Neither Takers Nor Makers: The Big-4 Auditing Firms As Regulatory Intermediaries
Lior Herman | Accounting History

"...Regulatory intermediaries, as exemplified in the case of the Big-4, continuously challenge the primacy of the state, and the division of labor and balance of power between regulatory actors. Regulatory entrepreneurship and activism...have led to the ascension of the Big-4 to unprecedented regulatory and market powers."

The Citizen, the Baker, and the Candlestick Maker: What Democrats Can Learn From the Arts and Crafts and Slow Food Movements
Nora Hanagan | American Political Thought

"In many ways, the contemporary Slow Food movement is the heir to the early twentieth-century Arts and Crafts movement. Both movements believe that democratic societies should restructure their economic systems so as to ensure that workers and consumers are able to experience pleasure."

An Intellectual History of Mass Incarceration
Alice Ristroph | Boston College Law Review

"This article asks, as Americans built the carceral state, what were we thinking?...This set of ideas, which I call criminal law exceptionalism, has helped make mass incarceration possible and may now impede efforts to reduce the scope of criminal law..."

The Art of Straying: Benjamin on Distraction and the Informal Education of the City
Tyson E. Lewis | Educational Theory

"...Benjamin argues that cities are not only places of negative forms of distraction (as mere diversions), but also places for cultivating productive distraction in the form of an open and alert attunement to new ways of experiencing and perceiving the relationship between world and self. Cities, for Benjamin, become educational spaces that teach lessons in a distracted form of life..."

Miami Beach Forever? Urbanism in the Back Loop
Stephanie Wakefield | Geoforum

"...Miami Beach's resilience experiments represent an emergent paradigm of 'back loop urbanism,' a form of urban governance devised amidst dislocation, made up of distinct experiments that fold in local trajectories in unique and sometimes conflicting ways."

Networks Before the Internet
Grant Bollmer | JCMS: Journal of Cinema and Media Studies

"The usual tales of the internet’s development tend to sideline particular networks that shaped how the internet came to be in countries other than the United States. Narratives that privilege ARPANET inevitably position the United States—its military, universities, and corporations—as the locus of digitally networked power..."

The Failure of Dilma Rousseff’s Developmentalist Experiment: A Class Analysis
André Singer | Latin American Perspectives

"With the intention of accelerating the pace of Lulism, Rousseff actively opposed neoliberalism, but state intervention alienated the industrialists even though, paradoxically, it aimed to favor them. On a small scale, Rousseff’s developmentalist experiment may have followed in the footsteps that led to the 1964 military coup."
Donald Trump Meets Carl Schmitt
William E. Scheuerman | Philosophy & Social Criticism

"By revisiting late-Weimar debates between Carl Schmitt and two left-wing critics, Otto Kirchheimer and Franz L Neumann, we can shed light on the surprising alliance of populist politics with key tenets of economic liberalism, an alliance that vividly manifests itself in the political figure and retrograde policies of Donald Trump."

Food Democracy As 'Radical' Food Sovereignty: Agrarian Democracy and Counter-Hegemonic Resistance To the Neo-Imperial Food Regime
Mark Tilzey | Politics and Governance

"This article argues that a thoroughgoing and meaningful food democracy should entail something closely akin to 'radical' food sovereignty, a political programme which confronts the key social relational bases of capitalism...If food sovereignty is to be realized, this movement needs to address 'economic' unfreedom..."

I'll Be Your Mixtape: Lou Reed, Andy Warhol, and the Queer Intimacies of Cassettes
Judith A. Peraino | The Journal of Musicology

"This article tells the story of a cassette tape housed in the Andy Warhol Museum Archives, a set of never-released (and rarely heard) songs by Lou Reed, and the tape's intended audience: Andy Warhol."

BOOKS

Contemporary Capitalism, Crisis, and the Politics of Fiction: Literature Beyond Fordism
Roberto del Valle Alcalá | Routledge

"The book investigates how late-twentieth and twenty-first-century Anglophone fiction has imagined, interpreted, and in most cases resisted, the collapse of the socio-economic structures built after the Second World War and their replacement with a presumably immaterial order of finance-led economic development."

Globalization and the Neoliberal Schoolhouse. Education in a World of Trouble
John L. Lyons | Brill

"The growing privatization of schools around the world has resulted in fundamental changes regarding the ways in which local systems of education are imagined and re-constructed."

The Powers of Sound and Song in Early Modern Paris
Nicholas Hammond | Penn State University Press

"The long and spectacular reign of Louis XIV of France is typically described in overwhelmingly visual terms. This book takes a sonic approach to this remarkable age, opening our ears to the myriad ways in which sound revealed the complex acoustic dimensions of class, politics, and sexuality in seventeenth-century Paris."

JOURNALISM & ESSAYS

Notes on the Concept of Rentier Capitalism
Angela Mitropoulos | Sometim3s

"The concept of rent is a way of distinguishing presumably 'bad' rent from 'good' profit. It is a reactionary lament about the decline and corruption of a distinctive understanding of law and order-not a Marxist critique of capitalism or, for that matter, imperialism."

Millennial Adorno
Mike Watson | Commune Magazine

"The grittier extremes of LeftTube/BreadTube reflect Adorno's principal aim of using the irrationality of a radically abstract culture to counter the controlling tendencies of both totalitarianism and US capitalism. Its success depends on millennials keeping up the Adornian oath to continue producing art, come what may."
Rethinking Anti-Colonial Activism Through London’s Surveillance Material
Gil Shohat | Imperial Global Exeter
“The examples presented [in this article] point at the chances inherent in the systematic analysis of surveillance material compiled by colonial and imperial powers on the hunt for potential and actual subversive activists for a spatially informed history of anti-colonial activism.”

REPORTS, DISSERTATIONS, & MISCELLANEOUS

Game of Thrones or Game of Class Struggle? Revisiting the Demise of Feudalism and the Dobb-Sweezy Debate
Thomas E. Lambert | University of Louisville
“In 1947, the Marxist economist Maurice Dobb published a book that attempted to outline and explain how the feudalistic economic system of medieval times gave way to capitalism. This paper attempts to do some empirical testing of these hypotheses using data from England from the middle ages up to the late nineteenth century.”

(Not) Everything Is a Commodity. The Finance Takover of the Tourism Sector
Observatori del Deute en la Globalització
“The presentation of Barcelona to the world as a new global city during the 1992 Olympic Games meant, in fact, the incorporation of the city into global markets...”

Algorithms and Competition
Bundeskartellamt
“There is little doubt that digitalisation is revolutionising many sectors of our economies. Nevertheless, debate has arisen on whether and to what extent algorithms might have detrimental effects on the competitive functioning of markets.”

VIDEOS

Algorithmic Cruelty and the Hidden Costs of Ghost Work
Mary Gray | Institute for Advanced Study
“This video unveils how the services we use from companies like Amazon, Google, Microsoft, and Uber can only function smoothly thanks to the judgment and experience of a vast human labor force that is kept deliberately concealed.”

The End of Left and Right?
Rory Stewart, Chantal Mouffe, et al | The Institute of Art and Ideas
“As Brexit made clear, the traditional political divide of left and right may no longer be relevant or useful. What then are the new political divides? [This panel] debates the end of left and right.”

China’s New Era in Techno-Governance
Jude Blanchette, Christina Larson | Center for Strategic & International Studies
“Technology was once viewed as a liberating tool for individuals living under authoritarian regimes, yet today, illiberal governments around the world are developing, acquiring, and utilizing technologies to strengthen political control over their population.”

PODCASTS

Globalization, Neoliberalism, and Popular Responses
Alexander Scott | SAGE Political Science and International Relations
“In this episode of the Latin American Perspectives podcast, Alexander Scott, Outreach Coordinator for Latin American Perspectives, Inc., discusses the November 2019 issue, Neoliberalism and the Challenges Facing Popular Sectors with Editor Steve Ellner.”

Representation VS Reality - What Is Postmodernism?
Sean Griffiths | Design Talks
“This episode covers the life and career of renowned architect Sean Griffiths, his past and current design principles including the journey of FAT Architecture, and the philosophy of Indeterminate Design.”
"The European Green Deal will be a defining feature of Von der Leyen’s incoming Commission. But will carbon border taxes and single carbon prices be enough to make Europe climate-neutral by 2050?"