

# **Asian Political Economy - *Inaugural Conference***

(April 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 2019, Gordon Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor [Address: 418, North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA – 01002], University of Massachusetts Amherst)

Hosted by the Department of Economics, Political Economy Research Institute (PERI), University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Institute of New Economic Thinking (INET).

The conference is free and open to all. Please register by March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 by clicking on the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/8fYOsfbDxVOJmO1V2>

## **Conference Schedule (Preliminary)**

**April 13<sup>th</sup>:**

*Registration and Breakfast* (8 - 9 AM)

*Opening Remarks* (9 - 9.10 AM): *Vamsi Vakulabharanam* (Co-director, Asian Political Economy Program, PERI, University of Massachusetts Amherst).

*Keynote Session* (9.10 – 10.40 AM)

**Chair:** *Robert Pollin* (Distinguished Professor of Economics, and Co-Director, PERI, University of Massachusetts Amherst)

### **Keynote Speakers and Topics:**

*Carl Riskin* (Distinguished Professor of Economics, City University of New York) - **“On Mainstreaming Climate Change”**

*Mark Selden* (Senior Research Associate in the East Asian Studies at Cornell University) - **“Rethinking Development in the Era of Climate Disruption: The Chinese Experience and the Earth System”**

*Tea Break* (10.40 – 11 AM)

**Panel 1: Surplus Labor and Structural Change** (11 AM – 1 PM)

**Chair (and Discussant):** *Leonce Ndikumana* (Professor and Chair of Economics, and Director, African Development Policy, PERI, University of Massachusetts Amherst)

**Speakers and Topics:**

*Shahram Azhar* (Assistant Professor of Economics, Bucknell University) - **“Neoliberalism and Structural Change in the Pakistani Labor Force: Evidence from 2000-2017”**

*Smita Ramnarain* (Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Rhode Island) - **“Women's Work, Rural Economies, and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in India: A Political Economy Perspective”**

*Zhun Xu* (Assistant Professor of Economics, Howard University) - **“Capital Accumulation and Spatial Shift of Labor Struggles in China”**

*Andong Zhu* (Professor of Marxism Studies, Tsinghua University) – **“Structural Change of the Chinese Economy and its Implications”**

**Lunch Break** (1 PM – 2 PM)

**Panel 2: Urbanization in a New Era** (2 – 3.30 PM)

**Chair (and Discussant):** *Carol E. Heim* (Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst)

**Speakers and Topics:**

*Mark W. Frazier* (Professor of Politics, the New School of Social Research, and Academic Director of the India China Institute) - **“From Workplace to Residence: Relocating Citizenship in Post-industrial Shanghai and Mumbai”**

*Zhongjin Li* (Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Missouri, Kansas City, and Co-Director, Asian Political Economy program, PERI) - **“A Spatial Fix or A Welfare Challenge? Understanding China’s New Urbanization Process”**

*Sripad Motiram* (Associate Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Boston) - **“Production of City Space in India: The Cases of Mumbai and Hyderabad”**

**Tea Break** (3.30 – 3.45 PM)

**Panel 3: Climate Change and Planetary Boundaries (3.45 – 5.15 PM)**

**Chair (and Discussant):** *Smriti Rao* (Associate Professor of Economics, Assumption College)

**Speakers and Topics:**

*Shouvik Chakraborty* (Assistant Research Professor, Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst) - **“Making a Case for a Global Carbon Tax”**

*Ying Chen* (Assistant Professor of Economics, the New School of Social Research) - **“Who Needs De-growth? A Cross-Country Comparison of Living Energy Standards”**

*Sirisha Naidu* (Associate Professor of Economics, Wright State University) - **“Managing the Clash of the Commons: Climate Change and Forest Rights in India”**

**April 14<sup>th</sup>:**

**Breakfast** (8 – 9 AM)

**Panel 4: Gender, Class, Race and Inequality in Asia (9 – 11 AM)**

**Chair (and Discussant):** *Zhongjin Li* (Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Missouri, Kansas City, and Co-Director, Asian Political Economy program, PERI)

**Speakers and Topics:**

*Hwok Aun Lee* (Senior fellow, National University of Singapore) - **“Class, Race and Inequality in Malaysia: Official Accounts, Alternative Views”**

*Smriti Rao* (Associate Professor of Economics, Assumption College) - **“The Feminization of Agriculture in India? A Feminist Political Economy Analysis”**

*Vamsi Vakulabharanam* (Associate Professor of Economics and Co-Director, Asian Political Economy Program at PERI, University of Massachusetts Amherst) - **“Inequality in India since Independence: The story of two consolidating urban elites”**

*Zhong Wei* (Senior research fellow, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing) -  
**“The Evolution of China’s Economic Thought on Income Distribution and its Impact on Income Inequality”**

*Tea Break* (11 – 11.15 AM)

*Panel 5: Macroeconomic Issues* (11.15 AM – 12.45 PM)

**Chair (and Discussant):** *Gerald Epstein* (Professor of Economics and Co-Director, PERI, University of Massachusetts Amherst)

**Speakers and Topics:**

*Arjun Jayadev* (Associate Professor of Economics, Azim Premji University, India and Co-Director, Asian Political Economy Program, PERI) - **“Fiscal Rules Built on Quicksand - The Case of India”**

*Hao Qi* (Assistant Professor of Economics, Renmin University of China, Beijing) - **“The Labor Market Turning Point, Slowdown of Private Accumulation, and the Tendency of Financialization in China”**

*Isabella Weber* (Lecturer, Goldsmiths College, University of London, UK) - **“Creating New Economic Orders: A Comparative and Connected History of the Post-WWII Capitalist Regimes and the Chinese 1980s Transition Debates”**

*Lunch* (12.45 PM – 1.30 PM)

**Concluding Discussion, Future Activities** (1.30 – 2.30 PM): Led by *Arjun Jayadev* and *Zhongjin Li* (Co-Directors, Asian Political Economy Program, PERI, University of Massachusetts Amherst).

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