

Emancipatory perspectives in a multipolar world of tensions

Theories and Debates in Geography
organised by Christian Zeller

The invited speakers analyse current geoeconomic and geopolitical tension. They discuss the dynamics of ongoing wars, the growing threats of new wars, the strategic importance of fossil fuels, resources for renewable energies, changes in production networks, the geopolitical strategies of governments as well as class and gender relations. All the speakers critically examine the growing discourses that welcome a multipolar world order.

Tuesday, 4
November, 18:00-
20:00 online
[Meeting-Join |](#)
[Microsoft Teams](#)

Hanna Perekhoda, University of Lausanne
Russian war in Ukraine: its origins and ramifications

Pacifist slogans about abolishing war are no longer relevant to politics. A serious discussion must start from the reality of threats for European societies and not confuse militarism, which must be rejected, with the defence of a democratic space in which it remains possible to fight against neoliberalism.

Tuesday, 18
November, 18:00-
20:00 online
[Meeting-Join |](#)
[Microsoft Teams](#)

Adam Hanieh, University of Exeter, UK
**Multipolar Myths: Imperialism and the Gulf Arab
Monarchies at a time of Climate Collapse**

Since the 2011 Arab uprisings, the Middle East has faced deepening inequality, renewed authoritarianism, and mass displacement. Adam Hanieh situates the Gulf monarchies' oil-fuelled rise within shifting oil-cantered global capitalism and US–China rivalries, showing how great-power competition reshapes but fails to transform enduring regional domination.

Monday, 24
November 11:15-
13:00 im HS 387,
Rudolfskai 42,
5020 Salzburg

Patrick Bond, University of Johannesburg, South Africa
**Dispelling the Multipolar Myth: Why BRICS do not offer
an alternative**

The expanding BRICS bloc – Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa – has fueled hopes for a “multipolar world order.” Yet its economies lack an emancipatory vision. Social movements from below instead call for an “anti-polar” internationalism that rejects both imperialist unipolarity and subimperialist multipolarity, challenging.

16 December,
18:00-20:00
online
[Meeting-Join |](#)
[Microsoft Teams](#)

Jess Spear, climate scientist and activist, Dublin
Women in the Vanguard

Recognising the impact of actually existing capitalism on working-class women is vital if we want to understand where radical struggles will emerge and how they can spark a broader movement for ecosocialism.

13 January, 18:00-
20:00 online
[Meeting-Join |](#)
[Microsoft Teams](#)

Frieda Afary, Philosophy M.A. and M.L.I.S., Los Angeles
**Why Are Authoritarianism & Fascism Growing
Globally?**

Today's multipolar imperialism is bound to resilient authoritarian state capitalism. Intensifying economic, ecological, social, and political crises deepen alienation and fuel authoritarianism and fascism. Where do we begin to articulate a socialist humanist, feminist and environmentally sustainable alternative?

Speakers



Hanna Perekhoda

PhD candidate in political science at the Institute of Political Studies (University of Lausanne). Her research focuses on Ukraine's place in the Russian political imaginary. Her articles on Russian-Ukrainian relations and the current war have appeared in various outlets. She is involved in networks of international solidarity.



Adam Hanieh

Professor of Political Economy and Global Development, University of Exeter, and Joint Chair in Middle East Studies at the Institute of International and Area Studies (IIAS) at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China. Adam Hanieh is author of [*Crude Capitalism: Oil, Corporate Power, and the Making of the World Market*](#) (Verso 2024).



Patrick Bond

Political economist and political ecologist. He researches topics related to the political economy of Africa, international finance, eco-social development and political ecology, as well as development issues in contemporary South Africa and social mobilisation. Today, Bond is a professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Johannesburg.



Jess Spear

Jess Spear is a county councillor for *People Before Profit* based in Dublin and editor of the ecosocialist journal *Rupture*. Before coming to Ireland, Jess worked as a climate scientist for the US Geological Survey and micropaleontologist at the Burke Museum of Natural History at University of Washington.



Frieda Afary

Philosophy M.A. and M.L.I.S. is an Iranian American public librarian, translator, writer, activist in Los Angeles. She is the author of [*Socialist Feminism: A New Approach*](#) (Pluto Press, 2022) and produces the blogs, [*Iranian Progressives in Translation*](#) and socialistfeminism.org