

President's introduction

Our call for abstracts was very successful, yielding more than 250 submissions for sixteen sessions on diverse themes. Several of the sessions generated a large number of submissions. Thanks to Aaron Pitluck, who directed my attention to the fine print in the programmer's manual, we were able to secure two additional slots to accommodate the oversubscribed sessions. The Program consists of four mini-streams for extended discussions on critical topics, including the global precariat, debt/austerity, care-worker organizing strategies, and global labor markets. In addition, two sessions will feature new books on capitalist crisis by Sylvia Walby and an edited collection by Vishwas Satgar. A full list of sessions follows below.

This issue of the newsletter announces two funding opportunities. Each RC is provided a pot of money to distribute in the form of registration grants. At our business meeting in Yokohama, we agreed to make available resources to defray costs of workshops and conferences. Any member or group of members can apply for funds of up to \$1000.00 to sponsor a workshop.

Looking forward to the debates and to the discussions in Vienna.

Heidi Gottfried, RC02 President

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Forthcoming Newsletter

Please send articles, book announcements and other material by April 15, 2016 to:

J.P. Sapinski, RC02 Secretary and newsletter editor

[sapinski \[at\] uvic.ca](mailto:sapinski@uvic.ca)



Third ISA Forum of Sociology

List of RC02 Sessions

(click on titles to see session abstracts)

- [Changes in the Global Class Structure: The Precariat in the North and South](#)
- [Care-workers Organizing Challenges, Strategies and Successes](#)
- [In Search of the Global Labour Market - Panel I: Actors, Institutions, and Policies](#)
- [In Search of the Global Labour Market - Panel II: Actors, Strategies, and Successes](#)
- [Reconsidering Debt, Assets, Money, and other Relationships](#)
- [Endangered Democracies and the Fate of Feminisms](#)
- [Climate Change, Capitalism, Geoengineering](#)
- [The Regulation of Cross-Border Labor Mobility](#)
- [Comparative Political Responses to Neo-liberalization and Austerity](#)
- [Gender Regimes or Gendered Institutions?](#)
- [Global Think Tanks](#)
- [Corporate Power and Carboniferous Capitalism](#)
- [Migrant Labor and Development in Comparative Perspective: Lessons from the Chinese Case](#)
- [Sociology of Innovation: The Social and Cultural Structure of Innovative Societies](#)

Author Meets Critic Sessions:

- *Capitalism's Crises in South Africa and the World: Class Struggle and Left Responses*
Authors: V Satgar, A. Bieler, H. Wainwright; Critic: Jennifer Chun
- *Crisis*
Author: Sylvia Walby; Critics: Myra Marx Ferree, Christopher Chase-Dunn, Stefanie Woehl

RC02 funding opportunities

Forum 2016 Registration Grants

Each Research Committee receives funds for registration grants. Instructions on eligibility and how to apply follow:

Eligibility

- Must be an ISA and RC02 member in good standing;
- Applications for a grant can be submitted to only one RC/WG/TG.

How to Apply

- Submit a request for the registration grant by email;
- Applications for registration grants must be send directly to Heidi Gottfried ([heidi.gottfried\[at\]wayne.edu](mailto:heidi.gottfried[at]wayne.edu)) by January 31, 2016.

Selection Process

- The Program Committee, consisting of Heidi Gottfried, Karen Shire and Patrick Ziltener, will select candidates and allocate funds;
- If selected, the registration grants are not paid in cash but a special code will be given to each participant;
- Preference will be given to members from Category B & C countries, and to students.

Notification

- Selected candidates will be notified by March 1, 2016.

Workshops and conferences support grants

RC02 has accumulated a surplus of funds in its overall budget. The membership discussed options for disbursement of funds at the business meeting during the World Congress in Yokohama. There was consensus that we should allocate a portion of these funds in support of workshops and conferences related to themes of economy and society.

Amount of Awards

The section will award up to \$1000 per approved request. A maximum of \$3000 will be spent in any one-year time span in order to ensure adequate funds are available in subsequent periods.

Application Process

Applications can be submitted on a rolling basis, and accepted until the budget runs out in any given year. The process will take one to two months for the review and for the announcement of the disposition of the application. The RC02 President plus two Board members will review each application. A majority will determine the final outcome.

All awardees must submit a report of the event (narrative) for inclusion in the newsletter. What was the nature of the debate? What issues/new concepts were discussed? Whenever possible, we encourage workshop/conference participants to present versions of their papers at the Interim ISA or World Congress.

Application Content

Applications should include:

- A description of the workshop/conference (no longer than two pages) and how the event promotes the theme of economy and society;
- A budget rationale for the requested funds in broad categories;
- A plan for dissemination of information from the workshop/conference to the RC02 membership. This may entail a newsletter article or a panel at an ISA conference.

Calls for contributions

Petrocultures 2016: The Offshore

Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland

August 31 - September 3, 2016

Approximately a third of all oil and gas production takes place offshore, and this proportion is continually increasing as companies push into ever deeper and more remote locations. Oil is sought and extracted from the Arctic Ocean to the South China Sea, from Bass Strait to the Niger Delta. In addition, oil is a key commodity of seaborne trade. According to recent UN Conference on Trade and Development statistics, nearly three billion metric tons of crude oil, gas, and petroleum products are shipped annually worldwide.

Despite the fact our economies and lifestyles depend so heavily on the oil industry, much of the work and infrastructure associated with it, to say nothing of the deposits themselves, are situated out of plain sight. This relative invisibility makes the cultural imaginaries of oil, particularly deepwater offshore oil, highly powerful. Petrocultures 2016 will provide an important forum for examining such figurations, including how they relate to framings of alternative forms of energy, such as wind and tidal power.

Newfoundland and Labrador is an excellent location from which to contemplate petrocultural matters. The Canadian province is highly dependent on its offshore oil industry, and prone to the ongoing social and economic instability that typically accompanies such reliance. Given Newfoundland and Labrador's North Atlantic geographic and also especially illuminating its experience and that of other the region, such as Ireland,

Petrocultures 2016 will bring makers, industry employees, groups from across North America Keynote Speakers include: University); [John Urry](#) (Lancaster University of Oslo); [Graeme Warwick](#); and, [Elizabeth Nyman](#) Lafayette.



geological contexts, there are parallels to be drawn between offshore oil-producing places in Scotland, and Norway.

together scholars, policy-artists, and public advocacy and beyond. Confirmed [Barbara Neis](#) (Memorial University) [Helge Ryggvik](#) (University of MacDonal) (University of Louisiana at

We seek proposals for papers and panels that address themes related to the offshore and/or petrocultures more generally. Papers and panels can be academic, creative, or any combination of the two. We ask that paper proposals be no more than 200 words in length, and that panel proposals have a 200-word description of the topic along with a list of paper titles. All submissions must include a 100-word biographical statement for each presenter.

Topics this conference will explore include, but are not limited to:

- Energy's cultural imaginaries
- Resource histories (including relations between old and new uses of the sea's resources)
- Offshore futures (derelict rigs and climate change)
- The sea as commons
- Safety/Risk (including the Arctic/Far North)
- Oil and mobility
- Labour/Workforce
- Indigenous and non-Indigenous community responses to energy

Please send proposals and biographical statements as soon as possible, but no later than **January 5, 2016** to both Danine Farquharson ([daninef\[at\]mun.ca](mailto:daninef[at]mun.ca)) and Fiona Polack ([fpolack\[at\]mun.ca](mailto:fpolack[at]mun.ca)).

Authoritarian Neoliberalism: Philosophies, Practices, Processes (EISA 2016)

**Call for papers for the 10th Pan-European Conference on International Relations,
7-10 September 2016, Izmir, Turkey.**

Despite the severity of the 2007-8 global economic crisis and the widespread aversion to austerity policies that have been unleashed especially but not only in Europe, neoliberalism remains the dominant mode of governance across the world. What makes neoliberalism so resilient, enabling it to reproduce itself in the face of popular opposition? This section explores the means by which neoliberal governance has to varying degrees consolidated itself since the crisis by focusing on its 'authoritarian' incarnations. The term 'authoritarian neoliberalism' was recently introduced to political economy scholarship, and highlights the ways in which today's neoliberalism tends to reinforce and rely upon practices that seek to marginalise, discipline and control dissenting social groups rather than strive for their consent or co-optation. Such practices include the development of policies in the name of 'the market' into an increasingly wide range of domains, the growing resort to constitutional and legal mechanisms to prevent future generations from overturning contemporary forms of governance, and the extensive mobilisation of coercive state apparatuses for the repression of oppositional social forces and groups. As befitting a dense and variegated set of processes across world society, scholarship on authoritarian neoliberalism has already covered Eurozone governance, clampdowns on resistance movements (e.g. Gezi Park), post-crisis transformations in East Asia, and emergent surveillance cultures. Accordingly, this section seeks contributions on the wide range of processes, global or more localised, which advance our understanding of authoritarian neoliberalism and how it has emerged as an important conditioning factor for multiple forms of international relations.

We welcome individual papers and panel/roundtable proposals. Proposals (with abstracts of 200 words maximum) must be submitted via the [online submission system](#). Please indicate in your application that your proposal is submitted for [Section 3](#). The closing date for paper, panel, and roundtable proposals is midnight (CET) on Friday **8 January 2016**.

If you have any questions regarding the section, please contact the section chairs [Dr Ian Bruff](#) (ianbruff@gmail.com) and [Dr Cemal Burak Tansel](#) (c.b.tansel@sheffield.ac.uk).

For more information, please visit the [EISA 2016 website](#)

Vulnerability as a Social Process

Miguel Ángel Vite Pérez

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Vulnerability is the result of the crisis of the working class society. It is manifested in the weakness found in the protection and regulation systems which are supported by the social citizenry. Collective structures in turn, as in the case of unions, are converted into the foundation for the integration and protection of individuals, thus creating a type of certainty for the future (Castel 2010a: 24-25).

The status of the wage earner as a source of lost social rights is important because it started the process of individualization of social relationships. In other words the individual was liberated from collective pressures in order to supposedly display his/her abilities. What happened however was that the worker was transmuted into a vulnerable state because social protections were absent, thereby forcing him/her to live precariously, which could in some cases lead to delinquency (Castel 2010b: 16-17). However, the wage laborer was important because of the organization of guarantees and rights which covered all members of society. In other words, they had social attributes that were favorable to integration, which diminished vulnerable situations or situations with no social protection.

The concept of social vulnerability means not only unemployment or underemployment, i.e. job insecurity, but also a weakening of the state institutions that grant social attributes, which strengthen collective identification.

The instability of state institutions to regulate collective welfare has not lessened the state use of various means for establishing its domination in the lives of those vulnerable, however, and on occasions justifying it as the only way to control criminal behavior (Rosanvallón 2007: 47). On the other hand, the criminalization of those made vulnerable by political power looks to convert poverty and misery into risky situations for social stabilization, which makes the generalized use of surveillance technologies among the privileged more attractive (Wacquant 2000).

Social vulnerability not only loosens the ties between the individual and society, but also reproduces situations of exception which, from a general perspective, mean an absence of rights and collective agreements made against those who have been defined as enemies of the social order, and who are, at the same time, not integrated into the system and have no identity as citizens (Agamben 2007: 23-28).

But, when political power defines exception as a social danger, and blames those who live within a society, it legitimizes the use of a branch of state force that is not regulated by law because a part of the environment of those vulnerable has stopped having social attributes. This denies the fact that situations of exception are considered a consequence of a reduction of opportunities for inclusion in the new model of neoliberal economic development.

On the other hand, vulnerability situations have increased because inequality has stopped having income as its only criteria and now responds to such variables as age, gender, ethnicity and religious beliefs.

Social vulnerability does not generate criminals. However political power has the capacity of criminalizing a part of the vulnerable population, thereby creating new criminal categories, which works to maintain the cohesion of society in order to show that it still conserves the need for punishment by the State (Collins 2009: 125-137).

In consequence, social solidarity has been left to lie in the welfare state system, creating social insecurity which has been considered a public security problem. The State has used surveillance technology in order

to push forward its punitive actions, thus increasing the probability of the anticipation of undesired behavior in individuals (Mattelart 2009: 233).

Social vulnerability is created by individuals who suffer from unemployment and underemployment in societies where the foundation of sociability are found to be unstable or fragile, but their ordinary life occurs in deteriorated areas that do not have the importance for the real-estate market (Wacquant 2007: 29-56).

On the other hand, in Latin America, the territorialization of social vulnerability has been viewed through the existence of a duality between the legal city inhabited by privileged groups, and the illegal city located in periphery where there is no public infrastructure or what exists is of low quality, and recently has been considered as a focus of criminality (Caldeira 2010: 14-15; Castro-Gómez 2008: 150).

I insist that illegality only provokes criminality when the authorities consider it such. This is true above all, because in Latin America, where illegal actions are allowed that help some poor groups, for example, to have access to urban land and dwellings, to services, education, employment and health. This has happened during moments in which illegal actions interweave with legal ones. In other words, behavior is sometimes prohibited by law, however, in other moments actions that were not sanctioned before.

The authorities criminalize behavior and social conditions but tolerate the occurrence of crimes against the law, which has created a situation that suggests that the rules do not have a generalized observance.

This has been the result of the use of the rules and institutions by political actors who have sought to develop ties between the legal and illegal in order to achieve personal benefits. The rupture of the ties between the legal and illegal can create situations of conflict that could be resolved through violence, which justifies the use of state public force directed at punishing those who have lived under the rules of disorder (Duhau and Giglia 2008).

The authorities have also established a formal and informal administration; which means that the urban space for example, is used in accordance to particular social logic that holds on to unspoken agreements.

In the case of Mexico, it is necessary to understand the meaning of ties developed between the legal and the illegal, because violence is not caused by the absence of government in certain localities of the country, nor by the struggle for the monopoly of the violence between the authorities and the armed groups of organized crime (Herrera 2010: 26-27).

The latent conflict between the legal and illegal, in other words, between the formal and informal, can be converted into violence when the ties between the two spheres are broken. The informal exists however because social vulnerability has been expanding which translates into a growth in job insecurity and social inequality.

The above statement does not rule out the fact that state authorities have the ability to criminalize certain groups which suffer from vulnerability and also stigmatize them because of the neighborhood in which they live. Corruption and impunity are parts of the conflictive coexistence of the two above mentioned orders and cannot be considered as the main cause of the public security crisis in Mexico (Calveiro 2012: 208-223).

Mexican social vulnerability also means a metropolis inhabited by people whose property, human and political rights are vulnerable because of the illicit or illegal. However, the illegal also has another way of gaining access to goods and services that legal mechanisms deny to the poor (Alvarado 2012: 512-529).

The links between the legal and illegal lie behind the thinking that Mexican rights are not universal because they do not guarantee justice for all, creating a situation where behavior does not abide by the rules and authority does not apply. As a consequence, the exception is the rule (Durand 2010: 34-35).

The legal and illegal are part of the social relationship that has generated a State of rights that has legal exceptions and which favors the reproduction of social vulnerability. In Mexico there exist socially vulnerable situations where the legal rules do not apply and the exceptions range between the use of public force and the negotiation of individual interests.

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New major research project

Mapping the Power of the Carbon-Extractive Corporate Resource Sector

Principal investigators: Bill Carroll (University of Victoria) and Shannon Daub (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - British Columbia)

Bill Carroll is Co-Director of a Social Science & Humanities Research Council of Canada Partnership Grant: "Mapping the Power of the Carbon-Extractive Corporate Resource Sector" (\$2.5 million over six years) with Shannon Daub as Co-Director and Emily M. Eaton, Fiona MacPhail, James C.B. Lawson, James K. Rowe, Karena Shaw, Paul Bowles, Shane Gunster, Simon J. Enoch, Trevor W. Harrison, Eelke Heemskerk and Naná de Graaf as co-investigators.

Who is steering fossil fuel extraction in Western Canada and what influence do they wield? These central questions are driving a six-year research and public engagement initiative, *Mapping the Power of the Carbon-Extractive Corporate Resource Sector*, with funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The project brings together researchers, civil society organizations and Indigenous participants to study the oil, gas and coal industries in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

There has been a rapid acceleration of fossil fuel extraction in recent years, yet our knowledge of the companies involved and how they influence decision-making about our publicly owned carbon resources is remarkably sparse. This research will provide a clearer picture of who's-who in this increasingly important sector of the Canadian economy.

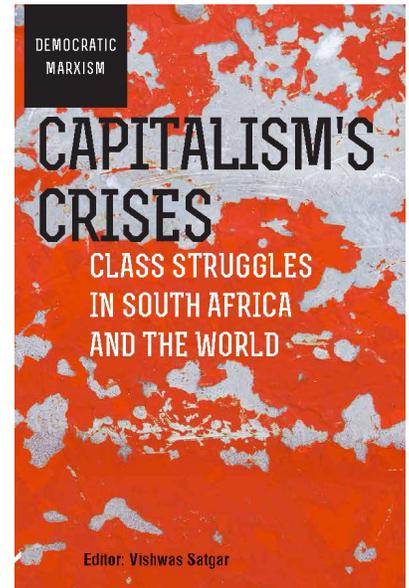
The partnership's work focuses in four key areas:

- A systematic mapping of how the carbon-extractive industry is organized—which companies are involved, who runs them, who owns them and how they connect to broader international corporate networks.
- Analysis of the sector's influence on public debates and policy making—such as efforts to secure social license, and corporate links to governments, political parties, lobby groups and private foundations.
- Case studies of contentious "flashpoints"—such as the expansion or development of new mines, pipelines, oil fields or export facilities.
- Development of an open source, publicly accessible corporate database—along with a training program for citizens and civil society groups, many of whom will contribute and update data.

Media release at: <http://communications.uvic.ca/releases/release.php?display=release&id=1500>.

Featured member publication

Satgar, Vishwas, ed. 2015. *Capitalism's Crises: Class Struggles in South Africa and the World*. Johannesburg: Wits University Press, 204 pages.



For many commentators the global recession of the 21st century was over after bail-outs and counter-cyclical measures kicked in. From 2009 onwards coordinated efforts of the G20 and expansionary fiscal policy in China and the US were meant to turn the tide of crisis. But yet almost nine years since the collapse of the housing market in the US, global growth rates remain depressed, austerity in Europe is facing serious limits, deceleration of economies in the global south has increased and financial instability has persisted. At the heart of this is a failure to address the central role of techno-financialised accumulation. This has become a structural feature of global accumulation. Since the onset of the 2007/2008 crisis the power of financialised markets such as credit markets, currency markets, bond markets and derivative markets have increased. For instance derivative markets are estimated \$2.3 trillion per day, 30% higher than 2007, and currency trading has increased by \$9 trillion per day since 2007.

At the same time, there is a convergence of systemic dimensions of crisis that are unprecedented in the history of capitalism: financialised over-accumulation, the climate crisis, food system crisis, oil peak and the securitization of democracy. These systemic dimensions of crisis gridlock accumulation and the reproduction of the system. A general crisis has ensued which underlines the specificity of the contemporary crises of capitalist civilization and which poses serious questions about the existence and durability of capitalism. How to analytically grapple with capitalism's crises at a conjunctural level of the neoliberal class project, spatially and at the systemic level is central to this volume. In this regard critical engagements with the classical inheritance of Marx for contemporary activists understandings of the systemic crises of capitalist civilization are brought to the fore in this volume.

While capitalism is not about to end, it is facing systemic crisis tendencies that can only be resolved by going beyond capitalism. But where does this leave left agency? Is left agency today developing the requisite capacities for systemic transformation? Or is left agency and systemic challenges to capitalism coopted and neutralized by a 'passive revolution' of cooption, rollback and disabling from above? Understanding the contemporary pattern of struggle is central to this volume. In this regard a new cycle

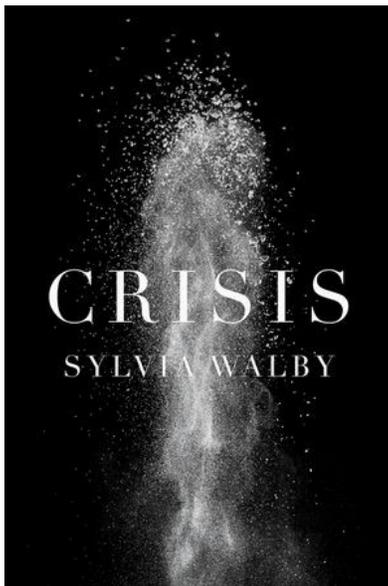
of left resistance is brought into view to appreciate both its distinctiveness and challenges. This is different from the social democratic, soviet and revolutionary nationalist left of the 20th century. From the symbolic effects and institutional limits of Occupy Wall Street, challenges confronting labour in Europe, in both its heartlands and peripheries, to the rise of post-Communist and Social Democratic parties, to left reversal in Brazil, strategic shortcomings in India and to the making of post-neoliberal left in South Africa, this volume seeks to foreground both advances and challenges confronting the making of a new global left and the new circumstances of class struggle.

The new global left being made in the new cycle of resistance is different from the 20th century left. The 21st century left has the challenge of overcoming catastrophism with transformative politics from below. This entails advancing systemic alternatives to the crises of capitalist civilization such as deglobalising finance, food sovereignty, climate jobs, solidarity economies, socially owned renewable energy, participatory budget planning, and transformative just transitions to sustain life. In this context new conceptions of power, class and popular alliances and new democratic political instruments are crucial. This volume foregrounds these new frontiers of left politics and class struggle.

<http://witspress.co.za/catalogue/capitalisms-crises/>

Recent publications

Books



Walby, Sylvia. 2015. *Crisis*. London: Polity Books, 224 pages.

We are living in a time of crisis which has cascaded through society. Financial crisis has led to an economic crisis of recession and unemployment; an ensuing fiscal crisis over government deficits and austerity has led to a political crisis which threatens to become a democratic crisis. Borne unevenly, the effects of the crisis are exacerbating class and gender inequalities.

Rival interpretations - a focus on 'austerity' and reduction in welfare spending versus a focus on 'financial crisis' and democratic regulation of finance - are used to justify radically diverse policies for the distribution of resources and strategies for economic growth, and contested gender relations lie at the heart of these debates. The future consequences of the crisis depend upon whether there is a deepening of democratic institutions, including in the European Union.

Sylvia Walby offers an alternative framework within which to theorize crisis, drawing on complexity science and situating this within the wider field of study of risk, disaster and catastrophe. In doing so, she offers a critique and revision of the social science needed to understand the crisis."

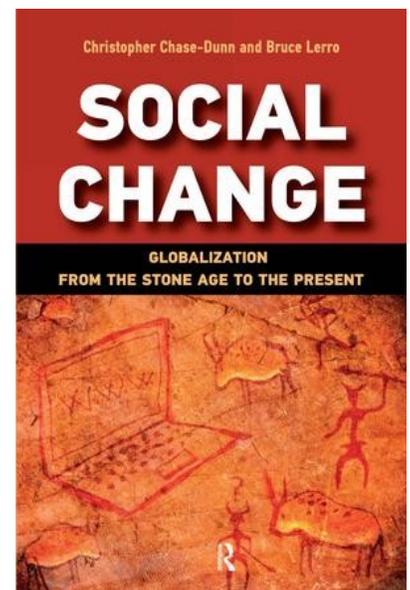
The 3rd Forum of the ISA in Vienna is an opportunity to discuss the themes raised by this timely contribution. An Author Meets Critic session on Crisis will feature three prominent scholars (Myra Marx Ferree, Christopher Chase-Dunn, and Stefanie Woehl) who will discuss causes and consequences of crisis, followed by a response by Sylvia Walby.

<http://www.politybooks.com/book.asp?ref=9780745647609>

Chase-Dunn, Christopher and Bruce Lerro. 2014. *Social Change: Globalization from the Stone Age to the Present*. Routledge: 504 pages.

From the Stone Age to the Internet Age, this book tells the story of human sociocultural evolution. It describes the conditions under which hunter-gatherers, horticulturalists, agricultural states, and industrial capitalist societies formed, flourished, and declined. Drawing evidence from archaeology, ethnography, linguistics, historical documents, statistics, and survey research, the authors trace the growth of human societies and their complexity, and they probe the conflicts in hierarchies both within and among societies. They also explain the macro-micro links that connect cultural evolution and history with the development of the individual self, thinking processes, and perceptions. Key features of the text Designed for undergraduate and graduate social science classes on social change and globalization topics in sociology, world history, cultural geography, anthropology, and international studies. Describes the evolution of the modern capitalist world-system since the fourteenth century BCE, with coverage of the rise and fall of system leaders: the Dutch in the seventeenth century, the British in the nineteenth century, and the United States in the twentieth century. Provides a framework for analyzing patterns of social change. Includes numerous tables, figures, and illustrations throughout the text. Supplemented by framing part introductions, suggested readings at the end of each chapter, an end of text glossary, and a comprehensive bibliography. Offers a web-based auxiliary chapter on Indigenous North American World-Systems and a companion website with excel data sets and additional web links for students.

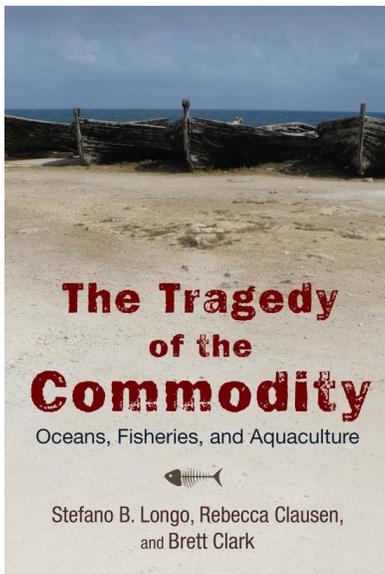
www.routledge.com/products/9781612053288



van Apeldoorn, Bastiaan and Naná de Graaff. 2016. *American Grand Strategy and Corporate Elite Networks: The Open Door since the End of the Cold War*. London: Routledge.

This book presents a novel analysis of how US grand strategy has evolved from the end of the Cold War to the present, offering an integrated analysis of both continuity and change. The post-Cold War American grand strategy has continued to be oriented to securing an ‘open door’ to US capital around the globe. This book will show that the three different administrations that have been in office in the post-Cold War era have pursued this goal with varying means: from Clinton’s promotion of neoliberal globalization to Bush’s ‘war on terror’ and Obama’s search to maintain US primacy in the face of a declining economy and a rising Asia.

In seeking to make sense of both these strong continuities and these significant variations the book takes as its point of departure the social sources of grand strategy (making), with the aim to relate state (public) power to social (private) power. While developing its own theoretical framework to make sense of the evolution of US grand strategy, it offers a rich and rigorous empirical analysis based on extensive primary data that have been collected over the past years. It draws on a unique data-set that consists of extensive biographical data of 30 cabinet members and other senior foreign policy officials of each of the past three administrations of Clinton, G.W. Bush and Obama.



Longo, Stefano B., Rebecca Clausen, and Brett Clark. 2015. *The Tragedy of the Commodity: Oceans, Fisheries, and Aquaculture*. New Brunswick (NJ): Rutgers University Press.

Although humans have long depended on oceans and aquatic ecosystems for sustenance and trade, only recently has human influence on these resources dramatically increased, transforming and undermining oceanic environments throughout the world. Marine ecosystems are in a crisis that is global in scope, rapid in pace, and colossal in scale. In *The Tragedy of the Commodity*, sociologists Stefano B. Longo, Rebecca Clausen, and Brett Clark explore the role human influence plays in this crisis, highlighting the social and economic forces that are at the heart of this looming ecological problem.

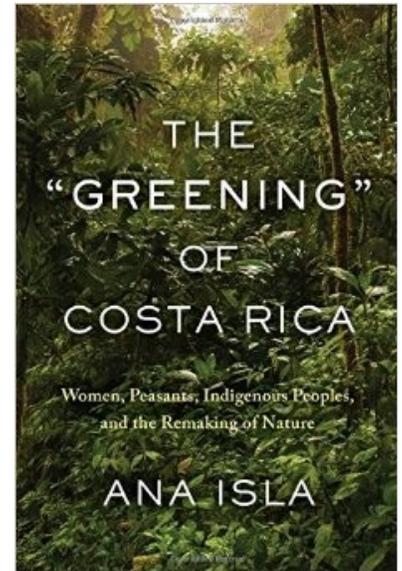
In a critique of the classic theory “the tragedy of the commons” by ecologist Garrett Hardin, the authors move beyond simplistic explanations—such as unrestrained self-interest or population growth—to argue that it is the commodification of aquatic resources that leads to the depletion of fisheries and the development of environmentally suspect means of aquaculture. To illustrate this argument, the book features two fascinating case studies—the thousand-year history of the bluefin tuna fishery in the Mediterranean and the massive Pacific salmon fishery. Longo, Clausen, and Clark describe how new fishing technologies, transformations in ships and storage capacities, and the

expansion of seafood markets combined to alter radically and permanently these crucial ecosystems. In doing so, the authors underscore how the particular organization of social production contributes to ecological degradation and an increase in the pressures placed upon the ocean. The authors highlight the historical, political, economic, and cultural forces that shape how we interact with the larger biophysical world.

A path-breaking analysis of overfishing, *The Tragedy of the Commodity* yields insight into issues such as deforestation, biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change.

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Isla, Ana. 2015. *The “Greening” of Costa Rica: Women, Peasants, Indigenous People, and the Remaking of Nature*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.



Since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the concept of sustainable development has become the basis for a vast number of “green industries” from eco-tourism to carbon sequestration. In *The “Greening” of Costa Rica*, Ana Isla exposes the results of the economist’s rejection of physical limits to growth, the biologist’s fetish with such limits, and the indebtedness of peripheral countries.

Isla’s case study is the 250,000 hectare Arenal-Tilaran Conservation Area, created in the late 1990s as the result of Canada-Costa Rica debt-for-nature swaps. Rather than reducing poverty and creating equality, development in and around the conservation area has dispossessed and disenfranchised subsistence farmers, expropriating their land, water, knowledge, and labour.

Drawing on a decade of fieldwork in these communities, Isla exposes the duplicity of a neoliberal model in which the environment is converted into commercial assets such as carbon credits, intellectual property, cash crops, open-pit mining, and eco-tourism, few of whose benefits flow to the local population.

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