

ECONOMIES AND SOCIETIES INITIATIVE (2013)

INDIVIDUAL FACULTY AWARDS

Fabio Parasecoli (NSPE) - "Geographical Indications in India: Rural Development, Local Traditions and the Politics of Global Trade." *Funded \$2,500.*

Abstract: Geographical Indications (GIs), a form of intellectual property that connects food products with their places of origin, are a contentious issue in global trade negotiations where India is playing an increasing and crucial role. My research will explore how India is implementing GIs in terms of rural development, social and economic values attributed to tradition, internal political debates, and international trade strategies. To do so, I propose to focus on the state of Karnataka, which has long traditions in rural production and has shown particular dynamism in this issue from the administrative and political points of view.

Sanjay Ruparelia (NSSR) - "Demanding a right to Basic Social Welfare: Contesting the Law in India and China." *Funded \$2,500*

Abstract: What explains the growing popular demand for a right to basic socioeconomic entitlements in India and China over the last decade? How are these rights conceptualized, justified and pursued in terms of their moral imaginaries, political strategies and social repertoires? Why have many struggles for better socioeconomic entitlements simultaneously demanded greater political transparency, responsiveness and accountability? What legal, administrative and policy reforms have various rights-based struggles won, by what means and under what conditions? Finally, where have such rights-based mobilizations been ineffective, and why? I propose to address these questions by studying the striking recent attempt of particular rights-based movements in India and China to use the law, as a technique and site of contestation, to secure basic socioeconomic entitlements. Arguably, the unexpected emergence of these movements represents a significant departure from the double movement that reshaped the economies and societies of Europe during its great transformation from the nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century.

Vyjayanthi Rao (NSSR) - "Urban Density: Environment, Ethos and Opportunity." *Funded \$2,500*

Abstract: This project will extend my work on urban density, comparing the production of localities in India and China by examining the ways in which economic opportunities are created at local scales through the agglomeration of environmental conditions, policy frameworks and the emergent structures of community.

JOINT FACULTY AWARDS

Jonathan Bach (NSPE), Tom Looser (East Asian Studies, NYU) [principals], Adriana Valdez Young (Parsons), Bridget Martin (NSSR PhD student) - "Socio-Economic Topologies: The Economic Zone and Urban Modernity in Asia." *Funded \$10,000.*

Abstract: This project investigates the phenomenon of the economic zone as a signature socio-spatial form of modernity in contemporary Asia. It situates the Chinese and Indian experiences within the larger trajectory of the economic zone. While much has been written about economic zones from business and economic perspectives, few scholars have attempted to develop an integrated understanding that considers the zone's economic dynamics as co-constitutive of its political, social, aesthetic, and cultural aspects. This interdisciplinary initiative takes as its subject the rapidly changing and multivalent logics of the economic zone as it manifests itself in different forms across China, India, and the broader Asian context. Our research examines the inter-

locking logics of market and state from a political and cultural perspective, and seeks to understand the types of spaces and lived experiences that are resulting from now over five decades of economic transformation, urbanization, and new encounters with modernity in Asia.

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT AWARDS

Yun-Chan Wu (NSSR) - "Banks and the Land Appropriation: Corruption and its Public Sphere."

Funded \$1,500.

Abstract: The project attempted here first seeks to limit the scope of research design by focusing only on the corruption of the banking system present in the privatization and re-appropriation of land. It also attempts to synthesize the second and third research approaches of corruption by placing the origin of the political effect of corruption (as a driving force shaping the public sphere) in the exercises of institution (the banking system and the predatory state). Moreover, since this study is designed as an integral part of my dissertation research, the findings of the case study of China and India are to be the empirical support for the theory of corruption I defend in my dissertation. Therefore, I am also looking for further research opportunity to develop this study from a critical review of the current literature on both China and India to a more robust study based on fieldworks and personal interviews in these two countries.

Carol Kai-Ju Wang (NSSR) - "HIV/AIDS and NGO's in China." *Funded \$1,500.*

Abstract: This project is situated at the intersection of three near-simultaneous phenomena in post-reform China: economic liberalization, a burgeoning rights movement, and the growth of an AIDS epidemic. At the same time, surging incidents of rights protests, occurring in response to the tectonic shifts of decades of state sponsored privatization, have made it clear that a new language of individuality, legal entitlement, and personal desire had begun to reshape individuals' relationships to the transitioning state. AIDS activists are drawing from these recent discourses to reframe an epidemiological concern as a problem of human rights. My research focuses on these politically active HIV-positive individuals in reform-era China. I will rely on long-term qualitative research through semi-structured interviews as well as participant observation in professional and extracurricular settings with the key populations identified above. Additionally, I will conduct analyses of textual materials such as human rights handbooks, workshop agendas, conference programs, and written materials online.

Bahar Tabakoglu (NSSR) - "Social Constituents of Religious Politics: Islamist Labor Unionism in Turkey and Hindu Labor Unionism in India." *Funded \$1,500.*

Abstract: In this research paper, my analysis of religious-nationalist labor unionism will rest on field research that I have conducted in Turkey (in Ankara and Istanbul, with several visits to the field during 2010-2012) and India (in New Delhi, July-August, 2011). The research design consists of a collection of primarily qualitative, and secondarily quantitative, data by using data collection instruments for both. I have conducted a total number of 90 in-depth interviews representing various constituents of the domain of labor unionism, and the structural tension between labor and capital circles. Therefore, within the aforementioned framework, the major pro-Islamist labor union confederation, HAKİS (The Confederation of Righteous Trade Unions) in Turkey, and Hindu nationalist labor union, BMS (Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh) in India constitute my main units of analysis. I have conducted semi-structured, open-ended in-depth interviews with administrators, leading figures, and members of these two major religious-oriented labor unions in Turkey and India.

OTHER E&S ACTIVITIES

E&S Interdisciplinary Working Group

Another exciting aspect of this new initiative is the formation of an interdisciplinary working group of faculty around the theme of Economies and Societies. Currently this effort is being headed by Victoria Hattam (NSSR, Politics) and Brian McGrath (Parsons, Urban Design).