

# Worldly Political Economy – Conference Program

## May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

*Organized by:* Inés Valdez, Ho-fung Hung and Robbie Shilliam

**5/1:** Scott Bates Commons – Barber Rm, **5/2:** Bloomberg Student Ctr - Rm 404 (Clarvit Family)

### *Co-sponsored by:*

SNF Agora Institute	Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Center for Africana Studies	International Studies Program
Center for Economy and Society	Latin American, Caribbean, & Latinx Studies Program
Department of Philosophy	Women, Gender, and Sexuality Program
Department of Political Science	Krieger School of Arts and Sciences
Department of Sociology	Arrighi Center for Global Studies

\*\*\* There won't be bottled beverages w/lunch, water fountains are available to refill bottles \*\*\*

### **First Day: Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> - Scott Bates Commons (Barber Room)**

*1:00-1:10pm Introduction*

*1.10-2:30pm Panel I: Slavery and Capitalism*

[80 minutes (20' each presentation, 40' Q&A)]

- Anna More (Universidade de Brasília) “Early Atlantic Slavery, Accumulation and the World Market”
- Lucas Pinheiro (Bard and Princeton IAS) “The Capitalist Plantation: Racialization, Valorization, and Sentimental Management in the Sugar Colonies”

*Chair:* Kory Gaines (Political Science, Hopkins)

*[2:30-2:45pm Break]*

*2:45-4:05pm Panel II: Development and New Economic Orders*

[80 minutes (20' each presentation, 40' Q&A)]

- Heloise Weber (Queensland University) “Colonial Architecture and Capitalist Transformation: Deprivation through the ‘Right to Development’”
- José Miguel Ahumada (Universidad de Chile) “Development as Independence: Republican Freedom, Structural Power, and the Unfinished Project of the Global South”

*Chair:* Farah Farid (Political Science, Hopkins)

[4:05-4:20pm Break]

*4:20-5:40pm Panel III: The Household and the Tribe*

[80 minutes (20' each presentation, 40' Q&A)]

- Ricardo Jacobs (UCSB) “Capitalist Retribalization and the Unraveling of Global Capitalism”
- Rachel Brown (WashU) “‘Dumping’ Finance Capital: Collective Care As Divestment”

Chair: Elijah Garber (Political Science, Hopkins)

**Second Day: Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> Bloomberg Student Ctr (Room 404, Clarvit Family)**

*9.15-10am Breakfast on site*

*10-11.55am Panel IV: The Village, the State, and Temporality*

[115 minutes (20' each presentation, 55' Q&A)]

- Joy Wang (UChicago) “Making Developmentalism Popular: The Dar es Salaam School between Lenin and Fanon, 1967-74”
- Inés Valdez (Hopkins and Princeton IAS) “Capitalism, Imperialism, and the Paradox of Dependent Democracy”
- Ben McKean (OSU) “Climate Change as a Fight for Time: Guy Debord as Eco-Marxist”

Chair: Keely Kriho (Political Science, Hopkins)

[11.55-12.10pm Break]

*12.10-1.30pm Panel V: Fascism and Backsliding*

[80 minutes (20' each presentation, 40' Q&A)]

- Robbie Shilliam (Hopkins) “Polite Violence: A Rastafari Reasoning on American Fascism”
- Sanjay Ruparelia (Toronto Metropolitan) “The socioeconomic foundations of democratic backsliding: a rough sketch”

Chair: Joseph Stein (Political Science, Hopkins)

*1.30am-2.30pm Lunch on site*

*2:30pm-3.50pm Panel VI Hegemony, China, and the Post-Soviet Space*

[80 minutes (20' each presentation, 40' Q&A)]

- Ho-fung Hung (Hopkins) “Hypes and Prospects of a New Global Monetary Order: From the Undead Dollar Hegemony to the Unborn RMB Challenge”
- Yuliya Yurchenko (Greenwich) “Undoing the terra obscura: IPE scholarship, the post-Soviet space, and theory without history”

Chair: Maria Haro Sly (Sociology, Hopkins)

[3:50-4:05 Break]

4:05-4:30pm Closing Discussion

**In lieu of long introductions at each panel, the speakers’ bios are included below:**

*José Miguel Ahumada* is assistant professor at the Universidad de Chile. His work is on development and capitalism in Chile and Latin America. His most recent single-authored book is *The political economy of peripheral growth: Chile in the global economy*, published in 2019 by Routledge. His work has appeared in *New Political Economy*, *Review of Keynesian Economics*, and the *Review of International Political Economy*, among other outlets.

*Rachel Brown's* research and teaching interests include feminist theory, reproductive labor, settler colonial studies, labor migration, and the politics of debt and development. Her recent book, *Unsettled Labors*, was published by Duke University Press in 2024. Her work has appeared in *Feminist Theory*, *Political Theory*, *Race & Class*, *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, *Theory & Event*, and *Global Networks*.

*Benjamin McKean* is associate professor at Ohio State University. His work has been published in the *American Political Science Review* and *Political Theory*, among other outlets. His first book, *Disorienting Neoliberalism: Global Justice and the Outer Limit of Freedom* was published by Oxford and argues that people subject to unjust institutions and practices should be disposed to solidarity with others who are also subject to them – even across state borders. His new project researches the inadequacy of existing political concepts for addressing climate change.

*Anna More* is Professor of Hispanic Literatures in the Department of Literary Theory and Literatures at the Universidade de Brasília, the editor of *Sor Juan Inés de la Cruz: Selected Works*, a Norton Critical Edition (W.W. Norton, 2016) and author of *Baroque Sovereignty: Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora and the Creole Archive of Colonial Mexico* (U Penn Press, 2013), which won honorable mention for the best book in Humanities from the Mexico Section of the Latin American Studies Association. She has also published on seventeenth-century colonial science, poetics, and historiography in Mexico, among other topics.

*Ho-fung Hung* is the Henry M. and Elizabeth P. Wiesenfeld Professor in Political Economy at the Sociology Department and the Paul H Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of the Johns Hopkins University. His scholarly interest includes global political economy, protest, nation-state formation, social theory, and East Asian Development. He has published in the *American Sociological Review* and the *South Atlantic Quarterly*, among other outlets. His book *Greenback Empire: Global Dollar Dominance and the New Cold War* is out with University of Chicago Press.

*Ricardo Jacobs* is assistant professor at the University of California at Santa Barbara. His research focuses on the global political economy of urbanization, ecology and agrarian change, with a focus on post-colonial Africa. His work examines how global colonial-racial capitalism and class struggle shapes race, ethnicity, gender and class at the local and global level. His work has been published in the *Oxford Handbook of Land Politics* and the *Journal of Peasant Studies*, where a recent article just won the 2017-18 Krishna Bharadwaji and Eric Wolf Prize from the journal and the Terence K. Hopkins award from the *American Sociological Association*.

*Lucas G. Pinheiro* is assistant professor at Bard College and Fellow at the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study. His research is in the history of political thought, contemporary political theory, and critiques of political economy. His work focuses on overlapping transformations in ideas and practices about race, labor, aesthetics, and technology within the modern histories of capitalism, empire, and political thought. His work has been published in the *American Political Science* and *Modern Intellectual History*, among other outlets. He is currently finishing a book on the colonial origins and digital afterlives of the factory system and the intertwined histories of political thought and capitalist society it tells.

*Sanjay Ruparelia* is Professor in the Department of Politics and Public Administration at Toronto Metropolitan University, where he holds the Jarislowsky Democracy Chair. His work has been published widely in *Comparative Politics*, *The Journal of South Asian Studies*, and the *International Journal for Politics, Culture, and Society*. His most recent book is *Divided We Govern: Coalition Politics in Modern India* by Oxford University Press. His current work is Modi's India, the courts, and rights.

*Robbie Shilliam* is professor at Johns Hopkins University and a scholar of postcolonial politics and racial politics in the field of International Relations. Currently, Robbie is working on two strands of inquiry: firstly, a collective project to rethink the discipline of Political Science and to retrieve and build alternative approaches to the discipline that more adequately explain racial politics; secondly, a critical consideration of the "free thinkers" of Black faith-based movements and their contributions to what we in academia call "political economy". A book - *Move Outta Babylon: Rastafari Reasonings on Political Economy*- will be published with Penguin Books.

*Inés Valdez* is Professor of Political Science at Johns Hopkins University and the Richard B. Fisher Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study. She works on political economy and the Latin American and Black Marxist traditions, as well as Immanuel Kant and W. E. B. Du Bois. Her work has appeared in the *American Political Science Review*, *Political Theory* and other journals, and her two books have been published by Cambridge University Press, including the most recent on *Democracy and Empire*. Valdez has received fellowships from the European University Institute, the Humboldt Foundation, and the Princeton University Center for Human Values.

*Joy Wang* is a Harper-Schmidt Fellow and Collegiate assistant professor at the University of Chicago. Her work has been published in the *American Political Science Review*, among other outlets. Her manuscript in progress *Global Reconstruction: Freedom and the Developmental State in the Age of Decolonization* turns to the political thought of a wide range of political actors who sought to constitute postcolonial developmental states in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> c. Anglophone Caribbean and Africa to offer a new political theoretic account of the ambivalent promise of postcolonial development.

*Heloise Weber* is an associate professor at the School of Political Science and International Studies at Queensland University. Her research is animated by an interest in the historical and contemporary politics of inequalities and injustices in the organization of development globally. Her work has been published in *Globalizations* and the *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, among other outlets. Her first book, co-authored with Mark Berger is *Rethinking the Third World: International Development and World Politics*, published by Palgrave MacMillan.

*Yuliya Yurchenko* is a Senior Lecturer in Political Economy at the University of Greenwich. Yuliya researches state/society/capital complexes and their power dynamics, transnational class formation, modes of accumulation of capital, the limits of the possible embedded in them. She has published in journals like *Globalizations* and *New Political Economy*. She has published *Ukraine and the Empire of Capital* with Pluto Press and edited a recent volume on *The Myths of 1989: Origins, Realities and Alternatives to Neoliberalism in Eastern Europe*.