

## Summaries

**Manuela Boatcă: Global Inequalities avant la Lettre. Theoretical Filiations and Radical Critique.** This article argues that world-systems analysis was instrumental in revealing sociology's theoretical and methodological blind spots and in formulating a comprehensive framework for the study of global inequalities. In doing so, it anticipated both the critique of Eurocentrism and methodological nationalism put forth by transnational and postcolonial approaches, as well as the debates over the rise in global inequalities by several decades. I trace this analytical primacy to several factors: first, to world-systems analysis' methodological shift from the nation-state to the entire capitalist world-economy as an early global sociology and, second, to the relation between the methodological shift to the epistemological critique and their role in Wallerstein's early approach to global inequalities. Finally, I address the relationship between the self-definition of world-systems analysis as a form of protest against mainstream social science (rather than as a theory) and the theoretical and political filiations with postcolonial and decolonial approaches in order to show how they both contributed to the prominence of global inequalities as a topic.

**Robert Heinze: A "Neue Amin-Lektüre"? Unequal exchange on the world market and the role of the nation-state in the work of Samir Amin.** This article undertakes a re-reading of Samir Amin's work by linking two current research trends: the "rediscovery" of dependency theory (and of Samir Amin) within certain parts of economics and other social sciences, and the reassessment of "Third World" international emancipatory projects, such as Bandung and the New International World Economic Order. To this end, it focuses on the role that the nation plays in Amin's work and posits that an examination of this problem can help us develop an anti-national critique that simultaneously recognises why nations have been such an important lever for Marxist analysis from the Global South. Amin's work thus offers the key to a new grounded critique of nationalist anti-imperialism.

**Jakob Graf: Decentralise Capitalism! Structural Heterogeneity and the Need Economy as Key Categories for a Political Economy of the South.** In many countries of the Global South, the social reproduction of the majority of the population to a large extent takes place outside the capitalist sector. This leads to particular class relations, social relations to nature, and dynamics of conflict. This article asks how we can understand societies in the Global South in terms of a critical theory of capitalism without imposing the categories of the centre economies on them. For this purpose, the analytical concept of structural heterogeneity is proposed, as well as the empirical concept of the need economy. These terms encourage an understanding of structural heterogeneities that goes beyond economics and enables the analysis of current socioecological distribution conflicts. In conclusion, I argue that to understand societies in the Global South, concepts other than those that were developed for the analysis of capitalism in the early industrialised centre economies are needed.

**Axel Anlauf: Just Another Breakdown Theory? A Suggestion for Implementing the World-Ecology Framework in Empirical Contemporary Research.** Based on a short introduction to central terms of the world-ecology approach, this article seeks to clarify several misunderstandings in the German reception of this new framework. It argues that the world-ecology approach is not just an (ecological) theory of capitalist breakdown, but offers important impulses for research on the politics of natural resources and global inequalities. A central focus is on the term “commodity frontier” and the appropriation of natural resources for capital accumulation. Acknowledging a strong structural orientation in the world-ecology approach, the article argues for a combination with other theoretical strands. With the help of materialist state theory and research on commodity chains or production networks, it develops a research frame that integrates the analysis of the balance of social forces on different scales into the analysis of raw material flows. This allows for open-ended contemporary research and an operationalisation of rather abstract categories, such as cheap nature.

**Maria Backhouse: The Relevance of “Resource Frontier” as an Analytical Concept – Making Sense of Current Land Conflicts in Amazonia.** In this article, I aim to answer the question: what is new about the conflicts surrounding deforestation and land grabbing in the Brazilian Amazon region that have marked the last four to six years? In the process, I demonstrate the benefits of the concept “resource frontier” for the analysis of these current dynamics and social conflicts. One important reference in this regard is Jason Moore’s interpretation of the resource frontier, as he combines the historical perspective of world systems theory with an “entanglement perspective” on the expansion of capitalist commodities. Yet, although Moore conceptualises the resource frontier as a socially contested space, he offers little guidance for studying these social conflicts in detail. A more systematic investigation of the specific role of the state and of both local- and national-level actors is needed for understanding the social drivers of resource frontiers and their enclosure. By drawing on actor-centred interpretations and applying it to the social conflicts surrounding the governance and control of land use in Amazonia, this paper expands the resource frontier approach. I trace how social movements and their allies succeeded, from the 1980s onward, in limiting land grabbing and deforestation through the establishment of protected areas and collective land rights. The new development in the dynamics of deforestation and land grabbing over the past few years, then, is that these (legally guaranteed) land rights have increasingly been targeted again and are being undermined by land speculation, mining operations, and pastoral agriculture. To conclude, I discuss the challenges for forest and climate protection with regards to the 2022 presidential elections.

**Stefanie Hürtgen und Maximilian Hofmann: Uneven Development as Glocalization: Jordanian Special Economic Zones and the Global Apparel Industry in Light of the Jordan Compact.** Special economic zones have long been argued to promote social and economic “development” and, more recently, to “activate” and integrate refugees. In this paper, we critically examine a supposedly prime

example of the nexus between “development” and “refugee integration”: the Jordan Compact, a bilateral agreement between Jordan and the European Union adopted in 2016. In the article, we draw on world-systems approaches, on the one hand, while emphasising the necessity of their spatial-theoretical updating, on the other hand. By presenting the empirical example of the garment industry’s global production networks and the working and living conditions in the Jordanian special economic zones, we highlight that uneven development globally constituted the multi-scalar socio-spatial fragmentation of labour and the reproduction of conditions, constitutive of neoliberal globalisation.

**Shelby E. Ward & Ranitri Weerasuriya: Re-claiming Colombo: The Postcolonial Geopolitics of Sri Lankan Urbanisation.** This paper considers the geopolitical and geoeconomic power relations around several recent high rise, commercial, and tourism-based projects in what can be described as a future site of a “downtown” Colombo. These urbanisation projects also provide examples to critique and imagine the historically developed postcolonial relations of globalisation. The paper specifically discusses the Colombo Port City project – a reclaimed land project that is backed by the Chinese government and Sri Lanka’s Ministry for Megapolis and Western Development, and includes a 99-year lease for the 575 acres added to the island for China – and John Keel’s Cinnamon Life project – a project supported by both local investors and American hedge funds, that contributes not only another large hotel, but also apartments, shopping, restaurants, and a casino. Similar to other hotel developments, such as Shrangī-La, the evictions of Slave Island for the Cinnamon Life developments indicate a trend whereby individuals and/or communities are forced out either by government interference or rising prices. The authors suggest, first, that the politics of Colombo’s urbanisation can be traced through the theme of “reclaiming”, which includes not only the physical reclaimed land of the Colombo Port City project, but also the land reclaimed from the Slave Island evictions and the ongoing possibility to exercise eminent domain power for the “public good”. In addition, this theme asks: do these different investments and partnerships indicate reclaimed or ongoing colonial power relations, or is Sri Lanka re-claiming their position as a geo-strategic partner within international relations? Second, and towards these questions, the authors argue that a dynamic and multi-scale lens – from the macro-economic and political international investments, to the micro-level of individuals – is necessary in order to engage a postcolonial critique of globalisation and contemporary geopolitics. Indeed, such a lens helps interrogate if these projects offer alternative models and relations to progress and South Asian modernity than what has come before in urban, postcolonial development narratives or not?