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Andrew Brooks: *Spinning and weaving discontent: labour relations and the production of meaning at Zambia-China Mulungushi Textiles*

The Mulungushi Textile Factory in Kabwe, Zambia, has a long association with China. New Chinese capitalist investment established the *Zambia-China Mulungushi Textiles Joint Venture Ltd.* in 1997 rehabilitating a dilapidated industrial site. This study explores how this 'new' Chinese engagement affected the lives of the Zambians who worked at Mulungushi. Using the lived experiences of ex-workers, it examines how Chinese management changed the social pattern of work, imposed strict discipline and used the factory's machinery to regulate labour. Labour costs were reduced through casualisation and working conditions diminished. Workers did not gain the modern livelihoods they had anticipated. Through labour struggles meanings and understandings of racial differences were produced. The Zambian government failed to support the wage expectations of the labour force. Workers became discontented, and a series of labour disputes, financial difficulties and increasing competition, diminished the enterprise's viability, and led to Chinese investors leaving Mulungushi in 2006. This study discusses Marxist perspectives on labour relations and illuminates how linear readings of capitalism and modernity, fail to provide an intellectual framework for this globalised site.

Gila Aispuro: *Investigating the livelihood strategies of self-employed female food vendors in Puebla, Mexico*

The informal economy plays an important role in providing employment to Latin America, it has to some extent been born out of the need and lack of formal resources for the poor. The aim of this dissertation was to investigate the livelihoods of self-employed female food vendors in Puebla, Mexico. The study focused specifically on food vendors and explored the variances between them. From the research conducted interesting variances were found between the participants. The participants differed greatly in age, education, economic background, legal status, employment experience and enterprise type. In the midst of worldwide economic struggles the small enterprises studied managed to find the resources to survive. Necessity was the key factor that pushed participants to persevere. When asked the specific need for employment and capital, the overwhelming majority of respondents reported the crucial need to help their children attend school and meet basic living standards. When asked about plans for the future, few vendors reported plans for business expansion. The main pre-occupation for vendors was the need to support their families and stay afloat financially. The majority of study participants, 15 out of 20, reported entering into self-employment forcibly, with this area being the only livelihood option available to them. This was reported to be consequent to lack of skills, needing flexible employment, or inheriting the enterprise. The informal sector is one of the largest providers of employment in the urban centres of Latin America, therefore it is a crucial area of study in the struggle to reduce poverty.

Isaac Tchuwa: *The influence of ecological sanitation on bacterial water quality and hygiene conditions in rural communities of Nkhotakota, Malawi*

Despite increased popularization of ecological sanitation (ecosan) in sustainable development discourse, empirical research ascertaining its impact on microbial water quality and hygiene conditions is largely anecdotal. This study investigated the influence of ecosan on bacterial water quality and hygiene conditions in four rural communities in Nkhotakota, Malawi. It was hypothesized that there are no significant differences in bacterial water quality and hygiene conditions between communities using ecosan and those not. An ex post facto causal-comparative design involving two ecosan and two non-ecosan communities was adopted. Purposive and stratified random sampling techniques were used to select four communities and 44 households respectively. Coliform levels were determined through membrane filtration method. Hygiene conditions were ascertained through sanitary risk inspections. Statistical analysis of data in mintab15 showed no significant differences in bacterial water quality and hygiene conditions between ecosan and non-ecosan communities ($p > 0.05$). In all communities, coliform levels exceeded the World Health standard of 0 cfu/100ml. There were significant differences in bacterial water quality between water sources and households, thus, water quality dropped substantially between points of supply and consumption. The findings apparently suggest that ecosan neither improves hygiene conditions nor safeguards bacterial quality of community water supplies. Nevertheless, an experimentally designed longitudinal study with a wider spatial coverage is needed to conclusively corroborate such findings.

Apiradee Worathongchai: *The implementation of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy for urban community-based development: the case of Koy Ruk Tak Wa*

The aim of the dissertation is to analyze and identify the benefits and challenges of practicing the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) in urban community-based development. In 1997, the SEP was used as a guideline for national development when the nation faced the Asian economic crisis. Owing to the difficulties caused by the crisis, Thai people learnt that economic growth did not ensure sustainable development since the economic and business systems had poor transparency and governance. Therefore, the SEP is an alternative form of development, as the main themes are being moderate in both quality and quantity, being reasonable, and having a built-in immune system. The SEP could relieve the severity of the crisis; this is because it facilitates self-reliance, perseverance of local wisdom and topographical and sociological approach. Nevertheless, the SEP is challenging as the SEP relies on social capital and social networks which have decreased in urban areas. In addition, some attitudes and theories of development do not support the SEP. The study hence aimed to find out the aspects of the urban community that facilitate and limit the SEP in practice, including people's perceptions and applying the SEP in their way of life. The benefits and challenges of practicing the SEP are the most important findings as they indicate that the success of practicing the SEP depends on very specific conditions.

Diana Safieh: *In the name of security: the impact of the Separation wall on the basic rights of Palestinians in East Jerusalem*

This study was conducted to determine the impacts of the Wall on the basic human rights of Palestinians in East Jerusalem, such as freedom of movement and access to education and healthcare. It goes further to explain why these restrictions on rights affect relations between Israel and Palestinian East Jerusalemites, and the viability of a future Palestinian state. The methodology was set within the grounded theory framework, and semi-structured interviews and participatory photography were used as data collection tools. This study found that the Separation Wall in East Jerusalem not only divides Palestinians from Israelis, but also bisects Palestinian communities. Movement is restricted within the city, but also between East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank, isolating the capital and its population from its hinterland. This has psycho-social effects, as well as geographical implications, with participants unanimously expressing some form of frustration with the situation, in addition to distrust with regard to Israel's true aims, and a strong desire for the Occupation to end. In conclusion, by constructing the wall and implementing a strict closure regime on Palestinian East Jerusalemites, Israel is using a policy of compliance to induce changes in the Palestinian population, society and environment, such as redefinition of borders and mass emigration.