

The Syllabus

The Progressive #36

June 05 - June 12, 2020

Academic

Social Identity and Economic Policy

Moses Shayo | Annual Review of Economics

"...individuals associate themselves—or identify—with groups in two fundamental ways: ingroup bias and conformity to group norms...the choice of identity can be captured by a simple trade-off between gains from group status and costs to distance from the group...[In this way,] changes in the economic environment can produce shifts in identification patterns that feed into trade policy."

The 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic and Global Value Chains

Roger Strange | Journal of Industrial and Business Economics

"...the configuration of firms' global value chains (GVCs) once the pandemic has been brought under control...[could be informed by] alternative location strategies (international diversification vs reshoring)...[as well as] different governance arrangements (internalization vs externalization) for GVC activities. The possibility of fire-sale foreign direct investment is [also] raised..."

The Politics of Climate Change in a Neo-Developmental State: the Case of South Korea

Thomas Kalinowski | International Political Science Review

"South Korea is the seventh largest emitter of CO₂...At the same time, the country has been very ambitious in implementing industrial policies promoting green technologies...this discrepancy...can be understood in the context of Korea's legacy as a developmental state characterized by strong corporatist links between state and business as well as a weak civil society."

Federalism and Cooperation for Community Currencies: Some Ideas on the Need for Intercommunity Clearing Systems

Louis-Maxime Joly | The Japanese Political Economy

"...financially connecting community currencies (CCs) outside the standard monetary system...have been constrained by ideas and the rules of the game in the "normal" economic world...Connecting communities multilaterally could alleviate issues linked to access to resources, liquidity and also push back debt accumulation for both independent CCs and CCs linked to national currencies."

Documenting the Financialisation of the Pharmaceutical Industry

Joan Busfield | Social Science & Medicine

"...the growing financialisation of the pharmaceutical industry from the beginning of the 1980s onwards...[saw] changing patterns of shareholder ownership...the use of share buybacks, the increase in the outsourcing of manufacturing...along with the growing use of mergers and acquisitions...[all with] consequences for the industry's task of developing and manufacturing medicines that enhance population health."

Beyond the Stereotype: Restating the Relevance of the Dependency Research Programme

Ingrid H. Kvangraven | Development and Change

"...understanding contemporary development challenges...[requires] a new definition of dependency theory as a research programme...[with four] core tenets...a global historical approach; theorizing of the polarizing tendencies of global capitalism; a focus on structures of production; and a focus on the specific constraints faced by peripheral economies...[allowing us] to appreciate the persistence of uneven development..."

Beyond Work Intensification: the Contradictions and Ironies of the Changing Nature of 'Unskilled' Work in a Context of Austerity and Organisational Change

Jo McBride, Miguel M. Lucio | Capital & Class

"...unskilled work...has, ironically, become more complex and challenging in some cases due to economic and political developments...through four dimensions – the changing spatial isolation of work; the growing context of violence due to the changing operational features of the job; the ongoing impact of state led austerity policies and limited resources, and the ongoing role of social stigma."

Books

A History of the Roles and Responsibilities of Social Workers: from the Poor Laws to the Present Day

Mike Burt | Routledge

"About the way in which the identification of particular social problems at the end of the nineteenth century led to the emergence of a wide range of separate occupational groups and voluntary workers, which were sometimes, but increasingly, referred to as social workers."

Bank Notes and Shinplasters: the Rage for Paper Money in the Early Republic

Joshua R. Greenberg | University of Pennsylvania Press

"This book shows how ordinary Americans accumulated and wielded the financial knowledge required to navigate interpersonal bank note transactions."

Cleft Capitalism: the Social Origins of Failed Market Making in Egypt

Amr Adly | Stanford University Press

"This book uncovers both an institutional explanation for Egypt's failed market making, and sheds light on the key factors of arrested economic development across the Global South."

Journalism & Essays

Worker Surveillance Is on the Rise, and Has its Roots in Centuries of Racism

Esperanza Fonseca | Truthout

"Companies build off of internalized racial prejudices to prevent workers from taking collective action."

Unboxing the Hidden Labor of Saving Lives and Saving Capitalism

Krystian Woznicki | Mediapart

"To maintain the Western phantasm that 'capitalism is an intelligent computer,' the hidden labor of those whose hands silently uphold it is framed as heroic."

Termite Capitalism: How Private Equity Is Undermining the Economy

Sheila Smith | openDemocracy

"From care homes to our high streets, private equity is corroding the foundations of society from within. It must be stopped before it's too late."

Reports, Dissertations, & Miscellaneous

Are Trade Unions Suitable for Organizations in the 21st Century?

Rushna Preena | University of Kelaniya

"The findings revealed that the existence and sustainability of trade unions had been gradually decreasing over the 21st century due to the individualistic behavior of workmen and employers and the prevalence of labor tribunal and labor departments to obtain protection and reliefs under unfair labor practices."

From National Marketplaces to Global Providers of Financial Infrastructures: Exchanges, Infrastructure & Power in Global Finance

Johannes Petry | New Political Economy

"Through marketisation, internationalisation and digitisation, the business model of exchanges has fundamentally changed and led to the emergence of global exchange groups that dominate the exchange industry."

An Inconvenient Fact: Private Equity Returns & The Billionaire Factory

Ludovic Phalippou | University of Oxford

"The number of PE multibillionaires rose from 3 in 2005 to over 22 in 2020. Rebuttals from the big four and the main industry lobby body are provided and discussed."

Videos

Corporations and COVID-19: Bailout Saviours

Carolina Alves, Farwa Sial | SOAS University of London

"You cannot rationally have a market infrastructure that could allow for force majeure events to result in the global enrichment of corporates."

Automatic Society: the Future of Work

Shannon Bell | Shannon Bell

"In calling for a decoupling of the concept of 'labour' (meaningful, intellectual participation) from 'employment' (dehumanizing, banal work), Stiegler sketches new and alternative economic models where individuals are no longer simply mined for labour, but also actively produce what they consume."

Pandemic Economics and the Path to Recovery

Paul Krugman | Chicago Council on Global Affairs

"...the nature of the current crisis, with its complex entanglement of economics, geopolitics, and public health, may require an equally far-reaching response."

Podcasts

The Surveillance Economy

Rana Foroohar | Economics & Beyond

"The pandemic opens the door to more surveillance technology from Silicon Valley, but also to a growing consensus on reigning in Wall Street excess."

Dollar Dominance, the Eurozone, and the Future of Global Finance

Adam Tooze | Macro Musings

"A discussion of recent events and risks in the global financial system, the future of the dollar as reserve currency, and the implications of the recent German-Franco debt deal for the Eurozone."

Economics in the Age of COVID-19

Joshua Gans | New Books Network

"An attempt to step back from the short-term chaos and take a clear and systematic look at how economic choices are being made in response to COVID-19."
