

Area Development and Policy - Annual Lecture 2020

07/04/2020, 4:00 PM - 5:15 PM, Sheraton Hotel, Grand Ballroom 2, IM Pei Tower, Second Floor Level,
Denver, Colorado, USA



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On Capitalism's Cusp

The future of capitalism, should it have one, is not where it used to be. The rise of China, the divergent development of the BRICs, the protracted crises of financialized capitalism and late-neoliberal governance, and the increasingly urgent recognition of system-threatening ecological limits have practically upended received readings, visions, and projections of capitalism's future. This raises some challenging questions for those influential traditions (radical as well as conservative) of theorizing capitalism both by means of and from the perspective of its allegedly "frontal" forms, such as ascendant growth models, favored development paradigms or transition imaginaries. But if capitalism is not to be theorized frontally, with reference to its allegedly "advanced" forms, or indeed from supposed "peripheries" viewed in the same mirror, then how, and from where? Reflecting on these epistemological questions, the paper asks what it means to theorize capitalism "conjuncturally," from positions and perspectives variously anchored, at least provisionally, in the vicinity of fault lines or border regions in the variegated world system. In this vein, it draws on the problematic of "Hong Kong as method," understood as a distinctive place, position, and perspective from which to address questions about capitalism's future(s).

Introduction & Chair: Michael Dunford, *University of Sussex*

Introduction: Weidong Liu, *Chinese Academy of Sciences*

Discussants: Mia Bennett, *The University of Hong Kong* & David Meyer *Washington University in St. Louis*

Organizers: Dieter Kogler, Michael Dunford, Weidong Liu



Area Development and Policy Journal

Area Development and Policy (*ADP*) concentrates on issues relating to the Greater BRICS and welcomes submissions emerging from these countries as well from the developed world. **ADP** places an emphasis on research which examines the role of diverse institutional configurations and values at both national and regional levels within the Greater BRICS, and believes that theories should derive from the experiences of these countries and regions and not necessarily from the (possibly exceptional) experiences of Northwest Europe and North America. **ADP** is dedicated to expanding common ground while accepting differences, improving mutual communication and increasing cooperation and shared learning. More on the journal [here](#).