The CasP Project

Past, Present, Future

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HANDOUT

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ABSTRACT. The study of capital as power began when we were students in the 1980s and has since expanded into a broader project, involving a growing number of researchers and new areas of inquiry. The presentation explores what we have learned so far, reviews ongoing research and suggests future trajectories – including the coevolution of concepts and modes of power; the origins of capitalized power; the state of capital; finance as the symbolic reordering of capitalism; the role of labour, production and waste; the capitalized environment; and the need for post-capitalist accounting.

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Recent Publications and Interviews


Lecture Highlights

PAST

Research
• “Research Question”
• The Sleepwalkers
• The academic troopers
• Have you ever failed? Where you ever surprised?
• Modeling undefinable terms, answering unaskable questions

Theories and Facts
• Facts: irrelevant? trivial?
• Accumulation through crisis?
• The “Monopoly Capital School”
• Everybody knows
• From Galileo to Einstein: induction and deduction
• The large Israeli holding groups: everywhere and nowhere

Dominant Capital and Differential Accumulation
• Totalizing
• From labour and utility to power
• From absolute to relative
• Distribution and redistribution

Politics and Economics
• Dominant capital and military conflict
• Differential profit and military spending
• The politics-economics duality

Mergers and Acquisitions
• Aggregate concentration: Israel vs. the U.S.
• M&A or greenfield?
• M&A: spreading the capitalist megamachine

Inflation and Stagflation
• Stagflation and differential accumulation
• Hume’s duality
• Neutrality?
• The exception or the rule?
• Differential stagflation
• Energy conflicts

Real and Nominal
• What is “real”?
• What is “fictitious”?
• Power as reality
The Elementary Particles of Capitalized Power
• Capitalization
• Future earnings, hype, risk and the normal rate of return
• Bringing power back in: internal and encompassing

The Asymptotes of Power
• Logical and societal limits
• Force and counterforce
• Is U.S. dominant capital approaching its asymptotes?

The Scientist and the Church
• The questions of science
• The sabotage of the church
• Unleashing the Greek Triangle: democracy-philosophy-science

PRESENT

Cooperation and Dialogue
• Paul Erdős and Andrew Wiles
• Researching together
• Ten autonomous research institutes

The New Generation
• www.capitalaspower.com
• From novice to novelty: the making of world experts

Joon Park and Jordan Brennan: Country Studies
• South Korea & Canada
• Alternative histories of dominant capital and differential accumulation

Joseph Baines: The Global Food Regime
• Creordering the world of food: differential prices, inflation and volatility
• World hunger, Walmart, Supermarket Supremacy, Food for Fuel, Derivatives

DT Cochrane: De Beers and the Conversion of Quality to Quantity
• How were marriage, war production, relations with government and family ownership converted to differential profits?

Blair Fix: Converting Energy to Hierarchy
• Growth and utility?
• Growth and energy conversion
• Energy conversion and hierarchy creation

James McMahon: Converting Cultural Destruction to Lower Risk
• How Hollywood beats the average without differential profits
• Blockbuster cinema: harnessing film creativity and cultural expectations
• It’s the risk factor, stupid.

Marc-Andre Gagon: The Big Pharmaceutical Firms
• Leveraging the state: intellectual property rights and falling therapeutic innovation
Sandy Brian Hager: Who Owns the Public Debt?
• Capitalizing the state
• State: sovereign or private?

Mladen Ostojic: Differential Taxation and the Onset of the Financial Crisis
• Beating the average with higher tax rates?
• The banking-state pact behind the deregulation of finance

Tim Di Muzio: The Multi CasPer
• Debt, the 1%, energy and beyond

FUTURE

COP-MOPs
• Concepts of Power, Modes of Power

The Origin of the Capitalist Mode of Power
• Aristotle’s Telos: what are we looking for?

Finance and the Capitalist Creorder
• Finance and power, or finance as power?
• The elementary particles

The Capitalist State or the State of Capital?
• Corporations and government, capital and state

What about Labour?
• Labour and surplus
• Labour and power
• Democritus’ atoms
• Marglin’s “What do bosses do?”

The Shifting Environmental Locus
• Climate, energy, life
• Environmental destruction – an external by-product?
• Differential sabotage

Accounting
• Soviet satellites
• A language of power
• A language of autonomy