cities thesis will be presented, focused on the case of Amsterdam, one of many cities to adopt this cultural (re)development model. It is argued that the creativity “script” operates in the context of neoliberal urbanism, extending competitive logics to the spheres of the arts and street-level culture, while enrolling new actors in the project of individualistic and competitive urbanism. Key themes and concepts: creative class; creative urbanism; city branding, cultural gentrification.

- REQ He S (2017) The creative spatio-temporal fix: creative and cultural industries development in Shanghai, China. *Geoforum* advance online **Reading 16**
- REC Scott AJ (2006) Creative cities: conceptual issues and policy questions. *Journal of Urban Affairs* 28(1): 1-17
- REC Peck J (2012) Recreative city: Amsterdam, vehicular ideas, and the adaptive spaces of creativity policy. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 36(3): 462-485

November 7 Platform capitalism: Tracking Amazon

Technology entrepreneurs are conventionally represented as the heroes of the new economy, visionary leaders who have seen the future. In recent years, much of the hype has been focused on the rise of the “sharing economy” or what is also known, more critically, as platform capitalism. Enabled by the web and massive amounts of speculative capital, companies like Uber, Airbnb, and Amazon have come to

epitomize a mode of networked, digital capitalism, often posing a significant challenge to existing business models and systems of regulation. The lecture will explore the rise of platform capitalism including a case study of Amazon. Are platform and sharing economy business models harbingers of a new mode of capitalism? Or are they just a fad, or a bubble? Could they be all of these things? Key themes and concepts: digital economies; financialization; monopolization

- REC Kenney M and Zysman J (2016) The rise of the platform economy. *Issues in Science and Technology* 32(3): 61-69 **Reading 17**
- REC Langley P and Leyshon A (2016) Platform capitalism: the intermediation and capitalisation of digital economic circulation. *Finance and Society* 3(1): 11-31
- REC Frenken K and Schor J (2017) Putting the sharing economy into perspective. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions* 23: 3-10

November 14 The right to work and rights at work

The focus of this lecture is the changing nature of work in North American labor markets, with particular reference to the rise of contingent work and “at-will” employment relations. One of the markers of the ascendancy of flexible accumulation has been the concomitant rise of contingent or “non-standard” forms of work, especially since the 1980s. Deindustrialization and shift away from the Fordist social contract has also be associated with deunionization of the workforce, both at the enterprise level and in terms of prevailing regulatory norms. A case study of the “right to work” movement in the United States will be presented. Key themes and concepts: deunionization; contingent work; labor-market insecurity; gig economy.

- REQ Theodore N (2016) Worlds of work: changing landscapes of production and the new geographies of opportunity. *Geography Compass* 10(4): 179–189 **Reading 18**
- REC Peck J (2016) The right to work, and the right at work. *Economic Geography* 92(1): 4-30
- REC Peet R (1983) Relations of production and the relocation of United States manufacturing industry since 1960. *Economic Geography* 59(2): 112–143

November 19 Workfare states: A hand up, not a hand out

It is now widely held that the nation state is being “hollowed out” in the sense that its powers are moving upwards (to supranational institutions like the IMF and the World Bank) and downwards (to local and regional institutions). Indeed, some writers have been claiming that the era of sovereign national governments is coming to an end, while others insist that accounts of the death of the nation state have been exaggerated. The lecture will focus on the implications of nation-state restructuring for regions, asking whether hollowing out is likely to lead to a resurgence in the power and political-economic capacity of regions, or another round of buck-passing, “downloading,” and scapegoating. It will explore the example of welfare reform and the associated ascendancy of “workfare” policies in this context. Workfare, which mandates work participation for welfare recipients, can be seen as a complex case of “hollowing out,” for the dominant critique of welfare states is intricately connected to the move away from “big government” and federal interventionism, while workfare strategies are nearly always delivered through locally-based, market-oriented systems. The lecture will also consider alternatives to workfare and neoliberal labor regulation. Key themes and concepts: hollowing out; rescaling; roll-out neoliberalism; workfare; welfare dependency.

- REQ Wacquant L (2010) Crafting the neoliberal state: workfare, prisonfare, and social insecurity. *Sociological Forum* 25(2): 197–220 [Reading 19](#)
- REC Peck J (2002) Political economies of scale: fast policy, interscalar relations, and neoliberal workfare. *Economic Geography* 78(3): 331–360
- REC Lightman E, Mitchell A and Herd D (2005) Workfare in Toronto: more of the same? *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* 32(4): 65–76

November 21 Fighting poverty on a global scale: Fast-policy programming for the poor

Conditional cash transfer programs (which “condition” modest cash-welfare payments on family circumstances and appropriate behaviors) first emerged in Latin America in the second half of the 1990s; they have since spread to scores of countries and have also been the focus of experimentation in parts of the Global North. Some see CCTs as the basis for a 21st Century alternative to the welfare state, others as the internationalization of the neoliberal workfare model; others still as a pathway to the establishment of citizens’ or basic income approaches. The lecture will examine the rise, spread, and meaning of the CCT wave, drawing on examples from Latin America and elsewhere. Key themes and concepts: conditional welfare; basic income; workfare; neoliberalization; fast policy.

- REQ Ballard R (2013) Geographies of development II: cash transfers and the reinvention of development for the poor. *Progress in Human Geography* 37(6): 811–821 [Reading 20](#)
- REC Garmany J (2016) Neoliberalism, governance, and the geographies of conditional cash transfers. *Political Geography* 50: 61–70
- REC Peck J (2011) Global policy models, globalizing poverty management: international convergence or fast-policy integration? *Geography Compass* 5(4): 165–181

November 26 Washington consensus: The World Bank does economic geography

The World Bank’s annual *World Development Report* is the organization’s signature document, and the principal indicator of its shifting strategic priorities. Previous *WDR*’s have focused on themes like good governance (1997), attacking poverty (2001), sustainable development (2003), and equity and development (2006). The 2009 report focused on “reshaping economic geography,” proposing the controversial embrace of spatially unequal growth as a necessary feature of dynamic economic development: “economic growth will be unbalanced,” the report stated, “To try to spread it out is to discourage it—to fight prosperity, not poverty.” The lecture will provide a critical reading of the *WDR* and its presuppositions, exploring its consequences for economic discourse and public policy. Key themes and concepts: global governance; unbalanced growth; regulatory imaginaries; structural adjustment; social capital; post-Washington consensus.

- REQ Gough V, Fold N, Bebbington A, Bryceson DF, Rigg J, Agergaard J and Tacoli C (2009) The World Development Report 2009 “reshapes economic geography”: geographical reflections. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 34(2): 128–136 [Reading 21](#)
- REC Peck J and Sheppard E (2010) Worlds apart? Engaging with the *World Development Report 2009: reshaping economic geography*. *Economic Geography* 86(4): 331–340
- REC Harvey D (2009) Reshaping economic geography: the World Development Report 2009. *Development and Change* 40(6): 1269–1277

November 28 Trumponomics? New (and old) economic politics

The election of Donald J Trump to the presidency of the United States has been widely interpreted as a threshold moment, or game-changing event, by supporters and opponents alike. Campaigning as a populist, he appealed to those “left behind” by the growth model of neoliberal globalization, as well as to those “left out” of bicoastal, elite, and “globalist” forms of (cultural) politics. The question of whether Trump voters did, or did not, vote against their own economic interests, or whether the Democratic Party would have served those interests better, remains a deeply controversial and still somewhat open one, as the material and ideological course of “Trumponomics” begins to take shape. The lecture will offer an assessment of Trumponomics, placing in this in the context of realignments in conservative and mainstream policy paradigms since the 1980s. Key themes and concepts: economic discourse; neoliberalization; free trade; small state ideology; deregulation; third way; fourth way.

- REQ Morgan J (2017) Trumponomics: everything to fear including fear itself? In E Fullbrook and J Morgan (eds) *Trumponomics*. Bristol: World Economics Association Books, 246-272 **Reading 22**
- REC Leonhardt D (2008) Obamanomics. *New York Times Magazine* August 24
- REC Ruccio D F (2017) Class and Trumponomics. In E Fullbrook and J Morgan (eds) *Trumponomics*. Bristol: World Economics Association Books, 62-85