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## Problems and Approaches in Comparative Political Economy GV517 LT 2017

Lent Term 2017  
 Thursdays, 2-5, in PAR 2.03

This half-unit reading seminar will survey a set of major topics in the Comparative Political Economy (CPE) of advanced capitalist and developing countries. We will consider different analytic strategies for conceptualizing variation in national economic structure, explaining change in economic structure, and understanding the political causes and effects thereof. The seminar is designed for PhD students (research students) across the School wanting to familiarize themselves with some of the major themes, controversies, and research frontiers in CPE. Our goal is to nurture innovation in doctoral-level CPE research at the LSE.

The seminar will be run by Catherine Boone and David Soskice. Boone's main work is on the CPE of African economies and the developing world more generally, while Soskice works on the CPE of the advanced world.

We have two objectives in this course. CPE research has changed very substantially over the last two decades or so, reflecting rapid and radical changes in how economies function, whether in the advanced world or the late- or non-developing world. CPE teaching has changed more slowly.

Our first objective is to develop a course focused on understanding how the contemporary world works. While situating our analyses in the context of a changing global economy, our focus will be on describing and explaining transformation at the level of nation states. Drivers of change can be found in the locus and organization of political power, in technological change, and/or in the dynamics of capital. Our seminar will explore both productive connections and tensions that emerge across explanatory models. We are particularly interested in how/why/to what extent the global financial crisis of 2008 has confirmed, undermined, or transformed "varieties of capitalism" and how CPE scholars should understand their similarities, differences, and dynamics. And how do these problems, concepts, theories and empirical categories travel to the global South?

Course materials are organized around three major topic areas: accumulation, redistribution, and domestic regimes. A great many questions fit into these areas and our idea is that the seminars should enable students to raise issues related to their research.

To give an idea of more detailed questions:

rethinking models of growth and development: changing varieties of capitalism and developmentalism under conditions of financialisation, globalisation, and post-Bretton Woods global regulatory regimes

states, nation states, and capitalism: citizenship regimes, insiderism and outsiderism, inequality, poverty, predistribution and redistribution, political system accountability and political choices; predatory, rentier, state-building, and capitalist states and regimes

the political underwriting of changing asset-ownership and technological regimes: global IPR regimes, knowledge, higher education, deskilling, urban skill clusters/agglomerations, innovation

and its asymmetric geographic distribution across the advanced and developing world, MNEs, privatization and de-nationalization, commodification, accumulation by dispossession, capital mobility

structure and change in labor markets, mobility, labor market participation: insiderism and outsiderism; (lumpen)proletarianization, informalism, flexibilization, exclusion; careers, women, and implications for the political expression of socio-economic cleavage (eg. political parties' re-gendering or regionalization; disenfranchisement)

macroeconomics in open economies, tax regimes and financial systems, constrained and asymmetric monetary and fiscal policy; international debt regimes; the Eurozone; financial crisis/crises.]

A second objective is to enhance the role of the LSE as a multi- and inter-disciplinary institution for doctoral students. The seminar is set up within the framework of the LSE PhD Academy. We are gearing our approach to CPE to teach it – not as a sub-discipline of political science but – as a core tool for doctoral students across the social sciences, from (in LSE terms) sociology and social policy to political science and international relations, development, European studies, gender and law, as well as economics and economic history.

#### Participation and Assessment

-- Each seminar member will kick-off the discussion of the reading during one week of the seminar (10 min. presentation, approx). You may focus on one reading (eg. book ch. or article) and discuss how it relates to other readings for that week, and to readings for earlier weeks.

-- We will also reserve the last 45 min. of each seminar meeting, as well as the two last seminar meetings of the term, for student presentations of dissertation proposals or first chapters. Please plan to make a 20 presentation of your work, leaving the rest of the time for group discussion.

-- Assessment will be based on coursework (100%) in the LT. Each student will submit a 20-25 page (double spaced, approx. 5000 words) research paper, dissertation proposal, or draft dissertation chapter as the basis of assessment for this course.

#### BOOKS for 2017

Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee, *Race Against the Machine*, Lexington, MA: Digital Frontier Press, 2011

Pablo Beramendi, *The Political Economy of Inequality: Regions and Redistribution* (Cambridge, 2012).

Nancy Bermeo and Jonas Pontussen, eds., *Coping with Crisis: Government Reactions to the Great Recession* (NY: Russell Sage, 2012), esp. Ch. 1, 2, 6, 7, 12.

Wolfgang Streek, *How Will Capitalism End?* (Penguin Random House/ Verso 2016).  
or NLR, 87, May-June 2014

Navroz K. Dubash and Bronwyn Morgan, eds. *The Rise of the Regulatory State of the South: Infrastructure and Development in Emerging Economies* (Oxford 2013).

Adnan Naseemullah, *Development After Statism: Industrial Firms and the Political Economy of South Asia* (CUP, forthcoming 2017).

Katherine J. Cramer, *The Politics of Resentment: Rural Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker* (Chicago, 2016).

## Course Outline and Readings

Th., Jan 12. Week 1. Introduction and Overview

Nancy Bermeo and Jonas Pontussen, "Coping with Crisis: An Introduction," in Nancy Bermeo and Jonas Pontussen, eds., *Coping with Crisis: Government Reactions to the Great Recession* (NY: Russell Sage, 2012), pp. 1-32

Recommended:

Hall and Soskice, Introduction to *Varieties of Capitalism* (2001), Preface and Ch. 1

Ellen Meiksins Wood, "Unhappy Families: Global Capitalism in a World of Nation-States," *Monthly Review*, 51/3 (1999).

Bates, Robert H. (2011) "The New Institutionalism: The work of Douglass North" in Bates RH, Sened I, Galiani, S. *Institutions, Economic Growth, and Property Rights: The Legacy of Douglass North*. Cambridge University Press; 2014.

Rodden, Jonathan, "Back to the Future: Endogenous Institutions and Comparative Politics," in Mark I. Lichbach and Alan S. Zuckerman, eds. *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009), pp. 333-357. [ms. version posted on LSE Moodle]

Torben Iversen and David Soskice, "Modern Capitalism and the Advanced Nation State: Understanding the Causes of the Crisis," in Bermeo and Pontussen, eds., *Coping with Crisis* (NY: Russell Sage, 2012), pp. 35-64.

Wolfgang Streek, "Institutions in History: Bringing Capitalism back in," MPIfG Discussion Paper 09/8, November 2009.

Th, Jan 19. Week 2. VoCs in Crisis

According to these readings, in the post-2008 world, what can we retain from "varieties of capitalism" approaches, and what must be modified or discarded? What do "models of constrained partisanship" buy us in today's world? Do these approaches travel outside the core OECD countries?

Nancy Bermeo and Jonas Pontussen, "Coping with Crisis: An Introduction," in Nancy Bermeo and Jonas Pontussen, eds., *Coping with Crisis: Government Reactions to the Great Recession* (NY: Russell Sage, 2012), pp. 1-32.

Beramendi, Hausermann, Kitchelt, and Kriesi, eds., *The politics of Advanced Capitalism*, CUP 2015, Ch. 1: "Introduction: The Politics of Advanced Capitalism." Avail. via LSE library as an e-book.

Erik Brynjolfsson, Andrew McAfee, Michael Spence, "New World Order," *Foreign Affairs* 93/4 July/Aug 2014

Jan-Werner Müller, "The Party's Over: [Review of Peter Mair's] *Ruling the Void: The Hollowing of Western Democracy*, Verso, June 2013," LRB, 36/10, 22 May 2014.

Recommended:

Stefanie Walter, *Financial Crises and the Politics of Macroeconomic Adjustments* (Cambridge 2013).

Robert Gordon, *The Rise and Decline of American Growth: The US Standard of Living Since the Civil War* (PUP 2016)

Brynjolfsson, McAfee, Spence, "New World Order," *Foreign Affairs* 93/4 July/Aug 2014

Jonathan Hopkin, "The Politics of Piketty," *Br. J. of Sociology* 65/4 (December) 2014.

Ian Bruff, "What about the Elephant in the Room? Varieties of Capitalism, Varieties in Capitalism," *New Political Economy*, 16,4 (2014): 481-500.

Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee, *Race Against the Machine*, Lexington, MA: Digital Frontier Press, 2011

Nolan McCarty, Ch. 7. The Politics of Pop: The US Response to the Financial Crisis and the Great Recession," in Bermeo and Pontussen, eds., *Coping with Crisis* (NY: Russell Sage, 2012), pp. 201-232

### Theme I: Redistribution

Th., Jan. 26. Week 3

David Rueda, "The West European Welfare States in Time of Crisis," in Bermeo and Pontussen, eds., *Coping with Crisis*, 2012, pp. 361-398

Iversen, Torben, and David Soskice, "Electoral Institutions and the Politics of Coalitions: Why Some Democracies Redistribute More Than Others," *American Political Science Review* 100:2 (2006):165-181.

Mair, Peter. "Ruling the Void: *The Hollowing of Western Democracy*, NLR 42 (Nov.-Dec. 2006).

Jan-Werner Müller, "The Party's Over: [Review of] *Ruling the Void: The Hollowing of Western Democracy*, Verso, June 2013," LRB, 36/10, 22 May 2014.

Younge, Gary. "How Trump Took Middle America: Part 10 in a 10 Part Series," *The Guardian*, \_\_\_ Nov. 2016. <https://www.theguardian.com/membership/2016/nov/16/how-trump-took-middletown-muncie-election>

Recommended:

Arlie Russell Hochschild, *Strangers in their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* ( New York: New Press, 2016)

Kimberly Morgan, "Path Shifting of the Welfare State: Electoral Competition and the Expansion of Work-Family Policies in Western Europe", *World Politics*, Jan 2013

Ben Ansell, *From the Ballot to the Blackboard: The Redistributive Political Economy of Education Reform*, Cambridge, 2014

David Rueda, *Social Democracy Inside Out: Partisanship and Labor Market Policy in Industrialized Democracies* (OUP 2007. Avail. via LSE library as an e-book.

David Soskice, "American Exceptionalism in CPE," in Clair Brown et al, *Labor in the Era of Globalization* (CUP, 2010).

David Rueda, "Insider-Outsider Politics in Industrialized Democracies: The Challenge to Social Democratic Parties." *American Political Science Review* 99(1) (2005), 61-74.

Th., Feb. 2. Week 4. Mobility/ Immobility in Shaping Political Preferences and Conflict: Territorial Strategies

Pablo Beramendi, *The Political Geography of Inequality: Regions and Redistribution*, CUP 2104. Avail. via LSE library as an e-book

Beramendi, Pablo. 2007. "Inequality and the Territorial Fragmentation of Solidarity," *International Organization* 61 (Fall): 783-820.

Klaus Armingeon and Lucio Baccaro, "The Sorrows of Young Euro The Sovereign Debt Crises of Ireland and S. Europe," in Bermeo and Pontussen, eds., *Coping with Crisis*, 2012). 162-198.

Jean Paul Azam, "The Political Geography of Redistribution," in Benno Ndulu et al., *The PE of Economic Growth in Africa, 1960-2000* (Cambridge U. Press, 2008), pp. 225-248,

Recommended:

Michael J. Hiscox, *International Trade and Political Conflict: Commerce, Coalitions, and Mobility* (Princeton 2002). Avail. at LSE library in Course collection books.

Mark Capelovich, Jeffrey Frieden, and Stefanie Walter, eds., Special Issue on the Political Economy of the Euro Crisis, *Comparative Political Studies* 49/7, 2016

Louise Tiffin, Questioning Borders: Social Movements, Political Parties, and the Creation of New States in India, *Pacific Affairs*, 84/1 (March 2011): 67-87.

Peter Vandergeest and Nancy Peluso, Territorialization and State Power in Thailand, *Theory and Society*, 24, 3 (June 1995): 385-426.

Torben Iversen and David Soskice, "A structural-institutional explanation of the Eurozone crisis," Presented at the PE Workshop at the LSE, 3 June 2013. PDF avail.

Hanspeter Kriesi, "Rejoinder to Liesbet Hooghe and Gary Marks, 'A Postfunctional Theory of European Integration: From Permissive Consensus to Constraining Dissensus,'" *British J. of Political Science*, 39/1 (2009): 221-4. See also Hooghe and Marks in *BJPS*, 2009.

## Theme II. Accumulation

Th, Feb.9. Week 5. Innovation and Growth or Stagnation in the Advanced Economies

VoxEU.org, *Secular Stagnation: Facts, Causes and Cures* CEPR 2014 (read short chaps by Summers, Eichengreen, Krugman, Gordon, Glaeser, Mokyr, Crafts)

Rodrik, Dani. "Premature deindustrialisation in the developing world.," CEPR's Policy blog, 12 Feb. 2015.

Wolfgang Streek, *How Will Capitalism End?* Penguin Random House/ Verso 2016 (or NLR, 87, May-June 2014).

John Bellamy Foster and Douglas Yates, "Piketty and the Crisis of Neoclassical Economics," *Monthly Review*, 66/6 (November 2014).

Brynjolfsson & McAfee, *The Second Machine Age*, 2014 (Norton)

Recommended:

Bernstein, Henry (2010) 'Globalisation, neoliberalism, labour, with reference to South Africa.' In: Saad Filho, Alfredo and Yalman, G., (eds.), *Transitions to Neoliberalism in Middle-Income Countries: Policy Dilemmas, Economic Crises, Mass Resistance*. London: Routledge. (LSE HC59.7 E11)

Th., Feb. 16. Week 6. READING WEEK NO MEETING

Th, Feb. 23. Week 7. Late Capitalism

Ben Ross Schneider, *Hierarchical Capitalism in Latin America* (CUP, 2013). Avail. via LSE library as an e-book

Adam Fishwick, "Beyond and Beneath the hierarchical market economy: Global production and working-class conflict in Argentina's automobile industry, *Capital and Class*, 31/1 (Feb. 2014), p. 115.

Morgan and Dubash, eds. *The Rise of the Regulatory State of the South: Infrastructure and Development in Emerging Economies* (Oxford U. Press, 2014). See Alison Post on *Europe models vs. developing country realities*.

Saad Filho, Alfredo and Yalman, G., (eds.), *Transitions to Neoliberalism in Middle-Income Countries: Policy Dilemmas, Economic Crises, Mass Resistance*. London: Routledge. (LSE HC59.7 E11)

Malcom Fairbrother, Economists, Capitalists, and the Making of Globalization: North American Free Trade in Comparative-Historical Perspective," *AJS*, 119/5 (March 2014) 1324-79.

Recommended:

Dorothee Bohle and Bela Gresovits, *Capitalist Diversity on Europe's Periphery* (Cornell 2013).

Richard F. Doner, *The Politics of Uneven Development: Thailand's Economic Growth in Comparative Perspective* (Cambridge U. Press, 2009). avail. via LSE library as an e-book.

Catherine Boone, *Property and Political Order in Africa: Land Rights and the Structure of Politics* (CUP, 2014). Avail via LSE library as an e-book.

Bernstein, Henry (2010) 'Globalisation, neoliberalism, labour, with reference to South Africa.' In: Saad Filho, Alfredo and Yalman, G., (eds.), *Transitions to Neoliberalism in Middle-Income Countries: Policy Dilemmas, Economic Crises, Mass Resistance*. London: Routledge. (LSE HC59.7 E11)

Th., March 2. Week 8. Beyond Capitalism

Harvey, D. "The New Imperialism: Accumulation by Dispossession," *SR*, 2004: 63-87

Ali Kadri, *Arab Development Denied: Dynamics of Accumulation by Wars of Encroachment* (Anthem 2014).

Ian Bremmer, "State Capitalism Comes of Age," *Foreign Affairs* 2009

Konstantin Sonin, "Why the rich may favor poor protection of property rights," *J. of Comparative Economics*, 31 (2003): 715-731

Recommended:

Andreas Nölke and Simone Claar, "Varieties of capitalism in emerging economies," *Transformation: Critical Perspectives on Southern Africa*, 81/82, 2013. pp. 33-54.

Keith Hart and Vishnu Padayachee. 2013. "The history of South African capitalism in national and global perspective," *Transformation* 81/82: 55-85.

G. Arrighi, "The African Crisis: World Systemic and Regional Aspects," *New Left Review* 15 1 (May-June), 2002: 5-36.

Michael Watts, 2012. "A Tale of Two Gulfs: Life, Death and Dispossession along Two Oil Frontiers [Niger Delta, Louisiana-Gulf of Mexico]," *American Quarterly*, 64:3: 437-467.

### Theme III. Domestic Regimes

Th., March 9. Week 9. Postindustrial Social Policy

Huber and Stevens, "Postindustrial Social Policy," in Beramendi et al, eds., *The Politics of Advanced Capitalism*, CUP 2015. ). Avail. via LSE library as an e-book.

Noah Gordon, "The Conservative Case of a Guaranteed Basic Income Grant," *The Atlantic*, 6 August 2014.

Huang, Xian. Four Worlds of Welfare: Understanding Subnational Variation in Chinese Social Health Insurance," *The China Quarterly*, Vol. 222 (June) 2015: 449-474.

Andrew Glyn, *Capitalism Unleashed: Finance Globalization and Welfare* (Oxford U. Press, 2006, Preface and Ch 1. Avail. at LSE library in Course collection books.

Recommended:

Cammett and McLean, eds., *The Politics of Nonstate Social Welfare Provision in the Global South* (Cornell 2014).

Thandika Mkandawire, ed. *Social Policy in a Development Context* (UNRISD-Palgrave, 2005). Avail on-line at LSE.

James Ferguson, *Give a Man a Fish: Reflections on the New Politics of Distribution* (Duke U. Press, 2015). Avail. via LSE library as an e-book.

Louise Haagh (2013) 'The Citizens' Income and Democratization in Latin America – A Multi-Institutional Perspective' in Rubén Lo Vuolo (Ed.) *Citizen's Income and Welfare Regimes in Latin America. From Cash Transfers to Rights*, Exploring the Basic Income Guarantee Series, Basingstoke and New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Nicola Lacey and David Soskice, "Crime, Punishment, and Segregation in the United States," The paradox of local democracy," *Punishment and Society*, 17/4 (2015): 454-481.

Huber and Stephens, "State Economic and Social Policy in Global Capitalism," in Janoski, Thomas et al. *Handbook of Political Sociology*, CUP, 2006: 607-629.

Th., March 16. Week 10  
Presentations

Th., March 23. Week 11  
Presentations