

Is Western-led Globalization Splintering? North, South, and the Future of Power in Global Capitalism

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“Globalisation is over”—or so it might seem as the United States and its allies are carrying out unprecedented measures in order to divert critical supplies and advanced technology from geopolitical rivals and their firms, most notably Russia and China. Critics warn that this new Cold War could halt, or even reverse, three decades of trade liberalisation and market integration. Optimists hope that these new cleavages could lead to a more multipolar world with greater voice for the Global South. Either way, it is clear that the nationality of corporations, capital, trade and technologies is increasingly seen as a vital national security issue in global capitalism.

We see these ongoing and contested processes as a transition that holds the potential to indeed create (new) fault lines, but also new alliances, and may—or may not—generate alternative paradigms for a new world order and social change.

The workshop seeks to examine the contemporary contestations and transformations in global capitalism in a critical and empirical light. It invites contributions speaking to—but not exclusively—the following topics:

- *Agents of change*: Who are the key players in the ongoing transition of the global capitalist system? States, firms, the military-industrial complex, elites, labour movements, civil society? Do we see different alliances emerge both geographically and in terms of different societal arenas, industries and markets?
- *Consequences*: If this is the end of the unipolar moment, then how has it been manifested in various aspects and domains of the global political economy such as trade, investment, industrial policy, technology, finance, or knowledge regimes? What are the implications for foreign policy and governance? How has it contributed to rearranging economic linkages between the Global North and South?
- *(Im)possibilities*: Against the backdrop of a highly globalized and complex economy and constrained fiscal and administrative capacities, what are the practical limits for (partially) unwinding globally integrated economies? Will the derisking approaches implicit in many geoeconomic policy interventions make good on their promise to entice business and finance to invest in designated high-tech and green sectors? How will states and firms diversify the procurement of critical and rare materials?
- *Theoretical implications*: For most observers the securitization of economic policy and return of large-scale industrial policy ambitions at the core of the global capitalist system was nearly unfathomable a mere decade ago. In hindsight, what did dominant theories of globalization miss—and what prevented modes of reasoning that (partly) anticipated such developments from gaining larger traction? What can we learn from recent developments about globalization at large?

We welcome contributions from all perspectives of international studies. We especially encourage colleagues from the Global South as well as early career academics to apply in order to refine and extend our analytical grasp of the ongoing reconfigurations of the global political economy. Specifically, we encourage submissions that deal with theoretically informed empirical studies of global capitalism in transition.