Contesting Globalisation: Old and New Theories of Transnational Law, Capitalism & Democratic Governance

A Collaboration between the Transnational Law Institute (TLI) & the International Development Institute (IDI), King’s College London, October 2016 – March 2017

Conveners: Jelke Boesten (IDI) & Peer Zumbansen (TLI)

Content: The widespread resistance against economic globalization, blatant socio-economic inequality and racism of the last decades has become fueled by the unavailability of effective democratic representation and participation – in ‘developed’ and ‘developing’ countries alike. Despite a rise in ‘rights’ and ‘rule of law’ rhetoric more and more people around the world experience grievous their own marginalization, exclusion and precariousness rather than socio-economic empowerment and political emancipation. Financialisation, privatization and marketization have become the defining drivers of domestic policy development and of the way in which the fading prerogative of the state is declared as being “without alternative”.

The 2016-2017 Reading Lab will feature a number of seminal texts in economic theory, political economy and critical legal & political thought since the 19th century. Our selection is informed by the hope that a more thorough understanding of capitalist development in ‘North’-(Global) ‘South’ relations (economically, historically, epistemologically) can offer important insights when trying to address the deeper roots of recent nationalist revivals, racist parochialism and neo-liberalism’s ‘strange non-death’ (C.Crouch).

Background: Since November 2014, the Transnational Law Institute at King’s College London has been hosting a regular reading and discussion forum on seminal and new writings in transnational law, governance, and political legal theory. The READING LAB is an informal gathering to revisit or discover scholarly contributions to an emerging field where law and development meet, and is open to anyone interested. There is only one rule: anyone attending ought to have read the assigned text. Note: “Background readings” are optional.

2016-2017: Over the course of the next academic year, the Reading Lab will be hosted by the Transnational Law Institute in collaboration with the International Development Institute at King’s College London. The Reading Lab is open to UG and PGT/PGR students and to faculty in London and, provided there is space, beyond. Accompanying the Reading Lab is a Transnational Law LL.M. module of the same title at The Dickson Poon School of Law, which is cross-listed to the International Development Institute and the Department of War Studies.
Wednesday 12 October 2016 – 18:00-20:00. Somerset House 1.18


Wednesday 9 November 2016 – 18:00-20:00. Somerset House 1.17

Wolfgang Streeck, *Buying Time. The Delayed Crisis ofDemocratic Capitalism* (Verso 2014) [and other writings in New Left Review, Jacobin, SocialEurope]

Background Text (recommended): Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation* (2001, w. an introduction by Fred Block and Joseph Stiglitz) [1944]

Wednesday 30 November 2016 – 18:00-20:00. Somerset House 1.09


Wednesday 18 January 2017 – 18:00-20:00. Somerset House 1.17


Wednesday 15 February 2017 – 18:00-20:00. Somerset House 1.18


Wednesday 22 March 2017 – 18:00-20:00. Somerset House 1.17


Refreshments served at all events. To sign up for the Reading Lab 2016-2017, please RSVP on Eventbrite via [kcl.ac.uk/law/tli/events/events](http://kcl.ac.uk/law/tli/events/events)

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