Reading Group: Law and the Global Political Economy

Yale Law School, Fall 2023

Sponsoring Professor: Prof. Amy Kapczynski

Student Coordinators: Akshat Agarwal and Xiaolu Fan

12 sessions; 1 hour 30 minutes per session

Overview:
The global economic order is in flux. The Covid-19 pandemic, Russia’s war in Ukraine, rising tensions between the United States and China, and a more assertive and independent Global South have challenged long-held assumptions of global governance. Economic theories focusing on free trade and the power of independent markets have also come under criticism for deepening inequalities (race, wealth, gender etc.,) exacerbating the climate crisis, and disregarding labor welfare and the value of care.

The Law and Political Economy (LPE) movement in the American legal academy aims to question and understand the role of law in shaping the current political and economic framework, and explore alternative legal possibilities. While recognizing that this theorization is sensitive to context, this reading group seeks to use an LPE lens to examine and understand the global political economy.

By applying an LPE lens to global issues, the reading group explores various questions. These include the meaning of global capitalism, the role of the Global South, the dynamics between the center and periphery at the global level, the interconnectedness between domestic policies and international ones, and discussions on specific themes such as money, climate change, geo-conflict, human rights, race, and international development.

The selection of such a broad range of topics is intended to encourage thinking about the interconnectedness (or lack thereof) of global issues. Throughout the semester, diverse materials spanning international law, history, foreign affairs, comparative studies, journalistic writing, and economics are read. In addition to more traditional accounts, the group also delves into perspectives such as TWAIL, feminist critiques, and critical race theory.

Attendance Policy: Participants need to attend the first meeting and at least 11 sessions to receive credit.

Credits: 1 credit
Week 1.

What is Law and Global Political Economy?

Patricia Cohen, Why it seems everything we knew about the global economy is no longer true, The New York Times (18 June 2023). (11 pages)


Angela P. Harris, Amy Kapczynski, and Noah Zatz, ‘Where is the Political Economy?’ LPE Project (2021). (2 pages)


Skim through the “transnational LPE” page, read any two pieces of your choice, and get a sense of global LPE topics that people have written about.

Week 2.

What is Global South? Global South, Imperialism, and Political Economy


Robin Jaspert, Central Bank Capitalism is Forcing the Global South into a Debt Crisis, Jacobin (December 2022). (6 pages).
Week 3.
**International Organizations and Global Political Economy**


Abdessaman Jaldi, The Crisis of Multilateralism Viewed from the Global South, Policy Center for the New South (April 2023) only pp 1-18 (18 pages).


Week 4.
**Care, Social Reproduction and Labor**


Nancy Fraser, “Contradictions of Capital and Care,” *New Left Review* (August 1, 2016). (18 pages)


Week 5.
**Race**


**Week 6.**

**Human Rights**


Zachary Manfredi, Radicalizing Human Rights, Boston Review (July 2022). (16 pages)

**Week 7.**

**Climate Change**


Bill McKibben, To Save the Planet, Should We Really Be Moving Slower?, The New Yorker (July 2023). (15 pages)

**Week 8.**
Money

Katharina Pistor, ‘From Territorial to Monetary Sovereignty,’ 18 THEORETICAL INQ. L. 491 (2017). (28 pages)


Karina Patrício Ferreira Lima and John Hogan Morris, ‘Monetary Power and The Core Periphery Dynamics of Inflation’ LPE Blog (2022). (5 pages)


Week 9.

International Development


Week 10.

Trade and Investment


**Week 11.**

**Geopolitics and Conflict**


Adam Tooze, Ukraine’s War Has Already Changed the World’s Economy, Foreign Policy (2022) (7 pages).


**Week 12.**

**Global Economic Order Post Neoliberalism?**

Remarks by National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan on Renewing American Economic Leadership at the Brookings Institution, the White House (April, 2023). (15 pages)

Amy Kapczynski, What’s Beyond “Beyond Neoliberalism”? LPE Project (January 2023). (5 pages)

Amy Kapczynski, “Reading the Post-Neoliberal Right”, LPE Project (January 2023) (3 pages)