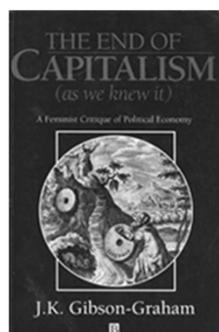
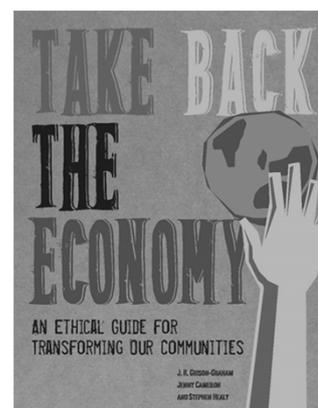


URSP 3050
Special Topics in
Urban Studies 1

Welcome

What's the course about?
Course structure
Workshop 1



Something's amiss ...

Income inequality

New Economics Institute

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Wealth Inequality in America

It's not everyday that a video about wealth inequality goes viral on the internet. But this myth-shattering video is spreading across the social web, using powerful infographics to make the case that not only is wealth distributed unevenly, but that it is much, much worse than we think.

Sign up for updates

Email:

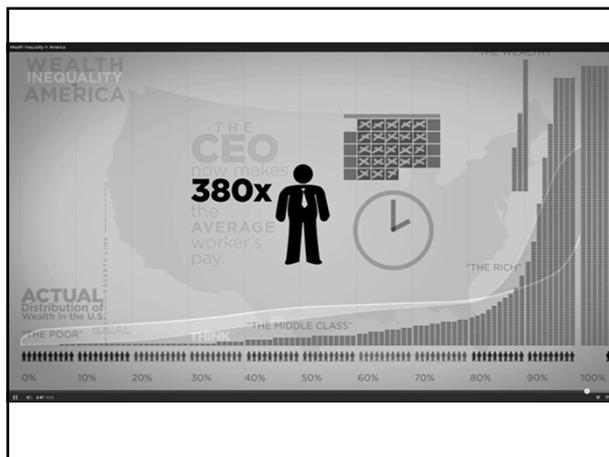
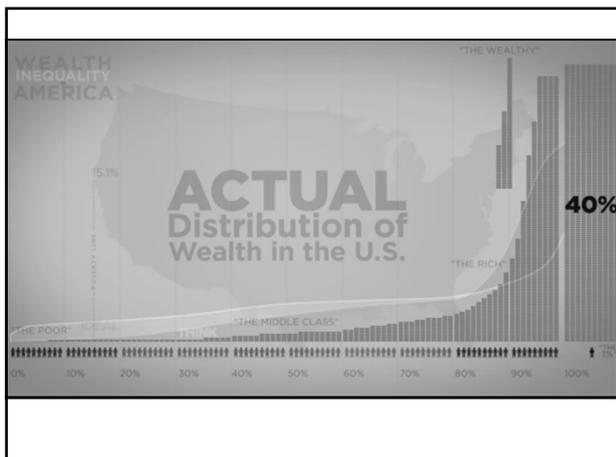
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We Need Your Support

Your donation will support our work to organize student leaders, communicate the need for economic alternatives, and build a powerful coalition of *Real Economy*.

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WE ARE THE 99 PERCENT

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Welcome

America has been in the grip of accelerating inequality for decades. Politicians have been supporting policies that benefit the few at the expense of everyone else. No matter what you call it - trickle down economics, free market fundamentalism, crony capitalism - it is all rooted in the idea that if you take care of the people at the very top, everyone benefits. That is a lie and we reject it.

This site has one simple purpose: to provide us and our fellow citizens with facts, graphics, and more reading about income inequality, wealth concentration, and our corrupt economic system. Steal these facts, graphics, and ideas. Hack them, tweet them, put them up on telephone poles, on walls, on cars, on buses, etc. This is our world and we will reclaim it.

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1% HAVE MORE WEALTH THAN THE ENTIRE BOTTOM 90%

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FD FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT

An Achilles' Heel

FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT, December 2013, Vol. 50, No. 4

Ravi Balakrishnan, Chad Steinberg, and Murtaza Syed

Inequality threatens Asia's growth miracle

Over the past 25 years, Asia has grown faster than any other region of the world, leading many to label the coming years the "Asian Century." With the region's successful integration into the global marketplace and its large middle class increasingly coming to the fore, there are good reasons to think that the world economy will increasingly shift toward Asia in the coming decades.

However, Asia's fortunes are threatened by a surge in inequality that has accompanied that quarter century of growth. Paradoxically, the same growth that reduced absolute poverty has created a widening wedge between haves and have-nots. This polarization has not only tarnished the region's economic achievements but, left unaddressed, could leave Asia's promise unfulfilled. As a consequence, policymakers throughout the region are looking for ways to arrest rising inequality and make growth more inclusive.

We look at what lies behind this worsening income distribution, why it matters, and what can be done to make Asian economic growth more inclusive.

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Poverty and inequality in India and China

Poverty in China and India has been considerably reduced since the two largest countries began their economic takeoffs—three decades ago in China, two in India.

China's poverty fell fastest during the early 1980s and mid-1990s, spurred by rural economic reforms, low initial inequality, and access to health care and education opportunities. In 1981, China was one of the world's poorest nations with 84 percent of the population living on less than \$1.25 a day ... By 2008, 13 percent were in poverty ... India has also reduced poverty, although at a slower rate than China. In 1981, 60 percent of Indians lived on less than \$1.25 a day, fewer than in China. By 2010, the share fell to 33 percent, but was two and a half times higher than in China.

combine fast growth with relatively low—and in many cases falling—inequality. Asia's recent dismal record on inequality is therefore a

Central and Eastern Europe (38.3)

Change in inequality, percentage points

Source: OECD Data, national authorities, WID.world income inequality database, World Bank, Povnet database, and IMF staff calculations. Note: The change in inequality reflects the point change in the Gini index, weighted by population. The Gini index goes from zero, full equality, where everyone has the same income, to 100, total inequality, in which one person has all the income. IMF = International Monetary Fund, WID.world = World Income Database.

Poverty and inequality in India and China

Poverty in China and India has been considerably reduced since the two largest countries began their economic takeoffs—three decades ago in China, two in India.

However, inequality has increased in both countries. According to official estimates, China's Gini (where zero represents the most equal income distribution and 100 the most unequal) increased from 37 in the mid-1990s to 49 in 2008. India's Gini ticked up from 33 in 1993 to 37 in 2010, according to the Asian Development Bank (2012).

contrasts starkly with its dramatic period of economic takeoff in the three decades before 1990. "Growth with equity" was the mantra during this period, as Japan and the Asian tigers were able to combine fast growth with relatively low—and in many cases falling—inequality. Asia's recent dismal record on inequality is therefore a

than in any other region, although it remains lower than in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa.

East Asia (42.1)
South Asia (52.2)
Advanced Asia (28.4)
NEA (28.7)
ASEAN 5 (31.9)
Sub-Saharan Africa (65.2)
Middle East and North Africa (58.5)
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Poverty and inequality in India and China

Poverty in China and India has been considerably reduced since the two largest countries began their economic takeoffs—three decades ago in China, two in India.

This is a new phenomenon for the region and contrasts starkly with its dramatic period of economic takeoff in the three decades before 1990. "Growth with equity" was the mantra during this period, as Japan and the Asian tigers were able to combine fast growth with relatively low—and in many cases falling—inequality. Asia's recent dismal record on inequality is therefore a stunning turnaround.

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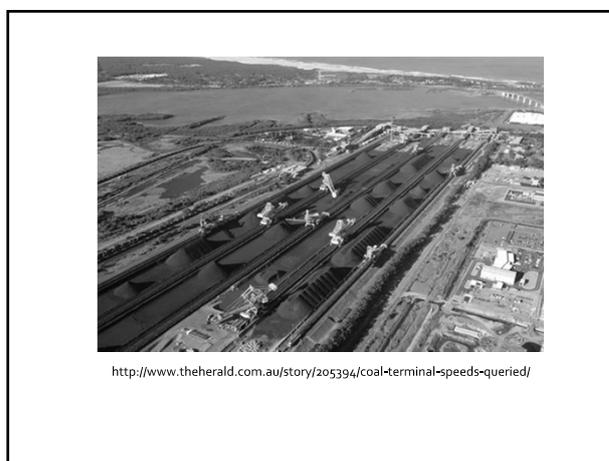
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Something's amiss ...

Income inequality

Environmental degradation





http://news.mongabay.com/2012/04/03-hance_xstrata.html



<http://www.mailfe.com.fj/pacific-climate-warriors-in-bid-to-blockade-aussie-coal-port/>

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17 October 2014 Last updated at 10:42

South Pacific climate activists blockade Australia port

Hundreds of climate change protesters have attempted to disrupt shipments of coal from a port north of Sydney using their canoes, kayaks and surfboards to form a blockade.

Related Stories
 Bushfires 'not'

Australia is the worst polluter per head of population in the developed world. It is also the world's largest coal exporter, sending more than three quarters of what it mines to countries including Japan, China, India and Korea.

Milan Loeak, the 26-year-old daughter of the president of the Marshall Islands Chris Loeak, said plans to expand the Newcastle port were "definitely going to have an effect" on Pacific Islands.

"We just want to share our stories and make sure that people are aware that the decisions that are being made over here are directly affecting our islands back home," the Australian Broadcasting Corporation quoted her as saying.

In July, the conservative government repealed a tax aimed at forcing more than 300 of the nation's biggest polluters to pay for their carbon dioxide emissions.

Rural
 Home Horticulture Livestock Fibre Grains Mining Add Industry Weather Markets

2014 was Australia's third-warmest year: BoM

ABC Rural | By Anna Vidot

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The Bureau of Meteorology has confirmed that 2014 was Australia's third-warmest year since national records began in 1910.

Australian maximum and minimum temperatures remained well above average for most of 2014. February was the only month that recorded below average temperatures.

That continued a pattern of warm weather seen throughout 2013, which was Australia's warmest year on record.

The bureau's full weather breakdown of 2014 has now been released, and reveals Australia's area-averaged mean temperature last year was 0.91 degrees above the benchmark 1961-1990 average.

Maximum temperatures were 1.16 degrees above average, and minimum temperatures were 0.66 degrees above average.

The Bureau's climate monitoring manager, Dr Karl Braganza says the higher average maximum is particularly significant.

"A difference of one or two degrees doesn't sound like much, but it's actually the difference between one climate zone and the next across Australia," he said.

"So when we sustain those temperatures across a year, or even two years as we have done in the last 24 months, then that starts to become kind of significant."

PHOTO: A Bureau of Meteorology map showing 2014 annual mean temperatures, compared to historical temperature observations. (Bureau of Meteorology)

MAP: Parliament House 2600

AUDIO: Bureau's climate manager discusses the 2014 data with ABC Rural (ABC Rural)

2014 could be the world's warmest

Warmer temperatures were recorded much further afield than Australia in 2014, and the Bureau of Meteorology says last year may turn out to be the world's warmest on record.

The World Meteorological Organisation is responsible for producing an estimated global mean temperature each year, based on data from agencies in the UK and USA.

The Bureau reports that preliminary data covering January to November puts the estimate for the world's mean temperature in 2014 at 0.57 degrees, or 0.10 degrees above the 1961-1990 average.

Since 1985, no year has recorded a below-average global mean temperature, and all of the world's 10 warmest years have occurred since 1998, the Bureau's report notes.

Records tumble in the Territory

Despite some extremes, the Bureau of Meteorology says the Northern Territory experienced an average year for rainfall in 2014.

In 2014, much of the Territory received rains that the Bureau has classified as 'very much above average', but climatologist Joel Lisonbee says the year revealed several highs and lows.

"New rainfall records were set early in the year but when you average that across the whole year, we had some very dry periods, we ended just a little bit above the average," he said.

Temperature records were also broken in 2014 in the Top End.

Tennant Creek airport reached 45.6 degrees in early January while Pirlangimpi airport on the Tiwi Islands recorded their hottest year on record.

Mr Lisonbee says some low temperatures also broke records, including at the remote community of Yuendumu, north-west of Alice Springs.

The "Australian strategy of voluntary sleepwalking toward catastrophe".

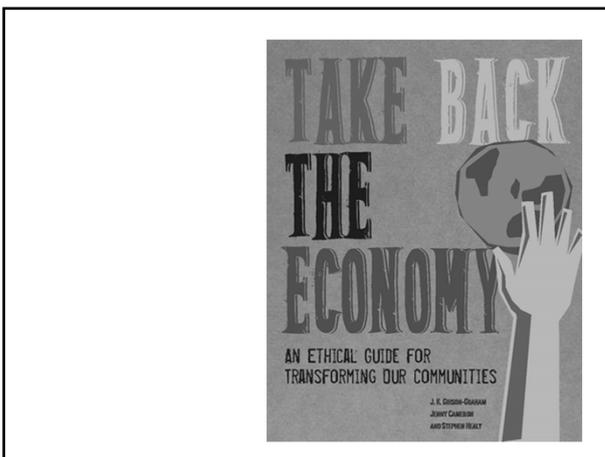
(Latour 2014: 1)

Something's amiss ...

Income inequality

Environmental degradation

What's to be done?



Take Back the Economy
Why Now?

Encouraged by the idea that we can build the economies we live in, individuals and communities across the globe are taking economic matters into their own hands to help create worlds that are socially and environmentally just. Take Back the Economy is inspired by these efforts.

that are socially and environmentally just. *Take Back the Economy* is inspired by these efforts.

When we explore the ways that people are taking back the economy to make it work for societies and environments, we find they are thinking deeply about shared concerns and experimenting with ways of responding. These concerns are as follows:

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When we explore the ways that people are taking back the economy to make it work for societies and environments, we find they are thinking deeply about shared concerns and experimenting with ways of responding. These concerns are as follows:

1. What do we really need to live healthy lives both materially and psychically? How do we take other people and the planet into account when determining a healthy life? How do we survive well?
2. What do we do with what is left-over after we've met our survival needs? How do we make decisions about this extra? How do we distribute surplus?
3. What type of relationship do we have with the people and environments that enable us to survive well? How much do we know about those who live in distant places and provide the inputs that we use to meet our needs? How do we encounter others as we seek to survive well?

4. What materials and energy do we use up in the process of surviving well? What do we consume?
5. How do we maintain, restore and replenish the gifts of nature and intellect that all humans rely on? How do we care for our commons?
6. How do we store and use our surplus and savings so that people and the planet are supported and sustained? How do we make futures?

- 1. Reframing the Economy, Reframing Ourselves** ○○
- 2. Take Back Work** ○○
Surviving Well
- 3. Take Back Business** ○○
Distributing Surplus
- 4. Take Back the Market** ○○
Encountering Others
- 5. Take Back Property** ○○
Commoning
- 6. Take Back Finance** ○○
Investing in Futures
- Any Time, Any Place . . .** ○○

How is the course structured?

Week	Lecture	Workshop	Assessment Item
1 8 Jan.	Introduction: What is the economy?	The Economy as an Iceberg	
2 15 Jan.	Theoretical Approaches	The Diverse Economy	
3 22 Jan.	Surviving Well	Surviving Well Tools	
4 29 Jan.	Surviving Well	Case Studies - Planning (1)	
5 5 Feb.	Distributing Surplus	Distributing Surplus Tools	
6 12 Feb.	Distributing Surplus	Case Studies - Planning (2)	Reflective Journal 10% (Based on 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 5)
7 19 Feb.	Lunar New Year		
8 26 Feb.	Encountering Others	Encountering Others Tools	Case Study Plan 10%
9 5 March	Encountering Others	Case Studies - Research (1)	
10 12 March	Commoning	Commoning Tools	
11 19 March	Commoning	Case Studies - Research (2)	
12 26 March	Investing in Futures	Investing in Futures Tools	
13 2 April	Investing in Futures	Case Studies - Research (3)	Reflective Journal 10% (Based on 3, 4, 8, 10, 12)
14 9 April	Presentation of Case Studies		
15 16 April	Course Review, Discussion of Exam (Take Home)		
16 April	Submission of Case Study Report		
24 April	Exam (Take Home)		

Assessment

- Reflective Journal (based on in-class workshops): 20%
- Case Study: 50%
- Exam (take home): 30%

• **Reflective Journal**
In Weeks 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12 there are in-class workshops. Students are to write a one-page reflection on each of these workshops. The reflections should comment on what the student learned from the workshop, including the new understandings that the student developed and understandings that have been confirmed. The reflections can also refer to the related lecture readings and discussions. It is acceptable to use first-person (I). The first reflective journal (10%) is due **Thursday 12 Feb, 9:30am** (for in-class workshops from Weeks 1, 2, 3, 5). The second reflective journal (10%) is due **Thursday 2 April, 9:30am** (for in-class workshops from Weeks 8, 10, 12). Late assignments are not acceptable. More details will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

• **Case Study**
The Case Study is made up of a Case Study Plan (10%, due **Thursday 26 February, 9:30am**), a Case Study Report (20%, due **Thursday 16 April, 9:30am**), and a Case Study Visual Presentation that communicates the main points from the report (20%, due **Thursday 9 April, 9:30am**). Depending on class size, the case study will be completed individually or in groups. If groups, these will comprise 2 to 3 students. Each individual or group will investigate a case study based on one of the following themes from *Take Back the Economy*: surviving well, distributing surplus, encountering others, commoning, or investing in futures.

The Case Study Report is to

- Describe the economic practices used by the case study
- Identify the ethical concerns that the case study is based on
- Discuss how these ethical concerns are reflected in the economic practices
- Identify how the case study contributes to sustainable and equitable development
- Describe the challenges faced by the case study
- Discuss policies that might support the case study and help to support similar endeavours.

The Case Study Visual Presentation can take any form (e.g. poster, video, performance). Students are encouraged to think creatively about presentation formats.

The Case Study Plan must identify the case study for investigation, the planned sources of information and the planned visual presentation.

Workshop 1

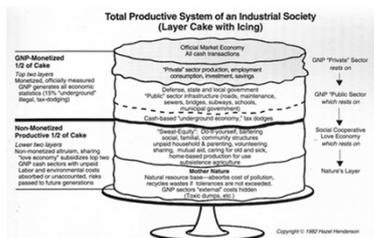
Step 1 to taking back the economy means reframing the economy by identifying:

1. The range of activities that are "economic" (and therefore)
2. The range of ways that we can take action as economic actors

Other ways of reframing the economy

Richard Neuwirth on System D (the informal economy)

Hazel Henderson, Triple Layer Cake



"Your Homework"

Write your first reflection:

- What have you learned from the workshop (e.g. something new, something confirmed, something curious)
- Refer to the lecture reading (Intro & Chapter 1, TBTE)

"Jenny's Homework"

Writing a blog for TBTE Website

Are you ok with me doing this?