

Michael Levien

433 Mergenthaler Hall, Department of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University
3400 N. Charles St., Baltimore MD 21211
Email: levien@jhu.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA 2013-Present
Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, Sociology, 2013.

M.A. University of California, Berkeley, Sociology, 2007.

B.A. Williams College, American Studies, Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa, 2001.

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Levien, Michael. Forthcoming. *Dispossession Without Development: Land Grabs in Neoliberal India*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Articles:

Levien, Michael. 2015. "Social Capital as Obstacle to Development: Brokering Land, Norms and Trust in Rural India." *World Development* 74: 77-92.

- Winner of Faculty Article Award, American Sociological Association Section on the Sociology of Development.

Levien, Michael. 2015. "From Primitive Accumulation to Regimes of Dispossession: Theses on India's Land Question." *Economic and Political Weekly* 50(22): 146-157.

Madeleine Fairbairn, Jonathan Fox, S. Ryan Isakson, Michael Levien, Nancy Peluso, Shahra Razavi, Ian Scoones, and K. Sivaramakrishnan. 2014. "Introduction: New Directions in Agrarian Political Economy." *Journal of Peasant Studies* 41(5): 653-666.

Levien, Michael. 2014. "From Primitive Accumulation to Regimes of Dispossession." *Revista Sociologia y Anthropologia* 4(1): 25-53 (Translated into Portuguese by Markus Hediger).

Levien, Michael. 2013. "The Politics of Dispossession: Theorizing India's 'Land Wars.'" *Politics & Society* 41(3): 351-394.

- Winner of Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Marxist Sociology Section, American Sociological Association.

Levien, Michael. 2013. "Regimes of Dispossession: From Steel Towns to Special Economic Zones." *Development and Change* 44(2): 381-407.

Levien, Michael and Marcel Paret. 2012. "A Second Double-Movement?: Polanyi and Shifting Global Opinions on Neoliberalism." *International Sociology* 27(6): 724-744.

- Winner of Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Sociology of Development Section, American Sociological Association.
- Winner of Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Pacific Chapter of the American Association for Public Opinion Research

Levien, Michael. 2012. "The Land Question: Special Economic Zones and the Political Economy of Dispossession in India." *Journal of Peasant Studies* 39 (3-4): 933-969.

- Winner of the 2011-2012 Bharadwaj-Wolf Prize for outstanding article by a young scholar in JPS.

Levien, Michael. 2011. "Special Economic Zones and Accumulation by Dispossession in India." *Journal of Agrarian Change* 11(4): 454-483.

Levien, Michael. 2011. "Rationalising Dispossession: The Land Acquisition and Resettlement Bills." *Economic and Political Weekly* 46(11): 66-71.

Levien, Michael. 2007. "India's Double Movement: Polanyi and the National Alliance of People's Movements." *Berkeley Journal of Sociology* 51: 119-149.

- Winner of Blumer Prize for best paper in the Department of Sociology, U.C. Berkeley.

Book Chapters:

Levien, Michael. 2017. "From Primitive Accumulation to Regimes of Dispossession: Theses on India's Land Question." In *The Land Question in India: State, Dispossession and Capitalist Transition*, edited by Anthony P. D'Costa and Achin Chakraborty. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Levien, Michael. 2016. "Gender and Land Grabs in Comparative Perspective." In *Gender Equality and Sustainable Development Pathways*, edited by Melissa Leach. London: Earthscan.

Levien, Michael. 2013. "Regimes of Dispossession: From Steel Towns to Special Economic Zones." In *Governing Global Land Deals: The Role of the State in the Rush for Land*, edited by Wendy Wolford, Saturnino M. Borrás, Jr., Ruth Hall, Ian Scoones and Ben White. Chichester: Wiley Blackwell.

Edited Volumes:

Madeleine Fairbairn, Jonathan Fox, S. Ryan Isakson, Michael Levien, Nancy Peluso, Shahra Razavi, Ian Scoones, and K. Sivaramakrishnan, eds. 2015. *Global Agrarian Transformations, Volume 1: New Directions in Agrarian Political Economy*. London: Routledge.

Book Reviews:

Levien, Michael. 2013. "Subalterns Scrutinized." Review essay on *Postcolonial Theory and the Specter of Capital* by Vivek Chibber. *European Journal of Sociology* 54(3): 485-497.

Levien, Michael. 2013. Review of *The Agrarian Question in the Neoliberal Era: Primitive Accumulation and the Peasantry* by Utsa Patnaik and Sam Moyo. *Journal of Peasant Studies* 40(1): 307-311.

In Progress/Under Review:

Levien, Michael. "Dispossession and Democracy: The Land Acquisition Act and the Future of India's Land Wars."

Levien, Michael. "Fictitious but not Utopian: Land Commodification and Dispossession in Rural India."

Levien, Michael and Smriti Upadhyay. "India's Land Acquisition Problem: A Quantitative Analysis."

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2017 Best Faculty Article Award, Sociology of Development Section, American Sociological Association
- 2013 Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Sociology of Development Section, American Sociological Association (with Marcel Paret).
- 2013 Bharadwaj-Wolf Prize (for outstanding article by a young scholar), *Journal of Peasant Studies*
- 2012 Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Marxist Sociology Section, American Sociological Association
- 2011 Best Graduate Student Paper Prize, Pacific Chapter of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (with Marcel Paret)
- 2011 First Annual Berkeley Alumni Prize for Public Sociology
- 2009 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, U.C. Berkeley.
- 2008 Herbert Blumer Prize (for best paper), U.C. Berkeley Department of Sociology.
- 2001 Phi Beta Kappa, Williams College.
- 2001 Gaius C. Bolin Essay Prize in Afro-American Studies, Williams College.
- 2001 Kenneth L. Brown Prize in American Studies, Williams College.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2017 (with Joel Andreas) American Council for Learned Societies grant of \$25,000 for conference on Land Dispossession in Rural China and India.
- 2014 Visiting Professorship, Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi (May-July).
- 2012 Leo Lowenthal Fellowship, U.C. Berkeley Department of Sociology
- 2011 Northern California Association of Phi Beta Kappa Dissertation Fellowship.
- 2010 Simpson Memorial Research Fellowship, Institute of International Studies, U.C. Berkeley.
- 2010 Land Deal Politics Initiative, Small Grant Recipient.

2009-2010 Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Research Fellowship.
 2009 American Institute of Indian Studies, Junior Research Fellowship (Declined).
 2007-2008 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Year-Long Fellowship (Hindi).
 2007 National Science Foundation, Graduate Fellowship Honorable Mention.
 2007 Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship (Hindi).
 2006 Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship (Hindi).
 2006 National Science Foundation, Graduate Fellowship Honorable Mention.
 2005-2007 University of California Regents Fellowship.

PRESENTATIONS

2017 “India’s Land Question.” Invited keynote lecture, International Conference on Property and Environment in Developing Countries. Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR-Govenpro). Paris, France. June 7, 2017.

“The Future of India’s Land Wars.” Invited talk, South Asia NYU. February 3, 2017. New York, NY.

2016 “Dispossession Without Development: Land Grabs in Neoliberal India. Invited Talk, Displacement Seminar, Middle East Studies, Brown University. December 6, 2016. Providence, RI.

“Dispossession Without Development: Land Grabs in Neoliberal India” Invited talk, Center for Modern India Studies, University of Gottingen. October 26, 2016. Göttingen, Germany.

“Dispossession Without Development: Land Grabs in Neoliberal India.” Invited talk, Contemporary South Asia Seminar, Oxford University. October 20, 2016. Oxford, UK.

“India’s Land Question.” Invited talk at Agrarian Change Seminar, Development Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies. October 19, 2016. London, UK.

“Dispossession Without Exploitation: Land Grabs in Neoliberal India.” Development in Question Conference, Cornell University. October 8, 2016. Ithaca, NY.

“Dispossession Without Development: Land Grabs in Neoliberal India.” Invited book workshop, PLACE, Penn State Department of Geography. April 28, 2016. State College, PA.

“Differentiation by Speculation: Real Estate and Agrarian Change in a Rajasthani Village.” Invited talk at Gilded Age Seminar, Watson Institute, Brown University. March 3, 2016. Providence, RI.

“Towards a Sociology of Dispossession.” Invited talk at the International Institute of Social Studies. January 18, 2016. The Hague, Netherlands.

“Social Capital as Obstacle to Development: Brokering Land, Norms and Trust in Rural India.” Invited presentation at the Broker and Entrepreneur Workshop, Transregional Research Network, University of Göttingen. January 15, 2016. Göttingen, Germany.

- 2015 “Differentiation by Speculation: Real Estate and Agrarian Change in a Rajasthani Village.” Invited talk at India Political Economy Workshop. Center for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania. December 4, 2015. Philadelphia, PA.
- “From Primitive Accumulation to Regimes of Dispossession: Theses on India’s Land Question.” Social Science History Association 40th Annual Conference. November 15, 2015. Baltimore, MD.
- “Differentiation by Speculation: Real Estate and Agrarian Change in a Rajasthani Village.” Agrarian Studies Colloquium. Yale University. September 25, 2015. New Haven, CT.
- “Dispossession After Development: Real Estate and Agrarian Change in a Rajasthani Village.” Invited talk at Land Fictions Workshop. Rutgers University. May 2, 2015. New Brunswick, NJ.
- “From Primitive Accumulation to Regimes of Dispossession: Theses on India’s Land Question.” Invited Talk at Workshop on “Extraction, Contention, Development: Global Perspectives on Resource Politics.” The Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington. Seattle, WA. April 30, 2015.
- “Dispossession After Development: Real Estate and Agrarian Change in a Rajasthani Village.” Sociology of Development Conference. Brown University. March 15, 2015. Providence, RI.
- 2014 “Dispossession and Democracy: The Land Acquisition Act and the Future of India’s Land Wars.” Social Science History Association 39th Annual Conference. November 7, 2014. Toronto, Canada.
- “Dispossession and Democracy: The Land Acquisition Act and the Future of India’s Land Wars.” Invited talk at Recalling Democracy: Lineages of the Present Conference, University of Michigan. September 6, 2014. Ann Arbor, MI.
- “The Land Broker State: Dispossession and Development in Neoliberal India.” American Sociological Association, Session on “Development in Hard Times,” Development Sociology Section. August 17, 2014. San Francisco, CA.
- “Regimes of Dispossession: Capitalism and the Politics of Land in India.” Invited talk at the Institute of Economic Growth. July 24, 2014. New Delhi, India.
- “Dispossession and Social Theory: Comparing the Politics of Land and Labor.” International Sociological Association World Congress. July 17, 2014. Yokohama, Japan.
- “The Land Broker State: Dispossession in Neoliberal India.” Invited talk at the Watson Institute for International Studies Seminar on Development and Governance, Brown University. March 19, 2014. Providence, RI.

“Regimes of Dispossession.” Invited talk at the Urban Theory Lab, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University. March 13, 2014. Cambridge, MA.

“Regimes of Dispossession: From Dams to Special Economic Zones.” Guest lecture in Planning Against Evictions and Displacement, taught by Balakrishnan Rajagopal and Miloon Kothari, Department of Urban Planning, MIT. March 12, 2014. Cambridge, MA.

“From Primitive Accumulation to Regimes of Dispossession: Theses on India’s Land Question.” Invited presentation at the international conference on The Return of the Land Question: Dispossession, Livelihoods, and Contestation in India’s Capitalist Transition, organized by the University of Melbourne, IDS Kolkata and IIM Kolkata. March 3, 2014. Kolkata, India.

“Regimes of Dispossession: From Steel Towns to Special Economic Zones.” Invited presentation at Zonal Logics of Modernity Workshop, New York University and the New School for Social Research. February 22, 2014. New York, NY.

2013 “Regimes of Dispossession and the Politics of India’s Special Economic Zones.” Invited talk at the University of Zurich (University Research Priority Program on Europe and Asia) Conference on Traveling Norms and the Politics of Contention. October 25, 2013. Zurich, Switzerland.

“Gender and Dispossession.” Invited presentation at the UN Women Concepts and Methods Workshop for the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 2014*. United Nations. September 17, 2013. New York, NY.

“Dispossession, Development, and Resistance: From Dams to Special Economic Zones.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Political Sociology Regular Session. August 13, 2013. New York, NY.

“The Politics of Dispossession: Comparing Land and Labor Struggles.” Power and Justice Mini-Conference, American Sociological Association Annual Meetings. August 9, 2013. New York, NY.

2012 “Dispossession and Development: From Dams to Special Economic Zones”

- Johns Hopkins University, Department of Sociology. November 14, 2012. Baltimore, MD.
- Binghamton University, Department of Sociology. November 16, 2012. Binghamton, NY.
- London School of Economics, Department of International Development. November 21, 2012. London, UK.

“Social Capital as Obstacle to Development: Brokering Networks, Norms and Trust in Rural India.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Development Sociology Regular Session. August 20, 2012. Denver, CO.

“The Land Broker State and the Politics of Dispossession: Connecting the Urban and Rural?” The 21st Century Indian City Conference, University of California-Berkeley. April 28, 2012. Berkeley, CA.

“The Politics of Dispossession: Understanding India’s Land Wars.”

- Yale Modern South Asia Workshop. April 7, 2012. New Haven, CT.
- University of California-Berkeley, Center for South Asia Studies. April 19, 2012. Berkeley, CA.
- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Political Economy of the World System Roundtable. August 20, 2012. Denver, CO.
- Global Land Grabbing Conference II, Cornell University. October 17, 2012. Ithaca, NY.

2011

“The Land Broker State and the Politics of Dispossession in India.”

- Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Annual Conference. June 25, 2011. Madrid, Spain.
- States of Emergency: A Conference in Honor of Peter Evans. University of California-Berkeley. May 6, 2011. Berkeley, CA.

“The Land Question: Special Economic Zones and Accumulation by Dispossession in India.”

- International Conference on Global Land Grabbing, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex. April 7, 2011. Brighton, UK.
- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Regular Session on Globalization. August 21, 2011. Las Vegas, NV.
- University of East London, Department of International Development (Invited Talk). October 4, 2011. London, UK.

“From *Bighas* to Square Metres: Special Economic Zones and the Production of Rural Real Estate.” 40th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison. October 22, 2011. Madison, WI.

2008

“*Sangarsh and Nirman: Alternative Development in India’s Narmada Valley.*” Real Utopias Graduate Student Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison. May 2008. Madison, WI.

“A Second Double Movement? Polanyian Insights on Global Responses to Neoliberalism.” Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Annual Conference. July 21-23, 2008. San Jose, Costa Rica. (with Marcel Paret).

2007

“Contemporary Counter-movements Against Neoliberal Globalization: Polanyi and India’s National Alliance of People’s Movements.” Berkeley Journal of Sociology Annual Conference: “Globalization and Social Change.” March, 2007. Berkeley, CA.

2006

“‘Our Rule in Our Villages’: Alternative Development in the Narmada Valley.” Second Annual Brown University Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference: “Space as a Category of Analysis: New Perspectives.” April 7, 2006. Providence, RI.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate

Issues in International Development (230.150)
Theories of International Development (230.391)
Contemporary Social Theory (230.395)
Sociology of Dispossession (230.263)
Undergraduate Research Seminar (230.379)

Graduate

Contemporary Social Theory (230.602)
Agrarian Change (230.647)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Department

2016 Member of Graduate Student Job Market Committee
2015 Member of Admissions Committee
2014-15 Member of Speakers Committee
2014 Member of Admissions Committee
2013 Member of Undergraduate Committee

University

2016- Board Member of International Studies Program

Discipline

2014 Faculty Mentor, Association for Asian Studies-Social Science Research Council
Dissertation Workshop on “Dispossession, Capital, and the State.” Philadelphia, PA.
2013- Book Review Section Co-Editor, *Journal of Peasant Studies*
2013 International Advisory Board Member, *Journal of Peasant Studies*
2005-2007 Co-editor, Berkeley Journal of Sociology

Reviewer for:

American Journal of Sociology, Antipode, Comparative Studies in Society and History, Critical Historical Studies, Current Sociology, Development and Change, Economy and Society, Environment and Planning A, Environment and Planning C, Geography Compass, Journal of Agrarian Change, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Peasant Studies, Land Use Policy, Political Power and Social Theory, Sociopedia, South Asia Multi-Disciplinary Journal, Theory and Society, Third World Quarterly, Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers

Member of: American Sociological Association (Sections: Sociology of Development, Political Sociology, Sociology of Labor, Theory).

LANGUAGES

Hindi (speaking, reading, and writing proficiency)
Spanish (rusty).