

Department of International Studies at DePaul

990 W Fullerton Avenue, Suite 4100

Chicago, Illinois 60614

Phone: (773) 325-7456

las.depaul.edu/int

International Studies Program at UIC

1007 W. Harrison, Room 1102 BSB (m/c 276)

Chicago, IL 60607-7137

Phone (312) 413-3105

lcs.las.uic.edu/international

UIC Institute for the Humanities

701 South Morgan, Lower Level / Stevenson Hall

Chicago, IL 60607-7040

Phone (312) 996-6352

huminst.las.uic.edu

Department of Geography at DePaul

990 West Fullerton Avenue, Suites 4300 & 4500

Chicago, IL 60614

Phone: (773) 325-7669

las.depaul.edu/geography



THE POLITICS OF RESOURCES IN THE NEOLIBERAL ERA



DePaul University

McGowan South (1110 W. Belden) Rm 105

Thursday October 25th, 2012

9:00am-1:00pm

Presented by the Department of International Studies and Department of Geography at DePaul University, the International Studies Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and The UIC Institute for the Humanities

THE POLITICS OF RESOURCES IN THE NEOLIBERAL ERA

Modern capitalism is in part predicated on framing nature and the physical world as a series of resources to be used for the circulation and accumulation of capital. This conference aims to discuss and explore the social and political repercussion of the increasing economization of the natural world, including human bodies and social needs, in the neoliberal era by free markets, national states, transnational institutions, and scientific and professional experts and communities of knowledge.

Stephen Engelmann: "Malthus's Shadow: Scarcity, Constraint, and Bio-Social Science"

Robert Malthus' "struggle for existence" in a context of scarcity was a major inspiration for Darwin's theory of natural selection, and economics and biology have come together again in our neoliberal era. This paper revisits the history of economic thought as an argument about the material grounds and limits of political agency.

Maureen Sioh: "Savage Harvest': Agriculture and the Performance of Postcolonial Territorialization"

This paper examines the configurations of territorialization taken by the Malaysian state within the context of postcolonial anxieties of legitimacy. Focusing on two ambitious Malaysian revenue-generating strategies, the paper explores how agriculture features in the construction of national and global identities.

Toby Craig Jones: "Water & Oil in the Making of Saudi Arabia"

The efforts to master both oil and water have long been at the heart of power in Saudi Arabia. This paper will examine their interconnected histories and the ways that both helped shape modern politics in the kingdom.

Conference Schedule

9:00am.....Coffee and Refreshments

9:15am.....Introductions

9:30—10:20.....Stephen Engelmann

10:30-11:20.....Maureen Sioh

11:30-12:20.....Toby Jones

12:30-1:00.....Closing Discussion

Presenters



Stephen Engelmann is an associate professor of political science at UIC. He is the author of *Imagining Interest in Political Thought: Origins of Economic Rationality* (2003) and the editor of *Jeremy Bentham: Selected Writings* (2011)

Maureen Sioh is an associate professor of geography at DePaul University and most recently the author of "The Hollow Within: anxiety and performing postcolonial financial policies." *Third World Quarterly* (2010) and "Anxious enactments: postcolonial anxieties and the performance of territorialization." *Environment & Planning D: Society & Space* (2010).



Toby Jones is an associate professor of history at Rutgers University. He is a member of the editorial board of *Middle East Report* (MERIP) and the author of *Desert Kingdom: How Oil and Water Forged Modern Saudi Arabia* (2010)