

# DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES: Geography 596

Day: Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>

Time: 3:30–4:30pm

Location: McClure 209

## Rethinking the World-Systems Perspective for Theory-Building in Geography and International Relations

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The world-systems perspective has served to help rejuvenate a moribund political geography in the 1980s and 1990s. Developed by Immanuel Wallerstein in the 1960s and 1970s, it served to provide a serious critical challenge to prevailing notions of economic and political development, hegemony and conflict. Over the intervening decades, the perspective has evolved through the incorporation of new ideas and the evolution of methods and techniques designed to capture the salient features of the complex perspective. The world-systems perspective is useful to geographers as can transcends scale and actively incorporates spatial and temporal mechanisms and uses landscapes as a unit of analysis as demonstrated by the work of Peter Taylor in the 1980s-2000s. Given the current theoretical quandary in human geography and other social sciences, this presentation suggests that world-systems may provide a way out of current agent-based, middle-range thinking and bring structure back into proper focus.

