

# GEOGRAPHY ONLINE READINGS FOR GLOBAL SHIFT 7<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

COMPILED BY HENRY YEUNG

## PART THREE: WINNING AND LOSING IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

### 7. The Uneasy Relationship Between Transnational Corporations and States: Dynamics of Conflict and Collaboration

- The ties that bind
- Bargaining processes between TNCs and states

Rodrik, Dani (2013) Roepke Lecture in Economic Geography—Who needs the nation-state? *Economic Geography*, 89 (1): 1–20.

Agnew, John (2013) Commentary on ‘Who needs the nation-state?’ *Economic Geography*, 89 (1): 21–6.

*This paper and its commentary offer two contrasting views on the uneasy relationship between the nation-state and global capital in shaping economic governance. This relationship in turn determines how desirable economic and social outcomes can be achieved in different national economies.*

Yeung, Henry Wai-chung (2014) Governing the market in a globalizing era: developmental states, global production networks, and inter-firm dynamics in East Asia. *Review of International Political Economy*, 21 (1): 70–101.

*This conceptual paper explains how the complex relationship between the development state and national lead firms has evolved in the context of emerging global production networks. Based on the recent developmental experience of East Asia, the author argues that the bargaining relationship between domestic lead firms and their home states has changed in favour of the former, which have evolved into transnational corporations in their own right.*

## 8. 'Capturing Value' Within Global Production Networks

- Placing places in GPNs
- Creating, enhancing and capturing value in GPNs
- Upgrading (or downgrading) of local economies within GPNs

Coe, Neil M. and Lee, Yong-Sook (2013) 'We've learnt how to be local': the deepening territorial embeddedness of Samsung–Tesco in South Korea. *Journal of Economic Geography*, 13 (2): 327–56.

*This paper explains how value can be captured through the globalization of retailing. Based on the successful case of Samsung–Tesco in South Korea, the authors argue for a dynamic view of value capture through territorial embeddedness and strategic localization.*

Horner, Rory (2014) Strategic decoupling, recoupling and global production networks: India's pharmaceutical industry. *Journal of Economic Geography*, 14, doi:10.1093/jeg/lbt022.

*This paper highlights the role of a selective and short-term strategic decoupling from global production networks and its subsequent recoupling in the successful development of India's pharmaceutical industry. It argues that positive development outcomes can be attained through these dynamic processes of decoupling and recoupling.*

Kelly, Philip F. (2013) Production networks, place and development: thinking through global production networks in Cavite, Philippines. *Geoforum*, 44: 82–92.

*This paper argues for an alternative vision of value capture in local development that goes beyond the confine of firms' coupling in global production networks. In particular, the author seeks to make visible hidden processes in value capture such as landscape and environmental change, households and livelihoods, and social differentiation and uneven geographical development.*

Murphy, James T. (2012) Global production networks, relational proximity, and the socio-spatial dynamics of market internationalization in Bolivia's wood products sector. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 102 (1): 208–33.

*Drawing upon the case of Bolivian manufacturers of wood products, this paper examines how value capture by local firms varies significantly across different types of production networks and networking practices such as the role of power, positionality, social interactions and local factors.*

Werner, Marion (2012) Beyond upgrading: gendered labor and firm restructuring in the Dominican Republic. *Economic Geography*, 88 (4): 403–22. *This paper offers a feminist analysis of value capture in the context of workers in a large garment firm in the Dominican Republic. It shows that upgrading involves the gendered reworking of skilled and unskilled work.*

## 9. 'Destroying Value'? Environmental Impacts of Global Production Networks

- Production–distribution–consumption as a system of materials flows and balances
- Disturbing the delicate balance of life on earth: damaging the earth's atmosphere
- Fouling the nest: creating, disposing and recycling waste

Baird, Ian G. and Quastel, Noah (2011) Dolphin-safe tuna from California to Thailand: localisms in environmental certification of global commodity networks. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 101 (2): 337–55.

*This paper adopts a political ecology approach to examine how tuna fishing can be detrimental to dolphins and how the dolphin-safe tuna labelling scheme, one of the most successful consumer-driven global environmental campaigns ever launched, can be fraught with differences and conflicts.*

Gregson, Nicky, Crang, Mike, Ahamed, Farid Uddin, Akter, Nasreen, Ferdous, Raihana, Foisal, Sadat and Hudson, Ray (2012) Territorial agglomeration and industrial symbiosis: Sitakunda-Bhatiary, Bangladesh, as a secondary processing complex. *Economic Geography*, 88 (1): 37–58.

*Based on the case of ship-breaking in Bangladesh's Sitakunda-Bhatiary, this paper shows how industrial symbiosis is intricately bound up in the global circulation of environmental wastes and their recovery through secondary processing.*

Johnson, Leigh (2014) Geographies of securitized catastrophe risk and the implications of climate change. *Economic Geography*, 90 (2): 155–85.

*This paper showcases how financialization has turned environmental catastrophes such as climate change into tradable assets that can offer new 'returns on place'.*

Lepawsky, Josh (2014) The changing geography of global trade in electronic discards: time to rethink the e-waste problem. *Geographical Journal*, 180, doi: 10.1111/geoj.12077.

*This paper provides a comprehensive study of global trade in e-waste between 1996 and 2012. Its main finding is surprising: the vast majority of e-waste is traded between developed countries in the global north rather than dumped from these countries to the global south.*

Mulhall, Rachel Ann and Bryson, John R. (2013) The energy hot potato and governance of value chains: power, risk, and organizational adjustment in intermediate manufacturing firms. *Economic Geography*, 89 (4): 395–419.

*This empirical study of intermediate metal-processing firms in the British West Midlands shows the importance of energy costs in shaping their governance of value chains. This paper thus points to the important impact of environmental factors on the organization of global production networks.*

## 10. Winning and Losing: Where You Live Really Matters

- Location matters
- Incomes and poverty
- Where will the jobs come from?
- Populations on the move

Barbu, Mirela, Dunford, Michael and Liu, Weidong (2013) Employment, entrepreneurship, and citizenship in a globalised economy: the Chinese in Prato. *Environment and Planning A*, 45 (10): 2420–41.

*This paper examines how Chinese immigrants and their enterprises in Italy's Prato have produced significant tensions in the local labour market in the textile and clothing sector. These tensions point to a more complex scenario of understanding the winners and losers of economic globalization.*

Barrientos, Stephanie, Gereffi, Gary and Rossi, Arianna (2011) Economic and social upgrading in global production networks: a new paradigm for a changing world. *International Labour Review*, 150 (3–4): 319–40.

*This framework paper shows how economic upgrading brought about by global production networks does not necessarily lead to the social upgrading of workers. It outlines several trajectories and scenarios for such social upgrading.*

Beaverstock, Jon and Hall, Sarah (2012) Competing for talent: global mobility, immigration and the City of London's labour market. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, 5 (2): 271–88.

*Drawing upon a large migration dataset, this paper confirms the critical importance of immigration and population mobility in determining the City of London's position as a leading international financial centre. It demonstrates both how location matters and how population movement can enhance specific locations.*

Gordon, Ian R. and Kaplanis, Yiannis (2014) Accounting for big-city growth in low-paid occupations: immigration and/or service-class consumption. *Economic Geography*, 90 (1): 67–90.

*Using regional data spanning 1975–2008, the authors find the success of London as a global city is predicated on the highly elastic supply of cheap labour from poor countries to fill low-paid service jobs. It provides a contrasting view to the focus on highly skilled jobs in the above study by Beaverstock and Hall (2012).*

Turner, Sarah (2012) Making a living the Hmong way: an actor-oriented livelihoods approach to everyday politics and resistance in upland Vietnam. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 102 (2): 403–22.

*This study of ethnic minority households in upland northern Vietnam shows how livelihoods in a global economy can be highly contingent on everyday politics and social practices. While location matters much in the developmental outcome of globalization, this paper points to actor-specific practices in resisting the perils of economic globalization.*

## 11. Making the World a Better Place

- ‘The best of all possible worlds’?
- TNCs and CSR
- States and issues of global governance
- A better world?

Gereffi, Gary (2014) Global value chains in a post-Washington Consensus world: shifting governance structures, trade patterns and development prospects. *Review of International Political Economy*, 21 (1): 9–37.

*This paper provides a broad reading of five major trends in today’s global economy characterized as a post-Washington-Consensus world. These trends are reshaping the governance structures of global production networks.*

Hamilton, Trina (2013) Beyond market signals: negotiating marketplace politics and corporate responsibilities. *Economic Geography*, 89 (3): 285–316.

*Based on a large study of marketplace campaigns, this paper argues that corporate responsibilities change for the better because of action taken by the influential minorities of consumers, investors, and intermediaries who are often in dialogue with targeted executives. The majority of arm’s length market campaigns are not effective in creating such a change.*

Hughes, Alex (2012) Corporate ethical trading in an economic downturn: recessionary pressures and refracted responsibilities. *Journal of Economic Geography*, 12 (1): 33–45.

*Focusing on how UK food and clothing retailers responded to recessionary pressures between 2008 and 2009, this paper accounts for the resilience of corporate ethical trading on the basis of these retailers’ embeddedness in strategies of reputational risk management.*

Neilson, Jeff (2014) Value chains, neoliberalism and development practice: the Indonesian experience. *Review of International Political Economy*, 21 (1): 38–69.

*Drawing upon the specific application of value chains in Indonesian development practice, this paper argues that the discourse of value chain governance does not necessarily bring about positive development outcomes in specific places. Indeed, such selective application may even lead to deeper penetration of global capital into the local economy and the lives of the rural and urban poor.*