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**Bringing Capital Back In: A Materialist Turn in Postcolonial Studies?**

Recent developments within the field of postcolonial studies seem to point toward a growing engagement with the critique of political economy and toward an emerging theory of “postcolonial capitalism”. In the work of such authors as Robert Young, Couze Venn and Kalyan Sanyal, the traditional opposition between an “economic” and a “culturalist” approach appears to be overcome, opening up the space within which a new postcolonial materialism begins to take shape. The paper will show how this corresponds to profound transformations and displacements both within the field of “economics” and within the field of “culture”. These transformations and displacements will be briefly analyzed from the point of view of the spatial and temporal coordinates of contemporary global capitalism, while greater attention will be devoted to labor relations and regimes. Traditional Marxist and liberal theories have shared the idea that capitalism is characterized by wage labor as the “normal labor relation” but a radical heterogeneity of labor relations and regimes appears to be a key feature of contemporary capitalism. Drawing on postcolonial studies and “global labor history”, the paper will attempt to show how this situation compels us to reconsider our historical understanding of capitalism and at the same time to forge new conceptual tools in order to critically grasp our present.