

The Globalization Project: Falling Behind or Failing Forward?

Alternate Routes: A Journal of Critical Social Research Conference Programme

Wednesday June 12 – Friday June 14, 2019

Università degli Studi di Torino

Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici, via S. Ottavio 20, Torino

Campus Luigi Einaudi – Lungo Dora Siena 100 A, Torino

Wednesday June 12, 2019

Venue: Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici, Palazzo Nuovo, via S. Ottavio 20, Torino

3:00-5:00pm –Opening Conference Keynote presented by *India Invisibile* Aula Magna Scuola di Scienze Umanistiche, Palazzo Nuovo

Jan Breman, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, University of Amsterdam – *Down and Out in India Under Global Capitalism*

The great transformation has failed to materialize in the Indian setting. A widening gap is the outcome of progressive accumulation of the haves, who have cornered a large share of the wealth created, and stagnation to dispossession of the haves-less or -not. There is a caste-class nexus: the better off belong to high castes, the down and out to the low castes and to Adivasi groups. Labour has become footloose. According to a rough estimate about 100 to 150 million out of a total workforce of 500 million, male members in the households mainly, go off in search of work elsewhere. For how long? That varies from a couple of weeks, to many months or for the whole working life which for the bottom segments ends at the age of 40 to 50 years. The large majority of them is casually employed; hired and fired according to the need of their labour power. It means that they are going off but also are forced to come back again. Not labour migration – departure and resettlement – but labour circulation. The social question has returned with a vengeance in the globalized economy. Capital has again escaped but cannot be brought back under control of the nation-state any more, neither is there a global authority to check on the free movement of capital. The transition to informalization had as a major objective to keep the price of labour at the lowest possible rate, in the lower ranges close to the survival level. What we observe in today's world is a progressive imbalance between capital and labour caused by a shortage of gainful work for mankind at large.

5:00-6:00pm – Guided Tour of the Exhibition *Behind the Indian Boom*, Spazio Regione, Piazza Castello 165

Since the 1990s, when India first liberalized its economy, foreign corporations began investing in India, benefiting from and exploiting its resources and cheap labour. *Behind the Indian Boom* travels across the country to meet some of its Dalits and Adivasis – its low caste and tribal communities – historically stigmatized as 'untouchable' and 'wild', in order to understand the roles they play in the Indian and the wider global economy. Despite India's significant economic growth, these tribal and low caste communities, which count for more than 200 million and 100 million people respectively, remain at the bottom of its social and economic hierarchies. Adivasis and Dalits are a source of cheap labour from which much of the world economy benefits, and some of the lands on which they have traditionally lived for generations are today important crucibles of global industry. Their situation also reveals insights into the conditions of other oppressed peoples across the globe. *Behind the Indian Boom* draws mainly, though not exclusively, on material collected by staff, researchers and students affiliated with the London School of Economics, Department of Anthropology, Programme of Research on Inequality and Poverty. The social anthropologists involved have lived for several years, sometimes decades, with the people whose lives they are documenting. The aim is to give a sense of the everyday struggles that Adivasis and Dalits go through to survive in the current economy, and also their fight back against the situations they find themselves in.

Thursday June 13, 2019

Venue: Campus Luigi Einaudi – Lungo Dora Siena, 100 A, Torino

9:00-9:45am – Registration, Room: H4

9:45-10:00am – Opening Ceremony: Conference Organizing Committee, Room: H4

- Alessandra Consolaro, Università degli Studi di Torino, Italy
- Carlo Fanelli, York University, Canada
- Marco Marrone, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Italy
- Heather Whiteside, University of Waterloo, Canada

10:00-11:30pm: Panel 1 – Platform Capitalism and Democratic Struggles, Room: H4

Chair: Heather Whiteside

Ahmet Er, York University, *Platform Capitalism and Digital Technologies*

Marco Marrone, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, *Rights Against the Machines! Informal Unionism and Digital Platform in the Food Delivery Sector: The Case of the Riders' Union of Bologna*

Joscelyn Jurich, Columbia University, *Demos Undone: The Unionization Struggle and Undemocratic Process at Columbia University*

10:00-11:30pm: Panel 2 – The Neoliberal State and Globalism, Room: H5

Chair: Joseph Galbo

Bryn Jones, University of Bath, *Euro-Globalism at the Crossroads: Social Democratic Renewal or Populist Economic-Nationalism?*

Inga Shishko-Hilmarsson, Carleton University, *Post-2014 Reforms in Ukraine: The Degradation of Social Welfare?*

Horacio Perez-Morales, University of Washington-Tacoma, *Social Democratic Social Welfare Practices*

11:30-12:00 pm – Coffee break, Room: Lunch Foyer

12:00-1:30pm: Panel 3 – Nationalism and Alt-Populisms, Room: H4

Chair: Bryan Evans

Nicola Short, York University, *Globalization, Crisis and the Political Economy of Reactionary Populism*

Karim Pourhamzavi, Macquarie University, *The Middle East: Between Liberal State Creation and Neoliberal State Cannibalism*

Joseph Galbo, University of New Brunswick, *Making Sense of Italian Populism Today*

12:00-1:30pm: Panel 4, Climate Change, Colonialism and Automobilities Afterlife, Room: H5

Chair: Marco Marrone

Nick Scott, Simon Fraser University, *Bike-Riding 'Pinkos,' Diverging Urban Neoliberalisms and the Politics of Cycling in Canada*

Robert Harding, University of the Fraser Valley, *News Discourse About Treaties and Indigenous Self-Governance in British Columbia: Differential Framing in Corporate and Indigenous Media*

Anthony Matarazzo, University of Ottawa, *Against Nature*

1:30pm-2:30pm - Lunch Foyer

2:30-4:30 pm Keynote Panel Roundtable: Adivasis in 21st Century India: Invisibility, Progressive Inequality and Resilience, Room: H4

Chair: Jan Breman

Matilde Adduci, SOAS, London

Stefano Beggiora, University of Venice

Tommaso Bobbio, University of Turin

Alessandra Consolaro, University of Turin

Chiara Correndo, University of Turin

Sanjukta Das Gupta, La Sapienza University, Rome

Domenico Francavilla, University of Turin

This roundtable discusses narratives of Adivasi (self)representation in 21st century neoliberal India. Indigenous communities do not fit in the rhetoric of development and progress because they are labelled as wild and backward. They resist the national and multinational companies who are pawing over the landscape, as well as the repression of the nation-state who is ready to sacrifice local specificities in the name of national unity.

**7:00pm – Social Event: Convitto Cafè (€15)
Participants must [RSVP](#)**

Friday June 14, 2019

Venue: Campus Luigi Einaudi – Lungo Dora Siena, 100 A, Torino

9:00-10:30am – Panel 5 – Global Governance and International Relations, Room: H2

Chair: Gary Teeple

Geert Reuten, University of Amsterdam, *The Tendency to International Migration of Production: ‘Longue Durée’ Implications for the Legitimation of Capitalist Nations*

Daphné Reguiesse, Università Iuav di Venezia, *Human Mobility: Dealing with Invisible Migration*

Gabriela Castillo, Queen’s University, *The Odd Couple: Canada-Chile Relations from the Post-Allende Refugee period to the Free Trade Era*

9:00-10:30am: Panel 6 – Empire, Language and Citizenship, Room: H5

Chair: Robert Harding

Munjeera Phillips-Jefford, York University, *Is it possible to decolonize English Language Learning? A Discussion with Nigerian Philosophers Toyin Falola and Sophi Oluwole*

Nour Afara, Carleton University, *Who Makes the World: Exclusion, Labour, and Non-Humans in Continental Philosophy*

Mary Jessome, Carleton University, *Securitizing the Canadian Family Through Citizenship: The Limits of Desire in Reproductive Governmentality*

10:30-11:00am – Coffee Break - Lunch Foyer

11:00-1:00pm: Panel 7 – Labour Market Restructuring and Living Wages, Room: H2

Chair: Nick Scott

David Goutor, McMaster University, *The Living Wage and the Basic Income Guarantee in Ontario: Strengths and Limits of Ambitious Policy Reform*

John Shields, Ryerson University, *Employment and Immigrant Youth in a Time of Austerity: The Canadian Case*

Carol-Anne Hudson, McMaster University, *Why Do so Many Workers Continue to Work so Hard for so Little? Capitalist Competition and the Working Poor*

Carlo Fanelli, York University, *Media (Mis)Representation and the Living Wage Movement*

11:00-1:00pm: Panel 8 – Varieties of Austerity: A Comparative Survey of Austerity Policy and Politics, Room: H5

Chair: Nour Afara

Bryan Evans, Ryerson University, *Constructing the Neoliberal Public Sector: The Next Gold Mine?*

Stephen McBride, McMaster University, *Rebuilding the Public Domain: Challenging Austerity*

Heather Whiteside, University of Waterloo, *Austerity and Privatization Entangled: Contradictions Within Public Sector Restructuring*

Gary Teeple, Simon Fraser University, *Austerity Policies and National Debts: The Politics of the 'Market'*

Rasmus Hansen, University of Sheffield, *Labour Restructuring and Austerity in Denmark: The Making and Breaking of a Political Consensus*

1:00-2:00 Concluding Remarks and Lunch – Room: Lunch Foyer

