

Call for Papers**Advancing the Inclusive Industrial Growth Debate:****An Appraisal of East Asian Capitalism from a Global Historical Perspective**

The inclusive industrial growth debate sees the two critical socio-economic problems of growth slowdown and rising inequality as interlinked. The new (post-)industrial processes – i.e., digitisation of services and automation of manufacturing – are increasing the polarisation between small, very highly-skilled, and asset-rich elites and everyone else, for whom stable and well-paid employment is disappearing fast. This polarisation makes the politics needed to support new growth strategies difficult (Rodrik and Stantcheva 2021). There is a consensus that state action is required in the era of “jobless growth”. What is unclear is what this state action should look like, and how to get politics to work to enable it as the socio-economic cleavages are reshaped (Thelen 2014, Iversen and Soskice 2019).

This special journal issue will interrogate the East Asian experience and theorise it in ways to inform the inclusive industrial growth debate. East Asia is a region that makes a rich site for empirical investigation and theory building because the processes of industrialisation have differed from the advanced West. East Asia has historically pursued labour-intensive, rather than labour-replacing, industrialisation (Austin and Sugihara 2015). Through labour absorption and improvement in the quality of labour, it has built “productivist” (i.e., *pre*-distributive than *re*-distributive) welfare systems. The scholarship on the East Asian development attributes this model of industrialisation to the “developmental state”, which continues to inspire the Global South (Haggard 2018, Pempel 2021).

However, East Asia is not immune to the problem of polarisation (Emmenegger et al. 2012), and the region is at a critical juncture. Despite the continued emphasis on industrial policies, the new post-industrial trends have rendered the old labour-intensive industrial strategies ineffective, exacerbating the problem of jobless growth, and undermining the very social foundations of their welfare regimes. This is expected to have profound consequences for politics of inclusion and state action in the region, and as such, will inform the on-going debates on whether the developmental state and its model of industrialisation should inform the Global South (Mazucatto 2013, Wade 2018).

This call invites papers from sociologists, political scientists and economists with regional expertise on East Asia to take a long and hard look at industrial change and inclusion in the region. Here, East Asia includes Northeast and Southeast Asia, comprised of both advanced industrial and newly industrialising economies such as, but not limited to, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, China, and Vietnam. Especially welcome are papers that bridge the qualitative and quantitative divide (Goertz and Mahoney 2012) and take a

global historical perspective in the manner of “big structures, large processes and huge comparisons” (Tilly 1989) to derive “usable” middle-range insights (Rueschemeyer 2009, Kang 2014).

Some potential questions to explore are:

1. What are the drivers and mechanisms of post-industrial technological developments that are reshaping global competition and national industrial landscapes?
2. How are the changing industrial landscapes affecting inclusion, and the politics of inclusion? What policy debates are happening, and what experiments being undertaken for a more equitable future?
3. How much sway do the historical concepts of “path dependence” and “critical juncture” have in explaining continuity and change in East Asian capitalisms?
4. To what extent is East Asia converging or diverging as a region? And is the divergence related to post-industrialisation for some, and premature de-industrialisation for others?
5. What is distinctive about the East Asia’s post-industrial experience? What insights apply, and do not apply, for the Global South?

The aim to advance the inclusive industrial growth debate through the study of East Asian capitalism is a new and noteworthy initiative. As a collection, it would appeal to the readers of *Competition & Change* with interests in how global competition shapes industrial structure across national/regional economies. The proposal complements works published in *Competition & Change*: for examples, “Reinventing Capitalism to Address Automation” (2018) by Shahrukh Rafi Khan that investigates rising unemployment due to technological change and explores the ‘sharing of work’ as a historically rooted policy solution, and “Post-Crisis Approaches to State Intervention” (2015) by Andrea Szalavetz that examines the renewal of industrial policy since the 2008 Global Crisis as the emerging economies take a critical view to the neoliberal practices. This call for papers will extend the important discussion that is evolving in *Competition & Change* through the contributions of these, and other, authors.

This call emerges from a series of virtual workshops on “Advancing the Inclusive Industrial Growth Debate” held this year, led by the two guest-editors, supported by King’s College London-Nanyang Technological University Partnership Fund, King’s College London’s Global Engagement Office.

Guest editors

Nahee Kang is a Lecturer in Political Economy of Emerging Markets, King’s College London, and Deputy Director of KCL-SOAS London Asia Pacific Centre for Social Sciences. Her work centres on industrial and corporate change in East Asia. She has published in *New Political Economy*, *Socio-Economic Review*, *Economy & Society*, *Progress in Development Studies*, and *Journal of Contemporary Asia*. Her research has been funded by major research institutions in the UK such as the Cambridge Political Economy Trust, Economic and Social

Research Council, and the British Academy. She is the co-editor of the special journal section on the “Political Economy of the Middle-Income Trap” in *Journal of Development Studies*, and has served as an associate editor of *Asian Business & Management*.

Shaohua Zhan is Associate Professor of Sociology at the School of Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. His research interests include land politics, rural-urban transformations, food security, and international migration. He is the author of *The Land Question in China: Agrarian Capitalism, Industrious Revolution, and East Asian Development* (Routledge, 2019). His recent work has appeared in *New Left Review*, *Journal of Peasant Studies*, *World Development*, *The China Quarterly*, and *The China Journal*, among others.

Timeline

- March 2022: Call for papers
- 8 April 2022: Expression of Interest – abstracts of 500 words to be submitted to the guest editor, Dr Nahee Kang (nahee.kang@kcl.ac.uk)
- 5 May 2022: Notification of invitation to submit
- June 2022: A two-day virtual workshop for paper presentations and discussion
- 5 August 2022: Submission to *Competition & Change*

References

- Austin, G., Sugihara, K (eds.) 2015. *Labour-Intensive Industrialization in Global History*. Routledge Explorations in Economic History, Routledge.
- Emmenegger, P., Hausermann, S., Palier, B., Seeleib-Kaiser, M. (eds.) 2012. *The Age of Dualization: The Changing Face of Inequality in Deindustrializing Societies*. Oxford University Press.
- Goertz, G., Mahoney, J. 2012. *A Tale of Two Cultures: Qualitative and Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences*. Princeton University Press.
- Haggard, S. 2018. *Developmental States*. Elements in the Politics of Development, Cambridge University Press.
- Iversen, T., Soskice, D. 2019. *Democracy and Prosperity: Reinventing Capitalism through a Turbulent Century*. Princeton University Press.
- Kang, N. 2014. "Towards Middle-Range Theory Building in Development Research: Comparative (Historical) Institutional Analysis of Institutional Transplantation", *Progress in Development Studies*. 14 (3): 221-235.
- Mazzucato, M. 2013. *The Entrepreneurial State: Debunking Public vs. Private Sector Myths*. Anthem Press.

Pempel, T.J. 2021. *A Region of Regimes: Prosperity and Plunder in the Asia-Pacific*. Cornell Studies in Political Economy, Cornell University Press.

Rueschemeyer, D. 2009. *Usable Theory: Analytic Tools for Social and Political Research*. Princeton University Press.

Rodrik D., Stantcheva S. 2021. "Fixing Capitalism's Good Jobs Problem," *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* 37(4): 824–837.

Thelen, T. 2014. *Varieties of Liberalization and the New Politics of Social Solidarity*. Cambridge University Press.

Tilly, C. 1989. *Big Structures, Large Processes, Huge Comparisons*. Russell Sage Foundation.

Wade, R. 2018. "The Developmental State: Dead or Alive?" *Development & Change* 49(2):518-546