

Summer 2015  
Carleton University  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

## SOCIOLOGY OF THE POST-MODERN STATE

Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-12:30

Instructor: John Rapley  
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Taking the nation-state as the embodiment of modernity, this course looks at the ways the major economic changes of the last thirty years – globalisation, migration and slowing productivity growth in the West – are producing new forms of governance. Using a model of imperial blowback derived from the study of the trajectories of past empires, and in particular the Roman Empire, it will explore the idea that what the contemporary West is undergoing is a crisis of imperial decline. It will then discuss whether emergent forms of informal governance can be situated within the context of the changing social, political and economic landscape resulting from such a transition.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation 20%  
Presentations 30%  
Final Assignment 50%

#### **5 May. Introduction**

#### **7 May. Imperial blowback**

Sam D. Sieber 1981: *Fatal Remedies: The Ironies of Social Intervention* (New York and London: Plenum Press), chapters 1,4,6  
Peter Heather 2010: *Empires and Barbarians* (New York: Oxford University Press), ch.11.  
Peter Evans 1997: 'The Eclipse of the State: Reflections on Stateness in an Era of Globalization,' *World Politics* 50, 1 (Oct.): 62-87.  
Jorg Friedrichs, "The Meaning of New Medievalism," *European Journal of International Relations* 7,4 (Dec. 2001): 475-501.

#### **12 May. The political backdrop**

Leslie Sklair 2002: 'The Transnational Capitalist Class and Global Politics,' *International Political Science Review* 23,2: 159-174.  
Stefania Vitali, James B. Glattfelder and Stefano Battiston 2011: *The Network of Global Corporate Control* (Zurich: Swiss Federal Institute of Technology)  
<http://arxiv.org/pdf/1107.5728.pdf>

John Rapley 2004: *Globalization and Inequality* (Boulder and London: Lynne Rienner), ch.1.  
John Rapley 2006: "The New Middle Ages," *Foreign Affairs* 85, 3 (May/June): 95-103.

#### **14 May. The economic backdrop**

Tyler Cowen 2011: *The Great Stagnation* (New York: Dutton).

#### **19 May. The Great Convergence?**

Arvind Subramanian and Martin Kessler 2013: *The Hyperglobalization of Trade and its Future* (Global Citizen Foundation, 2013)

Thomas Piketty, et al., 2013: "The Top 1% in International and Historical Perspective," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 27, 3: 3-20.

Credit Suisse 2014: *The Global Wealth Report*, pp. 3-43:

[http://economics.uwo.ca/people/davies\\_docs/credit-suisse-global-wealth-report-2014.pdf](http://economics.uwo.ca/people/davies_docs/credit-suisse-global-wealth-report-2014.pdf)

#### **21 May. Changing Demography**

Barney Cohen 2006: 'Urbanization in Developing Countries: Current Trends, Future Projections and Key Challenges for Sustainability,' *Technology in Society* 28: 63-80.

Saskia Sassen 2000: "The Global City: Strategic Site/New Frontier," *American Studies* 41, 2/3: 79-95.

Neil Smith 2002: "New Globalism, New Urbanism: Gentrification as Global Urban Strategy," *Antipode* 34,3: 427-450.

George Friedman 2015: *Population Decline and the Great Economic Reversal* (Stratfor, Geopolitical Weekly): [https://www.stratfor.com/weekly/population-decline-and-great-economic-reversal?mc\\_cid=a0f058f040&mc\\_eid=58fb8b100b](https://www.stratfor.com/weekly/population-decline-and-great-economic-reversal?mc_cid=a0f058f040&mc_eid=58fb8b100b)

#### **26 May. A Model of Modern Sovereignty**

Yoram Barzel 2002: *A Theory of the State* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002), chs. 1-3.

John Rapley 2004: 'Development Studies and the Post-development Critique,' *Progress in Development Studies* 4,4: 350-354.

Max Weber, "Politics as Vocation." 1918 (available online)

Mancur Olson 1993: "Dictatorship, Democracy and Development," *American Political Science Review* 87, 3: 567-576.

Charles Tilly 1985: "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime," in *Bringing the State Back In*, edited by Peter Evans, et al. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

#### **28 May. Soft States, Weak States and Failed States**

Robert I. Rotberg 2003: Failed States, Collapsed States, Weak States: Causes and Indicators,' in *State Failure and State Weakness in a Time of Terror*, edited by Robert I. Rotberg (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution).

Joel S. Migdal 1988: *Strong Societies and Weak States: State-Society Relations and State Capabilities in the Third World* (Princeton University, 1988).

#### **2 June. Globalisation and State Capacity**

Maria Gritsch 2005: "The Nation-State and Economic Globalization: Soft Geo-politics

- and Increased State Autonomy,' *Review of International Political Economy* 12, 1 (February): 1-25.
- Nita Rudra 2002: 'Globalization and the Decline of the Welfare State in Less-Developed Countries,' *International Organization* 56, 2 (Spring): 411-445.
- Federico Varese 2001. 'Is Sicily the Future of Russia? Private Protection and the Rise of the Russian Mafia,' *Archives Europeenes de Sociologie* 42(10), 186-220.

#### **4 June. Economic and Political Informality**

- Friedrich Schneider 2012: *Size and Measurement of the Informal Economy in 110 Countries around the World* (Canberra: Presentation to workshop of Australian National Tax Centre, Australian National University, 17 July) -- available online.
- Alberto Chong and Mark Gradstein 2007: 'Inequality and Informality,' *Journal of Public Economics* 91: 159-179.
- Benno Torgler and Friedrich Schneider 2009: 'The Impact of Tax Morale and Institutional Quality on the Shadow Economy,' *Journal of Economic Psychology* 30,2: 228-245.
- Caroline van Rijckeghem and Beatrice Weder 2001: 'Bureaucratic Corruption and the Rate of Temptation: Do wages in the civil service affect corruption, and by how much?' *Journal of Development Economics* 65,2: 307-331.

#### **9 June. The Social and Tax Contract**

- Margaret Levi 1988: *Of Rule and Revenue* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press).

#### **11 June. Case Studies**

- John Rapley 2003 'Jamaica: Negotiating Law and Order with the Dons,' *NACLA Report on the Americas*, 37, 2 (Sept./Oct.): 25-29.
- John Rapley 2012: 'The development of informal governance in post-apartheid South Africa: Criminal gangs as neo-medieval agents,' *South African Journal of International Affairs* 19, 3: 319-336.
- John Rapley 2015: *Neo-medievalism: Austerity and Extremism in Greece* (Zurich: ISN) <http://www.isn.ethz.ch/Digital-Library/Articles/Detail/?lng=en&id=188857>
- Donal Cruise O'Brien 1998: 'The Shadow Politics of Wolofisation,' *Journal of Modern African Studies* 36, 1: 25-46.
- Erid Ross 1995: "Touba: A Spiritual Metropolis in the Modern World," *Canadian Journal of African Studies* 29, 2: 222-259.