

Fall 2014
Thurs 1:30-4:30
College Hall 217

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History 670.301

Thinking about the Economy: A Social and Global History of Ideas

This course examines ways in which people across the globe have made sense of economic life since 1750. It does so in two parts. The first six weeks introduce an extremely lively, evolving interdisciplinary literature on the making of the modern idea of the economy, of economists as an authoritative professional group, and of economics as a globally recognizable form of knowledge with both professional and vernacular forms. The second part of the course is historiographic, focusing on major problems in twentieth-century political economy that are ripe for research.

Methodologically, the readings open up broad questions in intellectual, social, and transnational history: How should we study the making of intellectual categories? How should we study the relationship between “high” and “low” forms of thought and culture? How does the history of ideas fit into studies of state formation, social conflict, and economic change? How can we write global history without taking US and European experience to be prototypical?

Each week includes a shared reading assignment as well as recommended readings on the same theme suited to students specializing in a variety of world regions. Each member of the seminar will choose one recommended book to present briefly to the class in the course of the semester. The recommended reading lists might also help you plan your final historiography papers and future oral exams.

Required Readings: All required books are on reserve in Van Pelt Library (Rosengarten Reserve) and available for purchase at the Penn Book Center, 130 S. 34th Street. Required articles are on Canvas.

Required Work

1. One ten-minute presentation of a book chosen from the recommended reading lists. Think of the presentation as a miniature historiography paper that explains and evaluates the book’s main argument, compares it to the week’s shared reading, and identifies some new questions that the book leaves unanswered.
2. Eight one-page reflections due over the course of the semester in weeks of your choice, submitted in hard copy at the start of class. These brief papers should discuss major questions that the assigned reading raised for you. Reflections are not graded, but I will give you feedback.
3. One historiography paper of approximately 20 pages, due Tuesday, December 16 at 5 p.m. in my mailbox (in the mailroom on the second floor of College Hall). A bibliography is due in class on November 13.

Class Schedule

Aug 28 Introduction

Part 1: The Making of the Economy, Economists, and Economics

Throughout the world today, economists are influential policymakers and public intellectuals, and non-economists understand many aspects of their lives in economic terms. But as recently as 1945 in some regions of the world and as distantly as 1776 in others, the modern concept of the economy, the field of economics, and economists as a professional community did not exist. The first section of our class explores non-economic ways of understanding material life that have preceded, challenged, or undergirded economic thinking; the emergence of the economy and economics as naturalized, globally recognizable concepts; the formation of economists as an authoritative professional group; and the rise of economic reasoning in daily life.

Sept 4 Moral Economy

E. P. Thompson, *Customs in Common* (1993)

Recommended: The "Moral Economy" Debate, and Other Non-Economic Conceptions of Material Life

Douglas Rogers, *The Old Faith and the Russian Land* (2009)

James C. Scott, *The Moral Economy of the Peasant* (1977) (see also Samuel Popkin, *The Rational Peasant* (1979) and "Egalitarianism, the Teachings of Fieldwork and Anarchist Calisthenics: Interview with James C. Scott by Diego Palacios Cerezales, Diogo Duarte, José Manuel Sobral and José Neves," *Análise Social* 48, no. 2 (2013): 447-463.)

Paul Johnson, *A Shopkeeper's Millennium* (1978)

Steven Hahn, *The Roots of Southern Populism* (1985)

Drew McCoy, *The Elusive Republic* (1996)

Sept 11 The Great Transformation?

Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation* (1944), and Introduction by Fred Block in the 2001 edition

Fred Block and Margaret Somers, "In the Shadow of Speenhamland: Social Policy and the Old Poor Law," *Politics & Society* 31, no. 2 (June 2003): 283-323.

Recommended I: Classical Political Economy and Liberalism in Europe

Albert O. Hirschman, *The Passions and the Interests* (1977)

Boyd Hilton, *The Age of Atonement* (1992)

Emma Rothschild, *Economic Sentiments* (2002)

Margaret Schabas, *The Natural Origins of Economics* (2006)

John Shovlin, *The Political Economy of Virtue* (2007)

Fredrik Albritton Johnson, *Enlightenment's Frontier* (2013)

Recommended II: Liberalism in Latin America and South Asia

Ranjit Guha, *A Rule of Property for Bengal* (1963)
Uday Singh Mehta, *Liberalism and Empire* (1999)
Andrew Sartori, *Liberalism in Empire* (2014)
John Coatsworth, *Growth Against Development* (1981)
Jeremy Adelman, *Republic of Capital* (1999)
Emilio Kourí, *A Pueblo Divided* (2004)
Laura Gotkowitz, *A Revolution for Our Rights* (2008)

Recommended III: Interpretations of Polanyi

Michael Burawoy, "From Polanyi to Pollyanna: The False Optimism of Global Labor Studies," *Global Labour Journal* 1, no. 2 (2010): 301-313.
Kari Polanyi-Levitt and Marguerite Mendell, "Karl Polanyi: His Life and Times," *Studies in Political Economy* 22 (Spring 1987): 7-39.
Fred Block and Margaret R. Somers, *The Power of Market Fundamentalism* (2014)

Sept 18

How the Home Fell Out of the Economy

Jeanne Boydston, *Home and Work* (1990)
Nancy Folbre, "The Unproductive Housewife: Her Evolution in Nineteenth-Century Economic Thought," *Signs* 16, no. 3 (Spring 1991), 463-484.

Recommended

Viviana Zelizer, *The Social Meaning of Money* (1994)
Viviana Zelizer, *The Purchase of Intimacy* (2005)
Arlie Russell Hochschild, *The Commercialization of Intimate Life* (2003)
Eileen Boris, *Home to Work* (1994)
Ann Farnsworth-Alvear, *Dulcinea in the Factory* (2000)
Elizabeth Quay Hutchison, *Labors Appropriate to Their Sex* (2001)

Sept 25

The Making of the Economy

Timothy Mitchell, *Rule of Experts* (2002)

Recommended

Adam Tooze, *Statistics and the German State* (2001)
Manu Goswami, *Producing India* (2004)
Ritu Birla, *Stages of Capital* (2009)
Timothy Mitchell, *Carbon Democracy* (2011)

Oct 2

Making Economists

Marion Fourcade, *Economists and Societies* (2010)
Marion Fourcade, "The Construction of a Global Profession: The Transnationalization of Economics," *American Journal of Sociology* 112, no. 1 (July 2006), 145-194.

Recommended

Mary Furner, *Advocacy and Objectivity* (1975)

Andrew Abbott, *The System of Professions* (1988)
Jeffrey Sklansky, *The Soul's Economy* (2002)
Sarah Babb, *Managing Mexico* (2004)

Oct 9 Fall Break

Oct 16 Economic Knowledge and its Object: The Case of Finance
Donald MacKenzie, *An Engine, Not a Camera* (2006)

Recommended

Timur Kuran, *Islam and Mammon* (2004)
Caitlin Zaloom, *Out of the Pits* (2006)
Karen Ho, *Liquidated* (2009)
Greta Krippner, *Capitalizing on Crisis* (2011)
Julia C. Ott, *When Wall Street Met Main Street* (2011)
Mary S. Morgan, *The World in a Model* (2012)
Jonathan Levy, *Freaks of Fortune* (2012)

Part II: Problems in Twentieth-Century Political Economy

The second part of the class introduces major topics in twentieth-century political economy, and the ideological transformations associated with them. How have historical subjects and historians themselves understood capitalism in the age of imperialism; the nature of capitalism and socialism; the rise and fall of development; the midcentury pursuit of economic growth; and the making and meaning of neoliberalism? Our readings present two additional methodological questions: First, is it possible to write a book that brings together apparently distinct regional, imperial, or national stories of economic and ideological change? Second, is it possible to write a book that brings together the different registers in which people thought about the economy: professional economic thought, vernacular forms of economic thought, and non-economic modes of reasoning?

Oct 23 The Age of Imperialism
Andrew Zimmerman, *Alabama in Africa* (2012)

Recommended

Barbara Weinstein, *The Amazon Rubber Boom* (1983)
Frederick Cooper, *From Slaves to Squatters* (1997)
Emily S. Rosenberg, *Financial Missionaries to the World* (2004)
Eric Tagliacozzo, *Secret Trades, Porous Borders* (2009)
Emily S. Rosenberg, ed., *A World Connecting* (2012)

Oct 30 Capitalism, Socialism, Communism
Stephen Kotkin, *Magnetic Mountain* (1995)

Perspectives on Soviet Socialism

Alexander Gerschenkron, *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective* (1965)

Michael Burawoy, *The Politics of Production* (1985)

James C. Scott, *Seeing Like a State* (1999)

Christina Kiaer, *Imagine no Possessions* (2005)

Perspectives on Latin American Socialism: Cuba and Chile

Peter Winn, *Weavers of Revolution* (1989)

Heidi Tinsman, *Partners in Conflict* (2002)

Florencia Mallon, *Courage Tastes of Blood* (2005)

Eden Medina, *Cybernetic Revolutionaries* (2011)

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, *The Economy of Socialist Cuba* (1981)

Linda Fuller, *Work and Democracy in Socialist Cuba* (1992)

Lillian Guerra, *Visions of Power in Cuba* (2012)

US Visions of Capitalism, Socialism, Communism

Theodore Rosengarten, *All God's Dangers* (1974)

Robin D. G. Kelley, *Hammer and Hoe* (1990)

S. M. Amadae, *Rationalizing Capitalist Democracy* (2003)

David Engerman, *Modernization from the Other Shore* (2004)

Nov 6

Development: Intellectual Genealogies

Nils Gilman, *Mandarins of the Future* (2007)

Joseph Love, *Crafting the Third World* (1996)

Albert O. Hirschman, "The Rise and Decline of Development Economics,"

Essays in Trespassing: Economics to Politics and Beyond (Cambridge, Mass.: Cambridge University Press, 1981), 1-24.

Recommended

Emily S. Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream* (1982)

James Ferguson, *The Anti-Politics Machine* (1994)

Arturo Escobar, *Encountering Development* (1994)

Esther Kingston-Mann, *In Search of the True West* (1999)

Michael Latham, *Modernization as Ideology* (2000)

Nick Cullather, *The Hungry World* (2010)

Eric Helleiner, *Forgotten Foundations of Bretton Woods* (2014)

Rajani Kanth, ed. *Paradigms in Economic Development* (primary sources)

Nov 13

How to Study Midcentury Growth?

Bibliography for final paper due in class

Seth Garfield, *In Search of the Amazon* (2013)

Recommended: Changing Perspectives on Midcentury Brazil

Albert O. Hirschman, *Journeys Toward Progress* (1963)

Peter Evans, *Dependent Development* (1979)

Barbara Weinstein, *For Social Peace in Brazil* (1997)

Brodwyn Fischer, *A Poverty of Rights* (2008)
Peter F. Klarén and Thomas J. Bossert, eds., *The Promise of Development*
(primary sources)

Nov 20

How to Study Midcentury Growth?

Robert O. Self, *American Babylon* (2005)

Recommended: Changing Perspectives on the Midcentury US

Harry Braverman, *Labor and Monopoly Capital* (1974)

Charles S. Maier, "The Politics of Productivity: Foundations of American
International Economic Policy after World War II," *International*

Organization, 31 (Autumn 1977), 607-33.

Frances Fox Piven and Richard Cloward, *Poor People's Movements* (1978)

David F. Noble, *Forces of Production* (1986)

Peter Hall, *The Political Power of Economic Ideas* (1989)

Nelson Lichtenstein, "From Corporatism to Collective Bargaining: Organized
Labor and the Eclipse of Social Democracy in the Postwar Era," in *The Rise
and Fall of the New Deal Order*, ed. Steve Fraser and Gary Gerstle
(Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990), 122-152.

Bruce Schulman, *From Cotton Belt to Sunbelt* (1994)

Alan Brinkley, *The End of Reform* (1996)

Judith Stein, *Running Steel, Running America* (1998)

Jefferson Cowie, *Capital Moves* (1999)

Alice O'Connor, *Poverty Knowledge* (2002)

Karin Alejandra Roseblatt, "Other Americas: Transnationalism, Scholarship,
and the Culture of Poverty in Mexico and the United States," *Hispanic
American Historical Review* 89 (2009): 603-641

Nov 25

Looking Back on Development

James Ferguson, *Expectations of Modernity* (1999)

Barbara Weinstein, "Developing Inequality," *American Historical Review* 113:1
(Feb. 2008) 1-18.

Recommended

Ruth Milkman, *Farewell to the Factory* (1997)

Kathryn Marie Dudley, *Debt and Dispossession* (2000)

Daniel James, *Doña María's Story* (2001)

Michael Burawoy, *The Color of Class on the Copper Mines* (1972)

Nov 27

Thanksgiving

Dec 4

Neoliberalism

Johanna Bockman, *Markets in the Name of Socialism* (2011)

David Harvey, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism* (2005)

Recommended

Michel Foucault, *The Birth of Biopolitics* (lectures from 1978-1979)
Juan Gabriel Valdés, *Pinochet's Economists* (1995)
Steve Striffler, *In the Shadows of State and Capital* (2001)
Mark Blyth, *Great Transformations* (2002)
Béatrice Hibou, ed., *Privatising the State* (2004)
James Ferguson, *Global Shadows* (2006)
Monica Prasad, *The Politics of Free Markets* (2006)
Judith Stein, *Pivotal Decade* (2010)
Daniel Rodgers, *The Age of Fracture* (2011)
Angus Burgin, *The Great Persuasion* (2012)
Nancy Fraser, "A Triple Movement? Parsing the Politics of Crisis after Polanyi,"
New Left Review 81 (May-June 2013): 119-132.

Background readings

Reading across world regions is challenging, and a common pitfall is to pretend we know more than we do about an unfamiliar place, or to read one history in terms of another that we know better. In class this semester, it goes without saying that all of us know *perhaps* one rather limited historical setting, and even there, our knowledge is rapidly changing and growing. This class is a place to ask questions. No question is too fundamental.

I encourage everyone to make use of introductory survey texts. Here is a sample that you might find useful, geared toward regions emphasized on the syllabus. For many regions, recent Cambridge Histories are also available; a few are mentioned below.

Latin America

Victor Bulmer-Thomas, *The Economic History of Latin America*
Thomas Skidmore et. al., *Modern Latin America*
Thomas Skidmore, *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*
Leslie Bethell, ed., *Cambridge History of Latin America*, vol. 9 (Brazil)
Brian R. Hamnett, *A Concise History of Mexico*
Gilbert M. Joseph and Jürgen Buchenau, *Mexico's Once and Future Revolution*
Louis Pérez, *Cuba: Between Reform and Revolution*
Frank Safford and Marco Palacios, *Colombia: Fragmented Land, Divided Society*
Laurent Dubois, *Haiti: The Aftershocks of History*

Russia and the Soviet Union

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution*
Geoffrey Hosking, *Russia and the Russians*
Ronald Grigor Suny, *The Soviet Experiment*
Cambridge History of Russia, vols. 2 and 3

Africa

Frederick Cooper, *Africa Since 1940*
Robert I. Rotberg, *Rise of Nationalism in Central Africa: The Making of Malawi and Zambia*

William Beinart, *Twentieth-Century South Africa*
John D. Hargreaves, *Decolonization in Africa*

Middle East

William Cleveland, *A History of the Modern Middle East*
Roger Owen and Şevket Pamuk, *A History of Middle East Economies in the Twentieth Century*
Robert Tignor, *Egypt*

North America

Alan Taylor, *American Colonies*
Richard White, *It's Your Misfortune and None of My Own*
Joshua Freeman, *American Empire*
Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!*

South Asia

Sugata Bose and Ayesha Jalal, *Modern South Asia*

Western Europe

Charles Breunig and Matthew Levinger, *The Revolutionary Era, 1789-1850*
Boyd Hilton, *A Mad, Bad, and Dangerous People?: England, 1783-1846*
Marshall, *Cambridge Illustrated History of the British Empire*
Tony Judt, *Postwar*

Surveys of Decolonization and Cold War

Raymond F. Betts, *Decolonization*, 2nd ed.
R. F. Holland, *European Decolonization, 1918-1981*
Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War*