



PSCI/PECO 5502W/SOCI 5505W

Selected Issues in Political Economy II

“Capitalism(s), Culture, and Heterogeneity”

The seminar juxtaposes the work on the logic of capitalism and its global reach with work on difference and hybridity as constitutive of capitalism. The course begins with David Harvey's Marxist accounts of capitalism as a structured but contradictory whole and neo- or post-marxist work on capitalism as a world systems and globalization as its latest stage. Though helpful in many respects, this work has been challenged as Eurocentric and insufficiently attentive to the diversity of capitalism. We will examine the sociological vocabularies of embeddedness and performance as avenues to capture the cultural elements of capitalism and the postcolonial ideas of multiple histories, translation, and uneven and combined development as possible resources for understanding the diverse impacts and practice of capitalism across space and time. Work by Gidwani and Tsing give us important exemplars of the possibilities of capturing capitalism in its necessarily localized universality. The seminar will look at two themes in greater detail: the operation of finance capital in our century and the structure of global production and logistics. In each case, we will move between scholarship that looks at the logic of broad structures and processes and work that hones in on the more embedded and spatially localized performance of finance and supply chains. In general, the course works against the bifurcation of economy and culture, constitutive not only of conventional economics, but also much of political economy.

Instructor: David Blaney

Schedule: January to April 2017

Time: Please consult Carleton Central