

COMPLETED DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS

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Workers, Netas and Goondas: The Casualisation of Labour in an Indian Company Town

This study is based upon 15 months of ethnographic research conducted during 2006-2007 in the Indian industrial city of Jamshedpur. I analyse how the global shift towards casual labour is locally enabled through practices of state and trade union corruption.

The past decade has seen the majority of Jamshedpur's industrial workforce move from formal, permanent employment into various grades of lower paid, insecure casual labour. The move towards casual labour is a development replicated across international industry. However, the localised forms of this development require an understanding of the economy of violence and favour which characterises the region's labour politics. My analysis is therefore based upon ethnographic data collected from industrial workers on the shop floor of an automobile plant, trade union leaders and criminals.

I argue that the economies of crime, corruption and business do not operate in their own discrete spheres of influence, but rather rely upon one another for the symbiotic exchange of favour and capital. My research focuses upon the interaction between industrial and criminal economies in the casualisation of a company town labour force.

Andrew Sanchez earned his doctorate in anthropology from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2009, where he subsequently lectured from 2009 to 2012. His writings on class, labour and corruption have been published in The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute and Critique of Anthropology, and have featured in edited volumes and reports. Andrew's first monograph Criminal Capital: Making Class through Corruption in an Indian Company Town is in preparation for publication with Routledge. The monograph analyses the role played by corruption and organised crime in the erosion of industrial employment security. Dr Sanchez is currently a research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, where he is conducting a three-year study of the Indian metal trade as part of a new research group on Industry and Inequality in Eurasia. His interests in this project are the relationship between corporations and informal business practices, and the movement of commodities between different regimes of value.

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Selling the (post) industrial city. Capitalism, power and image policies in Roubaix and Sheffield (1945-2010)

Based on a careful study of the evolution of urban capitalism and power in two (post) industrial cities, Roubaix (France) and Sheffield (UK), this dissertation aims at refining the regulationist analytical framework commonly used by urban studies (based on two periods: Fordism and post-Fordism) by introducing a periodization in five steps. The first part of the dissertation analyses the emergence of the image policies in both cities at the turn of the 1960's as reflecting a process of "fordisation on urban policies". This section proposes a division of the Fordist era into two ideal-typical periods: early, then late urban Fordism. Indeed, even during the Fordist era, the industrial base of both cities evolves, some new social interests emerge and the urban governments gradually move away from the working class. The second part is devoted to the few years of the "urban sacrifice", during which industrialization accelerates. It highlights the role of urban social movements in the divergent evolution of the image policies in both cities, as Roubaix briefly considers the conversion of its economy towards advanced services while Sheffield becomes the symbol of the struggle of the North with the economic restructuring promoted by the national government. Finally, the third section on the "entrepreneurialisation of urban policies" offers to subdivide the post-Fordist era into two sub-periods: early, then late urban entrepreneurialism. The evolution of the image policies, their production and their targets (from firms with high labor requirements to real estate development, the "creative class" and tourists) results from the continuous decline of the industry in the economic base of both cities, from the fragmentation of the working class and from the closer collaboration of the urban governments with the private interests since the early 1980's.

In 2012, this dissertation was awarded the Association pour la promotion de l'enseignement et de la recherche en aménagement et urbanisme, the Centre d'études sur les réseaux, les transports, l'urbanisme et les constructions publiques, the Fédération nationale des agences d'urbanisme and the Plan urbanisme, construction et architecture the first prize for the best dissertation in the field of urban studies.