

XVth AFEP Congress
June 10-12, 2026
AAFC Open Thematic Workshop

Geopolitics of development

Workshop coordinators: Bruno Jetin (Sorbonne Paris Nord University), Elsa Lafaye de Micheaux (Inalco), Jean-François Ponsot (Grenoble Alpes University).

Purpose of the workshop:

The primary objective of this panel on "geopolitics of development" is to feed into the work on this emerging theme by mobilising the political economy of development in the broad sense. The workshop will pay particular attention to work that contributes to the renewal of approaches and/or mobilises interdisciplinary crossovers (institutionalist economics, international political economy, international relations, but also sociology, anthropology, geography, history, law, political science, etc.).

The aim here is to take into consideration a major renewal of international economic and development issues when geopolitics has come to the fore since the end of the period of hyperglobalization (1990-2008) (Subramanian et al., 2023), followed by a period of major uncertainty characterised by the return of wars and imperialism, the retreat of multilateralism, the advent of a multipolar world and a secular trend of stagnation in a context of climate crisis.

This renewal is taking place on two levels: that of the recomposition of international economic relations, on the one hand; that of the theoretical field of international economics and international political economy (and related sub-disciplines), on the other.

1- On the one hand, international economic relations and development policies have been largely recomposed since the global financial crisis of 2008. The supposed virtues of liberal globalization and strategies based on the Washington Consensus are strongly questioned. The rise of the BRICS and, more broadly, of the Global Souths, has fuelled a growing challenge to the traditional hegemonies and structural asymmetries that have characterised the international order since the end of the Cold War, while the structure of international trade has changed. At the same time, the eruption of new global challenges (climate, health, energy, cyber security and democracy) has revealed the limits of global governance based on a multilateralism that is now in crisis and incapable of providing answers to systemic vulnerabilities. Finally, this new context has profoundly revived the challenge of sovereignty in developing economies.

2- On the other hand, a rich and diverse set of concepts, theories and critical analytical approaches has recently developed to interpret the new dynamics at work and the current changes in the world economy (Gereffi et al., 2025; Germann, 2023; Babić et al., 2022; Rosenberg & Kurki, 2021; Cafruny et al., 2016; Pistor, 2025). This work profoundly renews the analysis of power relations (Hameiri & Jones, 2024) and contemporary forms of dependence (Katz, 2022; Magnin et al., 2018), the concept of development (Munck, 2018; Makki, 2015) and conflictual dynamics (Antunes de

Oliveira et al., 2023), and invite us to rethink their articulation with more traditional approaches, whether it is structural power à la Susan Strange, center-periphery and Marxist analyses (Desai, 2013), regulationist perspectives (Boyer, 2018), or post-Keynesian macroeconomics (Lavoie et al., 2021) highlighting the importance of distributive conflicts. The resurgence of geoeconomics, which conceives of economic power as a strategic instrument and analyses sanctions, asymmetric interdependencies, and technological fragmentation, is an emblematic manifestation of this.

Recent work on Global Value Chains (GVCs) and Global Production Networks (GPNs) (Selwyn et al., 2025; Pavlínek, 2024), as well as post-colonial approaches (Biekart et al., 2024; Esteva & Dix, 2022), highlight the reconfiguration of productive and extractivist interdependencies (Gabor & Braun, 2025) in a context of intensified geopolitical rivalries (Warnecke-Berger & Ickler, 2023; Ellner, 2020; Clapp & Helleiner, 2025).

This movement of theoretical renewal also affects the perspectives inspired by Latin American neo-structuralism, which have reintroduced questions of productive asymmetries, external constraints and technological dependence at the heart of development analysis (de Borja Reis & Cardoso, 2020), as well as approaches in terms of the diversity of capitalisms (Ebenau et al., 2015), now mobilised to understand the geoeconomic competition between blocs (Power, 2019).

Finally, international monetary and financial transformations have given rise to major contributions, Perry Mehrling's Global Credit View, Graeber's theory of debt, work on the international monetary hierarchy (Prates, 2020) and analyses of international financial subordination (Alami et al. 2023), have profoundly renewed the study of structural dependencies within a globalised financial system, dominated by the dollar and the new imperial desires.

Submission procedures and timetable:

To feed one or other of these levels of reflection on the geopolitics of development, proposals for papers, in English or French, of one page (including 5 references), should be sent to the following three addresses before March 21, 2026, indicating that you are submitting to the Geopolitics of Development open workshops:

bjetin@yahoo.fr elsa.lafayedemicheaux@inalco.fr jean-francois.ponsot@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr

Responses will be sent to you by April 15, 2026.

They must also be submitted via the platform: <https://afep2026.sciencesconf.org> by choosing the workshop "Geopolitics of Development" at the time of submission.

The complete papers are expected in May 2026, to be posted on the congress website (unless otherwise advised by the authors).

References.

- Alami, I., Alves, C., Bonizzi, B., Kaltenbrunner, A., Koddenbrock, K., Kvangraven, I., & Powell, J. (2023). International financial subordination: A critical research agenda. *Review of International Political Economy*, 30(4), 1360–1386.
- Antunes de Oliveira, F., Germann, J., & Rolf, S. (2023). A system of mutual dependence and antagonism: Exploring the potential of uneven and combined development within Global Political Economy. *Global Political Economy*, 2(1), 2–16.
- Babić, M., Dixon, A. D., & Liu, I. T. (2022). *The political economy of geoeconomics: Europe in a changing world*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Biekart, K., Camfield, L., Kothari, U., & Melber, H. (2024). Rethinking development and decolonising development studies. In H. Melber, U. Kothari, L. Camfield, & K. Biekart (Eds.), *Challenging global development* (pp. 1–xx). Palgrave Macmillan.
- Boyer, R. (2018). Postface: Vertus et limites d'une histoire globale de la mondialisation: Un dialogue entre François Fourquet et la théorie de la régulation. In F. Fourquet (Ed.), *Penser la longue durée : Contribution à une histoire de la mondialisation* (pp. 237–306). La Découverte.
- Cafruny, A. W., Talani, L. S., & Martin, G. P. (Eds.). (2016). *The Palgrave handbook of critical international political economy*. Springer.
- Clapp, J., & Helleiner, E. (2025). Reflections on the IPE of green finance. *Competition & Change*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10245294251324780>
- De Borja Reis, C. F., & Cardoso, F. G. (2020). Center and periphery in global value chains: An interpretation based on the pioneers of development. In A. Hermann & S. Mouatt (Eds.), *Contemporary issues in heterodox economics: Implications for theory and policy action* (pp. 171–190). Routledge.
- Desai, R. (2013). *Geopolitical economy: After US hegemony, globalization and empire*. Pluto Press.
- Ebenau, M., Bruff, I., & May, C. (2015). *New directions in comparative capitalisms research: Critical and global perspectives*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Ellner, S. (2020). *Latin American extractivism: Dependency, resource nationalism, and resistance in broad perspective*. Rowman & Littlefield.
- Esteva, G., & Dix, K. (2022). *Gustavo Esteva: A critique of development and other essays*. Routledge.
- Gabor, D., & Braun, B. (2025). Green macrofinancial regimes. *Review of International Political Economy*, 32(3), 542–568.
- Gereffi, G., Pananond, P., Tell, F., & Fang, T. (2025). Navigating industrial policy and global value chains in an era of disruptions. *Journal of International Business Policy*, 8(3), 207–223.
- Germann, J. (2023). Wrestling with unevenness: Sino-American rivalry, state strategy and the reformation of German capitalism. *Global Political Economy*, 2(1), 77–97.
- Hameiri, S., & Jones, L. (2024). Why the West's alternative to China's international infrastructure financing is failing. *European Journal of International Relations*, 30(3), 697–724.
- Katz, C. (2022). *Dependency theory after fifty years: The continuing relevance of Latin American critical thought*. Brill.
- Lavoie, M., Monvoisin, V., & Ponsot, J.-F. (2021). *L'économie post-keynésienne*. La Découverte.

- Magnin, É., Delteil, V., & Vercueil, J. (2018). La dépendance dans les relations entre capitalismes nationaux: Quelle portée analytique? Introduction au dossier « Capitalismes dépendants ». *Revue de la régulation*, 24.
- Makki, F. (2015). Reframing development theory: The significance of the idea of uneven and combined development. *Theory and Society*, 44, 471–497.
- Munck, R. (2018). Development and social change: A genealogy for an era of complexity. In G. H. Fagan & R. Munck (Eds.), *Handbook on development and social change* (pp. 1–18). Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Pavlínek, P. (2024). Geopolitical decoupling in global production networks. *Economic Geography*, 100(2), 138–169.
- Pistor, K. (2025). *The law of capitalism: How to transform it*. Yale University Press.
- Power, M. (2019). *Geopolitics and development*. Routledge.
- Prates, D. (2020). Beyond Modern Money Theory: A Post-Keynesian approach to the currency hierarchy, monetary sovereignty, and policy space. *Review of Keynesian Economics*, 8(4), xx–xx.
- Rosenberg, J., & Kurki, M. (2021). *Multiplicity: A new common ground for International Relations?* Routledge.
- Selwyn, B., Bernhold, C., & Leyden, D. (2025). The geopolitical underpinning of global value chains and production networks: US–China technological rivalry in a longer-range perspective. *Journal of Economic Geography*. Advance online publication.
- Subramanian, A., Kessler, M., & Properzi, E. (2023). Trade hyperglobalization is dead. Long live...? (Working PaperNo. 23-11). Peterson Institute for International Economics.
- Warnecke-Berger, H., & Ickler, J. (Eds.). (2023). *The political economy of extractivism: Global perspectives on the seduction of rent*. Routledge.