

ABSTRACTS AND TITLES OF STUDENT WORK

Department of City and Regional Planning, University of California at Berkeley

Ph.D. Dissertations

A Model of National Capital Differentiation for Sustainable Regional Development: The Case of the Alto Bio-Bio in Chile.

Cecilia Collados

Natural capital contributes to the quality of life of a region in two complementary ways: first, by directly providing environmental services that cannot be imported, and second, by supplying the natural resources that, through a human controlled production process, become valuable to humans. The evolution of the combination of these two components of the quality of life determines the path of development a region takes.

Environmental services are also determinants of the ability of natural capital to regenerate itself. Ecosystems and other components of the regional natural capital produce environmental services that provide life-support functions necessary for natural capital reproduction. The destruction of this critical natural capital impairs the internal sources of improvement of the quality of life of a region, leading to a non-sustainable path of development.

By characterizing natural capital according to its ability to produce life-supporting environmental services, by its substitutability, and by its possible reconstruction, a stricter definition of sustainability is presented in this dissertation, which provides the basis for a sustainable regional development planning model.

Institutions act as an interface in the decision process to use natural capital in a market economy. From the proposed model a general hypothesis for the necessary characteristics of institutions is derived: a more strict institutional criteria for differentiating natural capital according to its ability to produce environmental services will be conducive to blocking the use of critical natural capital, making the path of development more sustainable for a given region. Based on this general hypothesis the empirical research investigated how recently created environmental institutions in Chile recognize different qualities of natural capital, and how this recognition has contributed to the achievement of sustainability. This research compares the Chilean

approval process for construction of two dams in the Bio-Bio River. One dam was approved without the new legislation, the other following the new law. The case studies indicate that in Chile the recognition of different kinds of natural capital by the new institutions has been moderate, and that this recognition has shown only a minor effect on the actual use of critical natural capital.

Paupers and Patrons: Class, Gender and Regime Politics in Calcutta's Rural-Urban Transformation.

Ananya Roy

This research contributes to an understanding of the role of institutions as sites of resource access and use, with such processes being shaped by power and contestation. Using this perspective, it establishes theoretical and policy connections between intra-regional and micro-institutional dynamics and broader patterns of regional change.

This research draws upon the notion of spatial linkages and inter-sectoral flows of labor and resources that are at once situated in an inter-regional context in order to explain the decline of the Calcutta Municipal District (CMD). While the recent explanation of the decline of the CMD have invoked rural-urban migration and the presence of an exploitative “external” elite as key determinants, this research shows that the institutional configurations underlying each of these processes involves a complexity that must be taken into account for purposes of theory and policy. For example, rural-urban migration was found to be comprised of household-based occupational linkages that draw on kinship ties to maintain access to the urban labor market while using such linkages as conduits of the flow of remittances. At the same time, an unpacking of the “migrant” category showed how, while the process of migration provided crucial access to non-agricultural resources, this access is limited by the deployment of categories such as class and gender that are socially constructed in separate but overlapping institutional spheres.

This theoretical reworking of the rural-urban interface allows the formulation of a set of questions that begin to explore the implications of such patterns of access to resources, specifically the issue of resource use as shaped by access patterns and how such local-level dynamics tie in with regional transformations. In the case of West Bengal, the author speculates that the politicization of the countryside might have made for an intensified outflow of remittances from the CMD in order to maintain rural bases of power, as well as a diversion

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of such resources into unproductive uses such as investment in social and political connections. The implications of such links between equity and growth are explored in a reformulation of policy.

A second set of linked institutions operating at multiple levels of in Indian economy and society is investigated in the chapters on elite interaction. Elite alliances and conflicts are traced in order to establish the conditions of disinvestment. It was found that while the region was characterized by an ethnic division of power, this was not sufficient to explain capital flight. Instead, what seems to have become critical is the set of political alliances of the Left Front working indirectly to undermine the possibility of industrial recovery. Instead of an open conflict between the economic and political elite, there has instead been a neglect of urban-industrial issues by the latter. Such strategies have forced the Left into an adversarial role with regard to the central government, impairing negotiations that genuinely affect accumulation within the state.

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Kathleen Mikulis “Homeowner Earthquake Retrofit Survey: Results and Analysis to Create a Model Earthquake Program”

Brian Newman “Case Study: River District, Portland, Oregon”

Student Work

- Megan O'Neill "Exurbanization Patterns in the Milwaukee Metro Region"
- Lisa Pagan "Business Improvement District Feasibility Study for Grand Avenue Commercial Corridor in Oakland"
- Chau Phung "1997 Community Credit Needs Study, City of Oakland"
- Beth Rolandson "Encouraging High- Value Ticket Purchases at BART: A Comparative Study"
- David Schellinger " 16th Street: Redefining the Urban Corridor"
- Greg Shiffer " An Analysis of Transit Fare Coordination in the Bay Area and the Potential Impact of the TransLink Fare Payment System"
- Noel Tapia "Unity, Commitment and Persistence: A Case Study of Gardener Grass-Root Organizing"
- Zachary Wald "State of the Bay Area Pedestrian Report 1999-Are Pedestrians an Endangered Species?"
- Monica Wilson "Best Practices for Writing Competitive Grant Applications"
- Ken Winfield "Developing Around the Arts: Design Guidelines for the Bayview Hunters Point Town Center"